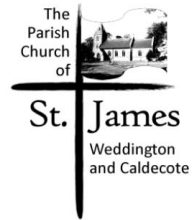




Going Deeper
Sowing Younger
Growing Community



Sunday Services

Sunday 2nd January – SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1 (1-9) 10-18

10am St Nicolas HOLY COMMUNION

10am St James MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday 9th January – FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Isaiah 43:1-7, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

10am St Nicolas MORNING WORSHIP

10am St James HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 16TH January – SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Isaiah 62:1-5, 1Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

10am St Nicolas HOLY COMMUNION

10am St James MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday 23rd January – THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY (CHRISTINGLE)

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 1Corinthians 12: 12-31a, Luke 4:14-21

10am St Nicolas MORNING WORSHIP + BAPTISM

10am St James HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 30TH January – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Jeremiah 1:4-10, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 2:22-40

10am St Nicolas HOLY COMMUNION (JOINT SERVICE)





Going Deeper
Sowing Younger
Growing Community



Wednesday Service

Wednesday 5th January (1st Wednesday of every month)

1 John 4: 11- 18, Ps 72: 1 10-13, Mark 6: 45-52

10am St Nicolas HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECTS FOR JANUARY

2ND JANUARY

God our Father,
in love you sent your Son
that the world may have life:
lead us to seek him among the outcast
and to find him in those in need,
for Jesus Christ's sake.

9TH JANUARY

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.

16TH JANUARY

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

23RD JANUARY

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.

30th JANUARY

God of heaven,
you send the gospel to the ends
of the earth
and your messengers to every
nation:
send your Holy Spirit to transform
us by the good news of everlasting
life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pause, ponder...

..and pray

QUESTIONS WITHOUT ANSWERS

Will technology replace
Human interaction,
When men no longer meet
And speak face to face
And engage eye to eye?
Will the mobile phone
Become an extension
Of the tongue,
And will we wave goodbye
To any authentic voice
Of our own?
If men X ray the soul
Will they be mind-blown
By a blurred image
In the centre
Of the God mystery,
That created you and me
To be part
Of His history?

PAT BIDMEAD



EPHIPHANY

The infant Christ received gifts of
gold, incense and myrrh:
Father, accept the offering of our
hearts and minds
[at the beginning of this year] ...
Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

Your Son shared the life of his
home and family at Nazareth:
Father, protect in your love our
neighbours,
our families and this community of
which we are a part ...
Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

The kingdoms of this world have
become
the kingdom of our Lord and of
his Christ:
Father, grant an abundance of
peace to your world ...
Lord of glory,
Hear our prayer.



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! What have we, at St Nicolas and St James Churches, got to look forward to this year? Lots! 365 days of fresh starts to begin with. Each new day of 2022 is an opportunity to encounter God's love afresh. *'New every morning, it's new, the love of God for me is wonderfully new'* so goes the hymn based on the Bible promise in Lamentations chapter 3 verses 22 & 23.

As well as this promise (which is really 365 promises a year!), there is Jesus' promise never to leave us, but to go with us, if we step out into 2022 putting our hand into God's hand. In a time of great danger, darkness and distress for this country, a young Princess Elizabeth suggested to her father, King George VI that he might include the following lines from one of her favourite poems in his Christmas broadcast - *'I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."* And in 1939, the King did.

During Advent, I was thinking quite a lot about expectations, and preached a sermon on faith expectations on the 2nd week of Advent. Those who waited in great expectancy prior to the first Christmas based their hopes and aspirations on faith that God would fulfil his promises. Amongst many other things, Christmas celebrates that God is a promise keeper and God's promised Saviour was born. The truths

remembered during Advent are not to be forgotten after Christmas; they are to be lived out each day of a new year.

One promise I was reminded of during Advent was a Bible verse God led me to prior to coming to Weddington. It is from Isaiah chapter 43 verses 18 & 19 – *18 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.* When 3 other people also mentioned this verse within a few days of each other, I began to sit up and think. One of them was Bishop John when he was leading a retreat for the Nuneaton Clergy Chapter the day before my licensing. His sense was that these verses were a promise for the Nuneaton deanery.

