Autumn 2026

The newsletter of

St James's Church, New Barnet

FREE

newslink

St James Church | 71 East Barnet Road | www.stjamesnewbarnet.org.uk | 020 8440 2451

Majesty

David Mulford

After Easter this year I reflected on the crown of thorns placed on Jesus' head, the sign on the cross, and the mockery he endured. How could any of this be majestic?

I've listened to and played a number of songs on this topic over many years – 'Majesty (Humbled by your Majesty)' by Delirious? and 'King of Kings, Majesty' by Jarrod Cooper to name but two. But what is this majesty we are referring to?

Jesus' majesty reveals God's greatness, power and glory, yet he chose a life that seemed anything but majestic. He is unlike any other king.

1. ***Jesus is a humble King***. Born in poverty and raised as a carpenter in Galilee, he lived without worldly wealth. He went where respectable people would not, crossed cultural boundaries, made friends with fishermen, and associated with prostitutes. With no substantial income, he relied on others' generosity during his ministry. His death on the cross was humiliating and shameful. Though despised by many, he died for us.
2. ***Jesus is a kind-hearted King***. An essential part of our Christian journey is growing closer to him. He is our friend and listener, our guiding shepherd, our carer and comforter, and the one who forgives and heals. We can come to him in every circumstance of life.

cont. on p2

Fun-packed one day only Holiday Club

Half-term holiday club

Mon 26 Oct

More on p5

Community garden blessing and open morning

Sat 25 July

Majesty

cont. from p1

3. Another unexpected aspect of Jesus' majesty is that ***Jesus is the servant King***. He left his Father's side in heaven to come to earth, and his ministry and healings showed his devotion to serving others. On Maundy Thursday we remember how he served those he had created by washing his disciples' feet. He told them:

   "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet" (John 13:13–14).

   Jesus makes service to others the true calling and measure of kingship. Its ultimate expression came when he died on the cross for us, fulfilling the Scriptures and offering salvation to all.

   "For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty" (2 Peter 1:16).

4. ***Jesus is a good King***: righteous and fair, strong yet kind, merciful and gentle. He loves those whom society belittles and meets the needs of the poor.

5. In today's world, rulers come and go. Some govern well; others govern badly. Every earthly ruler's term eventually ends, but Christ's dominion is eternal, and through him we receive eternal life. Revelation 19:16 declares, "On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords." ***Jesus is the eternal King***.

6. ***Jesus is a loving King*** who accepts us as we are. Through God's love, we are reconciled to him by Jesus' death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. Jesus' love for us is immeasurable.

Jesus' majesty defies our expectations. He is a humble, kind-hearted, servant, good, loving and eternal King. From his humble life on earth to his exalted place above all, his majesty surpasses every other.

To conclude, what better words than those of the song 'Majesty':

*"Here I am, humbled by Your Majesty, Covered by Your grace so free. Here I am, knowing I'm a sinful man, Covered by the blood of the Lamb. Now I've found the greatest love of all is mine, Since You laid down Your life, The greatest sacrifice. Majesty, Majesty. Your grace has found me just as I am, Empty handed but alive in Your hands." **

** Martin Smith & Stuart Garrard © 2003, 2004 Curious? Music UK*

News from St James PCC

Audio Visual System

Plans for the upgrading of the sound system, lighting and audio visual equipment in church are ongoing and will be brought to the PCC soon.

The need for a new computer to run the audio visual system has become urgent as the existing one is increasingly unreliable. The PCC has approved a budget for a new computer to the required specification.

Vision for St James

A Vision Day for the PCC and group leaders is being planned for the new year.

Welcome Team members

The PCC approves the members of the welcome team each year following the APCM. The current members were approved at the PCC meeting on 10 May. If you would like to know more about being a member of this very important team, please do speak to Chris Jones.

2025 Accounts and our Annual Church Review

In April, in preparation for our annual church meeting in May, the PCC approved the church's accounts for 2025 and the annual review of all our activities during 2025. Copies of either can be sent to you if you have not seen them.

If you have thoughts or questions about any of these topics, do talk to any members of the PCC.

