



ST JAMES THE GREAT
Catholic Church in Petts Wood

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



St James – A shining light in Petts Wood

IN THIS EDITION | **July 2025**

Interview with Fr David
by Liana Levoir

Evangelisation Pillar
World Community of
Christian Meditation

Communication Pillar
Safeguarding Audit

Social Pillar
Garden Party and Fun Run

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Arrivederci - Au revoir but not Goodbye



We are all saddened by the announcement that our Father David is leaving but know that his decision will mean that the Holy Spirit will lead him where he can “bloom where planted” and make a difference to those he comes into contact with as he has done with us in Petts Wood.

Father was born in Malta on 18 April 1963. Aged seven he went to the Ordination of his cousin Fr Louis, at St John's Cathedral Valletta (where in fact he himself was ordained years later) which started him thinking about his future. After attending a Catholic primary school – St Joseph's, he then went to a Boys' Catholic school run by the Missionaries of St Paul who inspired a different kind of Catholicity very much Post Vatican Council II. He found the Priests and the Brothers inspiring and fell in love with their way of community life. After the 6th form he began a BA in Business Management which didn't inspire him and decided that that was a sign to leave home and enter the novitiate in November 1982 on the island of Gozo followed by going to live at the Formation House of the MSSPs in Rabat Malta where he also began his academic studies at the University of Malta. He did a BA in Philosophy and Human Sciences followed by a BA in Sacred Theology and then a 2 year License in Pastoral Theology. After a short stint in Pakistan as a deacon, he was ordained priest in 1992 in Malta and assigned to Melbourne, Australia in 1993. After 8 years in Melbourne, he went to Canada and did an MA in Pastoral Counselling at St Paul's University Ottawa. Once he decided to leave his Order, the Archbishop of Southwark Michael Bowen accepted him to minister in Dartford as an assistant priest for 10 months after which he was assigned as Parish Priest at St Benet's Abbey Wood. After 5 years he was assigned as a Chaplain at St Heliers in Carshalton and St Rafael's Hospice in North Cheam. During this time he helped at St Teresa's in Morden. After again 5 years he asked for a Sabbatical where he spent some time in Malta with his family and then did a Sabbatical Course in Rome at the North American College. This was just a year after Pope Francis became a Pope. He found it very exciting in Rome during the time of Pope Francis' Pontificate. Part of the course was a trip to the Holy Land and the spiritual experiences there and his meeting the St Egidio Community in Rome affected him greatly.

In April 2015, he arrived with a lot of enthusiasm to St James the Great. He found a vibrant parish however a bit “bruised” after a couple of Parish priests' changes. The Parish had great potential however lacked a central structure to bring it together. After about 10 months he started the process of creating and building up a Parish Council and found the parishioners were very open to this idea which encouraged him a great deal.

He very much loved living near London as he said, “it was like a Disney World for him with on hand a big choice of music, the arts, opera, musicals, theatre etc.





I asked Father what would he have liked to be if he had not gone down the avenue of becoming a priest and he replied he would have liked to be a psychotherapist and spiritual director as he had studied these media, enjoyed it and I am sure he would have excelled at this.

The highlights of these last 10 years for Father were interesting:

1. Having the boys choir Libera come to the parish after he had just arrived,
2. The Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2018,
3. The Pilgrimage to Rome, Perugia, Assisi, Siena & Florence in 2023,
4. The Retreat at Worth Abbey in 2024,
5. The school Children Masses and connection with the school
6. The Parade Masses every second Sunday of the Month and the Masses during the Scouts Camps.

When asked which he considered as main challenges in these last ten years, he confessed that managing some parishioners have not been easy. However he knows that difficult people are found everywhere.

To end Father wanted to express his heartfelt thanks to everyone who had welcomed him so much, being patient with him and trusting him to lead us in the last 10 years which he never took for granted.

Written by Liana Levoir.





Pastoral Care Pillar

When Fr David requested a Pastoral Care Team in the early days of his ministry we, and others were delighted to be part of it. We received guidance and training from Paul Parsons who was a senior officer in St Christopher's Hospice. Subsequently on a more Spiritual level Fr David invited Dawn Pointing, who is a Spiritual Director to assist us. She provided us with further guidance in our roles.

The team has been instrumental in assisting Fr David at funerals and preparation of specially themed Masses.

It was been an absolute joy to have been involved with this group and we are all truly grateful for the wonderful leadership and guidance we have received from Fr David.

On 8 May 2025 American Robert Francis Prevost was elected Pope.



Born in Chicago in 1955 he took the name of Pope Leo XIV. He is the first native English speaking Pope since Adrian, in the 12th century. He is also a naturalised citizen of Peru where he spent many years as a missionary.

