

# St James Church Fordhouses

## Monthly Calendar for September 2026



Rector: Rev Dr Ian Poole

Parish Office: 01902 782226

### Our Attitude Towards Israel

In the 1970s I was growing up in Bristol and often used to listen to the current affairs Radio 4 news programme at 10pm called 'The World Tonight'. I don't think my pre-world War two radio was very good at picking up Radio 1 or 2. Anyway if there was one news subject that dominated the news night after night it was always the Middle East and Israel. Not much has changed then! Israel remains the epicentre of much world unrest. The reasons of course are well rehearsed and can be traced back over the centuries to the enmity between Ishmael, Abraham's son by another 'wife' and Isaac the miraculous son of promise by his wife Sarah. Ishmael and the Arab nations (some more than others) have always been jealous of Israel and the favour of Yahweh upon them. Jealous of a nation who after the terrible suffering of the holocaust have found themselves protected for many decades by the might of the West and especially USA.

The horrendous massacre of 7th October 2023 led to the present administration in Israel trying to stamp out its enemies once and for all. The results have been mixed, and tragically much innocent life has been lost especially Palestinian life all bearing the image of God. And the response of the Christian church? For some Israel can do no wrong for it is the chosen nation and for others they believe Israel has forgotten mercy in pursuit of justice. What should our response be?

Romans 11:25 refers to Israel as '**a cultivated olive tree**' and any goodness of that tree is derived from God Himself, just like the vine of John Chapter 15 whose life flows from Israel's most famous Son. So let us honour all Jews as we honour all humanity. Let us not excuse their misplaced zeal to restore a land that must now be a new land found in the hearts of those who love Jesus. But let us not forget that in the choice of the Lord they were first His special people.



### For this month ....

#### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

9.30am Thursday Prayer time in the Prayer Chapel  
11:00am Coffee Morning at St James Church

#### **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

10:00am Ladies' Breakfast at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Free of charge, although donations welcome. For details or to book a place please leave your name with the parish office 01902 782226

#### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September: 9.45am Service of the Word**

Reading 1: Romans 13: 8-14

Reading 2: Matthew 18: 15-20

Parents with younger children can use the lounge where resources will be provided to use

**Revival Prayer** St Matthew's Church (See poster overleaf)

#### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

St Mary's Oasis Ladies Group 1-30-3pm at the Church Hall. Free of charge although a small donation would be gratefully received

#### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

9.30am Thursday Prayer time in the Prayer Chapel  
11:00am Coffee Morning at St James Church

#### **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

7.15pm Parish Youth Group (11-14 year olds) in the Parish Hall, Bushbury

#### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September: 9.45am Holy Communion**

Reading 1: Matthew 18: 21-35

Reading 2: Romans 14: 1-12

9:45am Sunday School for younger children in the lounge

#### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

9.30am Thursday Prayer time in the Prayer Chapel  
11:00am Coffee Morning at St James Church  
**City Wide Prayer** at Life City Church, Westbury Street, WV1 1JD 7-8pm

#### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

7.15pm Parish Youth Group (11-14 year olds) in the Parish Hall, Bushbury

#### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

10.00am Men's Breakfast at the Parish Hall, Bushbury - The Book of Revelation

**6.30pm Interchurchity Challenge** - quizzing with a difference at Church of the Good Shepherd. Teams of 4 are welcome from across the parish to join in with a FREE evening of fun and laughter. Drinks are provided - bring your own snacks if wished.

If you're interested, please submit names, including designated Team Captain, to cogs\_2@hotmail.co.uk.

#### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September: 9.45am Service of the Word**

Reading 1: Matthew 20: 1-16

Reading 2: Philippians 1: 21-30

9:45am Sunday School for younger children in the lounge

#### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

St Mary's Oasis Ladies Group 1-30-3pm at the Church Hall which will be a **Macmillan Coffee Afternoon**

#### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

9.30am Thursday Prayer time in the Prayer Chapel  
11:00am Coffee Morning at St James Church

#### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

7.15pm Parish Youth Group (11-14 year olds)  
Games Night at St James Church, Fordhouses

#### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

Community BBQ at St Mary's Church Hall 4-6pm  
Everyone welcome!

#### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 9.45am: Holy Communion**

Reading 1: Matthew 21: 23-32

Reading 2: Philippians 2: 1-13

9:45am Sunday School for younger children in the lounge



#### **Future dates to put in your Diary ....**

#### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

Ladies Breakfast 10am at The Good Shepherd

Our celebrated **Cheese and Wine** Evening is returning! We know that we have missed the 14<sup>th</sup> July (Bastille Night), however we are going to celebrate anyway! The evening is on **3<sup>rd</sup> October** between 5:30 and 8:00pm, tickets are available now from Nick Gardner (details below), they cost £6 (the same as last year). You will need to decide and buy your ticket quickly as numbers are limited. Looking forward to another great evening of cheese, wine and competitions.

#### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

Deanery Prayer, Worship and food at St Stephen's Church 6-8pm

#### **St Mary's Oasis Ladies Group**

1.30 - 3pm **Mondays 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October** at St Mary's Church Hall

#### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

City Wide Prayer at Windmill Community Hub and Church, Henwood Road, Wolverhampton WV6 8PG 7-8pm

#### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

10.00am Men's Breakfast at the Parish Hall, Bushbury - The Book of Revelation

#### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

Confirmation Service at St Giles Church 5pm

#### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

Parish Prayer at The Good Shepherd 6-7pm

#### **Harvest Festival Service at St James Church Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

We would welcome tinned and packet food items with long use by dates and toiletries to donate to the Well Foodbank



## Operation Christmas Child

Are you in a position to help a child in need? Would you like to be part of the story that shares the love of Jesus with

them? If so, would you consider filling a shoebox with toys, treats, stationery and hygiene items. Chose the gender of the child you would like to gift your box to and their age range (either 2-4 years, 5-9 years or 10-14 years). Don't forget to include a letter from you to them inside your box to make it extra special and personal and a £5 donation to help cover the shipping costs.

