



# Outreach

The Parish Newsletter of St. James Church, Briercliffe

Available on our church website, [www.briercliffestjames.co.uk](http://www.briercliffestjames.co.uk)

Issue 17 - Easter 2022



## Sharon writes . . . .

**Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!** I wish you all a 'Happy Easter' as we turn from the solemn penitential season of Lent toward the joyful celebratory season of Eastertide and Pentecost with all that they bring to both the Church calendar and to our lives. Easter Day is the Sunday of Sundays, the first day of a new creation: 'This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it' sings the psalmist. When we say to one another "Alleluia", we are in fact praising God. But **how** should we do this? With our whole being; praise God not only with your lips and voice but also with your minds, your actions, your life! And **why** should we do this? Because as Christians we are an Easter people and *Alleluia* is our song!! God has marked out for us the fullness of love that we ought to have for each other. Jesus himself has shown the fullness of life lived in such love on the cross during his crucifixion. But death was not the end - Jesus rose again from the dead. Christ's resurrection **is the** centrality of the Christian faith. By his resurrection the darkness of death has been destroyed and the fullness of a life filled with love and hope has been poured out on us once more. During Eastertide (the great 50 days) the Church celebrates the victory and resurrection of Christ. Within Eastertide the feast of Christ's Ascension also enjoys a special status as his triumphant exaltation. The nine days that follow Ascension Day are observed as a time of preparation and waiting for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit - Pentecost. Now, if you are thinking to yourself what is there to rejoice and praise God for, well just look around at all the new signs of life in nature. How awesome is our God who created all things – the air that we breathe, the food that we eat, the water that quenches our thirst, the flowers, the insects – and he did it all through love and for love. As the Dior perfume advert asks, "what would you do for love?" Christ, God in human form, opened his arms of love upon the cross, embraced us all as his children, and forgave all our sins. Such love thinks no evil and does not rejoice in what is wrong but endures all things. So, as Easter people, may we have such love in our hearts and lives today! Sing "Alleluia!" Amen.



Rev'd Sharon TTFN



## Farewell to our Vicar

It is with regret that we have to say goodbye to Sharon, as our vicar, after only a short time here with us at St James'. Her last service will be on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May after which she will take up her new post as Master/Chaplain at St John's, Lichfield.

There will only be one service on the 8<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am after which refreshments will be served and a chance to have a final word with Sharon. We wish Sharon and Garry all the best for the future. *Please join us!*

During the vacancy, Fr. Guy Jamieson Vicar of St. Paul's Little Marsden and his Curate, Rev'd Simon Lloyd, will be helping out taking services at St James' on a temporary basis.

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

There will be an APCM on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm. in church, when Churchwardens are elected for the coming year and PCC (3 vacancies) & Deanery Synod (2 vacancies) members are also elected for a three year period. Annual Reports and Financial Statement are given,

Application forms for the above positions are available from the Wardens' table.

## Fundraising

There are a selection of wooden items and other gifts available to purchase at the back of church, proceeds to church funds.



## A new Area Dean for Burnley

From the 6<sup>th</sup> May, Rev'd Chris Casey, who is the Area Dean for Burnley Deanery, will be stepping down from this position. The new Area Dean will be Rev'd Munawar Din, vicar of St. Cuthbert's Burnley and St Luke's Brierfield. Chris will also be retiring from his ministry at St John's Worsthorne and Cliviger in July.

## Bishop retiring

Rt Rev'd Julian Henderson, The Bishop of Blackburn, has announced he is to retire from the role after a tenure of nearly nine years.

He will leave in July, immediately after travelling to Canterbury for the international 'Lambeth Conference' of all Bishops in the Anglican Communion.

Bishop Julian will delegate the Diocesan Bishop's powers during the impending vacancy to Rt Rev'd Philip North, Bishop of Burnley.

It was October 2013 when Bishop Julian officially joined the Diocese after the initial announcement of his appointment in March of the same year. He was consecrated by Archbishop John Sentamu at York Minster. This was followed by an Installation Service at Lancashire's Anglican Cathedral in Blackburn a few days later.

## Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine

Almighty God, seated above all the affairs of humankind and sovereign over nations and leaders, hear our prayer for Ukraine at this time of war; that lives may be spared, that national boundaries be respected and that forces of aggression be restrained. Grant, Lord God, peace in your world in our time. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

## Christian Stewardship

You can now regularly donate to St James Church, by direct debit, through the recently launched Parish Giving Scheme, helping to support the ministry at St. James'. Further details are on a separate information sheet available in church and on this website.



You can still join our Stewardship Giving Scheme, either by weekly envelopes or bank standing order, but the Parish Giving Scheme is the way forward to give to your church. Please have a word with Alec, our church treasurer, for details. Please also consider gift-aiding your donations if you are a UK tax payer.

*(contact details at the bottom of the page)*



### Weekly Services at St. James'

Sunday - 9.00am. Said Eucharist  
10.15am. Sung Eucharist

Wednesday - 9.30am. Said Eucharist

Thursday - 6.15pm. Family Eucharist

### Church Attendance

Would parents of children wishing to attend a primary or secondary faith school, please sign the attendance register on the Warden's table in church, when attending services.

### Mothers' Union

Meetings in May are on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm. in the church vestry. All welcome.

### Home Visits

For home visits, please contact either our vicar Rev'd Sharon, or Janet Hartley, our ALM in Pastoral Care. *Contact details at the bottom of this page.*

### Burnley Food Bank

Please continue to donate non-perishable goods at the Spar Shop, Burnley Road, Harle Syke.

Vicar: Reverend Sharon Greensmith - St James' Vicarage, Church Street, Briercliffe. BB10 2HU  
Mobile: 07962139947 Email: [sharon116@btinternet.com](mailto:sharon116@btinternet.com)

Parish Administrator/Treasurer: Alec Oldham (Tel: 434877) Email: [briercliffestjamesad@gmail.com](mailto:briercliffestjamesad@gmail.com)

ALM in Pastoral Care: Janet Hartley (Mobile 07947217947)

Church Website: [briercliffestjames.co.uk](http://briercliffestjames.co.uk)



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