

A very Happy New Year  
to you all.



## Welcome to the January edition of our monthly newsletter

If you are new to our church please do introduce yourself to our welcoming team. You'll also find a contact details card in the pews, which we'd love you to fill in.

**Rector: Rev Jake Eggertsen**  
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**Curate: Rev Chris Adams**  
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Nick Lambert**

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**Wardens: Richard Clarke & John Joy**

CONTACTS

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Please  
Recycle  
Me

# Rector's Reflection



## Nurturing the Next Generation at St James': Our Youth Ministry Vision

*We will not hide them from their descendants;  
we will tell the next generation  
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,  
his power, and the wonders he has done. - Psalm 78:4*

According to Growing Young Disciples, the outsourcing of parenting, education, recreation, and spiritual formation - combined with the digitalization of the world - has led to a battle over the memory, identity, and formation of Gen Z (people aged 13-25), and even Gen Alpha (young teens and below). Research shows that young people in these generations long for authenticity, robust conversations, meaning, conviction, transcendence, and purpose. Former modes of discipleship by attraction, entertainment, or gimmicks are now insufficient and largely unwanted.

At St James, our hope is to develop a youth ministry that takes these generations seriously, allowing for genuine engagement with our young people. Not just for an hour on a Friday evening, but throughout the life of the church. We want to foster intergenerational relationships: enabling young people to see Christ embodied in others, to ask questions of older mentors, to serve alongside the church family, and to grow in love for the Church - not only the Youth Fellowship. We also want them to explore the deep things of God (theology) and learn to apply biblical teaching to their own lives. At the same time, we want to allow them to be young: to grow at their own pace and to enjoy friendship and laughter. How do we facilitate all this?

A culture of discipleship like this does not develop overnight. But what might it look like in five years' time? It could take many forms: a mentorship programme; discussions over donuts before or after church; ministry rotas that include young people; intergenerational

friendships; Bible studies and reading groups; youth-led initiatives. What is clear is that developing our youth ministry is not simply the job of a "youth worker." A joined-up, church-wide philosophy of youth ministry is essential.

That said, a dedicated youth ministry leader would bring the energy and focus needed to help drive these changes forward. With the help of seed funding from the National Church, we will be pursuing the appointment of someone to lead and guide this ministry. We budgeted for a large deficit in 2025, and we have not yet made it up, so taking on another long-term position carries risk. But investing in ministry and in people is, under God, how the Church grows. Please pray for God's guidance and provision as we take these steps in 2026.

*Jake*



# Services in January

**Friday 2nd January 10.30am:** Morning Prayer

## **Sunday 4th January**

8.00am      Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.45am     Sunday Worship\*  
Readings     Isaiah 60:1-6    Matthew 2:1-12

## **Sunday 11th January**

10.45am     Sunday Worship (HC)\*  
Readings     Isaiah 42:1-9    Matthew 3:13-end  
4.30pm      Family Fellowship

**Friday 16th January 10.30am:** Holy Communion

## **Sunday 18th January**

10.45am     Sunday Worship\*  
Readings:    Isaiah 49:1-7    John 1:29-42  
4.30pm:      Adult Sunday School

## **Sunday 25th January**

10.45am     Sunday Worship (HC)\*  
Readings:    Acts 9:1-22    Matthew 19:27-end  
4.30pm      Family Fellowship

\* *livestreamed services*

**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.*



# St James' January Diary

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

<b>Sat 3rd</b>	9.30am	Band Practice
<b>Sun 4th</b>	12noon	Quarter Peal Attempt
<b>Mon 5th</b>	2.15pm	Monday Fellowship Group at Farleigh Avenue
	7.00pm	Monday Home Group in Church
<b>Tues 6th</b>	10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's house)
<b>Wed 7th</b>	2.30pm	Mothers' Union Meeting in the Church Hall
<b>Thurs 8th</b>	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
<b>Tues 13th</b>	2.00pm	Goodson Lodge Service
<b>Wed 14th</b>	2.30pm	Wednesday Home Group
	8.00pm	Bell Ringer AGM
<b>Thurs 15th</b>	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
<b>Fri 16th</b>	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship in the Church Hall
<b>Sat 17th</b>	7.00pm	SDGR Devizes Branch Practice
<b>Mon 19th</b>	2.15pm	Monday Fellowship Group at Farleigh Avenue
	7.00pm	Monday Home Group in Church
<b>Tues 20th</b>	10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's house)
	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
<b>Wed 21st</b>	10.15am	Mothers' Union Prayers in Church
<b>Sat 24th</b>	9.00am	Prayer Meeting
<b>Sun 25th</b>	12noon	10/12 Bell Quarter Peal
<b>Wed 28th</b>	2.30pm	Wednesday Home Group
<b>Fri 30th</b>	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship in the Church Hall

