The Parish of St. James & St. Paul

www.stjamesthegreat.wordpress.com/find us on Facebook
Hi, My name is Susan Brandeis. I am taking over from Lucy Mason as Editor of this magazine. Lucy has done a sterling job for some time and has now taken on other responsibilities within our church. Thank you Lucy for your ministry and God Bless your new endeavours. Being Editor is a great job for me as I love words. The meaning of words, their use, where the word originates from; I find it all fascinating. Difficult words that are seldom used elsewhere are common within the church and their meaning rarely clarified. In this space I am making it my ‘mission’ to clear some of the mystery surrounding these words and their use. If you have any requests please do contact me and I will do my best to respond!

**this months word:**

‘proselytise’, verb, -convert or attempt to convert (someone) from one religion, belief, or opinion to another.
Rector’s woolgathering

The months of May and June are much to be enjoyed and remembered. Much has occurred in the life of the church. Moreover in the personal lives of our faithful brother and sisters in Christ. In the church, there has been celebrations of children Baptised, Banns of marriage read and a Confirmation Service.

The Bishop of Richborough spent a whole day in the parish. Visiting Alderwood Care Home, followed by a pastoral visit, a meeting with the Worship Committee of the Church School, a School Assembly and then Bishop Norman presided at the Confirmation service and stayed a length time afterwards too.

More recently we have celebrated the Church feasts of Ascension and Corpus Christi. For the latter, we had a beautiful act of worship followed by a generous celebration afterwards.

We held an evening concert in the church of which Alexei Knupffer played, amongst other works an original composition of ‘Sons of Thunder’ dedicated to St. James the Great, Colchester.

We have hosted ‘Prayer Space’ for St. James the Great Church of England Primary School, of which over 400 children attended in separate groups spending at least 30 minutes learning more about why and how they can pray and ways of praying. The teaching of ‘Why and how to read the Bible’ has been delivered in two sessions per year 6 class (three classes) in preparation of the children receiving their gift of Church Bible.

continued...
And the end of June a group of 21 members of St. James the Great attended the Parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Pilgrimage to Walsingham started in 1061, five years before the Battle of Hastings, when Our Lady appeared to a local woman, Richeldis, and asked her to build a little shrine, a Holy House, to remind pilgrims of the Holy Family’s own home at Nazareth. As Our Lady said to her: ‘O you who are in any way distressed or in need, come to that little house that you have built-in Walsingham.’ Walsingham soon became known as England’s Nazareth. Pilgrims flocked there from far and wide. By all accounts, it was the Lourdes or Fatima or Medjugorje of its day! King Henry VIII was a pilgrim there, like every King before him, before allowing the shrine and Holy House to be destroyed by Thomas Cromwell and the beautiful original image of Our Lady of Walsingham to be burnt at Chelsea. Walsingham today is ‘Good News’ story, and a blessed with the glory of being a place of welcome, spiritual home in the heart of England, a place to experience for ourselves the love at the heart of the Holy Family. As such, I know some of you have never been. I do want to encourage the faithful to do so. I plan to attempt to organise an Autumn Pilgrimage, where the programmes is less busy and possibly with a 30% reduction. It won’t replace the Summer retreat but may allow others to attend who wouldn’t ordinarily be able to in June/July.

With regard to the lives of the faithful it is so important to continue to pray for one another. It seems we must wrestle with the intention for those who are diagnosed with a serious illness so dear friends never give up and be strong in praying for our dear folk. “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.” - 1 Corinthians 16:13. Pray for the elderly, housebound and frail, moreover for those recently diagnosed with a debilitating disease that changes their life on a spin of a halfpenny.

