



ST JAMES THE GREAT
Catholic Church in Petts Wood

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



St James – A shining light in Petts Wood

IN THIS EDITION | **October 2024**

Liturgy Pillar

- Childrens Liturgy

Pastoral Care Pillar

- Autism Awareness Talk

Evangelisation Pillar

- Blessing Of The Pets

Social pillar

- London Concert Chorus

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 pettswood@rcaos.org.uk

 <https://stjamespettswood.weebly.com>



Pastoral Care Pillar



Parish Service of Remembrance, 3pm, Sunday 10th November

Our Annual Remembrance Service offers 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 parishioners who have died during the past year.

If you are mourning a close relative who has died during the past year and 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 can prepare a special votive candle for you to light during the Service and retain afterwards.

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

Memorial Stars: Remembering our Deceased Loved Ones in a Special Way during November and the Christmas Period.

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

Please note that all stars from previous years have been retained so it is not necessary to write or request another star if you have done so previously.

If you would like a star prepared in memory of a deceased loved one, please either contact the Parish Office with the details or speak to a member of the Pastoral Care Team who will provide you with a star.

For Advent the stars will be transferred to our White Memorial Christmas Tree so that we can continue to commemorate our missed loved ones during the festive season. The tree will be lit during the Parish Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December.

Parish Autism Awareness Talk

A member of our team has arranged for Yvonne Newbold MBE to give a talk on Saturday 2nd November from 10.30 to 12.30 in the Community Centre. Yvonne is an expert both personally and professionally on all areas of autism and special needs. Yvonne is also a member of the NHS Assembly. The presentation is for parents, professionals and those interested in wanting to further understand and help young autistic people and those with disabilities.

There will be an opportunity for Q&A at the end followed by light refreshments.

The Community Centre doors will be open at 10.00am.

Please let the Parish Office know if you plan to attend.

Join our Team

Our small team of ten would really welcome new members. If you would like to know more about our role in the parish please approach Fr David or a team member

Dates for Diary

Healing Mass Monday 30th September 7pm

November

Memorial Service Sunday 10th November 3pm

Bereaved Parent Service Sunday 11th May 2025 3pm in The Community Centre

Memorial Book

If you would like the name of a deceased family member put into the memorial book, please email the parish office with their name and date they passed away.

Beginning Experience Weekend

Beginning Experience is a special residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people, which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss.

The weekend is led by trained volunteers, who have experienced having to adjust to life as single people again.

This next programme will be held on **4-6 October**; for further details please contact: Mary: 07730 884315, or Maura: 07795 498445, or email BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com.



Pastoral Care Pillar



Beginning Experience
listen.accompany.heal

*A weekend away
for a lifetime of change*

following separation, divorce or death
of your spouse/partner,
to help you move
from the darkness of grief
into the light of a new beginning.

The next weekend is 4th-6th October 2024
at Sion Community,
Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9BX



For more information contact

Maura: 07795-498445

or Mary: 077 3088 4315

email: BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com



Finance Pillar



Congratulations to the September Winners

- £100. Anna Wiffe -Number 50
- £50. Kath Salter - Number 155
- £25. Anna Clegg - Number 29
- £25. John O'Connell - Number 61

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:

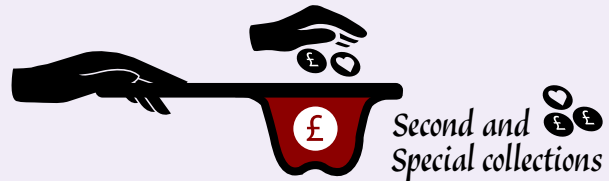
Natwest Orpington

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 in October

6th October - CAFOD (Harvest)

20th October - World Mission

27th October- Maintenance Fund

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

CAFOD - CAFOD/Gift Aid Number/Surname

World Mission - WM/Gift Aid Number/ Surname

Maintenance/Building Fund - Build/Gift Aid Number/ Surname



Evangelisation Pillar

Parish Weekend Retreat

This year's Parish Retreat will take place in Worth Abbey on **Friday 25th to Sunday 27th October**. For more information please contact the parish office.

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 **4th October**. 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

Prayer Meetings on Thursdays

Charism Thursdays exists to establish a weekly spiritual hour of rest and worship, open to anyone who is interested in deepening their connection with the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

During charismatic worship songs, each member is encouraged to participate and share their spiritual gifts from a place of liberty and freedom. Rest and contemplation in the Agape love of God is primary, contributions in scripture reading, words of encouragement, pictures and prayer etc is secondary.

Along with the main focus of group singing, we focus on practices of meditation and circling.

These types of practices help to facilitate transformative experiences through the work of the Holy Spirit.

We have already enjoyed our first few meetings with a good response.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the **weekly event, starting at 7pm** in the church.

First Holy Communion 2025

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 pettswood@rcaos.org.uk for a registration form that will be sent to you.

ALL REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE PARISH OFFICE BY MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER. (Any applications after this date will be put on a waiting list for the 2026 programme).

Confirmation 2025

A warm welcome to all those young people, Year 9 and above, who are looking to be confirmed next year. Sessions start in December.

Please contact the Parish Office via email pettswood@rcaos.org.uk for a registration pack.

