

ST JAMES' CHURCH  
Brownhills



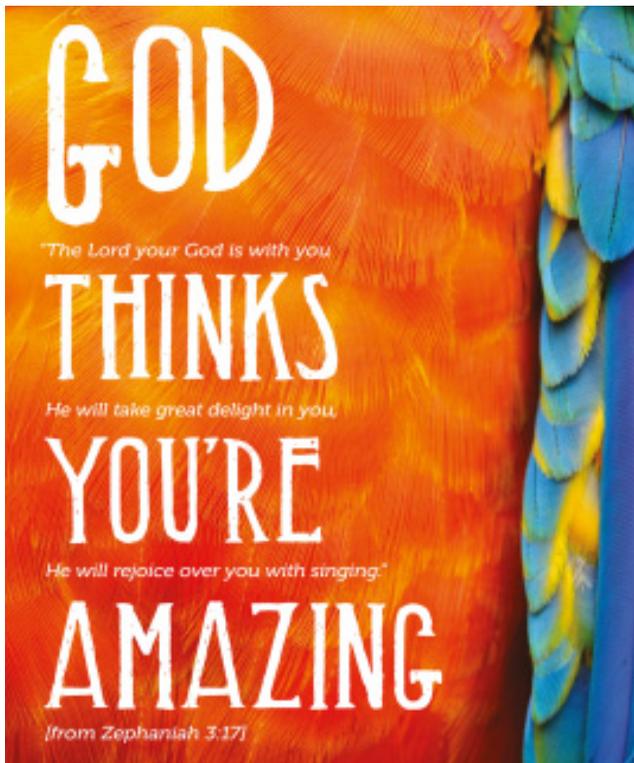
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*Following Jesus*

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# THE MUSTARD SEED

[www.stjameschurchbrownhills.co.uk](http://www.stjameschurchbrownhills.co.uk)



**50P**  
*November 2021*

*Our mission is to worship God  
and to serve the community by sharing the love of Jesus*

# Upstairs Downstairs

Cleaning Services

*Proprietor: Helen Downes*

Household Cleaning of the Highest Standard

Daytime: 07855 253562 – Evening: 01543 452501

## Grace, Truth & Life Groups

There are now five GTL Groups which are now meeting on a regular basis. It would be good to think we could increase the number meeting, so if you would like to be involved, please speak to Revd Gayle in the first instance.

## Telephone Prayer

If you would like any prayer ministry via the telephone, please contact Gayle on 07545 657 636, or Liz Corbett on 01543 370162.



Charity  
Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th November  
10am at St James Church, Brownhills

The poster features coffee beans at the top, a central image of a coffee tray with a St Giles logo, and two coffee cups at the bottom.

**Do more, learn more and be more.**

Girls & boys aged 6 to 18.

Based at Group HQ, Barnetts Lane, WS8 6HZ

For info: [www.brownhills-scouts.org.uk](http://www.brownhills-scouts.org.uk)

Call: Sue 01543 276953 or Mary 01543 453293



# *An Unbroken Link Between the Past & the Future*

I write this as we carry on exploring Exodus and God's deliverance of His people into the Promised Land. We continue engaging with this on Sunday mornings and during the week until we hit Advent Sunday (28th Nov). At that point we'll pause until January to focus on the blessings of Advent and Christmas, appreciating all the Bible shows us about the significance of our Saviour coming to dwell among us.

Right before the start of November we've just declared Jesus' Light over the darkness with a Light Party, and have given time at our recent Memorial Service to be attentive to how God sees all who have died and stands beside those of us who are mourning. Soon we'll be marking Remembrance Sunday – and this time: in person! We made the best of our virtual opportunities last year and the community pulled together as best as was possible under very difficult circumstances. This year we pray that the opportunity to mark this important time will bring comfort and healing to many in our local communities of Brownhills and Clayhanger.

These occasions – All-Hallows Eve, All Saints Day, and Remembrance Sunday – they all share the theme of memory and remembering and so they remind us that we belong to something bigger than ourselves.