-Father James McCluskey SSC
PARISH MASS TIMES

Sundays Said Mass 8a.m

Sung Mass 10a.m

Monday No Mass

Tuesday No Mass

Wednesday Mass 7p.m

Thursday Mass 12:30

Friday Mass in School (Term time) 9a.m
Rosary Prayers 12 midday

Saturday Holy Hour & Confessions 10a.m

Alderwood Carehome Mass 11a.m 3rd July
Colonia Court (Blomfield House) Mass 11a.m 10th July

The Divine Office 7:45am Tuesday - Thursday,
9am Saturday
Morning Prayer 7:45a.m Friday
Evening Prayer 6p.m Tuesday - Friday

Weddings and Funerals please contact the Clergy. Confession by appointment. Holy Baptism by arrangement after preparation. Ministry to the Sick, names of the sick to the Clergy. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved for the communion of the Sick, and the Oil of the Sick for Anointing.
CHURCH INFORMATION

RECTOR: Fr James McCluskey SSC
The Rectory, 50B Priory St.
Colchester, CO12QB
01206 860419

CHURCHWARDEN: Mrs Kate Thurston
01206 970654

CHURCHWARDEN: Mr Stephen Pawlak
01206 728443

PARISH SECRETARY: Mrs Lucy Mason

TREASURER: Mr Philip Dodd

ELECTORAL ROLE: Mrs Sheila Sansom

PARISH SAFEGUARDING: Mrs Clare Moles
07751329314
clarereklaw@hotmail.com

HEALTH & SAFETY: Mrs Janet Walker

INTERCESSIONS: Mrs Kate Thurston

PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR: Mrs Susan Brandeis
magazinestjames@btinternet.com

GIFT AID: Mrs Diana Londal

SACRISTAN TEAM: Mr Paul Bareham

CHILDREN’S LITURGY: Mrs Diana Irven

FLOWERS: Mrs Susan Brandeis

READERS: Mrs Janet Walker

SIDESMEN: Mrs Kate Thurston

PARISH EMAIL: officestjamescolchester@btinternet.com

HON ASST. PRIEST: Fr Alan Cross SSC, Canon Emeritus, Chelmsford Cathedral. Chaplain to Abberton Manor Nursing Home.
God has given us:

**Eyes**, not to judge others but to look beyond situations,

**Mouth**, not to criticize but to speak for the truth,

**Hands**, not to punish but to give a helping hand,

**Ears**, not to be insensitive but to listen and aid those in pain.

**Everything** God gave us has its purpose. Use them for the greater glory of the Lord.

---

...to Mr Brian Appleby. Brian has served the church as Sacristan for many, many years. Brian is reluctantly having to give up this ministry.

“Brian, your hard work and faithfulness has been appreciated by us all.  **God Bless**”
St. Thomas, the Apostle

Born: probably in Galilee
Died: martyred at St. Thomas Mount, in Chennai (Madras), India in 72 A.D
Feast day in Catholic churches: **July 3**.

One of the twelve Apostles.
His name in Aramaic (Teʾoma) and Greek (Didymos) means “twin”; John 11:16 identifies him as “Thomas, called the twin.”

Patron Saint of: doubters, the blind, masons, construction workers, architects, builders, stone masons, cutters and surveyors, India.

Thomas’s character is outlined in The Gospel According to John. His devotion to Jesus is clearly expressed in John 11:5–16: when Jesus planned to return to Judaea, the disciples warned him of the Jews’ animosity (“now seeking to stone you”), to which Thomas soon replied, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” At the Last Supper (John 14:1–7) Thomas could not comprehend what Jesus meant when he said, “I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.” Thomas’s question “How can we know the way?” caused Jesus to answer, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”** Perhaps the best known event in his life is the one from which the phrase “doubting Thomas” developed. In John 20:19–29 he was not among those disciples to whom the risen Christ first appeared.
When they told the incredulous Thomas, he requested physical proof of the Resurrection. This was fulfilled when Christ reappeared and specifically asked Thomas to touch his wound.

Poor Thomas! He made one remark and has been branded as “doubting Thomas” ever since. But if he doubted, he also believed. He made what is certainly the most explicit statement of faith in the New Testament: “My Lord and My God!” in so expressing his faith, gave Christians a prayer that will be said till the end of time. He also occasioned a compliment from Jesus to all later Christians: “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” (John 20:29).

Reflection

Christ did not pick worthless men. But their human weakness points up the fact that holiness is a gift of God, not a human creation; it is given to ordinary men and women with weaknesses; it is God who gradually transforms the weaknesses into the image of Christ, the courageous, trusting, and loving one.

