



**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 22nd March 2026
5th Sunday of Lent**

St James, Dursley

10am Benefice Holy Communion
Revd Juliet Jensen

St Dominic's Catholic Church

6pm Churches Together Lent Service
Father Philip Thomas

Collect

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your
Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves,

O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Second Reading: Romans 8: 6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law - indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Holy Gospel: John 11: 1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about

their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in 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, 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, Ann Easey and Joan Spilsbury. recently departed, and we pray for their families, friends, and all those who grieve. **Ame**

Post Communion Prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen

Safeguarding Officers

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This Week.

Monday 23rd March

12noon Light Lent Lunches in the Parish Centre

Tuesday 24th March

2pm Communion at The Hollies Care Home

7.30pm PCC Dursley

Wednesday 25th March

9am Dursley Academy CofE School Easter
Assembly at St James, Dursley

10.30am Open the Book Meeting in the choir room

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 26th March

9am Morning prayer at St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

7.30pm Lent Course via Zoom

Friday 27th March

1pm Uley CofE School Easter Assembly at St
Giles, Uley

2pm Poetry Group at 9 Five Acres

Services for 29th March 2026

Palm Sunday

St James, Dursley

10am Parish Holy Communion, meet in the Parish
Centre for blessing of palms

6.30pm Music for Passiontide

St Giles, Uley

10am Parish Holy Communion, meet at the church
gates for procession of palms

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

Meeting ID: 811 3331 8043 Passcode: 346570

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.



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 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

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)

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".

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 4ES~~

~~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 is just 1 evening session left to reflect 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.

March 26th The way of the Franciscans continues

Each session is made up of 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.vonbera@gmail.com)

Ewelme Benefice

Holy Week and Easter Services 2026

Palm Sunday 29th March

- 10am** Communion at St James, Dursley.
Procession from Parish Centre with palm crosses
- 10am** Communion at St Giles, Uley with Palm Cross procession
- 6.30pm** Music for Passiontide at St James, Dursley

Monday 30th March

- 7pm** Stations of the Cross at St James, Dursley

Tuesday 31st March

- 7pm** Compline at Holy Cross, Owlpen

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

- 7.30pm** Agape Communion at St James, Dursley

Good Friday

- 9am** Walk of Witness to Cam Peak, meet at Sainsbury's Dursley
- 2pm** Tenebrae Service at St James, Dursley
- 3pm** Good Friday Service at St Bartholomew's, Nympsfield

Easter Eve 4th April

- 8pm** Easter Vigil at St Giles, Uley

Easter Day 5th April

- 8am** Said Holy Communion at St James, Dursley
- 10am** Parish Holy Communion at St James, Dursley
- 10am** Parish Holy Communion at St Giles, Uley
- 6.30pm** Choral Evensong at St James, Dursley

