

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.

ONLINE ASSISTANCE

A growing number of people are connecting with our churches online. We are aware that some people are still not confident using new technology and that talk of Facebook and Zoom can sound like a foreign language! If you would like to find out what is possible or need help connecting with us online please call either parish office and someone will try to assist you.

DEADLINE

The deadline for the February newsletter is Monday 22nd February. Please send your contributions to either parish office.

UPDATES

At the moment it is impossible to say what the weeks ahead will mean for church services and activities. The easiest way for us to update you is via email; if you are not yet receiving regular updates please consider joining our mailing list.

STAYING IN TOUCH

Websites

www.stnicolaschurch.org.uk
www.stjamesweddington.org.uk

Email

office@stnicolaschurch.org.uk
office@stjamesweddington.org.uk

Telephone

St Nicolas Office 02476344553
St James Office 02476325718

Vicar

revkells@gmail.com
02476346900

Associate Minister (St James)

revadrian@stjamesweddington.org.uk
07434663084

VIRTUAL PROGRAMME

For Zoom the meeting ID is 2476344553 and the password is 'Shekinah'.

Sundays 10am

WORSHIP SERVICE via the Facebook page of both churches.

Mondays 8.45am

MORNING PRAYER on Zoom.

Tuesdays, 10am

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

Tuesday 3pm

LOCKDOWN LINK-UP for St James.

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



February 2021

Sunday Services

Sunday 7th February

2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Proverbs 8:1, 22-31, Psalm 104: 26-end, Colossians 1:15-20, John 1:1-14

10am St Nicolas MORNING WORSHIP via Facebook

10am St James MORNING WORSHIP via Facebook

No act of public worship in the building.

Sunday 14th February

THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

10am St Nicolas MORNING WORSHIP via Facebook

10am St James MORNING WORSHIP via Facebook

No act of public worship in the building.

Sunday 21st February

THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-9, 1 Peter 3:18-end, Mark 1:9-15

10am St Nicolas MORNING WORSHIP via Facebook

10am St James MORNING WORSHIP via Facebook

No act of public worship in the building.

Sunday 28th February

THE 2RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-end, Romans 4:13-end, Mark 8:31-end

At the time of going to print it is unclear whether public worship in the building will be suspended beyond 21st February; updates will be sent by email.

In any case there will be online services from both churches via Facebook.

COLLECTS FOR FEBRUARY

2nd Sunday before Lent

Almighty God, give us
reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your
likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday next before Lent

Holy God, you know the
disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked
hearts,
and bend our wills to love your
goodness and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ash Wednesday

Holy God, our lives are laid
open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your
Son bring us healing and
make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

1st Sunday of Lent

Heavenly Father, your Son
battled with the powers of
darkness, and grew closer to
you in the desert:
help us to use these days to
grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your
saving love in Jesus Christ
our Lord.

2nd Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, by the prayer
and discipline of Lent may
we enter into the mystery
of Christ's sufferings, and
by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pause, ponder...

REPENTING AMEN

God's reassurance gifted to me,
Making a tapestry
Of calm within my fears,
God's mercy a psalm weaved
Into my imperfect living
Throughout the years.
God's forgiving
Threaded through hem
Of my misdeeds.
On seam of my repenting Amen
I know I will find his love,
Unconditional and whole
In a double row of stitches sewn
Over-locked and known
Within my soul.

PAT BIDMEAD



- Turn your newspaper into potting pots and turn plastic bottles into bird feeders.
- Where possible, use washable rather than disposable products... including face masks!
- Keep old envelopes and re-use them by covering the old address with a sticky label.
- One for the women: rather than using disposable sanitary products, use a Mooncup instead.

Recycle

- Use bin liners made from recycled material. They are readily available.
- Contact your supermarket and ask them to use recyclable plastic bags for all their fresh produce that is put into plastic bags. Ask too that they use compostable trays for all their fruit and vegetables.
- Buy your milk from the milkman and return your glass bottles.
- Recycle your kitchen waste by using a compost bin and a food digester.
- Recycle your water by installing a water butt in the garden, using your washing-up water on the garden and even installing a 'grey' water collection system.

Find out more here:

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



NEWS & INFO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

GEORGE & MARY BLISS

It very sad to report that George and Mary Bliss both died in January. Many will remember George and Mary from the time when they ran the Post Office on Higham Lane.

Mary was also a member of St Nicolas for many years and most recently was a familiar face in our Sunday morning worship and in the kitchen afterwards helping with the refreshments.

DRESSES FOR MALAWI

Sue Hextall (St James) is appealing for men's shirts in good condition and no longer worn. A friend adapts them to create dresses for little girls in a village in Malawi. You can contact Sue on 024 76744029 or email handsuehextall@hotmail.com.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Nuneaton Community Christmas Lunch Group was unable to host the usual Christmas Day lunch in 2020. Instead 'Christmas in a Box' was delivered to 100 grateful recipients.

Hopes for life beyond lockdown continued...

story of those who have been very ill with COVID, and to a lesser extent all of us during this pandemic.

Jesus is not only the model of the attributes that are linked so closely with a kinder simpler world, he is also the means for achieving that vision. So, my hopes for life beyond lockdown also include a growth in the number of new disciples of Jesus. Let's hope and pray for that too!

