



**Welcome to the December edition of our monthly newsletter**

If you are new to our church please do introduce yourself to our welcoming team and pick up a Connect Card from our welcome desk.

CONTACTS

**Rector: Rev Jake Eggertsen**

jake@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

**Curate: Rev Chris Adams**

chris@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

**Children's & Families Ministry Leader:**

**Nick Lambert**

nick@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

**Church Office Manager: Clair Matthews**

clair@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

**Wardens: Richard Clarke & John Joy**

 hello@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

 stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

 stjamestrowbridge

 07565 917441



Please  
Recycle  
Me

# Nicola's Reflection



In Advent, Christians are invited into a season of reflection, remembering the second coming of Jesus as we prepare for his first.

The hymn "O Come, O Come, Immanuel" expresses this theme of anticipation. It bids us to identify with the people of Ancient Israel:

*O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,  
unto your own and rescue them!  
From depths of hell your people save  
and give them victory o'er the grave.*

Drawing on the prophecy of Isaiah 11:1, Jesus is the branch, who comes to rescue his own. The Church has been grafted into him and, like a tree, we now await the time of our flowering into life.

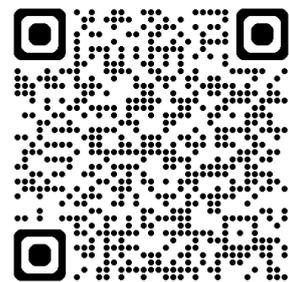
So don't be afraid to acknowledge the dark shadows of life now. They will eventually give way to light. Jesus is "the true light who

gives light to everyone" has come into the world (John 1:9). And the hope of Advent is that he will come again.

*Nicola*

If you'd like a copy of Nicola's Advent devotional "Until the Son Appears", it is available for free on the [BCUK website by clicking here](#)

or scan the QR Code. Paper copies are available for a small donation from St James' Church, Trowbridge.



The image, "The Gift of Light", is by Gary Naylor, a member of St James' Church, Trowbridge.

# Services in December



## Sunday 7th December

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.45am Sunday Worship\*

Readings: *Isaiah 11:1-10 Matthew 3.1-12*

4.30pm Adult Sunday School

## Sunday 14th December

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)\*

Readings: *Isaiah 35.1-10 Matthew 11.2-11*

4.00pm Christingle

**Friday 19th December 10.30am** Holy Communion

## Sunday 21st December

10.45am Sunday Worship\*

Readings: *Isaiah 7.10-16 Matthew 1.18-25*

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

## Wednesday 24th December - *Christmas Eve*

4.00pm Christmas Eve All Age Nativity

11.15pm Midnight Holy Communion

## Thursday 25th December - *Christmas Day*

10.45pm Sunday Worship with short communion

## Sunday 28th December

10.45am Joint Benefice Sunday Worship (HC)\*

Readings: *Isaiah 63.7-9 Matthew 2.13-23*

***Please note there will be no Friday Morning Prayer  
on the 5th December due to the Tree Festival***

# St James' December Diary

For all the latest updates go to [www.stjamestrowbridge.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.stjamestrowbridge.co.uk/whats-on)



<b>Mon 1st</b>	All Day 7.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival Set up Day Monday Home Group in Church
<b>Tues 2nd - Sat 6th</b> Christmas Tree Festival 10am to 5pm (4pm on Sat)		
<b>Tues 2nd</b>	10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's house)
<b>Sun 7th</b>	12noon	Quarter Peal Attempt
<b>Wed 10th</b>	2.30pm	Wednesday Home Group in Church
<b>Thurs 11th</b>	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
<b>Fri 12th</b>	11.00am TBC	Goodson Lodge Services Youth Fellowship Christmas Ice Skating
<b>Sat 13th</b>	7.30pm	Trowbridge Philharmonic Christmas Concert
<b>Mon 15th</b>	2.15pm 7.00pm	Monday Fellowship Group at Farleigh Avenue Monday Home Group in Church
<b>Tues 16th</b>	10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's house) Raleigh Court Service Church Prayer Meeting in Church
<b>Wed 17th</b>	10.15am	Mothers' Union Prayers in Church
<b>Thurs 18th</b>	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
<b>Sat 20th</b>	11.00am 7.00pm	Living Nativity <i>meeting at the Civic Centre</i> SDGR Devizes Branch Bell Practice
<b>Sun 28th</b>	12noon	10/12 Bell Quarter Peal

