

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

Virtual Church News

20th March 2022

**Third Sunday of Lent
(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 email stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

Our Normal Sunday Services Until 31 March (see page 2 for April onwards)

1st Sunday of the month

- 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints
9.30am Joint 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 (Explorers in the Church Barn)
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
6.00pm Choral 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.

Annual Meetings and Electoral Rolls

The Electoral rolls (membership lists) for both churches will shortly be revised prior to the Annual Meetings. Full details can be found on page 5.

Let us pray...

Lord Christ,
it is often hard to make sense of the experience of those around us. Help us to believe in you and to know that you are with us and alongside us every step of the way. Amen.



Revive - This Sunday!

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



**Her children
arise and
call her
blessed**

**27th
March**

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Join us to celebrate
Mothering Sunday

Posies of flowers will be
given out during the
service

**Everyone
Welcome!**

**St James's Church
Biddenham
9.30am**

Reading for the Week

Luke 13.1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

Message from Rev Eric Lomax

There are huge questions that we face at this time. Two million refugees pouring over the borders of Ukraine, soon to be followed by more. Columns of these poor people walking, driving, riding, all trying to escape the wrath of a dysfunctional Russian army. It is a terrible army, that through poor training and discipline, is incapable of demonstrating any of the qualities of an organised, proportional force. They attack non-combatant civilians, point their missiles at children and pregnant women, they bomb theatres and maternity hospitals, and they do it without shame, remorse or any sense of responsibility. We had forgotten the evil of which human beings are capable, and now we see it again on our doorstep.

I encounter grief, I encounter anger and frustration, almost every day in my work, but the suffering we are witnessing on the other side of our own continent is simply off the scale. We can understand if any of these people fleeing for safety cry out, as Jesus did on the cross, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' If you are a person of faith in a benevolent, all powerful God, and you encounter this question, you would be wise not to dismiss it with platitudes.

The Theologian, Jurgen Moltmann, in his powerful work 'The Crucified God,' spoke of this question with a real depth of understanding. He, himself, had witnessed suffering in the German armed forces during the Second World War. He wrote about his own sympathy of protest atheism, where people are unable to believe in God because of human suffering. He then said something surprising; 'Without Jesus Christ, I would not believe in God.'

What possible difference could Jesus Christ mean to this question of God and human suffering?

Christians have a unique view of God. Not only do we believe in a God who is a creator, and a God who lives in us by his Spirit, we also believe in something called the Incarnation. This means that in Jesus Christ, God comes to us a human being. As a human being, God went through everything that we go through. He lived like us, he breathed like us and he even suffered like us on the cross. His suffering was so profound that, on the cross, he echoed the words of Psalm 22, by crying out in despair, 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?' At that moment of experience, the son of God felt despair and abandonment like so many other human beings, and like many of us are likely to experience at least once in our lives.'

One of the real heroes of this war is the comedian, actor and president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky. Unlike the author of that terrible war, Zelensky has not hidden inside an opulent palace in Moscow, but has lived alongside his people in Kiev, in constant risk to his life. Putin is undoubtedly powerful with his wealth and his capacity to order death to reign down on the civilian populace of Ukraine. The reality is, however that by living alongside his people at a time of war, and sharing in their experience, he is reputationally far more powerful. God's power is demonstrated not in lightening bolts and earthquakes, but rather in the fact that in Jesus Christ he came to meet us in his son, and stands in solidarity with us in all our human experience. In Jesus Christ, God is with us.

God bless,
Eric

Our Sunday Services from 1 April

From 1 April our normal Sunday services will be changing as set out below. Of course Easter falls in April this year so services over Easter weekend will be a little different to this - check out our Easter Service details on page 4.

1st Sunday of the month

10.00am All Age Worship at All Saints
10.00am All Age Worship at St James's
11.15am Holy Communion at All Saints

2nd Sunday of the month

9.00am Said Holy Communion at All Saints
10.00am Holy Communion at St James's
6.00pm Evening Prayer at St James's

3rd Sunday of the month

10.00am Holy Communion at All Saints
10.00am Morning Worship at St James's
7.00pm Revive: Coffee/Bible/Fellowship

4th Sunday of the month

9.00am Said Holy Communion at All Saints
10.00am Holy Communion at St James's
(Explorers in the Church Barn)

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

10.00am Service Wholeness & Healing at St James's
6.00pm Choral Evensong at St James's

All Age Reading

Psalm 63, v1-9

God, you are my God.

