



# Sunday 31st March 2024

## 10am Easter Sunday Celebration

## This Week

Friday 5th April
8pm Music Practice

**Sunday 7th April** 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

All other usual weekly activities will resume after the Easter Holidays

St James' Church Centre

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Vicar Rev Laurence Smith (day off Friday) laurence.smith@stjameswoodley.org 07421 233951

Office opening hours:

Mon - Fri 9:30—1:00pm

Administrator - Becki Whitlock office@stjameswoodley.org 0118 966 2568

Children and
Families worker -Linda Galpin
linda.galpin@stjameswoodley.org
(day off Monday)

Find us on Facebook and X



#### **Notices**

#### Notice.

Yeldall Sponsored Walk. Two residents, Dave and John, will be starting a sponsored walk next Tuesday, walking from Hurst Castle on the S,Coast back to Yeldall, raising funds for the Good Samaritan Fund. This fund sponsors recovering addicts through rehab if they have no other source of finance.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/yeldallwalk/

## **Update on sales of 'Five to Nine' and 'Living the Celtic Way'**

Thank you to all those who have bought copies of these books and given me their feedback. The profits of £162.50 (including Gift Aid) have been sent to WaterAid. Some copies of both books are still available. If you are interested in purchasing either at £4.99 each or both at £8.99, please now contact me direct on davidgbagwell@gmail.com. A proof copy of FtN remains in the church foyer, and I will have copies of both with me on the week after Easter when I will be preaching on the set text for that day which, as some of you will know, has a direct link to the conclusion of 'Five to Nine'! - David Bagwell

### **Update on REInspired-Woodley:**

We have had a busy term with 12 lessons delivered to Woodley Schools this term. We have shared the Easter story with pupils in Highwood, Southlake, Woodley CofE and Rivermead schools, covering several challenging questions eg: What difference does resurrection make for Christians? How significant is it for Christians to believe God intended Jesus to die? and Is forgiveness always possible?

All very challenging questions with lots of interesting questions and comments from pupils. When talking with a group of pupils about the events of Holy Week and whether Jesus knew he was going to die, one pupil remarked 'would Jesus have felt peaceful facing his death knowing this was God's plan for him?'.

It is always a privilege to share the Easter story with so many children - for many this has been the first time to hear it. Please do pray for all our pupils as they enjoy time with family, holidays... when they open their Easter eggs they will be reminded of the tomb, Jesus' body was not there - He is risen!!!

## **Eco Prayer for this week**

Dear Lord, at Easter time, we thank you for the wonders of your .For the trees, flowers, parks, woods and gardens, rivers, lakes and ponds, mountains and valleys, the amazing and diverse wildlife, yet through our ignorance and greed we we cut down and destroy nature, we flood the world and it's oceans with plastic, we burn fossil fuels and seem to do little to redress the balance. We pray for your forgiveness, and pray it's not too late to save our beautiful natural world.

## **Prayers**

#### **Church family & community**

Give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy to worship and witness for Christ. Pray for our Good Friday & Easter services, and ourselves as we near the end of Holy Week. Pray for the right people to fill vacancies on PCC and for a new Church Warden. Praise God for completion of the Alpha course with last week's Awayday. Pray for the sick - for Sue, Eoin, Fiona, Joyce, Adrian, Diane & others and for God's comfort & strength for Marion and her family.

#### **National**

Pray for our Govt, for wise and just handling of inflation, migration, racism and the threat of Climate Change. Give thanks for Christians in politics; pray for their influence on Govt policies. Pray for King Charles and the Princess of Wales, both under-going cancer treatment. Pray for more action to protect environment - especially for cuts in plastic & fossil fuel use.

#### **Mission Links**

Pray for the Fletcher family, preparing to return to Thailand in July, and 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 2 Yeldall Manor residents undertaking a 4 day sponsored walk next week.

#### Wider World.

Mongolia

Rarely in the news, Mongolia is suffering its worst winter in 50yrs with heavy snow-falls, following a summer drought. Herders have lost approx. 5.2m livestock. Pray for these remote communities - one third are nomadic herders - bearing an impact of climate change.

#### Myanmar.

The military junta has recently stepped up attacks on civilians, particularly against the Rohingyas. Compulsory army service has been introduced, causing many young people to go into hiding or flee the country. Pray for a return to democracy & for the Church in Myanmar

#### **Middle East**

Pray for an end to the terrible suffering in Gaza. A quarter of the population face starvation. Give thanks for a first deliveries of food via a make-shift sea port; pray for more aid to follow, for hostage release and a cease-fire. Only 12 of Gaza's 36 hospitals are still partly functioning; only 2 offer ante-natal care. Pray especially for Palestinian Christians.

#### **World Peace**

Conflicts continue in Ukraine, Sudan & elsewhere. Tensions are high in the Red Sea & S. China Sea. Pray that God will change the hearts of Putin & other leaders bent on war. and for those suffering its consequences. Pray this Easter for Christians persecuted, often imprisoned for their faith.

## **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