

Parish Directory

Vicar	Fr Darren A'Court fr.darrenacourt@gmail.com (Usual day off is Friday)	02393 070921
Churchwardens	Miss Stella Wansborough Mrs Ann Murray	02392 642386 07716 408239
Hon Assistant priest	Fr John Strain	07834647744
Organist / Choirmaster	Mr Hugh Darnley-Smith	07930925595
Safeguarding	Alison Threlkeld	07900082509
Hall Bookings	Valerie & Rosemary England email address: v.england-halls@outlook.com	07762524781
Magazine Treasurer	Mr Peter Garner	02392 812448

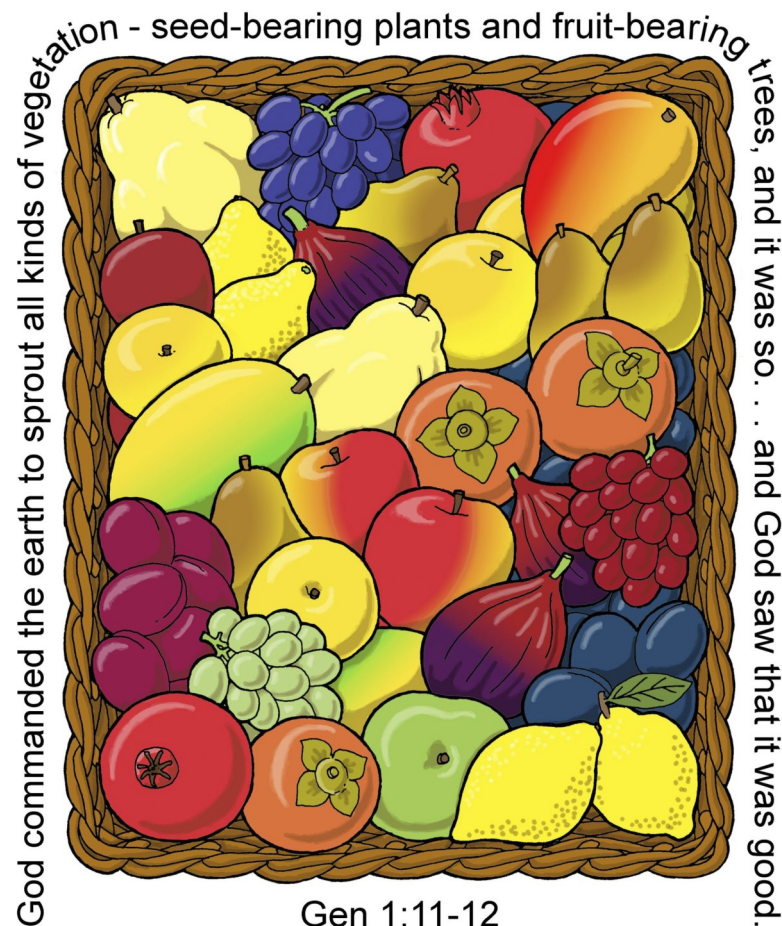
Services

Sunday	Parish Mass	10:00 (church)
Wednesday	Mass (said)	10:00 (church)
Online presence	http://stjamesmilton.org.uk https://facebook.com/StJamesMiltonUK	



Sts

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All

Dear Friends

Our small but committed team of flower arrangers have been busy putting their creative gifts to work again with a lovely display for the recent flower festival held at Christ Church United Reformed Church, just up the road from St James. The festival now over, the flowers have returned and St James has benefitted from the influx of several new and additional beautiful arrangements adorning many parts of the church. It's a welcome contrast to the inevitably less attractive scaffolding occupying one corner inside the church itself – but that of course is a necessity at the moment during our urgent roof works. However, I digress. More news on our Roof Rescue Project will follow, but as always we welcome your support for this and I hope you will come and enjoy the various fundraising events being arranged here at St James.

Regular (and more occasional) worshippers at St James will know how much I love the magician and comedian, the late Tommy Cooper. I *think* – perhaps I should say, 'hope' - that everyone enjoys the odd Tommy Cooper joke popping up in my homily during the Parish Mass on Sunday mornings. I write this after just treating the congregation to the following gem. Tommy walks into a pub and has a ploughman's lunch...but the ploughman wasn't very happy about it! Yes, unfortunately, I do have others, but that's probably enough for one day!

