

St James Church Fordhouses



News and Notices June 2023

The Priority of Mission



As you will know we have just emerged from a week of Mission which took place across the Parish from Saturday 29th April to Sunday 7th May. The first mission we have done for many years. Before sharing the wonderful fruits of this mission I want to ask ourselves a question: why is mission important?

Mission is not only important it is the very breath of life for individual Christians and for God's church. The apostle Paul said *'however I consider my life worth nothing to me, my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me, the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace'* (Acts 20: 24) and he also said *'for I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...'* (Romans 1: 16). God does the saving of souls, rescuing them from the prospect of eternal separation from His love, but we do the sharing, often with stumbling words as we explain that there is an awesome, holy and loving Father and that our way back to being intimately connected to His care and love is through our confession of mortal weakness or sin as we accept that Jesus has died in our place that we might live in His place and as we activate all of this by asking Jesus to forgive us and live in our hearts!

And the wonderful fruits...

- 1) A new clarity and confidence in the gospel message and an accompanying zeal to share Jesus with our community at every opportunity.
- 2) We have already seen a number of folk connect with our churches, some as a direct result of the mission others as God has honoured our stepping out.
- 3) We got to share together doing 'kingdom work' (God's work that is beyond just day to day concerns of our churches) with our wonderful brothers and sisters in the TFM team.
- 4) We have strengthened our bonds of partnership across the churches in the Parish.
- 5) Last but not least we have both attracted the attention of our Father as we have stepped out in obedience, which has led to the soil being softened enabling the seed to germinate and we have seen the ongoing need for well-directed and fervent prayer!

Rev Ian

Notice Board

As always our **Sunday Services** are in church, usually at 9:45am.



Foodbank - As usual please leave Food Gifts as well as carrier bags in the basket in the entrance area. If you find shopping difficult, you can also give financial donations to Jessica, so that suitable items can be purchased. Many thanks for your continued support.



- ❖ **Sunday School** - On the first Sunday of each month, please bring along your children, grandchildren or friends aged 8-12 to join with us. Also remember that children of all ages are welcome every Sunday, where Sue provides appropriate activities.
- ❖ **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.

Kerry's Ordination! - yes this is now confirmed as being in Lichfield Cathedral on Sunday 2nd July at 10am. If you would like to be there, please speak to Jacquie who is preparing a list.



As you will know, the editor has recently come back from visiting family in Australia, while we were there we went to the cinema to see a newly released Christian film called "**Jesus Revolution**". We didn't know what the film was about but we were deeply moved by its content which spoke to us about how we as churches should welcome everyone. I would highly recommend you going to see it when it is released in the UK on **23rd June**.

"It is the true story of a national spiritual awakening in the USA in the early 1970s and its origins within a community of teenage hippies in Southern California.

In the 1970s, a young Greg Laurie (Joel Courtney) is searching for all the right things in all the wrong places: until he meets Lonnie Frisbee (Jonathan Roumie), a charismatic hippie-street-preacher. Together with Pastor Chuck Smith (Kelsey Grammer), they open the doors of Smith's languishing church to an unexpected revival of radical and new found love, leading to what TIME Magazine dubbed a Jesus Revolution."

Book reviews - have you read any books recently? Why not tell everyone about them? Especially any christian books which have meant a lot to you. As you already know, the editor has recently been on a few long journeys and has therefore had some time for reading. I have nearly finished **two books**, both of which I would highly recommend to you:

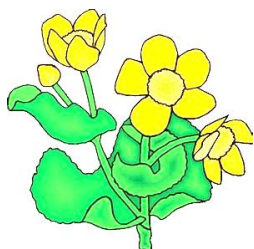


1 - We've Never Been This Way Before: Trusting God in Unprecedented Times by Best-Selling Author R.T. Kendall - For me this book says it is not enough to know about God, we need to know God Himself.

R.T. Kendall says - "what if I told you the "new normal" is that nothing will be normal again? Recent events across, not only America but the entire world have brought us to the precipice of the most challenging moments of our lifetimes. But while these times seem unprecedented and unchartered to us, they are not to God. Much like He said to Joshua and the children of Israel standing on the edge of the Promised Land, God now says to us: "You have never been this way before" (Josh.3:4). God's word is tender, challenging, and scary. God knows where we've been and where we are going. As we cope with extraordinary new outbreaks of disease, racism, and cultural upheaval, we have been forced to recognise that we are not prepared for this. Nobody is."

Although the book is written from a perspective of events in America, it has so much to say to me and you about our current situation, it has spoken a lot to me. R. T. Kendall helps us navigate the way forward by exploring how God led His people in the past, he helps us understand what God is saying to us during this time of uncertainty and change.

2 - Eternity is Now: A radical rediscovery of what Jesus really taught about Salvation, Eternity and getting to the Good Place, by John Ortberg - for me this book shows what Jesus Gospel message was, about the availability of the Kingdom here and now, God's Kingdom here on Earth. Jesus was the Kingdom bringer, enabling us to become conduits of God's power, joy and love to a broken world. Jesus preached 'The Kingdom of God has come near - repent and believe the Good News'. It is not just about news but Good News!



Gardening News - Well it is that time of year when our gardens are starting to look their best. The editor has a number of surplus plants which he will bring to church over the next few weeks for you to take if you would like them (advice can also be given). Do you have any surplus plants which others could use? Then bring them to church for others to enjoy.

