

ST JAMES' CHURCH NEWS

Web site: rudry.church

BREAK-IN AT ST JAMES

Saturday afternoon on 16 March, not long before kick off to the magnificent Grand Slam clincher between Wales and Ireland, a break-in was discovered at St James. One of the latticed windows was smashed to gain entry and the Donations Box taken. No damage was done to anything inside the church. Nothing else was stolen. We're indebted to Gareth Llewellyn for quickly and effectively making the window secure when he most probably would have much preferred to have been enjoying the pre-match build-up.

Whilst the intruder(s) would have been disappointed with the contents of the Donations Box, much more important is the help that would have been available to them – and still would be - had they come to us. St James has been a place of contact and community for an ever-growing number of local people in recent years. Sharing of comfort is evidenced in the time spent in hundreds of conversations before and after Sunday service that can last as long as the service itself. God is most evident when we're in tough places in life, as perhaps those who broke in are. People of faith can be a route to that strength as they follow Jesus' teaching to love one another. St James is there for that.

We have been humbled and gratified by the outpouring of goodwill towards Rudry Church, offers of help in paying for the repairs and suggestions on fund-raising. Consequently, Rev. Dean has set up a donations page. All contributions can be made at: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rudrychurch>. Our sincere thanks to all who do and to those who have already done so.

SERVICES & EVENTS IN APRIL

APRIL QUIZ EVENING

Another early opportunity to help St James is the Quiz Evening on Friday 5th April. This will be held in the church itself at 7pm. It's not just a quiz, it's also an evening for socialising over something to eat, as everyone is invited to bring along a plate of finger-food to share. Tickets are: Adults £5, 14 to 18-year olds £2, under 14-year olds free. This fun event is specifically to raise funds for the church building work. Book your tickets with Anne Holt on 07810 296 867, anneholt5@btinternet.com.

MESSY CHURCH

Tuesday 1 April, 3.45-5.30pm at St Thomas', Trethomas. An afternoon of crafts, singing and story-telling for children up to around 10 or 11 years old.

BAND OF BROTHERS

Saturday 6 April, 9am to 12 noon. This month's men-only walk will be along the Rhymney River. It's a time set aside for blokes - young and not-so-young - to walk, talk and eat together while discussing matters of faith. If you feel you'd find this interesting, go to <http://rudry.church/diary>, click "Band of Brothers" on 6 April and sign up to

receive the details. Alternatively, contact Rev. Dean on 01633 309691, rev.roberts@vicar.email

KIDZ SUPPER

Friday 12 April, 5 to 7pm. It's all about food, fun and faith for 7 to 12-year olds. Held at the homes of members of St James' congregation each month, details of this month's location, and answers to any questions on the format, can be had from Megan Roberts on 02921 880 212 option 1, megs.r.roberts@gmail.com

SPECIAL EASTER SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Palm Sunday Service: 14 April, 9:30am at St James. Sam Patterson, our young trainee priest, will help deliver this special service celebrating the hope Jesus brought to so many.

Good Friday Activity Morning: 19 April, 10.30am at St James.  **Calling all parents and guardians of children and youngsters of all ages!** Bring yourselves and your charges along to a great morning of crafts, music and hot-cross buns. It's free and it's fun!

Easter Sunday Service: 21 April, 9.30am at St James. A joyous family service, the culmination of the week that changed the world, everyone is warmly invited to celebrate the events of that wonderous day 2000 years ago. The singing and music should be extra special. And there'll be Easter eggs for the kids.

YOUTH SUPPER

Friday 26 April, 6 to 8pm. Are you 13-18 years of age? If so, come along to our special evening where you can come and socialise with others your age, enjoy a special meal prepared for you and get to hear about an aspect of faith from a special guest. The evening is very informal and new people are always welcome. Contact Megan on 02921 880 212 option 1, megs.r.roberts@gmail.com for more details.

HOUSE GROUPS

There will be **seven (!)** during April, rotating between Rudry, Trethomas and Machen. The Machen group is particularly suitable for mums/house husbands with young children, as it starts at 1pm. Rudry and Trethomas start at 7pm. These social gatherings discuss faith in our everyday lives. If you'd like to come along, please contact Rev. Dean Roberts.

"EASY FUND RAISING" BY ONLINE SHOPPING

As mentioned in last month's Villagers' News, an ongoing way to support St James – and one that doesn't cost you a penny – is *Easy Fund Raising*. Retailers very kindly donate each time you buy something from them on line. Amazon, Ebay, John Lewis, Argos, M&S, Sainsburys and Booking.com are just some of the many retailers running the scheme. Simply go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and follow three easy steps to have your online purchases generating donations to Rudry Church, at no cost to you. Such ongoing support towards the ongoing building programme would be greatly appreciated.