



Outreach

The Parish Newsletter of St. James Church, Briercliffe

Available on our church website, www.briercliffestjames.co.uk

Issue 15 - December 2021



Sharon writes

Here we are at the beginning of another new church year as Advent begins. Advent is a time of preparation – preparing to celebrate the incarnational birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. For the church, this preparation revolves around prayer and meditation on the coming of a Saviour for all humankind born to a lowly virgin. For many people outside of church, their preparation revolves around Christmas shopping, present buying, planning family get-togethers, and putting up the Christmas decorations. But whatever your planning and preparation involves during this month, I offer you 7 prayers for this season:



- Remind yourself of the presence of God (*Psalm 118:6*)
- Pray for rest and relaxation during this busy time (*Proverbs 3:24*)
- Pray for help to live in the moment when things get tough (*Matthew 6:34*)
- Trust in God at all times (*Isaiah 12:2*)
- Ask for his protection (*Psalm 23:4*)
- Take refuge in God when feeling weak (*Psalm 46:1*)
- And above all, Be at peace! (*John 14:27*)



Whoever you are, you are welcome and invited to join us at St James church this Advent and Christmas to prepare for and worship the Christ-child, whose heart beats for us all!
“Do not be afraid! I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” (Luke 2:10). May you know the peace of God this Christmas!

Rev'd Sharon TTFN



Special Services in December

In addition to the usual pattern of services the following will take place:

A Service of Carols by Candlelight – Sunday 12th December at 6.00pm

Christingle Service – Thursday 23rd December at 6.00pm

Crib Service – Friday 24th December, Christmas Eve at 3.00pm

Midnight Mass – Christmas Eve at 11.30pm

Family Eucharist – Christmas Day at 10.00am

Said Eucharist – Sunday 26th December at 10.00am only

The church will be closed from Monday 27th December – Saturday 1st January.

The normal pattern of services will resume from Sunday 2nd January 2022.

St James Church has been invited to join the Craven Heifer for Lancashire sings Carols live on Thursday 16th December at 7.00pm. All welcome join in with the festivities and singing.



Special Services in November

A serene 'All Souls Service' of hymns, prayer, readings, music and contemplation took place on the afternoon of Sunday 7th November. Candles were lit in memory of those loved and now entrusted to God's care, as their names were read out.

A very well attended Act of Remembrance Service was held on Remembrance Sunday, 14th November. The church was decorated, for the occasion, with donated hand crafted and knitted poppies, a 'river' of them cascading from the pulpit to the floor. A large number of smart, well behaved Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were in attendance and presented their flags. A colour party also escorted Mr Alan Smith who laid the church poppy wreath at the altar (as the choir sang 'The Fallen' by Malcolm Archer), before its presentation at the foot of the churchyard cenotaph. The weather was kind as the congregation paid tribute there whilst Rev Sharon read out the names of the fallen followed by a minute's silence before the Last Post, allowing time to attend the Briercliffe Remembrance Service at the Bowling Green Cenotaph.



Weekly Services at St. James'

Sunday - 9.00am. Said Eucharist
10.15am. Sung Eucharist
Wednesday - 9.30am. Said Eucharist
Thursday - 6.15pm. Family Eucharist

Home Visits

If you, or if you know of anyone who would like a home visit, please contact either our vicar Rev'd Sharon, or Janet Hartley, our ALM in Pastoral Care.

Contact details at the bottom of this page.

An Advent Course on Prayer

Rev'd Sharon will lead a four-week course entitled 'Lord Teach Us How To Pray' beginning on Tuesday 30th November at 7.00pm, in the Church Vestry. It will continue in December at 7.00pm on Tuesdays and 2.00pm on Thursdays to give a choice of times.

Photographs of the Rainbow Altar Frontal

Professional quality photographs of the rainbow were taken, printed and framed. These are now available in church, to either order or buy, at a cost of £10. There is a choice of three frames for either of the two prints. The total amount will go to the Church Fabric Fund. Hopefully this is a good way in which to help church funds and remember our symbol of hope for the future.

Church Cleaning

The church will be cleaned for Christmas on Wednesday 8th December at 6.00pm. If you can spare some time, please come along and help. You can contact Andrea Bettany on 07796616961 for information.

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St James' Church, Briercliffe Official

ACNY Website: achurchnearyou.com/church/11459