

A background of soft pink roses and buds scattered across a light pink surface. The roses are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as tight buds. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the delicate petals and green sepals.

She is clothed with  
strength and dignity  
and laughs without  
fear of the future

Proverbs 31:25

Happy Mothering Sunday

## Sunday 10th March 2024

### Mothering Sunday

### 4pm Messy Church

### This Week

#### Monday 11th March

6:45pm Alpha Course

#### Tuesday 12th March

1:45pm Daytime Homegroup

5:15pm Rainbows

6pm Brownies

7:30pm Guides

#### Wednesday 13th March

10am Midweek Communion

10am Daytime homegroup

1pm Toddlers

5:30pm Puppets

6pm Brownies

7:30pm Guides

#### Thursday 14th March

11am Hong Kong group

11am –1:30pm Café

4:30pm Rainbows

5:45pm Brownies

7:15pm Guides

#### Friday 15th March

8pm Music Practice

#### Sunday 17th March

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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#### 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

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

(day off Monday)

Find us on Facebook and X



## Notices

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

Will be going on a country walk on Tuesday 12th March followed by lunch out. Please meet at church at 9.30am.

### **Men's walking group**

Will be going on a country walk on Tuesday 12th March followed by a pub lunch. Please meet in the church car park at 9:30am.

### **Easter Eggs and Coffee!**

Our "Easter Eggs and Coffee" event is a fun way to get to know one another while you enjoy a cup of coffee and, of course, a tasty Easter Egg! This is how it works: This Sunday morning (March 10th), or next Sunday, (March 17th) bring a SMALL chocolate Easter Egg to church, attach an invitation to coffee, with your name and contact information, and pop it in the box in the Lounge. There will be one box for eggs from Men and one for eggs from Women. On Palm Sunday (March 24th), or Easter Sunday (March 31st), you get to take an egg from the box and then contact the host to arrange your coffee meet up. At the same time someone will have taken the egg you gave and will be in touch with you to accept your invite to coffee. If you are the host, then you pay for the coffee and if you are the guest, you get treated! Meet ups for Coffee should be in public places such as Coffee shops or Garden Centres.

### **The Big Plastic Count**

The Eco Church Team would like to encourage each household at St James Church to take part in "The Big Plastic Count" <https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

This is a nationwide investigation to understand how much plastic packaging we throw away in a week. Join us between 11th and 17th March 2024 to count a week's worth of plastic. Why? To impact "The Global Plastics Treaty" To protect our beautiful planet from plastic pollution - most plastics are made from fossil fuels that emit greenhouse gasses - linked to climate change. Less plastic = Less emission = Better for the environment.

Join with the Eco Church Team to take a step towards tackling climate change.

Each household can register online at: <https://thebigplasticcount.com/how-it-works>

Or the Eco Church Team will be handing out forms on Sunday 3rd and 11th March for you to record your plastic waste. Once your form is complete bring it back to Church and the Eco Team will enter your results for you. The Eco Church Team will publish the results (when available) later in the Spring.

### **Spring Work Day**

Saturday 16th March from 10 am. All manner of jobs inside and outside St James' to keep it sparkling. Sign up to come and help or just turn up on the day with a pair of gloves and a willing heart. Drinks and biscuits throughout the day to keep the energy levels up!

## Notices (cont)

### Eco Prayer for this week

Dear Lord, thank you for our beautiful world. Please forgive us. We are sorry Lord for not taking better care of it. Give us a stronger voice and the strength to carry on the fight for nature and the environment.

### Prayer for Woodley

The opportunity in March to pray together for Woodley will be on Saturday 16th March from 9 to 10am at the home of David and Jane Fulford, 15 Brandon Ave., RG5 4PU. If you know people who worship outside our town but live in it, do invite them to join in.

### Big Parenting Questions

As children move from childhood into adolescence, their questions can become trickier and more overwhelming. Care for the family's brand new event, Big Parenting Questions is packed with practical advice, hope and help for parents and carers.



**Care for the Family**

# BIG PARENTING QUESTIONS

Navigating the leap from childhood to adolescence

**Woking**  
30 April

**Gravesend**  
1 May

**Lisburn**  
2 May

**High Wycombe**  
18 June

**Watford**  
19 June

**Aylesbury**  
20 June

Book now  
[cff.org.uk/bigparenting](http://cff.org.uk/bigparenting)

# Prayers

## Church family & community

Give thanks for our freedom to worship and witness for Christ. Pray for Sunday services here and around Woodley, and especially for Messy Church. Pray for participants on the Alpha course, now Week 6. Praise God for gaining Silver Standard on our Eco-Church journey. Pray for the sick - for Sue, Eoin, Fiona, Joyce, Adrian & others we know. Pray for God's strength & encouragement for Marion and her family.

## National

Pray for our country, and its leaders, especially in debating the new Budget. Give thanks for Christians in politics; pray they may be salt and light in the corridors of power. Thank God for our schools & teachers; pray for those who learn & those who teach. Pray for more action to reduce carbon emissions - by Govt and by ourselves in lifestyle choices.

## Mission Links

Pray for the Fletcher family, currently UK, preparing to return to Thailand in July; for the Ray family, leading SAFI's work in Arusha, Tanzania. Pray for Kimbilio's team in Lubumbashi - for safety & resources to cope with increasing demands. Pray for LAMB Hospital (Bangladesh) & locally for JAC and for the staff & residents at Yeldall Manor.

## Wider World.

### Sudan & South Sudan

The 2 neighbours are fast becoming the world's largest hunger crisis, as fighting in the north continues, making areas inaccessible to aid. Over half million have fled into S.Sudan to escape the war. In over-crowded camps, 300 often share a single tap. Pray for increased aid, relief agencies and for peace in Sudan.

### Haiti

The nation is seeing a breakdown of law and order, gang-violence and increasing loss of life, especially in Port-au-Prince. In January alone, 806 people were killed, injured or taken hostage. Pray for the Church in Haiti & and its role as peacemaker.

### Middle East

Pray for an end to the terrible suffering in Gaza. A quarter of the population are "One step from famine" and risk their lives queuing for food. Pray for hostage release, for a cease-fire and for increased delivery of aid, by air, sea and land - and for the safety of those who carry it. Pray especially for Palestinian Christians.

### World Peace

UN chief Antonio Guterres warned last week that "conflicts are taking a terrible toll as parties to war trample on human rights and humanitarian law". The war in Ukraine enters its third year; other conflicts continue in DRC, Yemen, Mali, Myanmar. Pray for de-escalation and that God will change the hearts of leaders bent on war.

## 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** 1:45pm 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.

**Sunday** 12:30pm Cantonese group meeting fortnightly.  
Contact Eric or Phylis - 07394 139548