



# St James' & St John's Monthly Herald

December 2023

## Minister's Note

Advent is a time of preparation and waiting. Sadly, most of us spend the weeks before Christmas in a mad rush of pre-Christmas parties, buying and wrapping presents, and making sure we have all our favourite goodies to eat over Christmas itself. Why not make an Advent resolution this year, to spend at least a few minutes each day consciously in God's presence? There are always Advent devotionals available, online or in print. Maybe you could find time before 1 December to visit Manna bookshop and buy an Advent book. Please note that Manna has now moved from Charles Street; you will find its new home at 16 Central Arcade, LL11 1AG. There are restricted opening hours as follows: Monday: 11.00 am – 4.00 pm; Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, 10.00 am - 3.00 pm.

Of course, we have our own programme of pre-Christmas events to keep you busy! Some are detailed below – there will be further details on Christmas cards. Take the opportunity to **invite** your family and friends to join you in worship this month, to hear the message of the angels and worship the Christ Child. May we all have a joyful, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

## Regular Services

### St James' Church

#### Sunday at 11.00 am

- 3 December: Christingle Service
- 10 December: Holy Communion
- 17 December: A Service of Lessons and Carols
- 24 December: 3.30 pm Crib Service  
5.00 pm First Communion of Christmas
- 31 December: No service at St James', joint service at St John's, time TBC

### St John's Church

#### Sunday at 4.00 pm

- 3 December: Café Church
- 10 December: Café Church (Holy Communion)
- 17 December: Café Church Christingle Service
- 24 December: 11.30 pm: First Communion of Christmas
- 25 December: 10.00 am: All-Age Christmas Communion
- 31 December: Joint service with St James', time TBC

## Dates for your Diary

### St John's Church

Monday 11 December, **St John's Carol Singalong**, 7.00 pm in Church

Saturday 16 December, **Open Church and Christingle Workshop**, 4.00 – 8.00 pm, to coincide with the **Winter Wonderland** event being held on the Spider Park

### St James' Church

Saturday 2 December, **St James' Christingle Workshop and Coffee Morning**, 10.00 am – 12 noon

### Elsewhere

**Wrexham Nativity Trail**, throughout December in the city centre. Follow the trail to reveal the Christmas story, starting at The Priory Centre. For further details, see the leaflets available in Church, or <https://www.facebook.com/WrexhamNativityTrail>

### Forthcoming Events

Saturday 13 January 2024, **St James' Church Cleaning**, 10.00 am – 12 noon

Wednesday 17 January, **St John's Church Council meeting**, 7.15 pm

Thursday 24 January, **St James' Church Council meeting**, 7.15 for 7.30 pm

Sunday 21 January, **Christians Together in Wrexham United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, 6.00 pm at Regent's Street Methodist Church

### For Prayer

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels."* (Psalm 122:6-7). Many people feel that finding a solution to the conflicting claims on Jerusalem is not only the key to peace between Israel and the Palestinians, but to peace between the Muslim world and other nations. So in our prayers, we need to obey our Lord and echo the Psalmist, praying for the peace of Jerusalem.

Pray for the opportunities we have at Christmas to welcome new or occasional members of our congregations, and to engage on a personal level in sharing the story of our faith. Pray that many in our city will have blind spiritual eyes opened, and deaf spiritual ears unstopped this Christmas, and receive eternal life as they turn to the Lord.

#### The Collect for Advent:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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#### Websites / Media:

[www.wrexhamparish.org.uk](http://www.wrexhamparish.org.uk)

<http://stjohns.wrexhamparish.org.uk>

<http://stjames.wrexhamparish.org.uk>

[www.facebook.com/StJohns Wrexham](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsWrexham)

[www.facebook.com/StJames Wrexham](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesWrexham)