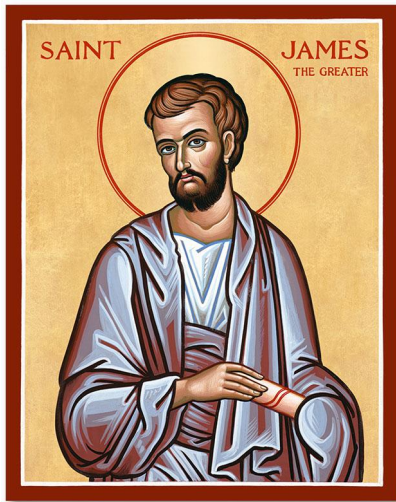


St James' Church, Uplands

NEWSLETTER - 8th August 2021

Feast of St James

Today marks the Feast of St James in the church's calendar, the saint after whom this church is named.



James, often called 'the Great', was a Galilean fisherman who, with his brother John, was one of the first apostles called by Jesus to follow him. The two brothers were with Jesus at his Transfiguration and with him again in the garden of Gethsemane. They annoyed the other followers of Jesus by asking to sit one on his left and the other on his right when he came into his glory and they were present for the appearances of Christ after the resurrection. James was put to death by the sword on the order of Herod Agrippa, who hoped in vain that, by disposing of the Christian leaders, he could stem the flow of those hearing the good news and becoming followers in the Way. James' martyrdom is believed to have taken place in the year 44. Today we will think about what St James' life might teach St James' Church!

Picnic today

It would seem wrong not to mark the Feast of St James with something of a feast in St James' Church! Hopefully you have come armed with some food and chairs or blanket for the picnic today. We will set up outside in the grassy areas after the service. A few things to note:

- If you haven't come with food, we're not able to share due to covid regulations, but you are welcome to go to purchase some at a nearby shop and come back to join in!
- If you start feeling unwell with any covid symptoms please do leave immediately.
- Under Welsh government guidelines, social distancing is not now required for outside events. Please do be respectful of those who wish to maintain a greater degree of distance however.
- The disabled toilet will be open if you need to use the facilities.
- Weather forecast is dry at time of writing - if there is steady rain or very wet ground conditions we may need to cancel.
- We will be taking up a collection for Christian Aid, please give if you can.
- Most importantly - ENJOY! It's been a long time since we could be together and enjoy each other's fellowship.

Next week - Sunday 1st August

Canon Andrew Knight, formerly vicar of St Paul's Sketty, will be leading our worship.

Leighton Francis

Today marks Leighton's final day as vicar's Churchwarden, and Health and Safety Officer. Leighton has served with great diligence, and has brought good sense and hard work to the role during an extremely difficult time. I am personally very grateful for his help and welcome in the short time I have been here. Please join me in praying for Leighton and wishing him well as he and Elaine enter a new phase of their life and service with us here. Which brings us to...

Churchwardens and PCC Secretary

Vicar's warden, People's warden and PCC secretary are three of the main lay roles in the church. We are obliged to have them by the Church in Wales constitution, and they are needed for the proper functioning of church affairs. Currently, we do not have anyone active in these posts.

Please would you prayerfully consider this situation, and if you feel one of these may be right for you, please speak to me. It may also be possible to consider breaking down some of the elements of the role to spread responsibilities out.

On similar matters, we will be holding a PCC meeting in early September, at which we will set a date for the much postponed Easter vestry meeting.

Booking for church

Please would you indicate today if you plan to be in church for the next two Sundays. I hope that after 7th August, we will be able to reduce social distancing to one pew apart across much of the church and this will take away the need to pre-book. We will keep some seating 2m apart.

Annual leave

My usual pattern is to take a lot of my annual leave in summer when church activities are typically quieter. I am on leave this week, returning on Sunday 1st August (when I am in Christ Church for morning worship). I will then be on leave again on Monday 9th August, returning on Saturday 21st August.

A prayer for St James' Church

Heavenly Father,

Strengthen us in our inner being with power through your Spirit

That Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith

As we are rooted and grounded in love.

And give us the power to comprehend the height, breadth and depth

Of the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge,

And so may we be filled with all the fullness of God.

We know that you can accomplish more than we can ask or even imagine

Through the power at work within us.

To you be glory in this church and in Christ Jesus through all generations: Amen! (Eph 3:14-21)

Rev Ian Folks