Saint Thomas crosses are ancient crosses that belonged to the ancient community of Saint Thomas Christians of India, who trace their origins to the evangelistic activity of St Thomas the Apostle in the 1st century. It is thus one of the oldest Christian communities of the world. Saint Thomas crosses are broadly classified as Mar Thoma Sleeva, Persian Cross, and Nasrani Sthambam.
On Friday, 31st May this year a piano recital was held at St. James the Great Church. The pianist and composer was Alexei Knupffer. Alexei is an interesting man and I know some of the audience had a chance to talk to him after the concert. Alexei played his own compositions including one especially for St. James Church called ‘Sons of Thunder’. Listening to the piece of music you definitely heard the turmoil of the thunder with interludes of calm and then back to the tumult. Alexei composed an inspiring piece of music and we were honoured that he would do so especially for us.

Alexei also played pieces by Chopin, Grieg, Rachmaninoff and de Falla. Alexei certainly uses his God given gift to its best and was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

“Traditionally one has seen and heard piano players in all sorts of places. You name it, pubs, bars, restaurants, railway stations, cafes, ballrooms, brothels, old peoples’ homes and yes, even concert halls."
The piano, being the most versatile of musical instruments and what with the advent of the modern more portable digital variety, can be used for each and every occasion. Funerals, weddings, birthday parties, choral evenings, inaugurations, conferences and yes, even concerts. Indeed, I myself have played at many such events. A few months ago I played the piano on an occasion I hadn’t done before. It was an icon blessing party. Well this was certainly a new event category for the books. This was the evening I met Father James, the relatively new vicar at St James the Great Church, and together we planted the idea of having a piano recital at the church. A small seed was planted and fortunately with the nurturing help of good friends it grew. As I had explained to the good vicar my sole reason for giving a piano recital, apart from playing some truly loved old music, is to introduce my music to the public. New music they’ve never head before. How often does one go to a piano recital and hear absolutely fresh works by the pianist who is giving the concert? Very seldom indeed. And yet this was the norm in the 19th century. The purpose of such events was to air and introduce contemporary pieces. What we understand as ‘classical’ music was then on a very great journey passing through Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Wagner and later going on to the great French, the Czech and the Russian composers to mention just a few. The 20th century seemed to put a stop to a lot of that. Music became atonal, complicated and discordant. It estranged audiences and so today we see so many concerts which are largely the music of the same relatively small number of composers who are very dead indeed. The tradition of a live classical composer/pianist has yet to be revived. May that change and help revitalise the recital experience. Meanwhile I prepared for the recital at St James and I promised a new composition dedicated to the church and the memory of St James himself -Sons of Thunder. My idea was that the piece was to be accessible, rhapsodic and entertaining. I just hope I didn’t fail completely.

