

## NUNEATON FOODBANK

Due to restrictions with warehouse space and social distancing needs, Nuneaton Foodbank is asking us to consider financial donations to enable the purchase of specific items that are needed. You can donate via [www.nuneaton.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.nuneaton.foodbank.org.uk)

## PASTORAL CARE

As the pandemic continues there is an increasing likelihood of people becoming isolated or needing support. Pastoral care is the responsibility of us all. In addition we have a team of people who can visit or offer support. Please contact Revd Kelly. Revd Adrian or Revd Martin if you would value a visit from a member of the team.

## WRAP UP

Church heating is on for services but we still need to keep the space well ventilated and therefore our buildings may not be as warm as we usually like to have them at this time of year. Please wrap up for warmth and come prepared for a 'traditional' feel to our buildings!

## HOLIDAYS

The clergy will be taking a little time off after Christmas. Adrian will be on annual leave directly after Christmas including 27<sup>th</sup> December. Kelly will be on annual leave a little later but including Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.)

## STAYING IN TOUCH

### Websites

[www.stnicolaschurch.org.uk](http://www.stnicolaschurch.org.uk)  
[www.stjamesweddington.org.uk](http://www.stjamesweddington.org.uk)

### Email

[office@stnicolaschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@stnicolaschurch.org.uk)  
[office@stjamesweddington.org.uk](mailto:office@stjamesweddington.org.uk)

### Telephone

St Nicolas Office 02476344553  
St James Office 02476325718

### Vicar

[revkells@gmail.com](mailto:revkells@gmail.com)  
02476346900

### Associate Minister (St James)

[revadrian@stjamesweddington.org.uk](mailto:revadrian@stjamesweddington.org.uk)  
07434663084

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMME

For Zoom the meeting ID is 2476344553 and the password is 'Shekinah'. For Facebook the link is <https://www.facebook.com/stnicolaschurchnuneaton/>

### Sundays 10am

**WORSHIP SERVICE** via Facebook.

### Mondays 8.45am

**MORNING PRAYER** on Zoom.

### Tuesdays, 10am

**SWANS** on Facebook; you need to be a group member to access this.

### Wednesdays 7-8pm

### WORD & WORSHIP

Online discussions, input and Bible study via Zoom.

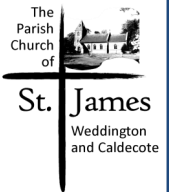
### Saturdays 4-5pm

### CHURCH QUIZ

A quiz for all ages via Zoom



Going Deeper  
Sowing Younger  
Growing Community



# December

## Sunday Services

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8*

10am MORNING WORSHIP at St James

10am HOLY COMMUNION at St Nicolas (also via Facebook)



### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end, 1 Thess 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28*

10am HOLY COMMUNION at St James

10am MORNING WORSHIP at St Nicolas (also via Facebook)

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Romans 16:25-end, Luke 1:26-38*

10am MORNING WORSHIP at St James

4pm FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE at St James

10am HOLY COMMUNION at St Nicolas (also via Facebook)

4pm COMFORT & JOY CAROLS at St Nicolas

*(Please see the following pages for extra Christmas services)*

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

*Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21*

10am HOLY COMMUNION at St James

10am MORNING WORSHIP at St Nicolas (also via Facebook)



*During December at St Nicolas, there will be a 10am service of Holy Communion on Wednesdays (with the exception of Wednesday 30th December). These services will be traditional and reflective in nature and may appeal to those who find Sunday mornings a little too busy or informal!*

## COLLECTS FOR DECEMBER

### ADVENT 2

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

### ADVENT 3

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

### ADVENT 4

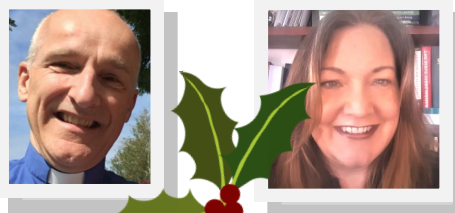
Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## CHRISTMAS

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.



### HAPPY CHRISTMAS to you all from the Betteridges and the Guthries.

Thank you, one and all, for your forbearance during these difficult months. Special thanks to those who have stepped into new roles to ensure that church worship, ministry and mission has been able to continue.

We have missed seeing familiar faces but it has been lovely that so many of you have joined services and activities via Facebook and Zoom. Well done for getting to grips with new technology, for supporting each other and persevering during the challenges. Your commitment to our church communities has been wonderful.