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



**BELL NEWS:** We will be ringing in the New Year again. Regular Wednesday practices will resume on January 7th 14th January the Tower AGM 8pm Quarter Peals are planned for the 4th and 25th at midday. 17th Devizes Branch practice at 7pm



**Bell Ringing practice takes place every Wednesday, 7pm until 9pm**



Mothers' Union will meet on Wednesday January 7th at 2.30pm in the Church Hall and on Wednesday January 21st at

10.15 in the Church for the monthly Prayer Meeting. All Welcome

## MONDAY OFFICE

A Short service of Morning Prayer on Mondays from 9 to 9.30am in church.

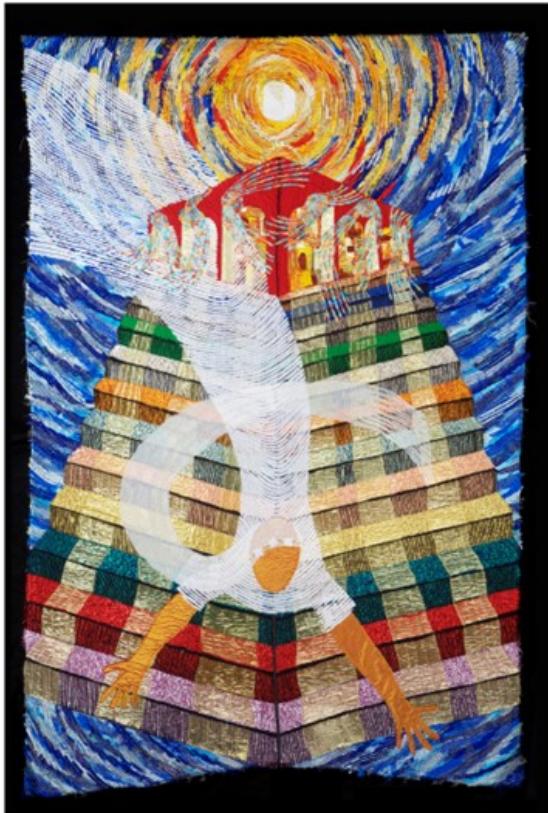
## CHURCH PRAYER MEETING

Our Church Prayer Meeting for January will take place at 9am on Saturday 24th January

All Welcome.

# THREADS THROUGH THE BIBLE

Wednesday 28th January - Sunday 1st March

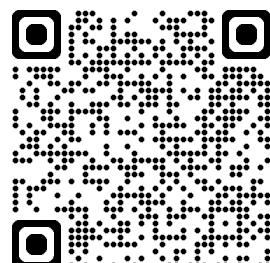


Artwork produced with artists permission.

The textile artist Jacqui Parkinson has created a series of embroidered silk panels taking us on a journey through the stories of creation, redemption and revelation.

This remarkable and breathtaking work will be hosted by three city centre churches in Bath: Threads Through Creation at St Swithin; Threads Through the Cross at Bath Abbey; Threads Through Revelation at St Michael's.

For details visit Bath Abbey website [click here](#) or scan the QR code





## SAVE THE DATE

Afternoon quiz with tea and cake, March 10th, 2pm in the Church Hall.  
All welcome.

## St James' Youth



Friday 16th & 30th January  
In the church Hall  
7 - 9pm

All school Year 7 and above welcome

## Thomas Helliker Memorial

White Horse (Wiltshire) Trades Union Council is seeking financial donations to restore Thomas Helliker's tomb in St James Church Yard, Trowbridge. The lettering on the tomb on both faces of the white marble tablets is damaged and becoming illegible.

