



**ST JAMES THE GREAT**  
*Catholic Church in Petts Wood*

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



*St James – A shining light in Petts Wood*

## IN THIS EDITION | **April 2023**

### **Pastoral Care Pillar**

- Dementia Awareness Talk

### **Social Pillar**

- Easter Egg Hunt

### **Evangelisation Pillar**

- Foodbank

### **Communication Pillar**

- Parish Celebration

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 [www.stjamespettswood.org](http://www.stjamespettswood.org)

# Report from PPC Chair

## **Parishioner Suggestions & Feedback**

The next council meeting is on 3rd May. Parishioners who wish to convey suggestions for consideration to generally improve aspects of the Parish are requested to submit these by email to [ppc@stjamespettswood](mailto:ppc@stjamespettswood) no later than 24th April.

The council also welcomes feedback, good or critical, on any activity at any time. Do send these to [ppc@stjamespettswood](mailto:ppc@stjamespettswood) and they will be passed to the relevant organiser.



# Pastoral Care Pillar

**“Do your little bit of good where you are;  
it’s those little bits of good put together  
that overwhelm the world.”**

## **Desmond Tutu**

Our special focus this month is on autism, which we wish to mark by acknowledging **Autism Acceptance Week** which runs from 27 March - 2 April 2023.

Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) is caused by differences in the brain. Scientists believe there are multiple causes that act together to change the most common ways people develop. The condition can affect a person’s social skills, such as communication and the way they interact with other people.

It is estimated that there are around 700,000 Autistic people in the UK. The aim of Autism Acceptance Week is to help more people understand what autism is, as well as the ways it can affect life for Autistic people.

**Mass at 11am on Sunday, 2nd April will include a special focus to mark the conclusion of Autism Acceptance Week.**

Our grateful thanks to Marion Hodder’s friend, Julie, who has kindly prepared for our Parish the following insight into her experience raising her beloved autistic son.

Julie writes

*“I’d like to begin by explaining that my son came to live with us at the age of 5 as a foster child so my experiences may differ from those of a birth mother.*

*Being a child/young adult with autism is, no doubt, a challenge, but living with a child/young person with autism is a challenge for all the family too. There are the fundamental challenges of the young person’s needs. For example, my son was very late in developing spoken language and therefore, we supported his communication using Makaton\* sign language and he soon became far more proficient at this than the rest of us!*

*There were challenges around his behaviour. He could be physically aggressive towards others and particularly his brother by slapping, biting and headbutting. His brother was, and continues to be totally understanding, tolerant, loving and his best friend. The bond they share is deeper than any other relationship in their lives.*

*Sensory issues can be a major hurdle for some children with autism. Having their hair or nails cut can actually be painful, but also, we have to be mindful of the language we use around such activities. People with autism can be very literal. If we say, “we are going to cut your hair” the autistic person may relate being “cut” with being hurt! We preferred to say, “we are going to trim your nails or your hair”.*

For me, being a parent of a child with autism has been an education.

You learn how to fight harder than you ever had to do for

your other children. You learn to accept your child/young person for who they are. You learn to pick your battles with them and celebrate the victories and their successes and try to educate the wider society to do the same. You learn not to give up.

We were told, when our son was 5 years old, by a child psychologist, *“he will never amount to anything, he will never socialise or make friends, you will never be able to take him to a restaurant”.*

Well, 25 years on we have a man who loves nothing better than spending time with his family. He enjoys regular holidays to Greece where he has a huge friendship circle. He lives in a supported living house and is doing very well. As for friends, he just celebrated his 30th birthday with a party with 80 guests!

Most of all you learn to love and be loved unconditionally.

It’s been a long, tough road, but I am so proud of the man my son has become. He has overcome so much in his life and still faces challenges ahead, but he has all his family and his friends beside him.

\*<https://singinghands.co.uk/about/what-is-makaton/>

## **External Sources of Support include:**

[www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/autism/>

[www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk)

## **Memorial Book**

If you would like the name of a deceased family member put into the memorial book, please email the parish office.

## **Dementia Awareness Talk - April 12th, 7pm**

Nikki Fishman from Bromley Well is coming to speak about Dementia and how we can all help and offer support to those suffering with dementia as carers and community. Meeting will be held in the parish community centre at 7pm. All Welcome.



## Finance Pillar

*giftaid it*

**2023/2024**

During March, boxes of new Gift Aid envelopes will be available at the church door for those parishioners who contribute by envelope. If you contribute by Standing Order/Bankers Order or Contactlessly you will not require envelopes.

If you cannot find your box of envelopes please speak to Geoff Ford. Contact him at [gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org) or on 01689 872125 or via the parish office.

No matter which way you contribute, with some 250 active gift aiders you will understand that accurate record keeping is not only essential but can also be very confusing – for this reason please ensure that any donation intended to be Gift Aid is accompanied by your personal Gift Aid Number which was allocated when you signed your Gift Aid Declaration. Just showing your name is not always adequate.

If you cannot remember your personal Gift Aid number or have any query regarding Gift Aid- please contact Geoff Ford. Thank you for your on-going support.



### **Congratulations to March winners**

£100 No. 131 Louise Morgan  
£50 No. 173 Matthew jagger  
£25 No. 100 Barbara Shea  
£25 No. 49 Patrick Driscoll

Thank you for your continuing support for the 200 Club. The new year starts on 1st April with the first draw on April 9th and every second Sunday thereafter. Can I ask current members, who pay by cheque, to send a cheque for £60 payable to St James Church 200 Club to the Parish Office {281a Crescent Drive Petts Wood BR5 1AY} by the 19th March.

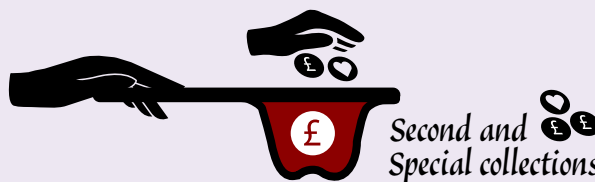
If you wish to pay online please send £60 to Nat West Orpington

Sort Code 601603

Account Number 77878736.

St James Church 200 Club.

Annual subscriptions are now due. We have some vacancies so any parishioners wishing to join please contact the Parish Office for an application form or Ken Evans telephone 01689 851793



### **Second collections – April**

There are a number of diocesan and special collections during the next couple of months and if you are contributing to them by bankers' order, please use the Payment References below

#### **7th April - Good Friday - collection for Holy Places**

**9th April - Easter Sunday - The collection at the Masses over the Easter weekend are your personal offerings for your Parish Priest.**

#### **23rd April - St Georges Cathedral**

#### **30th April - Priests' Training Fund**

If payments to these second collections are being made by Bankers Order, please show the following payment references:

**Holy Places** - HP/Gift Aid Number/Surname

**Easter Sunday** - Easter/Gift Aid Number/Surname

**St Georges Cathedral** - StG/Gift Aid Number/Surname

**Priest's Training Fund** - PTF/Gift Aid Number/Surname

We take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous support of St James' parish especially during the past difficult years and we pray those conditions do not repeat themselves.



# Evangelisation Pillar

“The Day of Exploring Prayer” on the 4th March which was led by Pam Lundy together with Fr Stephen from the Anglican Church - St Francis, Rev. Nadene from the United Reform Church, Dawn Pointing – a spiritual director was a success. Although I was part of the Organisation Committee, unfortunately I could not be there as I had the Memorial Service of my friend Sue that day. We had about 28 participants from different congregations attended. Thank you also to Angela Evans and Diane from the United Church who took care of catering for us.

The Lenten Parish Retreat led by Mrs Gilly Fenner was another success – about the same number of participants attended to the retreat – 28. Thank you to Gilly for her contemplative facilitation.

## Future Seminars and Retreat

We are having two Seminars led by Brian Purfield on the Bible/Scriptures. On the 24th June from 10.30 – 3.00pm and the 15th July from 10.30am – 3.00pm. Brian is a scripture scholar and teaches at Farm Street Jesuit Centre. We have had him before and is always very knowledgeable and a very good communicator. It promises to be a very informative session about the Bible.

Gilly Fenner again is to deliver for us a Retreat on the 4th November.

There is another parishioner who is happy to join our pillar. That would be very helpful.



The new edition of the Laudato Si' Animators Program is now open for registration.

“Fall in love, protect, transform” is the motto that this year will guide the leaders who will become role models in their community, joining a global community present in more than 150 countries with which to share experiences, motivations, prayers and local solutions.

You can find further details by clicking <https://laudatosianimators.org/animators/> or email [jpic@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:jpic@stjamespettswood.org).

Liam Keane who is a Laudato Si Animator says: “This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with people all over the world through the medium of Zoom and hear from people feeling the effects of climate change now. Exchanging ideas and hearing from climate change experts about what we can do now to make a difference at no cost is a chance to get involved and help our parish reduce their carbon footprint.”

## The Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Group Remembrance days or Special days of intentions during the month of April 2023

UN World Autism Day on 2nd April 2023

Stephen Lawrence Day 22nd April 2023

UN Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day 26th April 2023

During March and April, our Muslim brethren are practicing their Holy Month of Ramadan ending with celebration of EID. Let us pray for Interreligious Harmony and Religious Tolerance.

**The JPIC Group wishes our Parishioners, the Peace and Joy of the resurrected Christ, with a call to spread love, justice and look after our Common Home.**

**HAPPY EASTER**



# Evangelisation Pillar



### The current needs are for:

- UHT Milk
- rice pudding
- canned hot & cold meat
- Shaving Foam
- UHT fruit juice
- Razors
- desserts such as sponge pudding

There are two baskets available for your donations: the main church entrance and the Parish Office porch (281a Crescent Drive).



The Foodbank warehouse **cannot accept**: baby formula, fresh, out of date, chilled or frozen food.

Financial donations are still very much appreciated and there are several ways you can donate:

- Post cash, cheques or supermarket vouchers through the Parish Office letterbox. Cheques should be payable to "Bromley Borough Foodbank".
- By direct transfer to the Foodbank's bank account  
*Bank NatWest*  
*Sort code 60-16-03*  
*Account name Bromley Borough Foodbank*  
*Account number 77879007*  
*Reference STJAMESPW*
- £5 gift vouchers for Tesco and Sainsbury's are very useful to the Foodbank

Like most volunteer run charities, our Foodbank needs monetary donations. If possible you might consider setting up a standing order to help this vital work. Bank details above.

Thank you from the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group.

## Carbon Fast Calendar – THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who made a donation for the Carbon Fast Calendar put together by the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Group and 3rd Petts Wood Cubs. We raised an amazing £180 which has been shared between the Woodland Trust and our Parish Project in El Salvador.

## Have you got a broken item which needs to be repaired?

### Repair Café opening – Saturday 1 April 2023

A Repair Café will be opening for the first time in Petts Wood on Saturday 1 April 2023 from 2.00 – 4.30pm at St Francis of Assisi Church Hall, Greencourt Road, Petts Wood, BR5 1QW.

People visiting the Repair Cafe can bring along their broken items: toasters, lamps, hairdryers, clothes, bikes, toys, furniture - anything broken is welcome. They'll sit with the volunteer experts as the item is repaired, maybe picking up the skills to fix it next time. There will be a donation's box so people can donate what they feel the repair is worth to them/they can afford.

St Francis' Church looks forward to welcoming parishioners to the café on Saturday 1 April where, in addition to getting an item repaired, they can enjoy a slice of homemade cake and a hot drink.

It is hoped that the Repair Cafe will be opened once a month.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the Repair Café please email: [Pettswoodrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:Pettswoodrepaircafe@gmail.com)

<https://www.repaircafe.org/en/cafe/petts-wood-repair-cafe/>



# Social Pillar

## Book Club

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our thriving book group which will meet in the community Centre (7:30-9pm) as follows:

**April** no session

**10th May** Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

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## Wednesday Lunches

Our next Wednesday lunch will be on Wednesday, 26th April. We will be serving a light lunch of Soup and rolls from 11.45am in the Community Centre. All Welcome.

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## Parish Film Nights in April & May

First of all, a big thank you for raising a total of £145 in donations in January & February towards varnishing the external Parish doors.

Thank you too for your very generous response at our March Film Night, which raised £140 in memory of Rev. Sue Bull for her mental health charity "Love Me, Love my Mind".

On Saturday, 15 April, we will be showing the 2022 film "Living" for which its lead actor, Bill Nighy, was nominated this year for an Oscar.

Set in 1950s London & reflecting a post war period of grey bureaucracy, the film gives a moving & uplifting account of a man who, discovering he has six months to live, chooses to use this time to make a positive difference.

Described as "a beautiful celebration of the ordinary", this gentle film leaves an inspiring message for us all!

The running time is 102 minutes. The Community Centre doors & the Bar will be open from 7pm & the film will start at 7.30pm.

Our film on Saturday 13 May will be "The Butler". Inspired by a true story, this tells the story of White House butler, Cecil Gaines, who served during seven presidential administrations between 1957 & 1986.

The story follows the changing tides of American politics & race relations, from the assassinations of John F Kennedy & Martin Luther King through to the Watergate Scandal.

The running time is 127 minutes.

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## The Companions Afternoon Club

Aprils dates for The Companions Afternoon Club:

Wednesday 12th

Tuesday 18th

Tuesday 25th

Doors open 1.30pm. All welcome.



# Social Pillar



Goan born, professionally trained, Chef Francisco Marques, having mentored under some of the UK's best chefs and having impressed the likes of Mr John Rambo (Sly Stallone) himself, with his signature dish, the Goan Pork Vindaloo, has worked tirelessly to curate a very special menu just for us....one that will take you on a culinary journey straight to Goa.

COME JOIN US AT THE GOAN CRAZY PARTY AND PAMPER THOSE TASTE BUDS!



**1st APRIL**  
6:30pm-2:00am  
Croydon, London, UK

### TICKETS

ADULT	3D	Includes welcome punch + choice of 2 starters + choice of 1 main + premium dinner table seating	£35	(£16 entry for kids)
ADULT	1D	Includes welcome punch + choice of 1 starter + lounge seating (limited and unreserved)	£23	(Children enter for free)

### LIVE BANDS



★ THE IRON MOUNTAIN



★ TREBLE MAKERS UK



★ DJ GEORGE



**TICKETS**  
**GOANCRAZY.CO.UK**

Call us +44 7822 011794  
31 Imperial Way, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 4RR





# Communication Pillar

## SAVE THE DATE



We have great pleasure in giving advance notice of

**THE ANNUAL PARISH CELEBRATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY  
20th MAY 2023  
ST JAMES THE GREAT COMMUNITY CENTRE**

This is an inaugural event to celebrate the previous year in spectacular fashion with an opportunity to acknowledge parishioners who have made a positive difference to others or special contribution to our community life, regardless how large or small – **the Parish's equivalent of the Hollywood Oscars.**

This will be a ticketed event necessarily limited to 120 adults and 20 children to comply with fire regulations, with tickets available after Easter and sold on a first come first served basis.

Full details, including the price of the tickets, will be included in the April Newsletter with an outline for this stunning and spectacular event being:

- Smart dress/formal wear.
- Sparkling wine on arrival.
- A high-quality buffet style meal.
- Entertainment. If you are a young person with a talent for playing a musical instrument, singing or would like to read some poetry or a story at our celebration, we would love to hear from you.
- Families welcome with children having their own separate meal & entertainment. Children attending with their family, will be free.
- Fr David's review of the year and his vision for the Parish.
- Projected slide show with photos/videos of key presentations of the special work undertaken by Parish Groups and Pillars.
- Oscars style ceremony overseen by a Master of Ceremonies with awards presented by a **special guest of honour.**

Candidates for awards will be nominated by you, using a nomination form available after Easter, which will include details of the person nominated and reasons for their nomination. Although each category award may be granted to one nominee in current Oscar's tradition, every nominee is already recognised as a winner in the eyes of the Parish.

We hope you will support this new event and the excellent work carried out by the various Pillar teams and Groups who are so very important to the smooth running of our Parish, both spiritually and administratively.

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE AND SUPPORT THIS CELEBRATION OF OUR PARISH**



Youth Pillar

*A faith  
in action  
EVENT*



**ST JAMES THE GREAT**

*Catholic Church in Petts Wood*

*Easter*

HOT CROSS BUNS.  
TEAS & COFFEE.  
ON TAP



**QUIZ HUNT**

GO AROUND THE TABLES  
AND SOLVE THE CLUES

**EASTER SUNDAY 10:15-12:30**

ST JAMES' COMMUNITY CENTRE

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION £3

PROCEEDS TO ROMERO TRUST FUND

**PLEASE HELP BY DONATING EGGS &  
DROP THEM TO THE PARISH OFFICE**

*Thank you!*



## Liturgy Pillar

April is a busy month for all those involved in liturgy at St James, as we approach Holy Week, with the culmination of the Triduum and the Easter Sunday Celebrations. Preparations are already underway, and I thank all those who are participating in some way for their dedication and time to the parish. Stations of the cross continue to take place every Sunday afternoon, and then we have a number of services coming up to highlight.

On Monday 3rd April at 7pm there is Lenten Reconciliation Service, a time for reflection and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter.

On Thursday 6th April at 7pm we begin the Triduum with the Mass of the Last Supper including the washing of the feet.

On Good Friday there is a children's station of the cross at 10:00am, and the Petts Wood Walk of Witness at 11am. At 3pm we have the Good Friday Service. In the evening at 7:30pm we have time for prayer and reflection with music from the Taizé community.

On Holy Saturday at 11:30am there is the blessing of the Polish Easter baskets (all welcome to see and smell this beautiful tradition), and at 8pm we have the Easter Vigil including an adult Baptism and Confirmation.

Finally, on Easter Sunday we have the 9:15 and the 11am Masses, with an Easter Egg Hunt following the 9:15.

We hope to see as many of you attend and experience these beautiful services.

As you can imagine, planning such events includes a lot of people – and I would like to introduce you to two people involved in the liturgy teams in the parish to explain what they do, and why they do it.

First up we have Tricia – who is one of our Sacristans:

*Hello! My name is Tricia Willard, and I am one of Father David's Sacristans.*

*I was first invited by Father David to be one of his Sacristans about 6 years ago. It is a ministry that I dearly love and will be forever grateful to Father David for giving me this beautiful opportunity to be of service to him and to God!*

*There are 5 Sacristans who cover the 7 weekly masses and also funeral masses, and also preparing for Adoration on the first Friday of the month. We also cover for each other during holidays etc, and work as a team!*

*On Mondays, I open the church at 8.30am and clean the Sanctuary and the Sacristy before preparing for Mass. Preparation for Mass consists of, making sure the Chalice and vessels are thoroughly cleaned, and putting the Hosts and water and wine on the credence table, putting on the lights, and the music to make the church welcoming for parishioners. Different coloured vestments are worn on different days, so the Tabernacle curtain is changed accordingly, and the daily readings and Gospel are set out. Just before Mass begins, the altar candles are lit. The candles on our Ladies Altar are lit, and*

*the memorial book is turned to the correct page for that day.*

*On Saturdays I open the church at 4.30pm to prepare for Confessions at 5pm, again making sure the Church is welcoming for parishioners, and then preparing for Vigil Mass. The routine is slightly different for weekend Masses, as we have an offertory at the back of the church to allow parishioners to have an active role in the Masses!*

*Once Masses have finished, everything is put back into the Sacristy, the music and lights are turned off and the church is locked up.*

*I also help Breda and Goeff when there is a Baptism, which is usually on a Sunday afternoon, and is a delight to be part of!*

*I also make sure that Father David and Bishop Pat's vestments are regularly cleaned, and I share with Breda, the cleaning of the purificators which Father David uses to purify the Chalice after communion.*

*Sacristans also keep an eye on the Hosts and Communion Wine making sure that we always have enough in stock. We keep an eye on the votive candles too, and let Suzanne or Caroline know if we are running low.*

***I love my role as Sacristan, thank you Father David!***

I would also like to introduce you to Tanya, who is part of the 9:15 music ministry team:

*Hello St James' Parishioners, I'm Tanya Cardoza and have been a parishioner here for 5 years and those who know me, have probably seen me in the 9.15 choir, which I gravitated to almost immediately on joining this parish. Music, especially through singing, has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. As long as you could carry a tune, most children were encouraged to join the children's choir in church, and soon I became a cantor at the 07.30am daily mass. However, it was about 25 years ago as a youth that I truly found my place in the music ministry. The realisation that my voice was a gift that could be taken away anytime, thus must be shared. The involvement meant the majority of our social circle surrounded the church and the music opportunities, and thus was a secure place during my formative years. It also brought immense exposure through invitations to join other amateur choirs, musical theatre etc. Over the years, the feedback that I was able to touch someone's heart encouraged me more.*

*I don't really read music and rely heavily on my ear but that's a result of the resources available at the time and you evolved around that. I love the contemporary Praise and worship hymns for their tunes are catchy and lyrics are always so relatable. You can always find one to fit your mood. If you can't, I'd be happy to suggest a few.*

***If I am singing, I feel I belong! And that feeling draws me back every time. There is nothing I'd rather do.***

I thank them both for their time and their gifts and talents and look forward to introducing more of the liturgy team in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed, prayerful and joyful Easter.



# Liturgy Pillar

## The Reading Ministry During Church Services

There are many people in our Parish and in our worldwide church who share the privilege of reading at Mass.

Those who read in our Parish say it is a humbling Ministry : knowing that you are helping to share the Word of God ; That it enables the chance to prepare for the reading in advance and to reflect on its meaning and what it means in our lives today. For some it has encouraged them to do further reading around a text, which may otherwise not have happened.

It is an important ministry, because it is through human language that people hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. Before the reader begins reading a scriptural text, the words are merely ink on paper. These words, however, become the life-giving words of The Holy Scripture, for the people listening, when they are spoken by the reader. This is the fundamental task of our church reader : to bring life to the Word of God contained in Holy Scripture. Through the voice of the reader we have the opportunity to better encounter the Word of God

There is richness in the variety of readings read during different Church services. They employ various literary forms to convey the message of salvation, ranging from narratives, the poetry of the psalms, prophetic oracles and parables, theological expositions and apocalyptic visions. A reader proclaims the word of the Lord through an awareness of the literary form of a particular reading or psalm, and through the use of expression and voice, helps the listener to better experience and reflect on THE WORDS.

Readers had a fantastic workshop led by Jennifer Sims in February. Her drama and Education background helped us to think about different techniques to bring richness to our reading. Emphasis on words; thinking about the meaning; pausing at appropriate places; to look up if possible and speak to the church congregation, as well as the live-stream congregation. Great thanks to Jennifer for her time and knowledge, in making the session fun and interactive.

If you would like to read at the St James' Church services , you would be most welcome and it is a rewarding Ministry to be involved in.



# Volunteering Opportunities at St James

## Rotas

Would you like to get more involved in parish life? We need help on the following rotas.

Please email Rosa, [rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org) if you can help with any of the following jobs:

- Sunday Coffees after the 9.15am and 11am Masses
- Ushers Saturday 6pm Mass, Sundays 9.15am and 11am
- Readers Saturday 6pm Mass, Sundays 9.15am and 11am
- Cleaners Monday 8.45 and Saturday 10am

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*Catholic Church in Petts Wood*

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



*St James – A shining light in Petts Wood*

## IN THIS EDITION | **May 2023**

### **Pastoral Care Pillar**

- What is Dementia?

### **Social Pillar**

- CWL Party

### **Evangelisation Pillar**

- Parish Overseas Project

### **Communication Pillar**

- Parish Celebration

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# Pastoral Care Pillar

***"A loving silence often has far more power to heal and to connect than the most well-intentioned words."* Rachel Naomi Remen**

Dementia Awareness Week runs from 16 - 22 May. This month, to mark this special time of focus we are providing information & signposting links to sources offering vital support to those affected by this disease..

## What is dementia?

Dementia is an umbrella term for a range of progressive conditions targeting the brain which, over time, can affect a person's memory, problem-solving ability, language & behaviour. While there are over 200 subtypes of dementia, the most common are Alzheimer's Disease & Vascular dementia. The other three main types are Lewy Bodies, Frontotemporal, & Mixed Dementia.