**Coffee Corner: Mon, Wed & Sat 10.00am to 12.00 noon**

Please note coffee corner will be closed on Monday 15th and Wednesday 17th and over Christmas from Monday 22nd December opening again on Monday 5th January

Keeping the coffee corner open is an integral part of St James' ministry and outreach to our wider community. We currently have various gaps on the weekday rota, if you are interested in helping out please speak to Cath Senior or Barbara King. Thank you.



**We pray for:** Bob Hughes, Margaret Gilbert, Audrey Griffiths, Anne-Marie Glenn, Vic Fielding, Jeannette Worth, the Hamilton-Browns, Jan Shrapnell, Joanna Danak, Andrew, Richard Clarke and Kate Winfield. *Please let Clair know of names to be added or removed.*



There will be no MU Meeting in the hall this month due to the Christmas Tree Festival. We will be meeting for prayers in church on Wednesday 17th December at 10.30am. *All Welcome.*

**DID YOU KNOW?** The wardens are trying to trace any relatives or old friends of Mr A Pettigrew. In 1975 the altar that we had been using in the chancel and is now in the Wyke Chapel was given in his memory. If you have any information, would you please let us know. Richard and John.

**BELL NEWS:** Quarter Peals are planned for the 7th and 28th. On the 20th there will be a Devizes Branch SDGR practice at 7pm. We plan to ring on 21st for the Nine Lessons and Carols Service.

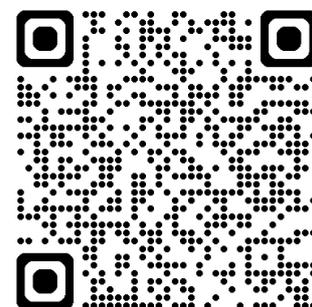
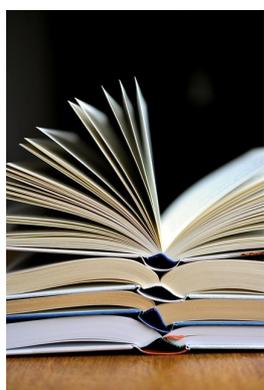


We will not be practicing on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve but we will be ringing in the New Year.

*Our best wishes to you all for Christmas and New Year.*

**Bell Ringing Practice takes place every Wednesday 7pm until 9pm**

**BOOK STALL** From 7th December we will be having a book stall at the back of church with a selection of books chosen by Jake. Why not have a browse for some excellent Christmas Presents. For further information on what's available you can go to the [news section of our website](#) where you will also find a review by Chris Hicks.



## MONDAY OFFICE

A Short service of Morning Prayer on Mondays from 9 to 9.30am in church. Please note there will be no Monday Office on 15th December

## CHURCH PRAYER MEETING

Our Church Prayer Meeting for December will take place at 6pm on Tuesday 16th December  
All Welcome.

# OUR CHARITY FOCUS FOR DECEMBER IS



This year Stand By Me are celebrating 30 years of rescuing children. The story started in the middle of the Lebanese civil War in 1983. David Spurdle and a small team began to repair a sewer system at an orphanage, digging with the little equipment and expertise they had. David returned home to Essex to continue teaching but he was changed by that trip to Lebanon.

His willingness to say 'yes' to God has taken him all over the world, into some dangerous places where he prayed for his own life. But God protected him and

provided for the children he met, blessing Stand By Me in unexpected ways so that he could be a blessing to the children He has entrusted to their care.