Please ensure that completed forms are returned to the parish office as soon as possible.

Journey In Faith

The launch of the Journey in Faith will take place on **Saturday 21st September, 10.30am to 1pm** 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. Please contact the Parish office if you are interested in attending.

Thank you to everyone who came along to, helped coordinate, worked at, and brought some lovely food to the Welcome Back Lunch on Sunday 22nd September. We hope you all felt welcomed and perhaps found some friends, and some peace, there for a while.

Thank you all.

Advent Wreath Making

Ever tried making your own Advent Wreath? Come along to the Community Centre on **Wednesday 27th November** from 11am to 12.30pm and give it a go!

You will need to bring:

- 1 (preferably pre-soaked) oasis ring
- 4 candle holders (optional)
- 4 candles

The liturgical colours for the candles are 3 purple + 1 pink (replace them on Christmas Eve with 4 white ones or just add 1 central white one). Other traditions have 4 red candles. The choice is yours.

Please also bring your own secateurs and any greenery to share.

If you are unable to source your own oasis ring there will be a sign-up sheet in the Church Lobby; cost £3.00, payable on the day. The deadline for orders is midday Wednesday 20th November.

Any queries please contact Joanna 0208 467 2459



Evangelisation Pillar

Blessing of Pets – St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day

In anticipation of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Friday 4 October, we are planning to hold a blessing of pets at Church on Sunday 6th October at 2pm. 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.

Preparation for Advent

The Year of Luke

Brian Purfield who has been a couple times to us at St James has once again generously offered to give us a day on Luke – the Evangelist. This will help us understand more profoundly the Gospel readings of the New Liturgical Year which starts on the 1st Sunday of Advent. Brian Purfield is a scripture theologian who lectures at the London Jesuit Centre. He is a great communicator and really helps us to understand what are the essential themes in Luke's Gospel.

The session is going to be held in the Community Centre on the 23rd November from 10.00am – 3.30pm.

Parish Overseas Project in El Salvador Completion

The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) group has now closed their recent overseas project, having completed all that we set out to achieve.

The aim was to replace an old equipment sterilizing unit, called an Autoclave, at El Hospitalato, which kept breaking down. The hospital is run by the Carmelite nuns in El Salvador's capital San Salvador, for those unable to pay for treatment at the main hospitals. It is where Archbishop Oscar Romero lived, in a small house in the convent grounds. It was as he said Mass, in the hospital Chapel, that he was shot and killed.

His killer was never brought to justice.

We worked with The Oscar Romero Trust to source a new Autoclave Unit which was installed and is working well. Our Archbishop, John Wilson, visiting the hospital, was very proud that it was a parish in his Diocese that had made this possible. A picture of his visit, to the Hospital, is shown below:



Archbishop John Wilson and sister Transito with 'Petts Wood Autoclave'

Recently, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby spent some time at the hospital meeting the nuns and seeing St Oscar Romero's home, which is now a memorial of his life.

A cheque for £6783.61, covering the cost of the new Autoclave Unit, was presented to Julian Filochowski – Chair of Romero Trust on 16th March 2024 at the 6pm Mass, at a Justice themed Mass, where we celebrated the martyrdom of St. Oscar.



We thank Father David for his support of this project, the Oscar Romero Trust for their invaluable advice, but mainly we thank you the parishioners here at St James.

Your generosity has raised the amazing sum of £9,608.82 through donations and gift aid contributions.



Evangelisation Pillar

This magnificent amount not only paid for the new sterilizing unit but the excess money raised, amounting to £2825.21, is contributing towards solar panels to be installed, so that the energy costs of running the hospital will be met in the future.

Manna Centre

We will be collect gentleman's clothing for the Manna Centre on the following weekends:

- **12 & 13 October**
- **19 & 20 October**

The most needed items are:

- Jeans, trousers & jogging bottoms
- New socks & underwear
- Trainers & shoes
- Fleeces & hoodies
- T-shirts
- Coats

Please place your donations in the wheelie bins near the church exits on these dates.

Thank you for your support.



Owen Clutton Raising Funds for the Bromley Borough Foodbank

I am taking part in a 25km walk through the North Kent Downs organised by Ultra Challenge to raise funds for the Bromley Borough Foodbank. The Foodbank has received reduced donations in recent months due to the cost of living crisis and Foodbanks are now needing to purchase supplies to supplement donations.

I attach a link to my Just Giving page which could be used to make any sponsorship donations.

Thank you very much.

Owen

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/owen-clutton-1725111316198>

Petts Wood Churches Together

• PETTS WOOD REPAIR CAFÉ

Do you need a small electrical item mended; or summer clothes repaired or gardening tools sharpened before they are packed away for the winter? Don't bin it - bring it to the Petts Wood Repair Café and get one broken item repaired by experts at the Repair Café.

For a donation of either cash or card bring one item such as an electrical or electronic item, clock, bicycle, toy, or clothing for repair. The Repair Café can also sharpen knives and tools. Enjoy coffee and cake while you wait but please bear with them if you have a wait as demand can be high.

The next dates are **Saturday 26th October and Saturday 30th November**.

Timings are: 2.00 – 5.00pm in the Church Hall next to St Francis of Assisi Church, Greencourt Road, Petts Wood BR5 1QW. Contact: pettswoodrepaircafe@gmail.com.