Although the joke wasn't used in the context of Harvest, it could easily have been. It mentions food and those who help to provide it, both important themes for this festival. We will celebrate **Harvest Thanksgiving here at St James on Sunday 4 October**. The Parish Mass at 10am will be followed by a Harvest Lunch in the hall. Please come and join us if you can. Whether or not you can be with us on the day you may wish to bring to church offerings of tinned or packaged food items. These would be most welcome and will be given to our local Foodbank after the service so that they can help others in need.

We come together to celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving in gratitude for God's generous gift to us in creation and in our food, and in recognition of our farmers and those who work in the wider agricultural industry to ensure that we have food on our plates. As we do so, we remember those for whom food is scarce. Poverty and hunger, in different forms and to varying degrees, is an experience that unites both those in many other nations and many of those in our own communities. As we admire the beauty of the earth in colourful floral displays and mark the earth's bounty in the gathering of produce, our thanksgiving is given practical expression in our prayers for those in need and in the sharing of all that we bring to give them.

Every blessing, Fr Darren





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www.stjamesmilton.org.uk





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Premier League footballer says: 'faith helped me through injury.'

A Premier League footballer has revealed how finding faith helped him cope with a series of injuries that kept him off the pitch for periods totalling more than three years.

Josh Dasilva, who plays for west London-based Brentford FC, suffered a hip injury in February 2021 that kept him out of the team for a year, and then a hamstring injury followed between August 2023 and January 2024.

Then, in February 2024, Dasilva suffered a serious knee injury while in training, and did not return to the team until the dying minutes of Brentford's 3-0 victory over West Ham in May 2026. The crowd gave Dasilva a standing ovation and cheered his every touch of the ball.

Dasilva's way back to fitness has been long and painful. He now says, "When you seek God honestly and diligently, you'll find true peace. When I was in dark places, that's what pulled me out."

It was four months into rehabilitation, following his knee injury, that Dasilva made a choice that transformed his outlook and his life.

He recalls, "One of my closest friends invited me to church. I'd grown up in church but lost my way. My parents are strong believers. Whenever I went home and visited my parents, my mum would say, 'Let's pray quickly' and sometimes it wasn't so quickly!"

Returning to church made a major impact on Dasilva. He explains, "Since taking it seriously, my whole life has changed. Faith has become a big part of my life and how I want to live my life. If it wasn't for Christ, if it wasn't for Jesus, I wouldn't be here right now.

"What were the biggest things that helped me? Obviously, my family and friends and the club, but my faith has been number one."

Dasilva was baptised in May 2025, and prayer and worship became part of his daily routine. He explains, "I always dedicate the first hour of the day to God. I pray and I read. It directs my day.

"God is faithful. Regardless of my situation, whether I was able to play another game of football or not. I knew that God loved me regardless. I knew I would be fine."

St James Parish Promoting Health and Safety Culture

Safeguarding at St James is an important function that is recognised by the PCC and the parishioners. As part of embedding this, we use the Church of England's *'Responding Well to Victims and Survivors of Abuse'* to Promote a Healthy and Safe Culture.

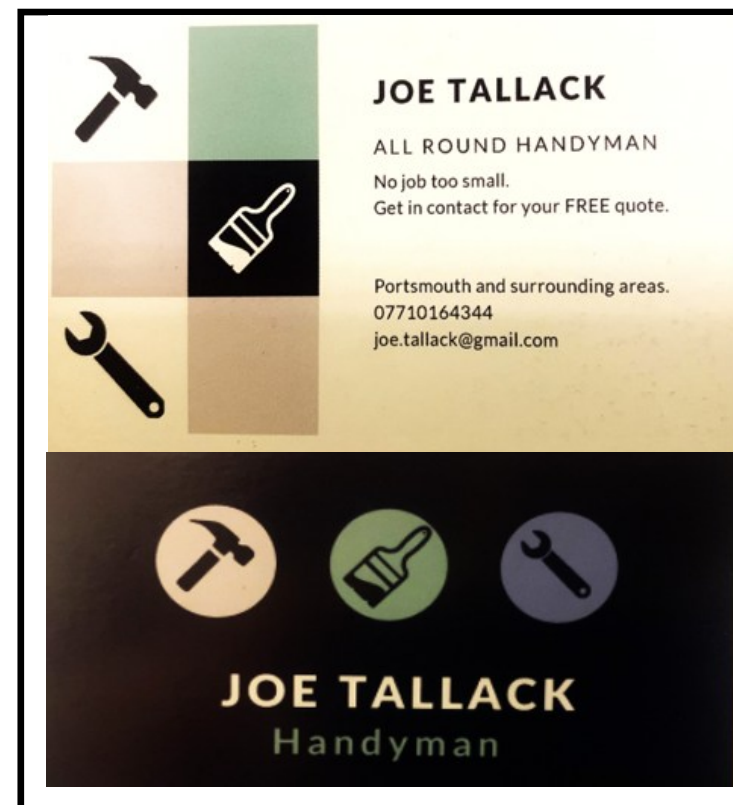
At St James' we endeavour to follow the following:

