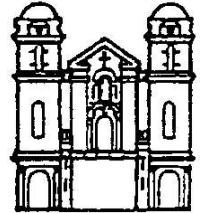


St James the Greater Leicester



7th DECEMBER 2025

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prayer for the Week

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

Our Prayers are asked for:

All prevented from worshipping with us, remembering

Marilyn Dorum : Nina French : Anthony Green :
Gillian Boorne, and all those currently unable to attend services.

Those who are unwell and who are recovering

Mark Sadler : Nicola Shilton : Mandy Stephensen :
Mollie Drake : Michael Molloy : Chris Jones : Kathryn Haynes : Jean Warren :
Stephanie Crapper : Polly Taylor : Caroline Hough : Rex and Margo Woolhouse :
Anne Sylvester : Diane Allen : John Finn : Neill Addison-Gutteridge

Welcome to St James the Greater

08:30 Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel

Book of Common Prayer

President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

Assisted by: Phil Jones

Churchwarden: Paul Jenkins

A card reader donation machine is available.

10:30 Sung Eucharist

President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

Assisted by: Charles Samuel and Mike Rule, Associate Minister

Churchwardens: April Rule and Serge Mozota

Sidesperson: David Pugh

Servers: Charles Samuel, Emma Sutton and William Woolley

Setting: Leighton in D

HYMN 39 Hills of the North, rejoice

READING Isaiah 11.1-10 *read by Vicky Roe, Pastoral Assistant*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations
shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

GRADUAL HYMN 51 The Lord will come and not be slow

GOSPEL Matthew 3.1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea,
proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of
whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."'

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and
his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea
were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized
by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to
them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to
come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves,
"We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones
to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the
trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown
into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is
coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear
his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will
burn with unquenchable fire.'

SERMON

Mike Rule, Associate Minister

INTERCESSIONS

The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

OFFERTORY HYMN 46

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

MOTET

Jesus Christ the apple tree – Poston

POST COMMUNION HYMN 434 ii Christ bids us break the bread

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN 37 Hark what a sound, and too divine for
hearing**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Please be aware of those remaining to listen.

Please stay for refreshments at the end of the service.

A card reader donation machine is available at the back of church.

18:30

Choral Evensong

See order of service

Officiant: Sheila Roberts, Associate Minister
Churchwardens: April Rule and Serge Mozota
Sidesperson: Vacant
Servers: Sara King and Rod Eynon-Baldock

HYMN 50

The advent of our King

PRECES

Forbes L'Estrange

PSALM 11

See music sheet

FIRST LESSON 1 Kings 18.17-39

read by Jennifer Clegg

When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, 'Is it you, you troubler of Israel?' He answered, 'I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. Now therefore have all Israel assemble for me at Mount Carmel, with the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.'

So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, 'How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.' The people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, 'I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets number four hundred and fifty. Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the Lord; the god who answers by fire is indeed God.' All the people answered, 'Well spoken!' Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, 'Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it.' So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, 'O Baal, answer us!' But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, 'Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.' Then they cried aloud and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response.

Then Elijah said to all the people, 'Come closer to me'; and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down; Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, 'Israel shall be your name'; with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed. Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, 'Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt-offering and on the wood.' Then he said, 'Do it a second time'; and they did it a second time. Again he said, 'Do it a third time'; and they did it a third time, so that the water ran all round the altar, and filled the trench also with water.

At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, 'O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.' Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt-offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, 'The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God.'

MAGNIFICAT

Walmisley in D minor

Please remain seated but stand for the Gloria

SECOND LESSON John 1.19-28

read by William Woolley

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord",

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Walmisley in D minor

Please remain seated but stand for the Gloria

RESPONSES

Forbes L'Estrange

ANTHEM

This is the truth from above – Vaughan Williams

PRAYERS

Sheila Roberts, Associate Minister

HYMN 52 (omit verses 3&4) The people that in darkness sat

SERMON

Sheila Roberts, Associate Minister

HYMN 815

Thy kingdom come! On bended knee

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Please be aware of those remaining to listen.

A card reader donation machine is available at the back of church.

The Vicar Writes “He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor” – words from our first reading, and words for our time, when we are so often led to judge based on the superficial. The strange and striking appearance of John the Baptist did not discourage the crowds, perhaps due to the profound truth of his message: someone greater is coming.



Sunday 14th December **3rd Sunday of Advent**

08:30 Holy Communion President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

10:30 Sung Eucharist President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar
Readings: Isaiah 35.1-10 and Matthew 11.2-11

19.00 Community Carol Service

The Week Ahead

Monday 8th

09.00-12.00 **LGS Stoneygate Carols Rehearsal**
10.30 **Small Sounds** in the Hall
13.00-21.30 **Mead Educational Trust Concert**

Wednesday 10th

09.00-12.00 **LGS Stoneygate Carols Rehearsal**

21:00 **Compline** via Zoom. To join, please use the link

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75984858232?pwd=sXKl93zlo5Vj4WApP0aKUmtjrXEX0O.1>

Meeting ID: 759 8485 8232 Passcode: L6VRmc

Thursday 11th

12:30 **Holy Communion** Common Worship, Order 1 (Traditional)
President: The Reverend Canon Philip Norwood
Assisted by: Vicky Roe, Pastoral Assistant
19.30 **St James Singers rehearsal**

Friday 12th

13.00-16.30 **LGS Stoneygate Carol Concert**
16.30 Junior Choir. 18.30 Chorister Training. 19.00 Full Choir Rehearsal

Saturday 13th

19.30 **Christmas Concert – Ratby Band & Fosse Singers**

LEICESTER THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The next lecture is called 'Thomas More, William Tyndale and the struggle for the soul of England' and is given by The Revd Dr Jonathan Dean (Chair of the London Methodist District). This is on Friday 12th December at 7.30pm in the Frassati Centre, Wellington Street. Please visit <https://sites.google.com/view/leicester-theological-society/home?pli=1> for more information.

COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE - PEACE ON EARTH?

7:00 pm Community Carol Service in aid of LOROS and St James the Greater, celebrating the message and meaning of Christmas, with the theme of "Peace on Earth?" Reserve your free tickets at trybooking.com/uk/FKHE

CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Please save your stamps for the InterCare box at church. It helps if you can leave a small margin of paper around the stamp when cutting it off the envelope. Thank you to everyone who has brought stamps throughout the year.

PLANNED GIVING

St. James relies on donations for funding. The Parish Giving Scheme enables donations directly from your bank account and adds Gift Aid for the church, if you are a taxpayer. Information packs are on the table at the back of church.

Alternatively, boxes of envelopes for cash donations for each Sunday from 1st December 2025 to 30th November 2026 can be provided, to save you filling out a Gift Aid envelope each time. If you would like to have a box, and complete a Gift Aid form if you pay tax, please see Vicky Roe, leave a message for her at the church office (0116 2542111) or send an E-mail to:

pastoral.assistant@sthamesthegreater.org.uk

SMALL SOUNDS

Small Sounds is a national initiative by the Cathedral Music Trust and we are fortunate to have been chosen to take part in the current cohort of churches and Cathedrals. We meet each Monday in the Church Hall in the with a session from 10.30am-11.00am followed by refreshments 11.00-11.30. Please let those with young children know about this. It's free to attend (with optional donations). There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church for anyone who would like to help. Please sign up for as much or as little as you can commit to. The timings are: Mondays: 10.00 set up, 10.15 doors open, 10.30 Music session, 11.00 refreshments and chat, 11.30 close and pack up till 11.45.

THE SHELL

Printed copies of the latest edition are available at the back of church. Please put donations in the box on the back wall.

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS 2025 and EPIPHANY 2026

Sunday 14 th December	7:00 pm Community Carol Service in aid of LOROS and St James the Greater, celebrating the message and meaning of Christmas, with the theme of local and national anniversaries. Reserve your free tickets at trybooking.com
Sunday 21 st December	6:30 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Wednesday 24 th December	3.00 pm Children's Service - 'No rehearsal Nativity', carols and crafts 11.30 pm Midnight Mass
Thursday 25 th December	8.30 am Said Communion 10.30 am Family Service followed by Holy Communion
Sunday 11 th January	6:30 pm Epiphany Carol Service
Sunday 1 st February	6.30 pm Candlemas Service

The City of Leicester Singers



Charity
Number
554810

**St James the Greater Church
London Road, Leicester**

**Saturday December 20th 2025
7.30 p.m.**


It's Christmas!

**A Musical journey
through the Christmas Story**

Conductor - Richard Archer

Organist - John Pye

With the Earl Shilton Handbell Ringers

Supporting Charity OpenHands 

**Tickets £12 under 16s free,
From choir members, at the door or
www.cityofleicestersingers.co.uk**

Peace On Earth?

Leicester Community Carol Service

Sunday 14th December 2025

7.00pm - 8.30pm

St James the Greater Church, London Road

*Featuring Choirs, Organ, Brass Band,
Handbells, Soloists & Celebrity Readers*

In the presence of
the Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire,
the Lord Mayor of Leicester,
the High Sheriff of Leicestershire,
& Chairman of Leicestershire County Council.

Retiring collection
in aid of:

LOROS

Hospice Care for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

& St James the Greater Church



Free tickets from trybooking.com/uk/FKHE
or via the Church Office 0116 254 2111

*Join us for festive refreshments
after the service*

Resources for Home Worship

Broadcast Media

Daily Service Monday – Friday at 9.45am Radio 4 Extra on DAB
Freeview 708, Freesat 708, Sky 0126, Virgin Media 910 and online at

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006wzfs>

Sunday Worship	Sunday at 8.10 am	Radio 4
Songs of Praise	Sunday at 12 noon	BBC 1
Choral Evenson	Sunday and Wednesday at 3 pm	Radio 3
Compline for Advent	Sunday at 10pm	Radio 3

Online at www.churchofengland.org and www.leicestercathedral.org

DAILY HOPE TELEPHONE SERVICE – 0345 646 2206 charged at landline rate

Funded by the charity 'Faith in Later Life', which welcomes donations for the service at: www.faithinlaterlife.org.uk/donate

It is helpful to have the telephone on speakerphone to avoid having to hold the handset.

The options available from a telephone keypad are:

1. Hymns we love
2. Chair exercises
3. Hope in the everyday things of life
4. One minute sermons by J. John
5. Daily Prayers
6. Sleep Well with Daily Hope

CONTACTING THE TEAM

Andrew can be contacted by E-mail at: revdaquigley@gmail.com or 0116 2544113.

The Church Office can be contacted by E-mail at: office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk or by telephoning 0116 2542111 and leaving a message. Please do not hesitate to get in touch. Further details are on our website: www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk

Church office opening hours:
Monday 8th December 1.15pm – 4.15pm
Wednesday 10th December 1.15pm -4.14pm
Thursday 11th December 1.15pm – 4.15pm