• ORPINGTON REPAIR CAFE

The Orpington Repair Cafe is a charity with skilled volunteers who help to repair household items. Bring along any broken items like kettles or toasters or clothes that need mending

We extend the lifespan of products, actively reduce waste and have a positive impact on our environment.

The volunteers will do their best to fix it for you for FREE while you enjoy a cup of a tea and a slice of cake.

Join us on **Saturday 19 October and Saturday 16 November** from 10am - 1pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Worlds End Lane, Green Street Green, BR6 6AG.

Petts Wood Churches Together Share & Social

Come and learn about our Christian Heritages United Reformed, Catholic, Methodist, Church of England

Saturday, 12th October, 2pm - 4pm

URC, Petts Wood, BR5 1LH

Bring Your Own Picnic- Refreshments will be provided

Activities available for Children. Please see poster below.

Contact the parish office if you would like to attend.



Evangelisation Pillar



PETTS WOOD CHURCHES TOGETHER

SHARE & SOCIAL

Come and learn about our Christian Heritages

**United Reformed, Catholic,
Methodist, Church of England**

**Saturday, 12 October
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
URC, Petts Wood, BR5 1LH**

**BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC -
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.
ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN**

**Contact your Local Church to Register and for
more Information.**

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Evangelisation Pillar



The current needs are for:

- Sweets
- Adult Toothbrushes
- Adult Toothpaste
- Ladies Deodorant
- Long Life Dessert

There are two baskets available for your donations: both are in the main church entrance



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.



Liturgy Pillar

A Message From Jane Clark The Children Liturgy Lead

Dear Parents,

It continues to be a pleasure for us to run the Children's Liturgy on a Sunday. The children are well behaved, engaged and insightful- they are a credit to you all.

We are, however, worried that the Liturgy may not be able to continue on a weekly basis. We are at our lowest ever number of Liturgy teachers and helpers. We are considering running the Liturgy on a bi-weekly basis unless we can recruit parents from our Parish who can become part of our team.

You do not need to be a teacher to be one of our Liturgy leaders!

Please feel free to message if you'd like to know more about either becoming a leader or a helper. There is a rota in place and with optimum numbers, the load is spread evenly and fairly.

The Children's Liturgy has always been possible due to the generosity of parents giving their time.

Without fresh volunteers every year, numbers continue to deplete (often as children either leave for secondary or move into upper KS2).

Please help to keep this wonderful group going and let us know if you're interested in being involved by contacting the Parish Office.

All the best

The Children's Liturgy team



Communication Pillar

PPC Meeting Minutes 11th September 2024

The AV project for the church continues to make good progress. An electrician who already knows St James's has been recommended. The parish is funding this project via a large donation from a generous parishioner.

The 2024 Confirmation candidates have continued to be heavily involved in parish life with altar serving, youth music and JPIC. Hopefully a youth newsletter will be coming soon!

The financial details of the parish will be shared in briefly in the coming months and a reference manual written documenting procedures and processes undertaken by the Financial Pillar.

Those parishioners who signed up to volunteer within the parish during the stewardship drive will be contacted shortly (if they haven't been already).

Father David asked that the PCT be thanked for all they do to ensure the smooth running of funerals within the parish.

A music workshop will be held on 6th October bringing together all the musicians from the various Masses.

The hope/aim generally is that the synodal approach (Pope Francis) will be integrated into all aspects of parish life, i.e. being genuinely open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit wherever that may come from and wherever that may lead.

The names and photos of the current PPC members will soon be available to see in the porch. Hopefully the cheese and wine evening on 24th November will be a good opportunity for parishioners to meet the PPC team.

The next PPC meeting will be held on 13th November

Occasionally, places become available at St James' RC Primary School when families move away from the area.

If you would like a place for your child at St James' please contact the school office on 0208 4678167 or general.info@st-james.bromley.sch.uk

Please also place your child's name on The Bromley Admission's Waiting List. This needs to be updated annually.

Have you a Power of Attorney for Health and Welfare and Finances.

The parish has arranged for Nima Stepney from Thackray Williams to come and outline the process and need for Power of Attorney and Court of Protection.

It is really important that we all, no matter what age, ensure our wishes are known if we are admitted to hospital or are unwell. As next of kin we do not necessarily have decision right for our loved ones.

The meeting will be in the Community Centre on Tuesday **26th November, 5.15pm for a 5.30pm start to 6.45pm.** If you are interested in attending please let either the parish

office or Kate Charlesworth know.

Supervision of children in hall toilets

It has come to our notice that there have been incidents of the toilets in the hall being misused. Items have been dropped in the toilet bowls and the liquid soap containers emptied onto the floor. We seek your assistance in ensuring there are no further incidents of this kind. Please be reminded you are responsible for your children at all times.

Supervision of children in the church around the candle stands

Please ensure that all children are assisted by an adult in the lady chapel area when lighting candles.

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.





Communication Pillar

Book Review by Alan Pavelin

FLANNERY O'CONNOR

Next year is the centenary of the birth of the writer Flannery O'Connor, while this year is the 60th anniversary of her early death from inherited lupus.

