

# January 2026 SJP Magazine

January

Our aim as a church is...

...To know Jesus and make Him Known

## Sundays at SJPChurch

### 4th January

10:00am All Age Worship @ St. James Hill Top  
6:30pm Holy Communion @ St. Paul's Golds Hill

### 11<sup>th</sup> January

10:00am Holy Communion @ St James  
6:00pm Youth Church @ St James  
6:30pm Evening Prayer @ St. Paul's Golds Hill

### 18<sup>th</sup> January

10:00am Morning Worship @ St. James Hill Top  
6:30pm Holy Communion @ St. Paul's Golds Hill

### 25<sup>th</sup> January

10:00am Holy Communion @ St. James Hill Top  
6:30pm Remembering loved ones @ St. Paul's Golds Hill

### 1<sup>st</sup> February

10:00am All Age Worship @ St. James Hill Top  
6:30pm Holy Communion @ St. Paul's Golds Hill

scatters the frost like ashes

Psalm 147:16

# This month at St James and St Paul's

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
						3 <sup>rd</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 10:00 All Age Worship</li> <li>● 18:30 Holy Communion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 9:30 Morning Prayer</li> <li>● 17:00 Squirrels</li> <li>● 18:30 Cubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 14:00 Oakley Gardens Communion</li> <li>● 18:00 Beavers</li> <li>● 19:30 Evening Prayer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 9:15 Little Fish</li> <li>● 18:00 Youth Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 9:30 Morning Prayer</li> <li>● 19:15 Scouts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hill Top Lodge service</li> <li>● 19:00 Create and Cake</li> </ul>	
11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>
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18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>
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25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>
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● St James

● St Pauls

● Church Hall

# One more step..



✓ to **Grow in Christ**



✓ to **Pray for a friend**



✓ to **Invite a friend**

As we begin a new year, we are reminded that spiritual growth rarely happens all at once. More often, it happens through faithful obedience—as we take one step at a time.

This year, we are invited to continue with our church moto to take, One More Step in our walk with Christ.



## One More Step to Grow in Christ

Spiritual maturity does not come by accident. It comes when God's people commit to knowing Him more deeply through Scripture, prayer, worship, and fellowship.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). Whether that step is daily Bible reading, coming to morning or evening prayer, or renewing time in prayer, let us intentionally pursue Christ together.

## One More Step to Pray for a Friend

Every one of us knows someone who needs the hope of the Gospel. This year, we ask you to choose one friend, family member, or neighbour and commit to praying for them faithfully.

Pray that their hearts would be softened, their eyes opened, and that God would draw them to Himself. Prayer is powerful, and God delights in using His people to intercede for others.

## One More Step to Invite a Friend

God often uses a simple invitation to change a life. Inviting someone to church may feel small—but in God's hands, it can have eternal impact. The Bible reminds us, "*How will they hear unless someone tells them?*" (Romans 10:14). This year, let us step out in faith and trust God with the results.

As we move forward, we do so with confidence—not in our own strength, but in the faithfulness of the Lord. Let us be a people who do not stand still, but who continue moving forward in obedience, love, and truth.

May this year be marked by spiritual growth, faithful prayer, and lives changed through the power of the Gospel—one more step at a time. Yours in Christ,

*Mark*



## Lent readings

In a short while we will be in lent, and in preparation for our sermon series later in the year, I would like to invite you with me to read through James over the 40 days of lent.

