

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 25th January. 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'. 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.

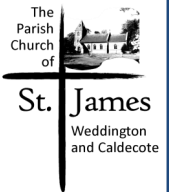
Saturdays 4-5pm

CHURCH QUIZ

A quiz for all ages via Zoom



*Going Deeper
Sowing Younger
Growing Community*



January 2021

Sunday Services

Sunday 3rd January

2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:10-18

10am MORNING WORSHIP at St James

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

Sunday 10th January

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Genesis 1:1-5, Acts 19:1-17, Mark 1:4-11

Online service from St James at 10am —no act of public worship in the building.

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

Sunday 17th January

THE 2ND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

1 Samuel 3:1-10, Revelation 5:1-10, John 1:43-end

Online worship at 10am for both churches via Facebook.

No act of public worship in either church building.

Sunday 24th January

THE 3RD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Genesis 14:17-20, Revelation 19:6-10, John 2:1-11

Online worship for both churches via Facebook.

No act of public worship in either church building.

Sunday 31st January

CANDLEMAS

Malachi 3:1-5, Hebrews 2:14-end, Luke 2: 22-40

Online worship at 10am for St James with a pre-recorded service with contributions from members of both churches.

The pre-recorded service will also be available via St Nicolas Facebook page and we hope to be able to 'join in' the service in the church building of St Nicolas as well.

COLLECTS FOR JANUARY

EPIPHANY

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us, that we may
find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan
you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your
beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

EPIPHANY 2

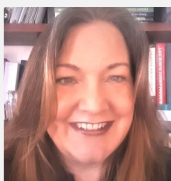
Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past
ages and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

EPIPHANY 3

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to
the poor, release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

CANDLEMAS

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the na-
tions and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

Thank you for the gifts and card we received over the Christmas period but most of all for the amazing support and hard work of so many people to ensure that our Christmas celebrations could go ahead in some form. It was lovely to catch up with many of you during this special season.

The weeks ahead pose some new challenges for us all as well as some fresh hope and opportunities.

The lockdown that began a few days into 2021 highlights the very serious position we find ourselves in as a country. Although churches and other places of worship are still permitted to open during this lockdown, the PCCs of St Nicolas and St James have taken a decision to close for public worship for a few weeks in order to review our risk assessment, re-assess our safety measures and ensure that we are acting as safely and responsibly as we can.

We will offer updates by email and our services will be available online (via Facebook) even when we are not able to meet in person.

Please continue your care for one another in these trying times.

KB

your toilet cistern.

- 8) Buy a used bathwater syphon to take your bath water into the garden.
- 9) Put a container under the hot water tap or shower to collect water while you're waiting for it to run hot.
- 10) Shower, don't bath (and don't use a power shower). You could use a third less water, saving up to 400 litres a week.

Find out more here:

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

WORD & WORSHIP

This programme of group discussion, study and topical input continues on Wednesday evenings at 7pm via Zoom. If you want to join in please contact Kelly for the details.

During January and the first part of February we are looking at the book of Ephesians, focusing on unity, the church and living a Christ-inspired lifestyle.

During Lent there may be a couple of options in place for Lent groups. One thing we hope to offer is the new *Living in Love and Faith* course which looks at issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.



BCDM

The Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship and Mission is a modular course that anyone is welcome to dip into and is a good foundation for Lay Readers and those considering licensed ministry within the church. There are currently a number of daytime and evening modules available, so there should be something convenient for everyone. Current modules topics include:

- Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts
- Jesus and the Gospels
- The Book of Revelation

You can find further details, including how to book here: <http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/BCDM/modules>

HELP REQUIRED

Kelly is looking to recruit a couple of people who would be willing and able to act as vergers at funerals and weddings. The aim is to establish a small team so that no one person is carrying the entire responsibility. If this is something that may interest you and you have flexibility during the week please get in touch with Kelly for more information. Recruitment will be in accordance with our safer recruitment policy. Training will be provided and expenses covered.

NEWS & INFO



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

ANN PARKES

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Ann Parkes on 29th December. Ann was a much loved member of St Nicolas for many years and most recently used her many gifts to support Messy Church. She will be missed by so many church friends as well as her family and the wider community. Ann's funeral will take place at St Nicolas on Wednesday 13th January; sadly, due to Covid, numbers are restricted and therefore it will not be possible for church members to attend.

ON THE MOVE

On Sunday 3rd January at St Nicolas we said our official goodbyes to Derek and Sally Hince as they prepare to move to their new home in Purley on Thames. It was lovely to be able to present them with a garden bench and some gardening vouchers as well as a card from church members

of St Nicolas and St James.

On Sunday 10th January there will be more goodbyes as we bid a fond farewell to the Seabourne family.

