
ST JAMES PARISH CHURCH, SILSDEN

WEEKLY NEWSSHEET

SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER 2025

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Readings for Sunday 21 December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah Chapter 7 verses 10-16

Psalm 80 verses 1-8 and 18-20

Romans Chapter 1 verses 1-7

Gospel of Matthew Chapter 1 verses 18-25

Sunday 21 December 2025

9.30am Parish Communion – led by Jen our Licensed Lay Minister and Rev Simon

10.30am Tea and Coffee in the St James Church Community Hall – extended time

There is no 11am service on Sunday 21 December

Monday 22 December

7pm – Carols by Candlelight

Services coming up

Monday 22 December	7pm Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	Christingle 3.30pm Christingle 5pm (repeat)
Christmas Day	10am Family Parish Communion for Christmas Day
Sunday 28 December	9.30am Parish Communion with baptism – led by Rev Pat Followed by tea/coffee – there is no 11am service on 28 December
Sunday 4 January	9.15am – Breakfast together in the Hall 10am – Gathering Service in the Hall - led by Angie and Phil 11am – Holy Communion in the meeting room - led by Rev Simon

A Christmas message from Rev Simon

As we have explored the season of Advent over these past few weeks, we have focused on the idea of anticipation. It is good and right to dwell on the anticipation that foreshadowed Christ's first coming, and that continues to shape our lives, in different ways, as we await his second coming.

In life, it is important to attend to all its facets and seasons, even when they do not reflect how we currently feel or what we are presently experiencing. During Lent, for example, we give voice to lament and sorrow, even if we are not consciously feeling them at the time. In doing so, we prepare ourselves for those moments when such grief does arise. We embody and articulate these emotions ahead of time, allowing them to shape us before they are fully felt.

The same is true of Advent, with its focus on anticipation. Advent proclaims that things are not as they should be. This may be personal: we know our bodies should not be failing as they are, that we should not be living with such pain, that our family circumstances should be different. It may also be global: the world should not be in the state it is in; the things we see in the news should not be happening; children should not be starving.

All of this draws us toward anticipation — the recognition that there is only one who can truly set things right. He has come once and, in doing so, has changed the entire landscape of reality. As the apostle Paul writes, the whole of creation is groaning as in the pains of childbirth, waiting for this new reality to be fully revealed. Advent gives us language for this longing, this honest acknowledgment of our brokenness.

As we move into Christmas, we encounter the fulfilment of this promise in Christ Jesus. The hope and anticipation of Advent are not vague wishes or empty optimism; they are sure and well-founded. Christ has come once, and we celebrate and rejoice in his coming and in all that he accomplished. In that first coming, he also promised that he would come again. And just as he came once and fulfilled all he set out to do, so we can trust that his promises are faithful and true, and that he will indeed come again to make all things right.

Work Day – Saturday 20 December: 2pm

We will be concentrating on tidying up outside the church including around the sand bags by the wall. There will also be inside jobs for those who prefer to work inside.

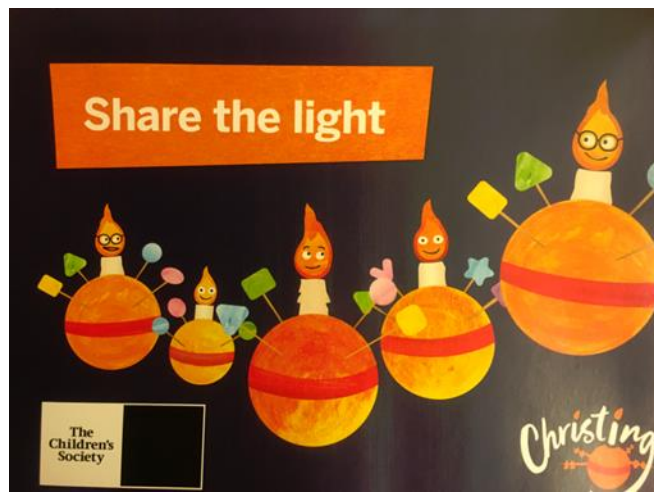
Christingles – 24 December

On Christmas Eve we are holding a Christingle Service at 3.30pm, and then again at 5pm.

If you are coming to help please can you arrive by 2.30pm for a briefing.

The church needs quite a lot of work to prepare it for the numbers we are anticipating will attend the Christingle services so help would be appreciated from 1.45pm to help eg put out chairs, tidy etc.

Thank you



We will be assembling the Christingles on Tuesday 23 December at 2pm in the Hall. Please come and help, if you can.

Saturday 3 January and Sunday 4 January 2026

On Saturday 3 January we will set up for the Gathering at 9.45am and then we will take down the Christmas decorations in the church.

Before that, at 9am on Saturday 3 January, there will be the usual monthly prayers in the Hall so please come to pray with others before the setting up starts, if you can.

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations in the Hall after our Gathering service on Sunday 4 January.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who last Saturday decorated the Hall for Christmas.

Thank you to the team who organized the fun-and-fellowship-filled Church Christmas party last Saturday.

