

PASTORAL CARE

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 call or 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 April newsletter is Monday 19th March. Please send your contributions to either parish office.

COVID UPDATES

As we prepare to return to the church buildings towards the end of March please remember the following:

- book a place to attend;
- wear a face covering over your mouth and nose;
- sanitise your hands often;
- observe social distancing;
- limit interaction to that which is necessary;
- do not attend if you have any COVID-typical symptoms.

THANK YOU!

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 most Zoom meetings the ID is 2476344553 and the password is 'Shekinah'.
For closed meetings you will need to gain joining info from the group facilitator.

Sundays 10am

WORSHIP SERVICE via the Facebook page of both churches followed by
COFFEE LOUNGE via Zoom at 11.15am.

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 8.30am

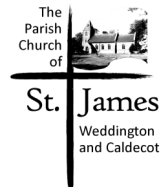
BREAKFAST CLUB via Zoom.

Saturdays 4-5pm

CHURCH QUIZ for all ages via Zoom.



Going Deeper
Sowing Younger
Growing Community



March 2021

Sunday Services

Sunday 7th March

THE 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19:26-end, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

10am St Nicolas **HOLY COMMUNION** via Facebook

10am St James **MORNING WORSHIP** via Facebook

No act of public worship in the building.

Sunday 14th March

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Exodus 2:1-10, Psalm 34:11-20 or 127:1-4, Colossians 3:12-17, John 19:25b-27

10am St Nicolas **MORNING WORSHIP** via Facebook

10am St James **HOLY COMMUNION** via Facebook

No act of public worship in the building.

Sunday 21st March

THE 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-13, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

10am St Nicolas **HOLY COMMUNION** in the building (please book) and via Facebook.

10am St James **MORNING WORSHIP** via Facebook only.

Sunday 28th March

PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-18, Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 14:1-15

10am St Nicolas **MORNING WORSHIP** in the building (please book) and via Facebook.

10am St James **HOLY COMMUNION** in the building (please book) and via Facebook.

4pm Messy Church via Zoom

Wednesday morning Holy Communion (BCP) service at St Nicolas on 24th March and 31st March at 10am.

See following pages for Holy Week plans...

COLLECTS FOR MARCH

3rd Sunday of Lent

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are
promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mothering Sunday

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

5th Sunday of Lent

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of
his passion, that we may know
eternal peace through the
shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Palm Sunday

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you
and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.

Pause, ponder...

PRAYER FOR LENT

As our Lenten prayers
Draw to a close,
We pray
That we the well fed
Observing obligations of lent,
Will remember those
Deprived of bread,
Whose fast will not be
Just like ours for Lent,
But permanent.

PAT BIDMAD

*"Fasting makes sense
if it really chips away
at our security, and as
a consequence, benefits
someone else, it it helps
us cultivate the style
of the good Samaritan,
who bent down to his
brother in need and took
care of him."*

—Pope Francis

FLYING

- If you have to fly, offset your emissions through A Rocha's Climate Stewards initiative.

Find out more here:

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

**WELL DONE TO THE TEAM AT ST NICOLAS
FOR HELPING US ACHIEVE AN ECO
CHURCH BRONZE AWARD!**

NEWS & INFO

DONATIONS

Nuneaton Foodbank and homeless charity Doorway are both in need of donations of food and toiletries. Please see the charity website for more information.

THE HINCES

Sally and Derek have emailed to thank us for the love and kindness expressing at their leaving and for the gifts we gave them. They say: *'We felt very humbled. We're settling into our new home here in Purley. The start of a new adventure indeed'*.

If you would like to stay in touch with Derek and Sally they have kept their old email address.

BETTER EQUIPPED

In recent months both church offices have had an upgrade. For St James this included installing a phone line and broadband and setting up the office to provide a base from which Marina can work as administrator. For St Nicolas this meant replacing two very old desks and purchasing a

new computer to replace one that had grown so old and slow that it was hampering our work.

We all benefit from having well-equipped offices but keeping them that way costs money—in this case £814 for St Nicolas and less for St James.

During Lent we're inviting church members to consider contributing specifically towards these costs by making a donation.

VACANCY

When a vicar moves on from a parish/benefice the church(es) enter a vacancy, sometimes referred to as an 'interregnum'. The PCCs work with the archdeacons to think about the current profile of the churches, their strengths and weaknesses, thoughts about a future direction and what they might be looking for in a new vicar. Representatives of St Nicolas and St James PCCs have already started this process, meeting with Archdeacon Sue a few weeks ago.

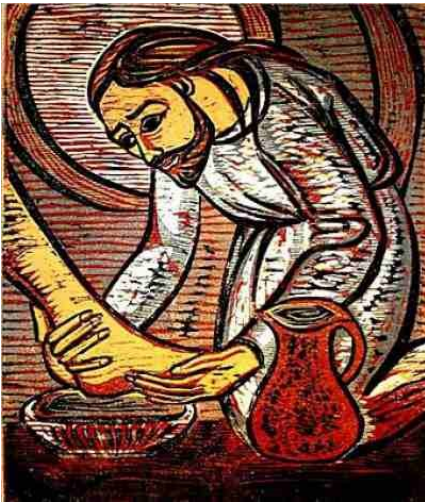
During a vacancy period other leaders (PCC members, wardens, staff and clergy) cover many of the crucial aspects of the role with some visiting priests helping out with some services and duties. Some things have to be pared back a little so that the workload is not too burdensome and in general no major changes take place during a vacancy.

The area dean and archdeacons are on hand to offer help and advice.



ourselves that are often less presentable.

Maundy Thursday requires of us humility—we have to humble ourselves to kneel at the feet of another but we also have to be humble enough to let our feet be washed, to relinquish control, to show the wear of the journey and the dirt of the paths we've trod.



