

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is the responsibility of us all and this is especially true during a vacancy. Please do maintain contact with church friends and check in on those you've not seen or heard from for a while.

In addition we have a team of people who can visit or offer support. Please contact Revd Adrian, Revd Martin, a churchwarden or member of the staff team if you would value a pastoral visit or call.

ONLINE ASSISTANCE

A large 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 May newsletter is Monday 19th April. Please send your contributions to either parish office.

UPDATES

Please join the update emailing list by sending your details to either parish office. This is the easiest (and least expensive) way for us to keep in contact with you.

STAYING IN TOUCH

Websites

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

Facebook

www.facebook.com/stnicolaschurchnuneaton
www.facebook.com/stjameschurchweddington

Email

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

Telephone

St Nicolas Office 02476344553
St James Office 02476325718

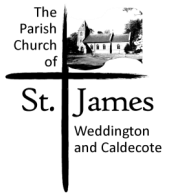
Associate Minister (St James)

revadrian@stjamesweddington.org.uk
07434663084

Adrian's working days are Sunday,
Monday and Tuesday.



Going Deeper
Sowing Younger
Growing Community



Sunday Services

Sunday 4th April

EASTER DAY

Isaiah 25:6-9, Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18 Psalm 118

10am St Nicolas HOLY COMMUNION
10am St James MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday 11th April

THE 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 4:32-35, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-end

10am St Nicolas MORNING WORSHIP
10am St James HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 18th April

THE 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 3:12-19, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48

10am St Nicolas HOLY COMMUNION
10am St James MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday 25th April

THE 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 4:5-12, 1 John 3:16-end, John 10:11-18 Psalm 23

10am St Nicolas MORNING WORSHIP
10am St James HOLY COMMUNION

Services will be in church (booking necessary) and via Facebook.
Booking details are on a following page.

COLLECTS FOR APRIL

Easter Sunday

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains
of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and
hope; for a new day has
dawned and the way to life
stands open in our Saviour
Jesus Christ.

2nd Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked,
no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of
others and walk the joyful road
of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

3rd Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with
boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your
risen life and fill us with your
peace, to the glory of God the
Father.

4th Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your
Father's sheep: teach us to
hear your voice and to follow
your command, that all your
people may be gathered into
one flock,
to the glory of God the Father



That's all folks!

A few days ago I had to draw up a detailed inventory of house contents to be insured for our move to Cornwall. There can be few things as sobering as assessing the quantity and financial value of the things accumulated over a lifetime, especially when noting how many of those possessions are rarely used or appreciated. I was embarrassed to calculate the final insurance sum; who could have guessed that clothing, CDs and books would feature so significantly?!

The removal company's advice has been to 'sort out those items that have been accumulated over the years... charities are able to benefit from receiving items you no longer require.' Downsize!

That is easier said than done in the middle of a pandemic. Even in 'normal' times deciding what is surplus to requirements on the next step of the journey is difficult. Plus I am attached (irrationally) to myriad items that, to others, seem of little consequence. My bookshelves are strewn with tokens and trinkets that have special connections or that I suspect may be useful one day!

We have people coming to do the packing for us; had I been packing all of my own belongings I may have been more ruthless with the cull, more discerning in assessing what is really required.

In the middle of this process we learned that a friend in Kenya was unwell and required urgent medical attention. Without an NHS hospital treatment is accompanied by a hefty bill and my accumulated wealth became even more of an embarrassment when I considered how many of my books or CDs could have paid for a hospital bed. Things are never quite so simple but the words of John the Baptist about the person with two coats and the

NEWS & INFO

MONEY MATTERS

The amounts raised for charity at the St Nicolas' Christmas services were:

Christian Aid—£40.88

The Children's Society—£99.87



For obvious reasons the amounts were significantly less than in previous years. In general giving to both churches was far lower than usual during 2020 and we missed the regular income from hall lettings. Consequently during the last twelve months expenditure exceeding income. There will be more information in the annual report and accounts. Thank you to everyone who continued to give and to those who increased their giving. We're also grateful to everyone who switched to standing order or direct bank transfer. It is still possible for others to do this; please contact the parish office (of either church) if you would like to be put in touch with the treasurer or giving secretary.

VACANCY INFO

If you're unsure who to contact during the vacancy the first point of call will be the wardens or the parish office. During the coming weeks the PCCs will be meeting with Archdeacon Barry to begin work on a parish profiles which is the first step in making a new appointment.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In April we celebrate with Suzannah Blackmore and Matthew Gibson who are being Confirmed at Coventry Cathedral on Easter Day. We also remember in our prayers those who are unwell or journeying through bereavement.
'Lord may your love and peace be present in every heart and home.'

APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meetings of St Nicolas and St James will take place on Sunday 25th April at 11.30am. Due to the current restrictions it seems likely that the meetings will need to take place via Zoom.

If you would like to stand for a place on PCC or as churchwarden please ensure that you are on the church electoral roll and that you have completed a nomination form. Details from the current churchwardens or the office.