So we have a lot of new things to look forward in 2022 based on God's promises to us. But we will have to make sure that the faith expectations for 2022 don't fade at the same pace as our New Year resolutions! Will we match the discouragements and difficulties that the year might bring with faith in God, the promise keeper?

With every blessing for 2022





ONLINE 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.

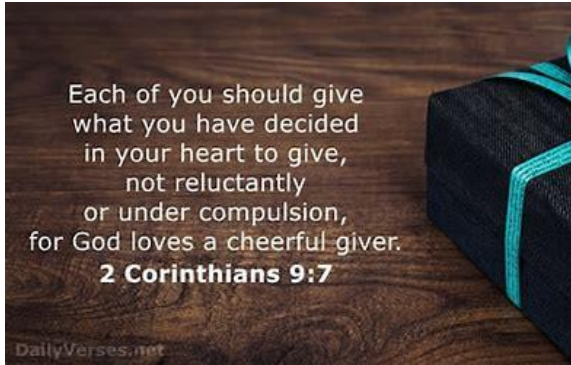


St Nicolas Church cleaning 8th January 9.30am

If anyone can help with the cleaning it will be very much appreciated. Anyone coming please enter through the glass door entrance (will leave open) and bring their own cleaning materials (we do have brushes & a Hoover) but under the current circumstances it is best if everyone brings their own.

We usually start at 09:30 and normally lasts an hour.

St Nicolas Church Finance Update



A Big Thank You!

Happy New Year to everyone.

The first thing to say is thank you to those who gave to our St Nicolas Patronal Festival in December.

Your donations amounted to over £1100 and we can add Gift Aid to a lot of that money.



A fantastic contribution, thank you all again!

QR Code – Another way to give

We have made it easier to give with more options.

The new yellow envelopes on the backs of seats and at the back of Church now have a QR Code which you can scan with your smartphone and it will link you to our online giving page.

This is the same page that you go to when you press 'Donate' on our website. You will also see our website address on the envelopes if you want to visit it and then you can use the 'Donate' button.

	
<p>Nuneaton Coventry Diocese Registered Charity No. 1126349</p>	<p>You can donate online by scanning the QR code or visiting our website. https://stnicolaschurch.org.uk/</p>
<p>I wish Gift Aid to apply to the enclosed donation. I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR), the information provided on this envelope will be used only by those in processing your donation through Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs.</p>	
<p><i>giftaid it</i></p>	
<p>Please print clearly.</p>	
<p>Full Name</p>	
<p>House No./Name</p>	
<p>Postcode Date</p>	

QR codes around the Church

You will see the QR code dotted around the church and you can scan that to donate too.



We can claim 25% on top of your donations at no cost to you if you are a taxpayer and you register for Gift Aid. People who pay directly into our bank account or use the Parish Giving Scheme can register for Gift Aid once and then we can claim Gift Aid for every donation. If you use the envelopes, please make sure to complete the full details if you would like us to claim Gift Aid, i.e. your full name, house number or name, and post code. We cannot claim if any one of these details is missing.

Ways to Give

Here is a reminder of how you can give to St Nicolas Church

- Parish Giving Scheme – C of E Regular giving scheme
- Direct payment - into the Church bank account
- Cash or cheque - plate at the back of church or use a yellow envelope
- Debit or Credit card - Contactless Giving in church
- Donate button - on St Nicolas web site <https://stnicolaschurch.org.uk>
- QR code – on yellow envelopes and around the church

Church Finances

As we said in our November Newsletter, our church of St Nicolas was running at a loss of around £1000 a month in 2021. The patronal donations are a big help, thank you once again, but we are still running at a loss and we are very grateful for all that you can give. The prospects for 2022 are for some improvement with the hall bookings increasing but we will not be up to pre-pandemic numbers for some time to come.

10% Giving Update

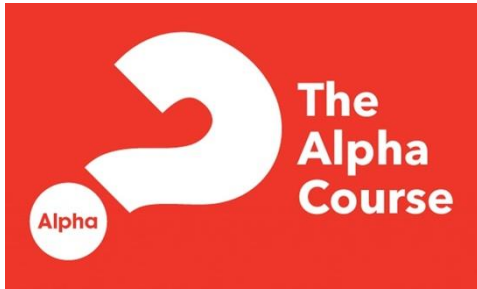
Each year we put aside 10% of the money you have given to give away to other charities. It is 10% because there is a biblical precedent for a 10% 'tithe' to be made. It stems from Old Testament principles when the Israelites were instructed to give 10% of their income/produce as a means of supporting the worship of the community.

