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From the Book of Remembrance

Gone But Not Forgotten, Those We Love But See No More

JANUARY

4th	MARGARET MIDDLEHURST	2004
10th	GEORGE ERIC HOWARD	1997
	EDITH BATTY	1999
18th	RICHARD CHARNLEY	1978
20th	DORIS CHARNLEY	1980
21st	GEOFFREY PEARSON	1967
23rd	FREDERICK MORRIS-ASHTON	1995
25th	FRANK McDADE	2002
	JOHN MAURICE JONES	2017
26th	ROBERT MILLWARD	2005

If you would like to put a name in the Book, Please ask for a form from one of the Church Wardens.

Thank You

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalms 23:4

Photos for the cover and inside the magazine are always gratefully received. Please email them to brindle.voice@brindlestjames.co.uk

Church Flowers

THE FLOWERS IN CHURCH FOR JANUARY ARE IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH EVANS AND ARE KINDLY PROVIDED BY



7th JENNY EVANS

14th JENNY EVANS

21st

28th

Would you like to sponsor flowers for a special anniversary or memorial? All the names are mentioned in Brindle Voice each month. For details contact Joan Hopcraft on 01254 854465

Services: January

3rd	Service of the Word	6.30pm
7th	Holy Communion	10.30am
10th	Service of the Word	6.30pm
14th	Service of the Word	9 am
	Holy Communion	10.30am
17th	Service of the Word	6.30pm
21st	Holy Communion	10.30 am
24th	Service of the Word	6.30pm
28th	Service of the Word	9am
	Holy Communion	10.30am
31st	Service of the Word	6.30pm

Feb

4th	Holy Communion	10.30am
7th	Service of the Word	6.30pm

For Zoom instructions, please contact us via our website: www.brindlestiames.co.uk/



Wired to the Moon ~ Guest Edit "The Lord Is My Rock"

I am writing this just before Christmas, but by the time you read it it's likely that all that is associated with Christmas will have passed.

So, I want to wish everyone a very happy new year! It is also an opportunity to thank all the volunteers who support the ministry and mission at Brindle St James and there are dozens of you who give of your time and talents to do the hundreds of tasks to keep our beautiful church building well maintained and open for worship and everyone who supports Jon in his ministry. You are all amazing and if anyone else would like to get involved in some way in 2024 then please just let Jon, Roger, Jenny or me know.

Also, a huge thank you to everyone who has given financially without your gifts we would not have heating or lights, or water, or Jon and I would not be able to train for ordination. We continue to be able to support other parishes too, including our friends at St James Over Darwen with the amazing donations made to the Food Larder every week. This Christmas 75 households were able to have a Christmas dinner and be able to eat during the Christmas holiday because of the work of the volunteers at the Food Larder and the donations that have been made to it.

But it always feels a little bit flat in January, once twelfth night is gone and the decorations are packed away for another year, the wrapping paper and all the packaging is in the recycle bins and the toys and games are all played with and the smellies are languishing on the bathroom shelves. It seems like all there is left to do is bemoan the cost of it all and say yet again that next year we won't buy as much, spend as much, eat as much...

I was however reminded this week of just how much there is still to celebrate and look forward to in the coming twelve months. The source of this joy and hope was the wall calendar supplied with this week's edition of the Church Times. This calendar is no ordinary calendar, it is a liturgical calendar. A calendar that shows the church year in splendid technicolour. Let me explain; we have the dazzling white and gold in January for Epiphany when we celebrate the visit of the wise men to Bethlehem and the baptism of Jesus. In February we have a brief period of green, ordinary time, when nothing much happens, before we move to the purple of Lent. Although there is some celebration for Mothering Sunday mid-March, before moving through red for Passiontide and Palm Sunday. Easter comes with a blaze of gold and white as Jesus ascends to heaven. Then we return to red as Pentecost brings with it the Holy Spirit. There is one last blaze of gold on Trinity Sunday in May before we return to green for the next several months, before remembrance in November and the end of our church year with Christ the King and Advent. There are so many wonderful moments that we celebrate with colour, these colours are

represented by the Altar cloths and the stoles or scarves that Jon wears against the white of his cassock alb.

