**Services for next week:**

**Hampton-in-Arden**

**Thursday 6th:**

10am Communion

**Sunday 9th:**

8.15am B.C.P.

11am Eucharist

6.30pm Compline

**Bickenhill**

**Sunday 9th**

11am Eucharist

**Barston**

**Sunday 9th**

9.45am Prayer Time

10.30am Holy Communion

**Readings for next week**: 1 Corinthians 15. 1-11; Luke 5. 1-11.

**We pray for:** Bob Middleton, David Mort, Mike Beasley, Ann Hall, Tony Worthington, Andrew and Rene Sumner, Derrick Hill, Angela Jones, Mona Cardall, Dot Barton, Richard Herne, Barrie and Mavis Thompson.

Rick Smallwood, Paul Pilkington-Birch, Gloria Stidworthy, Richard Stretton, David Scannell and Colin McDonald.

We also pray for the families of those who have died; Martin Cox, Audrey Hurdley, Moira Kyles, Coralie Cain, Pamela Wilson, Celia Heron and Richard Bibbings.

(Please note, to keep the names of those we pray for up to date, they will be reviewed each month, so if you would like people to be prayed for do let us know at [office@hamptoninardenchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@hamptoninardenchurch.org.uk))



**BARSTON. BICKENHILL. HAMPTON**

**Three Churches Together**

* Sharing God’s Love
* Growing Faith
* Worshipping Together

**2nd February 2025- Presentation of Christ.**

Hebrews 2. 14-18; Luke 2. 22-40.

**Thought for the week**.

This week saw the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. For most of us, it is impossible to imagine how survivors rebuilt their lives, let alone found the courage to return on Monday to the site of such unthinkable evil.

Jesus told a parable of a beggar, Lazarus, dehumanized by a rich man who left him to starve to death. After their death, Abraham scooped up Lazarus and rejected the rich man. Increasingly, I read that parable as God’s protection of survivors. Never again would God allow Lazarus to encounter his abuser. We, the Church, can learn from that.

We can also pray that, in God’s good time, those who survived the holocaust and those who didn’t, will dwell at Abraham’s side, with an uncrossable chasm between them and their torturers.

MC

**Collect**

Lord Jesus Christ,

light of the nations and glory of Israel:

make your home among us,

and present us pure and holy

to your heavenly Father,

your God, and our God.

**BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL.** Saturday 8th February Licensing Service at 11am of new Lay Readers and re-dedication on existing Lay Readers. Craig will be licensed and Martin will have his permission to officiate renewed – this happens every three years when you reach 70. We really hope you will be able to go along to support them both. Please pray for them both too.

**Filling Station** restarts on Monday February 3rd. Speaker is Professor David Cheetham. David preached at Barston several times last year and he is a wonderful speaker unpacking Biblical truths in an easily relatable way. Great worship and teaching in our local area – Knowle Village Hall 7pm for 7.30pm start. Again if you’ve never been, maybe this year you will consider popping along as this promises to be a very special evening.

Wednesday 5th February is an **Area Oversight Meeting** at St. Peter’s Balsall Common, 7-9pm. If you are interested in joining us please speak to Rev. Stuart.



**Hampton**

* Don’t forget **our JAM activity afternoon TODAY** meeting in Hampton Church at 4pm. Open to all children, with a **celebration of Candlemas**, crafts, Lego, hotdogs, squash, jelly and fairy cakes! Children from Barston and Bickenhill most welcome too, as are family, friends and neighbours, so spread the word.
* **Tea and Toast** will be in the church hall on Friday 7th February 9-10.15am. If anyone is free to help out, please contact Vickki or the church office.
* Our next fundraising event is a **Lenten Frugal Lunch** on Sunday 16th March. Tickets cost £10 to include lunch of soup and bread and the event is being run at no cost with all proceeds to the church. Evan Grant from the **Cameron Grant Memorial Trust** will be our speaker. Everyone welcome, bookings through the church office.

**Barston**

* TODAY is **Family Lunch** after the service. All welcome. A chance to catch up with Matt, Elaine, Isabella and Daniel.There is always plenty of food and it’s a good opportunity to have fellowship over a good meal.
* Tuesday 4th **HOBBY HOUSE** at 10am in St. Swithin’s House. **TEA CLUB** at 2pm. Anyone is most welcome to come along.
* **OPEN THE BOOK TEAM** have two assemblies on Tuesday and Thursday this week at Balsall Common Primary. We are presenting the story of Esther.
* Wednesday 5th **EASTCOTE PARK** service at 11am. If you are free pop along and join in with residents. They will be delighted to see you.
* Thursday 6th is **BELL RINGING practice** at 7pm. Beginners are most welcome. It’s a fascinating skill to learn and you would be taught by an expert who is very patient. You are never too old to learn!
* Saturday 8th at 11am **BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL** Licensing and Commissioning Service of Lay Readers in the diocese (see note on opposite page).
* **EASTER EGGS.** The Egg that shares the Easter story. If you would like to purchase the Real Easter Egg(s) we can order them for you or the other three options are detailed on the poster in St. Swithin’s House. Richard is your contact point. The closing date for orders with payment is Sunday February 23rd. FACT out of the 20 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold, The Real Easter Egg is the only Fairtrade one with the Easter story in the box. An idea maybe to buy one to give to friends’ children or relatives’ children. You pay more but it’s worth it.