Thank you to everyone who has helped at the carol services at the Homes.

Thank you to everyone who helps in any way with our Christmas services this year.

Thank you to everyone for all you do at St James Church week-by-week and Sunday-by-Sunday.

Saturday Social

Our next Saturday Social will be on Saturday 3 January starting at 2pm. All welcome.

Praying for Silsden

In 2025 we have prayed for many streets in Silsden and we will continue these prayers for other areas of the Parish in the new year.

At this Christmas time let us pray for the whole of our Parish – lifting this community to God and praying for peace for all, and that they will encounter God at this season – and beyond.

Worship in the Homes

The timetable for the next couple of services is:-

Wed 7th January 2.00pm at Summerfield

Wed 21st January 2.00pm at The Gables.

If you can support any of these please come along as our numbers seem to have dwindled.

Thanks

Bob

Mothers' Union

Thanks to everyone who donated to Homeless not Hopeless. The donations were delivered last week. We would like to wish everyone at St James a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Come and join us in 2026 at our meetings on 3rd Thursday of the month. The event list will be up in the hall in the new year.

Service of Remembrance and Hope – Sunday 25 January at 2pm

We are holding a special service of Remembrance and Hope at St James Church on Sunday 25 January, at 2pm.

This service is for those who are feeling the pain of loss. There will be time for reflection including the opportunity to light a candle in memory of your loved one should you wish to do so.

Bank Details

St James' bank account details for direct payments (for Share/general church funds) are:-

Barclays Bank
Silsden Parish Church PCC
Sort Code 20-45-14
Acc No 90871176

Children's Society Boxes

Please, remember to bring your boxes into church in the next couple of weeks. I plan to count them on Sunday 11 January. .

Thank you to all who contribute to this charity.

With love to all this Christmas

Louise



Alpha – starts 13 January

Explore Faith with Alpha

Are you curious about the Christian faith, or know someone who is? The Alpha Course is a relaxed and welcoming space for anyone exploring life's big questions and the basics of Christianity.

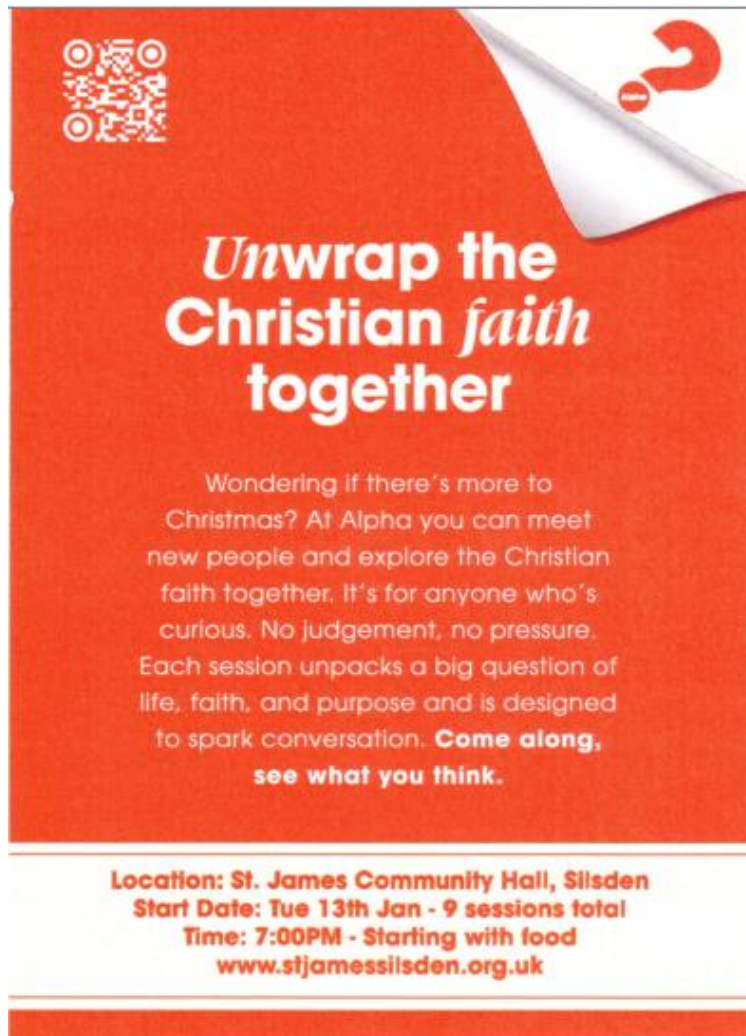
Alpha runs over **9 sessions**, beginning on **Tuesday 13th January at 7pm**, and takes place in **St James' Hall**. Each session includes **food**, a short talk, and the opportunity for open and honest conversation in a friendly environment.

Whether you're new to faith, returning to church, or simply curious, Alpha is for you — and everyone is welcome.

To find out more please visit:

[Try Alpha — Alpha UK — Explore the Christian faith](#)

Or talk to Rev Simon, Jen or Neil



A prayer for Mission (at St James)

A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet.