The members of St James PCC are:

Sharon Ejinkonye (Vicar), Carol Connah (Churchwarden), Luke Cowles (Churchwarden), Simon Vincent (Lay Minister), Bryony Johnson, Zoë Jones (Treasurer), Alun Matthews, Areghan Obawaeki, Liz Smith, Ros Thompson and Sue Walsh

Thanks to Sue Walsh for compiling this news from St James PCC.

what's on

Regular events at St James

Morning service, Sun 10.15am, weekly (Communion twice a month), with Kidschurch. Service is also streamed [Zoom details from church office; sermon available later on YouTube]

Pray at Six, 6-7pm, monthly at 6pm on Sunday

Knit and Natter, Mon 10-12noon, monthly (usually 2nd Mon of month) in church coffee room

Toddler Group, Tue 10am, weekly in term-time, for 0-5 year-olds. *Spaces limited – please book in advance*

Jim's Shed @ EBVBC: Community garden run by St James and the Bowls Club. Tue 10am-1pm, weekly at East Barnet Valley Bowls Club in Victoria Rec. Come along to take part in the gardening or just to enjoy the garden

Midweek service, Wed 10am, weekly: short reflection, prayers and music

Jim's Café community advice centre, Wed 9am-12noon, weekly, incl Citizens' Advice fortnightly

Craft and Chat, Wed 10.30am-12noon, weekly craft table

Community music group, 3rd Sat of month, 10.30am-12.30pm

Life groups: Seeking God together through Bible study, sharing and support in homes or church, fortnightly. See Sharon if you would like to join a group, or if you could host or run a group.

Prayer at St James on a Sunday morning
The St James prayer ministry team are available after each service (front right of the seating area). Members of the prayer ministry team will also be happy to pray with you at any time during the morning. Look out for people wearing yellow prayer ministry badges.

Calendar information is announced in church services and advertised on the website, facebook page and whatsapp group. For any queries, or to join our whatsapp group, please get in touch.

Contact details for staff and the St James church office are on p8.

Coming up

Season of Creation service, Sun 20 Sept, 4pm at Holy Trinity Church. Service for local churches, held this year at Holy Trinity. A time for Christians to come together in prayer and action for Creation

Harvest Festival, Sun 27 Sept, 10.15am (all-age service) with opportunity to bring gifts for the Foodbank (see p4)

Paws in the Pews: Harvest and Thanksgiving Celebration, Sat 10 Oct, 3pm at Holy Trinity. 'Paws in the Pews' takes place every couple of months. It's especially designed for dogs and their owners, but everyone is welcome to this fun and informal service

Clocks back, overnight Sat 24/Sun 25 Oct

Holiday Club for school years 1-6 at St James's, Mon 26 Oct (details on p5)

Half term, 26-30 Oct

Remembrance Sunday, 8 Nov. Short service at New Barnet War Memorial (around 9.45am). Time of remembrance during the 10.15am service at St James's and the 4pm service at Holy Trinity

Heather Gill will be selling poppies at St James's in the fortnight leading up to Remembrance Sunday

Tearfund Big Quiz, Sat 14 Nov, 7-9pm at St James. Tables of 4-6 (arrange in advance or on the day). Bring drinks & nibbles for your table (tea and coffee provided). No cost, but donations for Tearfund. *Joint event with Holy Trinity*

Safeguarding Sunday, 15 Nov

Community Fun Day, Sat 21 Nov at St James, 10am-2pm. Free activities for all, including food, places to sit and chat, games and bouncy castle. *Joint event run by St James and Holy Trinity*

Joint groups with other churches

Rooted Youth: monthly teenage youth group for faith and friendship (ages 13-18), run by churches in Chipping Barnet, East Barnet and New Barnet. Speak to Sharon for more information. Autumn sessions: Sun 4 Oct at East Barnet Baptist Church, Sun 1 Nov at St James and Sun 6 Dec at Holy Trinity

'Who let the Dads out' Dads and kids social time at Holy Trinity: outdoor space and indoor activities, with free bacon butties. 1st Sat of the month, 10-11.30am, in the church and garden. For all dads, grandads and father-figures

Art and craft community group for adults, at Holy Trinity Church. 2nd Sat of month, 10.30am-12.30pm. Some art and craft supplies provided or bring your own. All abilities welcome

Garden blessing

There was a special event at our community garden in July with an open morning and blessing of the garden. Around 45 people from the church, the bowls club and the local community came along for this short service in which Sharon blessed the garden. The event was reported on the Barnet Society website and St Alban's Diocesan website.

