

A close-up photograph of pink cherry blossoms in full bloom, set against a clear, bright blue sky. The flowers are the central focus, with some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background, creating a sense of depth. The petals are a soft pink, and the stamens are a darker shade of pink. The overall mood is peaceful and vibrant.

**Therefore, since we
have been justified
through faith, we have
peace with God through
our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Romans 5:1 (NIV)

Sunday 17th March 2024

10am Morning Worship

This Week

Monday 18th March

6:45pm Alpha Course

Tuesday 19th March

1:45pm Daytime Homegroup

5:15pm Rainbows

6pm Brownies

7:30pm Guides

Wednesday 20th March

10am Midweek Communion

10am Daytime homegroup

1pm Toddlers

5:30pm Puppets

6pm Brownies

7:30pm Guides

Thursday 21st March

11am Hong Kong group

11am –1:30pm Café

4:30pm Rainbows

5:45pm Brownies

7:15pm Guides

Friday 22nd March

8pm Music Practice

Sunday 24th March

10am Oasis - Palm Sunday

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

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Find us on Facebook and X



Notices

Easter Eggs and Coffee!

Pop your Easter Egg and invitation to coffee into the box in the lounge this Sunday and then look forward to next week, when you can take one out and discover who will be hosting you and of course who has received your invite. Have fun

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!

Eco Prayer for this week

Heavenly Father, we pray for Christians everywhere that they will know that Jesus's death and resurrection is for the whole of creation. We love your world and know we need to do much more to care and protect it to pass down for future generations.

Help us to appreciate what we have and how we can all look after it.

Notices (cont)

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

Prayers

Church family & community

Give thanks for our church family at St James and all who serve in leadership. Pray for Laurence & Hannah, our Wardens and PCC - and for volunteers to fill gaps as our AGM approaches. Pray for participants on the Alpha course, now Week 7, and arrangements for the Awayday on 23rd. Pray for the sick - for Sue, Eoin, Fiona, Joyce, Adrian, Diane & others we know. Pray for God's comfort & strength for Marion and her family.

National

Pray for our country and its leaders, especially decisions on budget, racism & extremist threats. Give thanks for Christians in politics; pray they may have influence in the corridors of power. Thank God for our emergency services; pray for them, saving others, often at personal risk. Pray for more action to protect our environment - especially that the "Big Plastic Count" will help us reduce their use.

Mission Links

Pray for the Fletcher family, currently in 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.

Mozambique

Situated on the SE African coast, the country is being pounded by Storm Filipo, exactly 1 year after Cyclone Freddy. Many communities have not recovered from Freddy's damage; unusually long dry spells (from El Nino) have also reduced crop yields and many go hungry. Pray for people affected & in neighbouring Malawi also.

Haiti

The nation is seeing a breakdown of law and order, with gang-violence and increasing loss of life. In Jan alone, 806 people were killed, injured or taken hostage. Pray for the Govt of Haiti and for the Church, working for peace & helping the traumatised.

Middle East

Pray for an end to the terrible suffering in Gaza. A quarter of the population face starvation. Pray for the success of aid delivery via a make-shift sea port, for hostage release and a cease-fire. Only 12 of Gaza's 36 hospitals are still functioning to some degree; only 2 offer ante-natal care. Pray especially for Palestinian Christians.

World Peace

The war in Ukraine has entered its third year & conflicts continue in Sudan, DRC, Yemen, Mali & Myanmar. Tensions are high in the Red Sea and S. China Sea. Pray for de-escalation and that God will change the hearts of leaders who stir up 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