Let us pray...

Loving God, like Simon Peter we want to say 'Not my feet!'

Yet we know we need to learn to be served and to serve; to be vulnerable and humble, to be gracious and honest.

Help us in this season of penitence and preparation to grow in the likeness of Christ and follow his example of service and love.

Amen.

ECO TIPS



As lockdown restrictions ease many of us will be looking forward to travelling. This month's Eco Tips remind us of travel-related ways in which we can care for the planet.

BY CAR

- If you have to drive somewhere, plan ahead to combine tasks. See if you can do all your car-based jobs once a week.
- Slow down! Increasing your cruising speed from 55mph to 75mph can raise fuel consumption as much as 20 per cent, according to *Eartheasy*. But you can improve your mileage by 10-15 per cent by driving at 55mph rather than 65mph.
- Change your driving patterns to be more fuel-efficient. Shift into the higher gears as quickly as possible, don't brake hard, keep tyres well inflated and keep your car well serviced. Drive lightly!

WALKING

- Walk where you can. It's good for your health as well as the environment! Walking children to school can be quality time, with stories, sharing and people-watching!
- Buy waterproof clothes so you can walk even when raining.
- Buy a shopping trolley to carry your things.
- Get a pedometer so you can see how much you're walking, and be motivated to walk more.

...and pray

For creation...

Lord Jesus,
the earth is yours and you have commanded the winds and the sea;
help us to leave behind
our consumer demand for plastics
and move towards behaviours
that are environmentally healthy;
help us to follow your lead in caring
for the world you love.

For those who mourn...

Compassionate God,
your Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears at the grave of Lazarus, his friend; comfort those who mourn
and help all of us to know the hope
that comes from trusting our lives
to you.

For those who are weary...

Loving Lord,
many are wearied by the
circumstances of the last 12 months;
sustain us by your Spirit, give fresh
energy and motivation to those who
are flagging and help us to find
restoration and peace in you.

For the future...

Almighty God,
when we are inclined to become
anxious about tomorrow help us to
acknowledge the blessings of today.



It's not too late to get involved in something special for Lent. You might like to read the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2021, *Living His Story* by Hannah Steele, published by SPCK.

Also in booklet form (*#Live Lent*) from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday (4 April), there are some short daily reflections, based on the *Living His Story* 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 booklets are available to buy from Church House Publishing.

In addition there is a free app linked to the *#LiveLent* material. The app version includes a daily Family Activity, offering a simple way to explore a story or a theme from the day's reflection. For more information go to the Church of England website.



HOLY WEEK 2021

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday (28th March) and is the name given to the week leading up to Easter. During this time we reflect on the days leading up to the crucifixion and we journey with Jesus through the events of this climactic week.

As churches planning and advertising our services for that week we are aware that some things may not be able to go ahead; there is still a degree of uncertainty about the route out of lockdown. Please bear this in mind as you think about those things with which you might like to engage. Also be aware of the need to book for services and observe the on-going Covid measures.

Tues 30th March

7pm **TAIZE TENEBRAE** at St Nicolas

Tenebrae is Latin for 'shadows'. In this service we re-tell the passion narrative and represent the emotion of this story by extinguishing candles until the service ends in darkness.

Wed 31st March

10am **HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)** at St Nicolas

A traditional service of Holy Communion.

Thurs 1st April (Maundy Thursday)

From 10am **READING THE PASSION** at St James

Come along to listen to the passion narrative being read or take part in the reading, as a way of re-connecting with the story of Holy Week.

7pm **HOLY COMMUNION** at St Nicolas

A simple service of Holy Communion.

Friday 2nd April (Good Friday)

10am **MESSY CHURCH STATIONS OF THE CROSS** at St Nicolas
A socially distanced journey around some stations of the cross with activities for all ages.

1pm **REFLECTING AT THE CROSS** at St Nicolas

2pm **REFLECTING AT THE CROSS** at St James

A short time of reflection and meditation at each church.

Also throughout the week at St James there will be some installations/stations outside of the church building.



FROM THE VICAR

In writing to friends about my new appointment I rather facetiously described the role as akin to being a butler.

Traditionally, in a large house the butler is the one who helps the smooth-running of the household and serves the family and guests. I may be mistaken—time will tell—but I think there is something of those arranging, caring and serving duties that are core to being an archdeacon.

A deacon is one who serves and 'arch' stems from a Greek word meaning 'origin' or 'principal'. Incidentally, I also warm to the definition of arch as 'playful or teasing', which is something I could get to grips with—a playful servant! In fact, that seems to be a fair definition of any disciple of Jesus.

One of the events we recall during Holy Week is an act of service when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. It was a duty that might ordinarily have been undertaken by a servant or junior member of the household, but the account in John 13 shows Jesus intentionally fulfilling the task.

The account is powerful for a number of reasons, not least because Jesus knew that he was about to be betrayed. At a point when we might have been tempted to exert power and control Jesus chose to express love and service even towards his betrayer.

He told his disciples that he'd set them an example; he'd shown them how to love, to serve and to mediate grace. He'd shown us all that if any status is to be sought it is that of a servant.

On Maundy Thursday we often re-enact the foot-washing. At times we might squirm at the thought of playing either role in the drama because having our feet washed can make us uncomfortable and vulnerable. Perhaps we ensure our feet are already nice and clean prior to the Maundy Thursday event or we avoid the vicar's gaze when volunteers are being sought!

But I think this symbolic act of foot-washing is important, to the extent that we might need to overcome our squeamishness and embarrassment. It reminds us of who we are; we are those who have been served by Christ and commissioned to serve others. It also causes us to acknowledge our own messy humanity and the parts of