Realising that St James' was built in 1851 can lead us to acknowledge that there is a strong and unbreakable spiritual bond between those who have gone before us, and those of us living in this present time. At 8 am services at St James' we use the Book of Common Prayer, and this refers to those in heaven as the Church Triumphant and those of us who are here now as the Church Militant. These phrases seem to sum up really well the sense that the Kingdom is both here and yet to come. Those who have gone before us are the great cloud of witnesses that cheer us on that the writer to the Hebrews reminds us of, for we collectively are the Saints.

In the book of Hebrews we read these words: *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ..."* (12:1). With Covid being still very much an influencer on how we go about the managing of services, events, and social times, it is extremely inspiring to be reminded that there is life beyond ourselves and that there is an unbroken chain of Christian witness going back through the centuries.

As Christians we each have a calling to worship the Lord, love others and to look after the world God has given us, and a key follower of Jesus who strongly upheld each of these aims was Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis describes Francis as “a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.”



With Francis’ example in mind, let’s resolve to keep the UN Climate Conference firmly in our prayers, where from 31 Oct 12 Nov more than 190 world leaders will participate, along with tens of thousands of negotiators, government representatives, businesses and citizens for twelve days of talks. The main aim is to get closer to fulfilling promises that nations made six years ago at in Paris. What happened was, under the Paris Agreement, countries pledged to collectively cut their greenhouse emissions enough to keep the planet from heating up more than 1.5° C (2.7° Fahrenheit), compared with pre-industrial times. Wealthy countries also promised large amounts of aid to poorer nations to help them cope with climate change and to reduce their own greenhouse emissions.

So during November may we each enjoy carrying on looking at Exodus and look forward to Advent. May we maximise the opportunity to remember the sacrifices of those who have given so much as we arrive at Remembrance Sunday, and determine to prayerfully uphold all of the world's leaders taking part in the Climate Change Conference. Alongside this let’s commit to do all we can do practically for the natural world through recycling and making daily choices that support the environment.

With love, prayers and many blessings,

*G. Gayle*

Rev'd Gayle

# Remembrance

Have you seen the film 'Saving Private Ryan'? The first 20 minutes of the film is a powerful account of war, portraying the first landing crafts arriving at the Normandy beaches on D Day. The film successfully brings to life the events of that day, as a vivid act of remembrance.

From a biblical perspective, the word *remembrance* means making present a past reality, so that we can benefit from it today. On Remembrance Sunday we think about those who have given their lives in wars over the years, as well as those who continue to grieve over their lost loved ones. We want to make their sacrifice in past conflicts real for us today, so that we can engage with the horror of war and those enduring suffering today.

It involves dealing with the *why* question in the face of relentless tragedies and injustices: *why does God allow such suffering to take place?* One of the great themes of the Scriptures is that God identifies with the suffering. But the Christian faith goes beyond this! It affirms that in Jesus, God's Son, divinity became involved in suffering and death on the cross. It is at Calvary that we see how God Himself knows what it is to lose a loved one in an unprovoked attack. *'I could never myself believe in God if it were not for the Cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?'* (John Stott).

Although we don't fully understand the reason why God allows evil and suffering to continue, we do know what the reason isn't! It can't be that He doesn't love us! God so loved us and hates suffering that He was willing to come down and get involved in our hurting world. This can be a source of real strength on such an occasion.

However, how can we ensure that those who have given their lives are truly honoured, not forgetting those who are risking their lives in conflicts today? An appropriate response is to actively work and pray for justice in our world, especially where there is inequality and conflict. In a divided world we are also called to renew our efforts to work for peace. We need to be serious about being peacemakers, especially where it involves those close to us. As Jesus said, *'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God'* (Matt 5:9).

# *Caring for Creation*

This month sees the eagerly anticipated COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. As Christians, we need to hold together two key insights, if we are to engage with the challenge of climate change:

## **The world is not ours:**

*'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it'* (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God's! If we understand this, we will rediscover the responsibility of our calling to care for God's world: *'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'* (Genesis 2:15). This challenges our consumer mindset, that says the resources of the earth are both limitless and exist for our pleasure. As well as caring for the planet, we also need to care for its people, for it's the poorest who will suffer the most from climate change. According to the World Bank, 100 million could fall into poverty by 2030. We cannot properly address the climate crisis until we re-learn our place in God's world!

