



St. James Church Southam

*Within Coventry Diocese we believe our primary purpose as part of the Christian Community is:
Worshipping God, Making new Disciples and Transforming Communities*

CHURCH BULLETIN

11th March 2018

Mothering Sunday

*A warm welcome to you all. If you are new, or just visiting
and would like to know more about us, please do introduce yourselves*

8am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship with children's group

6.30pm Evening Worship

Thursday 15th March 10am Holy Communion

Readings for 8am, 6.30pm & Thursday 15th

John 19:25b-27; Exodus 2:1-10; Psalm 127

10am Service Only – OTB team & Breakfast Church

Special Prayer (Collect)

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Services at St James Church

Thursday 10.00am Holy Communion weekly

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion on 2nd and 4th Sundays

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays
with the whole church family coming together for worship and Holy
Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays

Sunday 6.30pm Evening Worship on 2nd and 4th Sundays

Dates for your Diary

Every Friday Morning	9.30am- 10.30am	Prayer Meeting in Church Prayer Room
Thursday 15 th March	10am- 12.30pm	Coffee & Bring and Buy morning at "Beechcroft" 5 Warwick Road
Sunday 18 th March	11.20am 4-5pm	Vestry Meeting followed by APCM Deanery Prayer Meeting in church



'CROSS OF NAILS' Friday noon prayers and coffee
Coffee served from 10.30am - 12noon.

Contacts are Chris 01926 813482 or Jan 01926 813373

Jolly J's Monday 10.00am – 11.30am in church (*excl. Bank Holiday*)

Weekday Homegroups in Southam

Monday Evening	Juliet Houghton	(01926 812104)
Tuesday Evening	Pat and Stephen Adams	(01926 813753)
Wednesday Evening	Jill Parker	(01926 811254)
Thursday Afternoon	Averil Brown	(01926 817138)

Gift Aid

If you are a taxpayer and putting cash in the collection it would be appreciated if you would put the money in a yellow gift aid envelope so that the church can claim back 25p in every pound from the taxman.

Many thanks. Ruth Tresidder, Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary.

Old £10 Notes

Please remember we can bank old paper £10 notes although they are no longer legal tender in the shops.

Thought for the Month Please see below Stephen's article as published in the March Edition of the District Advertiser regarding the South aisle ceiling.

It is the end of January as I sit down to write this. Last week after a very stormy, windy night a large, thick and heavy section of ceiling plaster was found smashed to pieces on the floor of the church the following morning. Fortunately, we are able to thank God that this did not occur while the church was occupied.

However, this incident has resulted in a considerable change to the space available for use, and about a quarter of the main floor area is now behind a safety barrier. As that is the only area with plaster ceiling we are thankfully able to continue using the rest of the building while further investigation and inspection takes place.

The road to full repair may be long, arduous and very messy, and given that the building is Grade 1 Listed will undoubtedly be expensive, particularly as we are mindful that a full inspection of the whole church building, and its structural integrity will be a necessary part of plans for the future. All this will require a financial miracle given that it will need to be funded by the people of St James, charitable grant applications and assistance from the community. Contrary to urban myth there are no freely available "central funds" for church building maintenance and repair.

If anyone reading this has expertise to offer in Fund Raising, Project Management or other useful practical skills we would be delighted to hear from you.

Whilst our building may be a bit sick and ailing, and showing serious signs of its centuries of age, we have been reminded that the teachings of Jesus and much of the rest of the Bible make it abundantly clear that church is not a building – it is the people. As a church we are currently looking together at the qualities and characteristics of a healthy church with a view towards working together to become even more of a healthy and vibrant, living church who are seeking to worship God and to serve our neighbours and the community of Southam in every appropriate way we can.

Our building may be old and out of date, but we are aiming to become a church community that is even more current and well able to present Jesus as relevant to life today as he was when he walked the earth 2000 years ago.

We at St James began this year with a prayer "Heavenly Father, I do not know what 2018 might bring and I do not know if the road ahead will be easy or hard. But today I want to offer myself to you again. I give you my time, my body, my gifts, my relationships, my life. I give you my church and church family. Work in us and through us this year. In Jesus name. Amen"

As far as our building is concerned we can see that the road ahead will be hard but we know that as we offer ourselves to God this year he will work in us and through us more abundantly than all that we ask or imagine.

Praying for Others at St James

Over the past few weeks in the notices we have asked for feedback on how we pray for others at St James in our services.

For quite some time we have been naming out loud in our intercessory prayers the names of people in the prayer book. We also mention in our prayers 'those on our prayer tree' but without those names or situations specifically said out loud. The names on the prayer tree have been removed each third Sunday and the leaves with the names on have been brought to the front for blessing. Anyone can then add another leaf onto the tree at any point whether it's for the same person or situation or a new one.

The list in the prayer book however has become quite long and sometimes we don't know whether the name is to stay on the list or not and it can be quite difficult to find out. The suggestion has been made through notices as to whether the names in the prayer book should automatically be transferred to a leaf on the prayer tree after they have been in the book for four weeks and remain for a longer period on the prayer tree. Of course, if you would like the person to remain in the prayer book then that isn't a problem at all, but you'd need to let us know. Some folk have already indicated this to us.

So far the response has been positive to the suggestion, but just in case you hadn't heard the notice I thought that it would be good to ask for feedback through a bulletin notice for the next few weeks. Please do let either myself, Barry or Stephen know your thoughts.

Prayer is at the heart of St James and I know that it's not always possible to give feedback on how our prayers are being answered, but they are! So please be encouraged and keep praying!

