



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

1st April 2018

*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*

10am Easter Celebration with Holy Communion

Several short readings through the service

Thursday 5th April 10am Holy Communion

Special Prayer (Collect)

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ **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 12 th April	2pm	Mothers Union 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*)

**The Church Office will be closed Friday 30th March and
reopen Tuesday 3rd April 9.00am**

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.

3CAN YOU HELP?

Occasional help is needed to support our sidespersons rota on the 5th Sundays of the month (maximum of 4 a year).

If you feel you could serve in this way, please let us know. We will be thrilled to welcome you onto the team. With thanks Hilary and Pat.

3APCM Sunday 18th March

Thank you to those who braved the snow and attended the APCM. It's been suggested that the overview report that I gave at the meeting may be helpful for others to have, so please see below.

It's a year on since our last AGM and we should continue to be encouraged by what God is doing through St James. Thank you so much for all that you each do. It has been an encouragement to read the reports and be reminded of the wide variety of ministries that the St James family is involved in both locally and all the way to Kenya!

It has been a difficult year on a personal level, but I'm very grateful of support and encouragement and the occasional last minute step in from leadership team.

Although we are not fully meeting target for £5k increase per year for parish share, our giving has increased again this last year. As a reminder, we did commit to an increase over four years of £5k extra per year in order to remove 'the historic back debt' of parish share. This is going to be an even bigger challenge with a building that requires significant maintenance and works. We have problems with the heating, and now the unstable ceiling. The PCC has recently committed to a full church survey, which although will be financially costly, we will then be in a better position to collate a priority works list.

We are trying to move forward to being a sustainable church both financially and numerically. We have seen evidence of God's provision and growth through people joining the regular congregation, especially the 10am, and also the success of Messy Church. Messy started last May and generally has about 20 children and 20 adults each time and these are mostly from families who do not regularly attend on a Sunday. There are a number of other outreach activities that folk would like to explore, but currently we are struggling with facilities to enable these projects. We have been working with the Diocese to try and address some of these issues.

We continue to work towards accessible services for all people of varying degrees of church background....from no experience to those who have a lifetime of experience!

Although a couple of new members have joined the service team, it has continued to be a struggle at times to cover all services and I must stress that the commitment from the leadership team is not sustainable at its current pace....not just for services but also for other areas of church life. Please never think that you may be taking someone else's role or that there's enough on a particular team....there is always room for more volunteers whether that's running the sound desk, doing refreshments or arranging the flowers...some people might actually like a week off!

Rev Vikki Bisiker

1Thought 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.

5Every Person Has A Story to Tell

From April 8th, in our services, over six weeks, we will be exploring a new series called Paraclesis - Coming Alongside Others. "Every person has a story to tell. We have all journeyed through certain life experiences and challenges - learning and growing with God as we go. This is a gift we can offer others. We can use our experience to come alongside the people around us, caring for them through similar challenges."

Over six weeks, we'll explore how we care, love, journey, live, heal and connect.

Homegroups may want to explore the material and encourage their groups to use a daily guide to go deeper into what it means to journey together. If you're not in a homegroup and would like to find out more about the daily guide then please speak to me. If anyone would like to join a homegroup then this would be a great time to start! - Please have a word with any of the home group leaders or myself. Home group leaders, if you'd like to find out more about the material then please let me know. Vikki

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.

God Answers Prayers



The Prayer Tree.

Flowers are now available to add to the prayer tree in church to thank God for answered prayers, perhaps a small step or complete answer so you might like to replace a 'leaf' prayer with a 'flower'; or add a flower for a personal prayer that has been answered.

Let us look with anticipation to the prayer tree in church and watch as it blooms as we see God at work!

You will also find some beautiful calligraphy hearts to hold while you pray, or to take away to carry in a pocket as an encouragement and reminder of the power of prayer and of God's love for you.

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

Coffee Morning

A big thank you to all who helped, donated cash, cakes or raffle prizes. All gratefully appreciated. We made a profit of £170 which will cover our Easter Lilies and other Church Festivals for this year. Jacky Graham

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

Stowe Drive, Elm Bank, Browns Bridge Road, Spire Bank,
Bridge End, Craven End

2018 Prayer for St 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 8 th April	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Morning Worship with Children's Group
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Thursday 12 th April	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th April	10am	Holy Communion
Thursday 19 th April	10am	Holy Communion

**The Church Office will be closed Friday 30th March and
reopen Tuesday 3rd April 9.00am**

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 (excl. Bank Holiday)

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.