



# 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

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 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**

**Hope for a King**

**Luke 1:25-38**

**6.30pm Advent Carols**

**Isaiah 11:1-5; Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 John 3:1-5; Luke 1:39-45; Romans 15:7-13**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

**10am Holy Communion**

**Special Prayer (Collect)**

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin  
to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord  
and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **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 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. MU Carol Service 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

**"Good tidings of jumpers and joy" - Paul Bell is back on Friday December 7<sup>th</sup>** as part of the 'First Light' Tour.

**7.30 pm @ St Nicholas Church, Radford Semele**

Bring your friends to enjoy an evening of Paul's trademark wit with a mixture of laughter, his beautiful acoustic music and thoughtful reflections on the stories we share.

Bar available.

**Tickets £6.00 available from Rev Martin Green 01926 613466**

## **Thought for the month for December from Barry Parker- Churchwarden**

Christmas can be a time of extraordinary hope and considerable despair. Christmas can focus memories and emotions. So, what are your expectations, what are you hoping for, what are you looking for this year?

The Christmas Lights in Southam have already been switched on and the town takes on a magical appearance after dark and I'm sure that many of you will soon be decorating your homes, if you have not already done so!

Everywhere we look we see the commercial side of Christmas, being bombarded with advertising for those material things you must have. Not only drink and traditional food like turkeys, Christmas puddings, mince pies, Christmas cakes, etc. but also the latest electronic gadgets, the toys and merchandise from the latest film, that new three piece suite, perhaps even a holiday..... the list goes on and on and I will leave it to you to fill in the blanks. Children across our community are looking ahead, counting down the days to Christmas. Their excitement is building at school with Christmas parties, Christmas plays and carol services.

Christmas is also a time of year when many look back over their lives, remembering times gone by, both good and bad. This can be such a difficult time for many. Past relationships, both good and broken, come to mind. Family and friends who are estranged or have died are remembered. Maybe happier times are remembered before something happened to change life beyond recognition.

Do we think of those worse off than ourselves? Those who would love to make Christmas special but just cannot afford to! Do we think of the pressure on parents as they manage the expectations of their children? As we live in a 'buy now – pay later' society do we think of the future consequences of what we do today?

Whilst we cannot expect to make a difference to all who are in need, by doing something, no matter how small, will make a difference to that person. So, at this time of year maybe give some thought to what you might do – whether it is to get alongside a neighbour who you know will be on their own, inviting them in for a coffee or meal; making a donation to the local food bank, making the first step in re-building a broken relationship.....

Christmas, as a holiday in our current Western culture, focusses a lot on family, friendship, giving and other such positives – great things that none of us do enough of. But that's not 'Christmas'. That wasn't God's purpose.

God's love is at the heart of Christmas—it's the real reason behind all our gathering and gift-giving at this time of year. Christmas is great – better than the commercial hype. The God of the bible offers what we really crave for - joy and peace at Christmas, all year round and into eternity. Jesus is the most amazing gift you could ever receive.

Why not take time out this Christmas to celebrate God's gift at a local church service? Something to ponder in this season called Advent, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus.

May you know God's blessing this Christmas time.

### **MENS BREAKFAST Christmas Meal 19<sup>th</sup> December at the White Hart, Ufton**

Traditionally we do not hold an event this month. Instead, we repair to the White Hart in Ufton to partake of their festive fun and what a good evening it promises to be with our usual mix of good food, good company and plenty of craic. Details are: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December: - £20 per head to include your choice of main and dessert, tea or coffee and the staff's tip; timing is 7.30 for 8.00pm. To secure your place, please email Ian Crowther at [ian@account-able.co.uk](mailto:ian@account-able.co.uk) with copy to me at [champagnebuff@gmail.com](mailto:champagnebuff@gmail.com) by Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. There is a poster showing the menu choice on the noticeboard at the back of church or please speak to Barry Parker. So, when replying please let us have your menu selection by putting your choice as (say) "A2" if you fancy the Turkey and the Chocolate Brownie. We are having to pay the White Hart a £10 per head deposit so should you have to cancel you will owe Ian a £10 "no show" fee.

