



St James the Great ▪ Birstall Our Lady and St Nicholas ▪ Wanlip



Our vision is to be an open Christian community where people feel loved, respected, and free to be fully themselves.

4th May 2025

3rd Sunday of Easter

**Welcome
to you all**



Large
Print



St James



St James



St James



Our Services this week

Service type is subject to change due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances

St James:

Sunday 4th

10.00am All Together Service

Thursday 8th

9:30am Morning Prayer

Our Lady & St Nicholas:

Sunday 4th

6pm Holy Communion

What else is happening this week

Tuesday 6th

12:30-4:30pm Welcome Space St James

Wednesday 7th

2-4:30pm Welcome Space St James

Thursday 8th

10:50am Short service for 80th Ann. of VE Day Sibson Road Car Park

6:15-6:45pm Bells being rung for VE Day Our Lady & St Nicholas

7-7:30pm Bells being rung for VE Day St James

What's happening next week

Sunday 11th

8:30am Morning Prayer St James

10am Holy Communion with Healing St James

4pm Evensong & Fundraising Concert St Peter & St Paul's, Syston

6pm BCP Evensong Our Lady & St Nicholas

Monday 12th

2:30-4:30pm Monday Group St James

7pm APM & APCM St James

Tuesday 13th

12:30-4:30pm Welcome Space St James

Wednesday 14th

12:30pm Holy Communion St James

2-4:30pm Welcome Space St James

3-4pm Open Church & Private Prayer Our Lady & St Nicholas

Thursday 15th

9:30am Morning Prayer St James

Saturday 17th

10am-12noon Open Church St James

2-4pm Wanlip May Fair Wanlip Hall & Church

Notices

Please feel free to contact Amanda or one of the Churchwardens at any time

Rev Amanda Digman (Day off usually Friday)	251 Birstall Road	07803 625049 revamandadigman@me.com
Rev Rachael Brind-Surch (Day off usually Friday)		07538034729 rachael@brind-surch.co.uk
Debbie Shephard	41 Roman Road	2673262
Ladi Akinla	14 Palmer Square	07718 738154
Julie Ward	28 Walker Road	2677600
Matthew Harvey	56 Lambourne Road	07957 170920

Time off

Amanda is off until Saturday 10th May.

VE Day 80th Anniversary - 8th May

There will be a short service on Thursday 8th May at 10:50am at the flag by Sibson Road Car Park near the roundabout., to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. All Welcome.

Church Bells to celebrate 80th Anniversary of VE Day

Our Church bells will be rung at both churches to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8th May, between 6:15pm and 6:45pm at Our Lady & St Nicholas and between 7pm and 7:30pm at St James.

Stained glass museum visit to St James the Great

Earlier this year we were delighted to be selected as one of the Leicestershire churches as part of the three-day study tour that the stained-glass museum based at Ely cathedral organises each year. So, we welcomed 47 visitors and their guides to Our Welcome Space on Wednesday afternoon.

They were generous in their praise of the genuine loving hospitality they received, commenting on the busyness of our church and of course the beautiful range of stained-glass windows. They donated £100, plus money via the card machine and the museum will also donate.

A big thankyou to our wonderful bakers/hostesses for the mouthwatering array of cakes and serving up a continuous flow of tea and coffee throughout the hour-long visit. Thanks also to the Parish Council for parking the coach and contributing to the funding of our warm space.

Thanks to Sheryl for producing leaflets about the church and the windows. There a few left at the back of church by the card machine if you are interested in knowing more about our heritage.

Why not come and visit us on a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon? *Janet and all the warm space volunteers*

What are we thankful for

Bearing in mind all that is going on in the world I am sure we all have much to be thankful for so please would you add some thoughts for the list which each week appears on the news sheet and send some suggestions to Sheryl at sheryljupp@hotmail.co.uk or the church email stjames.birstall@btconnect.com or leave them in the Church Office. Please remember these are not related to personal events but general thanks. If you aren't sure have a look at the ideas of the past few weeks. *Josephine*

Evensong & Fundraising Concert - 11th May

St Peter and St Paul Church in Syston are holding an Evensong and Fundraising Concert on Sunday 11th May at 4pm. Sung by the Boys, Junior Girls and Songmen of Leicester Cathedral Choir. Free admission, with retiring collection in aid of the church heating appeal. *Rachael*

The Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Post Communion Prayer for the 3rd Sunday of Easter

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

APM & APCM

This year's APM & APCM will be on Monday 12th May at 7pm.

Wanlip May Fair - 17th May

This years Wanlip May Fair will be on Saturday 17th May 2pm - 4 pm in Wanlip Hall and Church. **We urgently needed offers of CAKES, any spare PLANTS, TOMBOLA items etc....** As always we look forward to seeing you for this Social Afternoon out. Any offers or queries please see or phone Julie Ward.

Open Church & Private Prayer on Wednesdays at Our Lady & St Nicholas

Our Lady & St Nicholas will not be open for private prayer on 7th May. Back to usual on the 14th May.

