

## Sunday 9th December 2018

**TODAY IN  
CHURCH**

9am Holy Communion  
Preacher

Rev Laurence Smith  
Rev Laurence Smith

11am Messy Church Christmas

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Monday 10th December

5:30pm Puppets  
8pm Flower Club  
8pm Focus Prayer Group

#### Tuesday 11th December

Preschool Nativities am and pm  
5:15pm 7:30pm Rainbows  
8pm Pilates

#### Wednesday 12th December

9:45am Homegroup  
10am Midweek Communion  
10:30am Rendezvous  
1pm Toddlers Christmas Party  
5:15pm Rainbows  
6pm-9pm Brownies and Guides

#### Thursday 13th December

11am - 1:30pm St James Café  
4:30pm - 7pm Rainbows and Brownies  
7:15pm Pilates  
7:45pm Choir Rehearsal

#### Friday 14th December

8pm Music Practice

#### Sunday 16th December

9am Holy Communion  
10:30am Morning Worship  
6:30pm Carol Service

#### 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)  
[www.stjameswoodley.org](http://www.stjameswoodley.org)

#### **Rev Laurence Smith**

[laurence.smith@stjameswoodley.org](mailto:laurence.smith@stjameswoodley.org)  
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)

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

Thank you for your continued prayer... there are 9 lessons this week .. our busiest week so far so please pray for all the volunteers involved.

Mon 10th @ Woodley CofE Yr 1/2 (2 classes) are exploring Christmas – what gifts might Christians in my town have given Jesus if he had been born here instead of Bethlehem?

Tues 11th @ Woodley CofE Yr 1/2 (2 classes) are exploring Christmas – what gifts might Christians in my town have given Jesus if he had been born here instead of Bethlehem?

Thurs 13th @ Woodley CofE 2 foundation classes are exploring the Christmas story

Fri 14th @ Rivermead Y1 and Yr2 (4 classes) are exploring Christmas – what gifts might Christians in my town have given Jesus if he had been born here instead of Bethlehem?

### **Focus Prayer Group**

The final Focus Prayer Group meeting for 2018 will be taking place on Monday 10th December from 8-9 pm in the Prayer Corner in Church. Please do come and join us.

### **Choir for Carol Services**

Next rehearsal is at 7:45pm on Thursday 13th December. More details from Tim Raggett

### **International Students**

As in previous years, there is an opportunity to host 1 or International Students from the university for a meal over the Christmas period. Contact Bob or Judith Hansford soon if interested.

### **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!

### **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.

## 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

### 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. Liz Hansford continues to settle in to life in Iringa, supporting Ben and Katy Ray. Pray that the work visa will be granted soon and for good pre-Christmas sales of handicrafts.

### Prayers for the world

#### Climate Change

The COP24 climate talks in Poland run until Dec. 14th. Cutting carbon emissions could save many lives via improved air quality; up to 7 million deaths per year can be attributed to air pollution. Pray for good outcomes from the talks and ambitious targets to cut those CO2 outputs. Experts believe we have just 12 years to bring climate change under control.

#### Brexit

Pray for the UK Parliament as important votes take place this week over the Brexit proposals. Pray for wisdom and integrity for all MPs, and that God's bigger purposes for Britain and Europe will somehow be fulfilled.

#### Yemen

Important talks start this week in Stockholm to end the civil war. The Director of one aid agency warned that "if the consultations fail, or stall, so too will hopes of halting Yemen's steady descent into hell". Civilians, particularly children, continue to suffer from the violence & malnutrition. Pray for success of these talks, an end to air strikes & for re-opening of ports & aid routes.

#### 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

