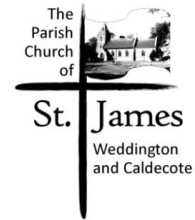




Going Deeper
Sowing Younger
Growing Community



Sunday Services

Sunday 6th February – THE FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (Proper 1)

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-end) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

10am St Nicolas HOLY COMMUNION

10am St James MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday 13th February – THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (Proper 2)

Jeremiah 17:5-10, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26

10am St Nicolas MORNING WORSHIP

10am St James HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 20th February – THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

GENESIS 2: 4B-9, 15-end, Revelation 4, Luke 8: 22-25

10am St Nicolas HOLY COMMUNION

10am St James MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday 27th February – THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

Exodus 34: 29-end, 2 Corinthians: 3-12 4:2, Luke 9:28-36(37-43a)

10am St Nicolas MORNING WORSHIP

10am St James HOLY COMMUNION



Candlemas



Wednesday Service

Wednesday 2nd (First Wednesday of every month)

Malachi 3:1-14, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40

10am St Nicolas HOLY COMMUNION



COLLECTS FOR FEBRUARY

6th FEBRUARY

Lord of the hosts of heaven,
our salvation and our strength,
without you we are lost:
guard us from all that harms or hurts
and raise us when we fall;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

13TH FEBRUARY

Eternal God,
whose Son went among the crowds
and brought healing with his touch:
help us to show his love,
in your Church as we gather together,
and by our lives as they are transformed
into the image of Christ our Lord.

20TH FEBRUARY

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

27TH FEBRUARY

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the
cross: give us grace to perceive
his glory, that we may be
strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness,
from glory to glory; who is alive
and reigns with you, in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and for ever.

Pause, ponder...

PILGRIMAGE

In crowded markets of Jerusalem
Hemmed in and trapped by massed
humanity,
Tourists try to buy the past gift
wrapped,
Failing to see injustice of the present
age
In the daily living of this sacred place.
In this holy city there seems to be
Little space to pause and meet
God face to face.
I walk silently beneath ancient trees
Whose plaited trunks capture and
preserve truth,
For eyes of 21st century man.
Boxed bones of freedom lie beneath
my feet
Buried for retrieval in ages to come.
I pass through forest of grass-
skirted palms
And rows of banana trees
To find the Cross.
Pausing to rest, I slide a slim finger
Slowly thoughtfully down chilled
ancient rock
Touched by living flesh so long ago.
It seems time has always known I
would come,
And leave a fresh imprint of my flesh
On the same stone.
PAT BIDMEAD

..and pray



Candle Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,
We light this candle to remind us
that you are the Light of the world.
As we come together now
to pray and to praise
may you remove all darkness
from our hearts and minds.
Amen



CANDLEMAS

Theme: *Age and light*

Childhood memories of Church can be interesting. For me the church seemed dark, scary and huge in comparison to now. But some of the paintings and artifacts and candles can be mesmerising. For me It was this painting. When I was a little girl, we went to St Marys church in Hinckley and at the front of the Church is this huge painting of an old man holding a baby. I would often sit daydreaming during sermons almost feeling transported through the imagery of the faces.

At St Nicolas we have just one stained glass window in the Leake Chapel and it too illustrates the reading Luke 2: 22-40 where the prophets Anna and Simeon meet the baby Jesus in the temple. The Church celebrates this ancient feast called CANDLEMAS on February 2, The day is set aside to commemorate the presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple of Jerusalem. It's also a time where we thank God we are moving on into brighter and better days after winter. Hence the theme of age and light. I recall an old rhyme which I heard my Nana say:

If Candlemas day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another flight.
If Candlemas day be shower and rain,
Winter is gone and will not come again.

Luke shows that the story of Jesus was confirmed by two very old prophets, Simeon and Anna, who

spoke of Jesus. We have this marvellous story of Simeon to whom it had been revealed "that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:



Now Master, you are letting your servant go in peace as you promised; for my eyes have seen the salvation which you have made ready in the sight of the nations; a light of revelation for the gentiles and glory for your people Israel."

Although the theme was age and light possibly it should have been intergenerational and light. Simeon said 'a light of revelation'. To see in one painting an old man at the end of his earthly life and the precious baby Jesus just at the beginning who we know will bring light and life into the dark corners of our world is utterly compelling. During this time of vacancy our service pattern has changed with us only having one morning worship service on a Sunday. Many have been challenged by this situation, but I have seen this as a blessing. To have our whole church family together worshipping God young and old through music, prayer, refreshments, side by side creates a true family. We can all learn so much from each other

and spread joy and light between the generations.

So this Candlemas I encourage us all to be determined like Anna and Simeon and to be guided by the Holy spirit as we to burn brightly in the midst of this dark world like the Christchild. We can each take a light, but it is not our own light, no light of our own would be bright enough. It is the light of Christ. The light which at the beginning of creation shined in the darkness and which no darkness, no blindness, could overcome, and this light was a light to lighten the, all the nations and races and culture of people.

