



Notices November 2023

A very big welcome to the **Reverend Taiwo Olubunmi Olumuyiwa**, our new Team Vicar (licensed on the 20th October) and his family. We all look forward to meeting and getting to know you over the coming days and weeks, and working with you in St James as we grow in faith and share Jesus with those around us.

OUR BEAUTIFUL WORLD

At dawn on Saturday 7th October 2023 Hamas breached what is often referred to as the 'Iron Wall' that runs between Israel and Gaza and wreaked havoc, death and fear in Israel for many hours. This event led to the brutal murder of hundreds of innocent civilians including children.

In contrast Psalm 104 describes a created world that is full of wonder, beauty and provision for all its inhabitants and most especially for the crown of this creation, ourselves, as v14 proclaims **'bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts'**, which leads the psalmist to proclaim in v33 **'I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live'**.

There are many places in the world that reflect this beauty and provision and none more so than the holy land of Israel, the second garden of Eden and upon whose soil our Saviour walked. Surely our heavenly Father must grieve at such bloodshed upon holy soil, just as in the days of Cain when the Lord said **'your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.'** (Genesis 4:10).

BUT what can we say of Israel's response? Understandably in many ways this proud nation wants to re-establish security and yet like a stallion that doesn't heed its master's voice is set to bring fiery justice upon much of Gaza. Surely many innocent victims will suffer and many will lose their lives.

So what should be our response? How can we mourn with Israel on the one hand, but also mourn with Palestine on the other? There is no easy answer.

However, in closing we can say that we are not without blame for surely if we can't 'memorise another Golgotha' (Macbeth) we do remember the Son of Man slain by and on behalf of our hapless selves. And yet as we accept this fact and ask for forgiveness both for the event and why such a horror had to take place, to heal us of our sinful state, so, just as the wine flowed at the wedding in Cana and just as Jesus' blood flowed on the cross and the water flows down the mountains and ravines, so the Spirit can flow in our hearts bringing to us the comfort and life of wine, oil and bread for this world and the next!



Rev Ian

November News

Confirmation Classes - Are you looking to be confirmed? Please speak to one of the clergy and come along to prepare at St James on Sunday afternoons, 5th, 12th and 19th November between 5 and 6pm.

On Sunday 26th November we will be having our **Memorial Service**, so please remember to invite all of those who have recently lost loved ones to come along so that they can light a candle in remembrance and receive prayer.

Notice Board

- ♥ As always our **Sunday Services** are in church, usually at 9:45am.
- ♥ **Thursday Prayer time** - Every Thursday in church at 9:30am, please be there.
- ♥ **Sunday School** - Younger Sunday School in the Lounge every Sunday (except the first Sunday of the month, when parents can use the lounge with their children, some resources will be provided to use). Older Sunday School (8-12 years old) in the Prayer Chapel on the first Sunday of each month. So bring your children, grandchildren and/or their friends!
- ♥ **Foodbank** - Please leave Food Gifts and carrier bags in the basket in the entrance area. If you find shopping difficult, you can also give financial donations to Nick, so that suitable items can be purchased. Many thanks for your continued support.
- ♥ **Postage Stamps** - Don't forget to pop your used postage stamps in the box in the foyer for the RNIB.
- ♥ **Contact** - If you need to contact the clergy, please in the first instance speak to the Parish Office - See contact details below.

Diary Dates



Celebrations: - Birthdays - 7th Hannah Tromans; 18th Jill Redmond; 21st Robert Deacon, 22nd John Redmond - We pray that you will all have blessed birthdays.

- ♥ **CAMEO:** 2-4pm, 20th November, Movie afternoon!

- ♥ **3 C's for October:** 6th, 13th and 27th 2-4pm
- ♥ The next **City Wide Prayer** event is 7-8pm on Friday 17th November at All Nations, 128 Temple Street, WV2 4AQ
- ♥ The next **Men's Breakfast**, St Mary's Hall, 10am Saturday 18th Nov.
- ♥ Sunday 26th November 6pm - **Confirmation service** at The Church of the Epiphany, Oxley
- ♥ Saturday 9th December 3:30pm at St Mary's - **New Cross Choir!**
- ♥ **Parish Christmas Dinner**, Saturday 9th December 6pm at the Parish Hall, cost to be advised.
- ♥ Advance notice that on 17th December at 4pm we will be having our **Carol and Christingle Service**, which means that everyone who can be, needs to be in church on Saturday 16th December from 9:30am to make the Christingles!

