

ST JAMES CHURCH CLIFTON

THE VIEW FROM LISTER STREET



Dead Christ Supported by Nicodemus, Sculpture by Baccio Bandinelli (1493-1560), Sculpted 1554-59, Marble © Church of Santissima Annunziata, Florence

Dear Friends

This Sunday we meet Nicodemus – a man who comes to Jesus under cover of darkness.

Nicodemus is not an enemy of faith. He is not hostile or dismissive. In fact, he is thoughtful, faithful, deeply religious – a man who has spent his life trying to understand God. And yet something about Jesus unsettles him enough that he comes searching for answers.

He comes at night, perhaps out of caution, perhaps uncertainty, perhaps because he is not yet ready to be seen.

And many of us know what that feels like.

Faith does not always begin with certainty or confidence. Sometimes it begins with questions whispered quietly in the dark: Is there more? Could God really be at work here? What might need to change in me?

Jesus does not rebuke Nicodemus for his questions. Instead, he invites him deeper – to imagine life made new, born again not by effort or achievement, but by the gentle, mysterious work of God’s Spirit.

Nicodemus’ story reminds us that discipleship is often a journey rather than a moment. The man who first comes by night slowly moves toward the light, until finally he is found openly caring for Jesus at the cross.

Perhaps faith grows like that for us too – slowly, sometimes hesitantly, step by step. And wherever we find ourselves on that journey, Christ meets us there.

With prayers and blessings,
Mthr Caroline

Dates for your Diary

- 2 March - 2pm Whiston Lent Course
- 3 March - 9.30-11.30am Warm Space
There is no Weekday Eucharist this week
- 4 March - 1.30pm St Cuthbert’s Lent Course
6pm St James’ Lent Course (at Sharon’s)
- 15 March - 10.30am Mothering Sunday Service
- 29 March - 10.30am Palm Sunday
- 2 April - Mandy Thursday at St Cuthbert’s (time TBC)
- 3 April - 2pm Good Friday
- 4 April - 10am Church Cleaning
- 5 April - 10.30am Easter Day with Easter Egg hunt & Bring-and- Share Lunch

Readings

Click on the link to read the passages

[Genesis 12.1-4a](#)

[Psalm 121](#)

[Romans 4:1-5, 13-17](#)

[John 3.1-17](#)

Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ’s religion,
that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Donate

The life and ministry of our church is made possible by the generosity of people like you. To support our mission and work in the community , please click [here](#).

Pray for:

We pray for all those considering and preparing for baptism and confirmation

For all those who will be leading Lent groups in the coming weeks.

For those who are ill in body, mind or spirit.

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*)

News from the Mission Area

As a Mission Area, we work in fellowship with St Cuthbert’s Herringthorpe and St Mary Magdalene Whiston, supporting one another in worship, ministry, and community mission.

St Cuthbert’s

Sunbeams Every Tuesday at 9.30am: Social and play for carers and their pre-school children held in the church hall on Bent Lathes Avenue. First visit is free then £1.50 per child per visit, includes drink and biscuit for all visitors. Term-time only.

Coffee Pot Every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 1pm: Meet old friends and make new ones having a chat over a cup of tea or coffee and some cake. Drop in for some or all of the time.

St Mary Magdalene

Weekday Holy Communion Every Wednesday at 10.30am, followed by refreshments and fellowship

Contact

Social Media links

I: [@stjamesclifton](#)

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

W: [A Church Near You](#)

Priest-in Charge: Mthr Caroline Wyman

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For hall bookings please speak to Graham on: 07947 847672