

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 deeper shade of pink. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

**But when I am
afraid, I will put
my trust in you.**

Psalms 56:3 (NLT)

Sunday 3rd March 2024

10am Holy Communion

This Week

Monday 4th March

6:45pm Alpha Course

Tuesday 5th March

1:45pm Daytime Homegroup

5:15pm Rainbows

6pm Brownies

7:30pm Guides

Wednesday 6th March

10am Midweek Communion

10am Daytime homegroup

1pm Toddlers

5:30pm Puppets

6pm Brownies

7:30pm Guides

Thursday 7th March

11am Hong Kong group

11am –1:30pm Café

4:30pm Rainbows

5:45pm Brownies

7:15pm Guides

Friday 8th March

8pm Music Practice

Sunday 10th 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

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Find us on Facebook and X



Notices

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:

Next Sunday morning (March 10th), or the following 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, as we look to the future of our natural world, we pray for the Nature 2030 Campaign, hoping that nature is at the heart of government policies, and is not just words but action. As stewards of your precious creation Lord, may we treat our natural world as essential to our lives, to protect and preserve it so that it may recover. Amen

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 and the freedoms we enjoy in UK. Pray for Sunday's service and for participants on the Alpha course, now Week 5. Join with Christians world-wide in praying on Friday's World Day of Prayer. 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 for wisdom for its leaders. Give thanks for Christians in politics; pray they may be salt and light, influencing Govt policy. Thank God for our police and justice system; pray for those who maintain public safety. Pray for faster and more determined action on Climate Change 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.

South Sudan

Around 7 m people face extreme hunger as the rainy season approaches & food stocks run low; over half a million have entered S.Sudan to escape the civil war in its northern neighbour. In over-crowded camps, 300 often share a single tap. Pray for increased aid, agencies responding and for peace in Sudan.

Middle East

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

World Peace.

UN chief Antonio Guterres warned this 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 and conflicts rage in Gaza, DRC, Sudan, Yemen, Mali and Myanmar. Pray for peace in our troubled world & for those who work towards it.

Water & Sanitation

Around the world, 3.5 billion people still do not have access to a safe, clean toilet. Partly as a result, 16 countries are fighting cholera outbreaks and world vaccine stocks are running out. Pray for agencies like TearFund and Christian Aid, working with partners to provide this basic need.

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