

Notices for week commencing 14 December 2025

Contact Details:

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

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Vicar: Jonathan Cain

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Coming up at St James':

Friday 12 December

10.00 – Pop-up Café, in the Parish Centre, incorporating Christingle preparation

Saturday 13 December

10.00 – Choir rehearsal, in church

16.00 – Carols in the Park, in Horsforth Hall Park

Sunday 14 December

09.00 – Morning Prayer*

10.30 – Holy Communion, with Kids' Church* and blessing of the Travelling Crib (see below)

16.00 – Ducklings' Christingle, in church, with refreshments after

Monday 15 December

08.45 – Morning Prayer, in church

19.30 – Advent Course, in the Parish Centre

Tuesday 16 December

08.45 – Morning Prayer, in church

Thursday 18 December

14.00 – Advent Course, in the Parish Centre

19.00 – Slater's Memorial Service, with refreshments after, in church

Saturday 20 December

10.00 – Choir rehearsal, in church

11.30 – Carol singing at Broadfields (see below)

Sunday 21 December

09.00 – Holy Communion*

10.30 – Morning Prayer*

18.30 – Candlelit Carol Service, in church, with refreshments before.

14 December, 3rd Sunday of Advent

**Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10;
Matthew 11:2-11**

Collect: God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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

Our very own travelling crib scene

Carol Shaw has knitted a wonderful crib scene which will be travelling around different families during the weeks of Advent. Inside a special box are the different characters along with ideas for prayers and a little notebook in which the children can write their wonderings and reflections.

It is based on the idea of the festival of Las Posadas, celebrated chiefly in Mexico. The tradition reminds us of the journey that Mary and Joseph made looking for shelter in Bethlehem before baby Jesus was born. The festival is called Las Posadas, because the word “posada” means “inn” in Spanish. Mary and Joseph knock on the doors of all the inns in the town, searching for shelter, before finally finding somewhere to stay. We hope our crib will enjoy its travels and helps create some opportunities for conversation and reflection in Advent.

Choir for Christmas Carol Service

This year's Candlelit Carol Service will be held on 21 December at 18.30. If you would like to join in the choir for the service, please let me know. Three rehearsals have been planned:

Saturday 13 December @ 10.00 and

Saturday 20 December @ 10.00

Thanks

Alison

Broadfields Carol Singing: Sat 20 December, at 11.30am

We will be Carol Singing at Broadfields on 20 December. We usually have a cuppa and a mince pie together afterwards. Additional singers would be very welcome to join us.

Refreshments for the Carol Service

Thank you to those people who have already brought mince pies. This week is the last opportunity to bring mince pies, other Christmassy cakes or mulled wine for our Candlelit Carol Service. Many thanks.

Horsforth Community Pantry (Volunteering opportunities)

Contributions currently needed are as follows.

- Pasta (shapes not spaghetti)
- Rice/Noodles
- Tinned fruit (cocktail, pineapple, peaches)
- UHT milk
- UHT fruit juice
- Tinned meat/fish products (Fray Bentos pies are very popular)
- Tinned sweetcorn, carrots, peas
- Pasta/Curry sauces
- Tinned tomatoes/pulses
- Tinned soup
- Baked beans
- Tinned pasta
- Cooking oil
- Coffee/tea/hot chocolate/cordial
- Custard/rice pudding
- Crisps/ Biscuits
- Jam
- Toiletries
- Cleaning Products

The pantry currently opens on a Tuesday morning with the pantry shop open 9.30-11.30am and a cafe for customers 9-11.30am in the Parish Centre. The shop is well staffed, but we would be glad of a couple more volunteers to help set up tables, serve teas and coffees and chat to the customers whilst they await their turn to shop.

The food for the pantry comes from Fareshare who deliver to us on a Monday morning sometime between 9-12. If anyone can help with this, we would be very grateful. It involves being on site to accept the delivery and putting food away in the fridge/freezer or shelves ready for the next morning's customers. Please chat to me about any of these roles if you would like to know more. *Ruth Dent* (ruthddent@gmail.com)

Reverse Advent Calendar for Horsforth Community Pantry

If you would like to support the Pantry this Christmas, we are asking people to create a reverse advent calendar. This is where you pick an item a day to donate and put it in a box. Even a partial filled calendar would be greatly appreciated and will be of great help to the families that the pantry supports this Christmas.

Copies of the calendar are at the back of the church and can be emailed out to you if that is easier. Final date for donations Sunday 21 December. Please leave at the back of the church. Ruth Dent ruthddent@gmail.com

Appeal for clothes:

Warm ladies' clothes needed

A lady who is being supported by Horsforth pantry is in need of warm clothing. If you are having a clear out and have any jumpers, coats, trousers etc size 14/16 please leave them at the back of church or contact Ruth Dent ruthddent@gmail.com

Baby clothes needed

One of the pantry members has a newborn grandchild moving in with her this week. The baby boy is 8lb 10oz and so may not fit the newborn sized clothes she has bought. If anyone has 0-3 months or 3-6 months baby clothes they no longer need, please leave them at the back of church or contact Ruth Dent ruthddent@gmail.com

Leeds North and West Food Bank Christmas Appeal

Leeds North and West Foodbank are appealing for people to complete their Reverse Advent Calendar again this Advent. Please see the information at the back of church if you would like to take part.

Vacancy

Horsforth Shed is recruiting for the role of Shed Manager. An application pack containing details of how to apply can be found on the Horsforth Shed website [here](#) . Closing date is midday on Friday 16 January 2026.

Upcoming Events

Leeds Festival Chorus Christmas Concert: 19.30, 13 December at St Edmund's Roundhay

LFC has a fun Christmas Concert on Saturday evening at St Edmunds' Church, Roundhay. Tickets are available [here](#)

Trailblazing: Women have always been firefighters: Friday 16 January 2026, 19.00 in the Parish Centre

This is the story of three firefighters in West Yorkshire. All women, all wanting to make a difference, all ahead of their time...

This Space2 production will be hosted at St James' in the New Year. Tickets are FREE and are available [here](#).



Note: the previously advertised Beetle Drive will now be hosted on a different night so watch this space.

Sharing God's Blessing

Goal 4: Building leadership pathways

We believe and behave as if everyone has a vocation to serve God in the world and in the Church. People at St James' are motivated to take responsibility for their own vocational development and are provided with diverse opportunities for doing so. Leadership potential and capacity for people of all ages is being identified and developed.

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), Tracey and Daniel Greig, Adrienne Hoggard, Elaine Savage, Robert Savage (Elaine's son), Carol Shaw and Catriona Sreenan.

Please pray for those who are housebound and those mourning the loss of loved ones. Pray for Jo Glenwright at 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.

ST JAMES WOODSIDE
HORSFORTH



FAITH



HOPE



LOVE

Sharing God's blessing in Horsforth for 175 years