–Alexei Knupffer
July Diary & Prayer Calendar

1 Monday: St Oliver Plunkett B/Martyr -Pray for peace and reconciliation in Ireland.
2 Tuesday: Weekday in Ordinary Time -Pray for priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work.
3 Wednesday: St Thomas, Apostle feast -Pray for Christians in India.
   11am Mass at Alderwood Care Home.
4 Thursday: St Elizabeth of Portugal –Pray for the poor and the sick in obscurity.
5 Friday: St Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Priest –Pray for an increase of devotion to praying before the Blessed Sacrament.
   9 am Mass at St. James C of E Primary School – all welcome.
6 Saturday: St Maria Goretti, Virgin, Martyr –Pray for young women victims of sexual violence and assault.
   9:30 am Cell Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham.
   10:30 am ‘Singing the Faith’.
7 Sunday: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time-Pray for Our Parish.
8 Monday: Weekday in Ordinary Time –Pray for those, locally, addicted to gambling.
9 Tuesday: Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest and companions, Martyrs –Pray for persecuted Christians in China.
10 Wednesday: Weekday in Ordinary Time –Pray for the elderly, frail and infirm of our parish.
   10.30 am Mass at Longfield House, Colonia Court.
11.15 am Mass at Paxman House.
11 Thursday: St Benedict, abbot, patron of Europe feast -Pray for Christian advisors of politicians.
12 Friday: St John Jones, Priest, Martyr (W) -Pray for the Christian of all denominations in Wales.
   9 am Mass at St. James C of E Primary School – all welcome
13 Saturday: St Henry–Pray for an increased devotion to pray.
15 Monday: St Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor of the Church -Pray for Theologians who teach Ordinands.
16 Tuesday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel –Pray for an increase in vocations to Religious Life.
17 Wednesday: Weekday in Ordinary Time -Pray for our local doctors.
18 Thursday: Weekday in Ordinary Time –Pray for local business.
9 am Mass at St. James C of E Primary School – all welcome.
20 Saturday: St Apollinaris, Bishop, Martyr –Pray for Syrian Christians.
10 am Holy Hour.
21 Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time –Pray for Our Parish.
22 Monday: St Mary Magdalene feast –Pray for an increase in the vocation of women to proclaim the Christian faith.
23 Tuesday: St Bridget, Religious, patron of Europe; -Pray for the Sisters of St. Margaret, Walsingham and the Church of Sweden.
9am St. James C of E Primary School Leavers Mass.
24 Wednesday: Weekday in Ordinary Time –Pray for Church Wardens.
25 Thursday: St James, Apostle Feast –Pray for renewal and regeneration of Christian faith.
7.30 pm Patronal Festival Mass.
26 Friday: Ss Joachim and Ann, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary memorial –Pray for Godparents.
27 Saturday: Weekday in Ordinary Time –Pray for all who lead Sunday School teaching.
28 Sunday: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time –Pray for Our Parish.
29 Monday: St Martha -Pray for the women of the church whose work in the church is seen and unseen.
30 Tuesday: St Peter Chrysologus –Pray for an increase in vocations of preachers.
31 Wednesday: St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest memorial –Pray for the increase in vocations of Spiritual Directors.
We are the longest established Thai Restaurant in Colchester, Essex, Britain’s oldest recorded town. We pride ourselves on serving only the best in truly authentic Thai dishes, all freshly prepared and cooked from locally sourced suppliers by our highly experienced Bangkok trained Thai chef’s. Thai 1 Colchester can be found just a few hundred yards on the right hand side travelling up East Hill Colchester, going towards the Town and Castle Park. For those not familiar with Thai 1 or Colchester, please take a look at our website for directions, www.thai-1.co.uk. We hire out our restaurant for private functions and offer an excellent outside catering service. We also offer our same Thai 1 menu to takeaway. We deliver to anywhere within the Colchester area, free. We also offer a 10% discount on all takeaway collections.
Sponsorship in the Church

To sponsor **the lamp**: look at the board at the back of church or talk to a Churchwarden or Fr. James.

To sponsor the **flowers**: talk to Susan Brandeis.

The **Sanctuary Lamp**, also called a Chancel lamp, is placed before the tabernacle or aumbry in Old Catholic, and Anglican churches as a sign that the Lord is present and that the Blessed Sacrament is reserved or stored.

Sponsored in Memory of:

- **7th July**
  Patricia Calvert
  R.I.P

- **14th July**
  Fr. Thomas Calvert
  R.I.P

5th July
the flowers have been sponsored in thanksgiving for **Father James** and his ministry in this Church and Parish.

10-13th July
the flowers have been sponsored for **John Baines**

St. James Church
Traditionally all attendees would wear an item of red to celebrate a saint’s day.

The flowers in Church today are kindly sponsored by D&U Beattie.
Nothing is known of St. James the early life, though it has been established that he is the son of Zebedee and Salome and brother of John the disciple. The title "the Greater" was added to St. James' name to help distinguish him from the Apostle James "the Less," who is believed to have been shorter and younger than James "the Greater". Saint James the Greater was one of Jesus' first disciples. James was fishing with his father (Zebedee) and John the Apostle when Jesus came to the shores of the Sea of Galilee and called for the fisherman, who were unable to catch any fish that day, to dip their nets in the water once again. When the fishermen followed Jesus' instructions, they found their nets full, and after emptying the fish on board, the boats nearly sank from their weight. Following Christ's Ascension, James spread the Gospel across Israel and the Roman kingdom as well. He travelled and spread the Word for nearly forty years in Spain. James returned to Jerusalem but was martyred for his faith by King Herod Agrippa, who decapitated him. Saint James the Greater is known as the first apostle to die and the only one mentioned in the New Testament.