Shoebox Appeals 2024 and 2025

25,633 boxes were delivered – a wonderful result. A big thank you to all who contributed with boxes, gifts and donations. Pictures are at the back of the church. We are already collecting for 2025 and last week Sylvia and John put 17 bags of goods up in their loft, all goodies from our friends in Queniborough and, of course, Doreen likes to find parcels on her doorstep. This year, we are able to source even more from wholesalers, which means that we can buy even more for our money. Large shoeboxes are needed, so please collect trainer boxes from your grandchildren! Please keep collecting - we are very happy to receive offerings! *Sylvia Simes and Doreen Wilson*

Monthly tip for a less-plastic life - May

Use paper tape, reused bubble wrap and cardboard boxes for packaging.

Prayer Chain

If you have an urgent prayer request, please contact Doreen Wilson (2674680) or Gill Pope (2675086) it will be passed round the prayer chain as quickly as possible in strictest confidence.

RBL Quiz night

Several of us enjoy going to the quiz at the RBL on Wednesday evenings at 8:15pm. Please join us whenever you can. It's £1.50 per quizzier +£1 for non members. Text Amanda if you're coming just to double check we're going that evening. We can meet you outside if a bit nervous walking in alone - and who wouldn't be?!

Notices for the information sheets & when I'm in the Church Office

I will be in the office on Tuesdays & Thursdays between 9am and 1pm.

If you have a notice you would like putting in the Information sheet, can you please email it to either stjames.birstall@btconnect.com, or sheryljupp@hotmail.co.uk, or leave a message on the office answer machine (0116 2671797) or contact Amanda or a Churchwarden. I will need to have received it **before I am** on the Thursday to get your items included in that week's news sheet. Thanks. *Sheryl*

Lectionary Readings

Sun 4th **3rd Sunday of Easter**

Reading 1: Acts 9:1-6

Reading 2: Revelation 5:11-end

Gospel: John 21:1-19

Wanlip Readings

Reading 1: Psalm 30

Reading 2: Acts 9:1-6

Gospel: John 21:1-19

Mon 5th

Psalm: 96

Reading 1: Deuteronomy 5:1-22

Reading 2: Ephesians 1:1-14

Tue 6th

Psalm: 98

Reading 1: Deuteronomy 5:22-end

Reading 2: Ephesians 1:15-end

Wed 7th

Psalm: 105

Reading 1: Deuteronomy 6

Reading 2: Ephesians 2:1-10

Thu 8th

Psalm: 136

Reading 1: Deuteronomy 7:1-11

Reading 2: Ephesians 2:11-end

Holy Communion Readings

Reading 1: Acts 8:26-end

Gospel: John 6:44-51

Fri 9th

Psalm: 107

Reading 1: Deuteronomy 7:12-end

Reading 2: Ephesians 3:1-13

Sat 10th

Psalm: 110

Reading 1: Deuteronomy 8

Reading 2: Ephesians 3:14-end

Sun 11th **4th Sunday of Easter**

Reading 1: Acts 9:36-end

Reading 2: Revelation 7:9-end

Gospel: John 10:22-30

Wanlip Readings

Reading 1: Isaiah 63:7-14

Reading 2: Luke 24:36-49

Psalms: 113, 114

For our Prayers

For the persecuted church - Maldives

Lord Jesus, we thank You that, even in a country so closed off to the gospel, You are present and building Your church in the Maldives. Strengthen and protect secret Christians today as they seek to follow You and reveal Your love to those around them. Draw near to isolated Christians, and migrant believers who are facing threats for meeting together. Help Christians to find creative ways of sharing their faith, and open the eyes of tourists and travellers to see the plight of the persecuted Maldivian church. Amen.

For our Churches, this week especially for:

Churches Together in Birstall & Wanlip

Our children: Thomas

- Also those children whose birthdays are not known to us, but are orphaned by war.

What are we thankful for this week:

Flowers and Trees

For our Community, this week especially for:

Our Funeral Directors

For those in need or unwell:

Nicky Hardy, David Bark, Dorothy Barsby, John Walton, Michael Webb, Tricia Emmett, Ray Folland, Lesley Walton & all who care for them.

For those who have Holy Communion at home:

Sheila Skidmore, Monica Lucas, Freda Sowards, Margery Orton, Margery Orton, Gillian Hinton, John Harrison, John Walters, Michael Webb & Dorothy Barsby

For those who have recently died

For 1st anniversary of death this week:

Every day - 9pm (or another time!)

Praying for peace in Ukraine & Israel / Palestine. And a different area each day.

Sun: For an end to the Syrian Civil War ongoing since 2011

Mon: For an end to the Yemeni Civil War ongoing since 2014

Tues: For an end to the Anglophone Crisis ongoing since 2017

Wed: For an end to the Gang War in Haiti ongoing since 2020

Thurs: For an end to the Kurdish Separatism in Iran ongoing since 1918

Fri: For an end to the Jamaican Political Conflict ongoing since 1943

Sat: For an end to the Indo-Pakistani Wars ongoing since 1947