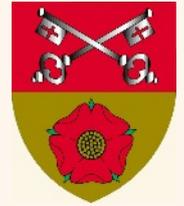




Outreach

The Parish Newsletter of St. James Church, Briercliffe
Available on our church website, www.briercliffestjames.co.uk



Issue 6 - March 2021

Looking forward

At the time of writing St. James' Church remains closed and a decision to reopen is under constant review. Reviews consider the changes locally, in comparison with national figures, advice from the Directors of Public Health, advice from the Diocese and any concerns about our on church building, the congregation and the wider community.

Any plans to return for private prayer or limited worship will be posted on the church door and noticeboard and on the website.

The importance of smiling and a positive Lent

Grey skies, unremitting rain and snow. It's cold wet and miserable and even if you wanted to go out, there is nowhere open. I read this morning that the pubs may open soon, but be prevented from serving alcohol. This lockdown seems to go on forever. We miss our family and friends and we miss all those little social interactions which make life bearable, but we can still get out. I walk my dogs around Marsden Park every day and I pop into the supermarket at least a couple of times a week

No matter what my mood, or what worries are pressing on me, I am always immensely cheered up when someone smiles at me, if I can see beyond the mask that is! And to hear cheery hello or good morning can be a real tonic. It can be a little ray of sunshine breaking through on a rainy day.

With the celebration of Candlemas on the 2nd February we came to the end of our Christmas celebrations. The season of Lent will soon be upon us. Ash Wednesday falls on the 17th February. Lent is the season during which we prepare ourselves for the great Paschal feast of Easter. It involves disciplining our bodies by fasting, and by spending that little extra bit of time for our prayers and bible reading. It can seem to be a little bit dour and glum. But - we read in the gospel these words of Jesus "When you fast do not look gloomy like the hypocrites - for they disfigure their faces so that their fasting may be seen by men, But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your faces". He could very well have added, "and Smile".

Lent is a wonderful positive and joyful time. A time of joy. A time when we come back to life and shake off all that is bad and dead in our lives. Like pruning a bush in our garden so that new life can burst through, so we take care of the garden of our souls in a similar way. Lent deserves a huge Smile, rather than sighs and grumpy complaints.

We know the Lord Jesus, we are part of his family and members of his church. A smile can be an appropriate response to knowing the Lord Jesus, who dwells in our hearts. It can be a real encouragement to others who may be feeling down or low. A little thing but who knows how much something as simple as smile can help others?

Fr Timothy Kaye

A Tribute to Mary Watson (14-02-28 - 27-12-20) by her son Andrew

Mary moved to Briercliffe when she married Ronnie at St James in Oct 1952. Since then, she has been a familiar face around the village - from working in local shops and in mills as a weaver, to her regular attendance as part of the church congregation.

She was ever present at the Mothers Unions meetings and social events and took pride a few years ago when she was recognised by the MU movement for 50 years service.

She was a regular supporter of church/school social events and fundraising activities over the years (anyone remember Beetle Drives) and supported the church in many ways - from providing Church altar flowers to coordinating the Children's Society collection boxes.

In later years she was an avid attendee of the village Wednesday Club.

She is survived by son Andrew and pre-deceased by Ronnie and daughter Jean.



An introduction from our new Vicar Rev'd Sharon Greensmith

Hi to all my brothers and sisters in Christ at St James and Briercliffe. This is just a very brief introduction to myself as your soon to be new Vicar. I'm sure there will be plenty of time once I get to you to go into more detail!!

I felt God calling me into 'doing something up in/at the altar' since confirmation aged 11 but didn't follow it up! Life happened and my first vocation from the age of 18 was as a Registered General Nurse, of which I served the NHS for 32 years from hands-on to management. Whilst nursing I continued serving the Church in one way or another under the jurisdiction of Lichfield Diocese. After completing the Foundations in Ministry Course, I went on to train and be licenced as Reader in 2011. I began ordinand training in Sept 2012 at Queens's Theological College, Birmingham.

Ordained as Deacon in 2014 and then Priest in 2015, I served in the parish of St James, Clayton as my first curacy as a Self-Supporting Minister for 4 years before going back to panel and being recommended for Incumbency status. I gave up my nursing career in July 2018 to serve a second curacy as a full-time stipendiary Assistant Curate at Holy Trinity, Chesterton. I was 'signed-off' from being a Curate by the Bishop of Lichfield in January 2019 just before the pandemic hit, which sadly meant that applying for posts were suspended and my Curate's licence had to be extended. After searching Pathways and the Church Times for potential parishes, I stumbled upon the advert for St James, Briercliffe – and the rest, they say, is history! I cannot wait to be with you all in May. So TTFN...stay safe, take care and God bless.



Rev Sharon 

Planned Giving – Direct Debit/Bankers Order

This is a weekly or monthly donation paid direct from your bank account. By opting for Planned Giving it allows you time to think about what God does for you and how you can show this through your generous support of your church. Your planned giving helps the church to budget in a more efficient way, enabling us to review our costs and cover outgoings over the year, but also to plan for the uncertainties of the future. Your ongoing support and generosity towards the long-term sustainability of St James' is greatly appreciated.

For further information, please contact: our Treasurer, Alec Oldham Tel: 01282 434877 or Barbara Hanson (Finance Team Member) Mobile: 07946233271

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If you would like us to collect your stewardship envelopes while the church is closed, please contact Chris Holdsworth on (01282) 428623

St. James Lanehead C of E School

Due to the school only being open for key worker and vulnerable children, there will not be a school newsletter this month.



Burnley Food Bank

Please continue to support the Food Bank by donating at the Spar Shop; the need will be even greater as the year progresses.



Website Resources

Please continue to see our 'Prayer and Worship from Home' section on the church website and 'Useful Resources' from the diocese, which includes information about their 'Looking Out in Lent', on YouTube.

A Prayer for the Vacancy

Generous God, you care for your children by sending a shepherd to guide us along the way of life and discipleship. As we prepare for the coming of our new Vicar, Rev'd. Sharon Greensmith, support and strengthen by your Holy Spirit, the ministry of our Church Wardens, PCC and visiting clergy during this time of vacancy. Help us to look forward with joyful hope to all that we will achieve together in building up your Kingdom in this parish and may the light of your countenance ever shine upon us and bless us. In Jesus' name. **Amen**

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