



St James' & St John's

Monthly Herald

March 2024

Minister's Note

Where will you be on Good Friday? Every year, I am struck by the fact that many of the people who are in church on Palm Sunday and Easter Day are nowhere to be seen during the days in between. It is as if many Christians want to forget, or try to ignore, the difficult, dark, painful, parts of the gospel story. It is uplifting and exhilarating to join with the crowds shouting 'Hosanna!' on Palm Sunday. It is a joy to join in the shouts of 'Alleluia, Christ is risen!' on Easter Day. But if our faith is to be true to the gospel, we also need to walk the Way of the Cross. We need to accompany Jesus to Calvary, to watch him nailed to the cross, to watch him die, and to watch as his body is laid in the tomb, before we can truly join in celebrating the Resurrection.

For St James' congregation, this is all particularly poignant, as we go through the difficult days running up to our own 'Good Friday', the closure of the Church. Maybe more of us will be moved to join in public worship during Holy Week this year, as it chimes with some of our own feelings. For St John's, I hope that you will support your brothers and sisters at St James' on Good Friday in particular, as we hold a joint service for both church families at St James' that morning. Details are in the list of events below.

Regular Services

St James' Church

Sunday at 11.00 am

3 March	Sunday Worship
10 March	Holy Communion (Mothering Sunday)
17 March	Sunday Worship
24 March	Holy Communion (Palm Sunday)
31 March	Holy Communion (Easter Sunday)

St John's Church

Sunday at 4.00 pm

3 March	Service Station to include the Annual Meeting
10 March	Service Station with Holy Communion
17 March	Service Station
24 March	Service Station with Holy Communion
31 March	Service Station with Holy Communion

Every Wednesday at 10.00 am

Midweek Communion (a said service, using the 1984 Church in Wales' *Book of Common Prayer*).

St James Church, Rhosddu Road, Rhosddu, Wrexham, LL11 2NW
St John's Church, Herbert Jennings Avenue, Rhosnesni, Wrexham, LL12 7YF

Dates for your Diary

St James' Church

Sunday 17 March, **St James' Annual Meeting**, following a short service at 11.00 am

Saturday 23 March, **St James' Church Cleaning**, 10.00 am – 12 noon

Good Friday, 29 March, **Stations of the Cross**, 10.30 am (this will be a joint service for members of St James' and St John's)

Holy Saturday, 30 March, **Wrexham Mission Area Easter Vigil**, *time TBC*

St John's Church

Sunday 3 March, **St John's Annual Meeting**, during the 4.00 pm service

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 4 April, **St James' Church Council Meeting**, 7.15 for 7.30 pm

Saturday 6 April, **St James' Open Church**, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm. An event to allow members of the church and community to spend time informally in the Church building. Refreshments will be available. All welcome.

Sunday 21 April, **St James' Final Service**, 11.00 am

Thursday 25 April, **Christians Together in Wrexham Quarterly Meeting**, 7.00 for 7.30 pm at St Marks'

For Prayer

Pray for St James', during our last few weeks meeting together, that we will be aware of the Lord's love and compassion, and of his purposes for us as we go forward. May we be able to celebrate all that has been good at St James', as well as grieve for what we are losing. May we remember that we continue to be precious members of the Lord's family.

Pray for two baptism candidates, one to be baptised at St James' on Sunday 7 April, the other at St John's on Sunday 28 April, along with their parents and godparents, that each one will know the Lord's blessing, and come into a closer relationship with him.

A prayer for the Church's mission and ministry:

God our Father, you sent your Son to us: grant that filled with your Spirit we may be renewed in faith, and inspired in hope and love, to spread the gospel of your kingdom to all humankind; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(from the Anglican Province of Central Africa, in The SPCK Book of Christian Prayer)

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Websites / Media:
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<http://stjohns.wrexhamparish.org.uk>
<http://stjames.wrexhamparish.org.uk>
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