



FOR GOD SO LOVED  
THE WORLD THAT  
HE GAVE HIS ONLY  
SON, THAT  
WHOEVER  
BELIEVES IN HIM  
SHOULD NOT  
PERISH, BUT HAVE  
ETERNAL LIFE

*JOHN 3:16 (NIV)*

## Sunday 24th December 2023

3:30pm Christingle Service  
5pm Christingle Service  
11:30pm Midnight Communion

### This Week

#### **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)

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

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.



# Prayers

## Church family & community

Give thanks for God's greatest gift, His Son Jesus. Pray for all our Christmas services, at St James and other Woodley churches. Pray for families living in poverty, dependent on the Foodbank and for families who have suffered bereavement over the last year. Pray for the sick, especially Mike, Sue, Eoin, Fiona & others we know.

## National

Pray for our Govt - for a good break at Christmas and wisdom in every decision in 2024. Pray for churches throughout the country - taking the opportunities of Christmas to share the Good News with non-regular attenders. Pray for the homeless & for warm spaces opened for them. Pray for international students in the UK, and for military personnel serving abroad, far from their families.

## Mission Links

Pray for the Fletcher family, spending Christmas in the UK. The Rays are spending their first Christmas in Arusha, with memories of Neema. Pray for the Kimbilio team in Lubumbashi and Ian Harvey in UK. Pray for LAMB Hospital, a Christian light in a mainly Moslem & Hindu area. Pray for JAC, and for staff & residents at Yeldall Manor.

## Wider World.

### Israel and Palestine

Jesus came as Prince of Peace, but the land He knew is gripped by war & hatred. Pray for 2.3m people of Gaza, facing severe hunger & at risk of starvation. No hospitals are fully functioning. 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.

### Persecuted Christians

Pray for believers celebrating Christmas in fear of authorities or local extremists - in N.Africa, Iran, Pakistan, N.Korea, Central Asia. Pray for their peace & protection, and for deeper joy in their hearts.

### COP 28 Climate Conference.

Give thanks for some progress - e.g the loss and damage fund; increasing use of renewable energies. But fossil fuels (oil, coal, gas) are not yet phasing out and earth will get hotter. Pray for implementation of the steps agreed, for promises to be kept & communities suffering under climate change.

### World Peace

Pray for peace this Christmas, especially in Ukraine, Sudan, Syria, Yemen & Myanmar. Pray for Churches in these places, seeking peace & helping 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.