We have a small group who work together to recommend where to give the money to deserving causes. The group recommend charities for approval by the PCC.

In 2021 we have given to the following charities where there have been emergency appeals.

Red Cross India Covid Appeal	£1,389.50	28/04/2021
Christian Aid for Haiti Appeal	£1,725.50	13/09/2021
Médecins Sans Frontières (UK)	£1,725.50	26/11/2021

We have one more donation to give for 2021 and we plan to keep to the principle of an emergency appeal for our final donation.



We started our Alpha journey at the end of September and on 15th December it will be our final Alpha night as a group – How time fly's, especially when you have been enjoying ourselves! We were able to share food together and say a prayer before each session (I think I have put on about a stone just by eating the food !!), which included, Curry, Pasta Bake, Chip Butties, Nut Roast and lots of cakes and sweets (I didn't eat them all at once?!).

As a small group, we quickly got to know each other pretty well and over the weeks, we were all confident to provide our views and opinions on the topics we were discussing. We were all able to share personal stories and at times show our vulnerabilities, in a safe, secure and respectful environment.

The Alpha course is designed to make feel people at ease and work at a pace that is suited to the individual, this is especially important because as a group, we all are on different journeys in relation to our faith and Christianity.

Each week we had a different topic to discuss, we watched a video and then had the opportunity as a group to discuss. Themes such as who is Jesus?, How and Why do I Pray ? Can you Forgive? Why did Jesus Die? and Good v Evil, were some of the topics, which certainly provided some lively and interesting discussions.

We were also able to have an away day (Holy Spirit Day), which was held at St James', despite the snow and cold weather, as a group we had time to reflect on our journey so far. The very talented Sally-Ann helped with our reflection and the music and played some wonderful songs (Thanks!). Again we did this with lots of food and drinks (non alcoholic!).

As always with these types of events, there are lots of people who contributed to making it possible, so a special thanks to Peter Rogers, Adam Fielder, Dawn Beasley and Dean Moore and of course the participants themselves. Thanks to all your efforts and contributions!!.

So what next? We will continue to support each other and continue to pray and challenge ourselves about our faith and get ourselves closer to God. I have no doubt there will be other opportunities to get involved in other groups at St Nicplas so they can continue their journey of faith and love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

I have no doubt we will run another Alpha course sometime next year, so if you are interested please let me know.

Many Thanks & God Bless,

Phil



O LORD,OUR SOVEREIGN,HOW MAGESTIC IS YOUR NAME IN ALL THE EARTH!
O LORD YOU HAVE SET YOUR GLORY ABOVE THE HEAVENS.

Words from Psalm 8 chosen by Rev Kelly Betteridge.

In 2017 inspired Janet Payne; Elizabeth Coulson ; Jan Lee; Maureen Grant ;Mary Parry of the Weddington Banner Group to design a double sided Altar Frontal.

Machine and padded background in multi coloured applique is seen here with hand embroidered siluettes of God's creation.

Maureen Grant

Roger was at church to receive our new alter cloth which was formally handed over to us from the ladies at Weddington. It has been 3 years in the making and we owe them a big vote thanks for dedicating there time and talents to this piece of work.

I have tonight emailed Kerry (Bishop John's PA) to ask if when he comes to officiate at our morning worship on Sunday 20th February, that he could include a short dedication of the cloth. I will of course through Adrian invite all the ladies involved in the making of this beautiful piece of work to be with us on that Sunday

Kind Regards.....Garry



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 February newsletter is Monday 17th January . 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.

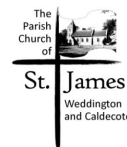
STAYING IN TOUCH

St Nicolas

Tel. 02476344553

office@stnicolaschurch.org.uk

www.stnicolaschurch.org.uk



St James

Tel. 02476325718

office@stjamesweddington.org.uk

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