With regard to 2018 we are pleased to report we sent over £800 to 11 worthy charities including the British Legion, Leamington Night Shelter and The Well. We congratulate our gallant band of gentlemen who helped us to do so and extend our thanks to 'Chef Roger' and his team - without whom it just would not have been possible.

The 2019 programme will be available in January, but in the meantime, we take this opportunity to wish you a Very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Ian Crowther and Barry Parker

## **Christmas Lights Switch-on**

A Huge thanks to the Community Church Musicians and everyone who took part in the carol singing to round off the Christmas Lights Switch On last Sunday - it sounded wonderful and was well received by the public.

Very many thanks as well to all who contributed in time and cakes to the Combined Churches 'free' refreshment stall - I'm DELIGHTED to report the donations amounted to £164.82 - quite a marked increase on last year. Well done one and all.

Blessings – Jan

### **Advent Lunches –**

a variety of Soup, Bread and Butter, Selection of Cakes, Tea and Coffee  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December 11.30am – 2.00pm at  
Our Lady & St Wulstan Catholic Church Hall  
All Donations in aid of MIND and Prostate Cancer

### **Advent Carol Service** - From Darkness into Light

Sunday 2nd December at 6.30pm

Although it is the first Sunday in the month, there will also be a service at 6.30pm especially for Advent Sunday.

As in previous years we shall be pleased to welcome Southam Melody Makers, and enjoy seasonal refreshments afterwards.

We hope you can join us.

## **St James Strollers**

Our next “stroll” will be on **Sunday, 2nd December 2018**, when we will make the short journey to Ufton for a route of about three miles which should ensure that, at this time of the year, we will be finished before darkness descends.

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.

## Updates from Carriers of Hope

### CHRISTMAS NEWS:

6 weeks today is the Christmas-Dinner-in-Bag and Christmas Present Giveaway and how are we doing?

- 1 .We've received offers of around 70 made up bags.
2. We've received money to buy the contents of 90 more.
3. We've bagged up around 200 Christmas presents.

SO WE'RE ABOUT HALF WAY THERE WITH THE BAGS AND A QUARTER WAY WITH THE PRESENTS. THANK YOU SO MUCH BUT STILL A LONG WAY TO GO.

How can you best help us?

1. Lots more gifts for all ages (we give presents to the whole family).
2. LOTS of £10 supermarket gift cards (any supermarket).
3. Money so we can buy what we're short of.
4. In date cakes and puddings and chocolates for the bags.
5. Empty Christmassy strong bags.

### OTHER NEWS

1. We're growing: With the help of the Big Lottery's Reaching Communities' Programme and ARM Trust we have just finished our recruitment period and now have 9 members of paid staff to work alongside the 150+ volunteers.
2. We're moving! The warehouse so generously provided by a wonderful business man and his wife is needed by them, as their business is expanding, so he's found us a replacement warehouse and we're starting the move any day now. To help us PLEASE DO NOT GIVE US ANY MORE CLOTHES UNTIL THE SPRING. More news on this will follow soon.

That's it for now. THANK YOU - and HAPPY CHRISTMAS XX

Sue Sampson **Carriers of Hope, Coventry** c/o [55 Garth Crescent](#) [Coventry](#) [CV3 2PP](#)

024 7645 6356 [www.carriersofhope.org.uk](http://www.carriersofhope.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/Carriers-of-Hope-Coventry-330328640393060/](https://www.facebook.com/Carriers-of-Hope-Coventry-330328640393060/)

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/carriersofhopecoventry1/>

## **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:-

Daventry Street, Wood Street Congregational Church, ???/Catholic Church,  
The Cloisters, High Street

## **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 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Morning Worship with children's group + Baptism
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	6.30pm	Evening Worship
	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	10am	NO Service
	3pm	'Messy Christingle' crafts and fun for Families
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	3.45pm	Christingle service for all
	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.*