Ahead of cancer, cardiovascular disease and stroke, dementia is one of the main causes of disability in later life. Sadly the condition has become commonplace in society today but with medical research & improved communication, the illness is now looked upon with greater understanding & compassion than it was previously.

According to the Alzheimer's Society it is expected that some 210,000 people in the UK will develop dementia in 2023 & this number is projected to rise to 1.6 million by 2040. Worldwide it is estimated that 55 million people are living with dementia. This is predicted to rise to 139 million by 2050.

A crucial part of the Alzheimer Society's work is advocating for & funding research into dementia. Recently they welcomed the news in the Spring Budget, that the Government has pledged to reform how the UK regulates medicines and medical technology.

Although sadly not yet available in the UK, there has been very promising news about trials of the drug Lecanemab which has shown to slow down the changes in thought processes & memory loss.

From 2024, the agency which approves drugs for use in the UK will have the potential to make new treatments accessible more quickly through rapid sign off for medicines and technology that have already been approved by trusted regulators around the world.

This positive step needs to come hand-in-hand with an urgency to prepare the NHS for such treatments and to accelerate improvements in dementia diagnosis. Campaigning for this is now one of the Society's top priorities & during Dementia Action Week, they will be hosting an event in Parliament talking to decision-makers about dementia diagnosis & stressing that ***"dementia isn't getting old, it's getting ill."***

Our 11am Mass on Sunday, 14 May will offer a special opportunity for us to come together in unity & empathy to think of all those whose lives are affected by dementia - those living with the disease, their carers & their families,

especially in our Parish. Let us keep them closely in our prayers.

**St Dymphna**, whose Feast Day falls on 15 May, is recognised as the patroness of those affected by all forms of dementia.. The following is a traditional prayer asking for her intercession and for Our Lord's help.  
***"Gentle St. Dymphna, patron of those with illnesses affecting the mind, be my intercessor to Jesus, the Divine Physician. In the face of loss of memory and control, increase my confidence in God's providence. In the midst of confusion and isolation, remind me of God's enduring peace and presence. Obtain for me courage and strength to accept these trials from the loving hand of God with patience; He knows what is best for the salvation of my soul. I offer this illness to God, for His glory and the salvation of souls, especially my own. Amen."***

## Help at Hand

The Alzheimer's Society have produced a wide range of useful factsheets & brochures which can be viewed & ordered using the following links:

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/dementia-support-services>

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/publications-factsheets/full-list>

<https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/brain-health/think-brain-health/>

The Society's phone support is available seven days a week on 0333 150 3456. Their dementia advisers are available to listen & provide support and advice, and to connect callers to the specific help they need.

Support line opening hours are:

Monday to Wednesday: 9am – 8pm

Thursday and Friday: 9am – 5pm

Saturday and Sunday: 10am – 4pm

(Calls are charged at standard local rate.)

## Other Local Dementia Helplines

- Bromley Dementia Support Hub: 020 3328 0366
- Bromley Mind: 01689 811222
- Bromley Well Information & Advice Service for Older People: 0808 278 7898

## A Reminder!

Our very successful Parish Dementia Café (featured in the February Magazine) runs on the first two Tuesdays of the month from 2pm to 3.30pm.

The Café provides a warm welcome to our guests with dementia & their carers & offers a happy opportunity to come together to enjoy refreshments & light entertainment.



## Finance Pillar

*giftaid it*

**2023/2024**

During March, boxes of new Gift Aid envelopes will be available at the church door for those parishioners who contribute by envelope. If you contribute by Standing Order/Bankers Order or Contactlessly you will not require envelopes.

If you cannot find your box of envelopes please speak to Geoff Ford. Contact him at [gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org) or on 01689 872125 or via the parish office.

No matter which way you contribute, with some 250 active gift aiders you will understand that accurate record keeping is not only essential but can also be very confusing – for this reason please ensure that any donation intended to be Gift Aid is accompanied by your personal Gift Aid Number which was allocated when you signed your Gift Aid Declaration. Just showing your name is not always adequate.

If you cannot remember your personal Gift Aid number or have any query regarding Gift Aid- please contact Geoff Ford. Thank you for your on-going support.



### **Congratulations to March winners**

£100 Father David number 33

£ 50 Claire Wakefield number 18

£ 25 Matthew Jagger number 173

£ 25 Pia Ellis number 200

Thank you for your continuing support for the 200 Club. The new year starts on 1st April with the first draw on April 9th and every second Sunday thereafter. Can I ask current members, who pay by cheque, to send a cheque for £60 payable to St James Church 200 Club to the Parish Office {281a Crescent Drive Petts Wood BR5 1AY} by the 19th March.

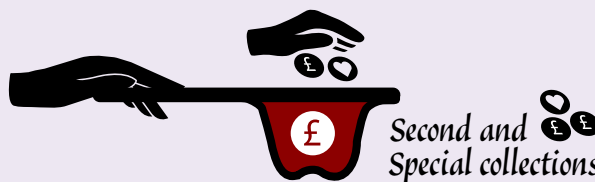
If you wish to pay online please send £60 to Nat West Orpington

Sort Code 601603

Account Number 77878736.

St James Church 200 Club.

Annual subscriptions are now due. We have some vacancies so any parishioners wishing to join please contact the Parish Office for an application form or Ken Evans telephone 01689 851793



### **Second collections – May**

There are a number of diocesan and special collections during the next couple of months and if you are contributing to them by bankers' order, please use the Payment References below

#### **14th May - Maintenance/ Refurbishment/development Fund (MRD)**

#### **21st May - JPIC Project**

If payments to these second collections are being made by Bankers Order, please show the following payment references:

**Maintenance Fund** - MRD/Gift Aid Number/Surname

**JPIC Project** - JPIC/Gift Aid Number/Surname

We take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous support of St James' parish especially during the past difficult years and we pray those conditions do not repeat themselves.





# Evangelisation Pillar

## Future Seminars and Retreat

**We are having two Seminars led by Brian Purfield on the Bible/Scriptures. On the 24th June from 10.30 – 3.00pm and the 15th July from 10.30am – 3.00pm. Brian is a scripture scholar and teaches at Farm Street Jesuit Centre. We have had him before and is always very knowledgeable and a very good communicator. It promises to be a very informative session about the Bible.**

**Gilly Fenner again is to deliver for us a Retreat on the 4th November.**

**There is another parishioner who is happy to join our pillar. That would be very helpful.**

## Parish Overseas Project Update & Appeal Supporting the Divine Providence Hospital, El Salvador In collaboration with Archbishop Romero Trust

The JPIC group continue to work closely with the Archbishop Romero Trust on the Parish Overseas Project to support the Divine Providence Hospital in El Salvador, which provides palliative care to the community in San Salvador. During the month of February 2023, Archbishop John Wilson visited the hospital in El Salvador which is managed by Sisters of the Carmelite Community. During the visit Archbishop John was updated by the Chair of Romero Trust on the project and the support provided by our Parish in funding the procurement of an equipment sterilisation unit (Autoclave) and further support to contribute towards other requirements including installation of Solar panels to support reduction in energy bills and use of solar energy. You can find out more about the project at: [http://www.stjamespettswood.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/OverseasParishProject\\_Brief-1.pdf](http://www.stjamespettswood.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/OverseasParishProject_Brief-1.pdf).



Archbishop John Wilson and Sister Transito with 'Petts Wood Autoclave'.

The link to this project with our Parish is established through St. Oscar who lived at the hospital grounds and was killed there while celebrating mass. To celebrate the life of St. Oscar the JPIC team organised various activities during the month of March 2023 including a film night showing the film 'Romero' and Stations of the Cross dedicated to St. Oscar. On 24th March 2023, was the 43rd anniversary of St. Oscar which was marked through several events across Wales, Scotland and England both within the Catholic and Ecumenical community. One key event was the Ecumenical Service at St Martin in the Fields on 25 March 2023, given by Maria Exall, President Trades Union Congress.

To watch a recording of the event, please: <http://www.romerotrusted.org.uk/responding-cry-poor-today-maria-exall>

For an introduction to the life and legacy of St. Oscar Romero, please see here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZ2j9W780Mo&ab\\_channel=RomeroTrust](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZ2j9W780Mo&ab_channel=RomeroTrust).



Archbishop John Wilson celebrating mass where Oscar Romero was assassinated.

More information about the current work of Archbishop Romero Trust and ongoings in El Salvador can be obtained from the: <http://www.romerotrusted.org.uk/sites/default/files/Romero%20News%20-%20Issue%20January%202023.pdf>

**During the weekend of 20th and 21st May 2023, the second collection is in support of the Parish project. We request your generosity and support, as always.**

The JPIC Group thank all Parishioners for your generosity and support for the Parish Project through the various donations, collections, events in support of the Parish project, sales of olive oil and jam at the Parish fair. **Together we have raised GBP7300/- to date.**

**For further information regards to the Parish Project email: [jpic@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:jpic@stjamespettswood.org)**



# Evangelisation Pillar



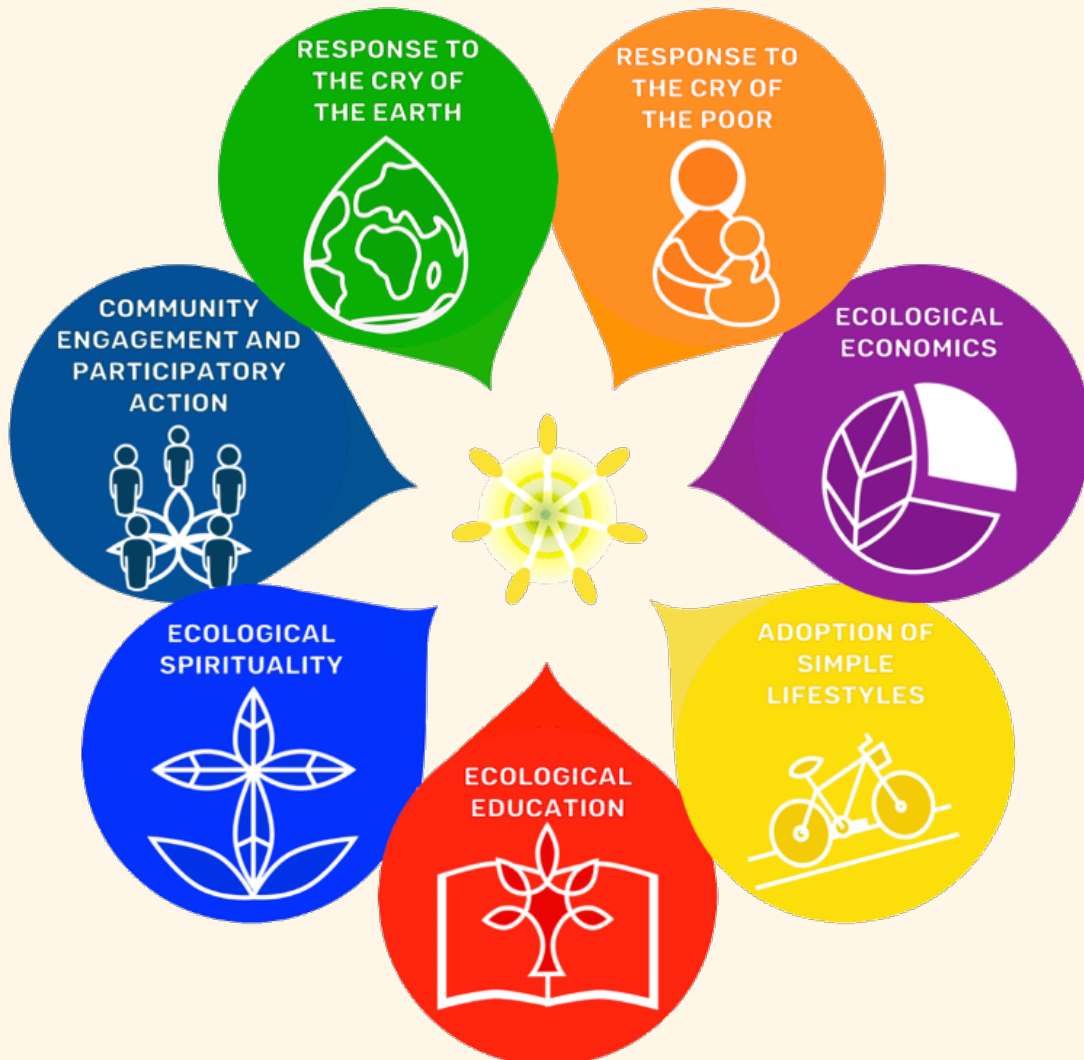
**LAUDATO SI'  
WEEK 2023**

**Hope for the Earth.  
Hope for humanity.**

May 21-28, 2023

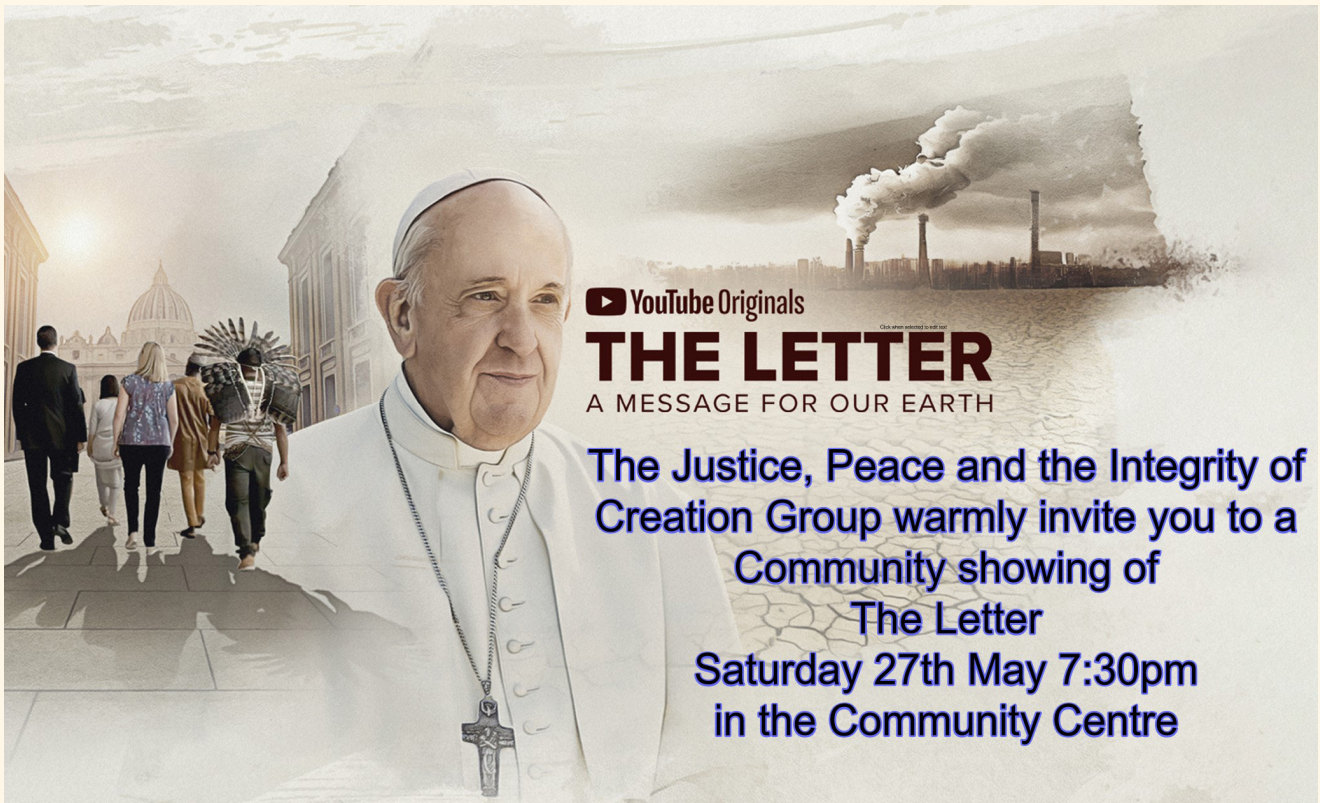
LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore" – **"Praise be to you, my Lord"**. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us."

## 7 Goals for Laudato Si





# Evangelisation Pillar



### The current needs are for:

- Hot & Cold Meat
- Squash/Cordial
- UHT Fruit Juice
- Canned Tomatoes
- Cooking Sauces
- Washing up Liquid

There are two baskets available for your donations: the main church entrance and the Parish Office porch (281a Crescent Drive).



The Foodbank warehouse **cannot accept**: baby formula, fresh, out of date, chilled or frozen food.

Financial donations are still very much appreciated and there are several ways you can donate:

- Post cash, cheques or supermarket vouchers through the Parish Office letterbox. Cheques should be payable to "Bromley Borough Foodbank".
- By direct transfer to the Foodbank's bank account  
*Bank NatWest*  
*Sort code 60-16-03*  
*Account name Bromley Borough Foodbank*  
*Account number 77879007*  
*Reference STJAMESPW*

- £5 gift vouchers for Tesco and Sainsbury's are very useful to the Foodbank

Like most volunteer run charities, our Foodbank needs monetary donations. If possible you might consider setting up a standing order to help this vital work. Bank details above.

Thank you from the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group.



# St James' Annual Parish Celebration & Awards Ceremony

St James' the Great Community Centre  
Saturday 20th May 2023

7.00 for 7.30pm start till 11.00pm

High quality buffet meal with celebratory sparkling drink

Awards will be voted for by you the Parishioners and  
presented by our special Guest of Honour

Fantastic entertainment provided by our school  
and our very talented parishioners

**Tickets: Adults £15, accompanied children FREE**

Tickets can be ordered using this link or the QR code,  
or directly from the Parish Office:

<https://forms.gle/3EEsBd23tC8JMSJ97>



**CLOSING DATE FOR TICKETS IS 10TH MAY 2023,  
SO BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT AS TICKETS ARE LIMITED**



# Communication Pillar

In previous years, the Annual Parish Meeting has been in the form of what was, at best, a dull and uninspiring Annual General Meeting.

We want to change this and make it a truly inspiring, inclusive, colourful extravaganza, where we focus on the Celebration of OUR parish community and the extraordinary work undertaken by our many volunteers.

This parish could not operate so successfully without these volunteers who work behind the scenes without our appreciation and thanks. Fr David would like to change this by having a Parish event. recognising these volunteers and especially ones that have made a positive difference to our parish lives.

With this in mind, we want you all to be involved in nominating individuals that you feel deserve a special mention for what they do. To help you do this we have provided nomination forms which you can use to nominate anyone you think deserves special recognition.

During the evening, there will also be special, "in Memorium" section where we will take the opportunity to remember our parishioners, in a respectful manner, who have died during the year.

The evening's entertainment will be incredibly special, with performances by our extremely talented parishioners and children from St James Primary School. If you have seen our young people singing, you will know how really special they are.

Do not miss this opportunity for us all to celebrate our wonderful Parish. Tickets are, obviously, restricted in numbers and so will be on a first come, first served basis. Families are also very welcome, again numbers are restricted. **SO, ACT NOW**

**This is not just a Parish, this is OUR Parish, OUR community, and OUR family which we should be proud of and one which we need to celebrate in an inclusive, entertaining, joyful and exciting way.**

Please do not ignore this opportunity for us all to come together in celebration.

Full details of the event and how to apply are on the flyers, the website and on the Parish Facebook page. There are also Posters around the entrance providing the information.

Finally, please note that the closing date for applications is the 10th of May, so you must act quickly.

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## Important notices from the Safeguarding Team

- For the protection of all who attend St James we request that you do not video live Masses using your phone.
- All volunteers in the parish are cordially invited to a Safeguarding training presentation on Wednesday, 12th July in the Community Centre commencing at 7pm.

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## Volunteering Opportunities at St James

Would you like to get more involved in parish life? We need help on the following rotas.

Please email Rosa, [rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org) if you can help with any of the following jobs:

- Sunday Coffees after the 9.15am and 11am Masses
- Ushers Saturday 6pm Mass, Sundays 9.15am and 11am
- Readers Saturday 6pm Mass, Sundays 9.15am and 11am
- Cleaners Monday 8.45 and Saturday 10am
- Tellers Sunday 11am



## Social Pillar

### Book Club

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our thriving book group which will meet in the community Centre (7:30-9pm) as follows:

**10th May** - Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

**14th June** - Miss Garnet's Angel by Salley Vickers

**27th July (note changed date)** - Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

---

### Wednesday Lunches

Our next Wednesday lunch will be on Wednesday, 24th May. We will be serving a light lunch from 11.45am in the Community Centre. All Welcome.

---

### Film Nights in May & June

First of all, a big thank you for raising a very generous £100 at our April Film Night, which will be used for something specific for the Church. Details to follow!

On Saturday, 13 May our film will be "The Butler". Inspired by a true story, this follows White House butler, Cecil Gaines, who served during seven presidential administrations between 1957 & 1986.

The film follows the changing tides of American politics & race relations, from the assassinations of John F Kennedy & Martin Luther King through to the Watergate Scandal. The running time is 127 minutes.

Our light-hearted film on Saturday 17 June will be "The Duke" starring Jim Broadbent & Helen Mirren. This is also based on a true story. Set in 1961, a 60-year-old taxi driver, Kempton Bunton, steals Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. He sends ransom notes saying that he will return the painting if the government invests more in care for the elderly. Please join us to find out what happens! The running time is 96 minutes.

As usual, the films will start at 7.30pm & the Community Centre doors & the Bar will be open from 7pm

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### The Companions Afternoon Club

Mays dates for The Companions Afternoon Club: Doors open 1.30pm. All welcome.

Wednesday 3rd

Wednesday 10th

Tuesday 16th

Tuesday 23rd

Tuesday 30th

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### Petts Wood CWL

Invitation to afternoon tea.

We will be holding our annual CWL party on Wednesday 17th May from 2.30 to 4.30. Ladies of the parish are warmly invited to come along and enjoy afternoon tea and get to know Petts Wood CWL members and also ladies from other CWL sections from Bromley and Southwark, as well as ladies from other Petts Wood churches.

The Petts Wood Catholic Women's League will be holding their May meeting on Monday 22nd May at 7.30.

Please come along and join us. We will be very pleased to have visitors or new members.

Plant Sale

The CWL Plant Sale will be on Saturday 3rd June, following 6pm Mass and Sunday 4th June after both Sunday Masses. Please save your extra seedlings and plants to bring along for this sale. Vegetable plants and flowers are always very



## Liturgy Pillar

Christ Is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

For churches everywhere, the last few weeks has been a busy time for everyone involved in liturgy planning, and this has been no different for St James. There are so many thank yous that I need to give to all those who have contributed to making Easter 2023 such a success.

Firstly, thanks to all the readers, Eucharistic ministers and welcomers who do so much. A special thanks to Rosa who works so hard to manage the rotas, and who did a fabulous job in ensuring all the readers had their relevant readings to prepare. Thank you so much for your dedication and passion.



Then, there are all the servers who have returned to us following Covid. It is so wonderful to see so many young people wanting to take part in the liturgy. Your rehearsing did not go unnoticed! Also, thanks to Peter and Romily who have worked hard in training you all!!

A huge thank you to the Sacristans who do so much behind the scenes to help Fr David have everything ready for all the services, and the flower arrangers who do so much to really bring the gospel to life through the flowers and sanctuary arrangements.

Thanks also to the Children's Liturgy group who work so hard throughout the year bringing the gospel to the young in our parish, and for their Good Friday input, the results of which are beautifully displayed on the sanctuary. I am sure that you have inspired to many of our young to grow in their faith.