Over the years Stand By Me have experienced many miracles; this is just one such miracle. Despite their best endeavours to buy land to build a school on they were stuck in a bureaucratic process which seemed to go nowhere. Then later they found out why. A ready built private school with 24 classrooms with running water and electrical supply in the area went to auction. This was worth more than £330,000! Their bid of £74,000 was accepted. This amount was exactly what supporters had raised for the school. God's intervention!!

Please pray for the work of Stand by Me so they can continue to support and protect children where they need it most.

St James' Church Trowbridge

## Christmas Tree Festival

Tuesday 2nd to Saturday 6th December 2025

Open daily 10am until 5pm

(4pm on Saturday)

All Welcome

Free Admission

Refreshments available



[www.stjamestrowbridge.co.uk](http://www.stjamestrowbridge.co.uk) | 07565 917441



# Storehouse Foodbank



Thank you for your continuing support of the work of the Storehouse and particularly the Christmas 'All Wrapped Up' appeal.

The Storehouse continues to be busy with the approach of Christmas and other financial pressures on an increasing number of families. Donations of Christmas treats are still needed as these will be added to clients' bags leading up to Christmas. Christmas biscuits, drums of savoury snacks, mince pies, cakes, selection boxes, chocolates etc are all welcome



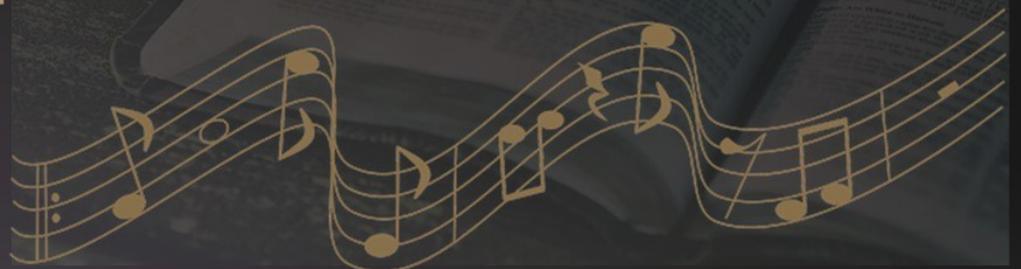
donations. Please remember that mince pies etc need to be free of alcohol.

As well as particular Christmas donations, the foodbank still needs 'everyday' donations such as UHT milk, sugar, tea, coffee, toiletries, washing up liquid, washing powder or liquid and also cleaning materials such as antibac spray, surface and floor wipes, all of which are given to families and other clients regularly and so need to be frequently replenished in the foodbank.

*Ann Cook*

# Nine Lessons & Carols

Sunday  
21<sup>st</sup> December  
6.30pm



Trowbridge Philharmonic Choir  
Dir Graham Dalby Guest Organist Luke Bond (St. George's Windsor)  
present  
Christmas Music from

G.F. Handel's  
**Messiah**

Marc-Antoine Charpentier  
*Messe de Minuit pour Noël*  
(Midnight Mass for Christmas)

Saturday 13th December 2025  
St. James' Church Trowbridge BA14 8DU  
Doors open 7:00pm Concert 7:30 Refreshments available in the interval.  
Tickets £15:00 on the door (cash) or on-line at:  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/trowbridge-philharmonic-choir/t-plzoyyo](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/trowbridge-philharmonic-choir/t-plzoyyo)  
Registered Charity 293240



**Saturday 13th December**  
**St James' Church, Trowbridge**  
Doors Open at 7.00pm performance  
starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £15 on the  
door or online.

Handel's wonderful Christmas music from his oratorio Messiah in a double bill with Charpentier's beautiful Mass for the time of Christmas makes for a truly festive double bill. Mulled wine and mince pies in the interval will add to the warm festive spirit 12 days before Christmas.

