

Notices August 2024



St James Church Fordhouses



The power of a unified church

The distinctive feature of a unified church, exemplified by the early church's remarkable growth, recorded in Acts 4.32, is a powerful inspiration. Unity is so essential in the body of Christ. The largest church without unity is a dying church, while the smallest church with Godly unity is a powerhouse.

The early Christians demonstrated a deep understanding of the church's collective strength. They prioritised the good of the whole over individual interests, recognising that a church is a collective body. Corinthians 12.12-13 remind us that we are various parts of one body, underlining our mutual dependence.

When everyone embraces a common goal, individual goals are transformed into group goals. Acts 4.32-35 illustrate how personal land and goals changed to accommodate the body's requirements. The early Christians chose to work together despite their varied historical backgrounds. Their unity may have strengthened the apostles' witness.

Our incredible gift to the world is unity. We must connect with Jesus' unique heartbeat if we genuinely want to walk in the early church's footsteps. Putting the body before the individual, coordinating our objectives with the group's, and emphasising unity over differences in the background can result in a powerful testimony that draws many people to Jesus' teachings.

Jesus Prays for All Believers

In the passage below Jesus prays for us and specifically for us to be 'one', the only way we can achieve unity.

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them

the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me— so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵ "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." (NIV John 17)

August News

We have had some sad news via Charlie and Doreen Gandy, our friend and former member of this church, Alan Humphry passed away earlier this year. His funeral was on the 7th June, so please remember his family at this sad time for them.



As already announced, on Saturday 7th September, we are holding a **social/outreach event** to which we can invite family, friends and the local community. A small team are preparing the details for this (available soon) so, please do three things: 1. Think and pray about who you should invite from your family or friends or others you know, 2. Be ready to help with the event when asked, 3. Pray for the event, its content and those who will be there.



Carol would like people to visit her or be in touch. So if you would like to do this (her new home is in Verona Court, close to Holy Trinity, Heath Town), she would love to hear from you. If you would like to contact her, please speak to Jane Gardner or Jacquie Mullett who have her details.



Celebrations - Birthdays - 4th Doreen Cripps, 5th Manny, 17th Catherine Tromans, 18th Jacquie Mullett, 24th Alan Redmond, 30th Georgia, Samantha and Francis.



Our **church website** has been updated and its address has changed, so please take a look, see the address in the Contacts box below. It is still a work in progress and some items need to be updated and added but it is much improved from before.



We are still looking for financial donations towards the cost of maintaining our **church grass**, please give your donation to Jacquie in a marked envelope. Thank you!

Notice Board

- ♥ As always our **Sunday Services** are in church at 9:45am.
- ♥ **Thursday Prayer time** - There will be **no** prayer meeting in church during August.
- ♥ Please note that following a review our healing services will now be held on alternate months, next Healing service is on Sunday 22nd September at St James, 5 - 6 pm.
- ♥ **Sunday School** - Younger Sunday School in the Lounge every Sunday (except the first Sunday of the month, when parents can use the lounge with their children, some resources will be provided to use). Older Sunday School (8-12 years old) on the first Sunday of each month.
- ♥ **Postage Stamps** - Don't forget to pop your used postage stamps in the box in the foyer for the RNIB.
- ♥ **Foodbank:** As usual, please leave your gifts of food and other items in the basket in the entrance foyer at Church or give any financial donations to either Nick or Jessica. Thank you again for your continuing support.
- ♥ The Parish Youth Group (for 11-14 year olds) meets every Friday at St Mary's Hall, except for the last Friday of the month when it is at St James for sports.
- ♥ **BBQ and Alpha Invite** Saturday 7th Sept 5.30 - 7.30pm - St Mary's Church.
- ♥ Deanery gathering with food. Sunday 8th Sept 6pm at St Alban's.

Diary Dates

- ♥ Please note that there will be **NO CAMEO or 3 C's** meetings in August!
- ♥ Advance notice **CAMEO:** 2-4pm on 16th September.
- ♥ Advance notice **3 C's for September:** 2-4pm on 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th September.
- ♥ City Wide Prayer - 19th Sept Life City Church. Westbury Street WV1 1JD.
- ♥ The Men's Breakfast - is on 21st September.



Please Pray

A call to pray - please be praying for the church at this time, please pray that love, wisdom and truth will be evident in all of the major decisions which have to be made, particularly concerning recent decisions made at our General Synod. If we all pray, then we know that God's way will be found though all of this confusion and lack of unity.



If you would like specific prayer for someone, please add them to our prayer board in the entrance. These are some we should be praying for: Rosie & Barry Egerton, Darren Worley, Doreen Cripps, Carol Griffiths, Alan Redmond, Joe (Donna's dad), Elizabeth Westwood (Maureen Horton's daughter), Pam (David Newman's mother-in-law), Kulwinder (Pam's sister). Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Rotas



Special notes:

- Please look out for the new Rota issue 19 - coming soon!
- * As we can leave the chairs in place during August, note that those on chairs duty will only need to check and straighten, etc.
- Any changes from the current Rota (18a) are highlighted in **blue**

Sunday 4th August (TO)

Cleaning (Saturday): Ann-Charlotte Holman

Chairs: Ann-Charlotte Holman *

Duty: Ian Newman

Prayers: Jacquie Mullett

Computer: Richard Mullett (Jacquie Mullett)

Readers: Jacquie Mullett - John 6:24-35

Ann-Charlotte Holman - 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13

Drinks: Ann-Charlotte Holman

Sunday 11th August (TO/BD) - HC

Cleaning (Saturday): Jane Gardner

Chairs: Nick Gardner *

Duty: Jane Gardner

Prayers: Jane Gardner

Computer: Jessica Bate

Communion Cup - Nick Gardner

Readers: Jane Gardner - John 6:35 & 41-51

Cath Newman - 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15 & 31-33

Drinks: Catherine Newman

Flowers: Sheila Turner

Sunday 18th August (TO/LH)

Cleaning (Saturday): Jessica Bate

Chairs: James Hesp *

Duty: Nick Gardner

Prayers: Catherine Tromans

Computer: Chris Astley (Jessica Bate)

Readers: Nick Gardner - John 6:51-58

Catherine Tromans - 1 Kings 2:10-12 & 3:3-14

Drinks: Jean Cook

Sunday 25th August (TO) - HC

Cleaning (Saturday): Pukka Braitch

Chairs: Pukka Braitch *

Duty: Ian Newman

Prayers: Pukka Braitch

Computer: Jane Gardner

Communion Cup - Mary Widdal

Readers: Mary Widdal - John 6:56-69

Matilda Wilson - 1 Kings 8:22-30 & 41-43

Drinks: Ian & Cath Newman

Flowers: Catherine Tromans

Sunday 1st September (IP)

Cleaning (Saturday): Sue Tilley

Chairs: Chris Astley *

Duty: Jessica Bate

Prayers: Jessica Bate

Computer: Jacquie Mullett

Readers: Jessica Bate - TBA

Sheila Turner - TBA

Drinks: Jane Jones

Contact details:

Parish Office - 01902 782226

Leadership – Please contact by phone, text, WhatsApp or email: **Jacquie Mullett** 07530 798424

- jacquiemullett@msn.com - **Nick Gardner** 07488 389033 - 01902 784713 - n_gardner2@sky.com

For Notices and Rotas – Please contact by phone, text, WhatsApp or email: **Nick Gardner**

(details above) or **Val Redmond** 07528 586067 - alanredmond@hotmail.com

A Church Near You link <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4198/>

Website link <https://bushburyteamministry.co.uk/st-james-church-fordhouses>

Facebook page is - St. James Church Fordhouses