Christ himself says, 'I am the light of the world.'
And we are the light, If we receive it from him.
Sally-Ann Veasey



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.

The Community Choir.

It's wonderful how singing can raise the spirits, promote belonging and spread the message of community and fellowship.

Our Community Choir comprises volunteers of any age or experience from the church and wider community. Part of the choir's remit was

to take the Christmas message to different venues, culminating in the service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Nicolas church.

Our first venue, the Weddington Community Event, was held on the carpark at St James Church, where a variety of craft and food stalls and a much appreciated mobile hot drinks unit were gathered. With Sally-Ann on accordion, an enthusiastic group from the Community Choir wearing Santa hats and questionable jumpers sang and entertained with Stall holders, customers, passers-by and two dogs joining in merrily.



After that we walked to St James' church and sang a programme of traditional carols with Anthony providing the musical accompaniment. This too was well attended by children and adults and was very enjoyable. We were provided with refreshments which was lovely – it's thirsty work singing.

Harmony House residents were wrapped up warmly and the doors flung open as our Community Choir group, accordionist and a very chilly wind sang, played, (and whistled) favourite carols and songs. Residents smiled and

nodded as they recognised the music and staff joined in singing with the residents and laughing as they tried to copy the actions of the Twelve Days of Christmas. It was a joyful occasion with many smiles and much laughter.

At The Chines sheltered accommodation we went multi-generational when a young boy joined our Community Group. Again residents, visitors and staff joined in a programme of Carols and songs. Their enjoyment was infectious, and our singing was enlivened by it. We did some improvising... The 'Twelve Days of Christmas' will never be the same! We left with their smiles and a lovely, unexpected donation.

Finally, the Carol service took place at St Nicolas Church with the full Community Choir, Anthony on organ and Elaine conducting. The atmosphere at the service, congregation and Community Choir alike, was festive and reverent and brought community together in anticipation of our Lord's birth. The chosen Carols were well known and the congregation sang heartily. It was wonderful to hear and see that united response. What a privilege for all of us to be there and able to sing and worship together.

Ann

Christmas Donations

We would also like to thank Higham Lane School, family and friends from St Nicolas Academy for all their donations made over the Christmas period.



Christingle

Our Christingle service took place on Sunday 23rd January 2022. The first time we had tried this after Christmas. We had prepared all the bags ready for everyone and the children eagerly plunged a bag into everyone's hand as they arrived.



The whole service was a lively time with instruments and flags waving. Our visiting preacher Mary Morris helped us all to think about God's light in the dark places of our lives.

Most of the sweets got onto the Christingles although we did have to replenish a few after the excited munchers ate some during the service!!

We were able to donate £214.30 to the work of the Children's society and added to our Christmas donation the total was £379.11.

THANK YOU to everyone that planned and prepared our Christingle service especially Carole, Erin, Anneka and Vicky and of course all the children who read and helped out during the service.



INVITATION

COME and Join us with Bishop John
On Sunday 20th February 2022
@10.00am
Followed by refreshments.

As we dedicate our wonderful new Altar Cloth
Everyone welcome



FREE TAIZE SINGING WORKSHOP weekend

Come and have a go at learning and singing this beautiful style of harmony singing. You don't have to be able to read music.

Saturday 26th February 9.00am till 12.00

SINGING AT THE TAIZE healing service on Sunday 27th February 4.00pm



LENT COURSES:

Lent is a time when Christians reflect and prepare for the celebrations of Easter. Some people fast, eat frugally or give up treats following the example of Jesus, who fasted for forty days in the wilderness.

Some give to charity, set aside time to study the bible and meet with other Christians to reflect on Jesus' life and prepare for the events of Holy Week and Easter. This year our Churches of St Nicolas and St James are joining together to provide the following 3 Courses. All three groups will be following the same material.



Tuesday 8th March – 5th April 7.00pm (St James Church) Led by Rev ADRIAN

Wednesday 9th March – 6th April 10.00am (St Nicolas Church) John/Terry L

Saturday 12th March - 9th April 9.00am Breakfast (St Nicolas church) Sally-Ann and leaders team)

**BCDM (BISHOPS CERTIFICATE IN DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION)
(PROVIDED BY COVENTRY DIOCESE)**

Paul's Life, Mission and Letters

Face-to-Face Course

Gain an understanding of what motivated Paul, what his opponents said, and find ways of reading his letters so that they make sense.

Venue: St Nicolas, Nuneaton

Date: **Monday 7th March – Monday 4th April 7.00pm – 9.00pm**

PLEASE BOOK A PLACE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT **February 21st – 6th March**

St Nicolas Church NUNEATON



OUR CHURCH IS:

- Buying Fairtrade for our refreshments. There are over 6,000 Fairtrade products from coffee and tea to flowers and gold.
- Encouraging us the congregation of St Nicolas Church to look when we shop, and look for the FAIRTRADE Mark. Then changing some of our products to fairtrade.





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 March newsletter is Monday 21st February . 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