

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

Virtual Church News

6th March 2022

**First Sunday of Lent
(1st 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 email stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

Roast Lunch - This Sunday!

Roast Lunch in St James's Church Barn at 1.00pm. Tickets £15.00 each. Bring your own drink. Raffle. Numbers are limited. Please contact Sue Squire.

Our Normal Sunday Services

1st Sunday of the month

- 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints**
9.30am Joint 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 (Explorers in the Church Barn)
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**
6.00pm Choral Evensong at St James's

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.

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Reading for the Week

Luke 4.1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written,

"Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him."'

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."'

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

All Saints Missions Table Top Sale

The next All Saints Church 'Missions Table Top Sale' will be on Sunday 13th Mar 2022. 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. In February £30 was raised, thanks to all donors.

Message from Rev Eric Lomax

A week ago, I was in Northumbria, one of the most beautiful stretches of coastline in the UK. It was the centre of three storms that hit the UK in quick succession, and as I walked along Bamburgh beach at 7.30am one day, I found myself in a sandstorm. If you stand on a beach, one would normally expect the wind to come in from the sea, but the wind was being carried across the UK from West to East, and the sand on the beach was coming from the sand dunes, and as the waves came in, the foam was being carried backwards into the North Sea. As a photographer (I prefer photo-artist, though Liz finds that a bit pretentious), I prefer stormy weather. This is because when we get past our own feelings of cold and vulnerability, storms are often very beautiful events filled with movement and colour and drama. People do not like grey skies, but equally, a plain blue sky can be dull and uninteresting.

The Sunday before I went away, we had the reading from Luke 8, in which panicking disciples in the boat face a storm and Jesus is woken gently from his sleep to calm the storm. As a consequence of this, and the other terrible events happening in the Ukraine, storms were on my mind. I encountered a particularly difficult storm on Holy Island, Lindesfarne, while I was away. I went to the Abbey, which overlooks the bay, and thought I would sit it out inside. After all, this was a retreat, and I was really there to pray. The door of the Abbey was locked, so I went down to the bay, which looked out towards Lindesfarne Castle, the sandbanks, with Bamburgh Castle and the Farne Islands out in the distance. I sat down and waited for the storm to pass. I got a little wet with the rain.

Let us pray...

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days
to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



Plants!

The St James's Social Committee are planning a tea party in May/June (more details to follow) at which they hope to have a plant stall. If you are taking cuttings or sowing seeds, it would be great if you could do a few extra! Thankyou.



This Sunday, we begin Lent with the account of Jesus facing temptation in the Wilderness. He undergoes three kinds of temptation, all of which he rejects, and all of which were about the abuse of power. Jesus had a task that he had to complete, and that task would involve suffering on the cross for the sake of humanity.

Storms and Wilderness are part of the journey of faith, because it is in these situations we realise our dependency on God. This is illustrated profoundly in the story of the Israelites spending 40 years in the wilderness, and Jesus spending 40 days in the wilderness.

There is little dispute that at the moment we, in Europe, as a consequence of recent and current events, face a wilderness and storm of uncertainty. The period of Lent, which begins this week, reminds us of this, and as much as anything, it is an opportunity to spend time in the presence of God, and place our trust in him.

I believe that the storm will end in good time. We have no idea how it will end, but what God wants us to realise is that he has a place for us at the end of this wilderness journey, and that we should put our trust in him.

God bless,
Eric

Her
children
arise and
call her
blessed

27th
March

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Join us to celebrate
Mothering Sunday

Posies of flowers will be
given out during the
service

Everyone
Welcome!

St James's Church
Biddenham
9.30am

All Age Reading

Those who go to God Most High for safety
will be protected by God All-Powerful.
I will say to the Lord, "You are my place of safety
and protection.

You are my God, and I trust you."
God will save you from hidden traps
and from deadly diseases.
He will protect you like a bird
spreading its wings over its young.
His truth will be like your armour and shield.
You will not fear any danger by night
or an arrow during the day.
You will not be afraid of diseases that come in the
dark

or sickness that strikes at noon.
At your side 1,000 people may die,
or even 10,000 right beside you.
But you will not be hurt.
You will only watch what happens.
You will see the wicked punished.
The Lord is your protection.

You have made God Most High your place of
safety.

Nothing bad will happen to you.
No disaster will come to your home.
He has put his angels in charge of you.
They will watch over you wherever you go.
They will catch you with their hands.
And you will not hit your foot on a rock.
You will walk on lions and cobras.
You will step on strong lions and snakes.
The Lord says, "If someone loves me, I will save
him.

I will protect those who know me.
They will call to me, and I will answer them.
I will be with them in trouble.
I will rescue them and honour them.
I will give them a long, full life.
They will see how I can save."

From International Children's Bible courtesy of Bible Gateway

Bedford Foodbank

Please continue to support this valuable charity.
They fed 1,478 people in January (504 of them
children). This is a huge increase on previous
months and the same time last year. See their
website for up to date details of what they need.
www.bedford.foodbank.org.uk

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.



Prayer Group

Our joint prayer group meets online at 8pm on the
2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Join us in
praying for our churches, communities and beyond.
For details, or to request prayers, email
stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

The All Age Bit

This week we are taking a look in the Old
Testament at a Psalm - Psalm 91. In this Psalm,
David describes God as a place of safety and
protection. There are lots of things going on in the
world that might worry us or make us scared. This
Psalm helps us to know that we can draw close to
God when we are facing challenges or fears.

Think about some of the things that keep us safe
every day - high vis jackets, traffic lights,
pedestrian crossings. Vaccines and masks have
helped us to try to keep each other safe during the
Covid pandemic. Some things that keep us safe
are things that we can see, but others are invisible,
such as rules and laws.

When David is describing God's protection he uses
many metaphors - pictures of how God cares for us
- even though we might not always see how God is
taking care of us, we can know just like David that
God is always there.

Activities:

Feathers - Psalm 91 says that God will protect us
like a bird spreading its wings over its young. Can
you draw some feathers? Or draw/make a pair of
wings? You could perhaps use coloured or tissue
paper as the feathers? I

Bird Watching - how about doing some bird
watching - see what birds you can spot in your
garden or at the park/when out on a walk.

Song:

Full armour of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3FqKD98FiQ>

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you that you provide us with a
place of safety and protection. Help us to know
that we can draw close to you and that you will take
away our fears and worries. Help us to remember
that your truth is our shield and protection and to
use this as our armour when we face difficulties
this week. Amen.

Resources from Roots and Journey Together (www.tath.co.uk)

Suggested Music

On Eagles' Wings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9zEgRsorZ4>

My God, how wonderful thou art

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUOWT1AMyRM>

Holy Overshadowing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJWetk7zbGE>

Lord Jesus, think on me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtPD24Bvn38>

The Blessing (for Ukraine)

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