And thanks to all those involved in the music ministry who gave so much this Easter. Thanks to Ivor for training up the Festival Choir (and to our new members who enhanced our sound) who with limited rehearsal time still managed to sing with soul and added a level of both solemnity and joy when needed. Thanks also to the 9:15 music group (and continued prayers for Tom who is still in hospital), and the 11am musicians who do a great job all year around. This year, a big well done to Kathleen, who as part for her Faith in Action award prepared and led the music group for the 11am on Easter Sunday. I hope that this is just the start of

our young people taking a bigger role in the liturgy in St James. Also, grateful thanks to Sara Skyme our organist, who plays so wonderfully every Saturday, but also provided such a beautiful accompaniment to the choir for the Easter Vigil.



If I have left anyone out, I sincerely apologise!

Finally, thank you to Fr David who supports us all, and who I hope also recently had a lovely birthday.

We are so incredibly blessed in our parish to have so many people who give up their time and talents every week to enhance the liturgy. Over the next month I hope to arrange an evening where we can all get together to discuss our needs going forward and to be able to thank you all in person.

In the next instalment of liturgy group meet the team, Angela Murray has written about the flower arrangers, who, as you will all agree always do an amazing job at decorating the sanctuary, and really enhancing the liturgy for us.

*Dear Parishioners, I am Angela Murray, and it is my pleasure to write this note by way of introducing our flower arranging team at St James. Our team members are Shelene Smith, Joanne Robinson, Lesley Matthews, Helen Morgan and Angela Evans.*





# Liturgy Pillar

*I would like to begin by mentioning Bridie Duck who as a long-standing parishioner started flower arranging in approximately 1970. Over time her sister and Betty Evans joined her. I first met Bridie on a parishioner Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2007 where I discovered she needed help at St James (I was arranging flowers elsewhere) so joined Bridie in 2008. Because of Covid, Bridie retired after some 50 years. I still seek her advice. On behalf of St. James and our flower team we THANK her for her long-standing dedication.*

*During Covid/Lockdown with the help of my family we were able to continue obtaining and arrange flowers for the Sanctuary. The arrangements for Holy Days etc., involves much planning. We browse through previous photos to decide what to order from the wholesalers. Timing for collecting the flowers is critical to ensure that they are "ready". Occasionally at home we place them in warm water and we also place them near a radiator to encourage their opening. On getting them to church we condition them by trimming and stripping away any unwanted greenery from the stems. They are then sorted and placed in buckets, named ready for the next day.*

*For Easter 2023 there were eight buckets, plus lots of greenery from our gardens and neighbours living nearby. If I'm short of greenery I knock on strangers' doors and ask if I can have some of theirs. I always get a good response "Yes, help yourself", so they get an Easter/Christmas card thanking them!!.*

*The order of the day is to prepare the dishes and pedestals and set them up in their positions and arranging them. As a team we enjoy helping each other, along with friendly chats. We never forget our mugs for the coffee breaks! We also pop in twice a week to water as these big arrangements drink a lot!!*

*We currently have two members belonging to The Guild of Church Flower arrangers, Orpington Floral Art Society and the Phoenix Flower Club. I flower arrange at Southwark Cathedral near London Bridge once a month.*



*We all enjoy doing the flowers and hope they enhance your experience when you are in church. We thank Fr. David for allowing us a free rein to do what we think best throughout the year.*

*We also say the Church Flower Arrangers Prayer:*

***"May God grant that our hearts, our eyes and our hands may receive His inspiration enabling us to glorify His house with the beauty of the leaves and blossoms which He has created. Amen."***

## Children's Liturgy

'Dear Parents, At this time of year, in the Summer Term, we would like to welcome any children who will be starting in Reception in September.

This is to help prepare the children for Mass and school in September.

Children will need to be able to go to the toilet independently and be left with the Liturgy leader/ helpers as unfortunately parents cannot stay.

Please get in touch with someone from the Children's Liturgy if your child has any additional needs. We want to offer an inclusive Liturgy and will strive to support children in attending.

Can we also take this opportunity to ask for any parents who are interested in helping/leading to get in touch with Jane Clark via the Parish office. We are in desperate need of more leaders and helpers to ensure the Children's Liturgy can continue.

Kind regards  
The Children's Liturgy Team'





**ST JAMES THE GREAT**  
*Catholic Church in Petts Wood*

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



*St James – A shining light in Petts Wood*

## IN THIS EDITION | **June 2023**

Pastoral Care Pillar

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Social Pillar

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Evangelisation Pillar

•

Communication Pillar

•

## FOLLOW US & FIND OUT MORE

 [@stjamespettswood](#)

 01689 827100

 [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org)

 [www.stjamespettswood.org](http://www.stjamespettswood.org)

# Report from PPC Chair

## A message from the Parish Pastoral Council Secretary

With much of the work of the Pillars advertised in the monthly Newsletters, the 3rd May PPC meeting covered/noted in particular:

- A process to review the Parish Mission Statement which commenced at the PPC Organisational Retreat on 22nd April and is to involve the parishioners for their views.
- The sad loss of Austin Barradell which resulted in the considerable responsibilities he covered on behalf of the parish being distributed among members of the Finance and Maintenance Team with Nigel Longhurst appointed as its Pillar Lead.
- Jonathan Sims to take over from Seán Cadogan as PPC Chair with immediate effect.
- Liam Keane agreeing to assist in Fr David's workload by accepting responsibility as the Evangelisation Pillar Lead.
- Preparations to commence for the annual Garden Party & Fun Run.

The following vacancies remain:

Social Pillar Lead: Vacant since January 2023.

PPC Secretary: The current incumbent will leave this role after the July meeting.

Parishioners are encouraged to consider helping with these worthwhile roles.

## Parishioner Suggestions & Feedback

Feedback, whether good or critical, on any activity is welcome at any time and will be passed to the relevant organiser.

The recent Annual Parish Celebrations and Awards Ceremony was attended and enjoyed by many parishioners. Being the first of its kind, the organising team would welcome feedback and suggestions by way of an 'evaluation' survey of those who attended, to enable appropriate changes and improvements to be made for the future.

With the next PPC meeting earmarked to be held on 5th July, parishioners who wish to convey suggestions for consideration to generally improve aspects of the Parish are requested to submit these by email to [ppc@stjamespettswood](mailto:ppc@stjamespettswood) no later than 21st June.

At the last meeting the following parishioner suggestions were agreed:

- a requirement to ensure bidding prayers are rigorously considered for their appropriateness.
- a key-safe be installed to facilitate easier but secure access to the bar area.



# Pastoral Care Pillar

**“It is only with true love and compassion that we can begin to mend what is broken in the world. It is these two blessed things that can begin to heal all broken hearts.”**

**Steve Maraboli**

## Our News

We are delighted to welcome a new member, June, to our Team! Here she introduces herself!

“My name is June (Christmas) & I have recently had the privilege of becoming a member of the Pastoral Care Team. I have been a parishioner at St James’ for many years but within that time I have lived abroad in Japan & the USA.

My background is in Nursing & Administration in the NHS & additional experience in Bereavement Counselling. I look forward to getting involved with the many aspects of the pastoral work & to making a useful contribution to the Team & the Parish.”

A very warm welcome, June! You bring with you a wealth of valuable experience & we are very blessed to have you on board!



Our door is always open to new members! If you are interested to learn more, with no commitment whatsoever, please have a word with any member of our Team or contact us via email to [pastoral@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:pastoral@stjamespettswood.org) or the Parish Office [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org)

## Dementia Updates

We mentioned last month that The Alzheimer’s Society was building a base of evidence to ensure their calls to improve dementia diagnoses were the right ones. They have now published a report on their findings, which contains evidence & recommendations for healthcare decision makers & commissioners to enact. Their 17 page Report “Improving Access to a Timely and Accurate Diagnosis of Dementia in England, Wales and Northern Ireland” can be downloaded using the following link.

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/about-us/policy-and-influencing/improving-access-timely-accurate-diagnosis-dementia-england-wales-northern-ireland>

## Government Benefits for People Living with Dementia

Many people living with dementia could be eligible to claim Attendance Allowance depending on their needs. Attendance Allowance is a tax-free noncontributory benefit payable to people of state pension age and over who have needed help with their personal care for six months prior to the date of the claim. If the application is successful, they may also be eligible for a reduction in their Council Tax.

In August 2019 the criteria for Blue Badge applications changed to include people living with dementia. A successful application would be dependent on the person’s mobility, perception and several other factors. Carers of those living with dementia could be eligible to claim Carers Allowance depending on their age and circumstances. More information can be found on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) then select the search button for the subject you wish to research.

The claim forms for these benefits, particularly Attendance Allowance, are lengthy & very detailed. If you require some help or advice in completing any of the above application forms, please contact the Parish Office who can signpost you to someone who has experience of these forms.

## Annual Mass for Bereaved Parents & their Families, Sunday 2 July at 3pm

Fr David & the Pastoral Care Team warmly extend an invitation to bereaved parents, their families & their friends to join us to commemorate the lives of children of any age who have died under any circumstances.

We hope that this special Mass will enable us all to come together in prayerful unity to & that it will offer you solace & comfort.

After the Service, we will move outside together to the Memorial Garden where Fr David will offer a special Blessing in memory of all the children whose lives we will be commemorating.

Following this, everyone will be most warmly welcome to join Fr David & members of the Pastoral Care Team for refreshments in the Community Centre.

It would be very helpful if those who would wish to attend could please let the Parish Office know & also advise whether you would wish for a named votive candle/ candles to be prepared in the memory of your child/ children.

If any parishioners already have a votive candle or candles from a previous Service, please bring it/ them with you & we will happily provide you with new candle inserts if required.

***In the July Newsletter we will be including information about external sources of support (also signposted on our Board in the Church Porch).***



## Finance Pillar

*giftaid it*

**2023/2024**

During March, boxes of new Gift Aid envelopes will be available at the church door for those parishioners who contribute by envelope. If you contribute by Standing Order/Bankers Order or Contactlessly you will not require envelopes.

If you cannot find your box of envelopes please speak to Geoff Ford. Contact him at [gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org) or on 01689 872125 or via the parish office.

No matter which way you contribute, with some 250 active gift aiders you will understand that accurate record keeping is not only essential but can also be very confusing – for this reason please ensure that any donation intended to be Gift Aid is accompanied by your personal Gift Aid Number which was allocated when you signed your Gift Aid Declaration. Just showing your name is not always adequate.

If you cannot remember your personal Gift Aid number or have any query regarding Gift Aid- please contact Geoff Ford. Thank you for your on-going support.



### **Congratulations to May winners**

£100 number Jackie Padfield Number 113

£ 50 number Peter Mowat Number 178

£ 25 number Chris Delf Number 143

£ 25 number Andy Delamain Number 22

Thank you for your continuing support for the 200 Club. The new year starts on 1st April with the first draw on April 9th and every second Sunday thereafter. Can I ask current members, who pay by cheque, to send a cheque for £60 payable to St James Church 200 Club to the Parish Office {281a Crescent Drive Petts Wood BR5 1AY} by the 19th March.

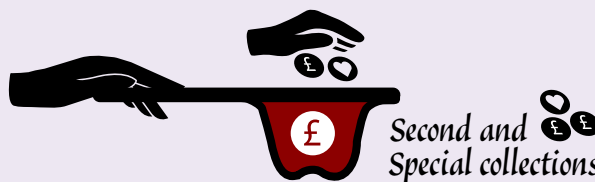
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St James Church 200 Club.

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There are a number of diocesan and special collections during the next couple of months and if you are contributing to them by bankers' order, please use the Payment References below

#### **11th June - Maintenance/ Refurbishment/development Fund (MRD)**

If payments to these second collections are being made by Bankers Order, please show the following payment references:

#### **Maintenance Fund - MRD/Gift Aid Number/Surname**

We take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous support of St James' parish especially during the past difficult years and we pray those conditions do not repeat themselves.



# Evangelisation Pillar

## Future Seminars and Retreat

We are having two **Seminars** led by Brian Purfield on the Bible/Scriptures. On the **24th June** from 10.30 – 3.00pm and the **15th July** from 10.30am – 3.00pm. Brian is a scripture scholar and teaches at Farm Street Jesuit Centre. We have had him before and is always very knowledgeable and a very good communicator. It promises to be a very informative session about the Bible.

Gilly Fenner again is to deliver for us a **Retreat** on the **4th November**.

There is another parishioner who is happy to join our pillar. That would be very helpful.

*“Nick has been through the Journey in Faith programme at our parish of St James’s.*

*He has been Baptised with his two children Isabelle and Sebastian, Confirmed and had his first Holy communion on Easter Vigil 2023. He generously shared his experience with us”.*

## Nick’s Testimony

### From Protestantism: A journey to St James

I couldn’t script this. I keep saying that it’s been such a surprise and so unlikely. Anecdotally, it’s also quite amusing remembering the first Bible I received as a young Christian aged 8 was Catholic – “Good News Bible with Deuterionicals and Apocrypha”.

In some serendipitous way I’ve come full circle, both spiritually and geographically – from those days of my mother’s spiritual fostering in Pentecostal Protestantism, to being baptised Catholic, while uprooting myself from the mother city of Cape Town, South Africa to the land of my father’s birth in Kentish England.

### Seeking a spiritual community

As a young family, we’ve been seeking a spiritual home for over 4yrs now. Initially, we didn’t attend church because we (for good or for bad) felt we needed to use Sunday as a day for rest and recovery – trying to acclimatise as immigrants after the stress of selling a business and relocating to this great city. We also didn’t know where to go, as we had come from a church community that we invested many years of our life into. We were also convinced that we wouldn’t find anything quite like it and were left a bit frozen at the idea of what to do next.

### Experiencing Journey in Faith at St James

Fast forward to early July last year - we began to visit St James as a family. One morning Fr. David made a pitch for people to join the Journey in Faith course, and I signed up out of interest. Beginning with the much familiar Alpha course (We had run this before in South Africa), it then moved on to a more Catholic chronology beginning with an overview of the Bible into a study of The Sacraments. As I write, we are spending the last few sessions working on core Catholic teachings. The class this year is diverse, friendly and engaged – it’s been nice to make new friends in the process.

## From propositions to participation

It has been a wonderfully enriching experience into a Catholic perspective propositionally through study, and procedurally through practises of liturgy, litany and prayer. Eventually, this culminated in the joy of participating in the rite of election at Southwark Cathedral and then into the climax of baptism – together with my two children (Isabelle -8 and Sebastian -4) at the Easter vigil. Seeing the faith development in our kids culminating in this Easter vigil was a big moment in time and so fulfilling to see as parents. The event also enabled those outside of St James to participate in the experience. My unbelieving in-laws and my Christian friends came to our baptism, and this has resulted in some interesting conversations with all.

## In conclusion

We are delighted to have found a spiritual home among the people of St James. Honestly, it’s been quite a transformative roller coaster ride for us: we have the joy at weekly Sunday mass to worship and pray together as a family (which I feel is quite a rare Christian experience). I now have a godfather, my kids have godparents, we are learning about the saints, and my wife and I often talk about the new things we find in this new Catholic experience – all in all it has made our Christian experience feel quite enchanted, and we are all better off for it!

## Have you got a broken item which needs to be repaired? Repair Café is your go to place.

A Repair Café has been operational in Petts Wood at St Francis of Assisi Church Hall, Greencourt Road, Petts Wood, BR5 1QW.

**Saturdays: 24 June, 22 July, 2 September, 21 October, and 18 November from 2.00 – 4.30pm**

People visiting the Repair Cafe can bring along their broken items: toasters, lamps, hairdryers, clothes, bikes, toys, furniture - anything broken is welcome. They’ll sit with the volunteer experts as the item is repaired, maybe picking up the skills to fix it next time. There will be a donation’s box so people can donate what they feel the repair is worth to them/they can afford.

St Francis’ Church looks forward to welcoming people to the café where, in addition to getting an item repaired, they can enjoy a slice of homemade cake and a hot drink.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the Repair Café please email: [Pettswoodrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:Pettswoodrepaircafe@gmail.com).

<https://www.repaircafe.org/en/cafe/petts-wood-repair-cafe/>

## The Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Group

Remembrance days or Special days of intentions during the month of June 2023

UN World Environment Day on **5th June 2023**



# Evangelisation Pillar

Day for Life ([www.dayforlife.org](http://www.dayforlife.org)) on **18th June 2023**

Fathers' Day on **18th June 2023**

UN World Refugee Day on **20th June 2023**

International Day in support of victims of torture on **26th June 2023**

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## **New National Shrine of St Oscar Romero**

The Archdiocese of Southwark have announced that the Diocesan Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, has been elevated to the status of a National Shrine for England and Wales.

Following a petition to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales by the Archbishop of Southwark, Archbishop John Wilson, the Bishops gave their unanimous approval to the new National Shrine at their recent Spring Plenary Meeting in Leeds.

St Oscar Romero (b. 1917) was Archbishop of San Salvador in El Salvador from February 1977 until his assassination and martyrdom on 24 March 1980. He was an outspoken advocate of the Gospel and the teaching of the Catholic Church in defence of justice and peace, human rights and the protection of the poor. He was canonised by Pope Francis on 14 October 2018.

The Romero Shrine in St George's Cathedral was explicitly recognised as a Diocesan Shrine in 2019, through the promulgation of Statutes. There is a growing appreciation of Romero in the UK, including through the work of the Romero Trust and the Romero Award (for schools), and also ecumenically.



The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Group is delighted with this news and proud to be part of the Parish

Overseas Project associated with a 21st Century Saint and role model in living our Catholic values. The project includes helping the Divine Providence Hospital in San Salvador with procurement of an equipment sterilisation unit and to support other requirements including installation of Solar panels. St Oscar lived at the hospital grounds and was killed there while celebrating mass.

For more information about the New National Shrine go to:

<https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/news-events/news/new-national-shrine-of-st-oscar-romero/>

For information about the Archbishop Romero Trust see:

<http://www.romerotrust.org.uk/>

For information about the Oscar Romero Award see:

<https://www.romeroaward.co.uk/>

In 2024 as part of our Parish Overseas Project journey, it is the intention of JPIC Group to organise a pilgrimage to the Shrine of St Oscar.

The JPIC Group thanks all Parishioners for your generosity and support for the Parish Project at the second collection during the weekend of 20 and 21 May 2023.

For further information regards to the Parish Project email [jpica@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:jpica@stjamespettswood.org).



## Evangelisation Pillar

### LEAVE THE CAR AT HOME WEEKEND 2023

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis asks us to  
*Live Sustainably*

One way we can help is to reduce our carbon footprint and celebrate  
UN World Environment Day on 05 June.

The Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Group invites **able-bodied**  
parishioners to leave their cars at home when they come to **Mass on 10-11**  
**June**

It doesn't matter how you get to Mass!  
You can travel by



**FOOT**  
**BIKE** (bike rack available)  
**BUS**  
**TRAIN**  
**SCOOTER**  
**ROLLER BLADES**  
**PUSH CHAIR**  
**SKATEBOARD**  
etc



**but please leave the car at home!**  
(even if it's electric)

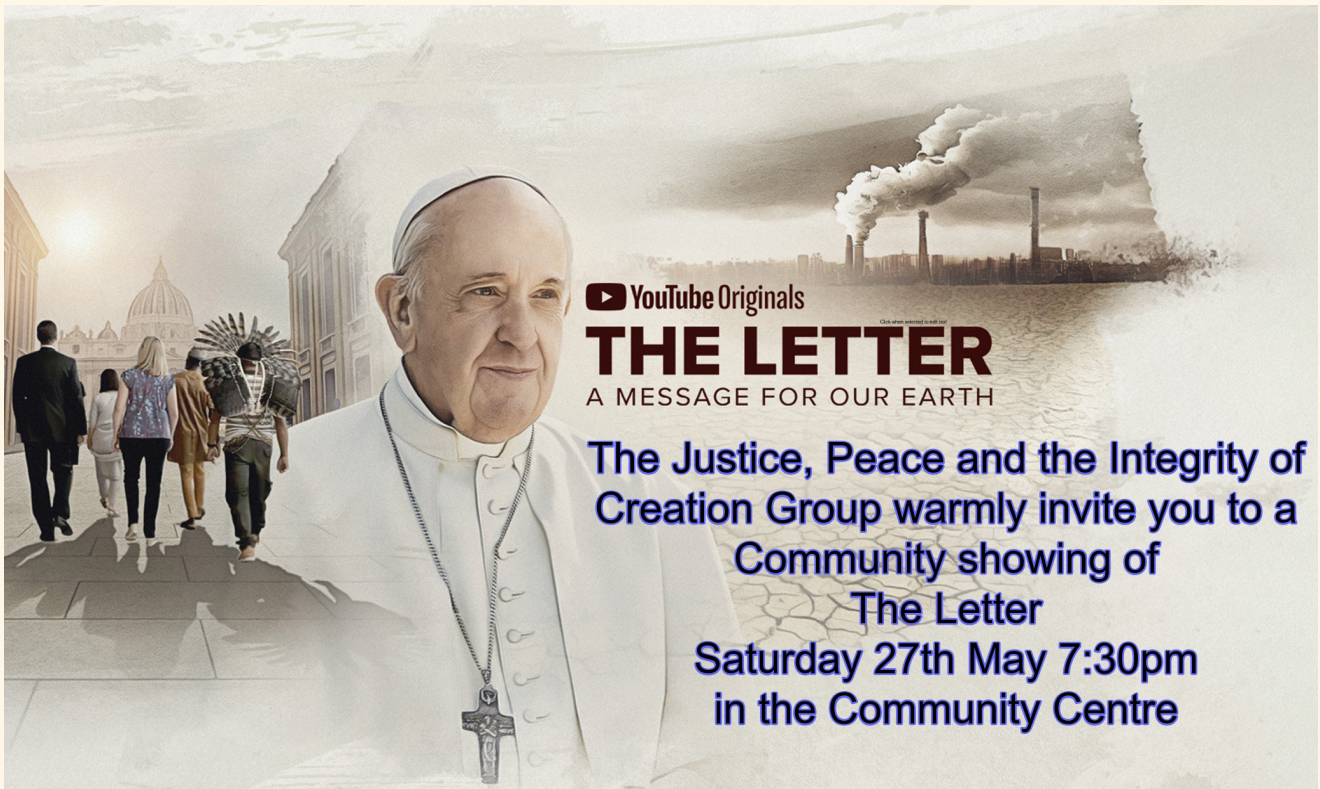
If you live too far away, try parking your car  
at least half a mile away from St James'

**There will be stickers for children whose parents do this**

**Thank you for helping to save our planet from overheating!**



# Evangelisation Pillar



YouTube Originals

## THE LETTER

A MESSAGE FOR OUR EARTH

The Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group warmly invite you to a Community showing of **The Letter** Saturday 27th May 7:30pm in the Community Centre



### The current needs are for:

- Tinned Cold Meat
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Fruit
- Desserts
- Jam
- Coffee
- Adult Toothpaste

There are two baskets available for your donations: the main church entrance and the Parish Office porch (281a Crescent Drive).



The Foodbank warehouse **cannot accept**: baby formula, fresh, out of date, chilled or frozen food.

Financial donations are still very much appreciated and there are several ways you can donate:

- Post cash, cheques or supermarket vouchers through the Parish Office letterbox. Cheques should be payable to "Bromley Borough Foodbank".
- By direct transfer to the Foodbank's bank account  
*Bank NatWest*  
*Sort code 60-16-03*  
*Account name Bromley Borough Foodbank*  
*Account number 77879007*  
*Reference STJAMESPW*
- £5 gift vouchers for Tesco and Sainsbury's are very useful to the Foodbank

Like most volunteer run charities, our Foodbank needs monetary donations. If possible you might consider setting up a standing order to help this vital work. Bank details above.

Thank you from the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group.





# Communication Pillar

## ANNUAL PARIASH CELEBRATION AND AWARDS EVENING 20 TH MAY 2023

The Annual Parish Celebration and Awards Ceremony took place in the Community Centre on the 20th May where we celebrated our wonderful parish along with the Parishioners and Groups that work so hard to enhance our community.

