



Therefore the Lord  
Himself will give you a  
sign: Behold, a virgin  
will be with child and  
bear a son, and she will  
call His name  
Immanuel.  
Isaiah 7:14

## Sunday 17th December 2023

10am – Morning Worship

6:30pm Carols by Candlelight

### This Week

**Wednesday 20th December**

10am Midweek Communion

**Friday 22nd December**

8pm Music Practice

**Saturday 23rd December**

10am Christingle making

**Christmas Eve**

3:30pm Christingle

5pm Christingle

11:30pm Midnight Communion

**Christmas Day**

10am Christmas Celebration

**Sunday 31st December**

10am Morning Worship

**Pre-School**

Pre-School is open from 8:45am to 3:45pm Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and Wednesdays from 8:45am –12pm

**St James' Church Centre**

Kingfisher Drive, Woodley,  
RG5 3LH

Tel: 0118 966 2568

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

**Vicar Rev Laurence Smith**

(day off Friday)

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07421 233951

**Office opening hours:**

Mon - Fri 9:30—1:00pm

**Administrator - Becki Whitlock**

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

0118 966 2568

**Children and families worker -**

Linda Galpin (day off  
Monday)



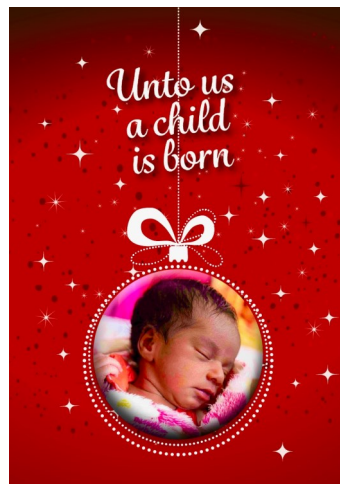
## Notices

### ALPHA 2024

We will be running an in person alpha course at St James in Feb and March of 2024. If you would like to be involved in supporting the delivery of the course, or you or a friend would like to know more about attending please see Jeremy Galpin or Laurence.

### Christmas card supporting LAMB Bangladesh

I will have these cards available after church most Sundays. Suggested donation is £2.50 for 5 cards. Thanks Judith Hansford



### Eco Church Christmas Card

Eco Church Community Christmas Card is on display in the lounge.

Complete a seasonal greeting to all your friends and family @ St James. Donations in lieu of sending out cards will be going to Tearfund's Middle East Emergency Appeal.



### Christmas Services 2023

Sunday 17th December  
Carols by Candlelight 6:30pm

Sunday 24th December  
Christingle Services 3:30pm and 5pm  
Midnight Communion 11:30pm

Monday 25th December  
Christmas Day Celebration



# Prayers

## Church family & community

Give thanks for all God's gifts, especially the gift of His Son. Pray for all preparations for Christmas, at St James and in our own lives. Pray particularly for the Lessons & Carols Service this Sunday, and the Alpha Course to be run in Jan/Feb. Also for the Foodbank team in Woodley. Pray for the sick, especially Mike, Sue, Eoin, Fiona & others we know.

## National

Pray for Rishi Sunak and his Govt, grappling with many complex issues. Pray for Christians in politics, national & local, seeking to be salt & light. Pray for the Covid inquiry, that useful lessons will emerge. Pray for effective outreach as churches share the Good News with non-regular attenders. Pray for the homeless & warm spaces at Christmas.

## Mission Links

Pray for the Fletcher family, with Christmas in the UK. The Rays are spending their first Christmas in Arusha, whilst the Adams now lead Neema-Craft. Pray for the Kimbilio team in Lubumbashi and Ian Harvey in UK; pray for more children to re-unite with family. Pray for LAMB Hospital & locally for JAC, and for staff & residents at Yeldall Manor.

## Wider World.

### Israel and Palestine

Gaza has seen heavy bombing after collapse of the ceasefire, with 100,000+ buildings damaged, including many health facilities; over 17,500 people killed. Pray for restraint on both sides, for a new truce and for more medical aid, food and water to enter Gaza. Pray for a long term peace solution, and that conflict will not spread.

### East African floods

After 5 seasons of drought, parts of Kenya, Somalia & Ethiopia have been hit by flooding, affecting over 3m people, damaging homes & crops. Pray for these communities - and others bearing the impact of extreme weather & climate change.

### COP 28 Climate Conference

COP28 ended on Wednesday. Give thanks for some progress - e.g the loss and damage fund, and commitment to increase use of renewable energies. But campaigners were saddened that the phrase "phase out fossil fuels" (oil, coal, gas) was dropped; temperature increase above 1.5deg looks ever more likely. Pray for implementation of the modest steps agreed & promises to be kept.

### World Peace

Pray for peace this Christmas, especially in Ukraine, Sudan, Syria, Myanmar & Yemen. Pray for Christian churches in these places, seeking peace & helping the displaced.

## Homegroups

Please see below details of some of the homegroups that meet during the week and contact details for each:

**Monday** 7:45pm at 104 Wheble Drive, contact - Alison Mullens - 07904039363.

**Tuesday** 2pm Daytime homegroup at St James, contact David Bagwell - davidgbagwell@gmail.com

**Wednesday** 9:45am Daytime homegroup at St James, contact Judith Hansford.

**Wednesday** 7:45pm various homes, contact Pete and Chris Clarke - 07742953071  
peteandchris@talktalk.net

**Wednesday** 8.15 pm on Zoom , contact - Jane Fulford - 0776 494 7495  
jane.fulford@btinternet.com

**Wednesday** 8pm weekly at 97 Reading Road. Contact Laurence or Hannah - laurence.smith@stjameswoodley.org

**Thursday** 8pm at 17 Harris Close, Woodley. Kelly Robinson and Jeremy Galpin are joint leaders and would love some new members.