



# 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

**12<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

*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**

**Who are you?**

**Matthew 2:3-6**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January Holy Communion**

**Special Prayer (Collect)**

**The First Sunday after Epiphany**

Heavenly Father at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your  
beloved children; through 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

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 8.30am Men's Breakfast at Ufton Village Hall

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 7.00pm PCC meeting in Church office



**'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.

### **Cheques made payable to St James Church**

Due to changes in processing cheques at our bank please ensure that any cheques are made payable to **St James Church PCC.**

Many thanks, Ruth Tresidder, Treasurer.

## Thought for the month of January from Barry Parker Churchwarden

As I am writing this thought for the month the Christmas lights are going up in the town centre in anticipation of the fun and festivities of the Christmas Lights Switch-On. By the time you read this, the excitement, preparations and celebrations for Christmas and the New Year will have passed. Indeed, the lights may already have been taken down for another year!

For many, time with family and friends over this festive period has been a precious gift, building memories, for others it may have been a time of heartache as all they have are memories.

How have you started 2020? Is it filled with promise and possibilities, are you looking forward to making the most of a new year? Or are you looking backwards, holding on to those same worries, regrets and emotional pains that wear us down and make it difficult to move forward? Each day, each year is a gift from God, allowing us to experience the freshness of His grace and mercy, to release burdens and hurts of the past, to take a deep breath and renew our vision for the future.

Each year is like turning a page in the story of life. It's a new beginning and the page is always blank ready to be filled with the next part of our life story. Clearly, none of us knows what the future holds but the decisions you make, your circumstances and the people you meet will all form a part of your story. Will your story leave a lasting legacy?

Two thousand years ago Jesus Christ stepped into the blank pages of our human story. Although His story had been prophesied few people recognised Jesus as the Son of God and many rejected him. Jesus became a carpenter but at the age of 30 he left home to start a time of teaching and healing and established a new community that would continue the changes he brought about. Jesus' time on earth was limited but he changed the human story for ever. He literally split history in two BCE and CE (previously BC and AD!). The impact of his crucifixion and amazing resurrection dramatically impacted the lives of his followers. Many went on to record his teachings, which are part of the New testament in the Bible, and remain relevant today.

We all have a life story which is precious in God's eyes and he longs for each one of us to accept his offer of eternal life in His kingdom. We can, therefore, choose to approach 2020 with excitement and optimism, not despair and disillusion. This year could be the beginning of a new story for you, written around the never-ending existence with Jesus in His perfect world.

Corrie Ten Boom, who was sentenced to a concentration camp during WWII, said this, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." With

our faith in God, we can be excited and enthusiastic about this coming year. He will guide our steps. What the prophet, Jeremiah, said to those who were exiled and facing an unknown future, is just as true today, "For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you, say the Lord, plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Happy New Year.

## **Vacancies**

**Treasurer** - How do you fancy looking after our church finances? From our Annual General Meeting in March we need a new church treasurer.

It would be very helpful if you have an interest in figures and preferably able to use a computer accounts package. We have a very good system designed by Christians with charities and churches in mind. A helpline is available each weekday. Ruth will give every assistance to a new treasurer and is happy to continue as Gift Aid secretary – a completely separate computer package. Main attributes are that the person is trustworthy and can act in a confidential manner.

Please contact Ruth Tresidder ☎813524 for more information.

**Other** - In addition to looking for someone to take over from Ruth as our church treasurer we are also looking for volunteers to cover the following roles:-

**Health and Safety Officer** - as a church we owe a duty of care to ensure the safety of those who visit or use our church or churchyard. Working with the PCC we are looking for someone to have specific responsibility for our health and safety policy and its implementation, assessing the risks to health and safety of users of the church. Experience in the area of health and safety whilst an advantage is not essential. If you think this might be you please have a word with Barry Parker who can provide further information.

**Web Master** - We are looking for someone to take over from Barry Parker who currently manages the church website. This is an important role as it is imperative that any information regarding church services, activities, etc. are kept up to date. I am sure you would agree that the website is the public face of the church and the first place new people to the area look. With the website in place the role includes uploading the weekly Bulletin, maintaining the church diary and publishing items of latest news. Full training and support will be given. For more information please speak with Barry.

