

All Saints Church, Kempston
St James's Church, Biddenham

Virtual Church News

31 October 2021

4th Sunday before Advent

All Souls

5th Sunday



Welcome to Virtual Church News. Hard copies will be circulated to those without access to email/social media. If you know of anyone without email who you think would benefit from a hard copy, please call Jacqui on 0778 6886 710 or email her at stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

Our Sunday Services

1st Sunday of the month

8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints

9.30am All Age Service (followed by said Holy Communion) at St James's

2nd Sunday of the month

9.30am Morning Worship at St James's

10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints

6.00pm Service of Evening Prayer at St James's

3rd Sunday of the month

8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints

9.30am Holy Communion Service at St James's

7.00pm Revive: Coffee/Bible/Fellowship

4th Sunday of the month

9.30am Morning Worship at St James's

10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints

5th Sunday of the month (when there is one)

9.30am Service at St James's

6.30pm Sung Evensong at St James's *

4.00pm All Souls Service at All Saints

6.00pm All Souls Service at St James's

***Please note that this service will not be happening in October due to the All Souls Services taking place**

We also hold online services during the week via Zoom at 9.00am on Monday and 6.00pm on Wednesday. To join these Zoom services, simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.

We hope you will join us at our services as we explore a mixture of both traditional and new ways of worship.

Don't be extra early for church this Sunday!

Remember that the clocks go back by one hour this weekend.

Enjoy the extra hour in bed on Sunday morning!



ALL SOULS SERVICES

Sunday 31 October

4.00pm at All Saints Church, Kempston

6.00pm at St James's Church, Biddenham

All Welcome!



Remembering our loved ones
who have died

A Reading for the Week

Mark 12.28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbour as oneself",-this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Message from Rev Eric Lomax

What are your favourite games? Some people like physical games, and others like board games. As a sixteen year old, I enjoyed competition karate, which was very physical and required strength and power. I also enjoyed playing chess, which has very different, and more complex rules to karate.

There are rules that we must follow in life as well. Rules of social interaction and decency, and also the rules we must follow in our respective jobs. Equally, lots of people think that the Bible is the rulebook we must follow in life. It sort of is, but nowhere near the way we would expect it to be.

Prior to the destruction of the Temple in around 70 BC, many groups in Judaism had their own views about what rules their scriptures contained. What they had was more or less what we call the Old Testament. They believed that the central part of these Scriptures was what they referred to as the Torah, which means Law. This comprised five books (the Pentateuch), Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). The Book of Exodus has the part of the law which we call The Ten Commandments, but Leviticus contains a great deal more very specific laws about everything from what people are allowed to eat, to how you should deal with a person with a skin disease. On top of all of this, there is a shed load of oral rules to keep you guessing and many of the Jewish groups at this time could not agree about what were the most important.

It could be said that these rules, often aggressively imposed, could be described as boundary markers. In much the same way that a knowledge of the rules in either football, karate, cricket, chess or tennis, define which activity and group you belong to, so the adherence to the rules and regulations of religion would impact on whether you are an insider or outsider in your religious sect.

One of the things that becomes a regular feature of the New Testament, and particularly the Gospels, is that most of the rather trivial, and often the most vicious rules of religion, seemed to be ignored by Jesus. When, for example, people were encouraged to rest on the Sabbath (Saturday in the Jewish Faith), Jesus would, instead, go round healing people. When people expected that people would not make contact with a sick person, and unclean woman, or even a corpse (not that these are, in any way the same sort of thing), Jesus went out of his way to do exactly the opposite, and when a group of people, who according to the religious laws in Leviticus, were going to stone a woman to death for committing adultery, Jesus did not join in, but instead, turned the eyes of these people upon themselves and asked if they were any better (John Chapter 8). Jesus, rather than being a rule maker, was presented as a rule breaker.

When asked if Jesus saw no value in the Law, he said something very odd. He said, 'Do you know, I have not come to abolish the rules (Law) but rather to fulfil them (Matthew 5:17). That is such an odd thing for him to say when he seemed always to be undermining the laws.