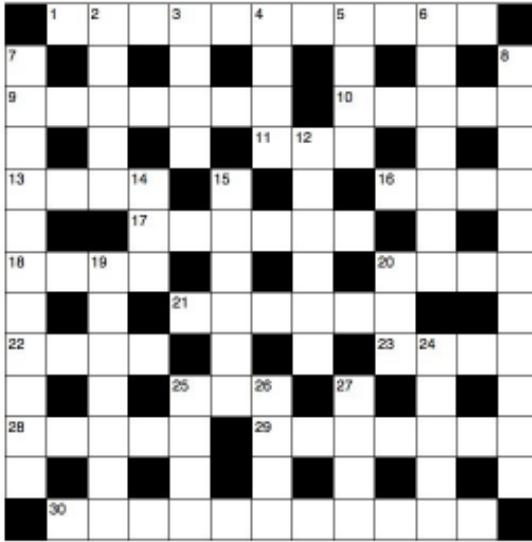
## **We belong to Christ:**

We also belong to the one in whom: *'all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.'* (Colossians 1:16). We can look forward to the climax of history when God will restore the broken world and make everything new. We are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth, as we share in this hope. We are called to love God and neighbour, and care for the planet by living simply, recycling, conserving energy and choosing reusable options.

However great the climate crisis gets, as Christians, we can engage in it with faith and not with fatalism!

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*There will be a work party at 10am on 13th November  
to ready outside of church for Remembrance Sunday*



## Across

- 1 n David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)  
 9 'No --, impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)  
 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)  
 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)  
 13 Taverns (4)  
 16 'Be on your guard; stand - in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)  
 17 'He will not always -, nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)  
 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:12) (4,4)  
 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)  
 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)  
 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)  
 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)  
 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a - of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)  
 28 Annie (anag.) (5)  
 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)  
 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

## Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by - hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)  
 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)  
 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine - have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)  
 5 Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)  
 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by - him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)  
 7 'Our - is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)  
 8 'This is a day you are to - ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)  
 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)  
 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and - upon it' (John 12:14) (3)  
 15 Liverpool dialect (6)  
 19 'Remember the - day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)  
 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)  
 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)  
 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must - himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)  
 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)  
 27 See 18 Across

Historically, the Church of England has had its share of eccentric clergy. Even nowadays, hiding away in remote parishes, there are still some colourful clergy about. Clergy such as the elderly, Anglo-Catholic Uncle Eustace, who is incumbent in the small parish of St James-the-Least-of-All, somewhere in Very Rural England. Eustace despairs of his nephew, Darren, who has become an Evangelical curate in a busy urban parish... and so he writes letters, to try and properly 'educate' Darren in parish life.

# There are more frightening things than bishops out there....

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

*My dear Nephew Darren*

*You really should not worry about having reversed your car into the bishop's gatepost, knocking it over and destroying his rose-beds. It gives him an opportunity to exercise Christian forgiveness. Your real mistake was scribbling a note of apology and pushing it through his letterbox. Far better would have been to have sent an anonymous letter (and to have written it on lined notepaper in capital letters, preferably in green ink, to make it look truly authentic) saying that you had seen the archdeacon do it, and then you had watched him drive off without stopping. That would have taken the minds of the senior clergy away from parish matters for quite some time.*

*No, never worry about the wrath of bishops; dangers lurk much nearer home. For a start, never incur the displeasure of your flower arrangers. I only crossed their path once and arrived in church the following Sunday, to see a ten-foot-high floral arrangement at the front of church. I assumed it was by way of making amends, until I discovered it had been placed in front of the pulpit. I was obliged to preach, hidden behind a large multicoloured hedge, while the congregation listened to what were*