O'Connor was a unique writer in the tradition of the American South. Brought up in rural Georgia, she was a Catholic in the fiercely fundamentalist "Bible Belt." Her two novels and numerous short stories combine the comic, the grotesque, and the violent with profound religious insight.

Her first novel, *Wise Blood* (filmed by John Huston in 1979), concerns a young man, Hazel Motes, who seeks to repudiate his religious background by preaching his own "Church without Christ". But however hard he tries he cannot rid himself of the Jesus-figure in his mind, and eventually comes to realise his need for redemption, deliberately blinding himself as a result. The novel was wrongly seen by some as an attack on religion, instead of simply a criticism of the kind of fundamentalism on which Motes was brought up.

O'Connor's second novel, *The Violent Bear it Away* (the title comes from Matthew 11:12), is about the struggle for the soul of a young boy between his fundamentalist great-uncle and his atheistic, rationalistic guardian who thinks all problems could be solved if only people's irrational impulses, such as religious belief, could be eliminated. O'Connor shows that such people, of whom there are examples in several of her stories, are trying to repress their own irrationality, an essential ingredient of the human personality.

Her short stories, in two collections entitled *A Good Man is Hard to Find* and *Everything That Rises Must Converge*, are widely praised, and contain passages of laugh-out-loud comedy. Typically, they are about a self-satisfied character with no sense of their need for redemption, who is suddenly confronted on the last page with some sudden shock, often violent, which completely changes them.

O'Connor's fiction dates mostly from the 1950s and reflects the way people from the "Deep South" spoke and behaved, sometimes in ways which would now be considered unacceptable. She is well worth reading, if that kind of fiction is to your taste.



Communication Pillar

St James Flower Festival

I would like to thank our Flower Team, Helen, Lesley, Shelene and Joanne for all of their hard work over three days leading up to the 'Festival' and also Jackie and Ann for spending two hours on their knees fixing the pew ends!

Also thanking all the church 'Groups', their arrangements were super. Not least to mention St James School, under St James and Sacred Heart.

We found that the community spirit was generated by parishioners popping in doing their arrangements and chatting. One couple bought in their flowers and Lesley sat with them and did an arrangement on their behalf.

On the Saturday a number of visitors came in to view the displays around the church. Many parishioners came on Sunday with their arrangements and most of which were placed in the Sanctuary and didn't they look good!!

I also had some of my Flower Club friends visit who then went into the garden and enjoyed tea and cake along with the general atmosphere!

Since the weekend we have managed to distribute to 'Parishioner at home' 14 of our flower arrangements.

That was some achievement! Many Thanks

Angela Murray





Communication Pillar

Girlguiding - St James Girlguiding Units



We open up a world of possibilities to girls from 4-18-years-old, one where they can do anything.

It's totally flexible, you can help as much or as little as you want.

Join us for nonstop fun, learning and adventures.

Your local Girlguiding group needs:
New leaders to help run three units -
2nd Petts Wood Brownies,
3rd Petts Wood Guides
Petts Wood Rangers.
For more information please email -
Suzanne Horner
pettswood@rcaos.org.uk



Register today



girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer

Registered charity number: Excepted from registration

3rd Petts Wood Scouts Group

Ellie makes all the difference. So could you.

Help young people in Petts Wood step up and dream big.

Interested? Contact Kate Charlesworth
#email: gsl3pwscouts@gmail.com

Scouts
3rd Petts Wood Scout Group

Dad and Me

Dad and Me

What is it?

A group of dads that meet monthly, with their kids – to chill out, chat with other dads, while their kids play!

Some details:

- For dads with kids aged 1-8
- Toys galore, incl. arts & crafts for the older kids
- “Bacon butties” all round, plus tea, coffee & biscuits (juice for the kids, vegan options available)
- Also an online network of dads – for sharing contacts, knowledge e.g. of tradesmen, schools. Over 70 strong currently, including dads from over 7 years ago!

What are the benefits?

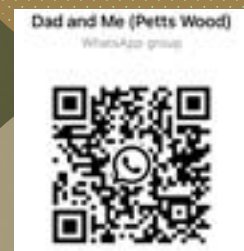
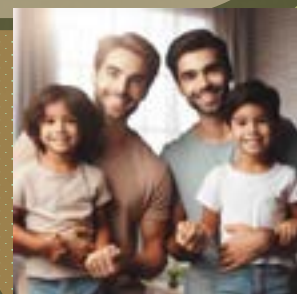
“Me time”, kids time and your partner get 2 hours free per month also!...WIN-WIN-WIN!

When and where?

10:15-12 Saturday mornings, once a month, at the Community Hall (next door)

How do I join?

Just join the Whatsapp group and get the latest on when the next ones are. David will kindly oblige.



Use this QR code and you're in!
(text me any issues...cheers, Jay)
07931 513598



Social Pillar

Wednesday Lunches

Our next Wednesday lunch will be on **Wednesday, 16th October**. We will be serving a light lunch from 11.30am in the Community Centre. All Welcome.

Note for your Diaries - please see the **Wednesday** lunches dates for 2024

20th November

11th December

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:

Wednesday 2nd and 9th

Tuesday 15th, 22th and 29th

Doors open **1.30pm**. All welcome.

Book Club

Book Club continues to meet once a month at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. We welcome anyone who wishes to join us, even if its just for one session.... the more the merrier.

