



# St James'



December 2023

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## Services for the coming month

<b>Sunday 3 December</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> 8am and 10am Mass. Sunday School 10am in the Hall
<b>Sunday 10 December</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 8am and 10am Mass. Sunday School 10am in the Hall
<b>Sunday 17 December</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> 8am and 10am Mass. Sunday School 10am in the Hall 6.30pm Carol Service with Cantallini
<b>Sunday 24 December</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 8am and 10am Mass. 11.30pm Midnight Mass for Christmas Eve
<b>Monday 25 December</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b> 8am and 10am Mass
<b>Sunday 31 December</b>	<b>Christmas 1</b> 8am and 10am Mass

## Other dates for your diary

<b>Tuesday 5 December</b>	Christmas Tree put up in Church, decoration on Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December.
<b>Wednesday 6 December</b>	7.30pm PCC Meeting (online)
<b>Wednesday 17 January</b>	7.30pm PCC Meeting, including Section 11 meeting to formally adopt the new Parish Profile See the calendar on the website for concerts and other dates.

## News and Notices

**Carol Service 17 December 6.30pm:** On what appears to be the busiest night in December for carol services, Cantallini have very kindly agreed to sing at St James'. We therefore hope that as many members of the congregation can make this special Christmas celebration. Please encourage friends and neighbours to come too – all welcome. We are looking for readers – please speak to one of the Churchwardens if you would be happy to read.

**PackUp:** Message from Toni Parker - the Christmas Lunch at Pack Up will be on Monday December 18th. We like to make up gifts for the clients and the congregation have always been extremely generous in donating to this. We have been fortunate that this year Ben at Charles Landau dentist has donated toothbrushes and toothpaste for the boxes. The items we would appreciate are: wet wipes, shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, shaving gel, safety razors, sweet treats such as small bars of chocolate or packs of sweets. Thank you so much for this, we really do appreciate the support we receive, and the gifts are so very much appreciated.

**Parish Office and contact details during the Interregnum:** The Parish office is now located in the Hall. If you want to contact the team during the next few months, please email [admin@stjamesislinton.org](mailto:admin@stjamesislinton.org). This email address will be monitored and messages forwarded on to the appropriate person. The contact phone number is 07852 390 266. Please do not call the Vicarage landline number. We will be updating all contact details on the website as soon as possible.

**Vivienne Carlton** Older members of the congregation will be sorry to hear that Vivienne died on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November after a short illness. She had been a Churchwarden at St James' and ran the twice-weekly Pram Club for many years.



30 November 2023

Thanks from Fr John

Just a final note from Maria, Sinead and I to thank you for all your kindness at our leaving events. The party in the Hall on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> was such a joy. Congratulations to all the planning team for each part of the evening including the catering organised by Toni Parker and Linda Dyche among others, the speech from Ken Thompson, the party pieces from Isabel Nisbet and Adam Dickson and the exceptionally generous presents of a much-needed new hi-fi amplifier, two top quality speakers and money too. We were also really touched by the efforts that people had made to get here and for the notes from people from all over the world.



The final Mass on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> was equally special and I am very grateful to Thomas G who took photographs on both occasions. I think we all agreed that the music by the Corvus Consort was outstanding and then afterwards we were able to see Kerri Allen's beautifully organised book containing all the cards, photos and messages that you have been sending in over the last couple of months. They are incredibly precious to us. Finally Susan Sorensen presented two fantastic photos of St James' to hang in our new home. Bottles of wine, books, hugely generous gift cards and lots and lots of lovely personal messages, all reminding us of the warm Christian family that has evolved here at St James'.



But it is now time to go and we ask for your prayers as we find a house to live in and patience as we learn to throw out lots of stuff we just don't need any more! Being a priest is more than just a job; it's a way of life and I and my family will have to find a completely new purpose for our lives! But we leave offering still this life-time guarantee: if you need something from us in the future, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can't cut off friends and family like a light switch - and anyway who would want to?! Love takes no account of calendars.



And be assured we will be praying for all of you at this time of change, praying especially for those choosing your new parish priest. Go well.

