

St James Church Fordhouses Monthly Calendar for July 2026



Rector: Rev Dr Ian Poole

Parish Office: 01902 782226

I WILL OFFER UP MY LIFE

How can we make the most of our lives and find the greatest fulfilment? Different generations find different answers to these questions. Generation X, those born in the 1960s and 70s, often lived life to the fullest in terms of prioritising whatever brings pleasure. In contrast, Generation Z, those born in the late 1990s and early 2000s, are more interested in what is right and are often more altruistic. They are a welcome throwback to generations before Generation Z arrived.

But both these generational approaches have their problems. The one finds that short term self centredness brings no lasting joy and the other finds that focusing on 'doing the right thing' can at times be overwhelming. So, can we really enjoy life and at the same time make a valuable fulfilling contribution here on earth?

The answer is simple.... And is found in this wonderful verse, Romans 12: 1. **'Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God- this is your true and proper worship.'** Sounds a little painful, doesn't it? If not fanatical? The singer-songwriter Matt Redman in his song 'I will offer up my life' says that this must be in 'spirit and truth.' He then pens these words **'Pouring out the oil of love as my worship to You. In surrender I must give my every part. Lord, receive the sacrifice of a broken heart.'**

So, the answer to the mystery is?! It is this; that we come to realise the massive love of God for humanity demonstrated in the death of His Son for our brokenness and once we realise this, responding with our love as we live to worship and serve our Maker. With some irony this approach to life, once found, brings huge pleasure and fulfilment. We will also value life's gifts along the way and make a valuable contribution to humanity!

Diary Dates **For this month**

Thursday 2nd July

9.30am Thursday Prayer time in the Prayer Chapel
11:00am Coffee Morning at St James Church

Friday 3rd July

7.15pm Parish Youth Group (11-14 year olds) in the Parish Hall, Bushbury

Saturday 4th July

10:00am Ladies' Breakfast at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Free of charge, although donations welcome. For details or to book a place please leave your name with the parish office 01902 782226

Saturday 4th July

Everyone is warmly invited to an Afternoon Tea at St James Church 2-4pm

Activities and Games available for the children. Bring your friends!
Please RSVP St James Church, Bushbury Parish Office 01902 782226 or adbush@hotmail.co.uk



Saturday 4th July

Picnic, Games and Fun at Northwood Park 1-3pm. Bring a picnic and something to sit on and games will be provided!

Sunday 5th July: 9.45am Service of the Word

Reading 1: Matthew 11: 16-19 & 25-30

Reading 2: Romans 7: 15-25

Parents with younger children can use the lounge where resources will be provided to use

Deanery Prayer, Fellowship and Food at Church of the Epiphany 6-8pm

Thursday 9th July

9.30am Thursday Prayer time in the Prayer Chapel

11:00am Coffee Morning at St James Church

Friday 10th July

7.15pm Parish Youth Group (11-14 year olds) in the Parish Hall, Bushbury

This will be the last meeting before the break for the summer. Next meeting will be 11th September

Sunday 12th July: 9.45am Holy Communion

Reading 1: Matthew 13: 1-9 & 18-23

Reading 2: Romans 8: 1-11

9:45am Sunday School for younger children in the lounge

Monday 13th July

St Mary's Oasis Ladies Group 1-30-3pm at the Church Hall. Free of charge although a small donation would be gratefully received

Thursday 16th July

9.30am Thursday Prayer time in the Prayer Chapel

11:00am Coffee Morning at St James Church

City Wide Prayer at St Mary's 7-8pm

Advance notice

Following our two special Saturday Church meetings to pray together and share about the future of St James, the DCC and Rev. Ian Poole have agreed a date for the start of a few more of these meetings. The first will be on **Saturday 8th August** between 10am and 12noon at church, for a time of prayer, fellowship and teaching

Saturday 18th July

10.00am Men's Breakfast at the Parish Hall, Bushbury. The Book of Revelation!

Sunday 19th July: 9.45am Service of the Word

Reading 1: Matthew 13: 24-30 & 36-43

Reading 2: Romans 8: 12-25

9:45am Sunday School for younger children in the lounge

Thursday 23rd July

9.30am Thursday Prayer time in the Prayer Chapel

11:00am Coffee Morning at St James Church

Parish Wide Day of Prayer and Fasting including time of prayer at St James Church 6-7pm

The next of these days will be at the Church of the Good Shepherd on Wednesday 21st October from 6-7pm

Sunday 26th July 9.45am: Holy Communion

Reading 1: Matthew 13: 31-33 & 44-52

Reading 2: Romans 8: 26-39

9:45am Sunday School for younger children in the lounge

Thursday 30th July

9.30am Thursday Prayer time in the Prayer Chapel

11:00am Coffee Morning at St James Church



We are delighted to welcome Rev Joanne Redding and her family who will be serving as Curate in Bushbury Parish. Her husband is Lee and they have three children William, Holly and Connie



If you would like specific prayers for someone either add them to our prayer board in the entrance, speak directly to Ian Newman or Nick Gardner our Wardens, or join us at the Thursday morning Prayer Time at 9:30am.

Please keep in your prayers all those named on our Prayer Boards and their families

For contact about Notices n_gardner2@sky.com phone, text, WhatsApp Nick Gardner 07488 389033 – 01902 784713 or Val on 07528 586067 - email: alanredmond@hotmail.com