*apparently talking chrysanthemums.*

*A colleague offended his own ladies and arrived to find that the contents of the safe had been removed and replaced with all those exotic pieces of equipment that seem to be indispensable for arranging flowers. He was obliged to administer Communion using a small vase until peace was re-established and his chalice returned to him.*

*Similarly, organists are a delicate breed. Congratulate him on the anthem, and if it happened to be unaccompanied, he would assume you were implying that the services were better without his playing. Offend your organist and you can be guaranteed that hymns will be played at either half or double speed, stopping one verse short and that the final piece of music as you process out will stop, leaving you and the choir stranded halfway down the aisle.*

*And finally, never, ever upset your verger. One forgotten Christmas present and you can be sure you will get half-way through a baptism to find he hasn't put water in the font; at marriage services, the sheets for last week's funeral will have been accidentally put out and when you sit in your stall you will discover where he now stores the mop and bucket. No, bishops are warm, fluffy bunnies; real dangers lurks much nearer home.*

*Your loving uncle,*

*Eustace*



# ***Readings for November***

*The readings are the ones we will use in church and online.*

**7th November 2021** – Morning Service -  
Exodus 20 v 1–12

**7th November 2021** – Evening Service -  
Psalm 136 & Philippians 4 v 6–9

**14th November 2021** – Morning Service -  
Isaiah 25 v 1–10 & John 15 v 9–17

**14th November 2021** – Evening Service -  
Psalm 20 & Matthew 5 v 38–48

**21st November 2021** – Morning Service -  
Numbers 13 v 1–33 & Numbers 14 v 1–9

**21st November 2021** – Evening Service -  
Daniel 7 v 9–14 & Revelation 1 v 4b–8

**28th November 2021** – Morning Service -  
Psalm 25 & Luke 21 v 25–39

**28th November 2021** – Evening Service -  
Jeremiah 33 v 14–16 & Luke 21 v 25–36

*The Church is the only society in the world that never loses  
any of its members, even by death. - Anon*

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**  
ACROSS: 1, Charitoteers, 9, Immoral, 10, Cairo, 11, SAE, 13, Inns, 16, Firm, 17, Accuse, 18, East, 20, Ogam, 21, Judith, 22, Seba, 23, Msgr, 25, Den, 28, Inane, 29, Entreat, 30, Chrysopraxe.  
DOWN: 2, Human, 3, Rare, 4, Oils, 5, Ecce, 6, Raising, 7, Citizenship, 8, Commemorate, 12, Assail, 14, Sat, 15, Scouse, 19, Sabbath, 20, Ohm, 24, Seeds, 25, Deny, 26, Nero, 27, Star.

## *Christmas Services & Events at St James', Brownhills*

- Sat 11th December – 1-3 pm: *Cookies with Santa* event at Church Hall, a fun event for primary school age children.
- Sun 12th December - 4.30 pm: *Christingle Service* in Church.
- Tuesday 14th December – 7.30 pm: *Blue Christmas*, an opportunity to receive God's comfort for any darkness, sense of loss or bereavement felt as Christmas approaches.
- Sun 19th December – 6.30 pm: *Carols By Candlelight Service* in Church.
- Christmas Eve – 4.30 pm: *All-Age Nativity Service* in Church.
- Christmas Eve - 11.30 pm: *Midnight Holy Communion*
- Christmas Day – 10 am: *All-Age Holy Communion*
- Sunday 2nd January – 10 am: *All-Age Communion*, and at 3pm: *Community Christmas Meal* in Church.



**PLEASE NOTE:** There **WILL** be a service of Holy Communion at 8am on Christmas morning.

### *Continued prayer*

The families of the following who have died, have requested continuing prayer:

David John Clamp of Blithfield Road

Maurice Thmas Griffiths of Mill Road

# *Prayers & Poems*

## **Zacchaeus**

*(Luke 19:1-10)*

I wanted to sit here  
And watch Him,  
Just watch the man Jesus walk by.  
Hidden by the leaves,  
Hidden from the loathing of my lifestyle  
I simply wanted to see Him  
From my tree.

