

# St James' Church, Riding Mill: "Your Parish Church!"

St James' is the Parish Church which serves Riding Mill village and surrounding area and as a church community we welcome everyone to worship with us, to explore the beautiful Victorian building and stained glass or to sit in peace and quiet when you need space.

Many village residents attend our special Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance services. The church is the focus for baptisms, weddings and funerals for many in the Parish and through our priest, Lesley Chapman and our Pastoral Visiting Team, led by Lynda Padgett, we hope to help in times of sickness and bereavement.

We are increasingly using our special building as a fund-raising venue for talks, musical events and art exhibitions. We are embarking on an extensive programme of maintenance on the exterior and interior of the church over the next 18 months and are grateful to our congregation and friends in the village for the support we have received to raise money for the St James' Building Fund.

We have to look to the future viability of St James in a changing society and to that end we are discussing, within our church, future uses of the building and how we might reorder it to expand the activities which we can host and to attract others who might like to use the space. A group has been formed to formulate a vision of the future for St James' Church which will be used in the preparation of bids to major funders.

The appointment of the new Executive Head, Jen Ainsley, at Broomhaugh School, gives us a chance to seek new opportunities to work with children and their parents.

As a church community we would welcome ideas and suggestions, from village residents and organisations, on the future for your village church.

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