More than 100 parishioners attended our very successful celebration evening which started with a celebratory sparkling drink to commence an evening of beautiful entertainment which included music from our parishioners, Jonathan Brookes, Alfie Cachia, the Choir ensembles from the 9.15 Mass and the fantastic school choir singing a song from the musical "Matilda". The headline act was Sarah Flotel who provided the music and songs for dancing, to close the evening.

Fr David's provided his wonderful and inspiring vision for the future of the Parish, and we also heard updates from all our Pillars, setting out the exceptional work they have carried out over the last 12 months. We also said goodbye to our extraordinary outgoing PPC Chair, Sean Cadogan and he introduced us to our new Chair Jonathan Simms who gave an excellent informative presentation covering the History of our Parish and, also, our Patron Saint, St James the Great.

Along with the varied entertainment we also spent time, with the "In Memoriam" section of the evening to reflect and remember the Parishioners who have died during the year. This reflection included a lovely video which is attached and can be viewed using the following link.

[Click here for the In-Memoriam video](#)

The climax of the event was the presentation of our Major award, THE PARISH EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD.



This award was made posthumously to Austin Barradell for his outstanding work in the Parish over many years. Austin was more than a Parish Treasurer, Cub Scout Leader but a true friend to us all and someone who would be there to offer any help that was needed by anyone. A man that had a wicked sense of humour and who was a brilliant financier; one who made sure that the Parish was well run, in so many ways, for the benefit of our Parish Community.

The much-deserved award was accepted by Sheila, Austin's

wife, and their Son Michael, who, on receiving the award, thanked all the parishioners for their love and good wishes, stating that Austin would have been truly honoured to receive this award and how much he loved our Parish.

The event ended with a surprise video which shows the community spirit of our Parish and our photographs of the Parish Garden Party and images of our church. It was overall a very beautiful event which showed how wonderful our Parish is and the exceptional parish community and parishioners. To view the video, click on the following link:

[Click here for the Parish photo montage](#)

As this was a new event for the Parish, we will be sending out evaluation forms to everyone who attended the event with a view to ascertaining what went well and also how we can make it even better next time. In this respect we would ask that if you are requested to complete the evaluation form then you complete it and let us have your thoughts and recommendations on how it can be improved

### **We look forward to seeing you all next year for another wonderful celebration.**

All the awards were chosen following nominations received by our Parishioners and we, therefore, list below the details of the recipients of the awards and the words supplied from the nominators:

#### **Geoff & Breda Ford**

Breda & Geoff have humbly and tirelessly served St James for many years particularly during the Covid pandemic. They have quietly undertaken innumerable tasks without fuss or expecting any thanks. They wouldn't wish to be recognised in this manner, but truly deserve recognition for all that they do.

#### **Frank Simon**

Frank is unfailingly sociable and upbeat. He talks to everyone and makes everyone feel welcome and included, especially new parishioners. He has worked tirelessly helping the uniform groups as a caretaker of our Parish Hall. He was very helpful and encouraging when a parishioner started the Youth Club, 20 years ago, and welcomed him and others into the Knights of St Columba. He is one of the friendliest people we have within our Christian Community. He is the glue that sticks this parish together.

#### **Michael Kelly**

Mike offers a very unassuming and devoted service to the Parish. He is one of those people who just gets on with whatever needs doing. He is a regular Usher and is great at helping people and making them feel at ease with his friendly manner. He is very efficient, warm and respectful. He is one of our unsung heroes who would probably shun recognition, but we believe his service very much deserves to be acknowledged and celebrated.



# Communication Pillar

## Kate Charlesworth

Kate is a very special person who has served the community of St James for many years. She works tirelessly for others and will do whatever she can practically and with sensitivity to help and serve others who require assistance and advice. She takes on a lot of responsibility with organizing the Scouts. She is the Group Scout Leader with 3rd Petts Wood Scout Group. This is a huge role, overseeing all sections, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, about 100 young people. On taking over the management of the Group, it has grown from strength to strength. She particularly, rescued the Beavers and Cubs when it struggled for Leaders. She plays a critical role in Safeguarding, a role which goes unnoticed by many. She is also involved with the Memory Café, where her calm, practical and caring influence is felt. The Parish would not be as strong as it is without the work of Kate.

## Margaret Richies

Margaret is always helpful and goes about her tasks and duties quietly in the background. She always makes teas and coffees and collects cups and saucers. She is always present behind the scenes, happy to carry out a job, that may be small, but is nevertheless very vital. She always has a ready smile, is caring and deserves to be recognised.

## Gaynor Whitley

Gaynor is always very helpful, always has a shoulder to lean on and is always cheerful. Her desire to help others is clearly visible in the way she selflessly gives so much of her time and energy to so many aspects of her life, both in the Community and personally. She takes her responsibilities seriously and is active in organizing and suggesting ideas to continually improve areas in the Church Community e.g. Pastoral Care, memory Café, Funerals and Movie Nights. Gaynor has a heart of gold and is eager to share her knowledge and experience to help others whenever they need advice and guidance, helping them to feel valued. With the time and energy Gaynor gives to our Community at St James, this is a wonderful opportunity to say a huge thank you to her and to give her the recognition she deserves.

## The Altar Servers

Peter has, and continues to make, an amazing contribution to the ministry of Altar Servers. A huge thank you to him for leading the Altar Servers, giving up his time, having tremendous patience with the new as well as older servers and giving valuable guidance and coaching, helping them with their confidence. This has a positive impact on the masses for the congregation as well as the young servers, feeling involved and having a purpose. We truly appreciate all you do. A huge thank you also to all the Altar servers for your "yes" to serve and your commitment to grow in your

faith journey and for serving with such care and joy at the Lord's altar. Be proud of what you do and do it well, because you are doing it for the Lord.

## The Catholic Women's League

We are very grateful for the CWL for all its social and charitable works. They work together to promote Catholic values and have carried out numerous volunteer and charitable work. Their fundraising efforts goes to support various national and local charities. Who can forget the popular Plant Sales, Teddy Bear's Picnic and the Military Whist Drive to name just a few. Thank you CWL for all the wonderful work you do for the benefit of our Parish.

## Choir Ensembles

The music at all masses at St James adds so much meaning and is a really important element of how we worship as a Parish Community. The Choir Ministry deserves a mention for their dedication and for enlivening church services with their singing and instrumental playing., They deserve recognition for playing a key part in supporting Mass and leading the congregation in singing and worshipping the Lord.

## The Floristry Display Team

Thank you for such an excellent service that you continually provide for all Sunday masses including the special services over the Christmas and Easter periods and special occasions like First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Your dedication and vision helps to brighten up and enliven the altar area with your stunning displays. The colourful and artistic arrangements are truly magnificent. Thank you for your selfless dedication and service in beautifying our church.





# Communication Pillar





# Communication Pillar





# Communication Pillar

## Important notices from the Safeguarding Team

- For the protection of all who attend St James we request that you do not video live Masses using your phone.
  - All volunteers in the parish are cordially invited to a Safeguarding training presentation on **Wednesday, 12th July** in the Community Centre commencing at 7pm.
- 

## Volunteering Opportunities at St James

Would you like to get more involved in parish life? We need help on the following rotas.

Please email Rosa, [rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org) if you can help with any of the following jobs:

- Sunday Coffees after the 9.15am and 11am Masses
  - Ushers Saturday 6pm Mass, Sundays 9.15am and 11am
  - Readers Saturday 6pm Mass, Sundays 9.15am and 11am
  - Cleaners Saturday 10am
  - Tellers Sunday 11am
  - Memory Cafe helpers (first and second Tuesday's of the month - 1pm to 4pm). If you are able to help with the cafe please contact Suzanne in the parish office.
- 

## Message from 3rd Petts Wood Scout Group.

If your child is starting school in September and would like to join 3rd Petts Wood Beavers, at 6 years old, please apply to [3pwwaitinglist@gmail.com](mailto:3pwwaitinglist@gmail.com).

Please do not apply before your child starts in September. The opening date for accepting applications will be **Friday 8th September 2023**.

Due to the numbers in the Scout Group we are only able to accept 12 Beavers a year unfortunately. These will be allocated first to siblings already in the Group, but please ensure you apply as requested above, then as we receive the applications so as to be fair and transparent to everyone.

The information we need is : Name, Date of birth, email address , contact number.

Your child will then be put on the waiting list to begin Beavers when they are 6.

Thank you,

Kate Charlesworth

Group Scout Leader 3rd Petts Wood Scout Group

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## Fire Safety Talk - Monday 11th September 7pm - Save the date!

A Fire Safety Talk given by Roy Collier the Health and Safety Officer from the Diocese will be held in the church. This is open to all Parishioners. More details to follow.



# Social Pillar

## Book Club

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our thriving book group which will meet in the community Centre (7:30-9pm) as follows:

**14th June** - Miss Garnet's Angel by Salley Vickers

**27th July (note changed date)** - Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

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## Wednesday Lunches

Our next Wednesday lunch will be on Wednesday, **28th June**. We will be serving a light lunch from 11.45am in the Community Centre. All Welcome.

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## Film Nights in June & July

First of all, a huge thank you for raising a very generous total of £225 in donations at our Film Nights in April & May. The funds will be spent on specific items for the Parish. It is planned that one of these will be a rechargeable portable voice-amplifier - more details to follow!

Our light-hearted film on **Saturday 17 June** will be *"The Duke"* starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren and is based on a true story.

Set in 1961, a 60-year-old taxi driver, Kempton Bunton, steals Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. He sends ransom notes saying that he will return the painting if the government invests more in care for the elderly.

Please join us to find out what happens! The running time is 96 minutes.

We will be raising donations for the Charity Timu Rafiki, founded & run by some of our Parishioners which supports young people through Scouting in Kenya.

Our film on **Saturday 15 July** will be *"12 Angry Men"*, a Hollywood Original Classic starring Henry Fonda. The powerful storyline centres on twelve jurors at a murder trial. Eleven are convinced the defendant is guilty of murdering his Father, while one has no doubt of his innocence. As the gripping story unfolds the trial of the oppressed young man twists & turns & becomes a meditation on social justice.

As usual, the films will start at 7.30pm.

The Community Centre doors & the Bar will be open from 7pm.

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## The Companions Afternoon Club

June's dates for The Companions Afternoon Club: Doors open 1.30pm. All welcome.

**Wednesday 7th | Tuesday 13th | Wednesday 21st | Wednesday 28th**

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## Petts Wood CWL

The Petts Wood Catholic Women's League will be holding their June meeting on Monday **26th June** at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Please come along and join us. We will be very pleased to have visitors or new members.

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## CWL Plant Sale

The Catholic Women's League will be holding a Plant Sale after the 6pm Mass on **3rd June** and after both Sunday Masses on **4th June**. Proceeds to CWL charities.

Do come along and select plants for your house or garden. Perhaps you have planted too many seeds and now have extra plants which you would like to donate, please bring them along to the Church Garden on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning.

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## Teddy Bears' Picnic

CWL are planning a Teddy Bears' Picnic on **19th July** in the Church Garden if the weather is fine, indoors if it rains.



# Liturgy Pillar

This last month, the liturgy team have continued with their service in the church. We thank God for the happy news that Tom (guitarist at the 9:15) is now out of hospital, and we continue to pray for him and his family as he now recovers his strength. Our musicians continue to provide wonderful music for all weekend services, and a big thanks to Liz and Madeleine who played and sang wonderfully for the Confirmation Mass in May. I look forward to joining you to help sing at the First Holy Communion Services in June. I would also like to thank Romily and the flower ladies who helped at the Confirmation Mass – it was beautiful to see our 22 young people Confirmed. Thanks to the Children's Liturgy Team who do a sterling job, and please, as the newsletter said last month, if you are interested in joining the team, do come forward. Many hands make light work.

In the last month, we have also had a number of our altar servers join the Guild of St Stephen at a service in Aylesford. In the next instalment on 'meet the team', I thank Gianna for writing about what being an altar server means to her:

*"Hello, my name is Gianna and I am an altar server at St James the Great. I started serving after my first holy communion in 2019 as I wanted to be more involved with the Mass and to serve God. However, soon Covid hit and I wasn't able to altar serve for 2 years. After lockdown, I started up again and my sister joined after a few months. Thanks to training and encouragement from Peter, soon I was altar serving every Saturday at the 6 pm mass. I really enjoy it and find it a really good opportunity to be closer to the altar, to God and to Jesus.*

*On 1st May, I was accepted into the Guild of St Stephen and I was very honoured to receive the bronze medal. It was a very atmospheric and special moment and the homily reminded me of how everyone can see the altar servers on the other side of the congregation and how we can affect people's mindsets and the way they pray. Also, seeing the huge rally of altar servers in their different Albs all from different churches was most memorable and interesting. Receiving the certificate from the day with the Guild's prayer and promise on it made me even more determined to try my hardest during the Mass and to take up the role as often as I can.*

*I would like to end with a prayer from the certificate on behalf of all the altar servers at St James: We give you thanks Lord, for calling us to serve you. Strengthen our loyalty and keep us faithful to you, so that we may enjoy your friendship forever. Amen."*

Thank you Gianna and all our altar servers for undertaking this special ministry, for returning, or starting after Covid – and thanks to Peter for your guidance and service over the years!

## Children's Liturgy

'Dear Parents, At this time of year, in the Summer Term, we would like to welcome any children who will be starting in Reception in September.

This is to help prepare the children for Mass and school in September.

Children will need to be able to go to the toilet independently and be left with the Liturgy leader/helpers as unfortunately parents cannot stay.

Please get in touch with someone from the Children's Liturgy if your child has any additional needs. We want to offer an inclusive Liturgy and will strive to support children in attending.

Can we also take this opportunity to ask for any parents who are interested in helping/leading to get in touch with Jane Clark via the Parish office. We are in desperate need of more leaders and helpers to ensure the Children's Liturgy can continue.

Kind regards

The Children's Liturgy Team'

## Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, Sept. 23rd, 3pm, at St George's Cathedral

If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let your parish know as soon as possible, and no later than the end of July, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited.

You can also get in touch with us at [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk) As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Petts Wood Marriage and Family Life South East



## Liturgy Pillar

### RC Archdiocese of Southwark

Congratulations to Gianna and Gretchen Cheung, Daniel and Gaby Amor after passing their years' probation who were invested into the Guild of St Stephen at The Altar Server Rally at the Aylesford Priory on Monday 1st May.



### Additional note: 11am Altar Servers

We are looking for a couple of additional young people to become Altar Servers and join the 11am team to help support Dejan and James.

Please drop us an email if interested on  
[altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org).





# Youth Pillar

## Snippets from April and May

Good Friday Children's Liturgy Stations of The Cross. Everyone sang Kumbaya beautifully and our volunteer readers and cross-bearer were awesome. Thank you to everyone, especially the children, who helped to make this new format such an engaging and reflective experience. Father David was very impressed!



Easter Sunday Egg Hunt Quiz brought to the parish by the Bromley Deanery Youth Ministry team, Confirmands and young parishioners involved in Faith in Action this year. Thank you to all the parishioners who generously donated chocolate eggs and sweets, helping to make this such a fun and rewarding experience for the children who took part after both Masses. All the money raised will go to support the next round of parish funding for the Archbishop Oscar Romero Trust project in El Salvador. Bishop Pat dropped in after Mass, for a sneaky chocolate egg, and to congratulate our young helpers for their giving of time and effort in service to other young parishioners.



This year's Confirmands, their families and catechists, were brought together in the Rite of Acceptance Mass, after Easter. All 22 Confirmands made new promises, with renewed pledges of support from parents and catechists, to continue growing closer to God through daily prayer, attending Mass and being more like Jesus. The Confirmation Mass was celebrated on Monday 16th May by the very charismatic Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for South-East Pastoral and the Commission for Promoting Racial Justice and Cultural Inclusion in the Archdiocese. It was a solemn and moving service



## Youth Pillar

acknowledging how far the young people have come in preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep praying that the fire and the gifts of the Holy Spirit will infuse their everyday lives and that each of them will keep turning to their faith through prayer, Mass and being young disciples of God. Thank you for Fr David and all the catechists who gave of their time and talents, along with our musicians, who made the Mass so special. Come Holy Spirit!



### Looking ahead...

**12th June** - First Holy Communion and Confirmation Prep 2023-2024 Online Registration Opens

**29th June** - Holy Day of Obligation: Feast of St Peter & St Paul, 7pm Vigil Mass

**3rd July** - 2023 Confirmands Pizza Reunion "The Road Ahead", 7-9pm Community Centre

**9th July** - Parish Garden Party – save the date!

A very Happy Pentecost and the very best of luck to all our young people undertaking their A'Levels, GCSEs, assessments and end of year exams, this month. A prayer for the season of exams has been prepared for you. Come Holy Spirit!

*Father,*

*Be with me as I take this exam.*

*Keep my mind alert and my memory sharp.*

*Calm my nerves and help me concentrate.*

*I know that you walk with me,*

*Guiding my path and inspiring my heart.*

*I pray that I would feel you with me,*

*And that your friendship would soften the pressure I feel.*

*I pray that I would pass this exam and go on to new things with you.*

*Thank you for your peace and your love in my life.*

*Thank you for your kindness and care for me.*

*Amen.*

God bless!

Youth Pillar



ST JAMES THE GREAT

### *Invitation*

#### **... to join our team of catechists at St James'**

As a new cycle of Sacramental Preparation begins, we invite you to become a catechist in our parish. You may be unsure about the role and in need of encouragement, in which case these reasons shared by other catechists, may be helpful.

### **10 top reasons to become a catechist**

1. It's our job: Jesus sent us to "go and teach all nations."
2. More than ever, children and young adults need to hear the Good News.
3. You will be helping young people to develop and strengthen their spirituality and relationship with God.
4. Your baptism calls you to share in Jesus' ministry.
5. You will grow in your own faith and deepen your relationship with God.
6. You will have opportunities to share your faith with like-minded people.
7. In today's world, children and young adults need to encounter good community role models.
8. You will be supported to pass on the 2,000-year-old tradition of the faith that changes lives.
9. The resources used in the parish are second to none in faith formation.
10. You will be challenged and deeply rewarded.

*Please consider this invitation - your parish needs you.*

parish.office@stjamespettswood.org

*Father David*



## Communication Pillar

### Our Patron Saint: St James the Great



With the feast of our patron saint being on July 25th, it is appropriate to include in this edition, the history of St James the Great.

St James the Great, also known as James the son of Zebedee, was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. He was the brother of John the Apostle, and both were known as the “Sons of Thunder” for their fiery and zealous personalities. James is revered as a saint in both the Catholic and Orthodox Churches, and his feast day is celebrated on July 25.

According to the New Testament, James and his brother John were fishermen before they were called to follow Jesus. They were among the first disciples that Jesus called, and they left their fishing business to follow him. James, along with Peter and John, was present at some of the most significant events in Jesus’ life, including the Transfiguration and the raising of Jairus’ daughter.

James was also part of Jesus’ inner circle, along with Peter and John. They were the only three disciples present at the raising of Jairus’ daughter and the Transfiguration. This close relationship with Jesus was important, as it showed that James was highly trusted by Jesus and was among his most trusted disciples.

After Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection, James became a prominent figure in the early Christian Church. He is believed to have preached in Spain, and it is said that he appeared in a vision to a Christian army in a battle against the Moors, encouraging them to fight with bravery and determination. This vision is known as the “Santiago Matamoros,” or “St. James the Moor-slayer.”

James’ preaching and missionary work were not without opposition, however. He was one of the first apostles to be martyred for his faith, and his death is believed to have occurred around AD 44. According to tradition, James was beheaded in Jerusalem by King Herod Agrippa I, who was seeking to please the Jewish leaders by persecuting Christians. James was the first of the apostles to be martyred, and his death was a significant event in the early Christian Church.

Following his death, James’ body was taken to Spain by his disciples, where it was buried in what is now Santiago de Compostela. Over time, a great cathedral was built on the site of his tomb, and it became a place of pilgrimage for Christians from around the world. The pilgrimage

to Santiago de Compostela, known as the Camino de Santiago, is still a popular pilgrimage route today, with thousands of people walking the Camino each year.



Throughout history, St. James has been revered as a symbol of strength and courage, and his life and legacy continue to inspire Christians around the world. His faith in Jesus and his willingness to lay down his life for his beliefs are a testament to the power of faith and the importance of standing up for what we believe in.

In conclusion, St. James the Great was a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, a prominent figure in the early Christian Church, and a symbol of strength and courage for Christians throughout history. His life and legacy continue to inspire and encourage us to live our lives with faith and conviction, no matter what challenges we may face.



## Communication Pillar

This is to be used for the Communication Pillar if they supply anything to highlight



## Youth Pillar

This is to be used for the Youth Pillar if they supply anything to highlight



## IT Pillar

This is to be used for the IT Pillar if they supply anything to highlight



## Livestream Community

This is to be used for the livestream community if they supply anything to highlight



## Volunteering Opportunities at St James

This is to be used to highlight volunteer opportunities in the parish

### Other Notices

#### St James' Preschool

The preschool have vacancies for 2021/22 for 2.5,3 and 4 year olds. If you are interested please contact them on email [stjamespreschool@live.co.uk](mailto:stjamespreschool@live.co.uk) or by telephone: 07815 464837 or refer to their website: <http://www.stjamespreschool.co.uk/>



## Important Notice – Scam Alert

It has been brought to our attention that emails have recently been sent to various parishioners, seemingly coming from Father David, requesting urgent help and asking the recipient to send money or purchase vouchers on behalf of Father David. Please note while these emails are expertly worked and worded, Father David would never request anything like this from any parishioner by way of email. If you receive any such email please **DO NOT** reply to that email or carry out any instructions contained within it, please contact the parish office immediately upon receipt.



**ST JAMES THE GREAT**  
*Catholic Church in Petts Wood*

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



*St James – A shining light in Petts Wood*

## IN THIS EDITION | **July 2023**

### **Pastoral Care Pillar**

- Mass for Bereaved parents

### **Social Pillar**

- Summer Fair

### **Evangelisation Pillar**

- House Masses

### **Communication Pillar**

- St James The Great

## **FOLLOW US & FIND OUT MORE**

 [@stjamespettswood](#)

 [01689 827100](tel:01689827100)

 [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org)

 [www.stjamespettswood.org](http://www.stjamespettswood.org)



# Pastoral Care Pillar

## St James Prayer: Feast Day 25 July

St James, compassionate teacher, we pray that we may listen & respond to God's call to reach out to others and bring comfort to those who are in most need, especially the bereaved.

---

## Mass for Bereaved Parents, Their Families & Their Friends

National Bereaved Parents Day 2023 falls on **Monday 3 July**. This year's theme is *"You are not alone"*.

To mark this Fr David will be saying a special Mass for Bereaved Parents, Their Families and Their Friends at **3pm on Sunday, 2 July**.

Full details can be found in the May Parish Newsletter.

The contact details of external sources of support are displayed on the Pastoral Care Noticeboard in the Church Porch.

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## World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly 2023.

Pope Francis instituted World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly in 2021. This is celebrated on the fourth Sunday in July each year, close to the feast of Jesus' grandparents, Saints Joachim and Anne.

On **Sunday, 23 July** Pope Francis is due to celebrate the Day with a special Mass in St. Peter's Square. The theme for this year is *"His mercy is from age to age"* and is intended to connect to the celebration of World Youth Day in Lisbon on 1 August.

In his message released by the Vatican on 31 May, Pope Francis, calls us to honour & never abandon grandparents.

*"Let us honour them, neither depriving ourselves of their company nor depriving them of ours. May we never allow the elderly to be cast aside!"*

The Pope's full message can be found at <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/documents/20230531-messaggio-nonni-anziani.html>

On this special day let us join the Pope in celebrating and giving thanks for all grandparents, elderly relatives & friends, especially in our Parish, who enrich our lives in innumerable ways.

In the Pope's own words *"Let us pray for the elderly, that they may become teachers of tenderness so that their experience and wisdom may help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility."*

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## Lasting Power of Attorney

A lasting power of attorney (LPA) is a legal document which allows us to appoint one or more people to help us make decisions or to make them on our behalf.

