

Notices for week commencing 12 January 2025

Contact Details:

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

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Vicar: Jonathan Cain

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This week at St James':

Friday 10 January

10.00 – Pop-up café, in the Parish Centre HAS BEEN CANCELLED due to the weather.

Sunday 12 January

9.00 – Morning Prayer, in church*

10.30 – Holy Communion, in church*

* Remember you can get the text of the reflection each week on our website [here](#).

Monday 13 January

08.45 – Morning Prayer, in church

Tuesday 14 January

19.30 – PCC meeting, in the Parish Centre

12 January 2025,

Readings: Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17,21-22

Collect:

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Making a good Start in 2025: God, Jesus and the journey of life in six sessions – NEW DATES

Inviting someone to find out more about Jesus is the greatest gift we can offer as a church and as disciples.

We will be running the Start Course in person on six Monday evenings **from 24 February 2025**. This is a course aimed at enquirers, but all are welcome.

Each session involves video clips, exercises, group discussion and time for reflection. Sessions last about 90 mins and are free to attend. We are sending invitations to individuals that we've had contact with recently and will hand out some invitation cards at our Christmas services.

Could this be for you? Is there someone on your heart that you would like to invite? Let me know if you would like more information.

Jonathan

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme – your help needed

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme has been in place since 2001. The Scheme enables churches like St James' to reclaim the VAT on a large proportion of the costs of building maintenance and improvement. Following the recent work to the church roof and walls, John Pickford is in the process of making a grant claim that will return upwards of £10,000 to the church coffers.

In her autumn budget the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not guarantee the continuance of the scheme beyond 31 March 2025. The end of this scheme will have a significant impact on St James' finances going forward – particularly on funding our plans to address further defects in the fabric (repairing the rest of the roof), equality of access, heating, lighting, meeting the carbon net zero challenge, etc.

On 16 December 2024 a small group of MPs tabled an early day motion urging the government to continue the scheme beyond 31 March 2025. You can find details of the motion [here](#). So far, Katie White MP has not added her signature to this motion.

Cal Bailey and other individuals at St James' have written to Katie White asking that she adds her signature to the motion. I plan to write to her on behalf of the St James' community and would like to add as many names as I can to my letter. **If you are a resident of the Leeds NW constituency and would like me to add your name to my letter, then please send me an email with your name and postal address before Friday 24 January. Please share this request with your friends and neighbours – the more names we can get the better.**

Many thanks
Jonathan

Horsforth Community Pantry

Thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas gift bags for Pantry members. The bags, together with extra food and toy donations from a local business, Salt Agency on Low Lane, were distributed on 17 December and were greatly appreciated.

One Pantry member said, "Thank you for all you have done for me this year. It really has made a difference."

The current list of items needed is as follows:

Shower gel	Multipurpose spray	Spreads: marmalade,
Toothbrushes	Ketchup	raspberry jam and Nutella
Toothpaste	Mayonnaise	Biscuits
Shampoo	Chutney	Cereal
Soap	Pickles	Cooking oil
Washing up liquid	Tinned: ham, corned beef	Sugar
Bleach	curries, stews, tuna in oil	

Volunteering at Horsforth Community Pantry

The Pantry operations on Tuesday mornings are currently well-staffed with volunteers, but we could do with a few more helpers to strengthen other parts of the operation. The roles are:

- Monday morning to receive and sort out the Fareshare food delivery.
- Monday afternoon to do top-up shops at Morrisons – shopping list and Morrisons vouchers provided.
- Ad hoc – collection and delivery of supplies from storage (currently at St Margaret's Church) and a local cash and carry to the Pantry at St James'.

Our aim is to manage roles on a rota system so time commitment can vary depending on people's availability.

Please speak to Ruth if you'd like to find out more.

ruthddent@gmail.com

Flowers in Church

It is always lovely to see flowers in church and I am very grateful to the people who are on the flower team and arrange them each week. The arrangements are sometimes sponsored by members of the congregation, often to remember a deceased loved one or to commemorate a special occasion or anniversary and I am very grateful to those people who support this work. However, several of those people who provided an annual donation as sponsorship are no longer with us. It would be lovely if some new people could offer to sponsor the flowers for a particular week during the year. If you would like to participate, please have a word with Lynne Gillions, Thank you.

Magazine

The next edition of the Magazine is due out at the end of this month. Articles would be appreciated as soon as possible, but by Friday 16th January at the latest. Many thanks.

bAlison

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.

Fellowship Prayer Focus

Please pray for those people in our fellowship who are ill or struggling: Pamela Adams, Jose Ashbee, Chris Cox (Annella's son), Sue Firth (friend of John Evans), Trevor Greig (and Tracey and Daniel), Adrienne Hoggard, Marie McCarthy, David Parkinson, Noah Peacock-Goodwin (great-nephew of Tracey), Elaine Savage, Robert Savage (Elaine's son), Carol Shaw, Martin Smith and family and Catriona Sreenan.

Please pray for those who are housebound and those mourning the loss of loved ones. Pray for Jo Glenwright, in her new post in Menston, and Jon Swales in his work at Lighthouse. Pray also for George Otieno and family and our other sisters and brothers in Tanzania dealing with the impact of climate change with few resources.

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.

PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions and power to our witness. Help your church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

