



The one who is the true
light, who gives light to
everyone, was coming
into the world.

John 1:9 (NLT)

Sunday 3rd December 2023

10am – Holy Communion

This Week

Tuesday 5th December

2pm Daytime Homegroup
5:15pm Rainbows
6pm Brownies
7:30pm Guides

Wednesday 6th December

10am Midweek Communion
10am Daytime homegroup
1pm Toddlers
5:30pm Puppets
6pm Brownies
7:30pm Guides

Thursday 7th December

11am Hong Kong group
11am –1:30pm Café
4:30pm Rainbows
5:45pm Brownies
7:15pm Guides
8pm Christmas choir rehearsal

Friday 8th December

8pm Music Practice

Sunday 10th December

10am Morning Worship
4pm Messy Church

Pre-School

Pre-School is open from 8:45am to
3:45pm Mondays, Tuesdays,

St James' Church Centre

Kingfisher Drive, Woodley,
RG5 3LH
Tel: 0118 966 2568
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Vicar Rev Laurence Smith

(day off Friday)
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Office opening hours:

Mon - Fri 9:30—1:00pm

Administrator - Becki Whitlock

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0118 966 2568

Children and families worker -

Linda Galpin (day off
Monday)



Notices

Warwick Fry's Funeral

Most of you know that sadly Warwick passed away last Friday. His funeral will take place at St John's on Tuesday 5th December at 2pm. The service will be followed by a committal at Reading Crematorium for close friends and family. Everyone is welcome to join the Family afterwards at Rams Rugby Club, Old Bath Road, Sonning, Berkshire, RG4 6TQ.

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. Further details will follow and please start to pray

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



REInspired

Please pray for the final 2 lessons of the term:

Tuesday 5th Dec: Yr 6 Highwood Primary- 2 classes exploring the story of Christmas

Thurs 7th Dec: Yr 1 Rivermead Primary - 2 classes are visiting St Johns church and thinking about the christmas story and how churches celebrate.

As the school term comes to an end, pray for staff and pupils at this busy time. Give thanks for all the lessons REIW has been able to deliver this term. For the positive comments from staff and pupils when we have been in school. Pray for rest and refreshment over the Christmas holidays for all staff and pupils and the REIW volunteer team. They will name him Immanuel, which means "God is with us." Matthew 1:23

Notices

Parenting for faith course

We did it - 8 weeks journeying together thinking about how we as parents can help our children engage with faith. We had 4 families represented with children from under 2 all the way to young adults!! It was a real privilege to do this course together, to be able to pray for each other each week and share our journey together.

One of the parents said this:

The course was great and really made me think, loads of things to try. I particularly loved the way of praying and engaging with God where you are just encouraged to tell God certain things. I've never seen/heard that before. Thank you for all your prayers during the 8 weeks. If you would like to know details about Parenting for faith please let me know.

Church grounds Tidy-Up Sat 9th Dec.

The Eco-Church group would like to invite anyone from St James who has a free hour or so on Sat.9th to help tidy-up around the church's land area - particularly leaf clearing, ivy cutting, wild meadow maintenance, litter collecting, etc.

All welcome from 10.15 onwards - bring your own garden gloves and warm hat!

COP28 Climate Conference, 30 Nov - 12 Dec. '23

On December 9th, marches are being held in the 4 capitals of the UK, calling for decisive action and just outcomes from the UN COP28 Climate Conference in Dubai. Tearfund, along with Christian Aid and CAFOD, have produced a prayer resource for walkers - but it can equally well be used in our own prayers for the Conference. It can be downloaded from: <https://www.tearfund.org/-/media/tearfund/files/campaigns/time-to-deliver/cop28-prayer-walk---praying-with-our-feet-our-words-and-our-hands.pdf>

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



Notices

Café Christmas Lunch

Will take place on Thursday 14th December from 11:30am until 1:30pm. Please let Sue Karsten know if you plan on coming. Please see below flyer for more details.

St James Cafe Christmas Lunch

Thursday 14th December
11:30am-1:30pm



Roast turkey and trimmings
Vegetarian alternative
Choice of desserts
Tea, coffee, soft drinks
£7 per head

email - karsten222@btinternet.com

Prayers

Church family & community

Give thanks for all that God has given us, especially the gift of His Son. Pray for preparations underway for Christmas, in our church and the others in Woodley. Pray for the RE Inspired Team, as they present Jesus in schools. Also for the Foodbank team, assisting poorer families in Woodley. Pray for the sick, especially Mike, Sue, Eoin, Fiona & others we know.

National

Pray for Rishi Sunak and his Govt after the re-shuffle - for wisdom in tackling inflation, immigration & hospital waiting lists. Pray for Christians in politics - in national and local Govt - as they promote Christian values & standards. Pray for the outworking of recent decisions by the C of E General Synod and for unity in the Church.

Mission Links

Pray for the Fletcher family, spending the year in UK, but returning to Thailand in July 2024. The Rays are adjusting to life in Arusha, with the young NGO SAFi, whilst the Adams have taken over leadership at Neema. Pray for the team at Kimbilio DRC, and for Ian Harvey in UK; pray for funds for the new Day Care Centre. Pray for LAMB Hospital, celebrating 40 years & locally for JAC and staff & residents at Yeldall Manor.

Wider World

Israel and Palestine. Praise God for the recent 6 day pause in hostilities in Gaza and the release of both hostages and Palestinian prisoners. Pray for restraint on both sides in new fighting, for a new truce and more releases. Pray that more medical aid, food and water will enter Gaza. Pray for a long term peace solution, and that conflict will not escalate.

Nepal Earthquake. A powerful earthquake hit remote western areas last month, killing 160 people and damaging 62,000 homes. Nearly 900 schools were hit and 150,000 people still require relief goods, especially for water and sanitation. Pray for them.

COP 28 Climate Conference. Pray for delegates & climate activists in Dubai, 30 Nov-12 Dec. for bold targets to reduce fossil fuel use and real outcomes, not empty promises for a fair & just "loss & damage fund" to help countries most hit by climate change that the voice of suffering communities will be heard above the oil companies for families who have lost farmland, animals, livelihoods & fresh-water because of extreme weather and have run out of adapting options for the polluters - for change of heart and practice, putting planet before profit for renewed commitment to 1.5-2.0deg temperature target & actions to match

World Peace.

Pray for peace in other conflict areas, especially in Ukraine, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Pray for Christian churches in these places.

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.