

Housegroups

We would like to start holding a housegroup or possibly two. If you would be willing to host one, please speak to Ian. Housegroups, if you're not familiar with them involve bible study, prayer and fellowship and are a wonderful way of deepening our life together.

St James this week

Wed 4th May	10.30am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
Thurs 5th May	9.30am	Prayer Group (Parish Centre)
Sat 7th May	11am	Ukraine coffee morning (St Gabriel's, Brynmill)
Sun 8th May	10.30am	Holy Communion

Contact: Rev Ian Folks, ianfolks@gmail.com; 07597 522359

Rev Sarah Harris, revsarahharris@gmail.com; 01792 304527

St James' Church, Uplands

NEWSLETTER - 1st May 2022



Easter 3: Jesus and Peter: Do you love me?

Our service is led by Rev Ian Davies, and we think of this moving exchange between the risen Jesus and Peter. Readings this morning: Acts 9:1-6; Ps 30; John 21:1-19.

Nicholaston House retreat 'Living with the Risen Christ'

Sat. 21st May

We're looking forward to a day retreat to the beautiful Nicholaston House! We need to confirm names and numbers for this event, and take payment from those who are coming - please bring this in for next Sunday 8th May. There is still room - full price is £38 per person, which includes a hot dinner. If interested, please give your name to Margaret or Dreena. The day will include reflections by vicar Ian, Ian Davies, Mark Thomas and Mandy Batyon, and plenty of time for both fellowship and soaking up the beautiful and prayerful atmosphere of Nicholaston.

Ethne Jeffreys

Ethne's funeral service will be in St James' Church on Thursday 12th May at 11am. It would be lovely if as many as possible could attend. If you have memories of Ethne you would like to share, please speak with Ian as he prepares her eulogy. We are also preparing tea and cakes afterwards - please speak to Margaret if you would be willing to help.

Upcoming events

Please support these community events - see posters in the church and church hall for more details:

Saturday 7th May, 11am - Uplands Unite for Ukraine



Monday 16th May 2pm
St James Parish Centre



Local Elections - faith and politics

I enjoyed chairing the hustings this week for the local elections, which was organised by Uplands Living Streets. It makes me think of our role as Christians in political life, and so I thought I would offer a short reflection.

As believers, we don't owe ultimate allegiance to our 'earthly city' - our citizenship is in heaven. Our primary loyalty is to God, and to building his kingdom on earth, as we live out his laws of love. However, that shouldn't be taken to mean that we live lives which are disconnected from earthly reality. Instead, we 'seek the good of the city where I have sent you in exile' (Jer 29:7) - our role is to be a source of blessing to all around. We do this particularly by supporting those in need, but also by making social contributions which enable the community around us to flourish. In St James we should be pleased with all that we do via our parish hall in supporting this locally, but also we need to see where God leads us to make further contributions.

As part of this role, we have a particular need to speak out for those who are vulnerable. The prophets of the Old Testament spoke up for the 'widow and orphan' - for those who were denied justice. The law of the Old Testament, for all its apparent archaism, was actually a revolutionary code in terms of its provision for those who were weakest. In his Easter sermon, Archbishop Justin Welby criticised the Rwanda repatriation policy proposal of the Westminster government, and drew ire from people who told him that he was meddling in politics. This is a nonsense - our Christian duty is to speak truth to power on behalf of the vulnerable, and the Archbishop was doing the right thing. As a local church, we must be prepared to do this on a local level.

Finally, politics itself should be considered a vocation, and Christians should be encouraged to put themselves forward for election. Faith is often a powerful motivator for political action. Christians will often draw very different conclusions from each other - I have close colleagues with opposing views to mine! But a political vocation rooted in the values of humble service is a powerful way to be an instrument of God's love in

action. Pray for those who live this life, and exercise your vote this week.

Rev Ian Folks