Book your tickets online by clicking the using the QR code or by clicking the image or [here](#)

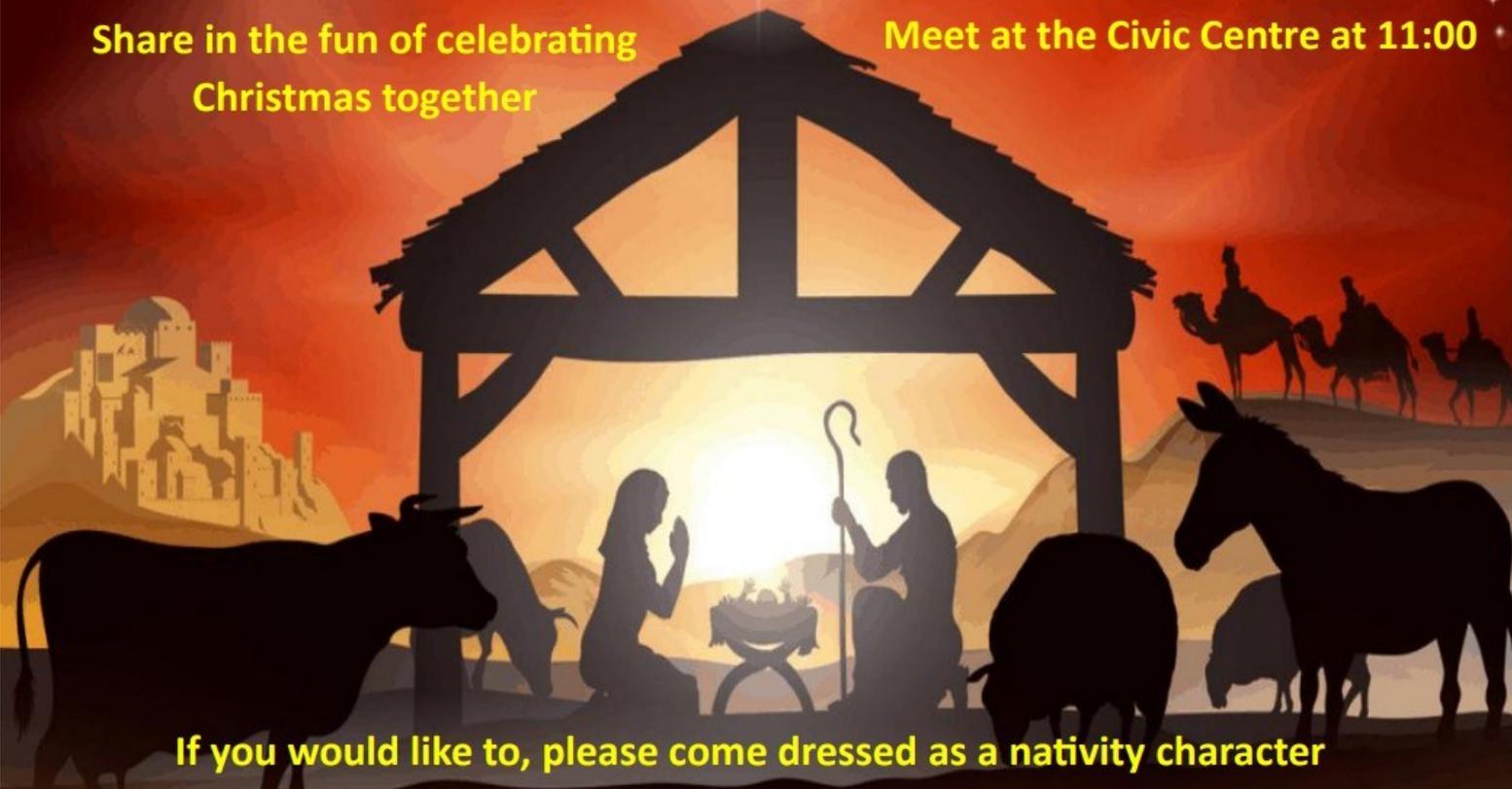


# Living Nativity

Share in the fun of celebrating  
Christmas together

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Meet at the Civic Centre at 11:00