9 October: Travels in Italy by Charles Dickens

13 November: Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis

8 January 2025

12 February

12 March

14 May

11 June

9 July

Parish Film Nights, October - December 2024

Our film on **Saturday, 12 October** will be the multi award-winning "Little Miss Sunshine". (Please note that this replaces the previously advertised film "Mandela: The Long Walk to Freedom" which will now feature in the New Year.)

This heartwarming, funny & at times dark comedy focuses on the quirky Hoover family who travel cross-country together to California in a VW bus to support seven year old Olive in her bid to win the Little Miss Sunshine beauty contest.

On **Saturday 23 November**, to mark the month of remembrance, we will be showing "Private Peaceful" by Michael Morpurgo. The storyline follows two young brothers from 1909 - 1916, first at their family home in rural Devon & then, following the outbreak of WW1, on Flanders fields.

With Christmas around the corner, our film on Saturday, 14 December will be the comedy, "The Holdovers" which this year was awarded an Oscar, a Golden Globe & two BAFTAs.

Forced to spend the Christmas break at his New England prep school, a curmudgeonly instructor stays on campus to watch over some students who have nowhere to go. He develops an unlikely bond with a brainy, troubled student and the school's head cook, who has just lost a son in the Vietnam War.

As usual the Bar & the Community Centre doors will open at 7pm with the films starting at 7.30pm. In December mulled wine & mince pies will be on offer to keep things festive!

A warm welcome awaits!

Petts Wood CWL

Thanks to your generosity at our Plant Sale Petts Wood CWL have been able to give large donations to PACT and Aid to the Church in Need. This was in addition to the backpacks assembled by CWL, the St James Confimandi and Bishop Challoner Year 12 students which were collected by PACT at the end of August.

CWL Quiz - Saturday 5th October - 7.15 for 7.30 start.

There is still just time to get a ticket for this popular event before they sell out.

Tickets are £5. The bar will be open and there will also be a raffle.

All profits will go towards CWL charities including PACT and Aid to the Church in Need.

The October CWL meeting will be held on Monday 28th in the community centre starting at 7.30.

The London Concert Chorus presents

'An Evening of Song' at 7pm on Sunday 13th October, In the Church

Adults £10

Children £5

All proceeds for Parish Funds.

Please contact the Parish office for tickets.



Social Pillar



REG CHARITY NO. 803792

**COFFEE MORNING TO RAISE
MONEY FOR PETTS WOOD
PLAYGROUP, A NURSERY FOR
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

AGED 0-5.



**ST JAMES THE GREAT R C CHURCH,
283 CRESCENT DRIVE, PETTS
WOOD, BR5 1AY, SATURDAY 19TH
OCTOBER 10AM-2PM.**



Social Pillar

Petts Wood CWL
Presents a charity

QUIZ NIGHT

SAT 5TH OCT

7:15 FOR 7:30PM START

St James' Community Centre, Lakeswood Rd, BR5 1AY

Teams of 6-8 adults

Make your own team or join with others

Prizes for the winning team & grand raffle

Tickets only £5pp

Bought in advance after Mass or call:

Ann: 0208 402 4076 or Jim: 07889 322 093

Licensed bar, teas & coffee available

Bring your own snacks & nibbles

Please support this fun quiz to raise valuable funds
for charities supported by the Catholic Women's
League, including PACT & Aid to Churches in Need



Social Pillar

PARISH GOLF DAY

SAVE THE DATE

Date: 11th July 2025

**Venue: Langley Park Golf
Club**

Cost: To be confirmed





Youth Matters

Hello from Youth Pillar, after a warm and exciting summer break and for many of you, your return to a new year at school, college, university, apprenticeship or work. If you have started at a new school or secondary school, this will be a big change with new friends and more responsibility.

Belated Congratulations to those who received GCSE or A'Level results, or graduated from University - we hope your next steps are going well.

On Education Sunday, your parish family prayed for you and your teachers. As we step into the Autumn months, we return to new routines having embraced the Season of Creation with renewed energy and interests. Most of you will be facing something new and this may be exciting and daunting, too. We will be right in those moments with you, continuing to pray for you. Please keep Fr David and everyone in the parish in your prayers, too.

Young Helpers

First off, a huge Thank You to all our happy and willing helpers at the Summer Garden Party back in July. We couldn't have done it without you - face painters, glitter tattoo-artists, fundraisers, chair and table transporters, set-up and clear-up helpers, cake eaters - you were a blessing from start to finish! There was true service and leadership in abundance and we thank you! Over £2500 was raised for the parish.

There's so much to look forward to in the coming months including a number of wonderful parish, deanery and diocesan opportunities for young people. It's our hope that you'll find something new to try, to enhance your faith experience.