We do seem to be very good at picking and choosing laws to follow in churches. In my ministry I have seen people told off for wearing hats in church, I have seen people effectively excluded because they are divorced or Gay, and families who have been refused funerals in churches because it is an unborn child who has been terminated, for whatever reason, or because the person they are grieving for has ended their own life, again, for whatever reason. To me it is a tragedy that some of these things have occurred, but an even greater tragedy that the church cannot deal with the fact that people's lives are not perfectly formulated with all the 'i's dotted.

It was a religious person who approached Jesus and said, fundamentally, 'There are all of these rules in my faith. Which of them are the most important?'

Continued on next page...

Let us pray...

Almighty and eternal God,
you have kindled the flame of love
in the hearts of the saints:
grant to us the same faith and power of love,
that, as we rejoice in their triumphs,
we may be sustained by their example and fellow-
ship;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen



Message from Rev Eric Lomax continued

The Gospels are full of stories about religious people coming to Jesus and asking him just this kind of thing, and Jesus sends them away with a flea in their ear. This story is completely different from those. Here, Jesus just gives him a straight answer; 'There is one God,' (this is important so that nobody is confused about Christians' belief), 'Love God with every ounce of your being, and love your neighbour as yourself.'

There are some very basic rules that make chess, chess, karate, karate, and football, football, just as there is more or less two basic rules that define your behaviour as a Christian. In all cases, love is the foundation of our behaviour towards God, towards one another in our church, and towards our neighbour, who is effectively the outsider.

In one sense this does undermine the boundary marker laws, that so many religious people followed then, and still follow now. These create a wall between the insider and the outsider, and keep the unacceptable people out. Jesus redefined these laws by asking us to respond to the God who loves us, and by being just like him in showing that love to one another. If we fail in every other aspect of the Christian faith, we should hold onto this one.

God bless

Eric

Revive - 3rd Sundays

A short act of worship over a coffee, then unfolding the scriptures together. 7.00pm in St James's Church Barn. Everyone invited.



Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details

Tel: 01234 328452

Mob: 07805 879537

Email: Rev.ejlomax@gmail.com

Prayer/Bible Study Groups

Join our prayer group at 8pm on the 1st/3rd Thursdays of the month via Zoom. Everyone welcome. We also have Bible study groups which are open to everyone.

Contact John Lambert for further details, or with any prayer requests. john.c.lambert@gmail.com

Suggested Music for this week

God be in my head

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gvL4CmRY0k>

For all the Saints

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21GTTM2TIYA>

It is a thing most wonderful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSUVJy0dCxU>

Shine a light

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxGBQAdpK0>

Audio Visual System for St James's

Dear All

In November, St James's PCC will be discussing a proposal to install some significant Audio-Visual Equipment in our Church. Because discretion is important in our beautiful medieval building, and because we do not want to negatively impact on the liturgical character of our church, this not only requires significant expenditure, but also consultation with organisations like English Heritage and the Diocese of St Albans.

Many of us believe that it is not really an option in the 21st century not to have facilities that enhance some (though not all) expressions of worship, through digital means. The display of moving or still images, the projection of artwork, visual outlines for sermons and talks, and also the facilities to present material by visiting groups and speakers are all important ways that we use technology to support our work.

It is suggested that this will be immensely useful for our work with children and young people, which will serve to bring more families into our community of faith.

Potentially, this will give us the opportunity to livestream our worship when circumstances prevent some members of our congregation from taking part, and also give us access to online resources should the need arise.

This will not be the way we conduct all our worship, because in many cases, the peace and stillness of traditional worship will be more appropriate.

We would really like your views on this so please contact myself or Jacqui if you have any feelings either way. We genuinely want to hear people's views on this, and if the decision is to explore this, then we will do all we can to make sure the installation of equipment is as discreet as possible.

God bless

Eric

Volunteers Needed!

St James's are in need of additional volunteers to help out with the sound system during the Sunday services. If you can help (training will be given), please let us know!

All Age Readings

Matthew 5 v 16

In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven.

Daniel 12 v 3

The wise people will shine like the brightness of the sky. Those who teach others to live right will shine like stars forever and ever.