A mathematics graduate, he is also the first Augustinian Pope. Leo joined the Augustinian order and went to Rome to become a

priest and study Canon Law. The Augustinian order differs from other religious orders in that Augustinians recreate the early Christian communities 'that feel a sense of oneness' while Franciscans, for example, focus on poverty and Dominicans specialise in preaching. Pope Leo said in a 2023 interview that 'having a rich community built on the ability to share with others has been one of the greatest gifts I have been given in this life. The gift of friendship brings us back to Jesus himself' Pope Leo was twice elected as prior general of the Augustinians. Today there are about 2800 Augustinians in 47 countries.

During his time in Peru as a missionary he worked with marginalised communities. He served as a parish pastor and taught at a seminary. He was also Bishop and then Archbishop of Chiclayo.

To relax the Pope likes to play tennis and he does Wordle online with his brother.

On Sunday 27th July St James the Great is holding a Mass for Grandparents and the Elderly at 11.00 am.

The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly was established by Pope Francis in 2021. It is celebrated on the fourth Sunday in July near the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Jesus.

The theme for 2025 selected by the Pope is: *'Blessed are those who have not lost hope'*.

These words, from the book of Sirah, express the blessedness of the elderly and indicate hope placed in the Lord as the way to a Christian and reconciled old age. In the Jubilee year, the day is intended to be an opportunity to reflect on how the presence of grandparents and the

elderly can become a sign of hope in any family and church community. Previous themes for this day include a line from Psalm 71: 'Do not cast me off in my old age' chosen to call attention to the fact that many elderly people are lonely.

Pope Francis has said about the elderly: *'They are not leftovers from life, they are living signs of God's presence'*.

This year's theme further reinforces the Pope's vision of ageing as a time of faith, wisdom and hope.

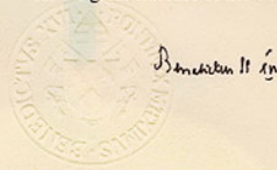
Pope Francis's prayer for grandparents.



PRAAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

Lord Jesus,
you were born of the Virgin Mary,
the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.
Look with love on grandparents the world over.
Protect them! They are a source of enrichment
for families, for the Church and for all of society.
Support them! As they grow older,
may they continue to be for their families
strong pillars of Gospel faith,
guardians of noble domestic ideals,
living treasuries of sound religious traditions.
Make them teachers of wisdom and courage,
that they may pass on to future generations the fruits
of their mature human and spiritual experience.

Lord Jesus,
help families and society
to value the presence and role of grandparents.
May they never be ignored or excluded,
but always encounter respect and love.
Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed
in all the years of life which you give them.
Mary, Mother of all the living,
keep grandparents constantly in your care,
accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage,
and by your prayers, grant that all families
may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland,
where you await all humanity
for the great embrace of life without end. Amen!





Pastoral Care Pillar

July 12 is recognised by the UN as Malala Day

In honour of Malala Yousafzai's courageous advocacy and to highlight the global struggle for education.

Malala was shot by the Taliban at age 15 on the way home from school for her activism. She was sent to Birmingham children's hospital for treatment and recovered.

With her father, her ally and inspiration, she established the Malala Fund, an organisation dedicated to giving every girl the opportunity to learn and choose her own future. On her 16th birthday in 2013 she spoke to the United Nations calling for all children to have access to education. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in December 2014 becoming the youngest ever Nobel Laureate. With the Malala fund she began working with a global network of leaders and activists fighting for girls' right to education. In 2024 Malala fund turned 10 and she gave a speech at the UN house in Nigeria reflecting on the organisation's decade of impact for millions of girls around the world and the work still left to do.

In 2025 she is executive chair and co founder of Malala fund, taking the movement for girls education to governments and leaders around the world.



Finance Pillar



Congratulations to the June Winners

£100 Raycarlos Cruz - Number 199

£50 Martin D'Souza - Number 66

£25 Geraldine Coughtrey - Number 145

£25 Father David - Number 33

200 151 121

81 7 24

Thank you to all parishioners that have renewed their subscription to the 200 Club. Only two numbers are available **123** and **149**.

Subscriptions are £5 per month payable on the first day of each month. Alternatively subscriptions can be paid annually online or by cheque for £60 payable to NatWest Orpington:

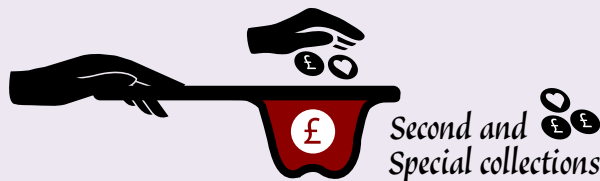
Sort Code 60 16 03

Account number 77878736

Account Name St James the Great 200 Club.