Please Pray



There are a number who continue to need prayer at this time, Doreen Cripps, Carol Griffiths, Alan Redmond, Barbara Greatrix, Joe (Donna's dad), Roger (Sandra's cousin), Elizabeth Westwood (Maureen Horton's daughter), Pam (David Newman's mother-in-law), Elaine Walton, and June Ramsell's family (June sadly passed away this week)

- ♥ Pray for **Rev. Taiwo Olumyiwa** (and his family) as he takes up his new position as our team vicar
- ♥ Saturday 11th November - please pray for those attending the **Alpha away day** (9:54am - 3:15pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd)
- ♥ Pray for all of those being confirmed at the end of the month

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

A Prayer for peace



God of light and salvation, our refuge and our strength, we pray for the people of Israel and Palestine amid the escalating violence taking place in these days. We pray for those killed and injured. May your rod and staff comfort them. We pray for those who are grieving and fearful. We pray protection over those who have been taken hostage into Gaza.

Oh God, we call on you this day to change hearts, bring an end to this current violence and protect the people living in this land that is so precious and dear to your heart. Amen

Rotas

If you are on cleaning duty, please use the cleaning check list sent to you and displayed in church - **Please do this** from 9:30am onwards on Saturdays, if you want to do this at a different time, please speak to Jacque to check that the church is free.

We could do with additional volunteers to help with the cleaning, if you think this is something you could do, please speak to Jacquie, Jane or Nick, thank you.

Sunday 5th November - (TO)

Cleaning (Saturday): Richard Mullett
Chairs: Richard Mullett
Duty Team: Jessica Bate & Jacquie Mullett
Computer: Richard Mullett (Jacquie Mullett)
Readers: Sheila Turner - 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Catherine McCulloch - Matthew 24:1-14
Drinks Jessica Bate

Sunday 12th November - HC (TO)

Remembrance Sunday

Cleaning (Saturday): Pukka Braitch
Chairs: Pukka Braitch
Duty Team: Richard Mullett & Ian Newman
Computer: Jane Gardner
Readers: Mary Widdal - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Catherine Tromans - Matthew 25:1-13
Drinks: Sue Miller
Flowers: Catherine McCulloch

Sunday 19th November - (TO)

Cleaning (Saturday): Ann-Charlotte Holman
Chairs: Ann-Charlotte Holman
Duty Team: Nick Gardner & Ann-Charlotte Holman
Computer: Jessica Bate
Readers: Nick Gardner - Matthew 25:14-30
Ann-Charlotte Holman - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Drinks: Jane Jones

Sunday 26th November - (TO)

Memorial Service

Cleaning (Saturday): Jane Gardner
Chairs: Nick Gardner
Duty Team: Nick and Jane Gardner
Computer: Jane Gardner
Readers: Pauline Biddulph - Ezekiel 34:11-16 & 20-24
Nick Gardner - Matthew 25:31-46
Drinks: Catherine McCulloch
Flowers: Sue Tilley

Sunday 3rd December - (IP)

Cleaning (Saturday): Jessica Bate
Chairs: Ian Newman
Duty Team: Ian Newman & Jacquie Mullett
Computer: Jessica Bate
Readers: Sheila Turner - tba
Catherine McCulloch - tba
Drinks: Jean Cook

Contact details:

Parish Office - 01902 782226

Leadership – Please contact by phone, text, WhatsApp or email: **Jacquie Mullett** 07530 798424 - jacquiemullett@msn.com - **Nick Gardner** 07488 389033 - 01902 784713 - n_gardner2@sky.com

For Notices and Rotas – Please contact by phone, text, WhatsApp or email: **Nick Gardner** (details above) or **Val Redmond** 07528 586067 - alanredmond@hotmail.com

A Church Near You link <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4198/>

Website link <https://www.bushburyparishchurch.co.uk/st-james-church>

Facebook page is - St. James Church Fordhouses