Communication patterns

- The mode of communication adopted by people is "genuine dialogue", a respectful, person-centred exchange in which all people are open to being influenced, rather than "monologue disguised as dialogue."
- There is encouragement and welcoming of different perspectives and views.
- People do not feel they are "taking a risk" by expressing different views to other members of the community.
- People do not have anxiety or fear about raising concerns.

Behaviour patterns

- There is absence of coercive and/or controlling behaviour by ordained and non-ordained people and a "command and control" style of leadership.
- "Poor behaviour" (e.g. bullying) is challenged and resolved when it occurs.
- There is no evasion of responsibility to address difficult situations – for example, senior clergy or staff are not reallocated different roles when safeguarding concerns are raised about them, and the matter is addressed.
- Those involved in the Church Body support each other through difficult times.



IS EVERYBODY LISTENING

Rumours soon circulated around the parish regarding the close encounter seen between the vicar and Charlotte. To stop further gossip and bring an end to any speculation the two individuals issued a joint explanation of the situation seen. This was done in front of the congregation and so the unknown recipient of the mysterious phone call was now known. Suspicions of who had started the rumours which was a form of betrayal pointed in a certain direction. It was only a short time afterwards this person moved away from the area but know body knew where to. Occasionally new members attended the parish church and recently a retired army major had made his presence known to the vicar and church wardens. Having met the major they decided it would be advantageous to ask him if he would consider to be on the PCC as a co-opted member. Other new members were a group of young adults who asked to join the choir. They were welcomed by the choirmaster as he hoped the choirs singing qualities would be enhanced in time for the coming Christmas season.

...to be continued

Peter Garner

Relationships

- Power is shared and distributed instead of being vested in a few people. Leadership styles are inclusive and consultative rather than controlling.
- There are no powerful elites or cliques dominating the life and affairs of the Church Body.
- Safe boundaries between people are understood and observed.
- No one is isolated or left out of the Church Body's life and activities.

Self-reflexivity

- Collectively and individually, the Church community devotes time to reflect on their behaviours and relationships.
- The tendency towards, and dangers of, clerical deference are acknowledged and actively guarded against.
- People are aware of the impact they can have on others.
- Feedback from others (for example, about communication style and behaviour) is welcomed.
- Leaders in the Church Body learn from failures and reviews and take appropriate actions to seek to prevent any recurrence.

Privacy and data protection

- The importance of protecting peoples' personal data and privacy is understood.
- People feel safe in sharing personal information because they know their privacy is taken seriously.
- People know how information about them will be used and they can trust people to use it appropriately to follow up their safeguarding concerns.

We, of the PCC, would encourage anyone who attends St James' in any capacity to speak to a member of the PCC for any concerns, comments or compliments.

Alison Threlkeld

Could sleep be spiritual?

“Sleep is spiritual,” is the claim made in a newly-published guide to discipleship, written by London-based Church of England vicar, Sarah Guinness.

Although over-looked by many, ‘The Alternative Guide to Discipleship’ places sleep firmly at the core of growing in Christian spirituality.

Sarah Guinness writes, “Sleep is not wasted time. It is an opportunity for God to seal our dreams, and to deposit things and ideas in our hearts and minds.

“I’d like to imagine that at night God, who knit our brains and bodies together, stands by our beds, ready to sort through the day that we’ve had, patching the holes, processing that conversation, mending the tears in our armour so that we wake up feeling repaired, refreshed and ready for another day.”

Guinness, the Vicar of Brentford, West London, believes that sleep can be creative, an opportunity for God to speak to us, a place to be vulnerable and a practice run for our Christian lives.

She cites how Adam fell into a deep sleep, and wakes to find Eve, how God speaks to a sleeping Abram about His promises and seals a covenant with him, and how Jesus sleeps and then wakes with clarity to curse a fig tree and clear the temple.

In Mark 1, Jesus goes to bed, sleeps and awakes early to pray, and later in the day tells the disciples they need to move on to other towns. “It’s as though,” says Guinness, Jesus “goes to sleep, has a divine download and feels focused on His priorities.”