Monthly draws take place on the second Sunday of each with four prizes totalling £200 paid to winners with two BIG draws in July and December with four winners with a total of £1000 paid out.

Anyone wishing to join please contact Ken Evans by telephone **01689 851793** or the Parish Office **01689 827100**



Second collections in July:

The second collections during the weekend of 12th /13th July are for the Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris). Stella Maris is a Catholic charity supporting seafarers worldwide, providing practical and pastoral care to all seafarers, regardless of nationality, belief or race.

Port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors welcome seafarers, and they offer welfare services, advice, practical help, care and friendship. The international network of Stella Maris operates in more than 250 ports in the world. 90% of world trade is transported by ship and the life of a modern seafarer can be dangerous and lonely. They may spend up to a year away from home, often working in harsh conditions. Stella Maris relies wholly on voluntary contributions and can only continue its work through the generous donations of its supporters, particularly in this annual collection.

13th July - Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris)

27th July - Building Fund

If payments to these second collections are being made by Bankers Order, please show the following payment references:

Apostleship of the sea - AOTS/Gift Aid Number/ Surname

Building Fund - Build/Gift Aid Number/ Surname





Evangelisation Pillar

Eucharist Adoration – Be Still in the Presence of the Lord

Time set aside in your hectic life – wasting time in silence with God, takes place for an hour each Wednesday shortly after the Morning Mass and the Wednesday Café, starting at 10.45am and finishing with Benediction at 11.15am and on the first Friday of the month from 6pm till 8pm, one hour of silent adoration and another hour of Worship. The next will be on **Friday 4th July**. All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.

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Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina)

A quiet reflective look at the following Sunday's Gospel. **Mondays 11am–12 noon**, except for Bank Holidays, meetings are via zoom. Please contact the parish office who will arrange the zoom link to be sent to you. All are welcome.

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Prayer Meetings on Thursdays

Charism Thursdays exists to establish a weekly spiritual hour of rest and worship, open to anyone who is interested in Prayer Meetings and in deepening their connection with the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

During charismatic worship songs, each member is encouraged to participate and share their spiritual gifts from a place of liberty and freedom. Rest and contemplation in the Agape love of God is primary, contributions in scripture reading, words of encouragement, pictures and prayer etc is secondary. Along with the main focus of group singing, we focus on practices of meditation and circling. These types of practices help to facilitate transformative experiences through the work of the Holy Spirit.

We have already enjoyed our first few meetings with a good response.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the **weekly event, starting at 7pm** in the church.

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Visit of the relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis

"The Eucharist is my motorway to heaven" Blessed Carlo Acutis.

Blessed Carlo Acutis, a British born teenager who grew up in Italy and died aged 15, is due to be made a saint later this year - the first saint of the millennial generation.

Blessed Carlo was a great advocate for social justice and used to go with other young people to Milan train station to feed the homeless. At school, he would look out for and befriend students who were being bullied or disregarded.

He had a deep love for Jesus and created an online resource - an "exhibition of Eucharistic miracles" documenting in detail more than 150 miracles over the last 2000 years.

On the weekend of 27th-28th September 2025, we are blessed to have a visit of a first class relic of Blessed Carlo.

There will be a service of veneration together with a time of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. We will also have talks by Anna Johnstone, a former governess of Blessed Carlo's siblings and close friend of the Acutis family.

Concurrently, we will also be mounting an exhibition of the Eucharistic miracles in the church, with a guided tour by Anna.

Relics are a tangible way to grow closer to God through the lives of the saints. In venerating the relic we are inviting God to continue to work in us through the prayer and by the example of the saint. We are not worshipping him. Rather, we remember his holiness and ask his intercession for our lives, and invite God to help us grow in our faith through the example and life of the saint whose relic we venerate.

Carlo's motto was "To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan".

Please pray for this weekend, that it will be an opportunity for many in our parish and in the surrounding area to draw closer to Jesus and to know and experience his love.

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World Community of Christian Meditation

St James are hosting the World Community of Christian Meditation (WCCM) session on Saturday 19th July from 10 am - 12pm.

The WCCM was started in London by Dom John Main OSA - a monk from Ealing Abbey. It was later run by Br Lawrence.

Our speaker, a member of the community in Whitstable, is coming to help us understand what it is all about.

Please do try to be there.





Evangelisation Pillar

Called to Care for Creation – Join us in Southwark

As Catholics, we're called to care for God's creation and speak out for justice. That's why Catholics from across the diocese are joining CAFOD at the 'Act Now, Change Forever' mass lobby of Parliament on **Wednesday 9 July 2025**—and we'd love you to come too.

This is a chance to live out our faith by urging leaders to act on the climate crisis, which is already affecting the world's poorest communities.

How to take part:

- Register at www.theclimatecoalition.org/act-now-change-forever

You'll receive all the details directly from The Climate Coalition.

- Want to connect with other attending from your constituency?

Email Sarah and Celeste at southwark@cafod.org.uk

Let's come together in faith, hope, and action—for our common home.

Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage To Lourdes

There are still a few places available on the pilgrimage, which Southwark makes to Lourdes from **22 to 29 August** this year.

For information and booking, please see <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-ca/>

There are a range of hotels available, though most Southwark pilgrims will be staying at the Hotel Eliseo.

Further information is available from:

Bishop Paul paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk or

Canon Perera edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Celebration of St Faustina Birthday at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Bank Holiday Monday 25 August 2025 from 10:30 am to 4pm. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call millie on 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria



Evangelisation Pillar

"A Holy Hour of
Singing, Confession,
Prayer & Adoration"

Worship Night

Dates for 2025:

2 May, 4 July
5 Sept, 7 Nov

A Jubilee Year Initiative

A Holy Hour from 7 - 8 PM

First Friday, every 2nd Month

St James the Great
Lakeswood rd
Petts Wood

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@Stjamespettswood



01689 827100



@pettswood@rcaos.org.uk

Monthly Newsletter – July 2025 - 9



Evangelisation Pillar



ADORATION

(With Silent Prayer, Light Music & Singing)

FIRST FRIDAY, EVERY 2ND MONTH

Dates: 6 June, 1 Aug, 3 Oct
6-8 PM in the church

ST JAMES THE GREAT PETTS WOOD

283 Crescent Dr, Petts Wood,
Orpington BR5 1AY



Evangelisation Pillar

Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Group



I am Linda Samuels, and I will be overseeing the work of MISSIO in the Parish, in the future, and trying to do as good a job as Breda did for many years.

MISSIO UK is the UK organisation which supports the valuable work undertaken by Priests, Nuns and committed lay volunteers working in the poorest countries of the world. Missio and Mill Hill Missionaries work in collaboration.

They work in parishes, schools and hospitals to uphold the faith and administer to all those in need, regardless of their beliefs. Through MISSIO, many in this Parish have Red Boxes in their homes, which they use to collect funds. Another group have come together to sponsor a seminarian studying at St. Peter's Seminary in Malawi. Also, many parishioners make direct payments, online, to the charity.

I aim to ask that we continue this help. I plan to approach some of the many groups, here at St James, to ask if they would be willing to organise a fund raising event for their members. This will be in readiness for World Mission Sunday on 19th October, when we will have a second collection at our Masses that weekend. It is the annual day when we ask for financial help and your prayers for MISSIO.

Recently, MISSIO's Director Father Anthony Chantry met with Pope Leo in Rome at the General Assembly for the world's mission support networks. As a mission Priest himself for many years Pope Leo is especially supportive of this work. Fr Tony Chantry gave Pope Leo a Red Box and said to him that he will be going to Rome next year and will empty the Box - the Pope laughed.

If you have a Red Box, that you would like emptying, please contact your promoter or the parish office. If you would like to have a Red Box in your home, or would like to know more about the work of MISSIO and how to help, please contact me via the Parish Office.



The current needs are for:

- Carrier Bags
- Cereals
- Sweets
- Squash
- Powdered MILK
- Coffee
- Multi Surface Sprays
- Hand Wash

There are two baskets available for your donations: both are in the main church entrance



The Foodbank warehouse **cannot accept**: baby formula, fresh, out of date, chilled or frozen food.

Financial donations are still very much appreciated and there are several ways you can donate:

- Post cash, cheques or supermarket vouchers through the Parish Office letterbox. Cheques should be payable to "Bromley Borough Foodbank".
- By direct transfer to the Foodbank's bank account
Bank NatWest
Sort code 60-16-03
Account name Bromley Borough Foodbank
Account number 77879007
Reference STJAMESPW
- £5 gift vouchers for Tesco and Sainsbury's are very useful to the Foodbank

Like most volunteer run charities, our Foodbank needs monetary donations. If possible you might consider setting up a standing order to help this vital work. Bank details above.

Thank you from the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group.





Communication Pillar

Please may we request that no food and drink is brought into the church during Masses. If needed for medical reasons there is water available from the Welcomers during the Mass. Thank You

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Safeguarding

Every human being has a value and dignity which we as Catholics, recognise as coming from God's creation of male and female in his own image and likeness.