If you would like to, please come dressed as a nativity character

Followed by refreshments and Mince Pies at St James' Church



# Join us this Christmas



ST JAMES' CHURCH  
TROWBRIDGE

*'He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth' Luke 1:14*

## Midnight Holy Communion



Wednesday  
24<sup>th</sup> December  
11.15pm



## Christmas Day Service



Thursday  
25<sup>th</sup> December  
10.45am

Followed by  
a short  
Holy Communion



# Children & Families



*I'm dreaming of a \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas! I wonder what word you would insert into that sentence? White? I still love the magic of snow! Peaceful? Perhaps with all the noise leading up to Christmas, you are hoping for some peace and quiet over the season. Joyful? Or maybe you are again looking forward to celebrating the 'reasons for the season' - That Christ was born to save us.*

*I think my dream or perhaps more accurately, prayer, is that we would see lots of families and people of all ages, join us at St James' this Christmas. And more than that; that they would go on joining us at church into the new year to consider the claims of Christmas.*

*You'll see on the page opposite the family events coming up in December. Please do invite friends, children and Grandchildren to these.*

*With love Nick*

Our final Session of Tots is a Christmas Celebration in church on Wednesday 17th December at 10am. Tots will return on Wednesday 7th January.



CALLING ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN



**WHO LET THE DADS OUT?**

**Back for 2026!**  
Saturday 10th January

Toys for the Kids, Tea, Coffee & Great Food,  
St James Parish Church Hall 9.30 - 11am



# Coming up at Christmas!

As you can see, we have some special Christmas events and services coming up.

You are also very welcome to join us on Sundays at 10.45am. We run a group called Seekers for primary aged children during part of the service and this happens most Sundays.

Look out for details or contact Nick Lambert for more information:  
[nick@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk](mailto:nick@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk)

To find out more about all these events and more or to sign up to our Christmas Craft Workshop or Christingle, click the link to our website below

[www.stjamestrowbridge.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.stjamestrowbridge.co.uk/whats-on)

Or scan the QR Code



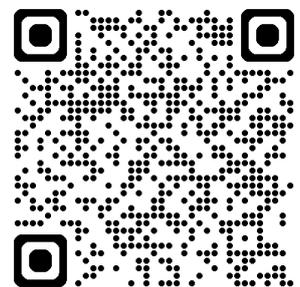
**Saturday 13th December  
9.30 - 11.30am**



**Sunday 14th December  
4.00pm  
Christingle**



**Christmas Eve  
4.00pm  
All age Nativity**



# St Leonard's Keevil



## **Sunday 7th December**

9.15am Sunday Worship

*Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10 Matthew 3:1-12*

## **Sunday 14th December**

3.30pm Sunday Worship Christingle

## **Sunday 21st December**

9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)

*Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16 Matthew 1.18-25*

## **Monday 22nd December**

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

## **Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve**

10.00pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion

## **Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day**

9.15am Christmas Worship with Short Holy Communion

## **Sunday 28th December**

10.45am Joint Benefice Sunday Worship (MP) at St James'

*Readings: Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44*



## **Coming up this month at St Leonard's**



Do join us for our Christmas coffee morning on **Saturday 6th December** at 10am in the village hall. There will be a cake stall, raffle, bring and buy and of course mince pies!

**Thank  
You!**

*Thank you to everyone who supported the Raise the Roof event with Andrew Rumsey in St Leonard's on Friday 14th November. We raised £973.90 and with a further donation it was rounded up to a staggering £1,000.*

**Church Wardens: Gill Gosling: 01380 870553 Debbie Meatyard: 07954 117515**