



Going Deeper
Sowing Younger
Growing Community



Sunday Services

Sunday 2nd May - 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 8:26-end, 1 John 4:7-end, John 15:1-9

10am St Nicolas HOLY COMMUNION

10am St James MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday 9th May - 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 10:44-end, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

10am St Nicolas MORNING WORSHIP

10am St James HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 16th May - 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 1:15-17, 21-end, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19

10am St Nicolas HOLY COMMUNION

10am St James MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday 23rd May - THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27 & 16:4b-15

10am St Nicolas MORNING WORSHIP

10am St James HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 30th May - TRINITY SUNDAY

Isaiah 6:1-8, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

10am St Nicolas (Joint service with St James) HOLY COMMUNION





Join us on zoom for a special Messy Church Pentecost celebration on **Sunday 23rd May at 4pm**. Join with other families in worship online through activities, stories and songs. It will be noisy and messy and fun! We'll provide everything you need beforehand. Message us by email or through Facebook for further details. Hope to see you then.



ST JAMES and ST NICOLAS Joint service

What a wonderful opportunity to see each other again after such a long time. As this will be the fifth Sunday of the month it seemed appropriate to have the one joint service. This time it will be at **St Nicolas on Sunday 30th May at 10.00am**. Please join us for worship and enjoy the chance to meet up with people we have not seen for over a year.

NEWS & INFO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

COLLECTS FOR MAY

5th Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and Courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father,

6th Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.

7th Sunday of Easter

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

The Day of Pentecost

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Trinity Sunday

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son.

Please contact your parish office no later than Thursday evening prior to a service to book.
office@stjamesweddington.org.uk - servicebookings@stnicolaschurch.org.uk

‘GOODBYE, FAREWELL and AMEN’

‘The title of the last TV episode of MASH, broadcast in 1983; a moving end to what had been a most successful run of eleven seasons.

Based on the experiences and relationships within a MOBILE ARMY SURGICAL HOSPITAL, during the Korean War, it illustrated the emotions, highs, lows, ups and downs of working together as a unit, much like being part of Church.

Easter Sunday, a day which fills us all with HOPE; this year, on the 4th April, those of us able to be in church, must have felt a degree of frustration in not being able to give Kelly the farewell we would have liked, under normal circumstances.

However, with behind the scenes planning it all came together with the added blessing of sun shining in on us.

The gifts given to Kelly and Simon were our way of saying ‘thank you’ for the contribution they had made to the life of our church here at St. Nicolas and the journey we had travelled together.

The move to Cornwall marks another step in the journey that God has planned for Kelly and we pray that good health and happiness will support her in whatever that journey involves.

As we enter a period of Interregnum, whether this be short or long, there will be challenges ahead, but we have the blessing of an enthusiastic and strong PCC who will give support and encouragement to our Readers and those planning and leading our worship.

It is perhaps an ideal time to remember that we are all disciples of Christ, bringing the good news of Jesus to those we encounter in our everyday lives. This, to some, has proved to be a challenge in itself during the last year, but to others, a pathway to new opportunities as we look forward to summer and the door opening to more freedom.

So, we pray

‘Jesus, may You give us the grace to practise Your ways by the power of the Holy Spirit. Empower us to cultivate the soil of our lives by repeated actions---- even our weak and feeble ones that fail so often---so that the fruit of the Spirit may appear’.

Finally, and on a personal note, as I retire after ten years as a Warden, may I thank all who have supported, encouraged and made me laugh during that time. It has been a privilege and pleasure to work alongside such lovely folk, in particular, Kelly, Nick, and not forgetting Don who set me on that path; all who have contributed to the life of our church.

I continue to pray for those who have been faithful companions to me and strength and encouragement to those who follow me.

Roger Parker

Please contact your parish office no later than Thursday evening prior to a service to book.
office@stjamesweddington.org.uk - servicebookings@stnicolaschurch.org.uk

Pause, ponder...

...and pray

DAY OF DOUBT

Unlike Thomas my cries
to witness truth
Don't have to be seen with
my eyes
But with my mind,
Concepts clearly de-
fined.
So am I so different from
Thomas
On that day of doubt?
Do I still wander about in
that gap
Between proof and faith
completely blind?

PAT BIDMEAD

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.

Dean Moore

I have been pondering over the following verse and I have written my thoughts about it during this Easter season...

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.”
Micah 6:8

The swallows arrived back on Easter Sunday this year. They have been coming to nest in our outbuildings for as long as we can remember, and seeing them return is always a moment for celebration. They are early this year though; about three weeks earlier than usual and as we talked about why that might be, the subject of the climate came up. Have our swallows returned early because of climate change?

“Climate change” has been around as a phrase for at least 40 years but more recently it has become almost as common to hear the phrases “climate crisis” or “climate justice.” Justice is a big issue throughout the Bible as God reminds his people over and over again of the importance of being fair in their dealings with everyone and everything, but particularly with those who are poor or oppressed in any way. The vast majority of climate scientists tell us that the climate is changing because of human activity; for the most part, the human activity of those of us who live in the richer and more developed parts of the world. I have been convicted over and

over in the last few years that the way I choose to live my life has an impact on people, creatures, and ecosystems who are poor and oppressed and vulnerable and who need me to do what I can to work towards climate justice for all of creation. And that is why I have protested with Christian Climate Action, written to my MP, gone vegetarian, tried to avoid buying new clothes and spent time connecting with nature simply by sitting and being and becoming more aware of where God is in the climate crisis.