Our Parish and community must be a place of welcome, where each person is respected and loved, and in which everyone receives and shares their unique gifts. We support and protect each other and take care of those who may be vulnerable because of age, illness or disability or who may be vulnerable because of current or past life experiences.

We all have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of those who worship in our church or who join us for any activity facilitated by church members.

If you would like to volunteer to help in the Parish, please contact the Parish Office so that we can complete the DBS process.

If you would like to contact the Parish Safeguarding Team or the Central Safeguarding Office at the Diocese, contact details are:

Parish Safeguarding Team:

Contact via the Parish Office or:

Kate Charlesworth pettswoodsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
07591 082743

Paul Cosgrave pettswoodsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Central Safeguarding Office safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk 0207 261 1606

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Petts Wood Parish Safeguarding Team

Here's a short presentation outlining the importance of safeguarding young and vulnerable adults in the Catholic Diocese of Southwark:

Safeguarding Young & Vulnerable Adults in the Catholic Diocese of Southwark

Introduction

Safeguarding is a fundamental responsibility within the Catholic Diocese of Southwark. It ensures that children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected from harm, abuse, and neglect while fostering a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Why Safeguarding Matters

- **Moral & Ethical Duty:** Every individual has inherent dignity and deserves protection from harm.
- **Legal & Church Obligations:** The Diocese follows national safeguarding policies and guidelines to ensure

compliance with legal requirements.

- **Creating a Safe Community:** A culture of safeguarding promotes trust, respect, and security within the Church.
- **Preventing Abuse & Harm:** Vigilance and proactive measures help prevent incidents of abuse and exploitation.
- **Supporting survivors:** Providing care and assistance to those affected by past abuse is essential for healing and justice

Key Safeguarding Measures

- **Training & Awareness:** Clergy, volunteers, and parishioners receive safeguarding training.
- **Clear Reporting Procedures:** Concerns and allegations are addressed promptly and appropriately.
- **Safer Recruitment Practices:** Background checks and vetting ensure that those working with vulnerable individuals are suitable
- **Creating Safer Environments:** Policies and guidelines help maintain secure spaces for workshop and community activities.
- **Listening & Learning:** The Diocese actively engages with survivors to improve safeguarding practices.

Conclusion

Safeguarding is not just a policy - it is a commitment to protecting the most vulnerable members of our community. By fostering a culture of vigilance, respect, and care, the Catholic Diocese of Southwark ensures that everyone can participate in church life safely and with dignity.

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What does your Parish Safeguarding Representative do?

Your PSR helps to uphold the Church's commitment to protecting all God's people from abuse or harm and to respond compassionately and appropriately to any concerns raised with your parish community.

A Parish Safeguarding Representative is...

A PSR in the Catholic Church is a trained volunteer responsible for promoting and supporting safeguarding practices within their local Parish community. Your PSR is a vital member of the safeguarding network and works closely with your Parish Priest & the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

What They Do?

The PSR plays a key role in ensuring that the parish is a safe welcoming place for all, especially:

- Children
- Young people
- Vulnerable adults (Adults at Risk)



Communication Pillar

Responsibilities

- Being the first point of contact in the parish for safeguarding concerns
- Ensuring safeguarding policies and procedures are followed
- Raising awareness about safe practices
- Assisting with Safer Recruitment (including DBS checks) for volunteers
- Reporting any safeguarding concerns to the Diocesan Safeguarding Office

Our PSRs receive training and keep us up to date on the Catholic Church's safeguarding guidance.

Your Parish Safeguarding Rep is

If you have any concerns or questions, please make contact with your PSR via the details below

Kate Charlesworth pettswoodsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
07591 082743

Paul Cosgrave pettswoodsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Safeguarding Audit

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency are seeking feedback from anyone who may have information regarding the safeguarding function in Southwark Archdiocese. Please follow on the below links if you wish to contribute. Thank you

Do you have information to help our safeguarding inspection in Southwark?

<https://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/do-you-have-information-to-help-our-safeguarding-inspection-in-southwark/>

Survivors' Work With Us

<https://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/victims-and-survivors/survivors-work-with-us/>

Supervision of children in hall toilets

It has come to our notice that there have been incidents of the toilets in the hall being misused. Items have been dropped in the toilet bowls and the liquid soap containers emptied onto the floor. We seek your assistance in ensuring there are no further incidents of this kind. Please be reminded you are responsible for your children at all times.

Supervision of children in the church around the candle stands

Please ensure that all children are assisted by an adult in the lady chapel area when lighting candles.

