



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

**Rector:** Revd Juliet Jensen 01453 350810

Parish Office 01453 549280

[www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk](http://www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk)

**Services for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 loincloths 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 23<sup>rd</sup> February

**12noon** Light Lent Lunches in the Parish Centre

#### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February

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

**2pm** Communion at The Hollies Care Home

#### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

**6pm** Evening Prayer via Zoom

**7pm** Dursley Fabric and Finance committee

#### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February

**9am** Morning prayer at St James

**10am** Holy Communion at St James

**7.30pm** Lent Course via Zoom

#### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February

**2pm** Poetry Group at 9, Five Acres.

#### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February

**12.30pm** Risk assessment workshop at The Rectory

### Services for 1<sup>st</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> until 28<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:arnoldheather@icloud.com)

#### Pat Jones

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

Email: [patjones117@btinternet.com](mailto:patjones117@btinternet.com)

## Light Lent Lunches 2026 Starting on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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, 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

**29<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> Stephen Power**

*(Monmouth Parish Church)*

**May 30<sup>th</sup> Tim Selmán**

*(Organ Scholar Lincoln Cathedral)*

**June 27<sup>th</sup> Keith Hearnshaw**

*(Concert Organist)*

**July 25<sup>th</sup> Piers Maxim**

*(Malvern Priory)*

**August 29<sup>th</sup> William Reynolds**

*(Minster Church of St Mary, Swansea)*

**September 26<sup>th</sup> Andrew Millington**

*(Former DoM at Exeter Cathedral)*

**October 31<sup>st</sup> Bernard West**

*(Oxford)*