

St James Church Fordhouses

Notices November 2024



Fruitfulness

As we drift from the mellow mists of autumn into the cold darkness of winter we should marvel at the provision of the autumn harvest of fruit and crops ordained by our Maker to sustain us through the long winter nights. This gift of harvest is first to be found from the soil of our land long before it finds its way packaged and sold with a price tag by a local supermarket. Also, we recognise that this harvest is a gift to us from above, not first to be paid at the till at the supermarket.

Our Father in heaven looks upon our world and looks for fruitfulness since He has ordained it so. But not just in the gift and provision of food, but also He looks for it in our lives.

How as Church goes and more importantly as would be Christians can we be fruitful? Is it by following a new code of conduct and adopting a new way of thinking or developing new manners? If this were true, then we would be producing fruit by our own strength and however good it might look on the outside it would be rotten within.

No, to belong to Christ and to be a fruitful Christ follower requires of us two things:

First, we must abandon any attempt to produce fruit ourselves, but rather we need to simply receive the priceless gift of salvation as we welcome Jesus to dwell in our lives. When we do so it is His divine life that is available to us to produce abundant fruit such as love, joy, peace etc.

Second, having received this gift of His presence and life so we need to guard it by how we live. Not according to our old pattern of life, but rather through obedience to His word (the Bible) and the prompting of the Spirit and by prayer that might on occasions include fasting!

November News and Notices



It's the time of year again when Samaritan's Purse launch their **Operation Christmas Child** where we fill shoe boxes with gifts for underprivileged children around the world. This year St James is a "drop off" point for the local community.

There are various ways that you can support this appeal including physically filling a shoebox with toys and gifts for a child in need, filling a virtual shoebox online, and praying for the children who will be the recipients. There is a display with information and leaflets in the church foyer, please take an extra few to share locally, shoeboxes are also available for a donation of 50p.

The national collection week is 11th-18th November, so all shoeboxes will need to be received by 18th November, although virtual shoeboxes can be donated online until 24th December.



St Mary's are holding a **Christmas Tree Festival** in church 10am-4pm on Saturday 30th November and 12noon-4pm on Saturday 1st December.

There is a **Parish Christmas Meal** at 6pm on Saturday 7th December - please ask Taiwo for details.



ALPHA. Please don't forget that this is every Tuesday, from 7 to 9 p.m. with food at St Mary's Hall. It's not too late to join or to invite your friends, so if you would like to go or have someone you would like to invite or need more information, please speak to Taiwo. Please keep this event in your prayers, that those who are there hear the Good News on offer.

- ♥ As always unless notified otherwise, our **Sunday Services** are in church at 9:45am.
- ♥ 10th November will be our service for **Remembrance Sunday** with activities for children.
- ♥ We will be holding our **Memorial Service** to remember our loved ones who are no longer with us on Sunday **24th November**.
- ♥ The next **Healing service** is on Sunday 10th November at St James, 5-6 pm.
- ♥ **3 C's** meetings in November are on Mondays, the 4th, 11th and 25th, 2-4pm.
- ♥ **CAMEO:** 2-4pm on Monday 18th November 'Movie Afternoon'.
- ♥ **City Wide Prayer** - Thursday 21st November.
- ♥ **Men's Breakfast** - 10am Saturday 16th November.
- ♥ **Tear Fund Quiz** - Saturday 16th November, 7:30pm at St Mary's church hall.
- ♥ **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.
- ♥ 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.
- ♥ A couple of advance notices about our **Christmas services**:
 - 🎄 Our **Christingle Service** will be on 15th December at 4pm (no morning service that day).
 - 🎄 On Sunday 22nd December at 4pm, instead of our morning service, we are all going to a **Joint Carol Service** at the Church of the Good Shepherd - Lifts will be available from St James - with mince pies and refreshments after.
 - 🎄 On Christmas Day we have a **Celebration Service** at 10am - at this service children and adults can celebrate Jesus' birthday together.

Contact details:

Rev. Taiwo Olumuyiwa & Parish Office - 01902 782226

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