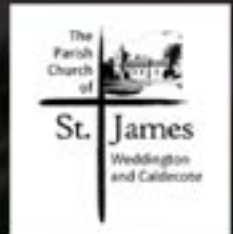




Going Deeper
Sowing Younger
Growing Community



Working in partnership to serve Nuneaton, Weddington & Caldecote



December 2022 & January 2023

Newsletter of St Nicolas and St James Churches



One of the symbols of Christmas that is instantly recognisable is that of the Christmas tree. There is a commonly recognised history and stories associated (mostly German in origin) with bringing in an evergreen tree, decorating it and putting on display for Christmas. As a family, we developed a tradition of going over to Cornwall to pick a tree from a special Christmas tree farm run by a Plymouth family.

After we had selected the tree we would honk the horn that we had collected on the way in and the owner would come and cut the tree down for us and put on a mini tractor which his son would then take up to the carpark. We would make our way back up and enjoy the fire pit there with marshmallows and mulled wine before we drove home and decorate it with decorations collected over the years. It was a fun way to start our Christmas but it is one, this year having moved away, we will have to adapt or recreate. Christmas symbols and traditions are laden with memories - some of those memories will be full of joy and celebration but some will be tinged with sadness for all sorts of reasons.

The message of Christmas *is* one of hope and anticipation - the birth of a child who brings good news - the good news of peace, forgiveness and eternal life with God. So often in our Christmas celebrations we can mistake the celebration of the hope and expectation that Jesus brings with the symbols and traditions that are hung around this hope like decorations on the tree - and they sometimes become the focus which can disconnect us from the true hope that Jesus brings - we get caught up with the tinsel rather than the truth and true hope and joy of the Christian faith and Christmas message. I pray that his year, this prayer, from a well known carol, becomes our prayer and brings comfort, hope and joy in a world that so desperately needs it:

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

**Christmas Greetings from the
Clergy, Staff and
Church Wardens
of
St Nicolas and
St James Churches**





December Sunday Services



Sunday 4th December - Advent 2

Isaiah 11: 1-10 Romans 15: 4-13 Matthew 3: 1-12

10am St Nicolas - HOLY COMMUNION

10am St James - ALL AGE

Sunday 11th December - Advent 3

Isaiah 35: 1-10 James 5: 7-10

10am St Nicolas - MORNING WORSHIP

10am St James - HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 18th December - Advent 4

Isaiah 7: 10-16 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-end

10am St Nicolas - HOLY COMMUNION + NATIVITY

10am St James - MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day

Isaiah 52: 7-10 Psalm 98 1-9 Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)

10am St Nicolas - MORNING WORSHIP

10am St James - FAMILY COMMUNION

Collects for December

Sunday 4th 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.

Sunday 18th 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.

Sunday 11th 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.

Sunday 25th 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.

Wednesday Service

Wednesday 7th December

(1st Wednesday of every month)

Isaiah 11: 1-10 Romans 15: 4-13 Matthew 3: 1-12

10am St Nicolas - HOLY COMMUNION



January



Sunday Services

Sunday 1st January - Christmas 2

Isaiah 63: 7-19 Hebrews 2: 10-18 Matthew 2:13-23

10am St Nicolas - HOLY COMMUNION

10am St James - MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday 8th January - Epiphany

Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12

10am St Nicolas - MORNING WORSHIP

10am St James - HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 15th January - Epiphany 2

Isaiah 49: 1-7 1 Corinthians 1 1-9 John 1: 29-42

10am St Nicolas - HOLY COMMUNION

10am St James - ALL AGE WORSHIP

Sunday 22nd January - Epiphany 3

Isaiah 9: 1-4 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18 Matthew 4: 12-23

10am St Nicolas - MORNING WORSHIP

10am St James - HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 29th January - Epiphany 4 (Candlemas)

Micah 6: 1-8 Corinthians 1: 18-31 Matthew 5:1-12

10am St James

- JOINT SERVICE for St Nicolas & St James

Collects for January

Sunday 1st January

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sunday 8th 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.

Sunday 15th January

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

Sunday 22nd 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.

Sunday 22nd 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.

Wednesday Service

Wednesday 4th January
(1st Wednesday of every month)

Isaiah 63:7-19; Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2: 13-23

10am St Nicolas - HOLY COMMUNION



Pause, Ponder ...

CHRISTMAS DREAMS

**A Christmas dream chased dawn
Through corridor of night,
Morning promise fell across a stream of joy
Into emerging light.
Shepherds were privileged to see a tiny child
Full of heavenly grace.
Each lowly worshipper fell before Him
In that most holy place.
A Christmas dream fills my sleeping eyes
Every Christmas Eve,
As distant angelic voices seem
To confirm what it is I believe.**

PAT BIDMEAD



**Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven
touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.
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.**

From the Registers

Weddings



Please pray for **Marc & Patricia Lorenc** who were married at
St Nicolas Church, Nuneaton
on *Sat 12th November*

Please pray for those who have been recently
Baptised and/or Confirmed:



Baptisms

20th Nov (St Nicolas)

Joey McCarroll

27th Nov (St James):

Martha Hextall-Hill

27th Nov (St Nicolas)

Symphony Johanson

Confirmations

By the Bishop of Warwick, Rt Rev. John Stroyan

22nd Nov (St Peter's, Mancetter)

Joey McCarroll

Funerals



Please pray for those who have lost loved ones recently:
The family of the late Mrs Marilyn Allton whose funeral
was on 28th November 2022

Parish News & Updates

Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

Many thanks to all those who made up a Christmas box for a child this year. You will be putting a smile on a child's face and who will know of God's love for them due to your generosity. Unfortunately, the numbers have been dwindling over the last few years and we were down to only 9 boxes this year, so I think this will probably be our last year in doing this.