Repository



Welcome to our new look Repository. Please feel free to pop in and browse our new stock.

Confirmation, Holy Communion and Baptism gifts, Cards for every occasion, Crucifixes, Candles, Holy water bottles etc...

If there is anything you would like us to order we are happy to do so.



Parish Register

If you are new to the parish or you have not previously registered with the parish please do so via the parish website.

3rd Petts Wood Scout Group - Applications for Beaver section

If your child starts in Reception in September and you would like a place in Beavers, please apply after September 12th 2025 to the waiting list: 3pwwaitinglist@gmail.com

Priority is given to those who apply on 12th September with siblings in the Group already. Places are very limited for each Year Group, so we ask you to apply from September 12th only. Any requests received before then will not be accepted to ensure it is fair for all Parishioners.

Mary's Meals - A simple solution to world hunger

Please donate your foreign currency and coins to Mary's Meals.

They will accept any coins and bank notes, old or new, foreign or domestic. Please see the basket at the back of the church and pick up an envelope. Thank You



Communication Pillar

Help Needed

Would you like to become a Welcomer? We would love some families who would be willing to come to Mass a little earlier to help hand out hymn books and Mass sheets. We urgently need more welcomers at the Sunday 9.15am masses.

Please let the Parish Office know if you are able to help.

Church Carpark

During the remedial works (which we hope will be from the end of July) the top car park will be out of action as this will become the contractors access point. Please do not use this carpark during the works and we suggest you allow extra time for parking before Masses.

15th July - St Swithun (or Swithin), Saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

Film review

Around the year 1990 the BBC screened a series of 10 one-hour films under the title Decalogue. Set in a Warsaw housing estate, each episode illustrated one of the Ten

Commandments. The episodes about the commandments against murder and adultery were later expanded into 90-minute films called A Short Film About Killing and A Short Film About Love; the former, containing a brutal scene of a botched execution, is said to have contributed to the abolition of capital punishment in Poland.

The series introduced us to the work of the film-maker Krzysztof Kieslowski (1941-96), who started making short documentaries in 1969 and went on to making feature films. While not himself an orthodox believer, he was sympathetic to religion and most of his films contain metaphysical ideas, such as connections between the living and the dead.

Following Decalogue he made The Double Life of Veronique, which begins with a beautiful young singer in Poland called Veronika, who suddenly has a heart attack and dies during a concert. The film then switches to an identical young woman in France, Veronique, who has the sudden sense that somebody close to her has died, and the rest of the film follows her story.

Kieslowski's final films were the "Three Colours Trilogy", entitled Blue, White, and Red, representing respectively liberty, equality, and fraternity. "Blue" is about a French woman who, following the death of her husband and daughter in a car crash, decides to live as a recluse, but gradually realises that she needs the love and friendship of other people. "White" is a comedy, where an inadequate Polish man living in Paris is humiliated and rejected by his French wife.

Returning to Poland he becomes rich, and takes revenge on his wife, with a reconciliation at the end. "Red", set in Geneva, is about the growing friendship between a young woman and a retired judge, who becomes a sort of Prospero-figure (if you know your Shakespeare). The film ends with a meeting in unexpected circumstances between the main characters of all three films.

Alan Pavelin



St James the Great Annual Golf Day

at Langley Park Golf Course
Barnfield Road, BR3 6SZ
Friday 11th July 2025
Cost: £75

Breakfast Roll and Coffee on arrival,
with lunch being served on
completion of the rounds

Prizes for:
Winner
Longest Drive
Nearest the Pin
Nearest the Pin in 2

To book please contact:
Paul Cosgrave
paulatpalace@hotmail.com
or
Ken Evans
kenevans224@gmail.com



Communication Pillar

St James the Great Annual Golf Day

at Langley Park Golf Course

Barnfield Road, BR3 6SZ

Friday 11th July 2025

Cost: £75

Name:

Tel:

Handicap:

Address:

Email Address:

Please reserve the following Golf Day places:

@£75

Special Dietary Needs:

Electronic Payment @ £75 each

Payable to: St James the Great Catholic Church

Account No: 13204297 Sort Code: 600814

Reference: *surname/golf day*

Requests for places must be recieved no later than: 30th May 2025

Please respond as soon as possible as places are limited and ensure forms are returned to: Paul Cosgrave - paulatpalace@hotmail.com

or Ken Evans - kenevans224@gmail.com



Social Pillar

Wednesday Lunches

The next Wednesday lunch is scheduled for **Wednesday, 23rd July**, from 11.45am. Please join us for a light lunch.

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The Companions Afternoon Club

Who are we? What do we do?

