

A Prayer for the Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of
weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near
to them.
We pray for those with power over war or
peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious chil-
dren, at risk and in fear, that you would hold
and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus,
the Prince of Peace.
Amen.



Present Aid 2024

Instead of sending individual Christmas cards
to friends at church this year, why not do
something different?

1. Write one card to all of us at St James and put it
on the Christian Aid /Present Aid noticeboard at the
back of church.
2. Leave a donation to represent the cost of the other
cards you have not sent in the envelope on the
noticeboard or see Jean H.

After Christmas, our gift will be sent to Christian Aid
to support their work in our global community.

We have been running this scheme since 2008
And have donated over £1800!

Why not join us this year?

Present Aid - Gifts today that last beyond tomorrow!

My notes

Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastoral Visiting

If you would like the opportunity for a longer chat
than time affords after a church service please feel
free to contact me. Thank you. Rev. Ian

Contact details:

Vicar (Rev'd Ian Smith) 0208 301 5387
vicar@stjamesblendon.org.uk
37 Bladindon Drive, Bexley, DA5 3BS.
Rest day: Friday
Church website: www.stjamesblendon.org.uk
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stjamesblendon>



22nd December 2024

10.30am Service of the Word

Welcome and notices

Opening words

Song: Light of the world you stepped down into
darkness

Confession

Collect

Reading:

Song: Born in the night (71)

Gospel reading: Luke 1:39-55

Sermon

Creed

Song: Rumours of Angels

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Song: The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Blessing and Dismissal

*If you have a word, a vision or a story to share, please
speak to Ian or one of the welcomers before the ser-
vice. An auditory loop is available.*

Large print service books are available.



NOTICES

Dates for your diary

Sunday 22nd December:

8:00am - Communion Service (BCP)
 10:30am - All Age Service
 Christmas Carol Service Choir rehearsal.
 6:30pm - Carols by Candlelight

Monday 23rd December:

10:30am - Prayer meeting at Hawthorn Road

Tuesday 24th December:

3:00pm - Crib Service
 7:00pm - 'Midnight' communion @ 7

Wednesday 25th December:

10:30am - Family Service

Sunday 29th December:

10:30am - Service of the Word



We are all aware that our planet faces some serious challenges as a result of human activity leading to climate change. Sometimes these challenges seem overwhelming and that there is not a lot we can do as individuals. However, there is that African proverb which goes along the lines of 'if you think you're too small to make a difference, try spending a night in a room with a mosquito'!!

One thing we can do is look at how much carbon we produce. One website which is quite helpful is here:

<https://www.climatestewards.org/offset/>

I am not suggesting you pay the cost of offsetting your footprint (although, of course, you could). Rather that we start being intentional about making decisions which reduce our footprint.

KEY MINISTRIES



Our next Messy takes place on **2nd February 2025** and we will be thinking about **Jesus' childhood**. Please pray for those who plan and deliver this ministry as we look ahead for ideas for upcoming gatherings. Any offers to help with crafts, to cook, chatting to guests and tidying up would be **really helpful**. Please see Rev Ian or Jenny B for more information.

Stay & Play

Stay and Play runs every Tuesday in term time from 1:15pm. It is an opportunity for parents/carers and their children to meet and play. Please tell folk about it and, if you want a flyer or a card to help, or indeed would like to help support this ministry, please see Rev Ian.



A space which offers coffee, tea, biscuits, cakes and sandwiches along with conversation, board games, computer access, advice and so forth. Please come along or invite anyone who might find it of value.

Mission Partners

We pray for the work of **SLADE GREEN FOOD-BANK**. We pray for Mell and the support staff, with a particular focus that a long term solution to the problems associated with collecting food from the super-markets who support the project will be found. We give thanks for those volunteers who have stepped in to help in the meantime.

News from the Food Bank

The food bank has an urgent need for::

- ◆ Tinned fruit and veg
- ◆ Chocolate/snacks
- ◆ Tuna/hotdogs/meatballs
- ◆ Tea/coffee/hot chocolate
- ◆ Long life/evaporated milk
- ◆ Ready made custard
- ◆ Dried noodles, pasta & rice
- ◆ Pasta/curry sauces
- ◆ Stuffing/gravy
- ◆ Jam, honey, spreads
- ◆ Tins of baked beans, beans and sausages, macaroni cheese & chilli con carne
- ◆ Baby products - wet wipes, nappies size 4-6
- ◆ Toothpaste, Shower gel, Deodorant
- ◆ Shampoo & Razors
- ◆ Housecleaning products
- ◆ Toilet and kitchen roll



Prayer Focus

Those who are either unwell or need special prayers:



Maureen B, Brenda M, Mavis M, Brenda P, Janet C, Mike S, Margaret M, Carol M, Barry G, Thelma H and Stephen R.

We pray for our church family and this week we pray for Michael S, and John and Lindsay W.

We pray for all those who live or work, travel along Albany Close and Albany Road.