Can I say a big thank you to all those people who have supported OCC since we have been making up the hundreds of boxes, which we have done as a church for over 20 years now.

Paul

ECO Church - A Rocha UK

St Nicolas Church has achieved the Silver Award from A Rocha as an Eco Church. This is a wonderful achievement and marks the PCC's commitment towards a more sustainable way of life, taking seriously our mandate as Christians to care for God's creation. A huge thank you to Dean, our Eco Church Champion and to everyone who has helped to make this possible. A Roche UK have also written to thank St Nicolas Church for the gift received as one of the Mission organisations that the PCC have supported financially this year.

Let's go for Gold!!!

Church & Churchyard News

St James Churchyard maintenance

Join us for fun and fresh air as we tidy up St James Churchyard from 9.30 each month
6th December



St Nicolas Church & Churchyard Maintenance

Thank you to those who helped at the November maintenance day - the church looked beautiful for a busy weekend with a wedding, concert and Remembrance service

Christmas Events

Join with us to celebrate this Christmas

Sunday 18th December:

10 am - Messy Nativity with Holy Communion

7 pm - Service of Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve:

4 pm - Crib Service

11.30 pm - Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day:

10am - Carols around the Christmas Tree

www.stnicolasechurch.org.uk

Join with us to Celebrate this Christmas

Sunday 11th December - Messy Christingle

at St James Church Hall 3.00 pm - book via Eventbrite (link on our Facebook page)

Monday 19th December - Carol Service

at St James Church 7.00 pm

Christmas Eve - Carols for the Family

at St James Church 3.00 pm and 4.30 pm - book via Eventbrite (link on our Facebook page)

Christmas Day - Christmas Communion

for all ages at St James Church 10.00 am

www.stjamesweddington.org.uk

Christmas Events



Nuneaton Community
Christmas Lunch
Group

**Don't be alone
on
Christmas Day!**



**Would you like to share Christmas Cheer?
Places are limited – booking forms available from**

Churches | Food Banks | P3 | Library | CAB
or where you see this poster

****Transport available if required****

Included in your invitation
4 Course Meal
Entertainment
Gift from Santa
& Good Cheer!



Venue
Newtown Centre
Newtown Road
CV11 4HG

*Please note
No Under 16s
No Alcohol*

Bookings will be confirmed

We do NOT charge for this event



02476 385765



nuneaton_xmas@outlook.com



07835 045 479



**Weddington Wives Carol Service - Tuesday 13
December, 3.30pm in St James' Church
Mince pies and mulled wine to be served.
Everyone welcome.**

**Our next monthly prayer meeting is planned
for Tuesday 13 December 7pm in the St
James Church Lounge - praying for all that is
going on over Christmas - please note the
change of pattern in the date.**

Support us with a regular gift

Parish Giving Scheme

The best and easiest way to support both St Nicolas and St James churches with regular donations is through the Parish Giving Scheme.

**You can set up your gift online
<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/>
or by calling 0333 002 1271**

For more information speak to:

Jim Keeley (Treasurer)

Nick Shaw or Garry Clarke (St Nic's Wardens)

or Juliette Guthrie (St James Warden)

It's easy to set up, you can include Gift Aid and you have the opportunity to revise your giving amount annually or whenever you prefer. Each Parish is separately administered so your gift supports your local church

St Nicolas Parish Code 110611086

St James Parish Code 110611090

Alternatively, cash and card donations can be made in both church at all our regular services

Team Contacts

Rev Chris Routledge

Vicar, Nuneaton: St Nicolas

Priest-in-Charge, Weddington & Caldecote

Tel: 024 7634 6900

Email: vicar@stnicolaschurch.org.uk
revchris@stjamesweddington.org.uk

Rev Adrian Guthrie (Sun-Tues)

Associate Minister, Weddington & Caldecote

Tel: 07434 663084

Email: revadrian@stjamesweddington.org.uk

Nick Shaw

Church Warden, St Nicolas

Garry Clarke

Church Warden, St Nicolas

Juliette Guthrie

Church Warden, St James

Safeguarding

Lynn Keeley & Dawn Beasley

Safeguarding, St Nicolas

Tel: 02476 340863

Email: safeguarding@stnicolaschurch.org.uk

Sue Harris & Alex Lapsley

Safeguarding, St James

Email: safeguarding@stjamesweddington.org.uk

**Deadline for next Newsletter
inclusions**

Parish Offices

Marina Betteridge

Parish Office Administrator

Mon, Wed & Fri

St Nicolas Parish Office

Vicarage St. CV11 4AZ

Tel: 024 7634 4553

Email:
office@stnicolaschurch.org.uk

St James Parish Office

*St James Church Hall, Church
Lane, CV10 0EX*

Tel: 024 7632 5718

Email:
office@stjamesweddington.org.uk

Online

St Nicolas Church Website

www.stnicolaschurch.org.uk

St James Church Website

www.stjamesweddington.org.uk



*Both livestream main services
on their facebook page*

Find us on Facebook



**Morning prayer on zoom -
Mondays 8.45am**



**ID: 2476344553
Password: Shekinah**