As I searched for His face  
He found mine,  
Reached where I was and looked up,  
Looked into the heart of my being,  
And Jesus did not walk by,  
He came to me,  
He spoke to me,

A tree is not a hiding place, my friend,  
Believe me.

Come down from your tree,  
Come down and be different,  
Come down and change your world,

Follow me.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## **Prayer for November**

Father,

In these short, dark days of November, with all the uncertainties and complications in our new Covid 19 landscape, help us to feel the reassurance of Your presence in the gift of each new day. Help us to be guided through the darkness by Your light by Jesus, who will never leave us or forsake us.

In His name – the name above pandemics and shortages and rising bills and all anxieties we pray.

Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

# *Lest We Forget*

*'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'*

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains a tangible symbol for those who have sacrificed their lives in war, especially as we remember those who died in Afghanistan. But why do we remember?

*'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.'* (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria fell due to the aggression of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of peace is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let's ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

*'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'*

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*Power will intoxicate the best hearts, as wine the strongest heads. No man is wise enough, nor good enough, to be trusted with unlimited power.*

*Charles Caleb Colton*

# War memorials

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.* (Matthew 5:4)

National and local memorials to the casualties were first proposed during the First World War. After the war ended, local committees were set up to plan how to commemorate the sacrifice of their young men's lives. The committees were not usually run by the local churches but often by landowners, employers, and representatives of comrades' groups. Memorials often started as shrines where locals could gather to leave messages or flowers.

Over the next few years, permanent memorials were set up in every village, town and city across the UK. They differ widely in style. Sometimes a stone cross was chosen, other times a plaque or an obelisk. They usually list the names of local men who died, but sometimes all the men from the community who had served. Sometimes they list just names, while others are complete with details of the units they served in. They usually reflect an equality in death – that no-one was more important than another.

In many cases, memorials were not dedicated until well into the 1920s. It took time to decide on the design and raise money. In many cases there was difficulty in tracing the names of all the fallen. There was also the question of where to site the memorial. Most are on roadsides, or in the centre of a community. Some, but not many, are in churchyards. Many memorials were facilities for the community such as recreation grounds or village halls in addition to the lists of names.

Most memorials were paid for by public donations, local fetes and concerts. No-one gave a thought to who would pay for their upkeep in the future. Now, one hundred years later, many are in need of repair, cleaning or restoration. Sadly, some have been vandalised or have had the metal plaques stolen.

Many local authorities, including town and parish councils, have taken responsibility for the upkeep of memorials although there rarely is any legal duty to do this.

# *John Short & Son*

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*Amid the confusion of bereavement we  
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dignity – so that life, as it must, can go on  
with hope for the future as well as  
respect for the past.*

At times of bereavement we have served the local communities in and around this area since 1866. We personally know many of the families we have assisted. Whatever the time of day or night, we have given them the sympathy, advice and help they have needed.

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# THE PARISH OF BROWNHILLS WITH OGLEY HAY

Our mission is to worship God and to serve the community  
by sharing the love of Jesus

## *Vicar:*

Revd Gayle Greenway 07545 657636

## *Lay Ministers:*

Pete Biggs 01922 692163

Liz Corbett 01543 370162

Graham Sutherland (Reader with Permission to Officiate) 01543 671020

## *Community & Children's Worker:*

Mel Pearce 07710 811893

## OFFICERS

### *Wardens:*

Margaret Powell 01543 371396

Roger Corbett 01543 370162

### *Lay Chair:*

Dennis Powell 01543 820513

### *Secretary:*

Brenda Stanford 01543 373063

### *Treasurer:*

Joy Powell 01543 820513

### *Deanery Synod Representatives:*

Roger Corbett 01543 370162

Joy Powell 01543 820513

Dennis Powell 01543 820513

### *Organist and Worship Leader:*

Pete Biggs, BEd(Hons), AMusCAM 01922 692163

### *Memorials Application Administrator:*

Roger Corbett 01543 370162

### *Church Hall Bookings Co-ordinator:*

Margaret Powell 01543 371396