



## Sunday & Christmas Services

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December – ST NICOLAS' PATRONAL FESTIVAL

*Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6*

**10am** St Nicolas HOLY COMMUNION

**10am** St James MORNING WORSHIP

**4pm** St Nicolas Messy Church

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Zephaniah 3:14-end, Philippians 4:4-7, Matthew 17:10-13*

**10am** St Nicolas MORNING WORSHIP

**10am** St James HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Micah 5:2-a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55*

**10am** St Nicolas HOLY COMMUNION & NATIVITY PLAY

**10am** St James MORNING WORSHIP

**6pm** Carol Service St Nicolas

**6pm** Carol Service St James

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December – CHRISTMAS EVE

*Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-14, John 1:1-14*

**4pm** St Nicolas FAMILY CAROLS & CRIB SERVICE

**4pm** St James FAMILY CAROLS

**11.30pm** MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST (JOINT SERVICE WITH ST JAMES)

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December – CHRISTMAS DAY

*Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20*

**10am** St Nicolas MORNING WORSHIP family friendly

**10am** St James – HOLY COMMUNION family friendly

SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER **NO SERVICE**

**Diocesan Service streamed on-line**

## Wednesday Service

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month)

*Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thess 3:9-end, Luke 21:25-36*

**10am** St Nicolas HOLY COMMUNION





## COLLECTS FOR DECEMBER

5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Almighty God,

purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ  
comes again as judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.

12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to  
prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.



19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Eternal God,

as Mary waited for the birth of  
your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of  
this present age  
to see, with her, our great  
salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Eternal God,

in the stillness of this night  
you sent your almighty Word  
to pierce the world's darkness with  
the light of salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we  
long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of  
heaven  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.





Pause, ponder...

..and pray



### **CANCELLED CHRISTMAS**

Dripping from iron eyes of steel minded  
men  
Molten tears stain the years,  
As Christmas is cancelled everywhere  
When festive bells clip edge of thought,  
And commercially strip understanding  
As they ring through empty shells of faith?  
In supermarket store we share  
Videoed song of metallic angels,  
Replacing penitential prayer of advent,  
But in unbent light from inner city ghetto  
Breathing His first breath on hour of  
midnight,  
Christ is laid in a bare drawer  
Of modern poverty and babe  
Of Bethlehem sleeps while dispossessed  
Adore their Lord,  
Singing His praises and in simple phrases  
Retelling story of birth, of death  
And resurrection to glory.

**PAT BIDMEAD**



Loving Jesus,  
you were born in a stable but  
worshipped by the angels.  
Be with (N. and) all who are lonely,  
and with all who feel distant from  
celebrations.  
Be for us a living hope that lightens  
their hearts.  
Amen.

The kings, Lord,  
brought myrrh, frankincense, and  
gold.  
Lord, we have nothing of our own  
to bring;  
we bring you what you have given:  
our lives for your life.  
Amen.

Jesus, Saviour, son of Mary,  
you know us and love us,  
you share our lives  
and hear our prayer.  
Glory to you for ever.  
Amen.



## Christmas is coming

I think it every year and probably say it most years – ‘how come it’s December already, how did we get to this point so quickly? There’s still so much to do to prepare for Christmas!’

I have to remind myself that units of time are the same despite seeming much longer to a child counting off each sleep before Christmas compared to busy adults who wish that there were more hours in the day.

Into the mix, comes Advent, a pre-Christmas gift or another thing to fit in? Just when we are at our busiest, we’re encouraged to slow down, take time out, rest-up, listen to God, read some devotional material and pray! A time to take stock, even. That’s the last thing any busy retailer is doing during Advent!

The Bible passages set as readings during Advent are designed to put the first advent, and the future advent of Jesus, in context, inviting us to stand back and think why we need a Saviour (Christmas) and a Lord (Second Coming) and what the world was like before the first advent and what to expect before the second advent. This is a part of taking stock, but there’s another aspect to this too. During the Advent season, we’re invited to take stock of where we are now, to welcome Jesus into our here-and-now-everyday lives.

This Advent, if we only focus on the nativity and ignore the back-story, we will probably miss the point of Christmas. If we look forward to Jesus coming again and are ignorant about the signs, like the Bridesmaids in Jesus’ story (Matthew 25 v

1-13), we will be unprepared for his return. And if we are so busy preparing for the festivities of Christmas with no time to listen, watch and pray, we’ll miss out on drawing close to Jesus, the one the past and future advents are all about.

Advent is a multi-directional season: planning to celebrate an historic event; looking forward to a promised event; seeking a current event. So what is the ‘current event’ that we should be seeking during Advent? Is it about deciding what we want God to do for us or for a particular situation we, or others close to us, face? Inviting God to sort out for us a current problem by drawing closer to the divine fixer of human dilemmas? Or could Advent be an opportunity to simply draw closer to God, in, rather than for, our current situation? Could it be a time to renew our relationship with God simply because He is God. If we can make space for him in the busiest moments of life, it shows just how important He is to us.

Slowing down, taking time out, resting-up, listening and praying are important at all times in our life, but perhaps most important when we’ve got a lot on. So, how about using the Church of England ‘At the Heart of Christmas’ App that will give you a daily devotion for Monday to Saturday for each week of Advent?