It’s in our dreams that God speaks to us most powerfully, she explains. “God, being God, can do far more in our sleeping than we can do in our waking. He uses dreams to get our attention.

“People talk about being woken in the night with a strong urge to pray for a person or a situation. Why? Because sleep isn’t dead space when our bodies reboot. Sleep is spiritual.”

In ‘The Alternative Book of Discipleship,’ Sarah Guinness goes beyond the importance of sleep to map out a route to spiritual growth based on managing boundaries, embracing emotions, learning to play, surrendering outcomes, and other insights. It is founded on the author’s experiences as a parish priest and, before that, 12 years as an occupational therapist.

By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

High Days and Holy Days

Sundays of the Month

4th October – 18th Sunday after Trinity

11th October – 19th Sunday after Trinity

18th October – 20th Sunday after Trinity

25th October – Last Sunday after Trinity

1st November – ALL SAINTS DAY – 4th Sunday before Advent

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Anthony Ashley-Cooper, 7 th Earl of Shaftesbury |
| 1 | St Remigius |
| 1 | St Theresa of Lisieux |
| 2 | Your Guardian Angel |
| 3 | St Hewald the Black and St Hewald the White |
| 4 | St Francis of Assisi – 800 years on |
| 6 | William Tyndale |
| 8 | St Demetrius of Sirmium |
| 9 | St Luis Bertran |
| 9 | St Denys |
| 10 | St Francis Borgia |
| 10 | St Thomas Traherne |
| 11 | St James the Deacon |
| 12 | Edith Cavell |
| 12 | Elizabeth Fry |
| 13 | St Edward the Confessor |
| 14 | St Donation |
| 17 | St Ignatius |
| 18 | St Luke |
| 18 | St Luke the Evangelist |
| 19 | Henry Martyn |
| 22 | St Donatus |
| 24 | Felix of Thibiuca |
| 26 | Alfred the Great |
| 27 | St Odran |
| 28 | St Simon and St Jude |
| 29 | James Hannington of Uganda |
| 30 | St Alphonsus Rodriguez |
| 31 | All Hallows’ Eve |

4th October – St Francis and the Life of Simplicity

Just about the only thing most people know about Francis of Assisi is that he talked to the birds. Churchgoers also know the popular hymn based on his famous prayer, 'Make me a channel of your Peace', which was sung at the funeral of Princess Diana.

However, Italy's patron saint, whose feast day is this month (the 4th) was a more complex, and some would say controversial character. His life spanned the end of the 12th and beginning of the 13th centuries. He was born into a very wealthy family, but after what he called his 'conversion' standing before a crucifix. He renounced all his possessions. In fact, he stripped himself of his of his wealthy garments in a public square in his hometown, Assisi. For the rest of his life he and his followers, including his feminine counterpart. St Claire longed, prayed and worked for a life of simplicity – a lifestyle without luxury or privileges. For the Franciscan brothers and the Poor Claires. This meant no private possessions at all. Francis saw that many poor people without these things, actually seemed to live happier and more fulfilling lives than the ambitious rich. He spoke of a simple life not shaped by money or power but by love and mutual concern. As his hymn says, 'it is in giving of ourselves that we receive'.

Of course, poverty; in our modern western world is seldom a matter of blissful simplicity, as present-day Franciscans recognise. For too many it is a matter of poor diet, over-crowded rooms, rough sleeping and unemployment. The call of today's followers of Francis and Claire is that those who are better-off should 'live more simply, so that others can simply live'. Christians follow a Master who said that He came with 'good news for the poor'. They believe that many of us today can be that good news.

27th October – Odran of Iona, fought over by the spirits

Odran is a suitable saint to remember as Halloween approaches, for his story involves the spirit world.

British by birth, Odran (died c. 563) was one of Columba's first companions on Iona. Sadly, he died not long after his arrival on the island. But Columba found comfort, for in a vision he saw Odran's soul ascending to heaven, after being fought over by angels and devils. Christ had redeemed Odran for His own, and so all the devils there ever were could not lay claim to Odran's soul.

In memory of his dear friend, Columba named the graveyard on Iona after him, Reilig Orain. An old Irish tradition has an Odran abbot of Meath and founder of Latteragh (Co. Tipperary), and it is probable that these Odrans are one and the same.