The Government has produced a comprehensive guide detailing how to make, register or end an LPA. This can be

found at <https://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney>.

Both Age UK and the NHS have also produced their own guidelines which can be found at

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/legal-issues/power-of-attorney/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/making-decisions-for-someone-else/giving-someone-power-of-attorney/>



## Finance Pillar

*giftaid it*

**2023/2024**

During March, boxes of new Gift Aid envelopes will be available at the church door for those parishioners who contribute by envelope. If you contribute by Standing Order/Bankers Order or Contactlessly you will not require envelopes.

If you cannot find your box of envelopes please speak to Geoff Ford. Contact him at [gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org) or on 01689 872125 or via the parish office.

No matter which way you contribute, with some 250 active gift aiders you will understand that accurate record keeping is not only essential but can also be very confusing – for this reason please ensure that any donation intended to be Gift Aid is accompanied by your personal Gift Aid Number which was allocated when you signed your Gift Aid Declaration. Just showing your name is not always adequate.

If you cannot remember your personal Gift Aid number or have any query regarding Gift Aid- please contact Geoff Ford. Thank you for your on-going support.



### **Congratulations to the June winners**

£100 number Angela Evans

£ 50 number Frank Vorstenburg

£ 25 number Mark Hutchins

£ 25 number Barbara Shea

The 200 Club continues to flourish and at present there are five vacancies available. Subscriptions are £5 per month payable on the first day of each month. Alternatively subscriptions can be paid annually online or by cheque for £60 payable to St James the Great 200 Club. Details are as follows:

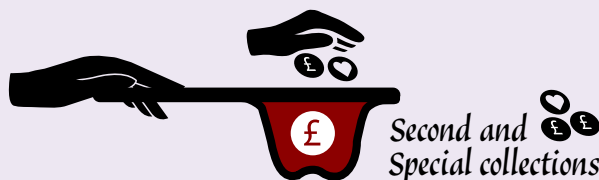
**Natwest Orpington**

**Sort Code** 60 16 03

**Account Number** 77878736

**Account Name** St JamesChurch 200 Club.

Anyone wishing to join please contact Ken Evans telephone 01689 851793 or the Parish Office 01689 827100.



### **Second collections – July**

There are a number of diocesan and special collections during the next couple of months and if you are contributing to them by bankers' order, please use the Payment References below.

#### **9th July - Apostleship of the Sea (AOTS)**

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. In the last year, more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard. Many are reporting more stress and poorer mental health. Sea Sunday is Sunday 9th July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting [www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate), or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) to continue its important work - so please give generously. Thank you.

#### **16th July - Maintenance and Refurbishment Fund (M&R)**

If payments to these second collections are being made by Bankers Order, please show the following payment references:

**Maintenance Fund** - M&R/Gift Aid Number/Surname

**Apostleship of the Sea** - AOTS/Gift Aid Number/Surname

We take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous support of St James' parish especially during the past difficult years and we pray those conditions do not repeat themselves.





# Evangelisation Pillar

## Future Seminars and Retreat

After the great success of the Session on the 24th June on the Old Testament by the brilliant biblical scholar Brian Purfield, we are privileged to have him once again coming to our parish on the 15th July, 10:00am to 3:00pm, for a session this time on the New Testament. If you wish to know more about the different Books and letters in the New Testament and the cultural social milieu in which Jesus lived and ministered please do come over.

We can guarantee you a very informative day which will help us understand much more the reality of the Founder of our Faith.

We're inviting you to "bring and share" your favourite food(s), with everything ready to eat please, and the more variety the better! Please contact the Parish office if you would like to attend.

Brian Purfield is a team member at the London Jesuit Centre and has worked alongside the Jesuits since 2001. Prior to that he taught at the International Franciscan Study Centre in Canterbury. He studied theology at the Gregorian University, Rome and at St. Bonaventure's University, New York. His particular interest is in deepening a knowledge and love of the Scriptures for people, young and old, at a level that they can understand and seek to apply to their daily lives.

Gilly Fenner again is to deliver for us a **Retreat** on the **4th November**.

## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors of the South East - Formation Days 2023

Canon Victor Darlington invites you to save the following day in your diary:

**Saturday 14th October 2023 ~ 10am-4pm**

Venue: St Stephen's Church, 26 Deepdene Road, Welling, Kent DA16 3QL.

Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend.

## Soaring Spirits Love Your Neighbour Lunch

We are organising a Soaring Spirits Love Your Neighbour Lunch on Sunday **September 24th** from 12 noon until 2.30pm in the Community Centre.

Everyone is invited, so please put the date in your diaries and calendars now.

We're inviting you to "bring and share" your favourite food(s), with everything ready to eat please, and the more variety the better!

We're also aiming to provide a barbeque.

Would you like to help? Please see the sign-up sheets in the church corridor for volunteers and helpers from late August onwards. Thank you!

Everyone is welcome!

Let's come together on **Sunday 24th September** from 12noon until 2.30pm in the Community Centre for a joyful celebration of our community.

See you then!

## Journey in Faith 2023/2024

Planning is underway for a new season of Journey in Faith which is to begin in September. It is for adults who want to know more about the person of Jesus and Christianity or feel the need to belong to a community of faith or, perhaps, wish to explore the possibility of becoming Catholics.

Journey in Faith is also for those who are already Catholics but want to deepen their faith and for Christians of other traditions who wish to become full members of the Catholic Church.

Please let the Parish Office know if you would like to join the journey with us.

## Message from the JPIC Team

The Live Simply garden is currently being tidied up prior to its transformation into a Peace Garden. The ruby slate chips which had been laid on the membrane in the centre of the Live Simply garden have been removed and bagged up for recycling. The slate chips are available in strong black plastic bags for collection from the back wall of the top car-park. Please take as many bags as you need.



# Evangelisation Pillar

## House Mass

House Mass is an initiative at St. James to help develop Fr. David's vision of St. James becoming a "Sanctuary in Suburbia".

The idea of House Mass goes back to early Christians who, in small groups, gather in houses to celebrate the Lord's Supper. It typically has a more intimate atmosphere (than a Sunday Mass), and everybody feels more involved in the celebration. The setting also allows time to develop friendships and community.

A Host is however needed to facilitate this happening.

## Dates:

**Tuesday 26th September**

**Tuesday 24th October**

**Tuesday 21st November**

**Tuesday 5th December**

If you think you would like to host a House Mass, please contact Suzanne and Caroline via email [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org) to agree mutually convenient date.

## What does the Host of House Mass need to do?

1. Host to liaise with Parish Office on when he/she wishes to host a House Mass.

[Fr. David has allocated specific monthly dates in his diary when he is available for House Mass.] Suggest 8pm start. Provide the Parish Office with your full address / how to get there (as needed), parking restrictions, email, telephone number.

2. Host to invite parishioners to come to the House Mass in his/ her house.

[Suggest host to invite say 8-12 people, but the number of people very much depends on the space/ seating arrangement available in the host's house. The host decides how many and who to invite to the House Mass. It will be good to invite a mix of parishioners, particularly new parishioners, and parishioners who are less involved as one of the objectives of the house mass is to form friendship/ communities]

3. Host to arrange reader(s) from the attendees. (usually 1st reading + psalm) and someone to bring up offertory.

[The reading will normally be the Daily Mass readings, and that will be sent to you by the Parish office one week before the event. If you wish to use other readings, please discuss and agree with Fr. David beforehand]

4. Host to arrange chairs for everyone (including yourself and priest) – usually around the room. A small table with white cloth will also be needed as altar.

5. Host to provide tea & coffee or other drinks after Mass. Suggest host to ask attendee to bring simple nibbles to share for the social.

## Provisional Timing for House Mass:

8pm Arrive (before 8pm if possible) and settle

8:05 ish Start Mass

8:50 ish Mass finish

9:30/9:45pm ish Social



# Communication Pillar

## Our Patron Saint: St James the Great



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for Christians from around the world. The pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, known as the Camino de Santiago, is still a popular pilgrimage route today, with thousands of people walking the Camino each year.



Throughout history, St. James has been revered as a symbol of strength and courage, and his life and legacy continue to inspire Christians around the world. His faith in Jesus and his willingness to lay down his life for his beliefs are a testament to the power of faith and the importance of standing up for what we believe in.

In conclusion, St. James the Great was a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, a prominent figure in the early Christian Church, and a symbol of strength and courage for Christians throughout history. His life and legacy continue to inspire and encourage us to live our lives with faith and conviction, no matter what challenges we may face.



# Communication Pillar

## Important notices from the Safeguarding Team

- For the protection of all who attend St James we request that you do not video live Masses using your phone.
  - All volunteers in the parish are cordially invited to a Safeguarding training presentation on **Wednesday, 12th July** in the Community Centre commencing at 7pm.
- 

## Volunteering Opportunities at St James

Would you like to get more involved in parish life? We need help on the following rotas.

Please email Rosa, [rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org) if you can help with any of the following jobs:

- Sunday Coffees after the 9.15am and 11am Masses
- Ushers Saturday 6pm Mass, Sundays 9.15am and 11am
- Readers Saturday 6pm Mass, Sundays 9.15am and 11am
- Cleaners Saturday 10am
- Tellers Sunday 11am

Memory Cafe helpers (first and second Tuesday's of the month - 1pm to 4pm). If you are able to help with the cafe please contact Suzanne in the parish office.

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## Message from 3rd Petts Wood Scout Group.

If your child is starting school in September and would like to join 3rd Petts Wood Beavers, at 6 years old, please apply to [3pwwaitinglist@gmail.com](mailto:3pwwaitinglist@gmail.com).

Please do not apply before your child starts in September. The opening date for accepting applications will be **Friday 8th September 2023**.

Due to the numbers in the Scout Group we are only able to accept 12 Beavers a year unfortunately. These will be allocated first to siblings already in the Group, but please ensure you apply as requested above, then as we receive the applications so as to be fair and transparent to everyone.

The information we need is : Name, Date of birth, email address , contact number.

Your child will then be put on the waiting list to begin Beavers when they are 6.

Thank you,

Kate Charlesworth

Group Scout Leader 3rd Petts Wood Scout Group

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## Fire Safety Talk - Monday 11th September 7pm - Save the date!

A Fire Safety Talk given by Roy Collier the Health and Safety Officer from the Diocese will be held in the church. This is open to all Parishioners. More details to follow.



# Social Pillar

## Sunday 9th July

The Fun Run is upon us! Same as usual: starts at 12.30pm at the entrance of Jubilee Park. One lap around is 2.5km so two laps and your mission is complete! It is £7/Adult, £3/Child and £14/Family and you can bring your money on the day. Chris will be waiting for you at the starting line and we'd love to see as many families taking part as possible. Pushchairs and buggies are welcome – these may be tricky to manoeuvre along the pathways but track marshals will be on hand to guide and assist you along the way! Once you've completed the course, return to the church gardens for a hero's welcome and grab yourselves a nice cold drink!

The Summer Garden Party will be going ahead and we're still hoping for more helpers to step forward this week, please. Without helpers to set-up, run stalls for an hour or two, serve food, sell raffle tickets and clear-up, it can't go ahead. Please text Lolly with your offer of help – just an hour or so, so you too, can enjoy the day with your family and friends. Thanks in advance.

It's such a lovely parish family event to gather with fellow parishioners, catch-up and make new friends, in the safe and comfortable surroundings of the parish garden, in good company and with some great food. The barbeque will be going strong from 12.30pm until the burgers, hotdogs and buns run out and Mr Tarat from Tamasha Restaurant in Widmore Road Bromley is supplying the hot food at £4 per portion. Burgers and hotdogs are £3 and £2 respectively.

The bar, teas/coffees and cake stalls will up and running right after mass!

All donations of cakes, cup cakes, cookies and cooked or cold food will be gratefully received. Please text Lolly to let us know what you'll be bringing. Gluten Free / Vegan Friendly options would be gratefully received too.

The 200 Club Draw will take place at 1pm and the Garden Party Raffle is, as usual, offering fantastic prizes of £250 1st Prize, £150 2nd Prize and £50 3rd Prize. There's also a fantastic summer hamper to take home, if yours is the winning ticket! Raffle tickets are £5 per strip and will be on sale from 12.30-2.00pm only. The draw takes place at 2.30pm so do be quick! No Tombola this summer – please save all your bottles for the Christmas Fair.

Come to join us and if you can tell jokes or sing, please do let us know – it's Open Mic from 1.15 – 2.15pm!

Sunday 9th July – see you in the garden after 11am Mass!

## Film Nights in July & August

A huge thank you to all Film Night supporters for your unceasing generosity in helping to raise funds for local charities & for particular initiatives to support our Church. Your recent donations amounting to £225 covered exactly the full cost of a lightweight, rechargeable portable voice-amplifier. This piece of kit will be a boon in many ways including times when Church Services begin outside the building & also for the Walk of Witness through Petts Wood

on Good Fridays.

Thank you too to everyone who came along to see The Duke in June. Although we were small in numbers, your generosity raised a fantastic £50 for the local Charity, Timu Rafiki, which supports young people through Scouting in Kenya.

Our film on Saturday **15 July** will be "12 Angry Men", a Hollywood Original Classic starring Henry Fonda. The powerful storyline centres on twelve jurors at a murder trial. Eleven are convinced the defendant is guilty of murdering his Father, while one has no doubt of his innocence.

As the gripping story unfolds, the trial of the oppressed young man twists & turns & becomes a meditation on social justice.

Next month we will have our now traditional August Film "Fun-Night" when everyone is invited to bring some nibbles etc to share! Prosecco will be on tap but if any one wishes to bring along other drinks hard or soft the more the merrier. The date is **19th August**. As this will be 'holiday' month in the Parish, the Bar will be closed.

We will be showing the cinematic ode to legendary composer Cole Porter in the musical, "De-Lovely" starring Kevin Kline (playing Cole Porter) & Ashley Judd (playing his wife Linda) & featuring several cameo performances including by Robbie Williams & Elvis Costello. The glamorous storyline travels from Paris to Venice to Broadway & on to Hollywood.

As usual, the films will start at 7.30pm & the Community Centre Doors & the Bar (July only) will be open from 7pm. A very warm welcome awaits!



# Social Pillar

## Book Club

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our thriving book group which will meet in the community Centre (7:30-9pm) as follows:

**27th July (note changed date)** - Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

## Wednesday Lunches

Our next Wednesday lunch will be on Wednesday, 20th September. We will be serving a light lunch from 11.45am in the Community Centre. All Welcome.

## The Companions Afternoon Club

Who are we? What do we do?

We meet in the Church Community Centre every week. We play scrabble, Triominos, indoor curling, table tennis and we hope to start Line-dancing. Maybe you have ideas as to what you may like to do? So do come and join us in the Community Centre at 1.30pm to 4.30pm on the first two Wednesdays and the second two Tuesdays of the month. Here is a chance to get to know some really lovely people!

Julys dates for The Companions Afternoon Club: Doors open 1.30pm. All welcome.

Wednesday 5th | Wednesday 12th | Tuesday 18th | Tuesday 25th

## Petts Wood CWL

Petts Wood Catholic Women's League would like to thank everyone who made the Plant Sale such a lovely social occasion as well as a successful fundraising event. We raised over £380, which will be donated to a variety of charities. We look forward to another plant sale with wonderful weather next year, so please pot up any plants which you do not need but which we could sell.

## Teddy Bears' Picnic

**Wednesday 19th July** - 2.30 - 4.30

The picnic will be held in the Church Garden if fine or in the Community Centre if wet.

Please bring your teddies along.

Teas, coffees, squash, cakes, ice lollies, vegetable sticks will be available.

There will be activities for the children, including music with instruments for the children to play.

As it is a CWL event there will also be a raffle.

## Petts Wood CWL July Section Meeting

To be held on **Monday 24th July**, 7.30 in the Community Centre.

Illustrated talk about Round Britain Royal Themed Cruise by Jim Callinan at 8pm - all welcome.

## Cafe Joseph, Fr Phelan Centre, Holy Innocents' Church

Second talk on the Criminal Justice system: Probation Service / Community Pay Back scheme - rehabilitation of offenders

11 July at 11am - 12 noon.

If you think this talk is not for you, then we invite you to think again. All welcome. We look forward to seeing you soon.



## Liturgy Pillar

The various teams in the liturgy pillar have continued to support Fr David in the Masses over the last month. A huge thank you to the musicians, servers, flower arrangers and welcomers who supported the beautiful First Holy Communion this last month! The children looked amazing, and it is clear that we definitely have some future readers among this cohort, as those who read did so, so confidently! Congratulations!

A thank you to the musicians who also sang at a wedding this month!

Peter Marshall who helps lead the servers has a request for more altar servers at the 11 o'clock Mass. So, if anyone is interested in this ministry, please do let us know.

Readers – if you are able to, please try and attend the second Bible seminar being held on Saturday July 15th from 10:30am-3pm. It promises to be an interesting session accompanied by a bring and share lunch!

Next month, some parts of the liturgy ministry will be slowing down for the summer break – so please listen out to notices going forward.

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### **Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, Sept. 23rd , 3pm, at St George's Cathedral**

If you are celebrating your **1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th +** wedding anniversary this year, please let your parish know as soon as possible, and no later than the end of July, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited.

You can also get in touch with us at [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk)

As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Petts Wood Marriage and Family Life South East

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### **11am Altar Servers**

We are looking for a couple of additional young people to become Altar Servers and join the 11am team to help support Dejan and James.

Please drop us an email if interested on

[altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org).



ST JAMES THE GREAT

### *Invitation*

#### **... to join our team of catechists at St James'**

As a new cycle of Sacramental Preparation begins, we invite you to become a catechist in our parish. You may be unsure about the role and in need of encouragement, in which case these reasons shared by other catechists, may be helpful.

### **10 top reasons to become a catechist**

1. It's our job: Jesus sent us to "go and teach all nations."
2. More than ever, children and young adults need to hear the Good News.
3. You will be helping young people to develop and strengthen their spirituality and relationship with God.
4. Your baptism calls you to share in Jesus' ministry.
5. You will grow in your own faith and deepen your relationship with God.
6. You will have opportunities to share your faith with like-minded people.
7. In today's world, children and young adults need to encounter good community role models.
8. You will be supported to pass on the 2,000-year-old tradition of the faith that changes lives.
9. The resources used in the parish are second to none in faith formation.
10. You will be challenged and deeply rewarded.

*Please consider this invitation - your parish needs you.*

parish.office@stjamespettswood.org

*Father David*





# Volunteering Opportunities at St James

## **Rotas**

Would you like to get more involved in parish life? We need help on the following rotas.

Please email Rosa, [rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org) if you can help with any of the following jobs:

- Sunday Coffees after the 9.15am and 11am Masses
- Ushers Saturday 6pm Mass, Sundays 9.15am and 11am
- Readers Saturday 6pm Mass, Sundays 9.15am and 11am
- Cleaners Monday 8.45 and Saturday 10am



**ST JAMES THE GREAT**  
*Catholic Church in Petts Wood*

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



*St James – A shining light in Petts Wood*

## IN THIS EDITION | **October 2023**

### **Pastoral Care Pillar**

- Healing Mass

### **Social Pillar**

- Film Night

### **Evangelisation Pillar**

- JPIC Mass Integrity Of Creation

### **Communication Pillar**

- Summer Garden Party

## **FOLLOW US & FIND OUT MORE**

 [@stjamespettswood](https://www.facebook.com/stjamespettswood)

 01689 827100

 [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org)

 [www.stjamespettswood.org](http://www.stjamespettswood.org)



# Pastoral Care Pillar

**“To be a decent human, you simply need to have compassion. Recognize your good fortune, share with others, and do as much as you can to help those who are struggling in life.”**

**(Kiran Athar)**

## Healing Mass

On **Monday 2 October**, at 7pm, we will be holding a special Healing Mass. All are very welcome.

During the Eucharist there will be opportunity for those who would like to receive a special Blessing for healing, to be anointed.

For safeguarding reasons it is necessary for family members or friends to provide transport for those with mobility difficulties. Please contact the Parish Office in the event of any problems with this.

## Parish Service of Remembrance, 3pm, Sunday 5 November

Our Annual Remembrance Service offers us an opportunity to come together to commemorate the lives of our missed loved ones. During the Service we will pause to celebrate the memory of each of those in our Parish who has died during the past year.

If you are mourning a close relative who has died during the past year & would like your loved one’s name read out during the Service, please contact the Parish Office with details, or speak to a member of the Pastoral Care Team. If you wish, we will gladly prepare a special votive candle for you to light during the Service & retain afterwards.

Following the Service the Church will remain open for private prayer. Fr David & the Pastoral Care Team look forward to welcoming everyone who would like to stay on for refreshments in the Community Centre.

## Memorial Stars: Remembering Our Deceased Loved Ones in a Special Way during November & the Christmas Period.

On **1 November** the gold stars in the Baptistry commemorating our deceased loved ones will be moved to the Sanctuary & prayed over at all Masses during the month of special remembrance.

Please note that all the stars from previous years have been retained & so it will not be necessary to write or request a repeat star.

If any parishioner would like a new star prepared in memory of a deceased loved one, please either

- contact the Parish Office with the details so that a star can be prepared for you, or
- collect a star from the bowl in the porch (available from Monday, 23 October) where you can personalise it with

the name/s of your loved one/s plus any message you may wish to add. There will be a container alongside for the completed stars.

For Advent the stars will be transferred to our White Memorial Christmas Tree so that we continue to commemorate our missed loved ones in a special way over the festive season. The tree will be lit during the Parish Carol Service on Sunday 17 December.



## Finance Pillar

*giftaid it*

**2023/2024**

During March, boxes of new Gift Aid envelopes will be available at the church door for those parishioners who contribute by envelope. If you contribute by Standing Order/Bankers Order or Contactlessly you will not require envelopes.

If you cannot find your box of envelopes please speak to Geoff Ford. Contact him at [gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org) or on 01689 872125 or via the parish office.

No matter which way you contribute, with some 250 active gift aiders you will understand that accurate record keeping is not only essential but can also be very confusing – for this reason please ensure that any donation intended to be Gift Aid is accompanied by your personal Gift Aid Number which was allocated when you signed your Gift Aid Declaration. Just showing your name is not always adequate.

If you cannot remember your personal Gift Aid number or have any query regarding Gift Aid- please contact Geoff Ford. Thank you for your on-going support.



### **Congratulations to the September winners**

£100 Barry Simmons number 148

£50 Niamh Cleave number 67

£25 Petrina Garton number 111

£25 Linda Winder number 196

The 200 Club continues to flourish and at present there are five vacancies available. Subscriptions are £5 per month payable on the first day of each month. Alternatively subscriptions can be paid annually online or by cheque for £60 payable to St James the Great 200 Club. Details are as follows:

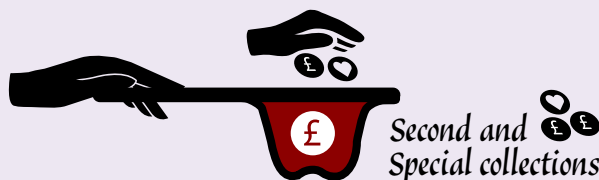
#### **Natwest Orpington**

**Sort Code** 60 16 03

**Account Number** 77878736

**Account Name** St JamesChurch 200 Club.

Anyone wishing to join please contact Ken Evans telephone 01689 851793 or the Parish Office 01689 827100.



### **Second collections – October**

There are a number of diocesan and special collections during the next couple of months and if you are contributing to them by bankers' order, please use the Payment References below.

#### **8th October - CAFOD (HARVEST)**

#### **15th October - Maintenance Fund**

#### **29th October - World Mission Sunday (MISSIO)**

If payments to these second collections are being made by Bankers Order, please show the following payment references:

**Cafod** - Cafod/Gift Aid Number/ Surname

**Maintenance Fund** - M&R/Gift Aid Number/Surname

**Missio** - Missio/Gift Aid Number/Surname

We take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous support of St James' parish especially during the past difficult years and we pray those conditions do not repeat themselves.



