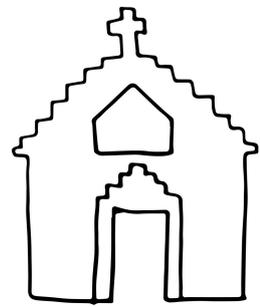


St James News - 7th Feb



Last Sunday's Collect:

Almighty God,
You have created the heavens and the earth
And made us in your own image:
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works
And your likeness in all your children;
Though Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
Who, with you and the Holy Spirit,
Reigns supreme over all things,
Now and for ever, Amen.

Coffee and Chat - is moving!!

This will now be on Friday at 3pm - all welcome, always nice to see you! Zoom code sent out later in the week.

Ash Wednesday - 17th Feb

There are two online services - at 12 noon, and 7:45pm.
The Palms have been burnt and the ash blessed - we can deliver ash to your door - please let Christine know if you'd like some. Zoom codes sent out next week.

Wednesday Discussion - 8 - 9pm

Final week before Ash Weds service (above) and the Lent Course (below)
We're looking at all that violence and slaying in the Bible - is there a reasonable explanation? Zoom code sent out separately

Lent Course - the Greatest Showman

Starting on Weds 24th Feb - a 5 week course based on the hit movie. A copy of the book - "From now on" by Rachel Mann is helpful, but not essential. We will be showing the relevant clips but you might want to watch the whole film beforehand. If you want to watch it together let me know and I'll see if I can arrange a "watch party" (as the kids call it!!!!)

We will be doing the course on a Weds - both at 10am and 7:45pm. Zoom codes sent nearer the time.

Other Lent Books

This year might be the chance we've been waiting for - to actually do something every day in Lent. Here's a couple of books that might help you (but there are plenty more available):

Opening Our Lives - Trystan Owain Hughes

Daily readings, personal reflection, simple suggestion for prayer or meditation - really about how we can open up lives to God's presence, his call, his love, will, compassion and hope.

Apprentice to Jesus - Cris Rogers

More workshop manual - following Jesus means doing! Lots of diagrams, questions, measuring progress to spiritual goals - you get the idea!

For latest news, sermons and links - please go to our website - www.stjameschurchalderholt.com

Alongside - Henry Martin

“To explore how and why Jesus struggled” - from a prison chaplain, full of humour and humanity. Exploring gaps in the gospels, with imaginative questions. This sounds like the one I'll be using!

Rooted in Love - Sarah Mullally

A conventional Lent book, with 40 short chapters - reading, reflection, action and prayer. Sarah Mullally is the Bp of London, was a Canon of Salisbury Cathedral, and before that high up in the nursing institution.

A Cross in the Heart of God - Sam Wells

So I include this because Sam was one of my training incumbents and I love everything he writes. This is about different understandings of the crucifixion. If you've struggled with why should Jesus die, or conversely with those who struggle to sing “Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied” - this might just be the book to help you understand the other Christian ways of looking at the event that is central to our faith.

Children and Families Part time Worker - interviews

We'd value your prayers as we interview candidates (by zoom) on Thurs 11th Feb.

For your prayers

Pray for Carol Edwards and her family. Geoff passed away last week. She was able to be with him. She asked me to pass on her thanks for all the cards, flowers, thoughts and prayers. The funeral will be at St James, and on zoom, in March.

Pray for Jo and Tony Bass. Jo's mum (Betty Barker) passed away on 20th January, aged 92. She had been an Alderholt resident for 20 years until just before Christmas, when she went for respite to a residential home in Norfolk, close to her other daughter, needing full time care.

Give thanks for the safe arrival of Anne's baby, Alexander.

John and Dawn Cox have asked for our prayers

Please pray for Margaret and Hazel, and their carers, as they cope with Alzheimers.

Pray for teachers and students, in the last week before half term. There will be no going away, or going out, so pray that all will get the rest and refreshment they need,

For all those struggling with emotional and mental health, and physical overload due to the pressures of the pandemic.

Give thanks for the vaccinations - the scientists, the logistics and administrators, and the Doctors, nurses and care staff.

Vestry Group

Meets in a fortnight, Sunday - Feb 21st, 7 - 8pm

Date of APCM

This important meeting is when we look at the year's accounts, appoint churchwardens, and as charity trustees talk about what we do. Last year we were given dispensation to hold it later in the year, and online, this year its going back to its regular spring time slot.

For latest news, sermons and links - please go to our website - www.stjameschurchalderholt.com

It will be on **Sun 18th April**, as part of our 10:30am service. You will be able to take part online, and depending on restrictions in church as well. We will send the report and accounts out to you in good time so you have a chance to read and submit any comments or questions beforehand.

Dorset Plan and development in the Village.

Shortly before I arrived 2 1/2 years ago, the village made the local news for a well attended meeting about plans to build thousands of houses here. Those plans were put on hold while a newly united Dorset Council put forward its long term strategic plan. That plan is now out for consultation. I attach the section about Alderholt for your interest, and would encourage you to try and comment if you can - either via our councillors (Adrian Hibberd is one) or online at the address below -

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan.aspx>

Or you can find it via the Parish Council website -
<http://www.alderholtparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Recreate

This has now been postponed until 2022.

Future Services

The church building is currently closed, but St James is very much open - the church is the people as well, and loving God and loving our neighbour is still very much going on.