

ST JAMES CHURCH CLIFTON

THE VIEW FROM LISTER STREET



Testimony by Jan Richardson

Dear Friends

This week's reading from Matthew does not begin with a miracle or a crowd. It begins with movement — with Jesus settling in a new place, by a lake, in an ordinary town. And Matthew dares to call this moment the fulfilment of prophecy: the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light.

The light does not blaze. It does not overwhelm. It simply appears — enough to be noticed, enough to change direction.

As we look back over the past year, many of us do so carrying a sense of tiredness. Life has asked a great deal, and not everything has been easy or straightforward. This is not a season for asking more of ourselves or one another. But it may be a season for learning to see.

Because there has been light — not dramatic or triumphant, but real. Moments of kindness quietly offered. Faithfulness that kept going when enthusiasm waned. Small acts of care, prayer, showing up. The steady presence of people who did not give up, even when things felt heavy.

Matthew reminds us that God often begins here — not with great displays, but with the decision to dwell among ordinary people in ordinary places. Light dawning does not mean the darkness has vanished. It means we are no longer alone within it.

So this is not a call to do more.

It is an invitation to notice.

To name the good that has already been.

To trust that God is at work, even now, quietly making a home among us.

With prayers and every blessing,

Mthr Caroline

Dates for your Diary

26 January 7pm - PCC at the vicarage

1 February - 10.30am Candlemas Service

18 February - 6pm Ash Wednesday Service

19 February - 6pm Taizé

Details of Lent Courses to follow

Readings

Click below to read the passages

[Isaiah 9.1-4](#)

[Psalm 27](#)

[1 Corinthians 1.10-18](#)

[Matthew 4.12-23](#)

Donate

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



Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post-Communion

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to
the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Pray for:

We pray for all those considering and preparing for baptism

For all those undergoing diagnosis and awaiting results.

Gratitude for our church family

For the appointment of a Community Worker

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

I: [@stjamesclifton](#)

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

W: [A Church Near You](#)

Priest-in Charge: Mthr Caroline Wyman

T: 07835 287653

E: carolinewyman@stjamesclifton.org

Oversight Minister: The Revd Karen Skidmore

T: 07356 232600

E: karen.skidmore@yahoo.co.uk

For hall bookings please speak to Graham on: 07947 847672