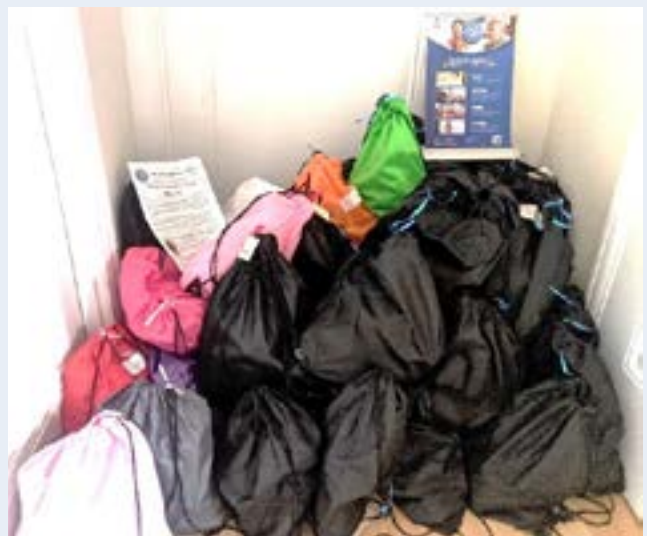
Service & Leadership

Those who were Confirmed in June worked consistently to support a number of charities this year.

Thank you to everyone who supported their Quiz Night which raised £546 for Southeast London MIND and Make A Wish Foundation. In addition to this, they worked closely with the Catholic Women's League, on their mission this year to help the many men and women being released from prison. Proceeds from the Confirmation Mass closing collection and a very successful Saturday evening bake sale went towards buying the necessary items needed to put together 25 Release Bags - thank you to everyone who supported and made this possible.

These bags ensure that those leaving prison have clean underwear, some snacks and bottled water, essential toiletries, a notepad and pen, and a note of encouragement as the walk into the next chapter.

The young people would like to roll this out, parish wide, so please look out for RELEASE BAG posters with further details of this drive and how you can help. Thanks Ann Huntingdon for introducing our young people to the CWL.



Youth Choir

It's not too late to join Saturday 6pm Youth Choir which takes place every third Saturday in the month, followed by fun, refreshments and fellowship in the Community Centre. If you play an instrument or wish to sing, please write in to ask when the next practice is - pettswood@rcaos.org.uk





Youth Matters

Faith in Action - Urgent Appeal for Help

This much-loved deanery wide awards scheme is now entirely volunteer-led. Owing to a number of changes in the team, we are urgently seeking new volunteers to help deliver sessions at St James the Great and St Edmund's in Beckenham, where the sessions will be based from February. Each session requires a minimum of four adult, DBS-checked helpers. Please contact lollybell@rcaos.org.uk or 07541759163 if you would like to help. **Unfortunately, unless a team of time-share helpers can be formed and trained by end December 2024, Faith in Action will not go ahead in 2025.** Twelve new helpers would help 6-8 hours, each per year.

Thursday Loretto Worship Night

On the back of a very successful June debut of Loretto Worship Night here at St James' Community Centre, we plan to run this **quarterly from 21st November**. We greeted over 50 young people and adults from across the deanery and wider London area who enjoyed an evening of music ministry, prayer and worship facilitated by the Loretto team, followed by refreshments and fellowship. Helpers who can join a bit earlier to set up or stay behind a while longer to clear up would be appreciated. This is an event put on by the Evangelisation Pillar and everyone is invited to join including young people of all ages, 13-35.

Follow Me

Follow ME is a discipleship course aimed at young Catholics age 18 to 30. Over the course of eight weekends, you will go on a discipleship journey where you can exchange ideas about faith together with other young people, get input, experience community and so much more! These weekends are marked by friendship, faith and fun! - **WHEN: 8 weekends, start Nov 2024 /end March 2026**

Hall Lane Brentwood Essex CM15 9BX, UK

Costs: (includes room, board, snacks, materials) 1st Term Nov 2024 - June 2025 (£420) 2nd Term Sept 2025 - Mar 2026 (£420)

Apply here: <https://rb.gy/0fopbt> - WEBSITE: www.follow-me.live/gb

Southwark Youth Service

Youth Days coming up:

These have been hugely popular drawing in young people from all over London and the South-East. Why not bring a friend? To learn more and register visit <http://www.tinyurl.com/yday28sep> or <https://form.jotform.com/240211677566357>

Saturday 28 September, Richard Challoner School, New Malden

Saturday 9 November, St. George's Cathedral, Southwark, London



Youth Retreat Day Saturday 12th October

St John Fisher School, City Way, Rochester ME1 2AE

A great opportunity for young people ages 13-17 to explore prayer: what, why, and how? Have you ever realised that prayer is important for our everyday happiness and flourishing?

The day will consist of talks, workshops, questions and discussion, and Eucharistic Adoration. The retreat will be guided by Dominican brothers. Sign up now and don't miss out! <http://tinyurl.com/retreat12oct>





Youth Matters

Monthly Young Adult Masses

St George's Cathedral 6th October 12pm

On the first Sunday of every month, the Southwark Catholic Youth Service has a Young Adults Mass at St George's Cathedral. After the Mass, there is a social in Amigo Hall. All are welcome. Aimed at 18-35s, this is a great way to make new friends through worship, discussion and fellowship. For more info, visit [Southwark Youth Service Events](#)

Deanery Youth Day - The Feast of Christ The King

Registration is open for this exciting deanery youth day centred around celebrating Christ The King. Young people aged 7-18 can join the CYM Bromley Deanery Volunteers for a full day of fun, reflection and activities. We will celebrate Christ, the king of heaven and earth, both in the past, the present, and the future. There will be short talks, prayer and worship, arts and crafts, games, pizza, doughnuts and the all-day tuck shop loved by everyone!