A Lent Reading Guide

A 40-Day Companion Guide  
Through the Book of James

“Draw near to God,  
and He will  
draw near to you.”  
— James 4:8

St James and Paul's  
WEST BROMWICH

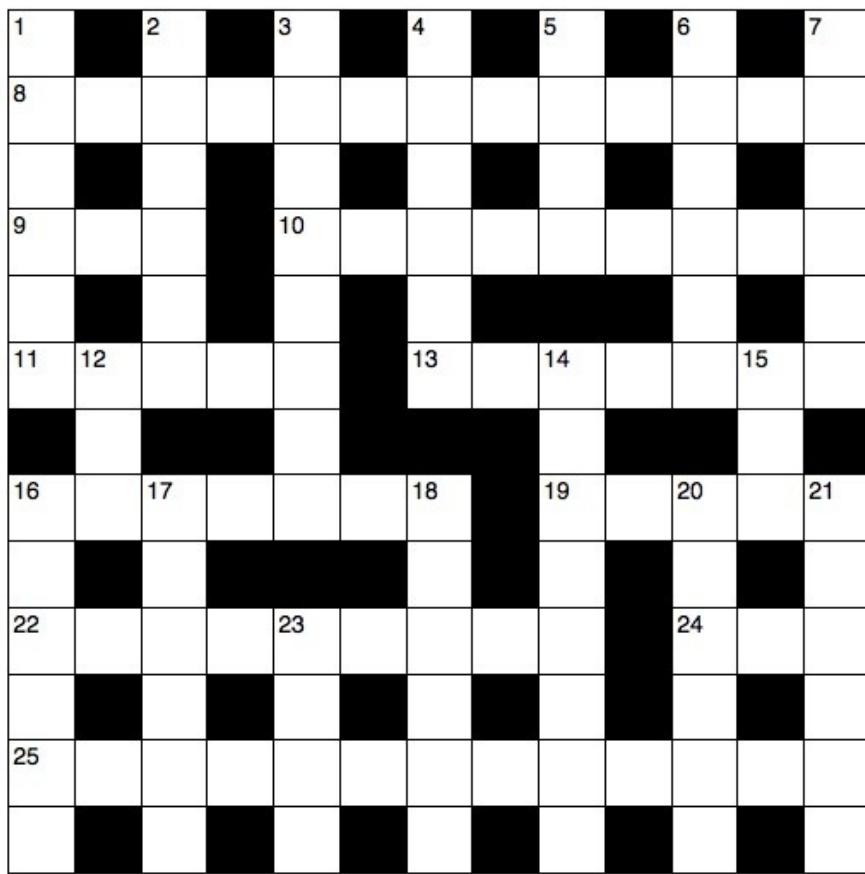
As we do this we will see the themes of James and we will read it I want to encourage us to use our **One More Step..** moto as we try to reflect on the themes that comes up though out James, but also to spend time praying for a friend and inviting them to church, perhaps for Easter Sunday.

Lent is that time of Repentance and renews, of intentional growth, and our readings will invite us to take one more step each day, not to perfection, but to faithful obedience to the Lord almighty.

So please do join me as we Journey through lent with the apostle James.

d	r	u	n	k	o	k	o	e	f	j	w
n	g	i	y	o	s	d	a	w	u	c	s
h	t	u	p	e	n	i	n	n	a	h	a
a	s	p	v	l	a	e	n	s	s	i	m
n	j	i	r	k	u	r	q	i	p	l	u
n	w	t	r	a	v	e	l	l	e	d	e
a	f	r	t	n	y	e	n	e	c	r	l
h	g	s	t	a	y	e	d	n	i	e	o
w	o	r	s	h	i	p	r	t	a	n	v
e	d	i	a	n	s	w	e	r	l	h	e
e	y	c	w	f	e	a	s	t	f	m	d
p	s	h	w	s	h	i	l	o	h	x	h

Israel	none	worship
prayer	weep	loved
children	God	silent
Elkanah	travelled	answer
wives	Peninnah	Samuel
year	Shiloh	feast
Eli	stayed	special
rich	Hannah	drunk

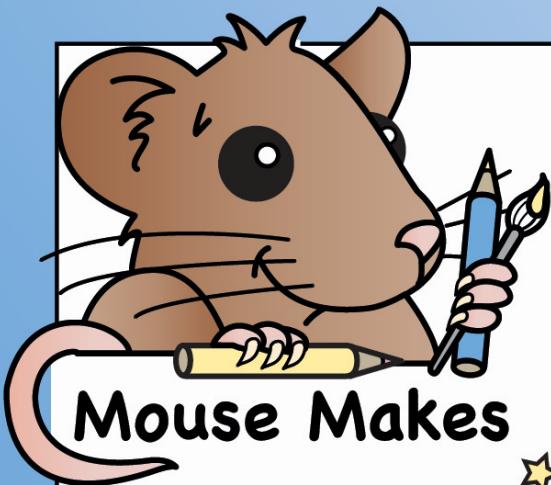


### Across

8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)  
 9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)  
 10 The Ten Commandments (9)  
 11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)  
 13 Des cons (anag.) (7)  
 16 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)  
 19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)  
 22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)  
 24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)  
 25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

### Down

1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)  
 2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)  
 3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)  
 4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)  
 5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)  
 6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)  
 7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)  
 12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)  
 14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)  
 15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)  
 16 Vat car (anag.) (6)  
 17 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)  
 18 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)  
 20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)  
 21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)  
 23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)



### DID YOU KNOW ?

Stars shine different colours, the colour we see depends on the temperature of the star. The hottest stars shine blueish-white, then yellowish-white, yellow, orange and the coolest stars shine red.