# Evangelisation Pillar

The launch of the Journey in Faith took place on 23rd September and will continue with sessions right through to April. Please remember this group in your prayers as participants undergo the Alpha course followed by more in-depth teaching on the Catholic faith as some prepare to enter the Church for the first time when they are baptised at the Easter Vigil mass.

As we head into the autumn months the focus of the Evangelisation team is centered on preparation for Advent.

On the 4th November we will be having a parish retreat day facilitated by Gillian Fenner.

Listen out for announcements at masses with further details on how to sign up, together with the theme of the retreat.

To coincide with Advent we will be running a series of 4 sessions about Thomas Merton, based on the book 'Merton's Palace of Nowhere'

The initial session will be on 29th November with follow up sessions on 6th and 13th December. On 21st December Fr David will lead the parish on a Christmas meditation.

The Evangelisation team is very small and new members are always welcome. It's not about knocking on people's doors armed with a Bible, it's about faith formation and how we can reach out to those who feel marginalized by the church. Why not bring your ideas to a meeting? You don't have to commit to attend every meeting, but if you have something that you think we should be doing and the time and skills to help us to help you deliver it, why not get in touch with us at [evangelisation@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:evangelisation@stjamespettswood.org)

## Dates for your diary

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Friday **6th October**

Anti-Slavery Day – **18th October**

## JPIC Mass Integrity Of Creation on 1st October

There will be a mass at 11.00 on Sunday 1st October to celebrate the gift of our world and to pray for the continued care of our common home. This will be followed by a short ceremony in the Peace Garden as it is opened and blessed by Fr David. You are welcome to join in both celebrations.

## The Lord's Prayer (Eco version)

### Our Father, who art in heaven...

*You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans,*

### Hallowed be Your name...

*By the care we take of your creation,*

### Your Kingdom come...

*All that you see is good,*

### Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...

*Your will to till and care.*

### Give us this day our daily bread...

*That all may have sufficient to live life in fullness*

### Forgive us our trespasses...

*our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations,*

### As we forgive those who trespass against us...

*by reconciliation with justice and peace.*

### Lead us not into temptation...

*the temptation to equate dominion with exploitation,*

### And deliver us from evil...

*the evil of destroying your gift of creation,*

### For Yours is the Kingdom...

*Yours Lord, not ours,*

### The Power and the Glory...

*in the cross and the resurrection,*

### For ever and ever...

*You were the beginning and you are the end.*

### Amen.

*And so be it.*

## First Holy Communion 2024

Children who are registered parishioners and are in school year three are invited to register to apply for next year's programme. Please contact the parish office via email [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org) for a registration form that will be sent to you.

ALL REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE PARISH OFFICE BY MONDAY 12TH NOVEMBER. (Any applications after this date will be put on a waiting list for the 2025 programme).

## Confirmation 2024

A warm welcome to all those young people, Year 9 and above, who are looking to be confirmed next year. Sessions start in December with some important ones to get into diaries now.

**Monday 4th December** Parents' meeting led by Fr. David

**Saturday 13th December** Kick Off Day (12.00 - 6.00 Longer session than normal) Followed by Mass of Enrolment

**Monday 22nd January** Session One 7.00 - 9.00

**Friday 3rd May - Sunday 5th May** Retreat weekend at Aylesford

**Tuesday 21st May** 7.00 pm Confirmation Mass.



# Evangelisation Pillar

Please contact the Parish Office via email [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org) for a registration pack.

Please ensure that completed forms are returned to the parish office before the parents' meeting on Monday 4th December.

## Blessing of Pets – St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day

In anticipation of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Wednesday 4 October, we are planning to hold a blessing of pets at Church on Sunday **1 October** at 3pm. St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) was the patron saint of ecologists, florists and poets. Please bring along your pets to the Church Garden at 3pm.

## Future Seminars and Retreat Gilly Fenner again is to deliver for us a Retreat on the 4th November.

## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors of the South East - Formation Days 2023

Canon Victor Darlington invites you to save the following day in your diary:

**Saturday 14th October 2023** ~ 10am-4pm

Venue: St Stephen's Church, 26 Deepdene Road, Welling, Kent DA16 3QL.

Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend.

## Eucharist Adoration – Be Still in the Presence of the Lord –

Time set aside in your hectic life – wasting time in silence with God, takes place for an hour each Wednesday shortly after the Morning Mass and the Wednesday Café, starting at 10.45am and finishing with Benediction at 11.15am and on the first Friday of the month from 5pm till 7pm. The next will be on Friday **6th October**. All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.

## REPAIR CAFÉ IN PETTS WOOD

One good way of cutting down on waste is to repair things rather than throw them away.

There is a successful repair café running at St Francis Church in Greencourt Road, BR5 1QW. It meets once a month on Saturdays from 2-5pm, the next dates being **21 October** and **18 November**. You just turn up on the day with your item to be repaired.

This local community repair service can tackle items such as small electrical/mechanical appliances, laptops/computers, clocks/watches, joinery, needlework repairs and bicycles.

No charges are made for repairs but donations towards running costs are very welcome.

For a small charge you can also enjoy a slice of homemade

cake and a drink while you wait for your item to be repaired.

A St James' parishioner speaks very highly of a repair recently done to his wife's much loved handbag.

Could you be the next happy customer?

## "Bring and Share" Lunch

We would like to thank everyone who helped to organise, attended, brought food, and shared time with us on Sunday 24th September at the "Bring and Share" Lunch. Thank you for your generosity. We had a wonderful time and hope you did too. It's a pleasure being in a community with you all.

See you next time and many thanks again!

Pam



# Evangelisation Pillar



*Certificate of Thanks*

This Certificate is presented to all those who deposited food from:	St. James The Great RC Church, Petts Wood
Date:	August 2023
Total Donation given to help support the work of Bromley Borough Foodbank:	34.55 kg

*With our Grateful Thanks*



### The current needs are for:

- Canned Rice Pudding
- Canned Custard
- Canned Fruit
- UHT Fruit Juice
- Squash
- Shampoo
- Hair conditioner
- Men's deodorant
- Multi surface wipes/sprays

There are two baskets available for your donations: the main church entrance and the Parish Office porch (281a Crescent Drive).



The Foodbank warehouse **cannot accept**: baby formula, fresh, out of date, chilled or frozen food.

Financial donations are still very much appreciated and there are several ways you can donate:

- Post cash, cheques or supermarket vouchers through the Parish Office letterbox. Cheques should be payable to "Bromley Borough Foodbank".
- By direct transfer to the Foodbank's bank account  
Bank NatWest  
Sort code 60-16-03  
Account name Bromley Borough Foodbank  
Account number 77879007  
Reference STJAMESPW
- £5 gift vouchers for Tesco and Sainsbury's are very useful to the Foodbank

Like most volunteer run charities, our Foodbank needs monetary donations. If possible you might consider setting up a standing order to help this vital work. Bank details above.

Thank you from the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group.





# Communication Pillar

## PARISH SUMMER GARDEN PARTY AND FUN RUN

The annual Garden Party and Fun Run was once again a wonderful event where we celebrated the feast of our Patron Saint, St James the Great, as a Parish community. Despite the threat of inclement weather, the event was well supported in what was a wonderful communal spirit. Our thanks must go to the organizers of event, for the wonderful food and drink and, also, for the music provided by our very talented parishioners.

The attached photos show what a great day we all had and is testament to the kind of Parish we have; one which generates such a great community spirit we have and the love and kindness we show to each other.

For those of you that came to the party or took part in the Fun Run, I hope you enjoyed the day as much as I did.







# Communication Pillar





# Communication Pillar

## Volunteering Opportunities at St James

Would you like to get more involved in parish life? We need help on the following rotas.

Please email Rosa, [rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org) if you can help with any of the following jobs:

**Sunday Coffees** after the 9.15am and 11am Masses

**Ushers Saturday** 6pm Mass, **Sundays** 9.15am and 11am

**Readers Saturday** 6pm Mass, **Sundays** 9.15am and 11am

**Readers for weekdays Mon to Thur** 10 am.

**Cleaners Saturday** 9.30am

**Tellers Sunday** 11am

**Memory Cafe helpers** (first and second Tuesday's of the month - 1pm to 4pm). If you are able to help with the cafe please contact Suzanne in the parish office.

We are looking for a couple of additional young people to become **Altar Servers** and join the 11am team to help support Dejan and James. Please drop us an email if interested on [altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org).

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## Message from 3rd Petts Wood Scout Group.

If your child is starting school in September and would like to join 3rd Petts Wood Beavers, at 6 years old, please apply to [3pwwaitinglist@gmail.com](mailto:3pwwaitinglist@gmail.com).

Please do not apply before your child starts in September. The opening date for accepting applications will be **Friday 8th September 2023**.

Due to the numbers in the Scout Group we are only able to accept 12 Beavers a year unfortunately. These will be allocated first to siblings already in the Group, but please ensure you apply as requested above, then as we receive the applications so as to be fair and transparent to everyone.

The information we need is : Name, Date of birth, email address , contact number.

Your child will then be put on the waiting list to begin Beavers when they are 6.

Thank you,

Kate Charlesworth

Group Scout Leader 3rd Petts Wood Scout Group

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## St James Repository

The Repository in church is open after Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses throughout the year. There is a good selection of Religious articles always available, including Bibles, Prayer Books, Sunday Misswals, Children's Books, Rosaries, Statues, Mass cards and cards for most other occasions.

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## Appeal From The Knights of St Columba

Please continue to bring in your used postage stamps. If they are on postcards, it is fine to donate the postcard as well. Money raised will go to Knights good causes. Please leave stamps in the wooden box in the church porchway.



# Communication Pillar

## ADVERTISEMENT



Do you have any issues that you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish?

Do you have any good news stories that you would like to share with the Parish?

If you do then why not use the Newsletter as a medium to share your thoughts with us and one to make a positive difference to the life of our Parish. If you do have anything that you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish then please send the information to Paul Cosgrave at the following email address: [communication@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:communication@stjamespettswood.org)



# Social Pillar

## A huge thank you to Jacob Portelli

The Parish would like to thank Jacob for his amazing and very moving performance on Saturday 23rd September and again at 11am Mass on Sunday 24th September. The concert on Saturday raised £850, all of which goes to the Parish, as Jacob has given his time for free.

## Film Nights in October & November 2023

First of all a big thank you for the generosity of those who came along to watch Franco Zeffirelli's "Brother Sun, Sister Moon" in September. Your donations raised £100 which will contribute to an external wall-mounted parcel box for the Parish Office.

On **Saturday, 7 October**, our film will be "Housewife, 49", written by & starring the sadly missed actress/ comedian, Victoria Wood.

Set in the Northern English town of Barrow-in-Furness & based on a true story, this follows the experiences of an ordinary housewife & mother whose life is transformed by the Second World War. The running time is 1 hour 33 minutes.

On **Saturday, 11 November** our film will be War Horse based on the book by Michael Morpurgo & directed & produced by Steven Spielberg. The film takes place before & during the First World War & tells of the journey of Joey, a bay Irish Hunter horse raised by British teenager Albert. They are inseparable. However, when Joey is sold off to the British cavalry, Albert follows him in the hope of reuniting with his best friend. This leads him to encounter various people throughout Europe, in the midst of the war & its tragedies. The running time is 2 hours 26 minutes.

As usual the Community Centre doors & the Bar will open at 7pm. The films will start at 7.30 pm. A warm welcome awaits!

## Book Club

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our thriving book group which will meet in the community Centre (7:30-9pm) as follows:

**Wednesday 11th October** - The book will be Act of Oblivion by Robert Harris.

## Wednesday 22nd November

## Wednesday Lunches

Our next Wednesday lunch will be on Wednesday, 18th October. We will be serving a light lunch from 11.45am in the Community Centre. All Welcome.

## The Companions Afternoon Club

Who are we? What do we do?

We meet in the Church Community Centre every week. We play scrabble, Triominos, indoor curling, table tennis and we hope to start Line-dancing. Maybe you have ideas as to what you may like to do? So do come and join us in the Community Centre at 1.30pm to 4.30pm on the first two Wednesdays and the second two Tuesdays of the month. Here is a chance to get to know some really lovely people!

Octobers dates for The Companions Afternoon Club: Doors open 1.30pm. All welcome.

**Wednesday 4th | Wednesday 11th | Tuesday 17th | Tuesday 24th | 31st October**

## Petts Wood Catholic Women's League (CWL)

Petts Wood CWL would like to thank everyone who supports our fund raising events. This enables us to make donations to various charities. In September we were able to make a donation of £200 to Aid to the Church in Need to support Christians in Pakistan.

The next meeting of the CWL will be held on **Monday 2nd October** at 8pm when we will have a talk by a bee keeper. Members of the parish are warmly invited to attend at 8pm to join us in learning about bees. There will also be honey and other bee related goods on sale, with profits going to charity.

This month we have a second CWL meeting which will be held on **Monday 23rd October** at 7.30. Please wear comfortable clothing as we are having a 'Strength and Stability' chair exercise session at 8pm. Members of the parish are invited to join us for this fun session at 8pm.

Do make a note in your diary to come along to our Race Night on **Saturday 28th October**, 7.30 in the Community Centre. This will be an exciting evening suitable for the whole family. Money raised will be shared between charities supported by CWL and the Knights of St Columba, Tickets cost £5 (Under 11s free)

Plant Sale - Please remember the CWL plant sale when you are sorting out your garden and pot up any surplus plants ready for our sale next year.

PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust) is the National Charity for the CWL this year. PACT is a pioneering national charity that supports prisoners, people with convictions and their children and families. CWL are planning on providing backpacks containing - men's socks and pants, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, flannel, shampoo, bottle of water, nut-free energy or chocolate bar, notebook, pen and card with a message on.



ST JAMES THE GREAT

### *Invitation*

#### **... to join our team of catechists at St James'**

As a new cycle of Sacramental Preparation begins, we invite you to become a catechist in our parish. You may be unsure about the role and in need of encouragement, in which case these reasons shared by other catechists, may be helpful.

### **10 top reasons to become a catechist**

1. It's our job: Jesus sent us to "go and teach all nations."
2. More than ever, children and young adults need to hear the Good News.
3. You will be helping young people to develop and strengthen their spirituality and relationship with God.
4. Your baptism calls you to share in Jesus' ministry.
5. You will grow in your own faith and deepen your relationship with God.
6. You will have opportunities to share your faith with like-minded people.
7. In today's world, children and young adults need to encounter good community role models.
8. You will be supported to pass on the 2,000-year-old tradition of the faith that changes lives.
9. The resources used in the parish are second to none in faith formation.
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*Please consider this invitation - your parish needs you.*

parish.office@stjamespettswood.org

*Father David*



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# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



*St James – A shining light in Petts Wood*

## IN THIS EDITION | **November 2023**

### **Pastoral Care Pillar**

- Annual Service of Remembrance

### **Youth Pillar**

- Christ The King

### **Evangelisation Pillar**

- Manna Centre Donation Drive

### **Communication Pillar**

- Volunteering

## **FOLLOW US & FIND OUT MORE**

 [@stjamespettswood](#)

 01689 827100

 [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org)

 [www.stjamespettswood.org](http://www.stjamespettswood.org)



# Pastoral Care Pillar

*"Only in the darkness can you see the stars."*

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

## November: The Month of Remembrance.

As foreshadowed in the October Parish Newsletter, our **Annual Service of Remembrance** will be held at **3pm on Sunday, 5 November**. This Mass will offer us the opportunity to commemorate the lives of all our missed loved ones & also to pause in a very special way to remember our parishioners, & close relatives of parishioners, who have died during the past year.

Following the Service the Church will remain open for private prayer.

Fr David & the Pastoral Care Team extend a very warm welcome to everyone to gather together for refreshments afterwards in the Community Centre. We are very grateful to the Catholic Women's League for their generous input.

## Gold Memorial Stars

As in previous years, parishioners are invited to personalise a gold star in special memory of their loved one/s. Blank stars are available in the Church porch. **Please bear in mind that all the completed stars from previous years have been retained in the Baptistry & so there is no need for duplication.**

The stars will be moved to the Sanctuary on 1 November & will be blessed at all Masses during this month of remembrance. In December they will then be transferred to our white Memorial Christmas Tree so that we continue to keep the loved ones of our Parish Family close to us during Advent and the whole festive period.

The tree will be illuminated during the **Parish Carol Service** on **Sunday 17 December**.

There are many helpful resources to be found online offering grief support including

<https://grief.com/>

<https://www.google.com/gasearch?q=david%20kessler%20understanding%20loss&tbm=&source=sh/x/gsm2/5#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:be2c9d6b,vid:sJVOUFKEgl,st:0>

Also please know that members of the Pastoral Care Team are always ready to offer a confidential listening ear to help support you. We can be contacted via the Parish Office or otherwise please approach one of us directly. Our details are on the notice board in the Church porch.

## Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual campaign aimed at raising awareness about bullying, its impact on individuals, and the importance of preventing bullying in schools, communities, and online spaces. It will be marked this year from 13 -17 November with the theme 'Make A Noise About Bullying'.

The following links provide helpful guidance & resources both for individuals & schools

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/advice-and-support/if-youre-being-bullied/find-help-and-support>

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2023-make-noise-about-bullying>

<https://www.hopefortheheart.org/10-truths-on-bullying-practical-help-from-gods-word/>

Another resource is The National Bullying Helpline which advocates that "all bullying, whatever the motivation or method is unacceptable and should not be tolerated. It can affect anyone and we are all potential targets - whether we are adult, child or the bullying is at school, in the community, at work, on line or at home. Most people understand bullying as behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that is intended to hurt another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

If you are struggling with bullying, harassment, cyberbullying or anti-social behaviour issues, we hope this website will enable you to identify solutions and remedies along with practical help."

Website <https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/>

Helpline: 0300 323 016. Telephone: 0845 225 5787



# Finance Pillar

*giftaid it*

## 2023/2024

During March, boxes of new Gift Aid envelopes will be available at the church door for those parishioners who contribute by envelope. If you contribute by Standing Order/Bankers Order or Contactlessly you will not require envelopes.

If you cannot find your box of envelopes please speak to Geoff Ford. Contact him at [gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org) or on 01689 872125 or via the parish office.

No matter which way you contribute, with some 250 active gift aiders you will understand that accurate record keeping is not only essential but can also be very confusing – for this reason please ensure that any donation intended to be Gift Aid is accompanied by your personal Gift Aid Number which was allocated when you signed your Gift Aid Declaration. Just showing your name is not always adequate.

If you cannot remember your personal Gift Aid number or have any query regarding Gift Aid- please contact Geoff Ford. Thank you for your on-going support.



## Congratulations to the October winners

£100 R Monaghan Number 46

£50 L Morgan Number 131

£25 D Delf Number 144

£25 M Feeney Number 82

The 200 Club continues to flourish and at present there are five vacancies available. Subscriptions are £5 per month payable on the first day of each month. Alternatively subscriptions can be paid annually online or by cheque for £60 payable to St James the Great 200 Club. Details are as follows:

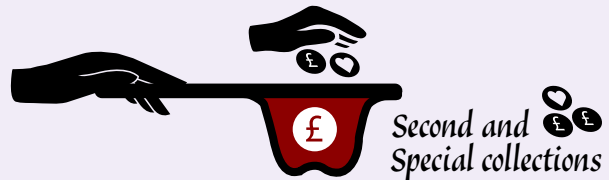
### Natwest Orpington

**Sort Code** 60 16 03

**Account Number** 77878736

**Account Name** St JamesChurch 200 Club.

Anyone wishing to join please contact Ken Evans telephone 01689 851793 or the Parish Office 01689 827100.



## Second collections – November

There are a number of diocesan and special collections during the next couple of months and if you are contributing to them by bankers' order, please use the Payment References below.

### 12th November- Archbishop's Appeal

### 26th November - National Youth Sunday

If payments to these second collections are being made by Bankers Order, please show the following payment references:

**Archbishops Fund** - ArchBFund/Gift Aid Number/Surname

**National Youth Sunday** - NYS/Gift Aid Number/Surname

We take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous support of St James' parish especially during the past difficult years and we pray those conditions do not repeat themselves.





# Evangelisation Pillar

The launch of the Journey in Faith took place on 23rd September and will continue with sessions right through to April. Please remember this group in your prayers as participants undergo the Alpha course followed by more in-depth teaching on the Catholic faith as some prepare to enter the Church for the first time when they are baptised at the Easter Vigil mass.

As we head into the autumn months the focus of the Evangelisation team is centered on preparation for Advent.

On the **4th November** we will be having a parish retreat day facilitated by Gillian Fenner, from 10.00am – 3.00pm. Please bring lunch to share. Coffees and teas will be provided for. Contact the parish office to register.

To coincide with Advent we will be running a series of 4 sessions about Thomas Merton, based on the book 'Merton's Palace of Nowhere'

The initial session will be on **29th November**, 7.30pm - 9.00pm with follow up sessions on 6th and 13th December. On 21st December Fr David will lead the parish on a Christmas meditation.

The Evangelisation team is very small and new members are always welcome. It's not about knocking on people's doors armed with a Bible, it's about faith formation and how we can reach out to those who feel marginalized by the church. Why not bring your ideas to a meeting? You don't have to commit to attend every meeting, but if you have something that you think we should be doing and the time and skills to help us to help you deliver it, why not get in touch with us at [evangelisation@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:evangelisation@stjamespettswood.org)

## First Holy Communion 2024

Children who are registered parishioners and are in school year three are invited to register to apply for next year's programme. Please contact the parish office via email [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org) for a registration form that will be sent to you. **ALL REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE PARISH OFFICE BY MONDAY 12TH NOVEMBER.** (Any applications after this date will be put on a waiting list for the 2025 programme).

## Confirmation 2024

A warm welcome to all those young people, Year 9 and above, who are looking to be confirmed next year. Sessions start in December with some important ones to get into diaries now.

**Monday 4th December** Parents' meeting led by Fr. David

**Saturday 13th January** Kick Off Day (12.00 - 6.00 Longer session than normal) Followed by Mass of Enrolment

**Monday 22nd January** Session One 7.00 - 9.00

**Friday 3rd May - Sunday 5th May** Retreat weekend at Aylesford

**Tuesday 21st May** 7.00 pm Confirmation Mass.

Please contact the Parish Office via email [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org) for a registration pack.

Please ensure that completed forms are returned to the parish office before the parents' meeting on Monday 4th December.

## Eucharist Adoration – Be Still in the Presence of the Lord

Time set aside in your hectic life – wasting time in silence with God, takes place for an hour each Wednesday shortly after the Morning Mass and the Wednesday Café, starting at 10.45am and finishing with Benediction at 11.15am and on the first Friday of the month from 5pm till 7pm. The next will be on Friday **3rd November**. All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.

## Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina)

A quiet reflective look at the following Sunday's Gospel. Mondays 11am-12 noon, except for Bank Holidays, here in the Church. All are welcome.

## Repair Café in Petts Wood

One good way of cutting down on waste is to repair things rather than throw them away.

There is a successful repair café running at St Francis Church in Greencourt Road, BR5 1QW. It meets once a month on Saturdays from 2-5pm, the next dates being **21 October** and **18 November**. You just turn up on the day with your item to be repaired. This local community repair service can tackle items such as small electrical/mechanical appliances, laptops/computers, clocks/watches, joinery, needlework repairs and bicycles. No charges are made for repairs but donations towards running costs are very welcome. For a small charge you can also enjoy a slice of homemade cake and a drink while you wait for your item to be repaired.

A St James' parishioner speaks very highly of a repair recently done to his wife's much loved handbag. **Could you be the next happy customer?**

## Foodbank seeking new Foodbank Manager

Bromley Borough Foodbank (BBF) was founded by churches in our area and is proud of its Christian identity and values. Its mission is to help those in need in our community by providing food support and helping them get back on their feet. BBF is currently recruiting for a new Foodbank Manager to lead its operations and manage a team of around 130 staff and volunteers. This is a full-time role with a salary of £40,000 per annum. Might you, or someone you know, be the right person to play this leading role in fulfilling BBF's important mission? For more details or to apply, visit [Charityjob.co.uk](http://Charityjob.co.uk) & search keywords "management & Bromley".