**Patron:** Against arthritis; against rheumatism; Antigua, Guatemala; Apothecaries; Blacksmiths; Chile; Compostela, Spain; Equestrians; Furriers; Galicia, Knights; Labourers; Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Nicaragua; Pharmacists; Pilgrims; Pistoia, Italy; Soldiers; Tanners; Veterinarians.

**Symbols:** dark-bearded man holding a book, scroll, sword, floppy pilgrim's hat, long staff, water bottle, and scallop shell. elderly, mounted on horseback, trampling a Moor.

**Mark 3:17** "James and John, Zebedee's sons, whom he nicknamed Boanerges, which means "Sons of Thunder."

(paternal: adjective, relating to a patron saint: “the patronal festival of St.James”)
We are experienced counsellors who are trained specialists in working with problem gambling. Whether you gamble yourself, or are adversely affected by the gambling of a family member or friend, Breakeven can help you.

‘The Pilgrim Centre’ at 5 East Hill, Colchester

As of July 8th, 2019, a charity that deals with those with gambling addiction will be based at ‘St. James the Great Church’s 'Pilgrim Centre' (aptly named). I was an ordinand at the College and Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield (2001-2003). Contextual theology was not on the syllabus. Nevertheless, prayer and the practice of it certainly was. The life, training and formation of a priest at the College is, as their website advert, ‘firmly rooted in Anglican tradition and formed in the [wonderful] monastic round of prayer, worship and ministry’. It is the prayer and practice of it, in a community that meets God in Word and Sacrament that strengthened a 'would be priest’. I was ordained priest in 2004.
Now some 15 years later, I know what kind of priest I am, which is especially helpful if asked at an interview 'what type of priest are you'? Which occurred in 2017. The confident reply 'a contextual priest'! Which is a rather smart reply; note - to make up for my academic inadequacies ;) Nonetheless, it was my sincere answer born out of the realities of the experience of coal face ministry in a former urban priority parish. Now in a somewhat different part of Essex, and seemingly wealthier part of Colchester. However, the context is not so far apart from where I was for 13 years before at St. Luke, Southend on Sea.

Now I am at St. James the Great, Colchester, aware of some of the work that needs to be completed. There is a delight in announcing that as of July 8th, 2019, a charity that deals with those with gambling addiction, will be based at ‘St. James the Great Church’s 'Pilgrim Centre' .Hooray! The building was recently purchased by the PCC using 'restricted' funds. Unlocking the potential of a church to 'transform' the community and make deep inroads of change is paramount. Because ever since my conversion to Christianity, a small text in the Bible from the book of the Prophet Isaiah 58:6 has permeated my thought and reaction to my life as a Christian and since as a priest.

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?"

From experience in the context of the lives of the people in the town and surrounding area, gambling is a real problem. With many folks addicted and spending more than they want on gambling, then struggling to find the money for bills, taking out loans to cover gambling debts. Life spirals out of control. Our work as the Church is to offer help to such folk.
So on the 8th July the charity ‘GamCare’ will open their first office in Colchester based at the ‘Pilgrim Centre’, 5 East Hill. Gamcare is the leading national provider of free information, advice and offers support for anyone affected by problem gambling.

A further personal note, as a Christian whose vocation is as a priest, theology is contextual, and not just a matter of academic analysis. The ministry of a Rector of St.James the Great, emerges from a life of prayer and practice. One that seeks to discern and respond to God's presence and action in the world, to understand and go into more deeply the communities where God has placed a priest, trained and formed at the College and Community of the Resurrection, to discern and respond to God's presence and to engage in faithful and effective Christian witness.