With best wishes, Vikki

Worship Group @ 10am

The worship group are committed and faithful in leading our worship and recently a couple of people have asked to join them which is great news and I know will be an encouragement to the group as well as the folk at St James. Tom plays the French horn and Becky will join the singers. It gives a natural opportunity to consider and chat about how the group works together and maybe draw in new ideas, so if you have hidden talents and would like to explore being part of the worship group too, then please do have a word with me. In the meantime, welcome Tom & Becky!

Many thanks, Vikki

You're Welcome!

When speaking on 'Loving Relationships', I shared these words which Coventry Cathedral have often used. I hope that they inspire and challenge you.

"We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down at heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers.

We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing,' just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organised religion.' (*We're not that keen on it either!*)

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the Cathedral.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost on the ring road and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... and you!" Vikki

(This isn't original to Coventry Cathedral– but is something they regularly print on the front of their service booklets which has been widely reported and much appreciated...)

For those of you on Facebook!

We now have a church page on Facebook promoting news and events at St James, so please search for St James Church Southam and 'like' our page. If your search shows that there's a duplicate St James Church Southam, please like the one with the picture of our candlelit path to the church and also an amazing picture of a wedding that we had last year.

In less than two weeks, we already have 55 followers and most of these followers are from the town not from our congregations, so social media is a way to get our message out there into our community. Any questions please have a word with Vikki. Many thanks.

1 Annual Church Meetings Sunday 18th March at 11.20am

Copies of the annual reports, including the agendas, together with nomination forms for church wardens and the PCC are on the round table as you come in to church.

Don't forget the APCM is an ideal opportunity to ask questions. So if you are unable to make the meeting please let Vikki, Stephen or Barry have a note of your question which can then be put to the meeting.

1 Sidespersons, Readers and Intercessors

At the upcoming APCM on 18th March we will be formally appointing/reappointing our sidespeople. The current list is pinned to the noticeboard as you come into church and includes those willing to be readers and lead our prayers for each of our Sunday services.

We continue to be grateful to those who are on the list, but it would be great if we can add to our number. So, if you think this might be an area of church life you might like to get involved with but are not exactly sure of what is required please speak to Vikki, Stephen or Barry.

Electoral Roll

The revised Electoral Roll for 2018 is now on the church notice board at the back of church. Please feel free to check your entry in case of error.

Margo Grant, Electoral Roll Officer

Lent Lunches at Our Lady & St Wulstan Church, Southam

Tuesday Lent Lunches 11am to 1pm in St Wulstan's Hall, Wood Street. March 6th, 13th, 20th. Donations to Renal Unit at Walsgrave Hospital. Come and enjoy lunch for a very good cause

Please Note Change of Date Coffee Morning with Bring & Buy

At 'Beechloft' 5 Warwick Road, Thursday 15th March 10am - 12.30pm
To raise funds for our Easter Lilies in church. Any help with cakes, raffle prizes etc. gratefully received.

Please contact Jacky Graham on 813652

2 Carriers of Hope The past few years, we have collected carrier bags full of cleaning and other household equipment for delivery to Carriers of Hope, a charity in Coventry for the homeless and the refugees. I hope to take a collection on 20 March. Any donations – either to church or to 10 Gorse Lea

by Mon 19 March – will be most gratefully received. A full list appears below. Should you need anything to be collected, please contact me on 813373. Many thanks, one and all! Jan Ford

Prayer Changes Things!

We, as a Church, feel challenged to pray for our community in a more structured way. Apart from being obedient to God's call to pray, (1Thessalonians 5 v 17) urging us to pray continuously. What should we pray? Because God's desire is always to bless people, we can pray for God's blessing on the people of Southam, street by street.

**Pray BLESSINGS on your community,
BODY – health, protection, strength
LABOUR – work, reward, security
EMOTIONS – joy, peace, hope
SOCIAL – love, marriage, family, friends
SPIRIT - salvation, faith, grace**

Kestral Row, Kingfisher Drive, Mallard Close, Swift Gardens.

2018 Prayer for S† James

Heavenly Father, I do not know what 2018 might bring and I do not know if the road ahead will be easy or hard.

But today I want to offer myself to you again. I give you my time, my body, my gifts, my relationships, my life.

I give you my church and church family. Work in us and through us this year. In Jesus name. Amen.

*In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths
Proverbs 3:6*



Upcoming Services at St James

Sunday 18 th March	10am	Holy Communion with children's group
Thursday 22 nd March	10am	Holy Communion
Palm Sunday 25 th March	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Mon-Wed 26 th -28 th March	7pm	A short time of space and reflection
Thursday 29 th March	10am	Holy Communion
Good Friday 30 th March	10am	A Special Friday Messy
	11.15am	Combined Churches Walk of Witness
	2pm	An hour at the Cross - St. Michael's Church Bishop Itchington
Easter Sunday 1 st April	10am	Easter Day Celebration, Holy Communion with children's group

Rev. Vikki Bisiker (Priest in Charge)

07983 402614 email: vicarpad@gmail.com

For all enquiries please contact the Church Office or Churchwardens

St James Church Office

74D Coventry Street, Southam, CV47 0EA
01926 812413

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday 9.00am - 1.00pm

e-mail: southamchurch@yahoo.com

website: www.stjames-southam.co.uk

Churchwardens:

Stephen Adams (01926 813753)

Barry Parker (01926 811254)

PLEASE NOTE -

For safety's sake in our large church building, parents are asked to always keep a watchful eye on their children. St James' "children's corner" may be used with supervision, by pre-school children.