# Evangelisation Pillar



### The current needs are for:

- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Hot & Cold Meats
- UHT Milk
- Sugar
- Desserts, Hot Sponge pudding, Jelly etc..
- Men's deodorant
- Shaving Gel

There are two baskets available for your donations: the main church entrance and the Parish Office porch (281a Crescent Drive).



The Foodbank warehouse **cannot accept**: baby formula, fresh, out of date, chilled or frozen food.

Financial donations are still very much appreciated and there are several ways you can donate:

- Post cash, cheques or supermarket vouchers through the Parish Office letterbox. Cheques should be payable to "Bromley Borough Foodbank".
- By direct transfer to the Foodbank's bank account  
*Bank NatWest*  
*Sort code 60-16-03*  
*Account name Bromley Borough Foodbank*  
*Account number 77879007*  
*Reference STJAMESPW*
- £5 gift vouchers for Tesco and Sainsbury's are very useful to the Foodbank

Like most volunteer run charities, our Foodbank needs monetary donations. If possible you might consider setting up a standing order to help this vital work. Bank details above.

Thank you from the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group.

## MANNA CENTRE DONATION DRIVE

ALL DONATIONS BY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOV 2023

Please place your donations in the wheelie bins near the church entrance or at the parish office.



Thank you from the Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Group

## MANNA CENTRE DONATION LIST

ALL DONATIONS BY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOV 2023

### FOOD

- Tinned Veg / Meat
- Tinned Fruit / Tomatoes
- Pasta / Pasta Sauces
- Corned beef / Luncheon meats
- Rice / Cooking oil / Ketchup
- Curry / Cooking Sauces
- Chopped ham / Stewed steak
- Baked Beans / Hot Dogs
- Porridge oats / Cereals
- Jelly / Biscuits

### TOILETRIES

- Bodywash / Soap / Shampoo
- Deodorants / Shaving Foam
- Disposable razors (new)
- Toothbrushes (new)
- Toothpaste
- Toilet Rolls

### MEN'S CLOTHING

- T-shirts
- Fleeces / Hoodies
- Coats /Jackets
- Trainers / Shoes
- Socks (new)
- (Waist 30-38)
- Jeans / Joggers
- Trousers
- Underwear (new)

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Tea Mugs
- Oyster cards (unregistered)
- DRINKS**
- Coffee
- Dilutable Drinks



Thank you from the Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Group



# Communication Pillar

## Volunteering: A Gift That Keeps on Giving



St James the Great Catholic Church Parish is a vibrant and diverse community of faith that welcomes people of all backgrounds and ages. Volunteering in this parish can be a rewarding and fulfilling way to serve God and others, as well as to grow in your own spiritual journey. Here are some reasons why you should volunteer in St James the Great Catholic Church Parish:

Volunteering can help you discover and share your gifts and talents. God has given each of us unique abilities and passions that we can use for His glory and the common good. By volunteering, you can explore your interests, develop your skills, and express your creativity in various ministries and activities. You can also learn from others who have different perspectives and experiences.

Volunteering can strengthen your sense of belonging and community. By volunteering, you can connect with other parishioners who share your faith and values, and build meaningful relationships based on mutual support and respect. You can also participate in the life and mission of the Parish and contribute to its growth and development. You can also reach out to the wider community, especially those who are in need or marginalized, and show them God's love and compassion.

Volunteering can enrich your faith and joy. By volunteering, you can deepen your relationship with God, who calls us to love him and our neighbours as ourselves. You can also experience His grace and presence in your service and witness His power and goodness in your life and in the lives of others. You can also find joy and satisfaction in using your gifts and talents for a noble purpose, and in making a positive difference in the world.

As you can see, volunteering in St James the Great Catholic Church Parish has many benefits for both you and others. If you are interested in volunteering, you can find opportunities that match your availability, location, and preferences by contacting the parish office, on 01689827100. You can also ask your friends, family, or fellow parishioners if they know any organizations or groups that need volunteers. Volunteering is a wonderful way to express your gratitude to God, to serve his people, and to grow in his likeness. Why not give it a try?



## CAN YOU HELP US TO PROVIDE THE VERY BEST FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF OUR PARISH

**Volunteering at Scouts** is really flexible – it's up to you what you do and how often you do it. Here are some of the ways you can get involved.

### WORK DIRECTLY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

If you're a people-person who loves sharing knowledge and getting stuck in, there are loads of opportunities to use your skills within the sections. Can you make a great cuppa, drive a minibus, organise an event, or inspire a nervous young person to try something new? Working with other volunteers, you'll plan and deliver challenging, relevant and rewarding activities for young people. If you're happy to help once a week but don't have much time for planning, you can download a pre-planned programme of activities from our website. Or if you're a super busy person but still want to be involved, you can join a Parent's Rota or take part as an occasional helper.

### MAKE THINGS HAPPEN BEHIND THE SCENES

If you're an organisational wizard who likes to get stuff done (but doesn't fancy running activities), we've lots of behind the scene tasks too. Our Executive Committees help groups with raising money, arranging events, getting publicity, recruiting young people and adults, maintaining buildings, and general admin. We also have practical things that we'd love your help with, like cutting the grass or painting a meeting place. All of this doesn't involve direct contact with our young people but is just as important to us.

### HELP RUN OUR TEAMS

If you're a motivator who can get the best out of people, then we need someone like you to manage and support our volunteer teams. We want to make sure they're happy, that they understand their role, and that they have what they need to continue being amazing leaders. On joining the team, we'll provide you with great training opportunities, including an accredited course – always a nice addition to anyone's CV.

No matter what role you pick, you'll be fully trained and supported along the way. We care deeply about our volunteers, and want your time in Scouts to be as valuable for you as it is for our young people.

### INTERESTED?

Then contact **Kate Charlesworth** on: Email: [gsl3pwscounts@gmail.com](mailto:gsl3pwscounts@gmail.com)



# Communication Pillar

## Volunteering Opportunities at St James

Would you like to get more involved in parish life? We need help on the following rotas.

Please email Rosa, [rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org) if you can help with any of the following jobs:

**Sunday Coffees** after the 9.15am and 11am Masses

**Ushers Saturday** 6pm Mass, **Sundays** 9.15am and 11am

**Readers Saturday** 6pm Mass, **Sundays** 9.15am and 11am

**Readers for weekdays Mon to Thur** 10 am.

**Cleaners Saturday** 9.30am

**Tellers Sunday** 11am

**Memory Cafe helpers** (first and second Tuesday's of the month - 1pm to 4pm). If you are able to help with the cafe please contact Suzanne in the parish office.

We are looking for a couple of additional young people to become **Altar Servers** and join the 11am team to help support Dejan and James. Please drop us an email if interested on [altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org).

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## St James Repository

The Repository in church is open after Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses throughout the year. There is a good selection of Religious articles always available, including Bibles, Prayer Books, Sunday Misswals, Children's Books, Rosaries, Statues, Mass cards and cards for most other occasions.

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## Appeal From The Knights of St Columba

Please continue to bring in your used postage stamps. If they are on postcards, it is fine to donate the postcard as well. Money raised will go to Knights good causes. Please leave stamps in the wooden box in the church porchway.

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## ADVERTISEMENT



Do you have any issues that you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish?

Do you have any good news stories that you would like to share with the Parish?

If you do then why not use the Newsletter as a medium to share your thoughts with us and one to make a positive difference to the life of our Parish. If you do have anything that you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish then please send the information to Paul Cosgrave at the following email address: [communication@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:communication@stjamespettswood.org)



# Social Pillar

## Film Night in November 2023

Firstly, thank you very much as always for your generosity in raising £80 in donations at our October Film Night. Together with the funds previously raised, we have more than sufficient to cover the cost of a external postbox for the Parish Office. The balance of £40 will be put towards a future requirement.

Our film on **Saturday, 11 November** will be "War Horse", based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo. Set before & during World War 1, this features Albert, a young man, and his horse Joey. They are inseparable friends but when Joey is sold off to the British cavalry, Albert enlists in the army in a bid to reunite with his horse.

The film was directed & produced by Steven Spielberg & has a star-studded cast including Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Hiddleston & Emily Watson. It was nominated for six Academy Awards (including Best Picture), two Golden Globes and five BAFTAs.

Donations raised will be used to purchase Food Vouchers for the Food Bank to help families over the Christmas Holiday period.

Our Film Night on **Saturday, 16 December** will have a festive flavour (including mince pies & mulled wine!),

We will be showing a different version of the traditional Charles Dickens classic A Christmas Carol to the one we featured last year. This time it will be the 1970 musical version "Scrooge" starring Albert Finney, Alec Guinness, Edith Evans & Kenneth More.

Albert Finney won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Musical/Comedy in 1971, and the film received four Academy Award nominations, including for Best Original Song ("Thank You Very Much").

As usual the Community Centre & the Bar will open at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you!

## Book Club

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our thriving book group which will meet in the community Centre (7:30-9pm) as follows:

**Wednesday 22nd November**

## Wednesday Lunches

Our next Wednesday lunch will be on Wednesday, 22nd November. We will be serving a light lunch from 11.30am in the Community Centre. All Welcome.

## The Companions Afternoon Club

Who are we? What do we do?

We meet in the Church Community Centre every week. We play scrabble, Triominos, indoor curling, table tennis and we hope to start Line-dancing. Maybe you have ideas as to what you may like to do? So do come and join us in the

Community Centre at 1.30pm to 4.30pm on the first two Wednesdays and the second two Tuesdays of the month. Here is a chance to get to know some really lovely people!

November and December dates for The Companions Afternoon Club: Doors open 1.30pm. All welcome.

November - **Wednesday 8th | Wednesday 15th | Tuesday 21st | Tuesday 28th**

December - **Wednesday 6th | Wednesday 13th | Tuesday 19th**

## Petts Wood Catholic Women's League (CWL)

Plant Sale - Please remember the CWL plant sale when you are sorting out your garden and pot up any surplus plants ready for our sale next year.

PACT(Prison Advice and Care Trust) is the National Charity for the CWL this year. Pact is a pioneering national charity that supports prisoners, people with convictions and their children and families. CWL are planning on providing backpacks containing - men's socks and pants, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, flannel, shampoo, bottle of water, nut-free energy or chocolate bar, notebook, pen and card with a message on.



## Youth Matters

**Saturday 25th November 12-6pm at St Joseph's Church Hall BR1 2PR.**

The Bromley Deanery Youth Ministry Team once again invites young people aged 7-15 to attend the Christ The King Youth Day. All the usual fun, song, prayer and liturgy, with new games, your favourite pizza and tuck shop. £5 entry, more info and registration form here. Please register early for planning purposes and we'll see you there!

**CHRIST THE KING**

**Bromley Deanery Youth Day**

*...The Kingship of Christ*

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November**  
**12 - 6pm and Youth Mass 6 - 7pm**  
**for young people aged 7-15**  
**Helpers aged 16-18 very welcome!**

at St Joseph RC Church Hall  
Plaistow Lane Bromley BR1 2PR

£5.00 Entry + Extras - For more info and  
to register scan the QR code or [click HERE](#)

Arts & crafts  
Music & song  
Painting  
Fun activities  
Prayers & poems  
tuck shop  
Hotdogs  
Pizza  
Games

BROM Catholic Youth



**ST JAMES THE GREAT**  
*Catholic Church in Petts Wood*

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



*St James – A shining light in Petts Wood*

## IN THIS EDITION | **December 2023**

### **Advent & Christmas**

- Christmas at St James

### **Pastoral Care Pillar**

- Memorial Christmas Tree

### **Evangelisation Pillar**

- Parish Overseas Project

### **Communication Pillar**

- Pilgrimage to Rome

## **FOLLOW US & FIND OUT MORE**

 [@stjamespettswood](#)

 [01689 827100](tel:01689827100)

 [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org)

 [www.stjamespettswood.org](http://www.stjamespettswood.org)

## Advent and Christmas 2023 at St James

# St James' the Great Christmas Mass Times

### Advent Carol Service

Sunday 17th December at 3pm

### Advent Reconciliation Service

Monday 18th December at 7.30pm

Sunday 24th December

9.15am, 11am and 6pm

### Carols and Midnight Mass

at 11.30pm

Monday 25th December

9.15am and 11am

Tuesday 26th December at 10am

Sunday 31st December

9.15am, 11am and 6pm (Saturday)

Monday 1st January

at 11am





# Advent and Christmas 2023 at St James

## Christmas Offerings

The collection at the Masses over the Christmas period are your personal offerings for your Parish Priest.

## Parish Office - Christmas Opening

Please note that the parish office will be closed from Thursday 21st December, re-opening on Tuesday 2nd January 2024. Emails sent during this period may not be read until 2nd January, however we will do everything we can to respond to any urgent emails.

## Christmas Crib – Poinsettias Needed

If you would like to donate some poinsettias for the crib this Christmas, they would be gratefully received. Please drop them off in the church or at the Parish Office by the weekend of 17th December.

## Christmas cards are now on sale.

Christmas cards and the like are now on sale in the repository

## Christmas Day Lunch with Fr. David!

Fr David would like to invite you to Christmas lunch if you will be on your own this year. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to come.

## Volunteers Are Needed to Help Prepare Christmas Lunch with Fr. David on Monday 25th December!

Would you like to help organise Christmas lunch for Fr. David and his parish guests in the Community Centre this year? If you have ideas and would like to help please email the Parish Office: [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org).

## Gifts for Christmas

This year St James is supporting Great Ormond Street Hospital. At all Christmas Masses you are invited to bring a gift of a brand-new toy to put around the Christmas tree, or, if you prefer, to the parish office (281A Crescent Drive) Gifts can be for a child up to the age of 16.

Every day, around 750 seriously ill children and young people are seen at Great Ormond Street Hospital from all over the UK. Every day, young lives hang in the balance as patients, families and staff battle the most complex illnesses. Every day, the brightest minds come together to achieve pioneering medical breakthroughs that change the lives of thousands of children and change the world.

Despite the greatest challenges a child can face, the hospital is a place where being sick does not always mean being sad. And it's a place where you'll find – today and every day – some of the bravest people you could ever meet.

This extraordinary hospital has always depended on charitable support, and every day is a chance for you to make a difference. Discover the impact we make with your help and support.

## Gift vouchers

Another way you can show your support is to buy vouchers that the hospital's expert Play team can use to purchase the items, toys and gifts that the children most need. We accept gift vouchers from:

- The Entertainer
- Smyths Toy Shop
- Superdrug
- Boots
- Argos
- Early Learning Centre
- Amazon

## Donating toys or games

If you would prefer to donate a gift to the children at the hospital, please see below for a handy guide that the hospital's Play team has put together. The list consists of toys, games and presents that the seriously ill children and young people cared for at GOSH always appreciate.

# Advent and Christmas 2023 at St James

Please note the following:

- we are only able to accept items that are brand new and in their original packaging. Please no soft teddies.
- we are unable to accept any used or second-hand items, (including toys, games and clothing), books, soft toys or knitted items or anything that has been made at home

## **Toys and games our kids love**

- board/card games e.g. Guess Who, Uno, Dobble, Connect 4, Frustration
- arts and crafts kits e.g. paints, Play-Doh and stickers
- toy cars and planes
- construction toys like Lego and Playmobil
- dolls

## **Toys and games our babies love**

- mobiles and musical mobiles
- jigsaws and peg puzzles
- toys and sensory items to stimulate the senses
- developmental toys e.g. stacking cups and blocks
- musical toys, including rattles

## **What our teenagers love**

- nail art kits
- stationery sets
- jewellery making kits
- toiletries and pamper items including body spray, hair and body wash, bath bombs for boys and girls (must be for sensitive skin)
- games

## **Petts Wood Churches Together Christmas Carol Singing**

Station Bridge Petts Wood – Wednesday 22nd December at 5.30pm. Please do come and join us for some festive fun!



# Pastoral Care Pillar

## A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

## November Memorial Service

Thank you to those who joined us for our special Memorial Mass on 5 November. The personalised candles which were not claimed after the Service are available for collection from the silver tray at the foot of the Baptistry, together with copies of the Order Service for those who were unable to attend in person.

## Remembering our Loved Ones in a Special Way over the Christmas Period

During Advent & the whole Christmas period our special white Memorial Christmas Tree will be standing once again on the Sanctuary adorned with the gold stars prepared by parishioners in memory of our missed relatives & friends. The tree will be illuminated during the Parish Carol Service on Sunday 17 December.

## Reaching Out

Christmas can be a particularly lonely time for people who are living on their own. Let us be cognisant of those around us, especially the elderly & bereaved, who may have no-one with whom to share & celebrate the festivities.

A gesture of warmth such as a simple Christmas card could make a huge difference to someone who feels isolated, particularly when they may be missing the joy of Christmasses past & the precious company of their loved ones.

Age UK has a telephone friendship service which offers older people a weekly phone call. Last year they supported over 28,000 people over Christmas with their Service. An extract from their website reads:

“What is telephone friendship?

As we get older, we may find we spend more time on our own. This can sometimes feel lonely, boring or make us miss friends or family. If you or someone you know is missing the joy of regular conversation, Age UK and our partner charity The Silver Line can help.

We offer free telephone friendship services so you can enjoy chatting with someone over the phone, all from the comfort

of your own home. Whether you'd like to speak to someone every week, or just want to talk when the need strikes, we're here to help.

We have two different telephone friendship services available.

- Regular telephone friendship service. We match over-60s with a friendly volunteer for a weekly chat. Our service has helped create hundreds of new friendships, and many people tell us their calls are the highlight of their week. To get started, just tell us a bit about yourself and we'll do the rest.

- The Silver Line Helpline, a 24-hour service. Our charity, The Silver Line, is a free confidential telephone service just for older people. We provide people with friendship, conversation and support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Tel (free & confidential) 0800-70-80-90.

Our telephone friendship services may not be as helpful for people with memory loss, dementia or mental health issues who need a higher level support. These conditions may affect the person's ability to build a telephone friendship and, in some instances, people with these conditions may actually find the calls more distressing.

If you're not sure if our telephone friendship services can support you or someone you know, please call 0800 434 6105 to get in touch with us and we'll be happy to help you find the right support.”

## PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US!

Our small Pastoral Care Team is seeking additional support & we would welcome new members so that we can strengthen & expand our outreach to the Parish.

If you have time to spare & feel a pull towards learning more about our remit, please speak to Fr David, a member of our Team (our details are on the porch noticeboard), or email [pastoral@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:pastoral@stjamespettswood.org). We would be delighted to have a chat with you with no commitment whatsoever on your part.



## Finance Pillar



### **Congratulations to the November winners**

£100 M Ingledew Number 119

£50 D Delf Number 144

£25 R Munro Number 164

£25 A Prifti Number 48

The 200 Club continues to flourish and at present there are five vacancies available. Subscriptions are £5 per month payable on the first day of each month. Alternatively subscriptions can be paid annually online or by cheque for £60 payable to St James the Great 200 Club. Details are as follows:

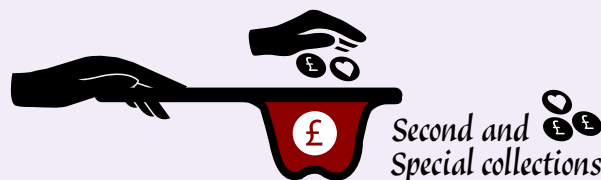
#### **Natwest Orpington**

**Sort Code** 60 16 03

**Account Number** 77878736

**Account Name** St JamesChurch 200 Club.

Anyone wishing to join please contact Ken Evans telephone 01689 851793 or the Parish Office 01689 827100.



### **Second collections – December**

There are a number of diocesan and special collections during the next couple of months and if you are contributing to them by bankers' order, please use the Payment References below.

#### **3rd December- JPIC Project**

#### **10th December -Maintenance Fund**

#### **25th December - Christmas Offering**

If payments to these second collections are being made by Bankers Order, please show the following payment references:

**JPIC Project** - JPIC/Gift Aid Number/ Surname

**Maintenance Fund** - Buildfund/Gift Aid Number/Surname

**Christmas Offering** - Xmas/Gift Aid Number/ Surname

We take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous support of St James' parish especially during the past difficult years and we pray those conditions do not repeat themselves.



# Evangelisation Pillar

## Confirmation 2024

A warm welcome to all those young people, Year 9 and above, who are looking to be confirmed next year. Sessions start in December with some important ones to get into diaries now.

**Monday 11th December** Parents' meeting led by Fr. David, 7.30pm.

**Saturday 13th December** Kick Off Day (12.00 - 6.00 Longer session than normal) Followed by Mass of Enrolment

**Monday 22nd January** Session One 7.00 - 9.00.

**Friday 3rd May - Sunday 5th May** Retreat weekend at Aylesford

**Tuesday 21st May** 7.00 pm Confirmation Mass.

Please contact the Parish Office via email [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org) for a registration pack.

Please ensure that completed forms are returned to the parish office before the parents' meeting on Monday 4th December.

## Eucharist Adoration – Be Still in the Presence of the Lord

Time set aside in your hectic life – wasting time in silence with God, takes place for an hour each Wednesday shortly after the Morning Mass and the Wednesday Café, starting at 10.45am and finishing with Benediction at 11.15am and on the first Friday of the month from 5pm till 7pm. The next will be on Friday **1st December**. All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.

## Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina)

A quiet reflective look at the following Sunday's Gospel. Mondays 11am-12 noon, except for Bank Holidays, meetings are via zoom. Please contact the parish office who will arrange the zoom link to be sent to you. All are welcome

## Save The Date - You are invited!

The Agency of Evangelisation and Catechesis (AEC) have kindly agreed to presenting a Deanery Catechists Day on Saturday 10th February.

This is the start of the half term when sacramental prep will have naturally paused and more catechists will be free to attend, hopefully!

The day is presented by Dr Mark Nash & Ingrid La Trobe from the AEC.

We will be joined some 70+ catechists from other parishes across the deanery.

**Saturday 10th Feb 2024** - St James Community Centre

9.30am teas/coffees, 10am Start, 12.30pm Mass

We will finish by 4pm. RSVP to [lollybell@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:lollybell@rcaos.org.uk)

## House Mass

House Mass is an initiative at St. James to help develop Fr. David's vision of St. James becoming a "Sanctuary in Suburbia".

The idea of House Mass goes back to early Christians who, in small groups, gather in houses to celebrate the Lord's Supper. It typically has a more intimate atmosphere (than a Sunday Mass), and everybody feels more involved in the celebration. The setting also allows time to develop friendships and community.

A Host is however needed to facilitate this happening.

### What does the Host of House Mass need to do?

1. Host to liaise with Parish Office on when he/she wishes to host a House Mass.

[Fr. David has allocated specific monthly dates in his diary when he is available for House Mass.] Suggest 8pm start. Provide the Parish Office with your full address / how to get there (as needed), parking restrictions, email, telephone number.

2. Host to invite parishioners to come to the House Mass in his/ her house.

[Suggest host to invite say 8-12 people, but the number of people very much depends on the space/ seating arrangement available in the host's house. The host decides how many and who to invite to the House Mass. It will be good to invite a mix of parishioners, particularly new parishioners, and parishioners who are less involved as one of the objectives of the house mass is to form friendship/ communities]

3. Host to arrange reader(s) from the attendees (usually 1st reading + psalm) and someone to bring up offertory.

[The reading will normally be the Daily Mass readings, and that will be sent to you by the Parish office one week before the event. If you wish to use other readings, please discuss and agree with Fr. David beforehand]

4. Host to arrange chairs for everyone (including yourself and priest) – usually around the room. A small table with white cloth will also be needed as altar.

5. Host to provide tea & coffee or other drinks after Mass. Suggest host to ask attendees to bring simple nibbles to share for the social.