2024 is a very special year for me as on 29 June I will be ordained as a deacon at Blackburn Cathedral. This event is still something that I am beyond amazed that I am actually looking towards. My three years at 'vicar school', otherwise known as Emmanuel Theological College, will be at an end, but my training will not. As I begin my curacy at Brindle St James, which is very like an apprenticeship, I will still have lots to learn before I am priested in 2025 and even more to learn beyond that. Nevertheless, I am still required to have the right clothes to wear, otherwise known as vestments. For the last two years at one of our 'vicar school' residentials there has been something known as a vestments fair, where suppliers of these colourful garments, cassocks, surplices, albs, stoles, and an array of other garbs, attend to kit out the soon to be ordained person. Of course, I have had a look, but unlike my classmates I haven't actually bought anything. So, it came as a bit of a shock to realise that there is a 14-week waiting list for these things and the next fair at 'vicar school' is only likely to be a month before the big day at the cathedral.

Therefore, in February I will be taking a trip to Newcastle to get measured for a cassock alb and at least two stoles which are required for the ordination ceremony. I suspect I might have to buy one or two clerical shirts and a dog collar or two.

This delay in buying my priestly garb of course is based in my continued questioning of God. A senior clergy person that I know reminded me recently that God is consistent, that when he calls, he doesn't change his mind. I on the other hand might well prevaricate, argue, put barriers and challenges in the way, but in the end when you are me in all the joys. The yolk that links me to God is called by God you are called.

God calls each of us, he has a plan for each of us (Jeremiah 29:11), whether we choose to respond or not is entirely up to us. I spent decades choosing not to respond, and to be honest I only filled in the forms to seek to discern if ordained ministry was for me to prove that it wasn't! God however, saw the chink and there was no turning back from that point; and what a journey it has been. I have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ that grows deeper every day, the change in my heart is so subtle, that it is only when either I look back at something, or I am faced with a challenge that I realise how much I have been transformed. Of course, life isn't all plain sailing or perfect, working full-time, training and my parish placement is a constant juggling act and just like everyone else I have the same life events and issues. I do however see these things through God lenses, and I know that in leaning into God, relying on Him instead of myself, then all of life's challenges become bearable, I can find ways of dealing with them or at least being at peace with them. Again, please don't assume that I don't get angry, upset, that I don't feel grief or anxiety. It is more that I know that I am held and supported and draw strength from

knowing that God loves me.

In recent months I have been reflecting on the verse 30 in Matthew's Gospel chapter 11 'For my yolk is easy and my burden is light'. I know that God has equipped me for everything that comes and that the Lord is with me sharing any tears I shed, any sadness I experience, just as he is with Jesus and Jesus who eases my burdens. This requires me to give time to prayer and to read the Bible, and sometimes to just sit in his presence and rest and wait. The church calendar, the colourful vestments and Altar cloths serve as a gentle reminder of a living God who rejoices and laments in the world.

2024 will be another busy year in our parish, confirmation classes will begin at the end of January, and if you would like to progress your own journey of faith by being confirmed, or your child is in year six or above and feels they would like to make their own confirmation promises then please speak to Jon or pop your name on the sheet which Amen will be at the back of church. We have a number of social and fundraising events coming up, including the Promise Auction on 23 February 2024 at Brindle Distillery – it's not too late to book a ticket or offer a promise, all the details are on https:// brindledistillery.co.uk/bookings

December of course was not a time of celebration for everyone, we reflected on the conflicts in Palestine and Israel and the Ukraine and we continued to support our friends with donations to the Food Larder in St James Over Darwen. But as we journey forward in faith, following the example of

the Magi following the star in the east to find the baby Jesus may we hold on to the peace, hope, joy and love that Jesus brings the world.

Much Love.



Baptisms:

We welcomed into the church family Beatrice Mcall-Young at her baptism on 3 December.

Funerals:

Heartfelt condolences and ongoing prayers for the friends and families of those recently departed whose funerals were held in December including Peter Bannister on 12 December and Ruth **Wolstenholme** on 28 December and the interment of ashes on 16 December of Joyce Kitson.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory.

