

**St. James Church Autumn Fayre – Saturday 18th
October
10am – 1pm
In the church Hall**

**Stall holders are invited, please contact, John,
Diana or the parish office.**

A variety of stalls already planned to include tombola, raffle,
cakes and refreshments available.

Val's stall at the Autumn Fayre is:

Winter Past-times

We need your puzzles, books and games
(No ornaments or crockery)

Things that you may have put away and forgotten.

Good condition please as they may be forwarded to the Charity
Shops if we don't sell them.

Thanks
Val



MESSY VINTAGE – St. James Church Hall

Dates for your diary....

16th October & 20th November

Feel welcome to come and join us!

Memorial Service

Sunday 2nd November – 4pm

If anyone wishes to have a loved one's name read out and light a candle during the service, please contact the parish office.

‘Around 40 senior Christian leaders from across all denominations have spoken out about the current tensions in our communities around various issues including immigration and the use of the cross at a recent rally to support views that intimidate or exclude others. This is the text of their recent letter which reminds us of the nature of the cross and the Christian message of love and acceptance for all. Bishop Martin has commended it to us as helpful when we are thinking about our own responses and beliefs.’

See letter below.

Do not ‘co-opt’ the cross to divide: Bishops join church leaders in message after rally

We are deeply concerned about the co-opting of Christian symbols, particularly the cross, during Saturday’s ‘Unite the Kingdom’ rally. Many individuals and communities felt anxious, unsettled and even threatened by aspects of the march.

There were undoubtedly diverse motivations for those engaged in the event. We respect the right to free speech, to hold different views on issues such as immigration,

the importance of healthy debate between religious communities and the need to disagree well when consensus is difficult.

We also understand that for many of those involved in the rally there is a deep sense of frustration at feeling unheard and forgotten in the democratic process. We know that we cannot heal this wound unless the Church, and society as a whole rises to do more to address the issues of poverty, inequality and exclusion.

However, this rally included racist, anti-Muslim and far right elements. As Christians from different theological and political backgrounds we stand together against the misuse of Christianity. The cross is the ultimate sign of sacrifice for the other. Jesus calls us to love both our neighbours and our enemies and to welcome the stranger. Any co-opting or corrupting of the Christian faith to exclude others is unacceptable.

As Christian leaders we are proud of our country and commit ourselves to work with others building a more United Kingdom where the values of love, humility and compassion shine through in every community; and we do so unapologetically in the name of Jesus Christ.

Christian Aid – Stourbridge Group

The local collections from 11 Stourbridge churches have raised £5,756.68, which is on its way to Christian Aid, London.

If anyone is interested in being a rep for St. James's, please speak to the parish office.

Parish Office 01384 441277
Email stjamesw@googlemail.com