Lord, I have heard of your fame;
I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord.

Repeat them in our day,
in our time make them known

Habakkuk Chap 3 verse 2 (NIV)

Readings for Wednesday 24 December

Christmas Eve

2 Samuel Chapter 7 verses 1-5 and 8-11 and 16

Psalm 89 verses 2 and 19-27

Acts Chapter 13 verses 16-26

Gospel of Luke Chapter 1 verses 67-79

Services on Christmas Eve

3.30pm Christingle

5pm Christingle – repeated



Readings for Thursday 25 December

Christmas Day

Isaiah Chapter 52 verses 7-10

Psalm 98

Hebrews Chapter 1 verses 1-4

Gospel of John Chapter 1 verses 1-14

(additional readings for Christmas Day are below)

Thursday 25 December 2025

10am Holy Communion for Christmas Day – led by Rev Simon Phipps

Additional readings sets for Christmas Day

Isaiah Chapter 62 verses 6-12	Isaiah Chapter 9 verses 2-7
Psalm 97	Psalm 96
Titus Chapter 3 verses 4-7	Titus Chapter 2 verses 11-14
Gospel of Luke Chapter 2 verses 1-20	Gospel of Luke Chapter 2 verses 1-14

Readings for Sunday 28 December

The first Sunday of Christmas*

Isaiah Chapter 63 verses 7-9

Psalm 148 verses 1-14

Hebrews Chapter 2 verses 10-18

Gospel of Matthew Chapter 2 verses 13-23

(*readings for The Holy Innocents below)

Readings for the Holy Innocents

Jeremiah Chap 31 verses 15-17

Psalm 124

1 Corinthians Chap 1 verses 26-29

Gospel of Matthew Chap 2 verses 15-18

Readings for Sunday 4 January 2026

The Second Sunday of Christmas**

Jeremiah Chapter 31 verses 7-14

Psalms 147 verses 13-21

Ephesians Chapter 1 verses 3-14

Gospel of John Chapter 1 verses 10-18

(readings for The Epiphany below)**

Readings for the Epiphany

Isaiah Chapter 60 verses 1-6

Psalms 72 verses 1-15

Ephesians Chapter 3 verses 1-12

Gospel of Matthew Chapter 2 verses 1-12

More Services coming up

Sunday 11 January	9.30am Parish Communion with baptism – led by Rev Simon 11am Together @ 11 by the Wednesday Home Group
Sunday 18 January	9.30am Parish Communion with baptism – led by Rev Bob 11am Together @ 11 led by Rev Simon

Regular church events

Thursday Group	The fourth Thursday of each month at 2pm	Next one Thursday 22 January at Sheila's house There is not a Thursday Group in December
Friday at the King Pub Social	First and Third Fridays of the month – 7pm to around 9pm at the Kings Arms	Next one Friday 19 December
Saturday Social	First Saturday of the month – 2pm until 4pm	Next one Saturday 3 January
PCC Meetings		Next one Wednesday 14 January at 7.30pm
Prayer ministry Between our Sunday morning services	Usually the second Sunday and fourth Sunday of each month	Next one after the 9.30am service on 11 January
Work Days	Third Saturday of the month – 2pm to 4pm	Next one Saturday 20 December
Saturday Morning Prayers	The day before the Gathering (so always a Saturday!) – 9am	Next one Saturday 3 January

Diary

Fourth Sunday of Advent			
Sun	21 Dec	9.30am	Parish Communion
		10.30am	Tea and Coffee in the Hall (extended – no 11am service)
Mon	22 Dec	7pm	Carols by Candlelight
Tues	23 Dec	2.00pm	Assembly of Christingles in the hall
Christmas Eve			
Wed	24 Dec	3.30pm	Christingle service
		5.00pm	Christingle service (repeat)

Christmas Day

Thurs	25 Dec	10.00am	Family Parish Communion for Christmas Day
Fri	26 Dec		
Sat	27 Dec		

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sun	28 Dec	9.30am	Parish Communion
		10.30am	Tea and Coffee in the Hall (no 11am service)
Mon	29 Dec		
Tues	30 Dec		
Weds	31 Dec		

New Year's Day

The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

Thurs	1 Jan		
Fri	2 Jan		
Sat	3 Jan	9.00am	Saturday morning prayers in the Meeting Room
		9.45am	Saturday social Gathering set up and take down decorations in church
		2pm	Saturday Social
			SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
Sun	4 Jan	9.15am	Gathering breakfast
		10.00am	Sunday Gathering
		11.00am	Said Holy Communion in the Meeting Room
		11.30am	Take down hall decorations
Mon	5 Jan		
			THE EPIPHANY (may be celebrated on Sunday 4 January)
Tues	6 Jan		

Looking ahead

Sunday 11 January – the Baptism of Christ

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18 January to 24 January 2025

Service of Remembrance and Hope - Sunday 25 January 2pm

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) – Monday 2 February 2026

Ash Wednesday – 18 February 2026

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!