

Notices for week commencing 25 January 2026

Contact Details:

The Church Office is the initial enquiry point for baptisms, weddings, funerals 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

Phone: 07375 557804

Email: jonathan.cain@leeds.anglican.org

This week at St James':

Sunday 25 January 2026

09.00 – Morning Prayer*

10.30 – Holy Communion with Kids' Church *

Monday 26 January

08.45 – Morning Prayer, in church

Tuesday 27 January

08.45 – Morning Prayer, in church

Friday 30 January

9.00 – First Aid Training, in the Parish Centre

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

25 January 2026, 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Readings: Psalm 113; Isaiah 9:1-4; Matthew 4:12-23

Collect: God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Try Praying

27 MILLION ADULTS IN THE UK PRAY.

10 MILLION PRAY REGULARLY.

HALF OF THOSE WHO PRAY BELIEVE GOD HEARS THEIR PRAYERS.

OF PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY ARE NOT RELIGIOUS 1 IN 5 PRAY.

These statistics have been gathered by an organisation call trypraying and they have produced a 7-day prayer guide for those who are not religious. It's been used by hundreds of thousands of people to date.

THIS Sunday at St James' we will give a copy of the booklet to everyone, with an invitation to use it for a week ('**use it**') and then look for a God-given opportunity to give it to a friend, neighbour, or colleague ('**lose it**').

Our prayer is that this gentle introduction to experience the kindness of God will encourage people to explore Christian faith, encounter Jesus and grow God's Church.



The Start Course: God, Jesus and the journey of life in six sessions

After **trypraying**, we are also inviting people to **trychurch** and **tryStart**. 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 23 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.

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

Bethlehem groups: the gospel of Matthew: part 1 in February/ March

Bethlehem Groups provide a meeting space to connect with others, grow, and deepen in faith together. In addition to looking at the Bible, praying, and exploring worship, our groups have fostered a sense of community through activities such as BBQs and cooking church breakfast together!

Flexibility is key. As we restart this February, people are welcome to switch to a new group. And if you have not been along before, you are most welcome to join. We currently have groups running on Wednesday evenings, Thursday afternoon and Thursday evenings (refer table).

Bethlehem Groups at St James'		
Meeting day/ time	Meeting location	Leader
Wednesday evening	Horsforth	Hannah Mason
Wednesday evening	Cookridge	Jo Bailey
Thursday afternoon	Horsforth	David Thrussell
Thursday evening	Horsforth	Becky Woodward

Please do join us in a Bethlehem group as we continue to build connections and grow together. Speak to Becky Woodward, Jonathan Cain or Jo Bailey if you'd like to know more. Or email Alison in the church office, and she'll pass on your contact. Office@stjameswoodside.org.

Craft Group

A craft group meets weekly in the Parish Centre, and from January it will be meeting on Tuesday or Thursday mornings at 10.30 in the small hall. They are looking for more people to join them from the local community. All are welcome. The cost is £1 for refreshments.

Church Cleaning

Thank you to those who came to help clean the church last week – it is really appreciated.

Churchwardens

Horsforth Community Pantry

Donation List for the Pantry

UHT milk

Porridge

Tinned rice pudding

Tinned meat/casserole/pies

Tinned custard

Cooking oil

Mayonnaise/ketchup

Help needed at the Pantry:

Are you able to help out on Monday mornings once a month? We need someone to join the team who receive the Fareshare delivery on a Monday between 9am-12pm. The food needs to be put away in fridge/freezers and on shelving but full training will be provided.

Please speak to Ruth or Jonathan if you are able to help. ruthddent@gmail.com

Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals currently works in 16 of the world's poorest countries, feeding over 3 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education. They are asking you to donate any left over foreign currency or obsolete UK currency that you may have lying around. Just bring any foreign or old coins/notes to church **by the end of February** and we will pass them on. The money raised from this initiative will help Mary's Meals bring hope to more desperately hungry children across the globe. *Every 10p is enough to provide a hungry child with a nutritious meal in school. Mary's Meals would like to thank you for your continuous support & prayers.*

Forthcoming Events

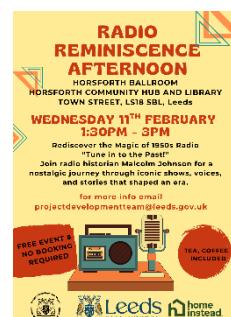
Migration and Britain: Where Do We Go From Here?

An evening of conversation exploring thoughts from across the political spectrum: an antidote to the culture wars. **Thursday 29th January 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start**
St Richard's Church,
Kentmere Avenue,
LS14 1BN

Participants: Anne Russell (vicar of Seacroft), Ed Carlisle (Green Party), Jonathan Pryor (Labour Party), Imam Qari Asim (Makkah Mosque Leeds), Andrew Nightingale (Reform UK), Sam Firth (Conservative Party). To attend, please email Anne.Russell@leeds.anglican.org

Radio Reminiscence Afternoon, Wednesday 11 February

On Wednesday 11 February, in the Ballroom at the Horsforth Community Hub and Library, there will be an opportunity to rediscover the Magic of 1950s radio. Free event, no booking required. Tea and coffee included. For more information, email projectdevelopmentteam@leeds.gov.uk.



Sharing God's Blessing

Goal 3: Nurturing lay discipleship

All members of the St James' community are maturing in their calling as Christians. People understand the part that they play in God's mission to the world ('The Five Marks of Mission'), and our worship and our common life equip people to express their faith confidently in family, work and social settings.

Teaching is a priority. An enquirer's course and a programme of nurture courses run each year; small group participation is the norm.

All is intentionally underpinned by prayer.

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, the family of 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.



FAITH



HOPE



LOVE