



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

Rector: Revd Juliet Jensen 01453 350810
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**Services for Sunday 8th March 2026
Third Sunday of Lent**

St James, Dursley

10am Parish Holy Communion
Revd Peter Fewings

St Giles, Uley

9.45am Informal Worship "Water of Life"
Revd Juliet Jensen

The Quarry Chapel

6pm Lent Worship "Thomas Merton"
Revd Simon Helme & Revd David Vonberg

Collect

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he
suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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: Exodus 17: 1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Psalm 95

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above
all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

For forty years I loathed that generation and said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways.'

Therefore in my anger I swore, 'They shall not enter my rest.'

Second reading: Romans 5: 1- 11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Holy Gospel: John 4: 5-42

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.'

The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus

said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

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.

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

Post Communion Prayer.

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

This Week.

Monday 9th March

12noon Light Lent Lunches in the Parish Centre

Tuesday 10th March

2pm Communion at Holly Oak Care Home

2.15pm Quarter Peal at St James

Wednesday 11th March

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 12th March

9am Morning prayer at St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

11.15am Communion at Henlow Court Care Home

7.30pm Lent Course via Zoom

Saturday 14th March

10am Mothering Sunday Posy making at St James

Services for 15th March 2026 Mothering Sunday

St James, Dursley

8am Said Holy Communion

10am Reflective Worship

St Giles, Uley

10am Parish Holy Communion

Dursley Methodist

6pm Churches Together Lent Service

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

Evening prayer via Zoom is on Wednesday at

Light Lent Lunches 2026

Every Monday during Lent

12 noon in St James Parish Centre,
Dursley.

Delicious homemade soup, bread, cake and tea
or coffee

All are welcome.

All donations will be donated
to our nominated charities.



6pm, to join please use this login

Meeting ID: 811 3331 8043 Passcode: 346570

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.

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, Uley

Sunday 8th March

10am

"Water of Life"

With Nigel Linacre from WellBoring

An informal service reflecting on the importance of water for life and the Uley Village Well in Malawi.



Hot drinks and Croissants served from 9.45am

Thoss Shearer is organising a guided walk around St Giles Church and Churchyard at 10am on Wednesday 22nd April. Donations in aid of the Friends of St Giles.

LENT 2026 A CLOUD OF WITNESSES

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



All the services take place at 6.00pm at different churches

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



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 resonance 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

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.



Uley Village – Malawi Well Project



Kachikho Primary School, Nkhotakota, Malawi Needs a Well

People get water from a swamp and cholera is rife
It will cost around £3750 to build a well

St Giles Church are working with WellBoring to help Uley villagers provide clean water

We can do this together!

You can give via JustGiving:
<https://bit.ly/uleyvillage-well>

scan QR code.



or donate at Uley Community Stores.

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".