Elsewhere in this newsletter you’ll find details of the Christmas services at both churches and may I take this opportunity on behalf of Juliette and me, to wish everyone at St James and St Nicolas a very happy Christmas and God’s blessing in 2022.

Every blessing,  
Adrian





## PATRONAL FESTIVAL

**5th December 10.00am** service of Holy Communion (2nd Advent)

Every year we ask for a special donation towards the upkeep and running of our church. This year your donations will be especially welcome as we are in financial difficulty resulting from Covid restrictions. Please will you give as generously as you can.



## MESSY CHURCH

**Sunday 19 December at 10am**

Come along and join Santas elves as they find out more about the Nativity story. Have lots of fun and take time to celebrate Christmas and make your own Nativity at our Messy Church Nativity service.

Dress up optional.





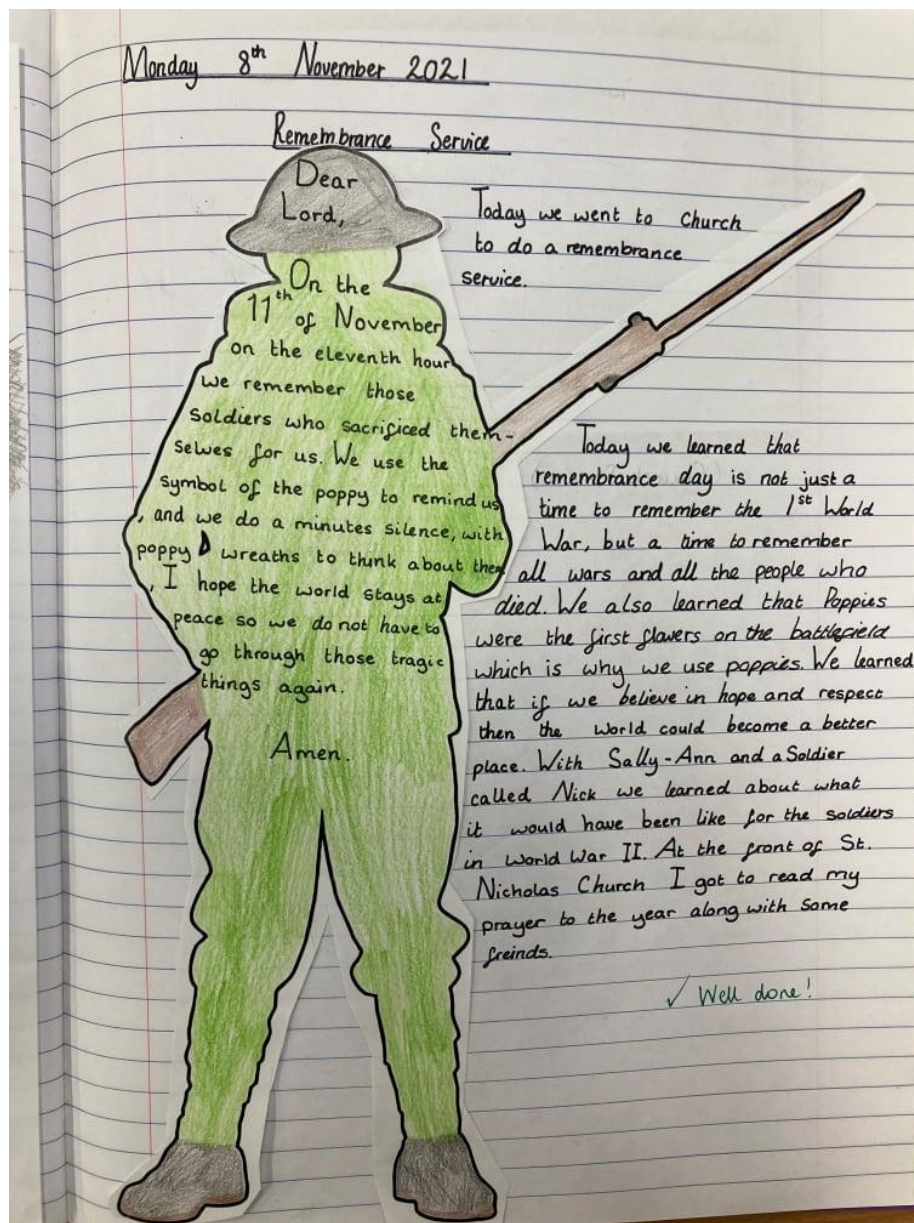
## Remembrance from School

Hi Sally-Ann,

The children had a wonderful time. Thank you so much. They produced some beautiful work as a result. Here is a copy of one child's thoughts.

Kind Regards,

Sharon Thorpe  
Headteacher, St Nicolas C. of E. Academy





## Do you know anyone who will be alone on Christmas Day?

We have been asked to let everyone know about the Nuneaton Community Christmas Lunch Group's invitation - please spread the word and note that forms need to be returned by Friday 17 December (allocated on a first come first served basis and limited numbers).



