



St James' & St John's

Monthly Herald

February 2024

Minister's Note

It seems as if it's 'all change' at the moment! Of course, things change every day, in Church as well as in every other aspect of our lives. But just at the moment, there are some big changes happening, with the forthcoming closure of St James', and my move away from Wrexham.

Most of us don't like change, and most especially, we don't like change in the Church. We think of Church as being the one place which doesn't, or at least, shouldn't change; the one place we can rely on to be constant, consistent, unchanging. When big changes do happen, we can feel very anxious, insecure, unsettled.

But life in general, and the Christian life in particular, is all about constant change! In general, we should be learning all the time, from our experiences, and from our mistakes; it's good and right and proper that things change as we get older – otherwise, we'd all be living like newborn babies our whole lives. When we become Christians, we begin a lifetime of being changed by the work of the Holy Spirit, into the people God originally created us to be.

But we can be assured that God himself NEVER changes. You may be familiar with Hebrews 13:8 – *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever*. Other verses which assure us that God is unchanging include: Psalm 102:27; Malachi 3:6 and James 1:17. Equally, God's Word never changes. Jesus assures us that *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away* (Matthew 24:35). *The word of our God stands for ever* (Isaiah 40:8). See also: Psalm 119:89, 111.

If you're feeling unsettled by the big changes which are coming upon us very quickly, take your anxiety to our unchanging, steadfast, loving heavenly Father. And remind yourself that even if everything around you changes or passes away, his Word remains as the sure foundation for your faith and life (cf Matthew 7:24-25).

Regular Services

St James' Church

Sunday at 11.00am

4 February	Sunday Worship	11 February	Holy Communion
18 February	Sunday Worship	25 February	Holy Communion

St John's Church

Sunday at 4.00pm

4 February	Café Church	11 February	Café Church (Holy Communion)
18 February	Café Church	25 February	Café Church (Holy Communion)

Every Wednesday at 10am

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 John's Church

Wednesday 14 February, **Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday**, 10.00 am

Thursday 15 February, **St John's Church Council meeting**, 7.15 pm

St James' Church

Sunday 18 February, **Baptism of Mabel Christensen** (granddaughter of David and Janet), 11.00 am

Thursday 21 February, **St James' Church Council meeting**, 7.15 for 7.30 pm

Saturday 24 February 2024, **St James' Church Cleaning**, 10.00 am – 12 noon

Elsewhere

Thursday 1 February, **Christians Together in Wrexham Quarterly Meeting**, 7.00 for 7.30 pm, at St Giles'

Monday 5 February, **You will be my witnesses** group session at the Vicarage, starting at 7.00 pm, ending by 9.00 pm. This will be the final session of *Faith Pictures*. We will be looking at continuing to meet on subsequent Monday evenings.

Monday 12 February, **Funeral of Art Ellinson**, 3.00 pm at St Giles'.

Forthcoming Events

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

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

Friday 29 March, **Good Friday Worship** (details TBC)

Saturday 30 March, **Mission Area Easter Vigil** at St James'

For Prayer

In the November *Herald*, there was the challenge to commit to praying regularly for five people you're in contact with, who don't yet know Jesus. If you didn't take up that challenge then, why not make it part of your prayers during Lent? There are suggestions about how to put this into practice, and a suggested prayer, here: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/pray-five-friends>

Pray for Mabel, to be baptised at St James' on 18 February, along with her parents and godparents, that each one will know the Lord's blessing, and come into a closer relationship with him.

A prayer for Lent:

As the days lengthen and the earth spends longer in the light of day, grant that I may spend longer in the light of your presence, O Lord, and may those seeds of your Word which have been long-buried within me, grow, like everything around us, into love for you, and love for people; to become a visible declaration of your Lordship in my life. Grant, Father, that this Lent there may be a springtime for my life in Christ. **Amen.**

(Dick Williams, in *The SPCK Book of Christian Prayer*)

Vicar: the Revd Sarah Errington

Telephone number: 01978 266018

Email: saraherrington@cinw.org.uk

Websites / Media:

www.wrexhamparish.org.uk

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

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

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