

**All Saints Church, Kempston
St James's Church, Biddenham**

Virtual Church News

21 November 2021

**Sunday before Advent
3rd Sunday**



Welcome to Virtual Church News. Hard copies will be circulated to those without access to email/social media. If you know of anyone without email who you think would benefit from a hard copy, please call Jacqui on 0778 6886 710 or email her at stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

Our Sunday Services

1st Sunday of the month

- 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints
9.30am All Age Service (followed by said Holy Communion) at St James's

2nd Sunday of the month

- 9.30am Morning Worship at St James's
10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints
6.00pm Service of Evening Prayer at St James's

3rd Sunday of the month

- 8.00am **Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints**
9.30am **Holy Communion Service at St James's**
7.00pm **Revive: Coffee/Bible/Fellowship**

4th Sunday of the month

- 9.30am Morning Worship at St James's
10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints

5th Sunday of the month (when there is one)

- 9.30am Service at St James's
6.30pm Sung Evensong at St James's

We also hold online services during the week via Zoom at 9.00am on Monday and 6.00pm on Wednesday. To join these Zoom services, simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.

We hope you will join us at our services as we explore a mixture of both traditional and new ways of worship.

Revive - 3rd Sundays

A short act of worship over a coffee, then unfolding the scriptures together. 7.00pm in St James's Church Barn. Everyone invited.



St James's Parish Christmas Cards

The St James's Parish Christmas Cards have now been printed and are in church ready for delivery to every house in the parish. If you can deliver a bundle or two we would really appreciate your help. We particularly need extra help with delivering in Great Denham, St Mary's and St Andrew's. The Church is open during the day so just pop in and collect some. Thank you.



All Saints' Table Top Sale

The next Missions Table Top Sale will be on this Sunday. All donations of home grown and home made produce would be welcome. The cash proceeds from the sale of the produce will go to the PCC's chosen Charities.



Calling all children!

Our joint nativity for both All Saints and St James's will be during the 9.30am service on 5 December at St James's.

As usual, it will be a very relaxed and stress free nativity based on the children who want to take part and what costumes etc people already have. There will be just one rehearsal on Saturday 4 December at 11am in church.

If your child(ren) would like to take part, please do let us know before 28 November by emailing stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com.

Please include in your email your child(ren)'s name(s) and age(s) and any costumes they already have.

Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details

Tel: 01234 328452
Mob: 07805 879537
Email: Rev.ejlomax@gmail.com

A Reading for the Week

John 18:33-37

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

Message from Rev Eric Lomax

And so, we come to the end of the church year, Christ the King. One of the things I love about the Church of England is its rhythm and pattern of time. Celebrating the story of Jesus is like a drum beat that takes us from the start of a song to the end. In that drum beat we follow the uncertainty of advent to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. In January, we celebrate Jesus' Baptism which marks the beginning of his ministry, marked by the anointing of Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, in the river Jordan. A voice from heaven declares; 'This is my son, with whom I am well pleased.'

In February, the drumbeat takes to Jesus' exhausted footsteps in the Judean wilderness, facing hunger, temptation and uncertainty. We become, at this point embedded in the story, being commanded to follow despite the suffering and uncertainty on our journey of discipleship.

The next part of the drumbeat has us welcoming Christ as King through the gates of Jerusalem, celebrating the culmination of his power as the promised Messiah. Of course, this leads us to disappointment. His Kingship is not as we expected. Sure enough he is crowned, but it is a crown of thorns, his throne is a wooden cross of shame, and his glory the humiliation that he faces suffering the death of a criminal.

The church closes for two nights and a day, and the drum beat falls silent. Slowly the rhythm works back up to a crescendo of life, and Christ rises to life on Easter morning. He is risen, Hallelujah.

Forty beats or days later brings us Christ's ascension, then Christ's ministry is left to us. At Pentecost, we sing the song of the Spirit; 'Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,' then, filled with the power of God's presence we recall our own ministry to the World, in the name of Christ.

Continued on next page...



Christmas

with **St James** and **All Saints** Churches

Sunday 5 December

9.30am Joint All Age Service with Nativity (St James)

Sunday 12 December

4.00pm Christingle Service (Church of the Transfiguration, Kempston – Joint with All Saints)

Saturday 18 December

9.00am Breakfast and Play Christingle (All Saints Hall)

Sunday 19 December

9.30am Christingle Service (St James)

4.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols (All Saints)

6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols (St James)

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Carols in the Churchyard (St James)

11.30pm Midnight Communion (both churches)

Christmas Day

10.00am Joint All Age Service followed by Communion (St James)

St James's Church Christmas Sale

St James's Church Barn
Church End, Biddenham

5 December

10.30am – 12.00pm

Free entry



Christmas Cards

Biddenham Village Gifts

Cakes & Produce

Decorations & Bulbs

Coffee & Mince Pies

Raffle

The All Age Bit

In Rev Eric's message he talks about the Christian year. In the Christian calendar, the year doesn't start in January, but at the beginning of Advent. As next Sunday is the start of Advent, this means that this Sunday is the end of the Christian year. On this Sunday we traditionally celebrate Christ the King. Read the reading on page 2. What kind of King do you think Jesus is? Is he a fierce King? Is he a loving King? Is he a bossy King? A proud King? A greedy King? A forgiving King? Can you think of a time when Jesus wore a crown? Was it a crown made of gold and lots of jewels, or was it a crown made of thorns? When you think of Jesus as King, you think of love and forgiveness, which is what he showed to us by dying for us on the cross.

Activities

Poems: Can you write an acrostic poem about Jesus using the letters of the words King (or King of the Jews) as the first letters of each line?

Who am I?: In the reading Pilate asks 'Are you the King of the Jews?'. Play a game of Who am I? Each person writes down the name of a famous person on a sticky note without anyone else seeing. Then they put the sticky note onto someone else's forehead. That person then has to guess who they are by asking questions. The others can only answer 'yes' or 'no'. Take turns asking questions and see who can guess who they are first!

Song

From Heaven You came

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4FtZ9XzZag>

Prayer

Jesus, our King, we praise you. On the cross you wore a crown of thorns, on the cross you died for us. Jesus, our King, we thank you. Now you are our King in heaven, now you wear a royal crown. Jesus, our King, we worship you. We praise you, we thank you, we worship you, Jesus, our King. Amen.

Material from Roots and Living Stones.

Help Required for Christmas Sale

St James's Church Christmas Sale is on 5 December in the Church Barn (see left).

Would you be able to help on the day? Can you bake some cakes or make some jam/chutney etc. for the produce stall?

Please contact Sue Squire on 342373 if you are able to help in any way! Thankyou.

Prayer/Bible Study Groups

Join our prayer group at 8pm on the 1st/3rd Thursdays of the month via Zoom. Everyone welcome. We also have Bible study groups which are open to everyone.

Contact John Lambert for further details, or with any prayer requests. john.c.lambert@gmail.com

Message from Rev Eric Lomax continued...

The year ends as it began. The last Sunday before Advent, is aptly called; 'Christ the King.' We celebrate the glory of Jesus in Heaven, seated on his throne. The Song ends with powerful major chords, the final beat of the drum, and church is dressed in a rich, royal red.

What we must not miss is the way this timeless song resonates in the reality that we all face. There is little difference between the kingship of Christ portrayed in the last Sunday of the Christian Year, and the Kingship that is portrayed on Good Friday. Jesus the King is embedded in our human experience of life. Throughout the year, whenever we meet, we say the Lord's prayer, and the pivotal line of that prayer is, 'Thy Kingdom Come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven.'

It may be that in our lives we do not see God's Kingship at work. If we experience struggle, uncertainty or pain and suffering, then it is hard to imagine that God is in control, and that Christ is King. The cross, however, shows us that Christ is indeed King at the lowest point of human suffering. His Kingship was, therefore, manifest as Christ cried out his last, on the cross, on Good Friday. Good Friday and Christ the King, therefore, are the parameters that frame our experience of life. In our childhood, in our adulthood, and in our old age; in joy and in sorrow, and in success and failure we call for Jesus to be there for us as our King. At no point do we despair, because it is our prayer, always; 'Your Kingdom, of healing peace and hope, your will for us be done, on earth as it shall be in heaven.' Amen.

God Bless
Eric

Let us pray...

(Reframing of the Lord's prayer)

Father of all
we face so much uncertainty in our lives,
and sometimes it is hard to see that you are near.
Father of all,
who seems so distant,
we thank you for your Grace to us.
May you be King
in all the circumstances that we face.
May your plans for us reach fulfilment,
here, on earth, amongst us.
Help us to be just like you,
and as you forgive may we forgive too.
Guide us to walk in your ways,
and lead us from times of trial,
for yours is the Kingdom now,
and for all eternity.
Amen.



Christmas Tree Festival



St Paul's Church, Bedford MK40 1SQ

Wednesday 1st to Saturday 4th December

10.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday 5th December

12noon - 4.00pm



Sponsored by



Admission: £3
Children under 16 free entry

Daily Concerts by
Community Groups

More information ... 01234 340163

Tag us on ... Bedford Christmas Tree Festival

Bedford Foodbank

Please continue to support this valuable charity and help them prevent hunger in our community.

They are again asking people to consider a Reverse Advent Calendar this Christmas. Contribute something each day of December and deliver your contributions from 4-7 January to replenish their stocks following Christmas.

For further details of current requirements and the Reverse Advent Calendar go to www.bedford.foodbank.org.uk

Suggested Music for this week

Hymn to Christ the King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDvk5RWw1xk>

Majesty, worship His majesty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Zontyn2TjE>

Rejoice, the Lord is King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDFAv0eh-s8>

The King of Love

Scenes of Biddenham Christmas Cards



Raising funds for St James's Church
Mixed packs of 5 cards,
£3 per pack or £5 for two packs

Call Sue (342373) or Jacqui (356993)
for further details

Limited stock so buy early!

Christmas Gifts

In addition to the Scenes of Biddenham Christmas cards (see below), we also have various Biddenham Village gifts which would make great Christmas presents. Call Jane George on 359014 for more details.

Reverse ADVENT CALENDAR

Thank you for your support.
Please deliver to 71 Murdock Road MK41 7PL from 4th to 7th January.
9.30am to 12.00pm.
Email address: info@bedford.foodbank.org.uk Telephone Number: 01234 268569
At present we have plenty of pasta, cereal, soup and sanitary ware and don't require any more.

1 Small Saucepan	2 Tinned Fruit	3 Jars of pasta Sauce	4 UHT Fruit Juice	5 Squash	6 Washing Clothes Tablets
7 Long Life Sponge Pudding	8 Washing Up Liquid	9 Jam	10 Wooden Spoon	11 Biscuits	12 Tin Openers
13 Size 6 Nappies	14 Tinned Tuna	15 Soap/Liquid handwash	16 Toothpaste	17 500g Rice	18 Deodorant
19 Tinned Rice Pudding	20 Cutlery sets	21 Coffee	22 Bar of Chocolates	23 UHT Milk	24 Tinned Meat

www.bedford.foodbank.org.uk. To donate money <https://bedford.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate->

Registered Charity in England & Wales 1179538