

Confirmation 2022

There is going to be a service of confirmation on June 12th. We welcome adults and children who would like to be confirmed. Do please respond to the parish office if you or one of your children would like to be confirmed in your faith. Preparation will be an important part of confirmation.



Sunday
March 6 2022
Lent + 1

Please pray for our church family	
Mon	Dan Mead
Tue	Lesley & Brian Mead
Wed	Gail & Richard Mitchell & family
Thurs	Liz Morecombe & family
Fri	Rod & Sharon Mortimer
Sat	Trevor Morton-Holmes & Linda
Sun	James & Mary Muigai & family

Please pray:

For the Ukrainian people in their ongoing suffering.

For those fleeing the country with their children and for those remaining in their homes.

For generosity towards those who offer relief and support in the middle of the crisis.

For Western Leaders as they consider how best to respond to a changing situation.

For the bereaved and injured and those who have been separated.

Please note that our All Age Service in March will be ***Mothering Sunday on March 27th***
Next week is Morning Worship as normal at 11am



The
Interrupted
Sleep

Services Next Week - (Matthew's Easter) The Violent Arrest			
March 13th	9am	1662 Holy Communion in church	Raymond Adams
	11am	Morning Worship live streamed to YouTube	Raymond Adams

Time	Service	Sermon	Readings
9.00 am	Holy Communion		
11.00am	Morning Worship live streamed to YouTube	Raymond Adams	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 Matthew 26:36-46

The News About Our Financial Future

We want to tell you the truth about where we are financially. We do it every year.

But we cannot do that until we know it ourselves. James can be sure of the financial picture when he has received a very high percentage of promises cards. We thank those who have done so already, either on paper or online and ask everyone to respond by Sunday. 'James Bennett' <jameshywelbennett@gmail.com>



How Can I Help Those Fleeing Their Homes?

Half a million people have fled Ukraine at the time of writing. It has probably increased since then. The PCC will decide how much to give to crisis facing Ukrainian refugees from our seventh share. If you would like to give to Ukraine, please drop an envelope into the plate marked "Ukraine" or respond online using BACS. Again, please make the reference Ukraine.



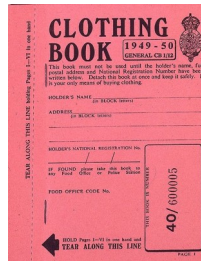
St John's PCC is the name of the account.

Sort Code 405240
Account No 00018582

Farewell to Ruby

Once at our James Wilks communion, people got talking about the happiest moments in their life. Ruby's story came from the war years. The neighbours in Pinehurst were determined that one young girl, despite the rationing, would get married in a white wedding dress. The community around saved their clothing coupons for months and presented them as an unexpected gift in the spring of 1942. Ruby remembered her joy seven decades later.

The news this week reminds us that we should never glamorise or sentimentalise war, but there was clearly sunshine among the shadows as communities looked out for each other. As Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."



Archbishop Justin Welby Writes

To wake up to the news of war is terrible.

To wake up to its reality is infinitely worse.

Shakespeare refers to war as chaos - the loosing of the dogs of war - and calls for one of his characters to cry out the warning about what it means.

Those in the Ukraine will be thinking about their relatives on the front lines, or their friends on the front lines. We are thinking, where is it going to go next? Politicians are thinking, what do we do?



In all of the thinking, in all of the responses, there is the great uncertainty which is the worst enemy of good decisions. Uncertainty leads to fear, fear leads to overreaction. How do we react well? How do politicians in the cloud of war, not really knowing what's going on, but knowing they have no opportunity to wait – how do they make up their minds?

They will rightly call for all of us, and for themselves, to have resolution, courage, determination, a willingness to sacrifice whatever is necessary in order to ensure that peace may come and justice may be done.

Peace and justice are opposite sides of the same coin.

We seek peace and justice, and that must end with those involved in conflict not having solutions imposed on them but finding for themselves the way forward to reconciliation and peace.



Right at the end of his life, Jesus Christ, spoke to his disciples and he said something very memorable. 'In the world you will have trouble, but do not be afraid, I have overcome the world.'

For me and for many of faith, the great certainty in the world, the only certainty, is that we know that God does not change. Let us find our resolution, our peace, our certainty not by screwing up our courage, but in the knowledge of the eternal arms that hold us.

May God be with those who suffer today.