A Prayer for Harvest



Dear Lord,

As we give thanks for the harvest and pray for the farmers who have struggled through the summer's drought and heatwaves, we also give thanks and pray for those who work to share the good news of Your kingdom, to bring in Your harvest of people who are searching for You.

May we, who know You, join those workers and share the good news that Jesus brings. So many people are lost and without hope or direction. Help us to reach out to them, maybe with an invitation, or simply a smile, or an act of kindness. May they see Your love reflected in us and turn to You.

May they put their trust in Jesus, who alone is the answer to all life's great questions.

Lord, may we be workers in the harvest field where You have placed us, for Your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Daphne Kitching

Riley's Newsagents, Locksway Road

For many years this local business has helped to support our Church Magazine by advertising on the back pages. Sadly for all those who use the shop, and particularly the many residents who have benefited from having their papers delivered, the business will close on Saturday 26th September.

Best Wishes to Ray and his staff and thank you for the service you have provided from all at St. James in behalf of Milton Community.

Stella

LADIES GUILD

Ladies Guild meet on Tuesday 6th October, and we will have a Quiz. On the Tuesday 3rd November, Gabby North will again be here to tell us all the latest from the Leprosy Mission, and the 1st December we will meet at Milton Perks for a Christmas Toastie!!

Black History Month marks 100 years – and brings Barak Obama to the UK

This year Black History Month celebrates its first centenary, and Barak Obama is coming to speak at events in Belfast, Glasgow and Manchester.

It was back in 1926 that 'Negro History Week' was first founded by the American Black historian Carter G Woodson.

By 1976 it had grown and expanded into Black History Month, and it arrived in the UK in October 1987.

The theme for this year is 'Honouring Black Britain 2026.' It features a major new exhibition celebrating 54 British Blacks who have each made an outstanding contribution to British Life.

President Obama, the 44th President of the USA, will visit Belfast, Glasgow and Manchester to make three arena appearances. His live conversations will explore the subject of leadership, democracy, resilience and challenges currently facing America and the wider world.

An Evening with President Barack Obama will begin at The O2 Belfast on Tuesday 13th October, before moving to Glasgow's OVO Hydro on Wednesday 14th October, and finally Manchester's Co-op Live on Thursday 15th October. Tickets for all three appearances are now on sale.

When Obama won the US presidential election in November 2008, he became the first African American elected President of the United States. He served two terms as America's 44th president, from 2009 until 2017.

His live conversations will take place as the United States marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence.

More details: <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org>

"I never think about being Black until it is said—I just get on with life." **Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin**, the Church of England's first Black female bishop.

Smiles Lines

God is here

When our minister and his wife visited our neighbour, her four-year-old daughter answered the door. "Mum!" she yelled toward the living room. "God's here, and He brought His girlfriend."

Book the date

Our new curate was very eager to please. When I asked if I could have a church service when I eventually die, he responded with enthusiasm. "Of course," he said, grabbing his date book. "What day do you want?"

The cow and the Bible

A religious farmer lost his Bible out in the field. A few days later he went to answer a noise at his door. Standing there was a cow, with his Bible in its mouth. The farmer raised his eyes to heaven and thanked the Lord for this miracle. "It's not really," said the cow. "Your name was written inside."

Shampoo

Why I didn't realise this sooner? It's the shampoo I use in the shower that is my problem. When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning: 'FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY.' No wonder I have been gaining weight.

Others

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?



"Wait a moment, dear, this isn't a tourists'-attraction ratings guide, it's a Health and Safety warning!"



Brian recited the 39 articles as he did up each button



...if you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this sermon...

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am afraid we will never agree about the appropriate length of sermons. Your 50-minute exposition on the theology of St Paul concerning women wearing hats in church is, I am sure, of real interest to you. But as your sermon slowly unfolds, I suspect it will prompt quite a different concern among your congregation. Have they set the oven timer to come on too early?



Whenever I even hint that a matter of theological importance may be about to appear in one of my sermons, an expression of benign incomprehension comes over my congregation. You know the look – you see it on golden Labradors whenever they try and work out what their owners are telling them.

There are certain sure signs that should warn you when you have preached for long enough. One is when members of the congregation reach for their prayer books to try to work out for the umpteenth time how the date for Easter is calculated. The organist turning on the blower when you say “and finally” is another.

Most members of the congregation will count the number of dead flies on the windowsills during your sermon. But when you can see members of the congregation counting the numbers in the congregation counting the numbers of dead flies, that is absolute proof that it is time to stop.

