

## Sunday 16th December 2018

**TODAY IN CHURCH**

9am Holy Communion  
Preacher

Rev Laurence Smith  
Pete Clarke

10:30am Morning Worship  
Preacher

Rev Laurence Smith  
Pete Clarke

6:30pm Carol Service

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Monday 17th December

5:30pm Puppets

#### Tuesday 18th December

7:30pm PCC Meeting

#### Wednesday 19th December

8pm Homegroup

#### Thursday 20th December

11am - 1:30pm St James Café

#### Friday 21st December

8pm Music Practice

#### Sunday 23rd December

9am Holy Communion

10:30am Morning Worship

#### Monday 24th December Christmas Eve

3:30pm and 5pm Christingle Services

11:30pm Midnight Communion

#### Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day

10am Christmas Day Family Celebration

#### Sunday 30th December

9am Holy Communion

10:30am Morning Worship

#### Pre-School

Pre-School is open from 9:00am-12:00 noon,  
and 12:45pm-3:45pm Mondays, Tuesdays,  
Thursdays, and Fridays, during term time

#### **St James' Church Centre**

Kingfisher Drive, Woodley, RG5 3LH

Tel: 0118 966 2568

Email [office@stjameswoodley.org](mailto:office@stjameswoodley.org)

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#### **Rev Laurence Smith**

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0118 969 9701

#### **Office opening hours:**

Mon - Fri 9:30 - 1:00pm

**Administrator** - Becki Whitlock

0118 966 2568

**Children's and families worker** -Linda Galpin

[linda.galpin@stjameswoodley.org](mailto:linda.galpin@stjameswoodley.org)

### **Mens Walking group**

Will be going on a country walk on Tuesday 18th December, followed by a pub lunch. Please meet at the church for a 9.30am departure.

### **WOW (women on walks)**

Will be going on a country walk on Tuesday 18th December, followed by a pub lunch. Please meet at the church for a 9.30am departure.

### **Prayers for REinspired - Woodley**

Thank you for your continued prayers for REinspired. Its been a very busy week but the end is in sight .

Mon 17th Dec 2 Foundation classes @ Rivermead School are exploring the Christmas Story. Do pray for the 36 classes that have been exploring the Christmas story over the past half term that as they celebrate Christmas with their families they will remember Jesus, the rescuer, who came that first Christmas so we could be friends with God forever.

Happy Christmas

### **International Students**

As in previous years, there is an opportunity to host one or two International Students from the university for a meal over the Christmas period. Contact Bob or Judith Hansford soon if interested.

### **Mission Partners**

The Mission Support Group have met to discuss our giving support for 2019. After December we will no longer be supporting Cristina Vargas in Argentina as a Local Partner as her retirement is due. We will again be supporting Ben and Katy Ray and their family working at NEEMA Craft with CMS in Tanzania. This will be encouraging as Liz Hansford is working with them. This has all been approved by the PCC.

### **Church Christmas Tree**

This year our Christmas tree will be decorated by .....you! From today onwards the tree will be in place and everyone is invited to add a decoration from the box next to it or one that you bring in, bought or homemade. Enjoy!

## St James' Vision

### **St James 2020 Vision is to be a growing people of all ages that:**

- 1. Are rooted in prayer and growing in our faith in Jesus Christ*
- 2. Are growing as confident disciples, and are willing and able to make disciples of others*
- 3. Are committed to nurturing and investing in children and young people*
- 4. Are growing in our understanding of and open to being empowered by the Holy Spirit to build up the church of God*
- 5. Reach out into our community to be and to share the good news of Jesus Christ both inside and beyond the church walls, and across Woodley in partnership with others*
- 6. Are listening, generous, and committed to quality in all that we do*

### Thank you

I just wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped with the Messy Christmas Celebration last Sunday. There are so many people without whom it just couldn't have happened - You all know who you are - thank you all SOOO much. Linda

### Volunteer sidespeople still needed

Thank you to those who have volunteered for our Christmas services. However, we still need volunteers for both the Christingle services on Christmas Eve at 3:30pm and 5pm and also for the Christmas Day service at 10am. Please let me know as soon as possible which services you are able to do and if you are able to the Christingle services, please can you specify whether you can do one or both. Many thanks for all your hard work and service towards the life of St James. Becki

### Christingle Making

After the service on Sunday 23rd December there will be an opportunity to make Christingles for the Christingle services. There will be soup and rolls following the service for those who would like to help, and then the Christingles will then be made. Please speak to Kelly Robinson if you are able to help in this fun and meaningful activity.



### **Prayers for our Church Family**

Please pray for all those who are unwell, lonely or bereaved at this time. Please continue to pray for Michael Patterson, Joan Wise and Mick too and Steve Litchfield's sister. Pray for Liz Hansford, Ben and Katy Ray and others in the Neema Team as they prepare to take a break at Christmas. Pray that a work visa for Liz will be granted soon and for renewal of the Ray's permits also.

### **Prayers for the world**

**Central African Republic.** Violence has returned to CAR, with 2 recent attacks on displaced people. In mid-Nov., 40 people were killed and dozens wounded in an attack on a Catholic mission sheltering 20,000 refugees. Pray for a political solution to the conflict, and for agencies, including Tearfund, working for peace and helping those suffering.

**Climate Change.** The UN climate talks in Poland ended on Dec 14th, with a number of countries pledging to cut their emissions further than the Paris agreement; others, including Australia, will not. Pray for greater willingness to put the future of the planet above short-term economic gains or losses.

### **Brexit**

Pray for our Prime Minister and Parliament as they struggle on to find some sort of acceptable Brexit deal. Pray for wisdom and integrity for all MPs, and that God's bigger purposes for Britain and Europe will somehow be fulfilled.

### **Syria and Iraq**

Better news from Syria – praise God that a polio outbreak has been brought under control. Many IDPs in Iraq have returned home, but pray for those still in camps, enduring torrential rain and floods