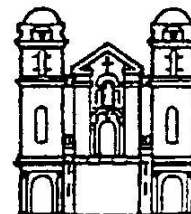


St James the Greater Leicester



28th DECEMBER 2025

1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Prayer for the Week

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
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 : 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

Michael Molloy
Rex Woolhouse

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: William Woolley

Churchwarden: Paul Jenkins

A card reader donation machine is available.

10:30 Sung Eucharist

President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

Assisted by: Charles Samuel and Sheila Roberts, Associate Minister

Churchwardens: April Rule and Serge Mozota

Sidespeople: Sue Ingle and Rachel Pratt

Servers: Charles Samuel, Tony Chizema and William Woolley

Setting: Mass of St Thomas - Thorne

HYMN 81 (omit verses 3 & 4) Once in royal David's city

READING Isaiah 63.7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us,
and the great favour to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, 'Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely';

and he became their saviour

⁹ in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel

but his presence that saved them;

in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

GRADUAL HYMN 58 A great and mighty wonder

GOSPEL Matthew 2.13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ 'A voice was heard in Ramah,

wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

SERMON

Sheila Roberts, Associate Minister

INTERCESSIONS

The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

OFFERTORY HYMN 83

See, amid the winter's snow

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,

whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:

help your Church to live as one family,

united in love and obedience,

and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

RECESSIONAL HYMN 65

Good Christians all, rejoice

Please stay for refreshments at the end of the service.

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

18:30

Evensong

See order of service

Officiant: Angela Jagger, Reader

Churchwarden: April Rule

Sidespeople: Colin and Angela Stray

Server: William Woolley

HYMN 80 (verses 1, 5&6)

PRECES

PSALM 132

Of the Father's heart begotten

Ferial

(See music sheet)

FIRST LESSON Jeremiah 31.15-17

read by William Woolley

Thus says the Lord:

A voice is heard in Ramah,

lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;

she refuses to be comforted for her children,

because they are no more.

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord:

Keep your voice from weeping,

and your eyes from tears;

for there is a reward for your work,

says the Lord:

they shall come back from the land of the enemy;

¹⁷ there is hope for your future,

says the Lord:

your children shall come back to their own country.

MAGNIFICAT Chanted

SECOND LESSON Matthew 2.13-18

read by Jennifer Clegg

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ 'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

**NUNC DIMITTIS
RESPONSES**

PRAYERS

HYMN 84

SERMON

HYMN 79

**Chanted
Ferial**

Angela Jagger, Reader

Silent night! Holy night!

Angela Jagger, Reader

O little town of Bethlehem

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Please be aware of those remaining to listen.

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

**The Week Ahead
Sunday 4th January 2026
Epiphany**

08:30 BCP Holy Communion President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

10:30 Sung Eucharist President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar
Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6 and Matthew 2.1-12

18:30 New Year Taizé Service Officiant: Sheila Roberts, Associate Minister

**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.

The Vicar Writes Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate this Christmas. Lord, we ask that your love fill every heart with joy, peace, and hope. May your presence dwell in our homes and our lives, bringing comfort to the lonely, strength to the weary, and encouragement to all who need it. I wish you all a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.



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.



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 12.50 pm BBC 1

Choral Evensong Sunday and Wednesday at 3 pm 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:

Tuesday 30th December 1.15 pm -4.15 pm

Friday 2nd January 1.15 pm – 4.15 pm