-Fr.James McCluskey

https://www.gamcare.org.uk/
R.M. (BOB) & MATHEW TOKLEY
GAS SERVICES

Local Gas Service Engineers

01206 308652
Mobile 07710293997 / 07784494885

Gas Safe Registered
Landlord Gas Safe Certificates
All Domestic Gas Appliances Servicing & Repairs

System Repairs
Plumbing Work
Radiators

Gas Services
Local Gas Service Engineers

© 2014-2018 Mr Misty The Window Doctor. All Rights Reserved
Unit 24, Brookhouse Business Park, Hadleigh Road Industrial Estate, Hadleigh Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 0EF

Have your FREE check up today!
Call us now!
0800 25 45 111
www.mrmisty.co.uk

Specialists in double glazing repair, replacement and maintenance in the Ipswich, Colchester & Chelmsford areas

*Your Local Premier Family Business*
Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters
'Singing the faith'

To be held at St.James the Great Church on every **first Saturday** of the month at **10:30 a.m.**

Everybody is welcome to join us in practicing the music that we will be singing in church now and in the future.

If you want to be more confident in the music we sing or just because you love to sing then please come along.

*I will sing to the LORD as long as I live.*

Psalm 104:33

---

**Buxton Plumbing Ltd**

- Plumbing and heating engineer
- Friendly reliable service
- Reasonable prices
- Fully insured
- Installations, repairs, servicing
- Boiler servicing and breakdowns
- Landlords gas safety checks
- No Job too Small

Martin Buxton
Tel: 01206 511918
Mobile: 07800 581667
Use your hand as a model to pray

Your fingers can be used to bring to mind different things to pray for.

1. **Thumb** This is the strongest digit on your hand. Give thanks for all the strong things in your life, like home and family, relationships that support and sustain you.

2. **Index finger** This is the pointing finger. Pray for all those people and things in your life who guide and help you. Friends, teachers, doctors, nurses, emergency services and so on.

3. **Middle finger** This is the tallest finger. Pray for all the important people who have power in the world, like world leaders and their governments, members of parliament and local councillors, the Royal Family, other world leaders and their governments.

4. **Ring finger** This is the weakest finger on your hand. It can’t do much by itself. Remember the poor, the weak, the helpless, the hungry, the sick, the ill and the bereaved.

5. **Little finger** This is the smallest and the last finger on your hand. Pray for yourself.
We are now in the final term of this academic year with the children arriving back to school after half-term refreshed and ready to learn.

On Wednesday 5\textsuperscript{th} June, the school celebrated ‘\textit{World Environment Day}’ by the children and staff dressing as an animal of their choice for a donation of £1. There was also the opportunity for the children to have their faces painted for 50p. Special thanks went to Mrs Turner, Mrs Sibthorp, Ms Hennessy and Miss Lee who helped with this mammoth task. We raised the fantastic amount of £\textbf{317} which will go towards improving our environment with bird feeders and planting trees.

As a whole school, we are still continuing with running ‘\textit{the daily mile}’. This constitutes running four laps around the school field. Teachers, Learning Supports and the Senior Leadership team are all taking part. As well as helping to keep the children fit, research has shown it helps children to concentrate in lessons, and improves their mental health.
Please remember we still hold our **weekly Eucharist** services in school on a **Friday at 9a.m,** where everyone is welcome.

Our school term ends on the **24th July** with our celebration in **Church** for the end of school year at **9am on Tuesday 23rd July**. You are very welcome to join us with wishing our year 6 ‘good luck’ with their school journey.

**Headteacher: Belynda Fellows**

St James' C of E Primary School | Guildford Road | Colchester | Essex | CO1 2RA
Tel: 01206 865747 | email: admin@st-james-colchester.essex.sch.uk
Copyright 2017, St James C of E Primary School  All rights reserved

---

**Prayer Space in The Lady Chapel**

One of the highlights of the year at St James’ Primary School is our Healthy Schools Week, during which we encourage the children to think about their physical, mental and spiritual health. Part of the week involves Prayer Space. As the school grows, space within the building can be hard to find, so this year, Father James kindly offered to host the Prayer Space within the Lady Chapel in the Church. Over the course of the four days, every child from the school came into the church to think and reflect. Activities varied from thinking about ourselves; what makes us special and those people closest to us, to considering God’s Creation, what we appreciate most about it, and, if we were in charge, what might we change? Children from 5 years old to 11 thought about their success of the year in school and anticipated the next year and were supported by Father James and a number of members from the fellowship. Prayer Space is a wonderful experience for the children and gives them the opportunity to be still for a few moments within a day that is packed full of activity, and we heard some wonderful responses from the children. The school would like to thank those members of the fellowship who gave their time and listened and spoke to all of the children during that very special week.