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

(Matthew 2:10-11)



As you're aware, we have teamed up with Brindle St James School to organise an "Auction of Promises" which the Brindle Distillery have kindly offered to host on 23rd Feb 2024. The evening includes a drink on arrival and live music by Liz Long and Steve Walton. Our thanks to all at the distillery for their generosity and support!

We wanted this to be a community event, so it isn't fully visible on the distillery website yet. Tickets are on sale for £20 and you can book yours by following this link:

https://brindledistillery.co.uk/bookings/

All you need to do is flick the calendar along to February, select the 23rd and follow the booking steps.

We are still collecting promises and raffle prizes for the event. If you are able to offer anything at all, big or small, then please email Julia at Juliamdixon30@gmail.com or Sally at sallyprice07@gmail.com

This is going to be to be a fabulous evening of fundraising and fun!

AUCTION OF PROMISES



A charity auction to raise funds for BRINDLE ST JAMES CHURCH & ST JAMES PRIMARY SCHOOL



FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2024 BRINDLE DISTILLIERY

We are keen to start collecting promises for our catalogue.

CAN YOU HELP?

Here are some ideas to get you thinking...

LESSONS & WORKSHOPS

- + Music
- + Photography
- + Dance Lessons
- + Language Lessons
- + Craft/DIY Lessons

(pottery, woodwork etc.)

+ Artwork + Paintings

- + Artwork + Paintings + Sculptures
- + Handcrafted Jewellery
- + Custom Made Furniture
 - + Home Decor
- Knitted/Crocheted ItemsQuilts + Blankets
 - + Tapetaries

EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES

- + Behind The Scenes Tours + VIP Access To
 - Events Or Concerts
- + Meet & Greet With VIP's
 - + Art Galley
 - or Museum Tours

EXPERIENCES

- + Dinner Parties
- + Cooking Classes
- + Guided Tour

Of A Local Attraction

- + Hiking Trips
- + Outdoor Adventures
- + Hiking Trips + Camping
- + Fishing + Balloon Rides
 - + Helicopter Tours
 - + Spa Days
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- + Tickets for Concerts & Theatre Shows

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THEMED BASKETS

- + Relaxation Basket
- + Gourmet Food & Wine Basket
- + Family Games Night Basket
- + Movie Night Basket
- + Coffee Lovers Basket

ANYTHING ELSE

To make a 'promise' please contact:

Julia Dixon ~ 07411888090 ~ Juliamdixon30@gmail.com
Sally Price ~ 07580690692 ~ sallyprice07@gmail.com

MONEY MATTERS

How to give online

Payee: ST JAMES CHURCH BRINDLE

Sort code: 40 – 37 – 25

Account Number: 71898175

Thank you for your support and generous gifts.

For more information about giving your time, talents, and financial support, please get in touch with a churchwarden.

To Gift Aid your donations, there are details on our website money matters page and forms available in church. Thank you.

www.brindlestjames.co.uk



Thank you for your generous giving.

As a church, Brindle St. James relies wholly on donations to operate. We want to continue strengthened by the knowledge of our fellowship and the love our Lord has for us.

If you normally donate using cash, we are asking you to consider giving by standing order, card or regular giving envelopes. If possible, please increase giving to ensure our church' ministry can continue to be sustained

If you would like to know more about how your money is used, you can react the leaflet produced in June 2023.

Be scam aware and never respond to a direct request. Nobody from church will ever ask you personally for money.

Thank you





Contact Julie Pawson Tel: 07714 285699 email: juliebpawson@outlook.com

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Please let me know if you would like the contact details for your local organisation adding to the directory.



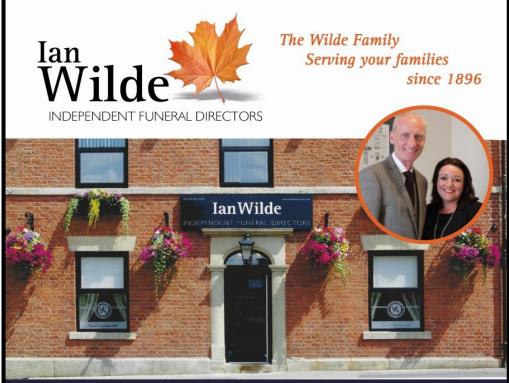
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