KB

### *Prayer for celebrating the season of Christmas*

*Lord Jesus,  
you were born in a stable  
but worshipped by the angels.  
Be with all who are lonely,  
and with all who feel distant from  
celebrations.  
Be for us a living hope  
that lightens their hearts.  
Amen.*

## FUN(D) - RAISER

Join our fund-raising



Advent-ure quiz on Saturday 5th December at 7.30pm on Zoom. Form a team, register here <https://forms.gle/nRpJU4onpvTDhNsD9> and make a donation towards our churches. The Zoom meeting ID is 2476344553; the password is 'Shekinah'.

## WORD & WORSHIP

This programme of group discussion, study and topical input continues on Wednesday evenings at 7pm via Zoom—details above. December will run like a book club as together we work our way through Paula Gooder's book, *Journey to the Manger*. Whether or not you want to read the book you're welcome to join the discussions focused around the Christmas story.

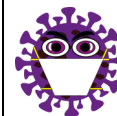
## SINGING GROUPS AT ST NICS

As we prepare for Christmas services Sally-Ann will be rehearsing small groups of singers to take part in leading parts of our worship services at St Nicolas. These groups need to be small because each member needs to maintain social distancing from the others and from the congregation and space is limited. If you are interesting in being part of a small group of vocalists involved in our services please speak to Sally-Ann.



## ADVENT VIDEOS

In addition to live-streaming our Sunday morning services we are releasing a weekly video during Advent focusing on some of the themes of the season. The videos include participants from both churches and comprise readings, prayers, story-telling and an activity for children. Released on Sundays at 4pm the videos will continue to be available via Facebook and you can view them at any time.



## COVID MEASURES

Covid-19 safety measures are subject to change. At the time of going to print we are fairly certain(!) that we are able to return to the church building for services of worship and have to abide by the restrictions of tier 3. This means that you must not attend with or socialise with anyone outside of your household or support bubble while you are there, unless a legal exemption applies. You will also be required to wear a mask (covering nose and mouth), sanitise your hands on entry, sign in or use Track and Trace, and maintain social distancing whilst in the building. Thank you for your assistance with this.

## NEWS & INFO



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To all those celebrating or marking 'one year older' during December!

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mark and Emma Seabourne on the birth of their second son, Caleb. Well done to Jonah for stepping up to the role of big brother!

### ON THE MOVE

As some of you will be aware Mark's contract with St Nicolas is finishing this year as the *Acceler8* project comes to an official end. We will say our good-byes and thank yous in January; we are grateful to Mark for all he has been and done amongst us.

We're also so sad that Sally and Derek Hince will be leaving us at a similar time to move nearer to family. The Hinces have been part of the life of both churches for a long time and we thank God for the blessing they have been to our communities. We're looking forward to their final creative Christmas artwork at St Nicolas and we'll be waving them a fond farewell in January. Please pray for both families during this time of transition.

### ECO TIP FROM ECO CHURCH

A Rocha UK's *Living Lightly* initiative has some great tips for making Christmas more eco-friendly. Here are a couple of examples and you can find more on the A Rocha website:

#### 1) Avoid the drastic plastic of shop-bought Christmas decorations.

Buy pre-owned decorations from charity shops, or make your own. Share your hand-made creations on their Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/Arochaorguk/](http://www.facebook.com/Arochaorguk/)

#### 2) Keep Christmas cards to make Christmas tags next year.

Recycle the section that carried the greeting and cut out the picture to use as a present tag. You'll help reduce the huge amount of trees that are used to provide all our Christmas tags.

#### 3) Buy potatoes and veg locally.

Sign up to an organic 'veg box' scheme. Buying local produce helps reduce your energy footprint. You can also find out how the food was grown. How do you cook your vegetable accompaniments? Share your recipes on our Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/Arochaorguk/](http://www.facebook.com/Arochaorguk/)

Find out more here:

<http://arocha.org.uk/our-activities/living-lightly-take-action>



### SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST NICOLAS' CHURCH

*Please be aware that these services are subject to change because of the Covid-19 pandemic. For up to date information please see email updates or the church Facebook page. Some services will be live-streamed.*

#### Sun 20th December

4pm & 5.30pm

#### COMFORT & JOY CAROLS

A short carol service with readings and carols. Anticipate seasonal chilliness as we try to keep the building well-ventilated! There is a choice of two time slots to enable more people to attend but you will need to book a ticket via Eventbrite—see Facebook page for details or ask a friend to book on your behalf. A few tickets (i.e. 5) for each service will be available from the office for those unable to access the internet.

#### Mon 21st to Thurs 24th December

#### 4pm CAROLS AT THE CRIB

A short all-age carol service that invites you to gather at the crib, sway to some carols and hear the Christmas story afresh. This service is a smaller version of our usual Christmas Eve Family Carols and Crib Service. Numbers are restricted and tickets will be available via Eventbrite.

