



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

9th 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*

8am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship with children's group + Baptism

6.30pm Evening Worship

Hope: God is with us

Matthew 1:18-25; Isaiah 9:1-7; Psalm 15

Thursday 13th December 10am Holy Communion

Special Prayer (Collect)

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **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

Thursday 13th Dec. MU Carol Service in church

Please note:

The church office will be closed Tuesday 18th December 2018 reopen
Wednesday 19th December 2018



‘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

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

Christmas Events & Services

A BIG thank you to everyone who has been involved in any way with the past couple of weekends' events and services. The next service in this time of Advent is the Messy Christingle on Sunday 16th December. There will be Messy Church crafts & making the Christingles from 3pm until 3:45pm. Light refreshments will be served from 3:45pm followed by short Christingle service. If crafts 'aren't your thing', please do come for refreshments and join in the Christingle celebration.

Christmas Fayre

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fayre on 1st December whether by providing items for the Hamper and the various stalls or coming along on the day to purchase the wonderful selection of goods and enjoy the yummy refreshments. The morning raised £1244.89 for church funds, a magnificent result and a significant increase on last year.

Mothers Union Christmas Raffle

At Tithe Lodge Tuesday 11th December 8.30am – 12.30pm

Your support would be very much appreciated.

Thank you. Rose.

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.

Advent Lunches –

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

MENS BREAKFAST Christmas Meal 19th 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 19th 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 with copy to me at champagnebuff@gmail.com by Tuesday 11th 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

Bedding, to Christmas, and all points in between from Carriers of Hope

Dear Friends

Usually at this time of year, with just 3 more Tuesdays till our Christmas Extravaganza, I'm giving you an update about Christmas Plans...and I will do that, but firstly, some needs are especially pressing! We have run out of bedding and our families need duvets, covers, pillows and pillow cases, please.

Christmas planning is well under way and we have a wonderful team of Christmas Elves each Tuesday afternoon, bagging up Christmas-Dinners-in-a-Bag; and Christmas presents. If you still want to help, the best way you can support the Christmas-Dinners-in-a-Bag at this point is to send us £10 supermarket gift cards so that we can give one to each family for fresh food items. In relation to the Christmas present appeal,

where the target numbers of presents has risen to close to 1,000 we are especially short of presents for age 9 years plus, and their mums.

All of this is happening in parallel with moving warehouse!! And there are so many hidden costs with the move....as I'm sure you can imagine. Next Saturday (8th December) from 9.00am onwards we're having a sale of surplus stock at the warehouse to help with the removal costs and to run down the amount we need to move. Please come if you're free.

If you wish to, and are able to help with any of the above:

1. Please bring bedding to Circle of Friends on Tuesday mornings at Hillfields Evangelical Baptist Church, Waterloo Street, CV1 5JS; or to the warehouse at Unit 2C Swallowgate Business Park, Holbrook Lane CV6 4BL; or to my house at 55 Garth Crescent, CV3 2PP.
2. If you want to bring presents on Tuesday afternoons, while the Elves are packing, please take gifts to our warehouse (address above) or my house (also address above).
3. If you wish to support with money please send a cheque to my house, made payable to Carriers of Hope, or email sues@carriersofhope.org.uk for bank details
4. If you want to support with supermarket gift cards please send to my home (address above).

A very special thank you to everyone who has already supported us in any of the above. You are very special people and you give us the encouragement to carry on.

Lots of love Sue Sampson,

Carriers of Hope, Coventry, c/o 55 Garth Crescent, Coventry, CV3 2PP
02476 456356,

www.carriersofhope.org.uk

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:-

St Mary's School, St Wulstan Way, St Wulstan Court, The Furrows.

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 16 th Dec.	10am	NO Service
		Messy Church crafts & fun for families at 3pm
		Light refreshments at 3.45pm followed by a short
		Christingle service for all
Thursday 20 th Dec.	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 rd Dec.	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	NO Service
	6pm	Carols by Candlelight
Monday 24 th Dec.	3pm	'Christmas Eve Celebration'
	11.15pm	Christmas Eve 'Midnight' Communion
Tuesday 25 th Dec.	10am	Christmas Day Family Communion
Thursday 27 th Dec.	10am	Holy Communion

Please note:

The church office will be closed Tuesday 18th December 2018 reopen
Wednesday 19th December 2018

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.