



THE EWELME BENEFICE

Dursley, Uley, Owlpen and Nympsfield

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

Rector: Revd Juliet Jensen 01453 350810

Parish Office 01453 549280

www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

Services for Sunday 22nd February 2026 First Sunday of Lent

St Giles, Uley

10am Benefice Holy Communion
Revd Juliet Jensen

St George's, Upper Cam

6pm Lent Worship "William Tyndale"
Revd Fiona Crocker

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the
wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to
your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

First Reading: Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.' Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"? The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loin cloths for themselves.

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my
groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my
iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord',
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not
reach them.

You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from
trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it
will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love
surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for
joy, all you upright in heart.

Second reading: Romans 5: 12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one
man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to
all because all have sinned - sin was indeed in the world
before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no
law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses,
even over those whose sins were not like the
transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was
to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many
died through the one man's trespass, much more surely
have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the
one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the
free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the
judgement following one trespass brought condemnation,
but the free gift following many trespasses brings
justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death
exercised dominion through that one, much more surely
will those who receive the abundance of grace and the
free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through
the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation
for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to
justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's
disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one
man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to
be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty
nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter
came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God,
command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he
answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'
Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on
the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the
Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,
"He will command his angels concerning you", and "On
their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash
your foot against a stone."'

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord
your God to the test."

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and
showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their
splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if
you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him,
'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord
your God, and serve only him."

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Intercessions

We pray for those who are ill at this time or in other forms of need, especially those we know. We remember Joyce, Fiona, 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.

Post Communion Prayer.

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

This Week.

Monday 23rd February

12noon Light Lent Lunches in the Parish Centre

Tuesday 24th February

12noon Burial of Doug England's ashes at St Giles

2pm Communion at The Hollies Care Home

Wednesday 25th February

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

7pm Dursley Fabric and Finance committee

Thursday 26th February

9am Morning prayer at St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

7.30pm Lent Course via Zoom

Friday 27th February

2pm Poetry Group at 9, Five Acres.

Saturday 28th February

12.30pm Risk assessment workshop at The Rectory

Services for 1st March 2026 Second Sunday of Lent

St James, Dursley

10am Parish Holy Communion

St Bartholomew's Nympsfield

10am Parish Holy Communion

Dursley Tabernacle

6pm Churches Together Lent Service

Evening prayer via Zoom is on Wednesday at 6pm, to join please use this login

Meeting ID: 811 3331 8043 passcode: 346570

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.

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.

Safeguarding Officers

Heather Arnold

Safeguarding Officer for the Parish of Dursley
07757 468371

Email: arnoldheather@icloud.com

Pat Jones

Safeguarding Officer for the Parish of Uley,
with Nympsfield and Owlpen
01453 860696

Email: patjones117@btinternet.com

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.



Churchyard Tidy

This Saturday, 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!

A Prayer for Lent

Come, all who are thirsty
says Jesus, our Lord,
come, all who are weak,
taste the living water
that I shall give.

Dip your hands in the stream,
refresh body and soul,
drink from it,
depend on it,
for this water
will never run dry.

Come, all who are thirsty
says Jesus, our Lord.

Amen

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)

St Giles Church, Uley

presents

A Celebration of Young Musical Talent

Sunday 8th March at 3pm



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

Proceeds toward the well at Kachikho Primary
School, Nkhotakota, Malawi

St Giles Church, Uley

presents

Words & Music for a Spring Afternoon

Sunday 22nd March at 3pm



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

Donations welcome for Church Funds.

St James the Great, Dursley

Music for

Passiontide

29th March 2026

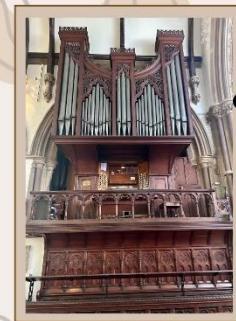
Palm
Sunday
6.30pm



with St James' choir
featuring music by
Louis Vierne, Bob Chilcott and
selections from Handel's "Messiah".

St James the Great, Dursley

Coffee, Cake and Music 2026



10.30am coffee,
tea and cake
11-11.40am
Recital

There is no charge, but a retiring
collection will be taken, the proceeds of
which go to the work of
St James' Church

Recitalists

April 25th Stephen Power
(Monmouth Parish Church)

May 30th Tim Selman
(Organ Scholar Lincoln Cathedral)

June 27th Keith Hearnshaw
(Concert Organist)

July 25th Piers Maxim
(Malvern Priory)

August 29th William Reynolds
(Minster Church of St Mary, Swansea)

September 26th Andrew Millington
(Former DoM at Exeter Cathedral)

October 31st Bernard West
(Oxford)