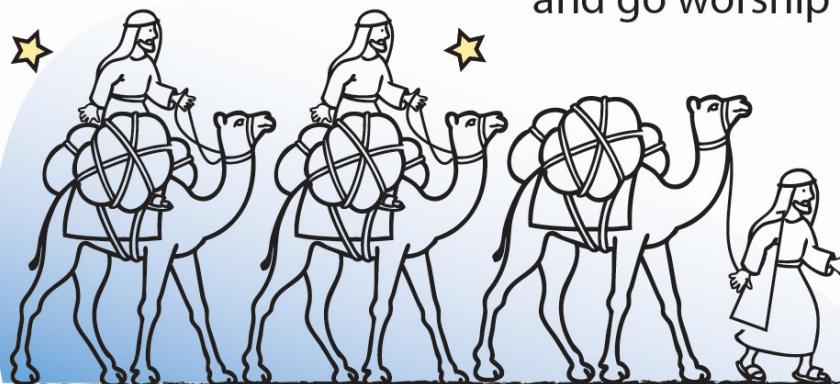
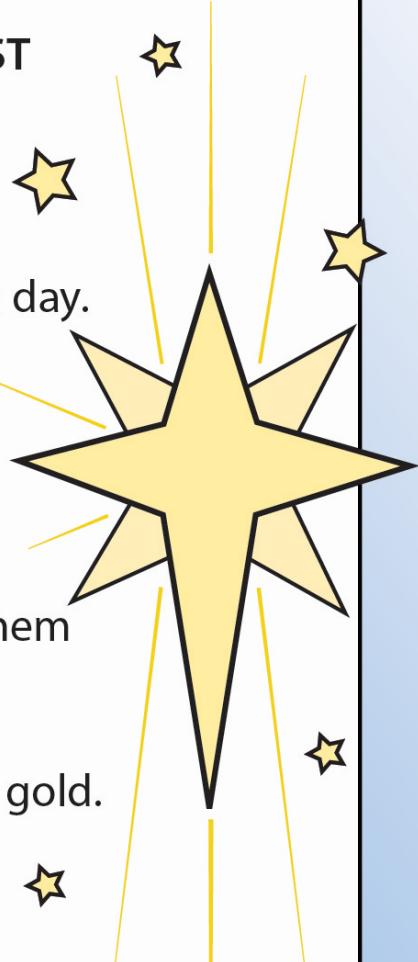
## WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

The Wise Men came from a land far away, they had seen a star that shone brighter than day.

The star was a sign of the birth of a king, so they followed that star to pay homage to him.

They found him in Bethlehem as the prophets foretold, they gave him three gifts: myrrh, frankincense and gold.

The star led to Jesus our saviour and king, let us join with the Wise Men and go worship Him!