I am thrilled to confirm that St James will again be a church collection centre for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes.

**National collection week is 9th-16th November.**

Should you need an empty shoebox to either wrap yourself or would like a pre-wrapped one they are available in the foyer. Or, you may consider donating a shoebox online at <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/shoebox-online>

Finally, once your box is dropped off or your donation made please remember to pray for the recipient so that your box is gifted to the right child.

You may consider watching this video which supports this year's campaign  
<https://youtu.be/KOKtonyYIFs>

## Freedom in Christ



**Starting Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm.**

A new 10-week Freedom in Christ course begins on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in St Mary's Church Hall, with an additional Saturday session (date TBC). Freedom in Christ helps us understand our identity in Jesus, break free from anything that holds us back, and grow as confident disciples. It's ideal for anyone who has completed Alpha or wants to deepen their walk with God. For more information, please speak to Jessica.

## St John's Gospel

### Out of Darkness Comes Light

**Jesus said "I am the Light of the World"**

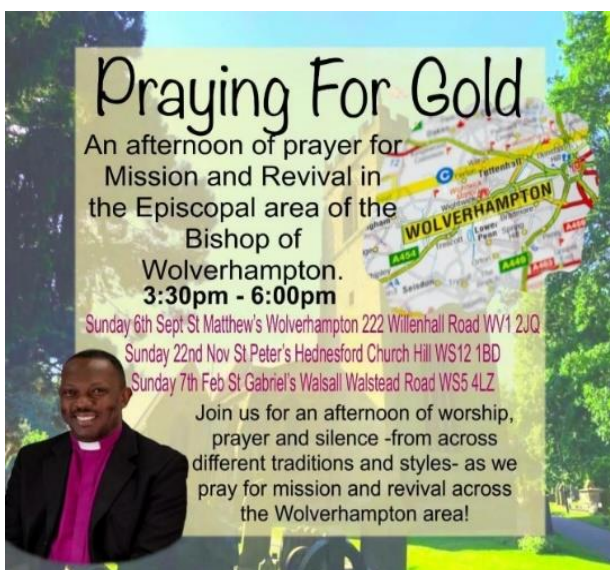
Thank you to those who have distributed gospels in our area, praise God we have had one person turn up and ask for a bible and more information. Please pray that more will read the gospels and respond. We have now run out of gospels to deliver but may be able to get more, so if you're still available to help if we get some, please speak to Jessica.

## The Well August Newsletter

**The Well has turned 20 and you're part of the story!**



**Twenty years ago, it all began with a little pink box, a heart for the people of Wolverhampton and a simple step of faith.** The vision was to provide food for people in desperate need—and to show Jesus' love in a practical and meaningful way. That small beginning grew into something truly special. Today, we are delighted to celebrate that **The Well has turned 20!**  
**What an incredible 20 years it has been.**





As we look back over the past two decades, we can see God's faithfulness woven through every part of our story. There have been challenges, lessons and moments when we simply had to step out in faith. But there have also been countless moments of joy: shelves filled through unexpected generosity, volunteers arriving just when they were needed and people finding kindness and hope during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. We have so much to be thankful for.

Most of all, we are thankful for the wonderful community that has grown around The Well.

Every volunteer who has given their time, every church and business that has supported us, every partner who has stood alongside us and every person who has donated, prayed or encouraged us has helped make this work possible. The Well's story is your story too. We simply could not have done it without you.

Although The Well has grown and changed over the years, our mission has always remained clear: **to meet practical needs in our city.** The Well is a Christian charity committed to showing Jesus' heart of love by supporting people experiencing poverty across Wolverhampton. We provide food parcels and essential items to individuals and families facing desperate situations. We want every person who comes to us to be met with kindness, compassion and dignity and to know that they do not have to face their difficult circumstances alone.

With the support of our community, we can continue to be there when people need us most.

**Twenty ways to make a difference.** Our 20th anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate everything that has happened, but it is also a chance to look ahead with hope. Over the coming year, we'll be sharing **20 ways to make a difference.** And the first opportunity is just around the corner.....

## Make a difference this Harvest



As summer begins to fade and the temperature starts to fall, gardens and allotments often overflow with fresh produce. If you have more than you can use, why not share it with someone who needs it?

This September, our Harvest campaign will bring together people from across Wolverhampton to help stock our shelves and provide vital food and essentials for individuals and families in need.

Whether you're a church planning your September calendar, a teacher looking for a meaningful activity for your pupils, a business

searching for a way to give back or an individual who simply wants to help, there will be a way for you to take part. Harvest is a beautiful opportunity to celebrate what we have, share generously with others and make a practical difference in our city.

**Thank you for being part of the journey.** As we celebrate **20 years of The Well**, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has been part of the journey.

Your kindness, generosity, prayers, time and encouragement have carried this work forward. Together, we have achieved far more than we ever could alone.

We hope you'll celebrate with us as we remember how the journey began, give thanks for all that God has done and discover 20 new ways to make a difference.

**Thank you for being part of our first 20 years.**

**The next chapter has begun and we would love you to be part of it.**

**With love and gratitude, The Well Team**

For contact about Notices [n\\_gardner2@sky.com](mailto:n_gardner2@sky.com) phone, text, WhatsApp Nick Gardner 07488 389033 – 01902 784713 or Val on 07528 586067 - email: [alanredmond@hotmail.com](mailto:alanredmond@hotmail.com)