Some extracts from the feature on the Diocesan website:

"During the blessing, prayers were offered for all who care for the garden and those who benefit from its harvest. The congregation gave thanks for God's creation and prayed that the space would continue to be one of 'growth, beauty, welcome and peace'.

The garden is cared for regularly by volunteers from St James Church and members of East Barnet Valley Bowls Club. As well as producing fresh fruit and vegetables, it provides a welcoming place for people to relax, meet others and connect with nature.

Several underused flower and shrub beds within the bowls club grounds have been transformed into vegetable and fruit plots, while additional raised beds have been installed behind the pavilion. A composting area and relocated garden shed have also helped create a sustainable growing space, supported by grants from Faiths Forum for London and the National City Park Foundation.

The garden has already increased opportunities for local people to get involved, with its prominent location in Victoria Recreation Ground attracting interest from park users and passers-by."

https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/news/church-and-bowls-club-partnership-celebrate-community-garden/

More photos on p1

Foodbank update

Summer lunchboxes: Chipping Barnet Foodbank thank everyone who donated food for their summer holiday packed lunches scheme, which helped households over the long summer holiday when children aren't getting free school meals.

Harvest gifts: We will be collecting non-perishable food gifts for the Foodbank at our Harvest service on 27 September. (Holy Trinity will also be collecting for the Foodbank at their Harvest service on 4 Oct.) All donations are gratefully received. Here is a list of items that would be particularly useful:

Tinned meat	Tinned soup	Cereal (not large packs)
Tinned fish	Tinned rice pudding	Rice
Tinned vegetables	Tinned custard	Biscuits
Tinned potatoes	Pasta sauce	Coffee
Tinned pulses	Long-life milk	Tea bags (80s)
Tinned fruit	Long-life juice	Toiletries
Tinned tomatoes	Squash	Household cleaning items

news

One-day holiday club

In October half term, we'll be running a one-day holiday club, an event we first held at St James over 20 years ago! It's for school years 1 to 6. The day is on the theme of 'October beach party', and activities will include craft and games. It's on Monday 26 October and costs £10 per child.

Booking forms will be available in church and from Carol Connah.

If you could volunteer to help on the day, please speak to Carol.

Prayer windows

Two of the side windows in church are prayer windows. One is for prayer requests and another for thank you prayers. There are pieces of paper in each window. Write down your prayers, and tie them to the cross in the window display.

Photos for Remembrance

Heather Gill will be putting together a display for Remembrance Sunday of photographs of people known to members of the congregation who have lost their lives in war, both past and present. If there is anyone you would like to commemorate in this way, please give photos to Heather by the end of October.

Night Shelter

Fiona Perera, David Mulford, Jeremy Alford & Helen Alford

We will be hosting a Night Shelter at St James's again this winter, providing overnight accommodation to guests referred to us by Homeless Action in Barnet. Our slot is overnight Friday to Saturday, in January and February. As usual we will need volunteers to provide food; sleep overnight in the church; welcome and serve guests on Friday evening and on Saturday morning; and transport sleeping bags from St James's to the next venue (another local church).

There will be more information in the winter edition of Newslink. In the meantime, if you would like to know more or would like to volunteer, please do speak to one of us. Thank you.

Blessing

Baby Kamcy Emmanuel Okorie was blessed during a Sunday morning service in August.

Cream teas for charity

Our charity Cream Tea event in August raised over £550 for Breast Cancer Now. Thanks to everyone who organised and helped at the event, and to everyone who came and supported the charity.

environment

Celebrating God's creation

From September to early October each year, many Christian denominations, including the Church of England, celebrate 'Creationtide', a time to thank God for his creation. This year the theme is 'Living Water'. There will be a joint service for East and New Barnet churches on Sunday 20 September at 4pm at Holy Trinity. The Season of Creation is an invitation for Christians to come together in prayer and action for creation.