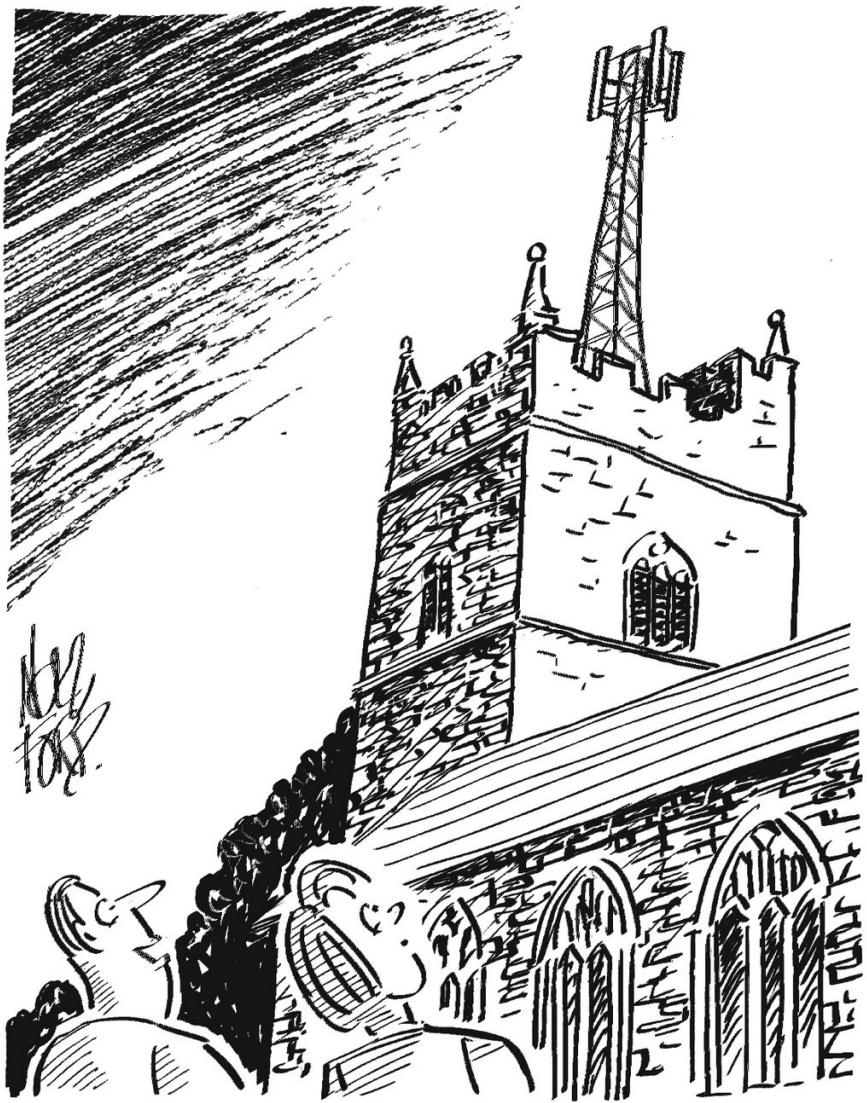
Read the story of the Wise Men in *Matthew 2:1-12*

S B E T H L E H E M J O I Y  
T K J E S U S K I N O W W C  
A G O E P I P H A N Y O I V  
R I U M E S S I A H G R S I  
K F R A N K I N C E N S E S  
I T N G O L D M Y R R H M I  
N S E I J V S I G N B I E T  
G O Y A C H R I S T C P N M

Can you find these words in the word search?

WISE MEN • MAGI  
STAR • SIGN  
JOURNEY • BETHLEHEM  
VISIT • JESUS • MESSIAH  
CHRIST • KING  
GIFTS • GOLD • MYRRH  
FRANKINCENSE  
WORSHIP • JOY  
EPIPHANY





"The vicar's hoping providing a really strong mobile signal will attract more young folk to the church."

		6				9	
1	5		9	8			
4			6	5			8
6	4	3			9		
		7			8	3	1
5				3	2		9
				4	9	5	6
	2				3		

Please Pray for those in need.

Especially.....

Bill Nock  
Bridget Williams  
Sybil Dilworth  
Cara Dilworth  
Daniel Jenkins  
Kim McCulloch  
Kayliegh Winstanley

The Family and Friends of ...

Denzel Smith  
Anne Rodgers  
Philip David Kemp known as David



The next Men's Breakfast will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025 at the Queen Inn in West Bromwich.

We will meet at 9:00am for about an hour to an hour and half.  
Why not come along.  
Price last time was £10.99  
For more Details, speak to Mark or Andy



Don't forget that our Create and Cake group meets on the first Friday of every month, 7pm at St James.

Costs £2 which includes crafts, cake, tea, coffee and great conversations!  
For more details, speak to Rebecca Wilson

## Ash Wednesday Service

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of February at 6:30pm.

Please come as we begin our journey in faith looking forward to the hope of Easter as we seek the forgiveness of our sin.



PETE WILCOX

# A YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOUR

*Grace in  
times of need*

A MEMOIR

*'This is a story for anyone who has found the path of faith strewn with thorns – and still chosen to walk it.'*