Diary Dates

- ♥ **Celebrations:** - Birthdays - 2nd June Ramsell; 7th Nick Gardner; 21st Carol Griffiths; Wedding Anniversaries - 22nd Chris and Lynn; 25th Richard and Jacquie; 26th Robert and Klaire
- ♥ **Friday 16th June 7 - 8pm:** City Wide Prayer at International Life Centre
- ♥ **Saturday 17th June 10-12noon** Men's breakfast at St Mary's, also on 22nd July
- ♥ **Sunday 2nd July - Kerry's Ordination** - see above for details
- ♥ **Saturday 8th July -The Together Festival**

Come and Join us...



Thursday Prayer time - between 9:30 and 10:30am in church.

CAMEO: 19th June we have a guest speaker telling us about Boscobel House and Moseley Old Hall.

3 C's for June: 5th, 12th and 26th

Please Pray



There are a number who continue to need prayer at this time, Carol Griffiths, Alan Redmond, Barbara Greatrix, Joe (Donna's dad), Linda (a friend of Catherine) and Roger (Sandra's cousin), Elizabeth Westwood (Maureen Horton's daughter), Pam (David Newman's mother-in-law).

For Val's niece and family whose husband John passed away in early May.

Please pray for the Lord to lead to us our new Vicar! Advert 2nd June and Interviews are on Wednesday 19th July. Pray for Rev. Ian and your DCC with their responsibility for St James. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Please remember **Kerry** in your prayers as she prepares for her ordination on the 2nd July.

A Moment for Prayer (courtesy of The Grainery Church - NSW Australia)

When you pray, try to sit completely still for a moment and empty your mind of any distracting thoughts. Remember God is here with you, unseen as the air you are breathing, but just as real and vital to your life. Thank Him for the beauty of creation, the many blessings of life, especially for the people He has placed in your life and the faith of those who have gone before you and paved the way for you to be who you are and where you are today. Ask Him to bring to your mind the many things we can thank Him for.

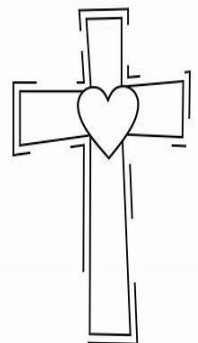
Thank you heavenly Father, for all your goodness and loving kindness to me, especially for.....and May I show my gratitude to you not only with my lips but with my life. Show me how I can live a life of thanksgiving this week.

You may know of people going through difficult times or people who are yet to experience the grace and love of God. If so, bring them to God now in your mind and heart. Remember God is asking you if you would also be willing to be a channel of His love and blessing.

To Your kindness, power and grace, heavenly Father, I bring youand May they experience the power of your Holy Spirit, the hope that you bring in Christ and faith in your everlasting love. Lord how may I love them this week, on Your behalf, as You love me?

There may be things that trouble or worry you. Remember the promise of the risen Lord Jesus, "I am with you always" and pray that you may know His presence, peace and power in your life. And if your conscience is troubled by some wrong you have done or some good you have failed to do, then open your heart to God, ask for His forgiveness and receive it freely.

Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend myself, body, mind and spirit. All that I am and all that I have shall be yours, now and for eternity.



Rotas

A copy of the current **Rota** for the duties is at the back of church. If you have any queries or need information, speak to one of the 'Sunday Duty Team', also remember to help them if asked. The rota has highlighted our need for each of us to do a few of the jobs, so if you would like to help, please speak to Jacquie or Nick, or any of the Sunday Duty Team.

Cleaning News:

1. If you are on cleaning duty, look round church and do the things you think need to be done, i.e. at least clean and replenish the toilets, clean/tidy the kitchen and vacuum areas that need it. **Please do this** from 9:30am onwards on Saturdays, if you want to do this at a different time, please speak to Jacquie to check that the church is free.
2. We are running short of 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 4th June (ES)

Cleaning (Saturday): Sue Tilley

Chairs: Ian Newman

Duty Team: Jessica Bate & Jane Gardner

Computer: Jane Gardner

Readers: Jessica Bate - 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Catherine Tromans - Matthew 28: 16-20

Drinks: Catherine McCulloch

Sunday 11th June HC (ES)

Cleaning (Saturday): Jane Gardner

Chairs: Nick Gardner

Duty Team: Nick Gardner & Ann-Charlotte Holman

Computer: Jane Gardner

Readers: Nick Gardner - John 15:12-17

Pauline Biddulph - Acts 11:19-30

Drinks: Jessica Bate

Flowers: Catherine Tromans

Sunday 18th June (ES)

Cleaning (Saturday): Richard Mullett

Chairs: Richard Mullett

Duty Team: Richard Mullett & Ian Newman

Computer: Jacquie Mullett

Readers: Sheila Turner - Matthew 9:35-10:8

Jane Gardner - Romans 5:1-8

Drinks: Sue Miller and Pauline

Sunday 25th June (IP)

Cleaning (Saturday): Jessica Bate

Chairs: Nick Gardner

Duty Team: Jacquie Mullett & Nick Gardner

Computer: Richard Mullett

Readers: Ann-Charlotte Holman - Romans 6:1-11

Catherine McCulloch - Matthew 10:24-39

Drinks: Ann-Charlotte Holman

Flowers: Catherine McCulloch

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