They are seeking donations towards this appeal.

It is not only one of the most important monuments not just in the town but for historians and trades unionists everywhere. It is a memorial to a principled young man sometimes known as the Trowbridge Martyr who refused to testify against others and was hanged on his 19th birthday for allegedly burning down Littleton Mill when machinery was introduced that would have taken away their jobs.

They are aiming to raise the sum of £2,000. Any funds raised will be ring fenced for the restoration of the Grade II Listed box tomb. The Crowdfunder page is now live, [click here](#) or scan the QR code.



## Adult Sunday School

4.30pm in Church

First and third Sunday of the month

Term Time Only



## FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

2nd & 4th Sunday  
4.30pm in Church  
term time only



ST JAMES' CHURCH  
TROWBRIDGE

## OUR CHARITY FOCUS FOR JANUARY

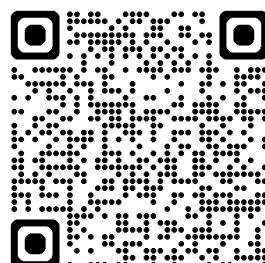


# Open Doors

For 70 years, Open Doors has stood alongside our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ, strengthening and supporting those who count the cost of following Jesus. Their underground networks operate in more than 70 countries, including some of the most dangerous places on earth in which to call yourself a Christian. We are the body of Christ. It is unlikely that any of us will meet our persecuted church family but our prayers, advocacy and financial help can help OD shine light into the darkest places on earth. Our support can show our persecuted family that they aren't alone. Keep on praying, keep on supporting, keep on speaking out!

The **World Watch List** is Open Doors' annual ranking of the 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution. On the interactive map on their website you can explore the country profiles to find information, stories and prayers for each of the countries, along with ways to pray and stand with your persecuted church family.

You can also invite your MP to the World Watch List parliamentary launch on Wednesday 14 January 2026, where they'll hear testimonies of persecution and recommendations on how to respond.



Explore the Watch List on the Open Doors website [click here](#) or scan the QR Code

## Storehouse Foodbank



Thank you so much for all the generous donations that are regularly filling the foodbank box, as well as monetary donations that have been given to me. I have been overwhelmed each week by the amount and variety of donations, particularly during the time leading up to Christmas.

After Christmas the need will be even greater as financial pressures become compounded by the cost of living and expenses incurred during the festive season.

Donations of sugar, UHT milk, tea, coffee and tinned meals e.g. chilli con carne, sausages and beans, chicken in white sauce, curry and stew are examples of donations which will be very useful in the new year. Also, if you receive toiletries as presents that you are unable to use, they will be welcome donations to use on the monthly tombola stall that raises funds for the foodbank. Ann Cook

# Children & Families



Happy 2026, we hope you all had a great Christmas.

We give thanks for the 4 school carol services we had at church in the run up to Christmas. The schools that visited were Newtown, Bellefield, Willowbrook and The Mead. Despite living in a post Christian culture, it's so encouraging that schools still want to come to church at Christmas. Even better, the children and adults present got to hear about the good news of Christmas! Added to that, we also welcomed families to church for the St James' Tots Christmas celebration, which was wonderful. This means that well over 1000 adults and children got to hear about the good news of Jesus' birth in the run up to Christmas.

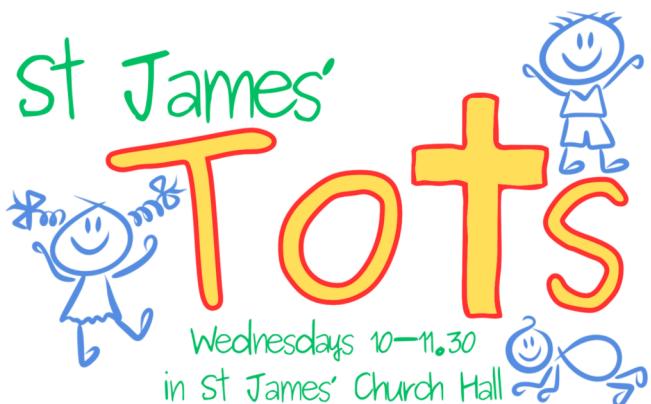
We now pray that many would want to come and find out more, in the weeks, months and years ahead. I was also able to go into Willowbrook and Paxcroft and share the Christmas story with Reception children, for which we give thanks.