## Operation Christmas Box – UPDATE

Many thanks to all those who made up Christmas boxes this year – We had a much lower response than in previous years, but that is to be expected I think. We collected 12 boxes in all, and these were taken to the distribution centre during the collection week.

**Paul**

## Night Prayer - St Nicolas Facebook page 8.30pm Tuesday & Thursday

Do you know about Night Prayer? Night Prayer is available for us all on our sister church's Facebook page (St Nicolas Nuneaton) at 8.30pm Tuesday and Thursday evening. This is recorded and can be viewed on Facebook at a later time, if you wish.

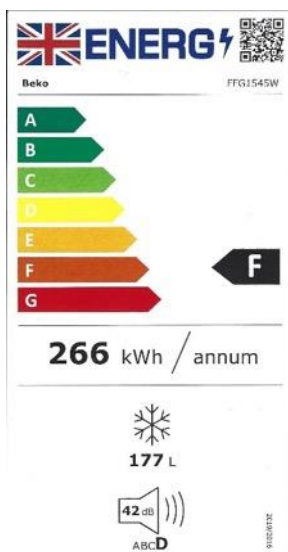


Janet Flavel kindly organises the rota across the 2 churches and would appreciate hearing from anyone who might be willing to be on the rota. The next rota will be for the November/December period. If you can help/would like to know more then please contact Janet [janetflavel@gmail.com](mailto:janetflavel@gmail.com).

## ECO TIPS

You may have heard the term EPC but never knew what it meant; well hopefully after reading this, you will be fully aware.

EPC stands for "Energy Performance Certificate"



If you have recently bought an electrical appliance such as a fridge, freezer or washing machine, you might have seen something like this in the documentation; this tells you the energy rating, the electricity usage per year, the noise it makes and its capacity. An EPC tells you similar things about your house.

The EPC works using a computer-based algorithm and looks at several categories: Walls, Roof, Floor, Windows, Main Heating, Main Heating Controls, Secondary heating, Hot Water and lighting.

By assessing all these categories, an estimate of the cost of running the home for a three-year period is generated together with potential costs over the same period providing certain improvements are made to various categories; these are listed on the report produced together with associated costs to implement them.

The EPC on my house was conducted in July 2020, it cost me about £70 and scored my house as a "B" with an 86 score and a suggestion that floor insulation costing £4,000 to £6,000 could save me £222 over the three years and improve my score to "B" 88; needless to say I won't be implementing that! Despite that, the report is an interesting and useful document.

Should you decide to go for an EPC, it is worth mentioning if you have had any "invisible" improvements such as cavity wall insulation or a top-up of roof insulation as the algorithm assumes for example that a house of a certain age doesn't have cavity wall insulation and only a certain level of roof insulation.

Peter Rogers





# here2help

What can you do to help others in a practical way?

or

Do you need help with any small jobs?

here2help is a new Christian Charity in Nuneaton where volunteers carry out small jobs to help people in need (e.g. they are not able to afford the work, they are no longer physically capable of doing it themselves). These jobs can be various practical things such as fixing a gate or decorating a room.

If you would like to know more and maybe to volunteer or if you would like some help with a small job, then please contact here2help using the details below or pick up a leaflet from church.

<https://here2helpcharity.co.uk/>



[Home](#) [Our Services](#) [Partnership](#) [Volunteer](#) [Contact Us](#)

Whether you are a potential volunteer wanting to get involved, a person who is looking for some practical support or a professional supporting someone needing help, we hope that you will find all you need to get involved. We currently work, in Nuneaton and we are developing a partnership with Nuneaton Churches.

We are a Christian based organisation working out our vision to show

*“Christian love shown through action”*



Call Us: 07947 898220



Contacts are below

For Volunteering inquiries, Registering a Referral Agency or Church Partnership

[Janet@here2helpcharity.co.uk](mailto:Janet@here2helpcharity.co.uk)

Need our Services

[Maggie@here2helpcharity.co.uk](mailto:Maggie@here2helpcharity.co.uk)

Donations & Fund Raising

[Terry@here2helpcharity.co.uk](mailto:Terry@here2helpcharity.co.uk)



**At the heart  
of Christmas**



### 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 Adrian or Revd Martin if you would value a visit from a member of the team.

### ONLINE ASSISTANCE

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 December newsletter is Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Please send your contributions to either parish office.

### UPDATES

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

#### **St Nicolas**

Tel. 02476344553

[office@stnicolaschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@stnicolaschurch.org.uk)

[www.stnicolaschurch.org.uk](http://www.stnicolaschurch.org.uk)

#### **St James**

Tel. 02476325718

[office@stjamesweddington.org.uk](mailto:office@stjamesweddington.org.uk)

[www.stjamesweddington.org.uk](http://www.stjamesweddington.org.uk)

#### **Associate Minister (St James)**

revadrian@stjamesweddington.org.uk

07434663084

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

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

#### **Tuesday & Thursday Evenings 8:30pm**

NIGHT PRAYER via the St Nicolas Facebook page.

#### **Sundays 10am**

WORSHIP SERVICE via the Facebook page of both churches.

#### **Mondays 8.45 – 9:30am**

MORNING PRAYER at St Nicolas and 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 for all ages via Zoom