We meet in the Church Community Centre every week. We play scrabble, Triominos, indoor curling, table tennis and we hope to start Line-dancing. Maybe you have ideas as to what you may like to do? So do come and join us in the **Community Centre at 1.30pm to 4.30pm on the first two Wednesdays and the second two Tuesdays of the month.** Here is a chance to get to know some really lovely people!

July's dates for The Companions Afternoon Club:

Wednesday 2nd and 9th

Tuesday 15th, 22nd and 29th

Doors open **1.30pm**. All welcome.

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Garden Party and Fun Run

The time for our major summer event, the Garden Party and Fun Run, is rapidly approaching. There are plenty of ways to help and get involved.

On the day, **Sunday 13th July**, you can donate cakes and/or food from your country.

You can help man a stall for an hour.

You can help to set up on either the Saturday or Sunday or, very importantly, be part of a group that clears up at the end of the event.

Come and enjoy the event from **12.00 until 3pm**.

You can participate in the fun run. Starting point is beside St. James School at Jubilee Park. This is a fun event suitable for all to walk, jog, run. You can choose to do one or two laps. Fr. David is running again so you could sponsor him to show your support. There will be sign up forms at the back of the church.

Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to help.

Many thanks for your continuing support

Film Night

Thank you very much to everyone who attended our Film Night in June. You raised the generous amount of £110 in donations for the Petts Wood Playgroup for Children With Special Needs. The Manager has asked me to pass on her deep gratitude to you all.

Our next film, planned for **Saturday 12 July** has unfortunately had to be cancelled as a contingency measure for the Parish Garden Party the next day.

Advance Notice

Our annual Film Night Summer Celebration will be on **Saturday, 16 August** starting at the usual time of 7.30pm. In keeping with tradition, this will feature a musical - this year "Evita" running time 134 minutes - a glass of Prosecco (or something lighter!) & ice-cream! Please feel free to bring anything extra you may prefer. Advance Notice

Our annual Film Night Summer Celebration will be on Saturday, 16 August starting at the usual time of 7pm. In keeping with tradition, this will feature a musical - details to follow - a glass of Prosecco (or something lighter!) & ice-cream! Please feel free to bring anything extra you may prefer.

.....

Petts Wood CWL

A very big thank you from Petts Wood CWL for the wonderful response to our Annual Plant Sale. Everyone was extremely generous with donations of plants and money. This means we are now able to support a number of charities and will be able to help with the purchase of the new Triduum booklets ready for next Easter. It was great to be able to meet lots of parishioners who were interested in plants - some very experienced and others looking to learn more. We would also like to thank Sue and Will who helped set up the marquee and those who helped us put up and put away the tables, chairs and extra plants afterwards. A special thank you goes to the gardening club from St James' Primary School for growing plants to donate to our sale. Please return any unwanted plant pots as we are planning another plant sale next year and use a lot of the smaller sized pots.

Our July CWL meeting will be at 1pm in the Community Centre and will be an informal meeting to catch up, chat and plan for future events.

Ladies of the parish are welcome to join us.

In May we enjoyed an Afternoon Tea to which we invited ladies from the other Petts Wood churches as well as members from other Bromley CWL sections and ladies from St Joseph's and St Swithin's. We were also delighted that Father Davied, Father Bryan and a number of ladies from the parish were also able to join us.

Petts Wood CWL would like to thank Father David for all his support, encouragement, prayers and masses during his ten years with us as Parish Priest.





Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Ruth chapters 1 and 2

When famine came to Bethlehem, Elimelech took his family to the nearby country of Moab. The two sons married local girls.

But Elimelech and his sons died, leaving Naomi, Orpah and Ruth as widows.



Naomi told her daughters-in-law she was returning to Bethlehem.



Go back to your parents' homes.

The girls cried, and Orpah left, but Ruth stayed.



I will stay with you. Your people and your God will be mine.



So Naomi and Ruth went back to Bethlehem.

Call me 'Mara' not 'Naomi' because God has made my life bitter.



*'Naomi' means 'Pleasant' 'Mara' means 'Bitter'

It was the start of the barley harvest. Poor people were allowed to glean - to pick up the ears of grain that had been dropped. Ruth went out to glean.



She picked a field, asked if she could glean, then worked hard



The field's owner, Boaz, arrived.

Who's that girl?



That's Ruth, who came from Moab with Naomi.



Boaz told Ruth she was welcome to work in his fields.

He told her to join his workers at lunch-time, and made sure she had more than enough to eat.



Ruth worked hard and took home a huge bag of grain.