Fairtrade

Fairtrade Fortnight is 21 September to 4 October. St James's and Holy Trinity both support Fairtrade, buying goods such as coffee. Fairtrade is about 'better prices, safe working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers'. Fairtrade products include bananas; chocolate; tea and coffee; sugar, spreads and oil; nuts and dried fruits; fruit and veg; vanilla and spices; wines and beers; beauty products; flowers; and cotton, and their website lists many of the brands that are Fairtrade.

www.fairtrade.org.uk

Holy Trinity News

Lyonsdown Hall is now being used by Ebatt table tennis company. They offer table tennis coaching as well as table hire for anyone who wants to play. The company were featured on BBC News just after they moved in:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_JBe5jD1IdE

Trinity Patch, our community garden, is flourishing, and some of our produce has been used to make cakes for the August Community Fun Day.

We also now we have a garden shed. Thanks to everyone who helped put this up at the end of August.

Foodbank collections. Our Harvest service is on Sunday 4 October at 4pm, when we'll be collecting food for Chipping Barnet Foodbank. We'll also have a collection for the Foodbank at our Paws in the Pews harvest celebration on 10 October.

Regular events at Holy Trinity

Morning Table: Communion service with breakfast, Sun 8.30am, weekly

Short reflective service, Sun 4pm, weekly

Morning Prayer on Zoom, Mondays, 8am: 20 minutes of prayer led by Rev Jenny. (Not on public holidays.) Zoom link on our website

Trinity Patch: Community garden, Tue 10am-12noon, weekly

Prayers at the Cross, Wed 7-7.30am, weekly: prayer and contemplation in the prayer garden (or in church when it's dark in the mornings)

Farsi Bible Study, 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month, 1pm-2.30pm

'Who let the Dads out' Dads and kids social time: outdoor space and indoor activities, with free bacon butties. 1st Sat of the month, 10-11.30am

Art and craft community group for adults, 2nd Sat of month, 10.30am-12.30pm. Some art and craft supplies provided or bring your own

Contact details
Website: www.holytrinitylyonsdown.org.uk
Phone: 020 8440 1437
Address: 18 Lyonsdown Rd, New Barnet, EN5 1JE
Email: holytrinitychurchlyonsdown@gmail.com
Vicar: Rev Jenny Robinson

Paws in the Pews

Our Paws in the Pews doggy services continued this summer with a garden party in June and a pilgrimage walk in August. Family Worker Paul Robinson writes about the August walk:

"As we journeyed together, we paused at different points along the route to reflect on Scripture and consider the beauty of God's creation around us. Each location provided an opportunity to connect the Bible with the natural world, while celebrating the companionship, loyalty and joy that our dogs bring into our lives.

The pilgrimage reminded us that worship does not have to be confined within the walls of our church. As we walked together through different areas of nature, we experienced community, reflected on our faith and gave thanks for the wonderful world God has entrusted to us."

Holy Trinity Church photo gallery

Paws in the Pews garden party in June

Afternoon Teas in August

Putting up the Trinity Patch shed

Christian shop at St James

We stock a range of Christian goods including cards, prayer cards, Bibles, and gift items, such as wooden crosses

The shop also has a range of **free second-hand Christian books**

Open on Sunday and Wednesday mornings

Thanks to Helen Langley and Wendy Ball

Newslink is published quarterly

Copy date for the winter edition is **Sunday 8 November**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed photos, news and articles

Encounter Outdoors: evening of informal worship in the garden at Holy Trinity, led by members of St James worship group

Above and below: **Community Fun Day:** joint Fun Day, held at Holy Trinity

Lawn bowls taster session at East Barnet Valley Bowls Club

Contact **www.stjamesnewbarnet.org.uk** **020 8440 2451** **71 East Barnet Road, New Barnet, EN4 8RN**

Rev Sharon Ejinkonye, **Vicar** vicar@stjamesnewbarnet.org.uk 07494 741 623 *Sharon's day off is Monday*

Simon Vincent, **Assistant Minister at St James** sdvincent@btinternet.com

Mark Oliver, **St James Administrator** office@stjamesnewbarnet.com 020 8440 2451

Fiona Jones, **Newslink editor** cm_ jones@btinternet.com

Jeremy & Helen Alford, **Safeguarding Officers** stjamesnewbarnetsafeguarding@gmail.com

Copy date for the winter edition is **Sunday 8 November**

If you no longer need Newslink, please recycle it. We always welcome contributions from members of St James. This means that views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Editor or the PCC of St James's or Holy Trinity. St James Charity Registration (England and Wales): 1150299