SAINTS NEWS

Saints Nuneaton, is one of several key projects part of the Nuneaton Town Investment plan, which was approved as part of the government budget announced on Wednesday 3rd March.

NEW ADDRESS

As of 16th April, Simon and Kelly's new address will be 4 Park Drive, Bodmin, PL31 2QF.

GIVE THE WORLD A SHOT

unicef | Crowdfunder

*Have you had your shot?
Can you help someone else to get theirs?*

The Church of England is supporting the 'VaccinAid' campaign which aims to help fund the biggest vaccination drive in history.

Led by UNICEF UK, with the online fundraising platform Crowdfunder, the campaign offers people a practical way to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccination, by making a voluntary donation to help pay for jabs for others around the world.

It aims to help fund almost two billion Covid-19 vaccines for health workers and the most high risk and vulnerable people on our planet. The money raised will also help UNICEF provide tests and treatments to people in 190 countries around the world through the global COVAX initiative.

Using the Crowdfunder platform, individual donations can be given, or communities - including parishes - can sign-up to fundraise together.

For more information on the campaign go to www.vaccinaid.org to donate or begin fundraising.



VIRTUAL PROGRAMME

For most Zoom meetings the ID is 2476344553 and the password is 'Shekinah'.

Sundays 10am

WORSHIP SERVICE via the Facebook page of both churches followed by *Coffee Lounge* via Zoom.

Monday to Friday at 8.30pm

NIGHT PRAYER on Facebook.

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 for all ages via Zoom.



person with none (Luke 3:11) is ringing in my ears... I have more than two... more than two of most things.

Therefore in saying my farewells the first thought in my head is about travelling light. Journeying is so much easier when I'm not carrying more than I need. And if I do (carry more than I need) I might be depriving someone else of what is essential for them. It's true for individuals and true for churches.

The second comment is about endings and beginnings. Paul often signs off his letters to the churches with some instructions or words of warmth and affection. In Philippians Paul seems twice to bring the letter to a close as he is so full of things he wants to express—his love for the Christians in Philippi, his gratitude for their support, some exhortations, etc. I wonder if Paul was ever tempted to put down roots and make one of the beloved church communities his permanent home?

Preparing to leave St Nicolas and St James has made me realise how deeply one can care about a church community and still need to move on.

Over recent weeks I've had many 'last' occasions and with them a growing sense of bereavement as I've recognised that there are some things I won't get to do again, or at least not with the same people. Ending well is tough, goodbyes are difficult. People have been warm and kind and that has almost made the process even more challenging!

Whether we 'move on' literally or figuratively, our lives include multiple endings and beginnings, some welcome, others less so.

Just before the celebrations of

Easter one of the Bible passages we focus on is Jesus speaking of his own death in John 12:22-30.

At a time in his ministry when it seemed as though everything might be possible Jesus side-stepped the popularity and power on offer to surrender to a different plan and purpose. To those around him it didn't seem to make sense. Using the illustration of a kernel of wheat falling to the ground, Jesus indicated that not everything that appears to be loss or ending is so. It is only when the grain falls to the ground that it is able to produce a harvest. It is only through Jesus' death that abundant life is made possible.

I am conscious that in endings that feel a little like bereavement to me there is new life and opportunities. I'm looking forward to what is ahead, with trepidation and hope! I am also full of anticipation for the next chapters of church life for St James and St Nicolas. I can't wait to hear what new and exciting things unfold in the years ahead. What is becoming ever more apparent is that blessing doesn't come by grasping and holding the 'grain' tightly but rather by letting it go... a lesson in so many areas of life.

Perhaps that is why Paul was able to move from place to place planting churches but not settling in them — because new life requires endings as well as beginnings.

That said, I'm not good at goodbyes. I will avoid your eyes and beat a hasty retreat. But I do want you all to know how grateful I am to have been incumbent of St Nicolas and St James. I don't feel up to the task ahead but I will always count myself blessed to have been on this part of this journey with you.

KB

Pause, ponder...

SHADOWS OF EASTER

Shadow sleeping beneath the
Cross
Within your deepness
Do I see tears
Of a weeping Mary?
Shadow falling behind the Cross,
From your inner shade
Do I hear a voice
Calling from tomorrow?
Shadow flickering before the
Cross,
Do I see vision of God made man
Breaking barriers of time
To be emptied by sorrow.
Shadow lying over the Cross
In night day begun,
For born of shadow
Is undying light
Of Easter morn.

PAT BIDMEAD

...and pray

A prayer for children

Loving God,
your Son told his disciples
to become like little children.
Lead us to work for the welfare
and protection of all young
people.

May we respect their dignity
that they may flourish in life,
following the example of the
same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A prayer for family life

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child
of Mary, shared the life of a
home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole
human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your
presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Services on the route map out of lockdown

As we emerge from the third lockdown our pattern of worship (and some other areas of church life) will not automatically revert to how it was prior to the pandemic. In part this is because of the ongoing restrictions and because we anticipate the return to our church buildings may take while to grow as people receive the vaccine and regain confidence in being out and about. We also recognise that our churches will be in vacancy and, in the short term, there will be fewer people available facilitate our work and worship.

