



St James's Church, Riding Mill

# Riding Mill Advent Course 2021

Led by  
Rev'd Diana Johnson and  
Gwyn McKenzie jointly

**Wednesdays: evening sessions at 7.30 pm in the  
Choir Vestry after Evening Prayer  
and online**

(Zoom link from Rev'd Diana on [diana.johnson@cantab.net](mailto:diana.johnson@cantab.net))

**5 consecutive sessions, starting Wednesday 24th November 2021**

**Thursdays: daylight sessions at 11.00 am in the vicarage (in person only)**

**5 consecutive Friday sessions starting 25th November 2021**

*It is possible to attend either the morning or evening session (which are identical in content) but please let Rev'd Diana know in advance (for space and social distancing reasons)*

**Session 1:**

**Listening and speaking—  
addressing IGNORANCE and  
paying attention to POWER**

**Session 3:**

**Talking about respect and  
acknowledging PREJUDICE**

**Session 5:**

**(Last session) Talking about  
integrity and admitting  
HYPOCRISY**

**Please book your place with Rev'd  
Diana either in person or by email**

**Session 2:**

**Talking about confidence and  
casting out FEAR**

**Session 4:**

**Talking about openness and  
speaking into SILENCE**

## The Pastoral Principles Course

The purpose of the Pastoral Principles course for Advent this year is to help St James's to examine afresh our life and learning together in the face of difference and diversity. It is based on the Church of England's 'Pastoral Principles for Living Well Together'. Although the pastoral principles were originally developed to encourage better inclusion of LGBTI+ people, and are part of the Church of England's '*Living in Love and Faith*' conversations, they have taken on a life of their own and can readily be applied to other differences within our church communities. In a climate of social media trolling, 'fake news', adversarial politics or 'silo' thinking, the pastoral principles could be a force for change – for the better.

In this course, we are invited to think about the things which impair relationships. The Pastoral Principles identify six 'pervading evils': prejudice, silence, ignorance, fear, hypocrisy and power. These 'evils' hinder our personal growth as Christians, hurt other people, and create barriers that stop our churches from growing into Christian communities of welcome and belonging. They are the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit. It is easy to see these 'evils' in others; the hard work is to see them within ourselves.

When there are strongly held differences among us, we are tempted to form like-minded groups or factions. Community that becomes divided in this way is one of the greatest challenges for our Church and society today. We can all play a part in seeking unity in our Church as well as in the wider community. This course encourages us to find creative ways to grow and learn together in the love of Christ.

Each of the five sessions will start with a prayer, lead in to a short film, consider a Bible passage, reflect in small groups or pairs on the topics raised, and end with a time of worship together.

We aim to take about an hour - though if discussion requires it this might be stretched to an hour and a half.

More details at this link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/bishops/pastoral-advisory-group/pastoral-principles>

