

ST JAMES CHURCH CLIFTON

THE VIEW FROM LISTER STREET



The Ancient of Days
by William Blake

Dear Friends

The opening words of Genesis are among the most familiar in scripture, and yet they remain some of the most profound:

“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth... the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep... Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.”

Before anything else exists — before structure, beauty, or order — scripture presents a world that is unformed and overshadowed by darkness. And it is into that uncertainty that God speaks.

Creation begins not with force, but with God’s word. Not with violence, but with light.

There is something deeply reassuring in this. Genesis shows us that God does not wait for things to be tidy, organised, or complete before becoming present and active. God enters the chaos and begins the work of bringing life, direction, and hope.

The first act of creation is light — not the sun or the stars, which come later, but light itself. A light that reveals, separates, and makes space for life to flourish. It suggests that God’s first movement towards the world is illumination: helping us to see clearly, to understand more deeply, and to trust that darkness is never the final word.

These opening verses invite us to believe that God is still at work in places that feel uncertain or unfinished. In a strained relationship, a community finding its way forward, or a season of our own lives marked by questions rather than answers, God continues to speak light into being — often quietly, often gradually, but always faithfully.

And perhaps our calling is simply this: to notice that light when it appears, to nurture it where we can, and to reflect it in the way we live and care for one another.

With prayers and blessings,
Mthr Caroline

Dates for your Diary

10 February - 9.30-11.30am Warm Space
11am Weekday Eucharist
18 February - 6pm Ash Wednesday Service
19 February - 2pm Mission Area Prayer meeting at St James
6pm Taizé

This year’s Lent course will be on ‘The Lord’s Prayer. There are three opportunities to meet starting the week beginning 23 February: Monday’s at 2pm at Whiston, and Wednesday’s at 1.30pm at St Cuthbert’s and 6pm at Sharon’s from St James’.

Readings

Click below to read the passages

[Genesis 1.1-2.3](#)

[Psalm 136](#)

[Romans 8.18-25](#)

[Matthew 6.25-34](#)

Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme
over all things,
now and for ever.

Post Communion

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly
paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on
earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour’s cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Donate

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



Pray for:

We pray for all those considering and preparing for baptism

For those places in the midst of war and conflict.

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](#)

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