#### Thurs 24th December

#### 11.30pm HOLY COMMUNION

The first Communion of Christmas. A simple and stripped back service of Holy Communion as we usher in Christmas Day.

#### Friday 25th December

#### 10am ALL-AGE EUCHARIST FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

A service of celebration and joy on Christmas morning.

*We will be releasing details of how to obtain your tickets via Eventbrite on the weekend of 6th December. If you do not have access to email or the internet please phone the St Nicolas' office for details as a small number of tickets will be available there.*

### SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST JAMES' CHURCH



#### Sun 20th to Thurs 24th December

#### 4pm FAMILY CHRISTMAS

A short all-age service that invites you unwrap the best present ever with songs, story-telling and festive fun. This will be a ticketed event with tickets available via Eventbrite.

#### Friday 25th December

#### 10am ALL-AGE EUCHARIST FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

A service of celebration and joy on Christmas morning.



# *Pause, Ponder*

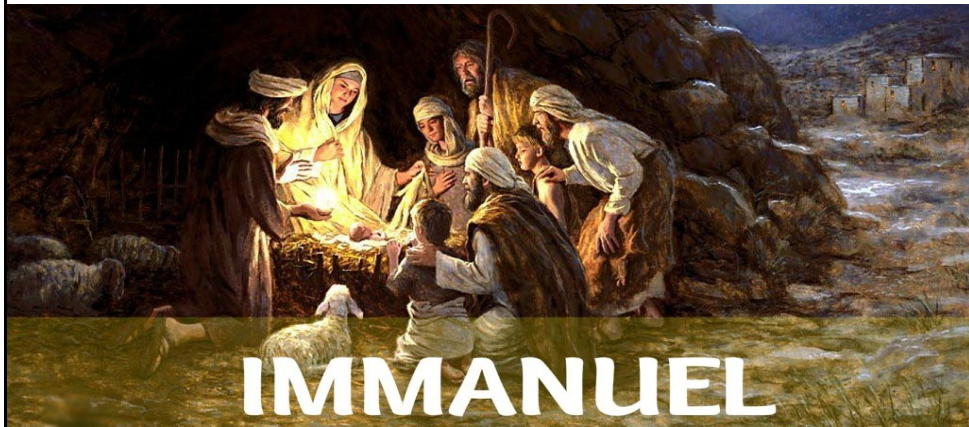
## **CHRISTMAS MORN**

Let shadow gentle as light unmade  
Fall upon the waking day new born,  
As angel wings softly shade  
Babe of Christmas morn.

Heaven's music has a melody stranger  
Than harps of love can play,  
Jesus holy born in a manger  
On Christmas day.

Let the sweet and tender breezes kiss  
The holy King of heaven born  
In a world cruel as this  
Upon Christmas morn.

PAT BIDMEAD



# *Pray*



## **Prayer for family, friends and loved ones**

Loving God, we lift to you those we hold in our hearts—praying for their health, their wellbeing and their sense of hope. We pray that even when loved ones cannot physically be together they would not feel apart. We ask for your help in our communicating, our connecting and our caring.

## **Prayer for schools and colleges, children and young people**

Caring God, we pray for all those involved in shaping young lives. Thank you for the sacrifice and commitment of teachers and all those involved in serving children and young people in education.

## **Prayer for the elderly, isolated and vulnerable**

Compassionate God, we hold before you those who are particular vulnerable and isolated and pray for their deliverance, protection and comfort. We remember all who care for them and ask that you would strengthen and encourage them in the support they offer.

## **Prayer for business, the workplace and economic wellbeing**

Almighty God, in this time of great challenge we pray for the economic wellbeing of the country. We remember all who face great uncertainty in their work and we ask for your care and protection for all who have lost their jobs and face an uncertain and difficult future. Help us all to make a fresh commitment to the common good.

## **Prayer for the NHS and other key workers**

God our great healer, we thank you for all who serve this country in the National Health Service and we pray that you would prosper the work of their hands—that they would all be encouraged in their continued work of sacrifice and care among us.

## **Prayer for national and local government**

Powerful God, we pray for all those in positions of authority with responsibility for decision-making at national and local level; grant them great wisdom, deep commitment to all and right judgement.

## **Prayer for all who are grieving; and all who are suffering with physical and mental ill-health**

Loving God, we bring to you all those who suffer in body, mind and spirit or with grief; may they know your sustaining presence among their pain. Give to those stretched beyond their own capacity to cope, a new hope, a sense of coherence, comfort and strength.