In the coming months our worship pattern is likely to be as follows:

SUNDAYS

St Nicolas:

10am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sunday)

10am Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sunday)

4pm Messy Church (1st Sunday)

St James:

10am Morning Worship (1st and 3rd Sunday)

10am Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sunday)

Also a joint service of Holy Communion on a 5th Sunday—29th May (St Nicolas), 29th August (St James), 31st October (St Nicolas).

WEDNESDAYS

St Nicolas:

10am BCP Holy Communion (usually 1st Wednesday)

For Sunday services it will be essential to book places (at least in the short term) as numbers will be restricted.

For St James please book with a churchwarden or Revd Adrian.

For St Nicolas please book by email: servicebookings@stnicolaschurch.org.uk or phone 02376344553, giving the date and time of the service you wish to attend and the number of places.

For both churches it is helpful if you can make your booking by Thursday otherwise we may not be able to register your booking in time.

Please remember the need to wear a mask and maintain social distancing when you attend any service.





STEP 2

No earlier than April 12th

Education

- As previous step



Social Contact

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors
- Household only indoors



Business & Activities

- All retail
- Personal care
- Libraries & community centres
- Most outdoor attractions
- Indoor leisure inc. gyms (individual use only)
- Self-contained accommodation
- All children's activities
- Outdoor hospitality
- Indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents)



Travel

- Domestic overnight stays
- No international holidays



Events

- Funerals (30)
- Weddings, wakes, receptions (15)
- Event pilots



Based on the Government's Reopening Roadmap published on February 22, 2021

Everyday Faith

Workshops to equip you
for serving Christ in your everyday life.



We have all been placed in a unique context at a specific time with people that matter to God. Everyday Faith seeks to explore how we can live as God's people and positively influence those around us as we encounter God in our everyday lives. The Serving Christ team are excited to host a series of workshops to equip and encourage you to live out your faith seven days a week.
(These events will be on Zoom)

Everyday Faith: Resourcing the Church: Saturday 24 April, 10:00am-12:15pm

How can your church inspire everyday faith? This workshop will give you tools and ideas to empower those in your church to live out their faith each day, in their home, work, rest and play. We encourage you to come with one or two others from your church where possible so you can share ideas and support one another's plans going forwards.

Everyday Faith: Conversations: Monday 24 May, 7:30-9:00pm

For many of us, we rarely talk about our relationship with God and the challenges and joys of living out our faith, even with other Christians! We may share the struggles and joys of life with friends and families but can stop one step short of exploring how God might be working in a situation and praying together. In this session we will explore ways to inspire and encourage one another's faith through conversations at home, with friends, in our workplaces and in church.

Everyday Faith: Stay On Point: Monday 14 June, 7:30-9:00pm

Keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus in a world of email, social media and Netflix can be a challenge. It is estimated on average that we see over 5,000 adverts a day. When so many people are demanding our time and attention, how is it possible to maintain our focus? Come and join us as we explore how we can turn down life's noise and stay on point.

To register: <https://coventrydtp.typeform.com/to/oMQPQI98> or go to the website for the Diocese of Coventry and follow the links for the

ECO TIPS

Tips for gardening and growing:

- Start a compost heap.
- Support local nurseries, rather than big garden centre chains.
- Find out if there is a local seed swap near you – and join in!
- Buy organic seeds.
- Don't use garden products that contain peat.
- Don't use chemicals in your gardening.
- Create a garden that's a bit messy! Leave some less tidy places for wild life.
- Install a bat box. Find out more about caring for bats in your church and home by downloading A Rocha UK's special leaflet.
- Put up nesting boxes for birds.
- Introduce plants that attract butterflies and bees, such as lavender, buddleia, and nettles (in a container in the ground to stop them spreading).
- Ensure a regular supply of fresh water and food for birds.
- Don't de-head flowers too quickly. Leave the seeds on for the birds to eat.
- Build a pond – being careful with small children, of course. Ensure it has sloping sides so amphibians can get in and out easily, and birds and small animals can drink from it without the danger of falling in. If you can't build a pond, put an old washing-up bowl in your backyard for frogs to enjoy.
- Plant a hedge from native plants such as hawthorn, which will provide both food and shelter.

Find out more here:

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

St Nicolas' Church has won a bronze Eco Church award in recognition of efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas:

- ◇ Worship and Teaching
- ◇ Management of Buildings and Land
- ◇ Community and Global Engagement
- ◇ Lifestyle

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this award in some way.



STEP 1 29th March



Education

- As previous step



Social Contact

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors
- Household only indoors



Business & Activities

- Organised outdoor sport (children and adults)
- Outdoor sport and leisure facilities
- All outdoor children's activities
- Outdoor parent & child group (up to 15 parents)



Travel

- Minimise travel
- No holidays



Events

- Funerals (30)
- Weddings and wakes (6)

