

Notices for week commencing 22 March 2020

Mothering Sunday

As I'm sure you are all aware, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that public worship is suspended until further notice. We will be following this advice at St James' and are suspending all public services immediately, however in these uncertain times please be assured that worship and prayer will and must continue.

In keeping with the tradition of the Church I will celebrate Holy Communion at St James' each Sunday morning, which can be received 'spiritually' by anybody else. We are also exploring the possibility of opening the church building every day so folks can use the space for personal prayer.

Worship resources for daily prayer are available on the Church of England website and a simple service sheet and reflection will put on the St James' website for each Sunday morning. You might like to download the daily prayer app to your phone or tablet. Some of us at St James' already use this resource.

Alison and I are developing a 'telephone tree' so that we can keep in touch with each other during the time when we will not be gathered, and we're also experimenting with the use of video conferencing. One opportunity to use this might be the regular preacher's meeting on Tuesday evening. More anon.

Please be assured of my prayers at this time of uncertainty.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,

under the shadow of your mercy.

Sustain and support the anxious,

be with those who care for the sick,

and lift up all who are brought low;

that we may find comfort

knowing that nothing can separate us from your love

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

Jonathan

News

A word from Bishop Nick:

“Christians need no reminder of our common human mortality, nor of the fragility of life in a contingent material world. We preach this stuff in the good times; now we are given an opportunity to live it out when the pressure is upon us all. We are drawn by hope, not driven by fear. Our trust is in the God who raised Jesus, and we walk with grace-filled and hope-fuelled hearts, following this same Jesus who gave his life for us. Our scriptures also call us to keep joy alive when the desert threatens to dry us out – looking for the songs of hope and singing them for all to hear.”

David Eaves

We are sad to share the news that our brother David Eaves died in hospital on Friday 13 March. He was supported during his final hours by Katie Tither, his mother Margaret and brother Alasdair. Others from the St James' community and David's circle kept vigil at different times. Our prayers are with Katie and David's family and friends in their grief.

David's funeral will take place at Rawdon Crematorium on 02 April at 13.40. It is the family's wish that this be a small private service and, given current advice about physical distancing, this is sensible. Katie and David's family intend to hold a Thanksgiving Service for David at some future date. Details will be provided when they become available.

Connections

The Easter Connections leaflets have arrived and have been batched up ready for delivery. Before we embark on the exercise to share our news around the Parish we will be seeking guidance about whether this is a sensible move. A decision will be taken on Sunday evening and, if we are going to proceed, we will make arrangements to distribute bundles of leaflets to those who deliver.

An electronic version of the leaflet will be made available on the website.

Sharing God's Blessing

Goal 5: Growing young people as Christians

Our aspiration by 2024 ...

Children and young people are part of the welcoming, enriching and safe worshipping community at St James'. They are provided with a supportive context for maturing in their faith and living out that faith in practice. We regularly review the needs of children and young people in our community and adapt provision for them as they grow. Through Horsforth Churches Together, St James' continues active participation in taking Christian faith into primary schools in the town. St James' has strong links with Broadgate Primary School and the Horsforth Children's Centre.

This week's Fellowship Prayer Focus

Please pray for those people in our fellowship who are ill or struggling; David Eaves's family and friends [Katie Tither, Margaret and Alasdair]; Roy & Barbara Jolliffe, Mona L, Marie M, Robert S (Elaine's son), Carol and John S, Mary S, and any who are self-isolating or fearful in the light of the coronavirus pandemic.

Please pray for those who are housebound. Pray for Jo Glenwright [ordination training] *If you would like the church as a whole to pray for you, please email Alison at the church office and the request will be forwarded on as soon as possible. For confidential prayer matters please continue to contact John Pickford to be put on the Prayer Chain.*

Mission Partner Prayer Focus - TEAR Fund

- Pray for peace in Yemen
- pray for peace in Mozambique. There are some areas where Tearfund work where it's not possible to drive, because of conflict. Secondly, please pray for those people still facing the consequences of Cyclone Idai and the droughts today. And also pray for our Tearfund team and partner organisations, that they will be strengthened and encouraged.
- Syria: 6 ways to pray:
 - Peace:** pray for an end to the violence in Syria.
 - Relationship building:** pray for our team in Syria – for the existing relationships they have with local churches and organisations, and for wisdom and opportunities for new relationships too. These relationships are vital to help reach even more people with lifegiving support.
 - People returning to their homes:** lift up people who have fled to other countries, and those that have been internally displaced. Life is never the same again, so pray for comfort as they come back to face what they have lost. Pray for new opportunities and for support as they rebuild their lives.
 - Water and hygiene:** pray for the programmes Tearfund is implementing to help people have access to clean water and safe sanitation. Ask that these programmes will reach people in need.
 - Employment opportunities:** pray for new and sustainable opportunities for people in Syria to earn an income and provide for their families. Pray especially for young people; for there to be no lost generation and that they will have hope for their future.
 - Recovery from trauma:** lift up everyone who is suffering the after-effects of this long conflict. Pray for God's healing and comfort to surround them as well as freedom from anxiety and fear. Pray that people will be restored so that they feel empowered and encouraged to follow their dreams.

Contact Details:

The Church Office is the initial enquiry point for baptisms, thanksgivings, weddings and church events.

Phone: 0113 258 4558

Email: office@stjameswoodside.org

Website: <https://www.stjameswoodside.org>

Vicar: Jonathan Cain

55 Bridgland Avenue, Menston, Ilkley, LS29 6PD;