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

**A Year of the Lord's Favour - Grace in times of need**

**By Pete Wilcox, CHP, £12.99**

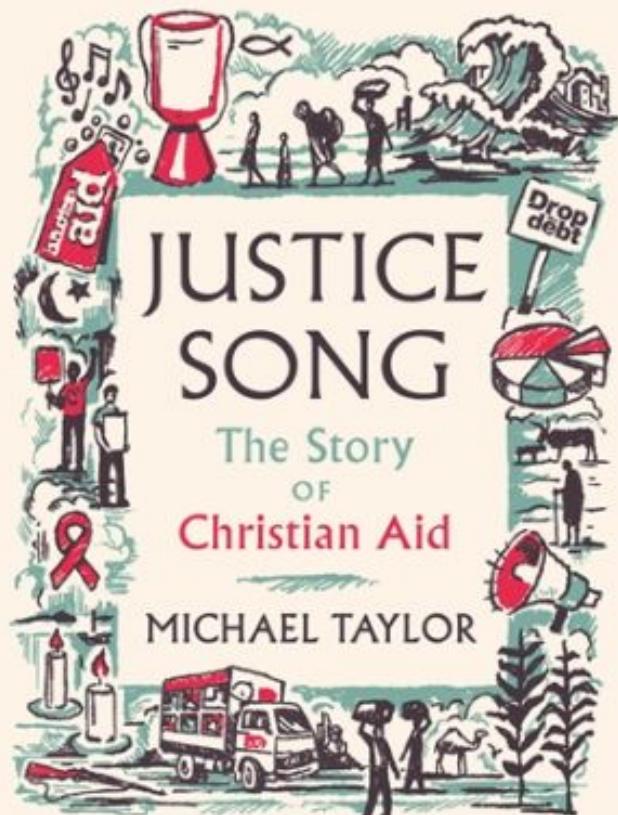
Pete Wilcox reflects on the time when, in the space of one year, he was made a diocesan bishop – in the wake of the withdrawal of the preferred candidate – and was diagnosed with and received radical surgery for cancer of the colon that left him with a permanent colostomy. Drawing heavily on daily prayer journal entries kept at the time, he offers encouragement and support for anyone attempting to maintain life as normal while dealing with personal challenges that might be overwhelming. This is a story of both trust and resilience which will inspire and encourage anyone whose hopes and dreams have been overtaken by events. It will enable them to find God's faithfulness in the midst of turmoil.

**The Jesus Storybook Bible Advent Activity Book – 24 Guided Crafts, plus Games, Songs, Recipes, and More**

**Justice Song - the Story of Christian Aid: (with a Foreword by Gordon Brown)**  
**By Michael Taylor, SPCK, £14.39**

In honour of its 80th anniversary, *Justice Song* tells the story of Christian Aid's journey from its post-World War II origins to its emergence as a leading force in the fight against poverty and injustice.

*Justice Song* tells the story through a series of vivid, thematic chapters that trace its evolution from post-war beginnings to present-day campaigns. Founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches to support refugees after World War II, Christian Aid has expanded its humanitarian mission across the globe. Always rooted in a vision of justice, it has provided emergency relief, backed long-term development, and championed the rights of the marginalised. From challenging the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to helping found the Voluntary Service Overseas, Disasters Emergency Committee, and Fairtrade Foundation, Christian Aid has consistently pushed beyond the boundaries of traditional charity.



**Foreword by Gordon Brown**

## Cross Word Answers

### ACROSS:

8, Bottomless pit. 9, Ice. 10, Decalogue. 11, Limbo. 13, Seconds. 16, Crimson. 19, Eager. 22, Abhorrent. 24, Lap. 25, Alpha and Omega.

### DOWN:

1, Abdiel. 2, Stream. 3, Wondrous. 4, Flocks. 5, USCL. 6, A pagan. 7, Athens. 12, IOR. 14, Creation. 15, Dye. 16, Cravat. 17, In hope. 18, Need no. 20, Galley. 21, Repeat. 23, Read.

## Word search Answers



## Sudoku Answers

3	8	6	2	7	1	5	9	4
1	5	2	9	8	4	7	6	3
4	7	9	6	5	3	1	2	8
6	4	3	1	2	8	9	7	5
8	1	5	3	9	7	6	4	2
2	9	7	4	6	5	8	3	1
5	6	8	7	3	2	4	1	9
7	3	1	8	4	9	2	5	6
9	2	4	5	1	6	3	8	7

## Contact information

### Vicar

Rev. Mark Wilson  
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vicar@sjpchurch.co.uk

### Children's and Youth Minister

Emily Taylor  
St James Church  
Hill Top  
West Bromwich  
B70 0SB  
0121 502 0879  
childrenstjameswithstpaul@gmail.com

### Church Wardens

Clive Bradley  
Kerry Gorton

### Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact our Parish Safeguarding officer via our website.  
[www.sjpchurch.co.uk/safeguarding](http://www.sjpchurch.co.uk/safeguarding)

### Accessibility

There is an accessible toilet at the back of Church.  
We have large print hymn books if you need them.  
For the hearing loop please switch your hearing aid to 'T'.