-Mr Pulford, Teacher, year 6.
What is Prayer Spaces in Schools?

Children and young people are innately curious about life. Growing up raises lots of questions, some to do with their experience, both the good and the bad, and some to do with their sense of wonder at the universe we live in and whether there’s more to life than meets the eye. Many have an interest in the non-material aspects of life, the spirit or soul, and want to explore how these ideas and experiences help them to develop their own sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose.

Prayer Spaces in Schools enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore these life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. Taking a broadly Christian perspective as a starting point, prayer spaces give children and young people an opportunity to develop skills of personal reflection and to explore prayer in an open, inclusive and safe environment. The approach does not proselytise and purposely allows pupils to make their own meaning and to draw their own conclusions.

A prayer space is usually a classroom sized area that has been transformed for a few days or a week with a range of creative activities that encourage personal reflection on issues such as forgiveness, injustice, thankfulness, big questions, identity and stillness. In some schools, teachers bring their students for a subject-lesson in the prayer space. In other schools, students are invited to visit the prayer space voluntarily, during their breaks and lunchtimes and maybe after the school day has finished.

Prayer spaces are usually run by a suitably trained team from a local church or organisation as a service to the school at the invitation of, and with the full co-operation of, senior staff. Prayer spaces have been welcomed and praised by Head teachers, teachers and parents of different faiths and of no faith as a valuable contribution to the RE and PSHE syllabus in England and Wales, and RME and Health & Wellbeing syllabus in Scotland, in line with government requirements, as well as assisting in the statutory responsibility to support the spiritual and moral development of the students.

Prayer Spaces in Schools is a resource hub for the growing network of practitioners running prayer or reflective spaces in schools. It is overseen by a small team who manage the web site, encourage the sharing of resources and good practice and support training workshops and local networks.
Reflections on Prayer Space

The plasma ball was an exciting way to show how God’s power and love covers the world and all His people, plants and animals.

- student, aged 10.

My favourite activity was ‘fizzy forgiveness’ because I felt my sins were forgiven and I could forgive others. - student, aged 10.

When I volunteered to be a helper at the Prayer days for pupils of St. James school I had no idea what to expect. On entering the church I was immediately struck at how inviting and exciting the Lady Chapel looked. This was achieved very sensitively, not taking away any of the peace and holiness of this beautiful place. There were so many fascinating activities for the children to explore and as the various classes visited the success of the mission became obvious. Most, if not all, of the pupils found at least one activity that meant something to them. I was humbled to witness their honesty as deep fears and feelings were revealed. It was not only the pupils who left church having learnt something about prayer and a lot about themselves. - Rosie White, Member St.James Church, Helper.

The children were excited not knowing what to expect. Some were enthusiastic, others less so, but at the end of each class session the response was positive. The Prayer Space enabled seeds to be sewn in a simple, understanding way about the universality of God. The interaction between school and the church will pave the way for a regeneration of what it means for the children to attend a C of E faith school. I felt privileged to help over the four days and found it enjoyable and rewarding. - Jean, Member St.James Church, Helper.
Tea & Coffee after Mass.

An opportunity for friendship after 10a.m Mass each Sunday in the Church.

**What they do**
Provide tea, coffee and biscuits/cake after Mass.

**How you can help**
Join the team which helps to provide refreshments, set up and clear up!

**Contact**
For more information come along and approach those working away in the kitchen or behind the refreshment table.

---

**DISCLAIMER**

The statements, opinions and data contained in this publication are solely those of the individual authors and contributors and not of the Churchwardens, Parochial Church Council, the Editor nor the Publisher. The appearance of advertisements in the St.James the Great & St.Paul Parish Magazine or the website is not a warranty, endorsement, or approval of the products or services advertised or of their effectiveness, quality or safety.

---

**DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST MAGAZINE**

**Saturday 20th July**
material to Susan Brandeis, magazinestjames@btinternet.com
Please mark all material-“Parish Magazine”

---

**PLEASE NOTE**

If you do not wish your information to be published on the website or in the Parish Magazine please let us know when you submit your article.
Thank you.