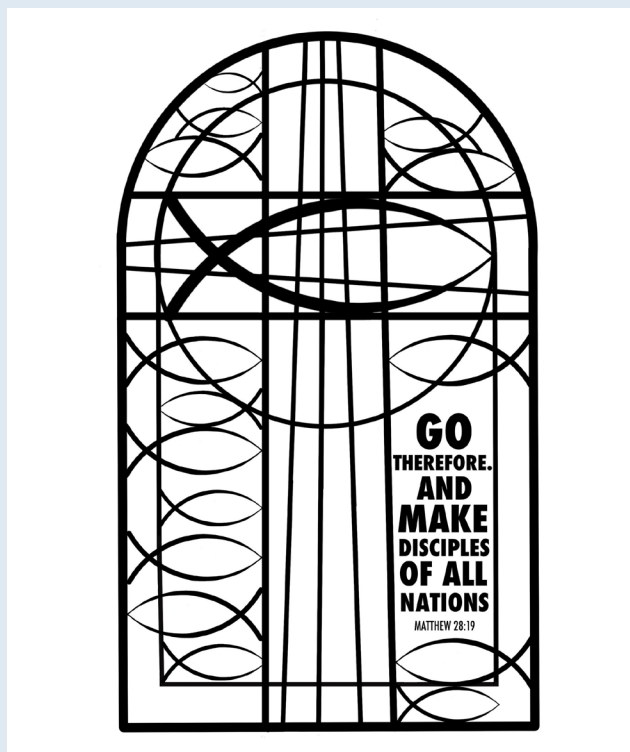
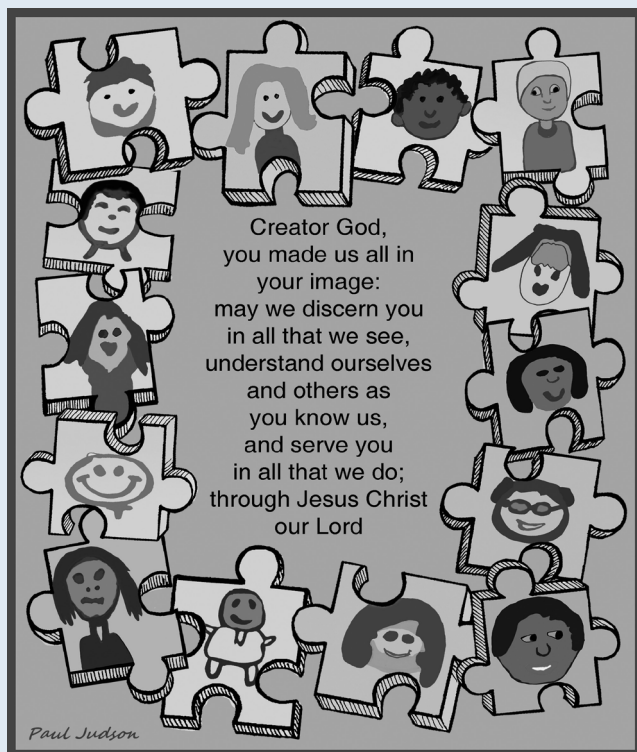
I worked in Boaz's field.



He is a near relative!

Ruth worked all through the barley and wheat harvests in Boaz's fields.





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6	8	9	3					1
	3			1	9	8		
		1	6					

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ST JAMES THE GREAT
Catholic Church in Petts Wood

July Calendar 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 2pm - 4pm Memory cafe 7pm - 7.45pm Firm Believers 8pm Table Tennis	2 10.45 - 11.15am Adoration 1.30pm Companion Club	3 4.30pm to 9pm Girlguides	4 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings 7pm Worship Night	5	6
7	8 2pm - 4pm Memory cafe 7pm Confirmation Mass	9 10.45 - 11.15am Adoration 1.30pm Companion Club 7pm - 9pm Book Club 7.30pm PPC Meeting	10 4.30pm to 9pm Girlguides	11 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings	12 7pm Film Night	13 Parish Garden party
14	15 1.30pm Companion Club 7pm - 7.45pm Firm Believers 8pm Table Tennis	16 10.45 - 11.15am Adoration 11.45am Wednesday Lunches 7.30pm Catenians	17	18 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings	19 10am - 12pm World Community Christian Meditation 7pm Youth Choir	20 3pm Service for Bereaved Parents
21 6.30pm - 9pm Knights Meeting	22 1.30pm Companion Club 7pm - 7.45pm Firm Believers 8pm Table Tennis	23 10.45 - 11.15am Adoration	24	25 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings	26	27
28	29 1.30pm Companion Club 7pm - 7.45pm Firm Believers 8pm Table Tennis	30 10.45 - 11.15am Adoration	31			