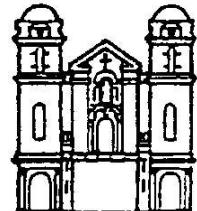


St James the Greater Leicester



21st DECEMBER 2025

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prayer for the Week

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Our Prayers are asked for:

All prevented from worshipping with us, remembering

Marilyn Dorum : Nina French : Anthony Green :
Gillian Boorne, and all those currently unable to attend services.

Those who are unwell and who are recovering

Mark Sadler : Nicola Shilton : Mandy Stephensen :
Mollie Drake : Michael Molloy : Chris Jones : Kathryn Haynes : Jean Warren :
Stephanie Crapper : Polly Taylor : Caroline Hough : Margo Woolhouse : Anne
Sylvester : Diane Allen : John Finn : Neill Addison-Gutteridge

Rest in peace Rex Woolhouse

Rex's funeral will be held in St James on Tuesday 23rd December at 1.30 pm.

Welcome to St James the Greater

08:30 **Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel**

Common Worship Order I (Traditional)

President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

Assisted by: Sheila Roberts, Associate Minister

Churchwarden: Paul Jenkins

A card reader donation machine is available.

10:30

Sung Eucharist

President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

Assisted by: Margaret Sharman and Angela Jagger, Reader

Churchwardens: April Rule and Serge Mozota

Sidesperson: David Sharman

Servers: Hazel Carlin, Regina Santos-Merx and William Woolley

Setting: Greening

HYMN 45

O come, O come, Emmanuel

READING Isaiah 7.10-16 *read by Val Bailey*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

GRADUAL HYMN 30

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

GOSPEL Matthew 1.18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and

you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

SERMON

The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

INTERCESSIONS

Angela Jagger, Reader

OFFERTORY HYMN 313

For Mary, Mother of our Lord

MOTET

Gabriel to Mary came – Arr. Bullard

POST COMMUNION HYMN 316 The God whom earth and sea and sky

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

RECESSIONAL HYMN 75

Long ago, prophets knew

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Please be aware of those remaining to listen.

Please stay for refreshments at the end of the service.

A card reader donation machine is available at the back of church.

The Vicar Writes Prophecies have been spoken, promises made, dreams dreamt. After all the waiting the time is close. We look back to events in Bethlehem 2000 years ago, we anticipate our celebration, and we long for the final fulfilment of Christ's reign on earth. A very peaceful and joyous Christmas to you all!



18.30 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

see special order of service

Officiant: Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

Churchwardens: April Rule and Serge Mozota

Servers: Rod Eynon-Baldock, Sara King, Val Bailey, Hilary Rees
and William Woolley

The Week Ahead

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

15.00 Children's Service

23:30 Midnight Mass

Officiant: The Reverend Andrew Quigley

President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley

Readings: Isaiah 9.2-7 and Luke 2.1-14

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

08:30 Holy Communion

10:30 All Age Worship

followed by Holy Communion

President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley

Officiant: The Reverend Andrew Quigley

Readings: Luke 2.1-7 and Luke 2.8-16

Sunday 28th December 1st Sunday of Christmas/The Holy Innocents

08:30 Holy Communion

10:30 Sung Eucharist

18:30 Evensong

President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

Readings: Isaiah 63.7-9 and Matthew 2.13-23

Officiant: Angela Jagger, Reader

Readings: Jeremiah 31.15-17 and Matthew 2.13-18

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR EPIPHANY 2026

Sunday 11th January

6:30 pm Epiphany Carol Service

Sunday 1st February

6.30 pm Candlemas Service

A BIG ‘THANK YOU’ to everyone who has worked so hard before, during and after the many services and concerts over the last few weeks to make them run smoothly. Your efforts have enabled hundreds of people to enjoy memorable experiences and helped to make this season special for them. Thanks to you all.

LEICESTER THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The next lecture is called ‘The heavens are telling the glory of God - or are they?’ and is given by Dr Thomas Bartsch (President of the Society). This is on Friday 9th January at 7.30pm in the Frassati Centre, Wellington Street. Please visit <https://sites.google.com/view/leicester-theological-society/home?pli=1> for more information.

CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Please save your stamps for the InterCare box at church. It helps if you can leave a small margin of paper around the stamp when cutting it off the envelope. Thank you to everyone who has brought stamps throughout the year.

PLANNED GIVING

St. James relies on donations for funding. The Parish Giving Scheme enables donations directly from your bank account and adds Gift Aid for the church, if you are a taxpayer. Information packs are on the table at the back of church.

Alternatively, boxes of envelopes for cash donations for each Sunday from 1st December 2025 to 30th November 2026 can be provided, to save you filling out a Gift Aid envelope each time. If you would like to have a box, and complete a Gift Aid form if you pay tax, please see Vicky Roe, leave a message for her at the church office (0116 2542111) or send an E-mail to:

pastoral.assistant@sthamesthegreater.org.uk

SMALL SOUNDS

Small Sounds is a national initiative by the Cathedral Music Trust and we are fortunate to have been chosen to take part in the current cohort of churches and Cathedrals. We meet each Monday in the Church Hall in the with a session from 10.30am-11.00am followed by refreshments 11.00-11.30. Please let those with young children know about this. It's free to attend (with optional donations). There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church for anyone who would like to help. Please sign up for as much or as little as you can commit to. The timings are: Mondays: 10.00 set up, 10.15 doors open, 10.30 Music session, 11.00 refreshments and chat, 11.30 close and pack up till 11.45.

THE SHELL

Printed copies of the latest edition are available at the back of church. Please put donations in the box on the back wall.

Christmas by John Betjeman

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze,
Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze,
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.

And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall ?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true ? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.



Resources for Home Worship

Broadcast Media

Daily Service Monday – Friday at 9.45am Radio 4 Extra on DAB
Freeview 708, Freesat 708, Sky 0126, Virgin Media 910 and online at
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006wzfs>

Sunday Worship	Sunday at 8.10 am	Radio 4
Songs of Praise	Sunday at 1.15 pm	BBC 1
Choral Evensong	Sunday and Wednesday at 3 pm	Radio 3
Compline	Sunday at 10pm	Radio 3

Online at www.churchofengland.org and www.leicestercathedral.org

DAILY HOPE TELEPHONE SERVICE – 0345 646 2206 charged at landline rate

Funded by the charity 'Faith in Later Life', which welcomes donations for the service at: www.faithinlaterlife.org.uk/donate

It is helpful to have the telephone on speakerphone to avoid having to hold the handset.

The options available from a telephone keypad are:

1. Hymns we love
2. Chair exercises
3. Festive One minute sermons by J. John
4. Reflections on Hark! the herald angels sing
5. Prayers for the season
6. Sleep Well with Daily Hope

CONTACTING THE TEAM

Andrew can be contacted by E-mail at: revdaquigley@gmail.com or 0116 2544113. The Church Office can be contacted by E-mail at: office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk or by telephoning 0116 2542111 and leaving a message. Please do not hesitate to get in touch. Further details are on our website: www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk

Church office opening hours this week:

Monday 22nd December 1.15pm – 4.15pm

Tuesday 23rd December 1.15pm -4.15pm

