

Notices for week commencing 08 February 2026

Contact Details:

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

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Website:

<https://www.stjameswoodside.org>

Vicar: Jonathan Cain

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Phone: 07375 557804

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This week at St James':

Saturday 07 February

9.00 – Farmers' Market, St Margaret's School,
Town Street

Sunday 08 February 2026

09.00 – Morning Prayer*

10.30 – Holy Communion with Kids' Church *

Monday 09 February

08.45 – Morning Prayer, in church

Tuesday 10 February

08.45 – Morning Prayer, in church

Friday 13 February

10.00 – Pop-up Café in the Parish Centre

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

08 February 2026, 2nd Sunday before Lent

Readings:

Romans 8:18-25; Matthew 6:25-end

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.

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 called 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.

Last Sunday at St James' we gave 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**'). If you weren't here last week, be sure to get a copy this Sunday.



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.

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.*

Leeds Lent Prayer Diary

The Leeds Lent Prayer Diary is a **free city-wide prayer resource** produced by Leeds Christian Community Trust. The diary is designed to help Christians pray intentionally through the season of Lent- for our communities, the vulnerable in our city and for those serving to bring God's love to those on the margins. The diary features prayer points from over **40 Leeds-based charities and projects**, (including the Horsforth Shed and Horsforth Chaplaincy Project), plus reflections for **Good Friday** and **Easter Sunday**, and key **statistics about Leeds** to inform prayer.

The prayer diary is now available and can be accessed as a **PDF, or printed copies**. It is a **free resource**, with the option to make a donation if desired.

To order the diary, click here: <https://bit.ly/Leedslentprayerdiary26>, or scan the QR code



To get an idea of what the diary will look like, [here's a sample](#). I have also attached the QR code as an image in case that's easier.

Upcoming Events

Perfectly Pitched 2026: Thursday 12 February

The first concert in the free series is on February 12th at 1pm at St Margaret's Church, featuring Prince Bishop Brass. Come from noon to enjoy free refreshments too.



Horsforth Churches Together The Grove Methodist Church
Together in our community Town St, Horsforth, LS18 4RJ

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.



Seed Swap & Nature Corridor Launch – Saturday 21 February, 11.00-14.00 in the Parish Centre

Horsforth Climate Action is launching their Seed Swap and Nature Corridor at St James' Parish Centre on Sat 21 Feb, from 11am-2pm. There will be kids' crafts and activities, a meadow preparation demonstration and flower and vegetable seeds available. Come and find out what it's all about. All are welcome.



Sharing God's Blessing

Goal 5: Growing young people as Christians

Children and young people are part of the welcoming, enriching and safe worshipping community at St James'. They are provided with a supportive context for maturing in their faith and living out that faith in practice. We regularly review the needs of children and young people in our community and adapt provision for them as they grow.

Through Horsforth Churches Together, St James' continues active participation in taking Christian faith into primary schools in the town. St James' has strong links with Broadgate Primary School and the Horsforth Children's Centre.

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 her mother, Mary Groom) 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