### Provisional Timing for House Mass:

8pm Arrive (before 8pm if possible) and settle

8:05 ish Start Mass

8:50 ish Mass finish

9:30/9:45pm ish Social



# Evangelisation Pillar

## Dates for 2024:

- Tuesday 23rd January - Allocated
- Tuesday 20th February
- Tuesday 26th March
- Tuesday 14th May
- Tuesday 25th June
- Tuesday 23rd July
- Tuesday 24th September
- Tuesday 22nd October
- Tuesday 19th November
- Tuesday 10th December

If you think you would like to host a House Mass, please contact Suzanne and Caroline via email [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org) to agree mutually convenient date.

## Parish Overseas Project Update & Appeal Supporting the Divine Providence Hospital, El Salvador In collaboration with Archbishop Romero Trust

The JPIC group are continuing work with the Archbishop Romero Trust on the Parish Overseas Project to support the Divine Providence Hospital in El Salvador, which provides palliative care to the community in San Salvador.

The Diocese of Southwark has established a close link with the Sisters of the Carmelite Community who run the Hospital and a strong devotion to St. Oscar Romero who lived at the hospital grounds and was killed there while celebrating mass.

Our Parish is providing support to the Hospital through funding the procurement of an equipment sterilisation unit (Autoclave) and further support to contribute towards other requirements including installation of Solar panels to support reduction in energy bills and use of solar energy.



Archbishop John Wilson and Sister Transito with "Petts Wood Autoclave".

You can find out more about the project here: [https://www.stjamespettswood.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/OverseasParishProject\\_Brief-1.pdf](https://www.stjamespettswood.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/OverseasParishProject_Brief-1.pdf).

On Thursday 28 th September 2023, an ecumenical service of Sung Evening Prayer, celebrated the tenth Anniversary of the installation of the Romero Cross in St George's Cathedral, Southwark. This is now a national shrine to St Oscar.



Archbishop John Wilson at St. Oscar's Tomb.

In closing the event, Archbishop John Wilson reminded us that the poor are not just over there! But here in our own communities and the Food Bank and Manna Centre are a reminder of this fact. Archbishop John ended with Romero's words:

***"The Church is all of you"***

For an introduction to the life and legacy of St. Oscar Romero click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZ2j9W780Mo&feature=youtu.be>.

More information about the current work of Archbishop Romero Trust and ongoing in El Salvador can be obtained from the Romero News: <http://www.romerotrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/Romero%20News%20-%20Issue%20Autumn%202023.pdf>

**During the weekend of 2nd and 3rd December 2023, the second collection is in support of the Parish project. We request your generosity and support, as always.**

The JPIC Group thank all Parishioners for your generosity and support for the Parish Project through the various donations, collections and events in support of the Parish project. We have been able to fund the procurement of the Autoclave and are now working towards contributing to installation of Solar panels.

**Together we have raised GBP8000/- to date.**

For further information regards to the Parish Project email [jplic@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:jplic@stjamespettswood.org).



# Evangelisation Pillar

## Parish Peace Garden Update

In 2014 St. James the Great Parish received the Live Simply Award for the Live Simply Garden. As with everything Covid impacted, this Garden space was one of those with lack of maintenance. This space required maintenance and transformation.

In July 2023, the JPIC team along with a group of Parishioners under the direction of Joe Falzon and Mel Deasy embarked upon a journey to transform this Live Simply space to a Peace Garden in keeping with Pope Francis' call for living in Peace and Harmony and Care for our Common home. The intention is for our Parishioners to use this space for peaceful reflection and to encourage Parish groups to conduct meetings and sessions when weather permits. This space will consider eco requirements including use of solar energy and eco-friendly materials where possible. In summary, features and considerations include:

1. A welcoming, inclusive, accessible and visible space with focus on the theme of peace.
2. Water features and landscaping aspects that are eco-friendly and use solar energy.
3. Wild growing space with bug hotels, natural feeders, hedgehog houses etc.
4. Fruit trees and our own flowers / plants for altar decoration.



Parishioners at work cleaning and maintaining the Garden

On 1st October 2023 Father David celebrated the Peace themed mass organised by JPIC group and inaugurated the Peace Garden journey. Father David also blessed the installed statue of St. Francis of Assisi. This tied in nicely with blessing of pets on 10th October 2023 and the Parish Pilgrimage to Assisi.

We used the opportunity for the planting of two fruit trees, namely Medlar and Quince. These were planted in Memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III.

Our next step is to implement hard landscaping, install a pergola and create a pathway to make the Garden

accessible with appropriate signage. We intend to complete this work by the beginning of Spring 2024 (weather permitting).



Father David blessing the Statue of St. Francis of Assisi



Father David and Mel Deasy planting fruit trees.



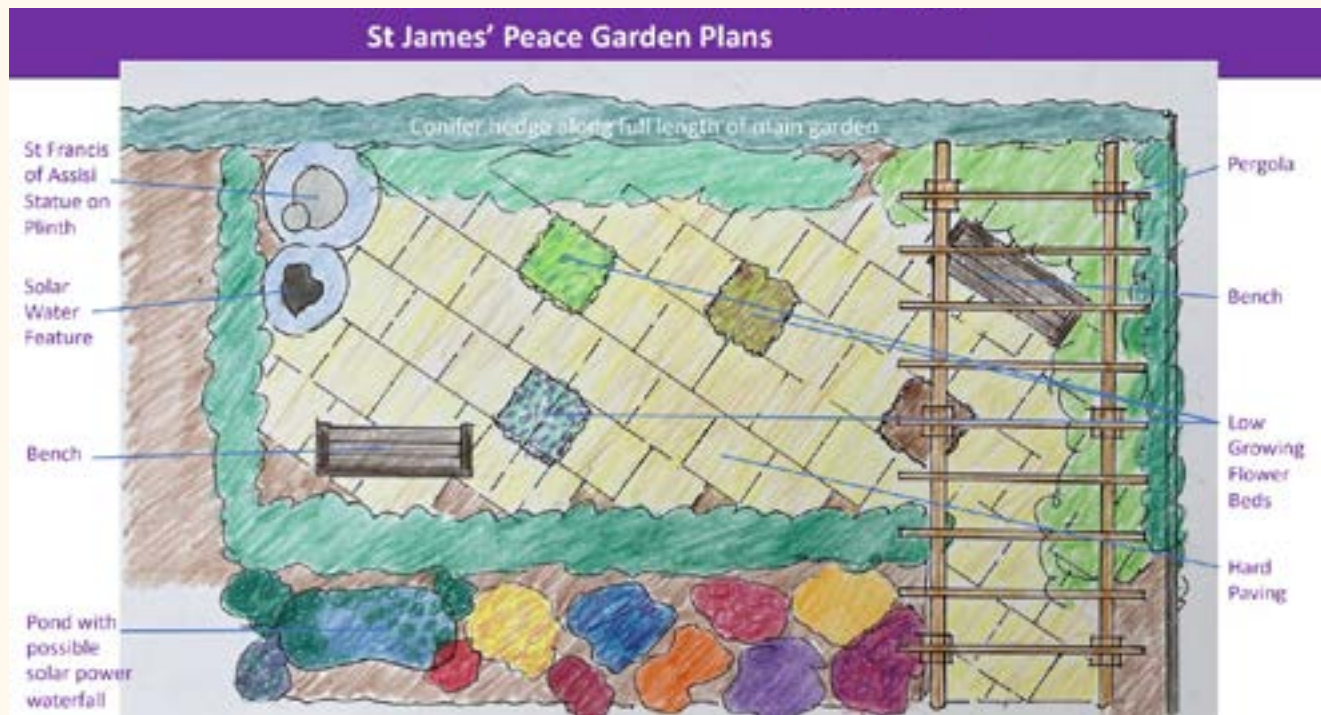
# Evangelisation Pillar

**We would like to thank all Parishioners who helped with the maintenance in July and then again in September to prepare the space for the blessing of the statue of St. Francis of Assisi by Father David. We also thank those Parishioners who have donated generously towards the Project.**

Please contact the Parish office, if you would like to get involved - [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org).

We hope for your continued financial support, and help with gardening skills. Also your prayers to make this Project a Success.

Please see below our Plan for the Peace Garden.



## Our November collection for the Manna Centre

One very full car load of your donations was delivered to the centre's storage facility in Bermondsey on 17 November. It is located in a railway arch as you will see in the picture. The Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation group would like to thank all those who donated to this biannual collection. Also, a big thank you to Suzanne and Caroline in the Parish Office for sorting and storing everything ready for delivery. Please see the thank you note received from the Manna Society administrator below.

Thank you for St James' donation of food to the Manna Centre and a genuine thank you for taking the time to deliver your goods to us. The food that we have received will be used throughout the next twelve months to provide meals to some of the poorest members of our society.

The work we do here is a practical and compassionate response to poverty and homelessness. The majority of our funding and our foodstuffs come from the Christian community. Without the continuing generosity of our supporters, we would be unable to continue our work.

A breakfast, a hot, nutritious meal and washing facilities are available 7 days a week, Housing & Welfare Advice (in two formats) five days a week, a clothing store once a week, three medical surgeries weekly and access to computers from Monday to Friday. On an average day we see about 120 people. Approximately 50% of our service users are rough sleepers, 10% in secure socially rented accommodation and the remaining 40% in some form of temporary accommodation (hostels, friends & privately rented accommodation) – November 23 statistics. In addition to the services mentioned above, we offer a place of respite and acceptance.

Despite being one advice worker short, in October, we carried out 317 advice tasks (e.g. providing benefits advice, finding accommodation, sorting out ID etc) for 122 clients. A new advice worker will begin with us at the end of November.

We are dependent on voluntary donations to raise approximately 88% of our annual £540,000 budget.





## Evangelisation Pillar

Without your support we would be unable to offer the services we do. Any help you can give, financially or practically (food or men's clothing) throughout the year, will benefit some of the poorest members of our society.



On behalf of those who will benefit from your generosity please accept our thanks.

Best wishes, Paddy Boyle (Manna Society Administrator)

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### **The Blessing of Pets: 8 October**

To mark the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi on 4 October, Fr David invited parishioners to bring their pets to the Parish Garden for a special blessing on the following Sunday afternoon.

Fr David opened the short Service by inviting everyone to sing together the hymn "All Things Bright & Beautiful".

The hymn was followed by some responsorial prayers, praising God for the gifts of our pets & all living creatures. Fr David gave thanks for farmers, animal charities & vets, & prayed for those mourning the loss of a pet.

Fr David then blessed each pet by name and concluded the Service with the prayer of St Francis, "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace".

Everyone there agreed it had been a beautiful, very moving experience & that God could not have gifted us more perfect weather!





# Communication Pillar

## Welcome to our new website!

We are excited to announce the launch of our new website, which has been redesigned to provide you with a better browsing experience. Our new website features a fresh look, improved navigation, and more content to help you find what you are looking for.

## Why did we change?

We decided to revamp our website to better serve you, our Parishioners, and visitors. We wanted to create a website that reflects our values, and vision, as well as our commitment to quality and innovation. We also wanted to make our website more informative and user friendly, so that you can easily access the information and services you need.

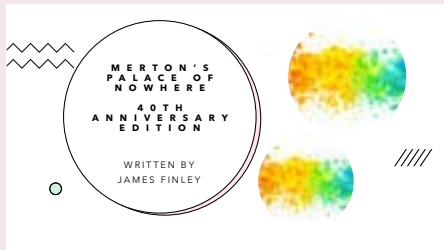
## How can you benefit?

Our new website is designed to enhance your online experience with us. You can benefit from our new website in many ways, such as:

- Finding the information you need faster and easier, thanks to our improved navigation and search function.
- Learning more about our services, and solutions.
- Staying updated on our latest news and events.
- Enjoying a smooth and seamless browsing experience, regardless of the device you are using.

## What do you think?

We hope you like our new website as much as we do. We invite you to explore it and discover all the new features and content we have prepared for you. We also welcome your feedback and suggestions, as we are always looking for ways to improve our website and our services. Please feel free to contact us via the Parish Office and let us know what you think.



***“Come with me to the Palace of Nowhere where all the many things are one”.***

Words from a song by Alana Levandoski

**Please join us during Advent to learn something about Thomas Merton's spirituality referring to James Finley's book “Merton's Palace of Nowhere” published by Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, Indiana.**

## Why?

- As Merton has it, “We are invited to forget ourselves on purpose cast our awful solemnity to the wind and join in the general Dance.” Then we unexpectedly awaken to our true self, one with God, in the midst of our fragility and all our wayward ways. (*page xiii of James Finley's book*)
- There is only the moment, and it is God's moment. Even now we hover over the bottomless abyss of God's love. (*page 67 of James Finley's book*)

**During this course we are aiming to learn about, and discuss, Thomas Merton's sense of the False Self and the True Self; and why this is important for us to know about.**

**All sessions will be held in the Community Centre and will start at 7.30pm and finish at 9.00pm, i.e.:**

- **Wednesday November 29th:** a video and discussion about Thomas Merton led by Fr. David.
- **Wednesday December 6th:** a presentation about the False Self, followed by questions and group work; with a “round robin” at the end about “where are we now?”
- **Wednesday December 13th:** a presentation about the True Self, followed by questions and group work; with a “round robin” at the end about “where are we now?”
- **Thursday December 21st:** a Christmas Meditation led by Fr. David.

**Please reserve your place by visiting, phoning on 01689 827100, or emailing, the Parish Office at [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org)**

**Thank you.**



## Communication Pillar

### Parish Pilgrimage to Rome, Perugia, Assisi & Florence 10-17 October 2023



Our adventure commenced as we soared from Heathrow to Rome, the culmination of two years of eager anticipation. Nestled in the heart of Rome, our sanctuary was the Hotel Emmaus, a stone's throw from St Peter's Square. Braving the unseasonal warmth, we joined the pilgrimage to the majestic St Peter's Basilica, a sanctuary of art and history, housing Michelangelo's masterpiece, "Madonna della Pietà", and the eternal resting place of countless Popes. Our spiritual journey was marked by our inaugural Pilgrimage Mass at Santa Maria delle Grazie alle Fornici.

The dawn of a new day brought us face-to-face with Pope Francis at his Weekly General Audience. Fortune smiled upon us as we secured front-row seats, offering an intimate view of the pontiff. His heartfelt address paid homage to St. Josephine Bakhita, a beacon of forgiveness and resilience.

Our spiritual exploration led us to Santo Spirito in Sassia for Mass, its entrance adorned with a Union Jack. We embarked on a historical journey through the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, the oldest public church in Rome, and the Basilica Papale di Santa Maria Maggiore, a frequent sanctuary for Pope Francis. Amidst these profound experiences, we celebrated life and love, marking two birthdays and two Golden Wedding Anniversaries.

Our journey meandered to Perugia, the Etruscan city famed for its delectable chocolate, Baci. Here, under the vaulted ceilings of the Cattedrale di San Lorenzo, Fr David celebrated Mass. Our path then led us to Assisi, the birthplace of St Francis, where we found solace at Hotel San Pietro.

In the tranquil town of Assisi, we paid homage at the Basilica of St Francis and the Basilica Santa Chiara, a tribute to St Clare, a devout follower of St Francis. We stood in awe before the original Cross at San Damiano and found peace in the serene crypt of the Basilica of St Francis.

Our spiritual quest took us to the serene Eremo delle Carceri on Monte Subasio, a sanctuary of solitude for St. Francis. Our journey culminated at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of San Damiano, nestled amidst olive trees, where St Francis was divinely inspired to restore God's Church. This sacred site later became the home of St Clare's Order of Poor Clares.

In Assisi, we visited the Chiesa di Santa Maria Maggiore and the Sanctuary of the Renunciation, the final resting place of Blessed Carlo Acutis. We also visited the Basilica Santa Maria Degli Angeli, enclosing the Porziuncola where St Francis breathed his last. A special Mass was celebrated in honor of Louise & John Curran's 50th anniversary.

Our journey continued to Siena, where we were greeted by a parade of horses at Piazza del Campo. We visited the Basilica Cateriniana, dedicated to St Catherine of Siena, and the impressive Siena Cathedral, a treasure trove of works by Donatello & Michelangelo. A Mass was celebrated in honor of June & Trevor Christmas's Golden Wedding Anniversary. Our journey found respite in Montecatini, at the Grand Hotel Vittoria.



## Communication Pillar

In Florence, we visited the Basilica di Santa Maria Novella for Mass, followed by a tour of the adjoining museum and the ancient Santa Maria Novella Pharmacy. We ended the day at the Basilica del Santa Croce, housing the tombs of notable Italians and marks of a historic flood. The final day of our pilgrimage was spent at the Uffizi Art Gallery, immersing in masterpieces of renowned artists. We revisited the Basilica of Santa Croce for our final Mass before heading to Pisa airport. Our journey concluded with a fond farewell to our guide Sinéad, driver Stefano, and beautiful Italy, captured in our Official Pilgrimage Photo.

The full coverage and wonderful photographs of the Pilgrimage is now available to be viewed on the Parish Website and hard copies are also available on request from the Parish Office



### SOME COMMENTS FROM OUR PARISHIONERS

***"Being together and experiencing an unforgettable week filled with many emotions, spiritual, awe, togetherness etc. I loved especially having Masses, just the few of us, in the side chapels of those wonderful Basilicas.***

***Ending at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence enjoying the beautiful Renaissance paintings where the beauty of the human body and sentiments in those paintings brought alive the gift that God has given us all"***

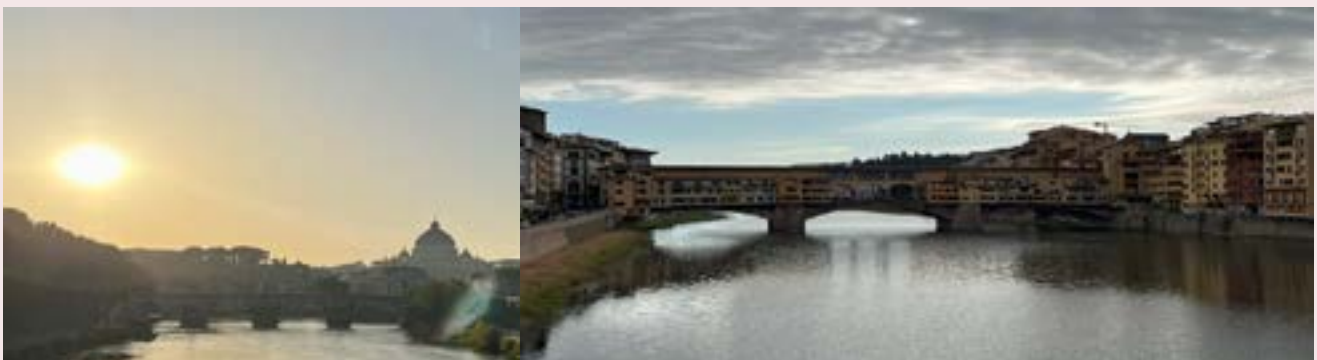
***"A joyous experience at the audience with Pope Francis in St Peter's Square. We were overwhelmed by the number of people attending from all over the world. We saw Pope Francis pass close by with a warm smile and endearing manner towards everyone.***

***It was good to hear the name of our parish:***

***"St James the Great" called out in welcome!"***

***"The pilgrimage had everything, it was spiritual, with lovely intimate masses in some beautiful churches and chapels, it was cultural, the highlight being the visit to the Uffizi gallery, the sun shone, and the food was as you'd expect in Italy, amazing.***

***As usual when packing to come home, I left something behind..... my heart!"***





# Communication Pillar

## Volunteering Opportunities at St James

Would you like to get more involved in parish life? We need help on the following rotas.

Please email Rosa, [rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org) if you can help with any of the following jobs:

**Sunday Coffees** after the 9.15am and 11am Masses

**Ushers Saturday** 6pm Mass, **Sundays** 9.15am and 11am

**Readers Saturday** 6pm Mass, **Sundays** 9.15am and 11am

**Readers for weekdays Mon to Thur** 10 am.

**Cleaners Saturday** 9.30am

**Tellers Sunday** 11am

**Memory Cafe helpers** (first and second Tuesdays of the month - 1pm to 4pm). If you are able to help with the cafe please contact Suzanne in the parish office.

We are looking for a couple of additional young people to become **Altar Servers** and join the 11am team to help support Dejan and James. Please drop us an email if interested on [altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org).

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## St James Repository

The Repository in church is open after Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses throughout the year. There is a good selection of Religious articles always available, including Bibles, Prayer Books, Sunday Missals, Children's Books, Rosaries, Statues, Mass cards and cards for most other occasions.

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## Appeal From The Knights of St Columba

Please continue to bring in your used postage stamps. If they are on postcards, it is fine to donate the postcard as well. Money raised will go to Knights good causes. Please leave stamps in the wooden box in the church porchway.

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## ADVERTISEMENT



Do you have any issues that you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish?

Do you have any good news stories that you would like to share with the Parish?

If you do then why not use the Newsletter as a medium to share your thoughts with us and one to make a positive difference to the life of our Parish. If you do have anything that you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish then please send the information to Paul Cosgrave at the following email address: [communication@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:communication@stjamespettswood.org)



# Social Pillar

## Film Nights in December & January

Thank you very much to everyone who supported our November Film Night. We raised £50 to purchase £5 Tesco gift vouchers for the Food Bank.

On Saturday 16 December we will be showing the 1970 musical version of Scrooge, starring Albert Finney in the leading role alongside Alec Guinness, Edith Evans & Kenneth More. For his performance Albert Finney won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Musical/Comedy. The film received four Academy Award nominations.

To add to this festive experience, mulled wine ( a non-alcoholic version will be available ) & mince pies will be served to set the scene before the film starts! Please feel free to don your Christmas attire!!

Our Film Night on Saturday 13 January will feature “ To Kill a Mockingbird” starring Gregory Peck. This powerful story-line set in Alabama, chronicles the childhood of Scout & Jem Finch as their father, Atticus, defends a man falsely accused of rape. The film was awarded two Oscars & was nominated for a further two.

As usual the Community Centre & the Bar will open at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you!

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## Book Club

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our thriving book group which will meet in the community Centre (7:30-9pm) as follows:

**Wednesday 10th January 2024**

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## Wednesday Lunches

Our next Wednesday lunch will be on Wednesday, 13th December. We will be serving a Christmas buffet lunch from 11.30am in the Community Centre. All Welcome.

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## The Companions Afternoon Club

Who are we? What do we do?

We meet in the Church Community Centre every week. We play scrabble, Triominos, indoor curling, table tennis and we hope to start Line-dancing. Maybe you have ideas as to what you may like to do? So do come and join us in the Community Centre at 1.30pm to 4.30pm on the first two Wednesdays and the second two Tuesdays of the month. Here is a chance to get to know some really lovely people!

December dates for The Companions Afternoon Club:  
Doors open 1.30pm. All welcome.

December - **Wednesday 6th | Wednesday 13th | Tuesday 19th**

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## Petts Wood Catholic Women’s League (CWL)

Plant Sale - Please remember the CWL plant sale when you are sorting out your garden and pot up any surplus plants

ready for our sale next year.

PACT(Prison Advice and Care Trust) is the National Charity for the CWL this year. Pact is a pioneering national charity that supports prisoners, people with convictions and their children and families. CWL are planning on providing backpacks containing - men’s socks and pants, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, flannel, shampoo, bottle of water, nut-free energy or chocolate bar, notebook , pen and card with a message on.

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## Race Night

The CWL and Knights of St Columba joint Race Night held on 28th October was a great success. In spite of torrential rain and an important rugby game over 40 people came. Due to the weather and demonstrations in London, Ray, who was organising the race night was delayed but Frank organised a ‘Beetle Drive’ until he arrived. Thanks to Angela who sold the raffle tickets, the visitors who bought them and all those who donated prizes, the raffle raised a lot of money. We were grateful to the 2 Margarets and other helpers who made the teas and coffees and to Paul who looked after the Bar. The evening raised £650 for our two charities. It was great fun and everyone said how much they enjoyed it.