**Fabric** - We are looking for volunteers to be part of our fabric committee. The PCC is responsible for the care and maintenance of the church fabric and its contents (including the churchyard). Reporting to the PCC the fabric committee takes an active role not just in planning and commissioning routine maintenance works but also in those areas requiring major works/refurbishment, including the church tower and a leaking south aisle roof, together with

an ageing central heating system. You can probably identify others. With the Diocese expected to cancel our arrears of parish share early in the new year, something we have mentioned in the Annual Reports over the past few years, we will then be in a position to apply for grant aid for items of major repair and refurbishment. Please have a word with Stephen Adams for more information. These are all key roles in the maintenance, development and mission of St James in our community so please prayerfully consider how you might be able to help. Thank you.

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## **Men's Breakfast 8.30am Saturday 18 January in the Village Hall**

Do you know the difference between "Rural Crime" and "Crime in rural areas"?

NO?? Well, come along to our first event in 2020 and you most definitely will.....

Towards the end of last year, Ian attended the 10-week South Warwickshire Citizens' Academy at the Leek Wootton Police Headquarters and he wholeheartedly recommends that you try and attend the next Course they will be running later this year.

One of the Sessions - devoted to Rural Crime – was run by Allison Wiggin, Inspector and Rural Crime Lead for Stratford District and North Warwickshire Safer Neighbourhood Teams and we are delighted that she has made time in her busy schedule to come along and join us as Guest Speaker; it is a remarkable topic and the subject of increasing crime in farming and local communities.

There wasn't a spare seat to be had at our last event so if you want to join us this time and partake of Chef Roger's renowned "Full English for a fiver" then call Barry ASAP on 01926 811254 or better still, email him at: -

[champagnebuff@gmail.com](mailto:champagnebuff@gmail.com)

*Future Men's Breakfast dates are 29 February and 21 March - further details to follow.*

## **Overflowing with the Holy Spirit and Hope for 2020**

A Quiet Day at the Well Christian Healing Centre led by Rev Anne Hibbert with two date options: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January or Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January both from 10.00am – 4.00pm.

"2020 stretches out before us like snow that has fallen on the landscape and as yet is undisturbed by footprints. We read in Deuteronomy 31:8 God always goes before us. He knows everything about this coming year, with all its challenges and opportunities, the highs and lows and how we will face them all. This Quiet Day will give you space to pause, reflect and encounter God as you explore 2020 in prayer as well as opportunities to discern His heart of love afresh, so that you can overflow with hope by the power of

His Holy Spirit.”

Cost £20.00 per person (optional lunch £5.00 per person) Book online at [www.wellhealing.org](http://www.wellhealing.org) or phone office 01926 888003 for further details.

## **Southam Deanery Hope Together Event**

An evening with Philippa Hanna on 31<sup>st</sup> January at 7.30pm at St James Church, Southam.

Philippa Hanna is an acclaimed British singer-songwriter currently splitting her time between Sheffield, Nashville and a hectic international touring schedule.

As well as becoming a leading light in the Christian and Gospel scene in Europe, the Barnsley born singer has been invited to open tours for household names including Lionel Richie, Little Mix, Leona Lewis, Lulu, Wet Wet Wet and Anastacia, highlighting the broadness of her appeal. This is an evening not to be missed and although ticket prices are higher than normal, it promises to be a powerful evening to bring friends to. Philippa is also engaged in a tour called “Known” that is especially aimed at encouraging mums and daughters... and I am sure some of her testimony will touch on this.

Tickets: £10 available from Rev Martin Green 01926 613466

## **Pray in 2020 on the 20th of each month at 20:20 for 20 minutes**

In 2020 churches and ministries are working together for an intentional, strategic and Spirit-filled year of mission across the UK, uniting in a bid to stir the Church into greater levels of evangelism.

This is an invitation to Christians of all denominations to pray for our nation, towns and communities for **20 minutes at 20:20 on the 20th day of each month of 2020.**

The gospel is the hope for the world and as the church we are the messengers of it

- Pray ... that God will give many opportunities to speak about Christ. (Colossians 4:3 NLT)

- Ask God to work through all that is done in 2020 so that the UK can hear the gospel proclaimed clearly, relevantly, and compassionately through personal witness, church outreach plans in villages, towns and cities to big stadium events .

‘Business’ style 2020 prayer cards are available in church. Please take one as a reminder to pray and watch this space for further news as we make plans to join this exciting wave of prayer,

[https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/327007/Prayer\\_2020.aspx](https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/327007/Prayer_2020.aspx)

## **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:-

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

## **Upcoming Services at St James**

Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.00am	Holy Communion with children’s group
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Morning Worship including Baptism with Children’s Group
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	8.00am	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,

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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.*