

ST JAMES CHURCH CLIFTON

THE VIEW FROM LISTER STREET



Mary Tyler "BANG" 2023

Dear Friends

Over the past couple of weeks, I've had the joy of leading several school Christingle services. It has been a real gift — rooms full of young voices singing, candles glowing, and that quiet moment when children realise that they are part of the story too.

The message we've shared in each of those services is a simple one: that we are all lights in the darkness. Every time we choose love, kindness, generosity, or compassion, we shine Christ's light into the world.

This week, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we remember Mary — a young woman who said "Yes" to God. We are often given an image of Mary as meek and mild, quietly accepting what was asked of her. But I don't think she was meek or mild at all. Mary was courageous. She said Yes in the face of uncertainty, danger, and hardship. She trusted God when the path ahead was unclear and costly.

Mary understood that being a light in the darkness is not about passive acceptance, but about faithful courage — about standing for goodness, justice, and hope in a world that can be harsh and unjust. That kind of bravery is never easy, but it is deeply necessary.

This Advent has not been free from darkness. Many of us have been troubled by the news, including the recent violent attack in Sydney, and the ongoing rise in fear and hostility faced by our Jewish siblings. We hold all who are affected by violence, hatred, and injustice in our prayers, asking God for comfort, healing, and peace.

As we draw close to the celebration of Christ's birth, may we welcome the incarnate God afresh into our hearts. And may we pray — not only for light to come into the world — but for Christ's light to shine through us, bringing hope, courage, and love wherever it is needed most.

With love and prayers
Mthr Caroline

Dates for your Diary

19 December - 6pm Carols from God's Own County
A Yorkshire Christmas in Word and Song
24 December - 5.30pm Nativity
11.30pm Midnight Mass
25 December - 10.30am Christmas Day Mass

Readings

Click below to read the passages

[Isaiah 7.10-16](#)

[Psalm 80](#)

[Romans 1.1-7](#)

[Matthew 1.18-end](#)

Donate

If you would like to donate to life of the church, just click [here](#) or scan the QR code below.



Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our
saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post-Communion

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pray for:

Sheffield Diocese: Love. Candle prayers. We light this candle to remember God's love for the whole of creation. God loves us into being and enfolds us safely forever

For all those affected by the mass shooting at Bondi Beach, for all our Jewish siblings and everyone affected by discrimination and violence.

For all those who are suffering from domestic violence, isolation and economic hardship.

If you would like us to pray for someone or something in particular, send an email to Mthr Caroline to add to the list (*please ensure you have the person's permission*)

Contact

Social Media links

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F: [St James Church Clifton Rotherham](#)

W: [A Church Near You](#)

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