



# 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

**15<sup>th</sup> 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 Holy Communion with children's group**

**"Journeying Together: Loving"**

**The Feeding of the 5000**

**Mark 6:31-44**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 10am Holy Communion**

**Special Prayer (Collect)**

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us also to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

### **Services at St James Church**

Thursday 10.00am Holy Communion weekly

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

with the whole church family coming together for worship and Holy Communion  
on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

Sunday 6.30pm Evening Worship on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

### ***Dates for your Diary***

Every Friday Morning 9.30am- 10.30am Prayer Meeting in Church Prayer Room

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 8.30am Men's Breakfast in Ufton Village Hall



**'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.

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

Occasional help is needed to support our sidespersons rota on the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **APCM 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

**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.

### **3Every 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

## **3St James Strollers**

The next "stroll" will be on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018, when, as usual, the meeting point will be at 2pm at Wood Street car park, and, if those who are able to will please come in cars all can be transported to the start of a "stroll" of about four miles in the Dunchurch area.

I will not be able to join you on this date, but I am very grateful to Derrick and Edward who have kindly found a suitable route – enjoy.

I hope you will be able to join them.

Spike" Thorne – Southam 814468.

## **Men's Breakfast 8.30am Saturday 21 April in the Village Hall**

It is customary for us to give a donation to the charity of our Speaker's choice, but Sue Moore the Artistic Director of the Loft Theatre who gave an excellent Talk in February declined the offer and asked that we "leave it in the kitty".

We were delighted therefore to be able to add to Ufton's April Lent Lunch donations taken by attendees in support of the Leamington Night Shelter, by providing our own cheque of £75 from the 'kitty'. Thank you Sue....

The last time they provided a Speaker was in September 2011 and it has taken us a little while to get confirmation – she is obviously very much in demand – but we are delighted that we shall be able to welcome Olivia Bowskill from Myton Hospice who will be able to give us an update on the excellent work that they do.

Numbers continue to increase each month, we have been at our maximum throughout 2018, but please do come and join us for yet another generous helping of Roger's delicious "Full English for a fiver". You'll need to get in early as it's 'first come, first served' so contact Barry Parker straightaway on 01926 811254 or better still, why not send him an email: [champagnebuff@gmail.com](mailto:champagnebuff@gmail.com)

### **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.

<p><b>Pray BLESSINGS on your community,</b> <b>BODY – health, protection, strength</b> <b>LABOUR – work, reward, security</b> <b>EMOTIONS – joy, peace, hope</b> <b>SOCIAL – love, marriage, family, friends</b> <b>SPIRIT - salvation, faith, grace</b></p>
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Pendicke Street, Mountfield Gardens, Ivy Terrace, Nightingale Court,  
School Street, Jam Kangaroo Day Nursery.

## 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 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Morning Worship with children's group+Baptism
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	Holy Communion with children's group
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	10am	Holy Communion

**Rev. Vikki Bisiker** (Priest in Charge)

07983 402614

email: [vicarpad@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:southamchurch@yahoo.com) website: [www.stjames-southam.co.uk](http://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.*