Tots starts again on Wednesday 7th January and we are looking forward to welcoming back all our families. We also have Who Let the Dads Out on Saturday 10th January. See you soon! *Nick*

CALLING ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN



EVERY 2ND, 3RD, 4TH AND 5TH SUNDAY  
TERM TIME - ONLY  
FIND OUT MORE FROM NICK



## WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

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

**Saturday  
10th January**



# Christmas Tree Festival 2025

December 2025 saw our 9th Christmas Tree festival take place in the church with 80 trees showcasing Trowbridge schools, churches, charities and organisations. Consensus of opinion from visitors and those involved was that this year was the biggest and best festival so far.

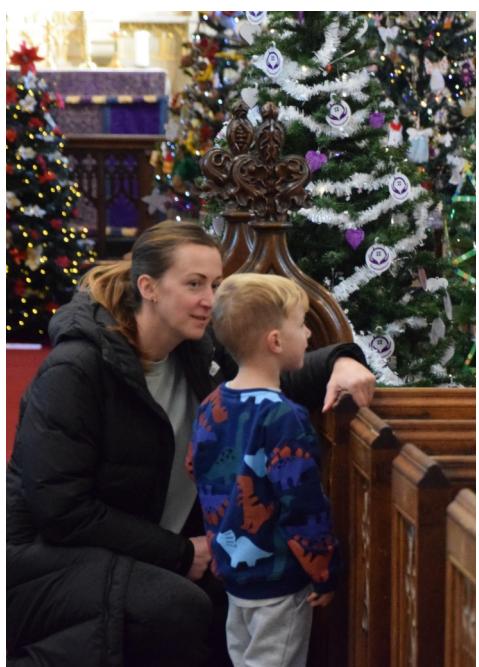


A huge thanks goes to all involved in any way from donating mince pies, stewarding, preparing the church and clearing it in time for Sunday's service, it really has been a whole church collaboration! A special thanks goes to Dilys and her team of helpers who ensured all proceedings went to plan.

The Festival was very well attended, a rough count, excluding children is over 1,300! The delivery of the church Christmas cards before the event definitely contributed to some of our visitors attending.

Early indications are that the festival has raised over £3,000. This will be split between 3 charities; Stand by Me, Storehouse Foodbank and the Mothers' Union Literacy Program.

It will be a challenge to beat this for 2026 but with enquiries for seven new trees next year our 10th year may well succeed!



You can see more photos from the Christmas Tree Festival on our website news page: [www.stjamestrowbridge.co.uk/news](http://www.stjamestrowbridge.co.uk/news)

# St Leonard's Keevil



## Sunday 4th January

9.15am Sunday Worship

Readings: *Isaiah 60:1-6* *Matthews 2:1-12*

## Sunday 11th January

9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)

Readings: *Isaiah 42:1-9* *Matthews 3:13-end*

## Sunday 18th January

9.15am Sunday Worship

Readings: *Isaiah 49:1-7* *John 1:29-42*

## Sunday 25th January

9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)

Readings: *Acts 9:1-22* *Matthew 19:27-end*

## Coming up this month at St Leonard's

**Winter Warmer Coffee Morning:** Saturday 17th January in Keevil Village Hall, 10am - 12noon to raise funds for the church flowers. £5 entry for unlimited hot drinks and cakes. Raffle, Bring and Buy stall and craft table for children. Further details from Rachel Howe 07812 754847 or Pat Batholomew 01380 870443.



**Soup and Pud Lunch:** Saturday 31st January in the village hall from 12 noon. A selection of soups and puddings for you to choose from with tea and coffee all for £12.50 per head. Contact Geoff West 01380 870425 for further details.

*Do pop along and join in if you are free and enjoy a catch up with fellow villagers and cheer January along.*