AG

**Come, Holy Spirit:
Come among us, come upon us.**

**Come, Spirit of Truth
– enlighten our minds;**

**Come, Spirit of Love
– enlarge our hearts;**

**Come, Holy Comforter
– strengthen and heal us;**

**Come, Holy Fire
– enflame and purify us;**

**Come, Breath of Life
– inspire us in our witness:**

**that all may be drawn to know you
and to praise you One God, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit.**

ECO TIPS



Reduce

- What do you throw away most? Aim to reduce this as much as possible. Keep a log of what you throw away and aim to reduce it by a third, through reducing packaging and recycling.
- Reduce your food packaging by buying a larger packet rather than many little packets, eg crisps, pasta, rice and yoghurt.
- Reduce the amount of food you throw away by planning your meals and writing a list before you go shopping – so you only buy what you will use.
- Tell the Mailing Preference Service you want to stop junk mail. Call 0845 7034599 or visit online.

Re-use

- Make sure you always re-use your carrier bags; better still, don't accept them in the first place. Always carry a spare bag so you have something with you to use if you go shopping.
- Buy a Fairtrade organic cotton or hemp bag. Keep it with you at all times so you don't need fresh bags from the shop.
- If something breaks try to get it fixed, rather than throwing it away. Even if this may not save you much money, it will save the planet.

...and pray

Remembering the thousands...

Gracious God,
as we remember before you the thousands who have died, surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion. Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair, and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

For those working in healthcare...

Everlasting God, at this time we lift to you those from all nations and backgrounds who work on the front line in healthcare. Give them skill and wisdom in their work. Be their strength and their shield as they give of themselves in the care of others.

For creation...

God of creation, who loves all he has made and all that has evolved, open the eyes of your people, that your love might be reflected in our care for the planet. Through Jesus Christ, who walked this earth and calls us by name.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (this year 17th February) and it is a 6 week season. The day before is Shrove Tuesday (or Pancake Day) and the word 'shrove' is linked to the word 'shriven' which means to be absolved of your sins. It sets the tone for Lent as a season characterised by self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter. The Christian community is invited to join in a journey over forty days, reminding us of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness.

Everyone approaches Lent differently but it may be a time when you read a book to help you with your faith, devote some extra time to prayer and Bible study or take up a new way of serving the community. Sometimes people give things up too—chocolate, wine, or watching television or connecting on social media for example; it is a bit like fasting in order to focus more fully on God.

Ordinarily we would have a service on Ash Wednesday to mark the start of Lent and people would be invited to receive the sign of the cross on their foreheads as a sign of penitence. Whilst we can't do that this year we will be offering two online services, 10am from St James and 7pm from St Nicolas, and providing service sheets to help you have your own time of Ash Wednesday reflection at home. Please do join in the day and the season and we begin our wilderness journey towards the cross and of course, the resurrection.



You might like to use Lent to read the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2021, **Living His Story** by Hannah Steele, published by SPCK. As you can glean from the title it is about stories

From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday (4 April), there are six reflections for each week based on the book; each includes a short passage from the Bible, a brief exploration of the reading, and a prayer. Each week has a unifying theme and an action to be taken during the week.

The daily reflections are available through the booklet available to buy from Church House Publishing. They will also be available as a free app (launching in early February), emails, audio and through the Church of England's social media accounts. The app version will include a daily Family Activity, offering a simple way to explore a story or a theme from the day's reflection. For more information:

**https://
www.churchofengland.org/
resources/livelent-2021-church-
resources-gods-story-our-story**

Lent Groups

We are unable to meet in person for Lent groups this year. In addition to the individual studies that we're encouraging through the #LiveLent booklets there will be some online studies as follows:

**Saturdays,
8.30am via Zoom**

STARTING 20TH FEB

*Studying the themes of the #Live Lent booklet: **God's Story, Our Story.***



**Tuesdays,
3pm via Zoom**

STARTING 23RD FEB

*An extension of the St James' Lockdown Link-Up these sessions will be looking at 'Great **Prayers of the Bible.**'*



**Wednesdays,
7pm via Zoom**

STARTING 24TH FEB

*A first look at the new **Living in Love and Faith** that explores themes such as identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.*



You may also like to check out some of the Lent resources being highlighted by the diocese:

**https://
www.coventry.anglican.org/
leaning-into-lent-2021/**



HOPES FOR LIFE BEYOND LOCKDOWN

Normally by this time of the year we may have given up on New

Year resolutions and forgotten our hopes and dreams for 2021, but with another new era on the horizon, what we hope for in the future has been re-vitalised. I'm talking about hopes for life after lockdown!

As I write, the vaccination programme is in full swing and very good progress has been made. At Candlemas (officially celebrated on 2nd Feb, but brought forward to Sunday 31 Jan by many churches), Christians remember the lifelong hopes of an over 80 year old being fulfilled when Anna the prophetess, saw the Saviour of the world in the arms of Mary and Joseph. It's fitting that this coincided with the majority of our over 80s having their hope for a vaccination fulfilled!

But what of our hopes for life beyond lockdown? I am reminded of the words spoken by Provost Richard Howard in a national radio broadcast on Christmas Day just 6 weeks after the bombing of Coventry Cathedral: with Christ born again in our hearts today, we are trying, hard as it may be, to

banish all thoughts of revenge... We are going to try to make a kinder, simpler, a more Christ Child-like sort of world in the days beyond this strife."

The pandemic hasn't resulted in a potential reason for revenge (as far as I am aware), but it has created a huge amount of strife. Listening to the hopes of others, many include the idea of a kinder, simpler world. We have all seen and heard about the incredible acts of kindness and compassion during this pandemic, but we have also witnessed small acts of consideration and awareness of one another – making space for others to pass in a socially distanced way whilst on a walk, a simple hello, or a smile.

Perhaps you have also simplified your lifestyle during lockdown and found that you can manage very well with less. I expect you have noticed the natural world in new ways too – a simple delight in creation.

But a kinder simpler world, envisaged by Howard, was not the whole story. He wanted it to be more Christ Child-like too. Jesus entered our world in great vulnerability and humility, and as a child depended completely on his human parents. These qualities have been part of the