Date: **Sat 23rd Nov 2024**

Time: 11.30am to 6.00pm followed by Youth Mass

Venue: St Joseph's Parish Hall, Plaistow Lane, BR1

Registration closes 18th Nov, please register by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code.

<https://forms.office.com/e/sB3MqspmC1>



FLAME2025 15.03.25

It's back and registration is open!

Saturday 15th March, OVO Arena Wembley - themed: UNSTOPPABLE!

A national Catholic Youth Congress, organised by CYMFed (Catholic Youth Ministry Federation, in England & Wales) in an 10,000-seat arena setting, filled with faith focused music performances, inspirational guest speakers and presenters.

This event is for young people aged 13 & over (younger children are welcome but must be accompanied by a parent/carer)

Early Bird Tickets are £20.00 each until 1st Dec 2024 (£29.00 thereafter); includes return coach journey to/from OVO Arena Wembley 8.30am-8.00pm; bring a packed lunch, snacks and water!

Register Now and find payment details by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code

<https://forms.office.com/e/VGR6a4qEnB>





Youth Matters



Participants aged 13-17 - a Parent/Carer must complete Sections 1 & 2 for you

Participants aged 18 & Over must complete Section 1 & 3

Once your completed form is submitted, check your email for an automated reply with further details on how to purchase your event ticket/s. If this email does not arrive, please check your SPAM/JUNK box.

The event is ideal for Confirmation and post-Confirmation groups. It is a vibrant experience of young Church, concluding with Adoration led by Bishops of England and Wales; the whole day really opens the young people's horizons about what the Church is, and their part in it.

You can visit the CYMFed Website to learn more about Flame2025 by <https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

Sacramental Preparation

At St James' registration is open for First Holy Communion Prep and Confirmation Prep. Please register as early as you can. Contact the parish office today (pettswood@rcaos.org.uk) or see this month's Evangelisation Pillar Report for more information.

Bromley Deanery Youth Minister Role Ends

It's been a real joy and my absolute pleasure to serve the Bromley Deanery as Youth Minister for the past two years. The contact with each parish has always been warm, positive and encouraging. The biggest privilege has been working with the parishes, schools and families, always placing our young people at the forefront of the planning and delivery of events and programmes that are rolled out. None of this would be possible without a wonderful core team of volunteers and a group of time-share volunteers from across the deanery, who have given of their time, talent and effort to ensure that youth days, liturgical events and our very own Faith in Action could go from strength to

strength.

Leading this work across the deanery has been a real privilege because clearly, young people and their families get a great deal out of it. However, it has been impossible for the diocese to secure new funding. This has been a particularly worrying development because we are all deeply passionate about finding new ways to support the faith experience of young Catholics. It is the duty of the Church, accompanied by dedicated parents, catechists and youth workers to provide locally accessible, engaging, age-appropriate programmes and events for children and young people, that bring them ever closer to God. By providing a menu of enriching and different programmes and events, we witness their thirst and hunger for faith. The true nature of their unique, God-given interests, gifts and talents flourish, helping them to connect with different areas of parish and community life. As they engage more in tangible ways, they experience the great rewards of service and leadership.

It is therefore very sad that this role came to an end in July.

Today's appeal is for more volunteer parent and grandparent helpers to step forward to enable events to keep running so that young people can continue to benefit from a proven programme of enrichment. My pledge is to continue doing as much as I can on a volunteer basis, to support the desire of young people and their families for faith-driven engagement. Please email lollybell@rcaos.org.uk or text **07541759163** today, if you want to know more.

I would like to thank Bishop Challoner School in Shortlands which funded entirely, the last decade of youth ministry training and leadership here in the Bromley Deanery, enabling the Catholic Youth Ministry Project to be realised through the vision of Canon Tom McHugh. This continues to be supported by Dean Fr Steve Wymer, and of course, Fr David and all the deanery clergy. Thank you for all your support over the past two years and please pray for new volunteers to step forward as the project strives to engage and nurture conversations with hundreds of young people and their families.

Lolly Bell, retired Youth Minister for Bromley Deanery

St James The Great – JPIC Youth

A new Justice & Peace Group for youth is forming, with the helpful guidance of the existing adults JPIC. Please email lollybell@rcaos.org.uk if you're interested in finding out more about the exciting projects and meetings being planned this autumn.

This year, in its 85th Year of Parish Life, St James the Great is experiencing the joy of journeying with a receptive group of young people who are keen and happy to get involved, taking action in meaningful ways. They have raised awareness and essential funds for causes and charities that resonate with them, formed a youth choir as part of their Faith in Action award, and consistently served at Mass.



Youth Matters

In leaps and bounds, with the much needed support of parents, Fr David and catechists, they are equipping themselves to look within and beyond the parish gates at the needs of the community. Let's pray they will continue to develop and adapt to their growing faith, allowing their experiences to strengthen their sense of purpose and belonging in this community.

With every blessing, until next month,

Youth Pillar



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mk 5:1-17, Lk 8:26-39, Mt 8:28-34

In Gerasa was a man filled with demons
He tore off any clothes or chains put
on him, and he lived in the graveyard.



