

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 pre-
cious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect
them.
We pray in the name of Jesus,
the Prince of Peace.
Amen.



My notes



Why Christians should take action over environmental concerns:

'To hurt the earth is a sin' (Patriarch Bartholomew). We must
'respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' (Pope Francis).
'We should care for God's creation out of love' (Nicky Gumbel).
'All our decisions - personal, purchasing and political - have to be
greener for a healthier world. Let the Earth flourish' (Bishop James Jones).
The call is shared across denominations and traditions.

The dreadful state the planet is in can lead us to think we can do
nothing. But living in way that is respectful towards God's creation is
part of our calling as disciples and, by encouraging others, we can
make a difference.

Over the next few weeks we will share nine ways in which we could
live more gently. Why not think about how you can join in, pin the
ideas to your fridge, or wherever else you may trip over them, and
share them with others?

9) Go fossil-free and low energy:

- ◇ Change to a renewable electricity provider
- ◇ Switch to fossil-free banking, savings and pensions
- ◇ Campaign for your university, place of work, council or church to divest
- ◇ Insulate your home (works in summer and winter!!)
- ◇ Wear extra layers and turn the heating down
- ◇ Use hot water bottles - heat the person not the space
- ◇ If buying new appliances go for AAA rated
- ◇ Switch to electric heating
- ◇ Generate your own electricity using solar power
- ◇ Examine electric/hybrid cars when purchasing your next vehicle
- ◇ Cycle or walk when possible
- ◇ Use public transport

The Collect (for 8:00 o'clock)

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



23rd August 2026

10:30 Baptism



Welcome and notices

Opening words

We sing: Praise is rising

Introduction to the service

We say sorry to God

Collect

We sing: To the river

We hear God's word: Matthew 3:13-17

We think about God's word

Poem

The Baptism

Welcome and the Peace

We sing: One more step along the world I go

We talk to God

We pray the Lord's Prayer

We sing: Before the throne of God above

We give a lighted candle

We receive God's Blessing



NOTICES

Dates for your diary

Sunday 23rd August:

8:00am - Communion Service
10:30am - Baptism Service

Monday 24th August:

10:00am - Prayer meeting @ Hawthorn Road cancelled

Tuesday 25th August:

1:15pm - Stay and Play

Wednesday 26th August:

1:00pm - Place of Welcome

Sunday 23rd August:

8:00am - Communion Service
10:30am - Service of the Word

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

Giving at St James

If you wish to make a donation towards the ministry of St. James, or indeed need to pay for a specific service, please speak to Rev Ian or the Churchwardens. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code in this notice. Thank you.



Contact details:

Vicar (Rev'd Ian Smith) 0203 874 6398

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>

KEY MINISTRIES



Our next Messy takes place on **6th September** and we will be thinking about **new beginnings**. 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. This 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.

Pets are welcome! Please come along or invite anyone who might find it of value.



Mission Partners

We pray for the work of **TEARFUND** and their mission to see people freed from poverty, living transformed lives, and fulfilling their God-given potential. We pray for partnerships with Christians, local churches and organisations around the world, as they seek to equip people to lift themselves out of poverty and fulfil their God-given potential.

News from the Food Bank

Slade Green 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



Shoebox Appeal

The year we are supporting a different shoebox appeal charity and we will need shoeboxes (without hinged lids!) We will be collecting them in August/September along with donations for the boxes.

We should have a list of items required out next week. This will include items for adults as this charity supports work across age ranges.

Prayer Focus



Those who are either unwell or need special prayers:

Brenda M and Pip, Janet C, Mike S and Mike's daughter -in-law Racheal, Barry G, Thelma H, Stephen R, Maureen (Sue M's mother), David and Sally S, and Harper.

We pray for our church family and this week we pray specifically for Jenny B and Michael C.

We pray for all those who live, work or travel along Cedar Grove and Clayworth Close.