



St James' Church, Rudry

Walking with Jesus

Web site: rudry.church

ALPHA COURSE: All of us have big questions about life, the universe, and everything in between. But how many of us take the time to explore those questions? St. James' Church in Rudry are running a course called Alpha.

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the **Christian** faith.

Alpha takes place across eleven sessions with the option of a day or weekend away in the middle. Each session includes food, a short talk and a discussion at the end where you can share your thoughts. If at any point you decide Alpha isn't for you, that's not a problem. There's no pressure, no follow up and no charge.

If you're curious about the Christian faith, and there's stuff you want to know, this course is for you. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish.

Topics range from looking at the claims of Christianity such as whether Jesus really existed and whether it's rational to believe that he rose from the dead, to topics such as church.

Millions of people have gone on an Alpha Course, including **Bear Grylls**. Here's his take on Alpha... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBcYpiXepog>

When? - Sunday 1st September onwards

Time? - 6pm-8pm

Where? St. James' Church, Van Road, Rudry, Caerphilly. CF83 3JQ.

So, if you're interested in coming to this course which is free and open to all, with good food and discussion, we would love for you to sign up at:

<http://rudry.church/alpha>

TONY PAYNES STEPS DOWN AS TREASURER: For as long any of us can remember, Tony Paynes has been St James' Treasurer. He's probably seen more vicars and curates at St James than the Queen has seen Prime Ministers! We are indebted to Tony for his unstinting efforts and the care and attention he has given over the years to ensuring our financial reporting has always been in order. In addition, Tony has been invaluable in helping to maintain the fabric of the St James building. He has sourced, organised and overseen countless repairs and upgrades that have been vital in keeping our beautiful little church the endearing place it is in which to worship. Along with his wife Marge, who has acted as Verger for as many years as Tony has been Treasurer, the couple have also provided the unseen backup at events in St James such as funerals, where they have ensured many bereaved families experienced a smooth service at a time when they can be at their most raw. All of us at St James extend a huge thanks to Tony and Marge for their decades of service to our church and the local community.

NEW TREASURER: Stepping into Tony's shoes is Diane Brierley. Diane lives locally, runs a business and is an accountant. We are extremely grateful to Diane for taking on the responsibilities of Treasurer, especially in this period of growth and development at St James. Thank you, Diane, and welcome to the team!

SUCCESS OF AFTERNOON TEA PARTY FOR MAGGIE'S

CENTRE: Even before all the donations have been counted, over £200 has already been raised for Maggie's Centre at Velindre Hospital by the tea party held at St James on Saturday 17 August. A big THANK YOU to all of you who came along and contributed so generously. Thanks also to Waitrose & Partners who donated strawberries! And a special thanks to Margaret Jones for leading the organising of the event and all of those who supported her in providing the lovely food.

NEW SCREENS: Sunday 11 August saw the unveiling of the new flat screens at St James which are used throughout the services. Over the course of nearly four days, James Holt and Rev. Dean Roberts did all the installation work. Our thanks to them both for such sterling work. The results are that all those in church now have sight of all the material used in services and events. Also, we have our pulpit back! The clean lines and professional look of the whole end result is a real boon to the church.

NEW SOUND SYSTEM FOR MUSIC: Next for an upgrade is the equipment used for music in church. Music, old and new, has always been a great feature of worship at St James. The planned upgrade will see modern mixing and amplification enhance the quality of sound reproduction of the musicians' efforts.

HARVEST: Just a heads-up on Harvest, which will be held on Sunday 6 October in Rudry Parish Hall. Full details will be in the October issue of Villagers' News.