Jesus and his disciples
arrived and the man ran to him.



What do you want
with me, Jesus?



What is your name?

Legion, for there
are many of us.



There were some pigs near by

Let us go into the pigs.

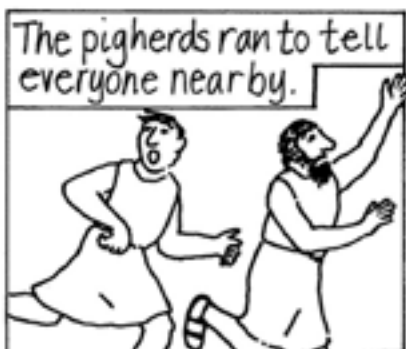


Go!

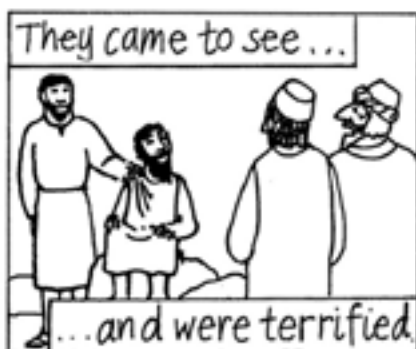
The demons
left the man and
went into the pigs.



The pigs stampeded
over the cliff into
the sea and drowned.



The pig herders ran to tell
everyone near by.



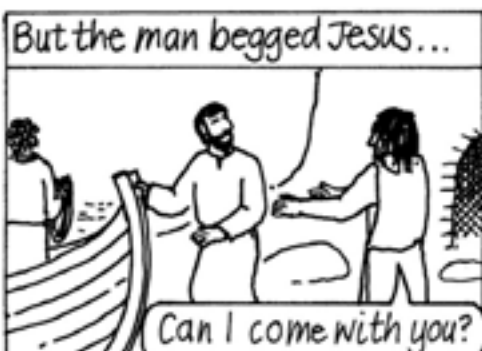
They came to see ...

...and were terrified.



They begged Jesus

Please! Leave! Now!



But the man begged Jesus...

Can I come with you?



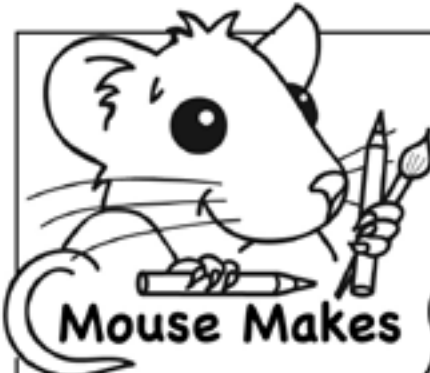
But Jesus said

Go home and tell
everyone what happened.



So he did.






Mouse Makes

WALK WITH THE LORD

"Teach me your way,
O Lord, that I would
walk in your _____."
Psalm 86:11




"For we **walk** by

not by sight."
2 Corinthians 5:7


"**Walk** by the


"
Galatians 5:16



Jesus said:
"I am the light
of the world.
If you

me you won't
have to **walk**
in darkness
because
you have
the light
that leads
to life."
John 8:12





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"**Walk** in

as Christ loved
us and gave
himself up for us."
Ephesians 5:2

"**Walk** in
a manner
worthy of the
Lord, fully pleasing
to him, bearing

in every good work
and increasing in
the knowledge
of God"
John 8:12

"_____
is everyone who
fears the Lord,
who **walks** in
his ways."
Psalm 128:1



GOD • JESUS • LORD • WALK
WAYS • STEP • FEET • PATH • GO • TEACH • KNOWLEDGE • LIGHT

Find the words from the questions too!

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ST JAMES THE GREAT
Catholic Church in Petts Wood

October Calendar 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 2pm Memory cafe 7pm - 7.45pm Firm Believers 8pm Table Tennis	2 1.30pm Companion Club	3 4.30pm to 9pm Girlguiding meetings	4 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings	5 9am to 1pm Faith in Action 7.15pm CWL Quiz Night	6 12.30pm Music Liturgy Workshop
7	8 2pm Memory cafe 7pm - 7.45pm Firm Believers 8pm Table Tennis	9 1.30pm Companion Club 7pm to 9pm Book Club	10 4.30pm to 9pm Girlguiding meetings	11 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings	12 10am to 5pm JPIC Commission Assembly 7pm Film Night	13 7pm London Concert Chorus Concert
14	15 1.30pm Companion Club 7pm - 7.45pm Firm Believers 8pm Table Tennis	16 11.45pm Wednesday Lunches 8pm Catenians	17 4.30pm to 9pm Girlguiding meetings	18 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings	19 9am - 3pm Petts Wood Playgroup coffee morning	20
21 7.30pm Knights meeting	22 1.30pm Companion Club 7pm - 7.45pm Firm Believers 8pm Table Tennis	23 7.45pm JPIC meeting	24 4.30pm to 9pm Girlguiding meetings	25 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings	26 9.45am Dad and Me 7pm Knights Bingo Night	27
28 7.30pm CWL meeting	29 1.30pm Companion Club 7pm - 7.45pm Film Believers 8pm Table Tennis	30	31 4.30pm to 9pm Girlguiding meetings			