John 8 v12

I am the light of the world. The person who follows me will never live in darkness but will have the light that gives life.

The All Age Bit

Let Your Light Shine!

This weekend is of course Halloween (or All Hallows Eve) - you can't get away from it with all the pumpkins etc in the shops! All Hallows Eve is the day before All Saints Day. Halloween has become a celebration of all things dark and scary, but as Christians we are called to be a light in the world, and Halloween is the perfect opportunity to show what it is that makes us stand out.

Pumpkin Prayers

Traditionally pumpkins are carved and lit from the inside with candles - why not try one of these pumpkin prayer activities.

- If you have a pumpkin, why not carve the shape of a cross or something similar - you can get printable stencils from the internet.
- Look for pumpkins outside the houses of people in your community and say a prayer for those people, that they would now Jesus the light of the World in their hearts.

Investigate the Saints

1st November is All Saints Day. Saints are people we remember for their dedication and service to God. Why not take some time to research some of the saints and read their stories.

Many saints were martyred for their faith. Why not light a candle (ask your parents to help you do this safely) and pray for the persecuted church around the world. Pray that those living in dark places would be a light in their communities.

Song

Shine Jesus Shine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC2SZGGIAFc>

Above resources (and more) can be found at Together at Home. www.tath.co.uk.

All Saints' Table Top Sale

The next Missions Table Top Sale will be on Sunday 21 November. All donations of home grown and home made produce would be welcome. The cash proceeds from the sale of the produce will go to the PCC's chosen Charities.



Bedford Foodbank

Please continue to support this valuable charity and help them prevent hunger in our community.



Items currently needed include: UHT Milk, Fruit Juice (Longlife), Jars of Pasta Sauce, Tinned Tuna, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit, Rice 250g/500g/1kg, Ham (Small Tins), Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Peas/Carrots, Tea Bags (40/80), Soap Bars, Toilet Rolls.

ST JAMES'S CHURCH

AUTUMN LUNCH

including raffle

31 OCTOBER
1.00PM
CHURCH BARN

Tickets: £12.50
Bring your own drinks

Sign up on the list at the back of church or
contact Anne (214805) or Sue (342373)

Remembrance Sunday

14 November

On Remembrance Sunday the 9.30am lay led service at St James's will be slightly shorter than usual in order to allow people to go to the Biddenham War Memorial for an Act of Remembrance at 10.50am. There will be no coffee in the Barn after the service on that day.

At All Saints Church, the 10.00am service will end with a short Act of Remembrance.



St James's Church Christmas Sale

St James's Church Barn
Church End, Biddenham

5 December

10.30am – 12.00pm

Free entry



Raffle

Scenes of Biddenham Christmas Cards



Raising funds for St James's Church
Mixed packs of 5 cards,
£3 per pack or £5 for two packs

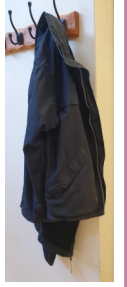
Call Sue (342373) or Jacqui (356993)
for further details

Limited stock so buy early!

Have you lost a coat?

Coat found in St James's Church Barn
on 24 October.

If it is yours, please contact Jacqui at
stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com or
on 0778 6886 710 to arrange collection.



Christmas Gifts

In addition to the Scenes of Biddenham
Christmas cards (see below), we also have various
Biddenham Village gifts which would make great
Christmas presents. Call Jane George on 359014
for more details.

Christmas Tree Festival



St Paul's Church, Bedford MK40 1SQ

Wednesday 1st to
Saturday 4th December

10.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday 5th December

12noon - 4.00pm



Sponsored by



Admission: £3
Children under 16 free entry

Daily Concerts by
Community Groups

More information ... 01234 340163

Tag us on ... [f](#) Bedford Christmas Tree Festival

Help Required for Christmas Sale

St James's Church Christmas Sale is on 5
December in the Church Barn (see left).

Would you be able to help on the day? Can you
bake some cakes or make some jam/chutney etc.
for the produce stall?

Please contact Sue Squire on 342373 if you are
able to help in any way! Thankyou.