

**Churches of St James,
St Giles, Holy Cross & St Bartholomew**

Rector: Revd Juliet Jensen 01453 350810

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www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

**Services for Sunday 8th February 2026
Second Sunday before Lent**

St James, Dursley

10am Parish Holy Communion

Revd Ian Gardner

6.30pm

Choral Evensong

Canon Richard Morgan

St Giles, Uley

10am 2nd Sunday Special Service "From the
Manger to the Cross"

Revd Juliet Jensen/Revd David Vonberg

Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all
things, now and for ever.

Amen

First Reading: Genesis 1: 1-2.3

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights - the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the

night - and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Psalms 136

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures for ever; who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures for ever; who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures for ever; who spread out the earth on the waters, for his steadfast love endures for ever; who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures for ever; the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures for ever; the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures for ever; who struck Egypt through their firstborn, for his steadfast love endures for ever; and brought Israel out from among them, for his steadfast love endures for ever; with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for his steadfast love endures for ever; who divided the Red Sea in two, for his steadfast love endures for ever; and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for his steadfast love endures for ever; but overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, for his steadfast love endures for

ever; who led his people through the wilderness, for his steadfast love endures for ever; who struck down great kings, for his steadfast love endures for ever; and killed famous kings, for his steadfast love endures for ever; Sihon, king of the Amorites, for his steadfast love endures for ever; and Og, king of Bashan, for his steadfast love endures for ever; and gave their land as a heritage, for his steadfast love endures for ever; a heritage to his servant Israel, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures for ever; and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures for ever; who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Second reading: Romans 8: 18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6: 25-end.

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

Intercessions

We pray for those who are ill at this time or in other forms of need, especially those we know. We remember Brendan, Keith, Kath, Ann, Albie, Carol, Sam, Jane, Marion, Charlie and Rita. Be with them in their suffering, support and comfort them and give them peace of mind in times of trouble.

We give thanks for the life of Susan Whatley, recently departed, and we pray for her family and friends and all those who grieve.

Post Communion Prayer.

God our creator,

by your gift

the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:

may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour’s cross

and enjoy the delights of eternity;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Safeguarding Officers

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This Week.

Tuesday 10th February

1.15pm Susan Whatley’s funeral at Westerleigh

2pm Communion at Holly Oak Care Home

Wednesday 11th February

6pm Evening prayer via Zoom.

Thursday 12th February

9am Morning prayer at St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

11.15am Communion at Henlow Court Care Home

Sunday 15th February

3pm Music for a Sunday Afternoon at St Giles, Uley

Services for 15th February 2026 Last Sunday before Lent

St James, Dursley

8am Said Holy Communion

10am Baptism Service

Dursley Academy School

10am Shine! Family worship

St Giles, Uley

10am Parish Holy Communion

**Evening prayer via Zoom is on Wednesday at 6pm, to join please use this login
Meeting ID: 811 3331 8043**

Dursley Electoral Roll review 2026

The roll will be open from 15th until 28th February.

There are forms in church, you only need to make an amendment if there are any changes in your details, or if you wish to be added.


Handbells

We have a set of large handbells in the ringing room. Does anyone know their history – were they donated by somebody in memory of someone else. We would like to sell them and buy a smaller set which will be more useful to us. We cannot sell them until we know more.

Liz Byrne

St Giles, Uley ✝

Second Sunday Special Service
 Sunday 8th February
 10am
 "From the Manger to the Cross"



A Celebration of Trees,
 Wood & Growth
 Hot drinks & croissants from 9.45am

Light Lent Lunches 2026
 Starting on 23rd February, from 12 noon
 in **St James Parish Centre, Dursley.**

Soup, bread, cake and tea or coffee will be
 served each Monday during Lent.
 All are welcome.

All donations will be donated
 to our nominated charities.




PANCAKE DAY!
 ON SHROVE TUESDAY!

**ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH HALL,
 DURSLEY**

4PM



£5 ADULTS • £2.50 CHILDREN

St Giles Church, Uley
 presents

**Music for a
 Sunday Afternoon**
 featuring

**Anna Harris (Clarinet) &
 Lilla Price (Piano)**

**Sunday 15th February
 at 3pm**

A free, short, informal concert in the church
 followed by tea & cake.

Donations welcome for Church Funds.

Treasurer

From 17th May 2026 we will no longer have a treasurer in Dursley when Sally Pearson stands down.

Please come forward if you are able to take on this role, Sally will guide you. The job can also be shared with others.

Churchyard Tidy

On 21st February between 9.30 and 11.30 there will be a churchyard tidy at St James. Please come along and help, many hands make light work!

DURSLEY C of E
PRIMARY ACADEMY

St James Church with


PLAY SPORTS, TALK LIFE

BECOMING CHURCH TOGETHER

SHINE!

IT'S CHILD'S PLAY

Sunday 15th February 2026
10am-11am

EVERYONE WELCOME


Refreshments


Games


Music

DURSLEY CE PRIMARY ACADEMY,
SCHOOL ROAD, GL11 4NZ

LENT 2026 A CLOUD OF WITNESSES



All the services take
place at 6.00pm
at different churches

A series of
Ecumenical
Evening Services
reflecting on some
of the great people
of the faith in the
past centuries, and
what they can
say to us today

22nd February
"William Tyndale"
St George's Cam
GL11 5PQ

1st March
"George Whitefield"
Dursley Tab
GL11 4LW

8th March
"Thomas Merton"
The Quarry Chapel
GL11 6JA

15th March
"Mother Julian of
Norwich"
**Dursley Methodist
Church** GL11 4BS

22nd March
"St Benedict"
St Dominic's
GL11 4ES

**Don't forget the
Walk of Witness on
Good Friday
3rd April**

**2026
Lent study course
on Zoom
“The way of the
Franciscans
A prayer journey
through Lent”**



Ewelme Benefice

2026 Lent study course on Zoom

“The way of the Franciscans

A prayer journey through Lent”

There will be 6 evening sessions when we will be reflecting on St Francis' simple desire to live the gospel more fully and follow Christ more closely. We will be thinking how that can have resonances for us today. Not only will we be looking at St Francis himself but also some of his followers who continued in his footsteps.

We will meet on zoom at 7.30pm for an hour on each occasion.

Themes:

February

- 19. St Francis: Solitude and relationship
 - 26. Clare of Assisi: Poverty, contemplation and the cross
- March**

- 5. Bonaventure: Prophecy and everyday mysticism
- 12. Angela: Love of Christ, love of the world
- 19. Duns Scotus: Discovering God and our true self
- 26. The way of the Franciscans continues

Each session will be made up a short Bible passage and a reflection on that, with some questions for discussion.

Zoom details: Meeting ID: 811 3331 8043. Passcode: 346570

Please contact David Vonberg if you are interested or if you want to know more. (revdavid.vonberg@gmail.com)