There has only been one occasion when I preached for longer than my standard eight minutes. Our former organist was in the habit of taking his dog for a walk during the sermon. I knew I had to carry on preaching until I heard the latch on the vestry door for the second time. That meant he was back, and ready to play the last hymn. Unfortunately, one Sunday, his dog ran away.

While he searched for it over every field in the parish, I spent the intervening two hours reading the greater part of Leviticus, discussing the food laws set forth in Deuteronomy, and arguing for a Deutero-Isaiah. I was headed for the Babylonian exile when we all heard the vestry door re-open.

After the Service, the congregation left looking as though they had just been rescued from a major shipwreck. And at the next church council meeting, we unanimously voted to buy our organist a stronger lead.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

WEEKLY DIARY OF EVENTS IN ST. JAMES' CHURCH HALLS

Day	Time	Activity
Monday	6.30 - 9.30pm	Scouts
Tuesday	10.00 - 12.15pm	Seven Stars Tai Chi
	11.15 - 2.15pm	Steven Stars Tai Chi
	4.30 - 5.30pm	Rainbows
1st	2.00 - 4.00pm	Ladies Guild
3rd	2.00 - 4.00pm	Craft Club
	6.00 - 7.30pm	Brownies
	7.00 - 10.00pm	Victory Model Railway Club
Wednesday	10.30 - 2.30pm	Highbury
	5.30 - 7.45pm	AG Martial Arts
	6.45 - 8.15pm	Yoga with Erika Nagy
Thursday	10.00 - 12noon	Jiggy Wrigglers
	3.00 - 7.00pm	Slimming World
	5.15 - 6.45pm	Yoga with Erica Nagy
	7.30 - 8.30pm	Yoga with Maz
Friday	10.00 - 11.00am	Seven Stars Tai Chi (upper hall)
	10.00 - 11.00am	Seven Stars Tai Chi (lower hall)
	7.00 - 9.30pm	Milton Glee Choir
	7.30 - 9.00pm	B Fit with Billie (Ad hoc)
Saturday	7.00 - 11.30am	Slimming World
	9.45 - 11.15am	Yoga with Erika Nagy

If you require a Booking at any other time, please contact our Hall Letting Secretary Valerie England. Tel. No. 07762 524781.

Deadline for next edition : 20th October, contributes to Ruth Baber
Email: sjmiltonreview@gmail.com



SOCIAL EVENTS 2026 - 2027



October 2026

Saturday 3rd Bingo Evening 7.00pm
Sunday 4th Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch
Tuesday 6th Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 17th An Evening with Canon Tom Kennar with wine and nibbles - 7.00pm
Tuesday 20th Craft Club 2pm - 4pm

November 2026

Tuesday 3rd Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 7th tbc Fine Voice Academy Concert
Tuesday 17th Craft Club 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 21st Christmas Bazaar 10.30am - 1pm

December 2026

Tuesday 1st Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 5th Table Top Sale 10am - 12.00noon
Sunday 6th RNLI Carol Concert 3pm
Sunday 13th Christmas Lunch 1pm
Tuesday 15th Craft Club 2pm - 4pm
Sunday 20th Carol Service 6pm (Followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies)
Wednesday 23rd Christingle Service (Time to be advised)

January 2027

No Guild this month
Tuesday 19th Craft Club 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 30th Bingo Evening 7pm

February 2027

Tuesday 2nd February Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Wednesday 10th Ash Wednesday Services 10am and 7pm
Tuesday 16th Craft Club 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 27th Quiz Night with fish and chips - 7pm

March 2027

Tuesday 2nd March Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Tuesday 16th March Craft Club 2pm - 4pm
Sunday 21st Palm Sunday Service with Procession 10am
Thursday 25th Maundy Thursday Service 7pm
Friday 26th Good Friday Service 2pm
Saturday 27th Holy Saturday Service 7pm
Easter Sunday Service 10am



April 2027

Tuesday 6th Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 17th Table Top Sale 10am - 12.00
Tuesday 20th Craft Club 2pm - 4pm

May 2027

Tuesday 4th Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Thursday 6th Ascension Day Service - 7pm
Tuesday 18th Craft Club 2pm - 4pm

June 2027

Tuesday 1st Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Tuesday 15th Craft Club 2pm - 4pm
Friday 25th Pilgrimage to Walsingham

July 2027

Saturday 3rd Summer Fete 10.30am - 1.00pm
Tuesday 6th Ladies Guild 2pm - 4pm
Tuesday 20th Craft Club 2pm - 4pm

Craft Club