I want to follow you.

My whole being

thirsts for you,

like a man in a dry, empty land
where there is no water.

I have seen you in the Temple.

I have seen your strength and glory.

Your love is better than life.

I will praise you.

I will praise you as long as I live.

I will lift up my hands in prayer to your name.

I will be content as if I had eaten the best foods.

My lips will sing. My mouth will praise you.

I remember you while I'm lying in bed.

I think about you through the night.

You are my help.

Because of your protection, I sing.

I stay close to you.

You support me with your right hand.

Some people are trying to kill me.

But they will go down to the grave.

From International Children's Bible courtesy of Bible Gateway

ST JAMES'S CHURCH

BIDDENHAM

SPRING TEAS



Plant Sale



Cream Teas



Tea Towel
Display

Sunday 8th May

2.30pm - 5.30pm

St James's Churchyard/Barn

PLANT CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME TO JANE (359014) OR
PAM (327035) OR DELIVER TO 49 CHURCH END

ALL PROCEEDS TO ST JAMES'S CHURCH

ST JAMES'S CHURCH BIDDENHAM

MUSIC FOR MAY

A concert by the Ouse Valley Singers
with soloist Philippa Jones

Saturday 21st May
Biddenham Pavilion, Deep Spinney
7.30pm

Tickets £10 (light refreshments included)

For tickets, contact:

Anne 214805 or Sue 342373

All proceeds to St James's Church

The All Age Bit

In this Psalm, David was alone and afraid so he sought to draw close to God and to call on him for help. We can seek God and draw close to Him as we pray and worship. David loved to praise God and speak out all the reasons he loved and worshipped him. How do you think you can seek God and worship him?

Activities

Flavour challenge: this Psalm talks about quenching thirst and satisfying hunger. Why not try getting your parents/carers to give you tasters of some foods when you are blindfolded. Can you guess what you are eating?

Bedtime challenge: This week, like David, why not make time to chat with God before going to sleep and ask God to speak to you through your dreams.

Song

My best friend

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JFjruVrrag>

Prayer

Dear God, you are my God and I want to follow you. Help me to be close to you in prayer, in worship and in every day life. David said that he would remember you in bed, and think about you through the night. Be with me tonight. Speak to me through my dreams and help me to listen. Amen.

Resources from Journey Together (www.tath.co.uk)

All Saints Church, Kempston

Dedication Service for the preservation and replacement of two ancient bells, and the refurbishment of the ring of 10 **Sunday, 3rd April at 4pm**

We'd like to thank everyone for their support for the Appeal Fund. The work was completed in December 2019, enabling us to ring for Christmas services and for the New Year.

To celebrate the completion of the project we invite you to a dedication service, followed by refreshments in the church hall.

All are welcome



Please contact Dr Nicola Darwood
(113 High Street, Kempston, Bedford MK42 7BP
or n.darwood@gmail.com)
by 26th March if you wish to attend

Holy Week and Easter Services

Our services during Holy Week and Easter will be as follows:

Palm Sunday 10 April

- 9.00am Palm Sunday said Holy Communion at All Saints
10.00am Palm Sunday said Holy Communion at St James's
6.00pm Evening Prayer at St James's

Monday 11 April

- 7.00pm Evening Prayer at All Saints

Tuesday 12 April

- 7.00pm Evening Prayer at St James's

Wednesday 13 April

- 7.00pm Evening Prayer at All Saints

Maundy Thursday 14 April

- 7.30pm Holy Communion at St James's

Good Friday 15 April

- 10.00am Children's Easter Event at St James's (Church Barn)
12.00pm Reflection at All Saints
1.00pm Reflection at St James's
2.00pm Reflection at All Saints
3.00pm Reflection at St James's
(Both churches open until 3pm)

Easter Sunday 17 April

- 8.00am Service of Light at St James's
9.00am Service of Light at All Saints
10.00am Holy Communion at All Saints
10.00am Holy Communion at St James's

Bedford Foodbank

Please continue to support this valuable charity. They fed 1,478 people in January (504 of them children). This is a huge increase on previous months and the same time last year. See their website for up to date details of what they need. www.bedford.foodbank.org.uk

Alleluia
He is
Risen!