Please do keep the Hinces and the Seabourne in your prayers as they embark upon adventures new.

ECO TIP FROM ECO CHURCH

A new year often means new resolve to live differently. A Rocha UK's *Living Lightly* initiative has some great tips for making life more eco-friendly. Here are a couple of cleaning and water examples and you can find more on the A Rocha website:

- 1) Discover the cleaning power of Bicarbonate of Soda.
- 2) Wash your clothes with an alternative to traditional products such as from soapods, and Ecoegg.
- 3) Use lemon juice as a substitute bleach.
- 4) Use a white-wine vinegar solution as a descaler and glass cleaner.
- 5) Keep a jug of water in the fridge so you don't have to run the tap to get cold water.
- 6) Tip any spare water onto plants rather than down the plug.
- 7) Install a dual flush device in



Pause, Ponder

ON AND ON

From the death squads of King Herod

Joseph fled the Holy Land,

Away from dread oppression

Which found expression

In fixed eyes of dead men.

Thousands still flee the death squads

Of this twentieth century,

And each refugee

Knows ancient story goes on and on

With common consensus,

Because men fail to see

There is only one kind of humanity

Existing of I and we.

Pat Bidmead



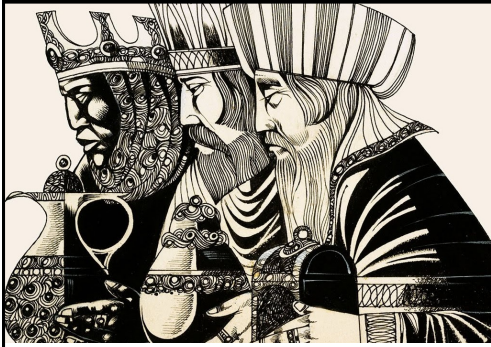
Pray

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our
neighbour, and to care for
those in need as if we
were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety,
give us strength
to comfort the fearful,
to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.
Amen.

May God,
who has called us out of
darkness into his marvellous light,
bless us and fill us with peace.
Amen.

Loving God,
bless my family, my friends and all
in my heart today.
May they be safe and well and
kept close to your peace and love.
Help me to know that you are with
me as I show love and care to
others.
Amen.





Epiphany Ponderings from the Vicar Matthew 2:1-18

Yesterday, 6th January 2021 was an extraordinary day. At this time last year I could not have imagined all that would be unfolding around the world in the months to follow nor the particular events in Washington DC on this feast of Epiphany.

Epiphany is always a poignant time I think. We held a small service of Holy Communion in St Nicolas Church; just 4 of us gathered that morning. As I prepared before the service I moved the wooden figures of the Magi to the crib to indicate that they had indeed arrived after their journeying. I knelt to take a picture of the scene for our Facebook page—strange that it is often easier to kneel for practical reasons than in worship!

Instead of preaching I mused with those gathered about the way in which the Magi represent us—the outsiders,

foreigners, Gentiles, who nevertheless get to be part of this amazing story of God's love. It required some effort on their part (and on God's) for the meeting to take place but the Magi did indeed get to know that in Christ, God had come to them.

The backdrop though is political unrest and a paranoid leader (King Herod), fearful of any perceived threat to this reign. 'He was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him' (Matthew 2:3), at the thought of a new king, a different reign, a changed administration. The balance of power weighted in the King's favour, also favoured many others; when you're a beneficiary of the status quo you're less likely to want to rock the boat. What does that mean for personal integrity?

That Herod should feel first intimidated by an infant and then take steps to neutralise any competition led to a desperate act of violence that found resonance in the events in and around the Capitol building in Washington at Epiphany 2021.

A furious Herod incited others to violence, to infanticide, rather than lose his grip on power.

These Christmas narratives are powerful and relevant reminders that it is into the very darkest of human experiences that God speaks and acts; the vulnerability of the Christ-child is a subversive challenge to those who think that authority and power is expressed in control. It comes with a clear warning that character and truth matter, that leadership is a gift and not a right and that we all have to decide whether we will be complicit in injustice or be those who seek to call it out, overturn it and speak truth to power.

Like those weeping and mourning for the children who are no more, we grieve for the victims of recent violence and lament the degradation of truth and righteousness.

We pray for wise men and women of our age who will be willing to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God... and we pray that we might be among them.

KB



We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect
our own safety:
we are people who protect
our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

*O God, who would fold both
heaven and earth in a single peace:
let the design of thy great love
lighten upon the waste of our wraths
and sorrows:*

*and give peace to thy Church,
peace among nations,
peace in our dwellings,
and peace in our hearts:
through thy Son our Saviour Jesus
Christ.
Amen.*