In Psalm 84 the writer sings out his longing to be in the temple of the Lord. But he also acknowledges that it is not only people who find a home in the presence of God. He writes **“Lord who rules over all, even the sparrow has found a home near your altar. My King and my God, the swallow also has a nest there, where she may have her young.”**

As I look at the swallows now flying around my garden, I remember that they and every other creature and plant on earth is valued and loved by God simply because he made them. I wonder what it was that prompted them to migrate slightly earlier this year, and I ponder yet again what part is mine to play in bringing climate justice to this sacred earth. Personally, I shall continue to take action, continue to keep an eye on my carbon footprint, and continue to pray as so many have before me “change the world Lord, and start with me.”

I wonder where you see your part in this?

‘About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and

Please contact your parish office no later than Thursday evening prior to a service to book.
office@stjamesweddington.org.uk - servicebookings@stnicolaschurch.org.uk



the other prisoners were listening to them.’ Acts 16:25

A couple of years ago I was awoken abruptly at 2am in a Birmingham New Street Hotel. I’d just slept through several hours of late night sirens and drunken singing in the streets below. The restless, relentless city noise didn’t wake me, no, it was something much more beautiful and familiar, but so out of place that it took a moment to work out what it was. A blackbird, singing just outside my window, 5 hours before the dawn.

I reached for my phone and searched online “do blackbirds sing at night?”. Apparently they do. Nocturnal bird song can be triggered by artificial light, but also by loud noises such as thunder, fireworks and... car alarms. So when the alarm of a car down below pierced the night in Birmingham, the blackbird’s timeless rhythm was disturbed and it burst into morning song. Whilst scrolling with my thumb, searching for information, I noticed several references to skylarks also singing before the dawn. On further research, I discovered that skylarks often sing while it’s dark during the breeding season. Their song-flight begins hours before dawn, and continues until well after dusk, as a sign to their potential mate that they are healthy and strong.

On a beautiful spring day, the skylark’s song is the perfect soundtrack for a walk in the wonderful British countryside. When several sing together, it’s like the sky has come alive, the air is filled with their song. I like to imagine that the skylarks play the first delicate notes of the morning symphony, while the rest of the orchestra roosts in trees and bushes, motionless and silent, waiting to join in.

Like a world class string section playing their hearts out for the God of creation. Sadly the population of skylarks in the UK is in decline (by 51% between 1995 and 2015), and this downward trend is continuing.

Skylarks sing because of the promise of the light, not the realisation of the light.

This Easter, it will be impossible to sing as we normally would. Instead, can we worship like Paul and Silas, who kept singing praises in prison despite their chains? Acts 16 (v22-35) so wonderfully highlights how God can work through all circumstances; within the midnight-hour the jailer, commanded to carefully guard the disciples, goes from drawing a sword on himself (all the prison doors are opened due to an earthquake) to his whole household being saved, baptised and served a meal! The jailer, at first trembling with fear (v29), **‘was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.’** (v34). Just as God works in this ‘locked-up’ story, our Easter hope in Jesus means that we can trust in Him to turn things around in our own lockdown stories too.

On Easter Day, let’s remember too that Mary Magdalene also got up early, while it was still dark, and started walking towards the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body with spice and oils. She did not know the tomb would be empty, but still she rose like a skylark in the dark.

The dawn is coming! In faith let’s rise and sing out our hearts in our homes and gardens this Easter. Let’s reach out and bless our communities and creation as a sign of our inextinguishable hope in Jesus our Saviour.

ase contact your parish office no later than Thursday evening prior to a service to book.
office@stjamesweddington.org.uk - servicebookings@stnicolaschurch.org.uk



Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost (13th – 23rd May 2021).

Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. Christians from 172 countries have taken part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Every person, household and church is encouraged to use this time to:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered for prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Let's use this time to pray that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities" Archbishop Justin Welby

There are some excellent re- sources to help individuals of all ages to take part – prayer journeys, an interactive family map and Cheeky Panda children's videos and activities – see www.thykingdomcome.global

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.**

Please contact your parish office no later than Thursday evening prior to a service to book.
office@stjamesweddington.org.uk - servicebookings@stnicolaschurch.org.uk

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, e.g. 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.
- 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 at:

arochoa.org.uk/our-activities/living-lightly-take-action/



Please contact your parish office no later than Thursday evening prior to a service to book.

office@stjamesweddington.org.uk - servicebookings@stnicolaschurch.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 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 June newsletter is Monday 17th May. 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

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 followed by COFFEE LOUNGE via Zoom.

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.

Please contact your parish office no later than Thursday evening prior to a service to book.

office@stjamesweddington.org.uk - servicebookings@stnicolaschurch.org.uk