11th-17th
April



EASTER

Holy Week

- Monday:** 7pm Evening Prayer (All Saints)
Tuesday: 7pm Evening Prayer (St James)
Wednesday: 7pm Evening Prayer (All Saints)
Thursday: 7.30pm Holy Communion (St James)

Good Friday

- 10am Children's Event (St James)
12pm & 2pm Reflection (All Saints)
2pm & 3pm Reflection (St James)

Easter Sunday

- 8am Service of Light (St James)
9am Service of Light (All Saints)
10am Holy Communion (both churches)

Everyone
Welcome!

St James's Churchyard Closure

As Parishioners may be aware the Churchyard extension at the rear of the Church has been in use for some time now. In respect of the existing Churchyard, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has decided that, whilst continuing burials/committal of ashes may be allowed for any member of a family of a person or persons previously buried in the Churchyard, it is logical to seek approval from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to declare the formal closure of this Churchyard. This will assist the PCC in that the future maintenance of the Churchyard will be undertaken by the Borough Council. Attached to this article is the formal notice as prescribed by the MoJ. A copy of this notice is being placed in all the local Parish noticeboards. Any Parishioners who still have concerns about this process can contact Laurie Hurn (Churchwarden) for further information in support.

Statutory Notice

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF St James Churchyard, Biddenham, Bedford

Notice is hereby given that it is the intention of the Secretary of State for Justice, acting on an application by the incumbent and churchwardens, to apply to the Privy Council for an Order requiring the discontinuance of burials in the above churchyard.

Provision would be made for the following exceptions:-

a. in any vault or walled grave in the churchyard, burial may be allowed but every coffin in such vault or grave must be separately enclosed by stonework or brick work properly cemented;

b. in any existing earthen grave in the churchyard, the burial may be allowed of the body of any member of the family of the person or persons previously buried in that grave, but no part of the coffin containing the body shall be less than one metre below the level of the surface of the ground adjoining the grave; and

c. in any grave space in which no interment has previously taken place, the burial may be allowed of any person for whom, or any member of the family for which that grave space has been reserved and appropriated, with the exclusive right of burial there, but no part of the coffin containing the body shall be less than one metre below the level of the surface of the ground adjoining the grave.

Any representations about the proposed closure should be sent to the Coroners and Burials Team, Ministry of Justice, 102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ (quoting reference CC/MAR/22/032) within 21 days of this publication.

Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details

Tel: 01234 328452

Mob: 07805 879537

Email: Rev.ejloxmax@gmail.com

Electoral Rolls & Annual Meetings

All Saints

Notice is given that the Church Electoral Roll of All Saints Kempston will be revised by the Parochial Church Council from Friday 1st April to Monday 4th April. After such revision, a copy of the Roll will be exhibited at the back of the Church for not less than 14 days for inspection.

Forms of application for enrolment can be obtained by calling Shirley on 07469 205 938 or emailing shirleybrown2227@yahoo.com

If you would like to join the Electoral Roll, completed forms should be returned on or before Monday 4th April.

The Electoral Roll is akin to a membership list for the church. Being on the roll enables you to take part in the proceedings of the Annual Meetings, which will be held on Tuesday 19th April at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

Please contact the PCC Secretary on the above contact details if you have any queries.

St James's

Notice is given that the Church Electoral Roll of St James Biddenham will be revised by the Parochial Church Council from Wednesday 30th March to Tuesday 12th April. After such revision, a copy of the Roll will be exhibited at the back of the Church for not less than 14 days for inspection.

Forms of application for enrolment can be obtained by calling Jacqui on 0778 6886 710 or emailing stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com.

If you would like to join the Electoral Roll, completed forms should be returned on or before Tuesday 12th April.

The Electoral Roll is akin to a membership list for the church. Being on the roll enables you to take part in the proceedings of the Annual Meetings, which will be held on Wednesday 27th April at 7.30pm in the Church Barn.

Please contact the PCC Secretary on the above contact details if you have any queries.

Suggested Music

Who can sound the depths of sorrow

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYfoKpbGko8>

O Lord, the clouds are gathering

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

Be still, my soul (in You I rest)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mq59iE3MhXM>

He will hold me fast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=936BapRFHaQ>

Prayer Group

Our joint prayer group meets online at 8pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Join us in praying for our churches, communities and beyond. For details, or to request prayers, email stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com