



# 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

**28<sup>th</sup> October 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*

**8am Holy Communion**

**10am Morning Worship with children's group**

**6.30pm Evening Worship**

**Luke 12:22-34; 1 Kings 17:2-6; Psalm 3.**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November      10am Holy Communion**

**Special Prayer (Collect)**

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2pm MU Meeting in church



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

Contacts are Chris Cooke or Jan Ford 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

## **Friday coffee morning – HELP NEEDED!!**

Our loyal and long serving team of helpers has become depleted recently as Pam Gilkes and Liz College have had to stand down after many years of service. Our thanks to both of them for all the time they have put it so cheerfully!

***We need a few more willing volunteers to join our rota – could it be YOU?!***

Please contact Chris Cooke or Jan Ford (813373) if you'd like to help us!

The commitment is about once a month between 10am and 12.30 for teams of two each week. The rota is arranged about four times a year, and if dates clash we swop with others on the rota.

Each Friday between 10.30 and noon, refreshments are served in church in exchange for a small donation from the customers. The donations are sent on a regular basis to the Mothers' Union International Projects, totalling several hundreds of pounds each year. The morning ends at noon with the Cross of Nails prayers; these prayers are said worldwide by churches and communities belonging to the Fellowship of the Cross of Nails.

## **St James Strollers**

Our next "stroll" will be on **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018**, when we intend to visit the villages of Leamington Hastings and Broadwell from a start point at Hill – just off the Southam to Rugby road – a distance of about four miles.

As we usually do, can we please meet at 2pm at Wood Street car park, and, if those who are able to will please come in cars, we can then organise transport for all to the start.

I hope you will be able to come.

"Spike" Thorne – Southam 814468.

## Thought for the month for October from Stephen Adams

Recently we were spending some time at a caravan rally, meeting with other Christians from various parts of the Midlands. One of the group was relating a story of when he was a child and got lost whilst on a visit to the seaside with his family. After wandering around for a while, his parents were very relieved to find him and he was very relieved to be found! But he recounted how he remembered hearing an onlooker in the crowd shouting out “he deserves a good hiding”.

It reminded us of one of the amazing stories that Jesus told. Jesus was a master story-teller and manages to capture so much in relatively few words. One day he was speaking to a crowd trying in various ways to get across just how extraordinary God’s love is.

The story, about a man with two sons, is known by many as the “Story of the Prodigal Son” and the focus is often on the son who left home, wasted his inheritance, and eventually came to his senses and went back to his family – “prodigal” means wasteful, reckless, dissolute, profligate. After his money ran out, this son ended up starving and looking after pigs – a total “loser”.

But running all through this story that Jesus told is an immensely strong undercurrent of love. In the culture of the time Jesus’s listeners would have understood it like this, that when the son asked for his inheritance he was basically saying “Dad I wish you were dead.” There would have been sharp intake of breath from the crowd. Such a son would have become a pariah, an outcast from the community.

But it is clear that his father never stopped loving him because Jesus said when he finally made his way home again his father saw him when he was still at some distance away. To see him on that very day the father would have to have been looking out every day, watching and waiting and hoping that one day his son would return.

Jesus described the father running to meet him and wrapping his arms around him and kissing him. Running would have been considered most inappropriate in their society, and this son had come from the pigsty – the lowest of the lowest place for a Jew. Pigs were religiously “unclean” and not to be touched, anyone who had anything to do with pigs was also “unclean”. This young man would have also been filthy and smelly yet his father shows intense and unrestrained love! And the next thing that happens is that the father throws the party of all parties because as he says “this son of mine was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found.”

And that was just an illustration, an attempt to convey some measure of God's amazing, deep, unending and unchanging love for each one of us. No retribution, no repayment of the wasted inheritance, no recriminations, instead there is extraordinary and uninhibited love, total forgiveness and great celebration back home in the Father's House.

## **Prayer Changes Things!**

As a Church, we continue to pray for our community because God's desire is always to bless people. So each week we pray for God's blessing on the people of Southam, street by street.



What should we pray?

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

This week we pray especially for those who live or work in:-

Banbury Road, Bridge Court, Tattle Bank, Oxford Street, Galanos House,  
Warwick Street, Willow Gardens, Warwick Place, Kirkwall

## **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 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	10am	Holy Communion with children's group
	4pm	Living With Loss (followed by refreshments)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	10.45am	Remembrance Service
	7pm	Lighting of Beacon & Ringing of Bells
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	10am	Holy Communion

**Revd. 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.*

