listen, and then to respond to what they tell us.

A Priority for Us All

What I want us to take from the day is this: mission and evangelism is a priority. It is a priority for the Church, and it is a priority for St James the Great.

It was a really encouraging day. Yet only a small number of us from St James the Great were there, and no one else from our church registered. I say this not to rebuke anyone, but because I want us all to take note. Days like this bring us people who have given their working lives to ministry, and who come with experience, ideas and encouragement we cannot easily find elsewhere. Opportunities like these are an essential ingredient for the mission, and the survival, of our church.

So when the next opportunity comes, please do not let it pass you by. Consider it seriously, and come.

"There is nothing colder than a Christian who does not care for the salvation of others."

St John Chrysostom, Homilies on Acts

Bob's story reminds us that faith often begins with one person reaching out to another. A word of welcome. An invitation. A conversation. You do not need special training to do that. You need only to be willing.

So I ask each of you: who might God be asking you to welcome, or to invite, this month? Pray for them, and then take that step.

The Gospel is for everyone.
Let us make sure everyone hears it.

Fr James

Contacts & Safeguarding

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"Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people."

Psalm 96:3

St James the Great Church & St Paul's Church

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time
11th October 2026

Gospel Year A (Sundays)
Weekday Cycle of Readings Year II (2)

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

✠ Today at St James

08:00	Low Mass
10:00	Sung Parish Mass and Baptism: **Niamh Kathryn Creaton**

This Week

Tuesday 13th

9.00 am	School Assembly
9–10.30 am	Church Cleaning

Wednesday 14th

11 am	Mass at Blomfield House
2.15 pm	Mass at Paxman House

Thursday 15th

12.30 pm	Mass

Friday 16th

9.00 am	Mass at the Church School
Midday	Rosary Prayers

Please Pray For

The Infirm and Housebound: Adam, Fr Clive French, David Beattie, David Stocks, Graham Morecroft, Jackie Bliss, Joyce & Ralph, Lubomira, Madeline Bates, Noreen Cunliffe, Sheila Townsend, Sharon.

The Recently Departed: The Reverend Father George Bush, Ammini Varghese, Nicholas Irven.

The Year's Mind:
12th Ken Sparkes, Brian Wyatt
14th Ethel Alice Chapman, Harold Scobey
15th Emily Ellen Newman, George Otter, Brian Johnson
16th Mick Gibson
17th Eric Burgess, John Owen

Sanctuary Lamps

Blessed Sacrament lamp: Sponsored by Hellen Wyatt in Blessed Memory of Brian Wyatt.

St James the Great lamp: Sponsored in thanksgiving for the Baptism of Niamh Kathryn Creaton.

The Aumbry Lamp: is not sponsored.

The Lamp for Iran is sponsored: dedicated to the people of Iran, especially the faithful diaspora within our church and city.

Parish Calendar & the Daily Office

You are invited to join us in church Tuesday to Saturday:
Morning Prayer 07:45 and
Evening Prayer 18:00.
This week: **Psalter: Divine Office Week 4**

The Society under the patronage of Saint Wilfrid and Saint Hilda
See of Richborough

Key Dates for 2026

Sunday 18th October · 4.00 pm
Choral Evensong
Guest Preacher: **Bradley Smith**, Chairman of the Prayer Book Society

Sunday 1st November · 4.00 pm
All Souls (Anticipated)
The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

During the All Souls service on Sunday 1st November at 4.00 pm, there will be an opportunity to light a 7-day candle bearing the name of the deceased loved one(s).

If you wish to purchase a candle, please complete the form at the back of the church and return it **by Sunday 25th October**, with a cheque for **£5.00 per candle**, payable to the *PCC of St James and St Paul, Colchester*.

Please make every effort to attend the All Souls service in person to light your candle(s) and offer your prayers. If you are unable to attend, we can arrange for your candle to be lit on your behalf, **by prior arrangement only**.

"Lay this body anywhere … this only I request, that you would remember me at the Lord's altar, wherever you be."

St Monica, in St Augustine, Confessions IX

Summer Concert Recitals: A Wonderful Finale

Our final summer concert recital, organised and delivered by Philip Prior, was a wonderful success.

Over forty people gathered to enjoy the music and close our summer series. Thanks to everyone's generosity, the event raised a total of **£317.06**, comprising:

£88.03	from refreshments
£129.03	in loose collections on the door
£100.00	in Gift Aid

As your parish priest, I want to thank Almighty God for the faithful service of Hope, Rosie, Ruth, Emma, Jean, and Barbara, as well as our dedicated sidespersons and welcomers. Their warm hospitality, hard work, and support for these recitals, alongside our deep gratitude to Philip for his dedication in organising and delivering them, made this whole series possible.

Look out for new details in 2027!

Mission Is for Everyone: Report from the Deanery Day

On Saturday 10th October I attended the Colchester Deanery Day at St John's Church, together with Father Jeff, Hope, Jean and Desiree. The theme this year was "Mission", and the message of the day was simple: the Gospel is for everyone, so mission is for everyone.

Bob Goody: Welcome and Rural Mission

The first speaker was Bob Goody, Chief Executive of Rural Missions. He began with his own story. He told us of a complicated childhood and youth, and of how it was a welcoming member of a church who invited him in. Over time, he became a Christian. Bob has never forgotten the importance of that welcome, and neither should we.

Bob then spoke about rural mission. Rural churches can feel isolated and stretched, with limited resources and small teams, and they can struggle to engage with children, young people and families. Yet across villages and market towns there are churches growing in confidence, building relationships with their communities and finding fresh ways to help people discover faith in Jesus. Rural Missions works alongside such churches, including through workshops shaped around each church's own people and community, whether they are starting something new, growing what already exists, or feeling stuck.

The lesson for us is clear. Every church, whatever its size or setting, can play its part in nurturing faith across the generations.

Size is not the measure. Willingness is.

The Revd Sharon Quilter: Mission in Diversity

A number of us attended the session led by the Revd Sharon Quilter, the Diocese's Racial Justice Officer. Our communities are increasingly diverse, as they have been since the very start of Jesus' ministry. Our calling is to live out the Gospel of welcome to all and to show our unity in Christ in every situation.

Through the Roof: The Totally Welcoming Church

Those of us who attended this seminar heard from Tim Wood and Carol Dyer of the charity Through the Roof. They told us that only 5–10% of disabled people hear the Gospel in their lifetime. That should stop us in our tracks.

The charity takes its name from the account in Luke 5, where friends broke through a roof to bring a paralysed man to Jesus. Jesus reached out to people who were disabled and helped break down the barriers that kept them excluded. Through the Roof equips churches to do the same, so that everyone can be fully included.

"Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind."

St Luke 14:21

Their main recommendation is that every church has a named person, called a Roofbreaker, or a small team, to listen to disabled people and find out what stops them taking a full part in church life. Often the challenges are things we have not thought of, and they may need only small changes to put right. The charity's Toolkit helps a church think through each area of its life and gives ideas for inclusion.

The key is to give a clear message of welcome to disabled people, then to