



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

Moya Wallis 0771 9880451 & Pauline Thomas 01453 860047

**The Church of St James the Great
Churchwarden**

Jan Vonberg 01453 519506

Parish Office 01453 549280 www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

**Services for Sunday 28th April 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter**

St Giles

10am Benefice Holy Communion
Revd Jane Kenchington

12pm Baptism
Revd Ian Gardner

St James

6.30pm Choral Evensong
Revd David Vonberg

Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of
everlasting life:

grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

First Reading: Acts 8:26-end.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptised?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip

and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Psalm 22: 25-end

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live for ever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.

²⁸ For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow
down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told
about the Lord,

³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

Second Reading: 1 John 4: 7-end.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Holy Gospel: John 15: 1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in

them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

Intercessions

We pray for those who are ill at this time or in other forms of need, especially those we know. We remember Karis, Mary, Thelma, Ben, Paul, Malcolm, Pauline, Phyllida, Ann, Joyce, Bobbie, Les, Paul, Beryl, Julie, Robert, David, Mel, Janet, Jean, Bernard, Rita, Norma, Joan, Marion, Rose, Francis, Sue, Tina, Lottie, Rory, Tommie & Jenny. Be with them in their suffering, support and comfort them and give them peace of mind in times of trouble.

We ask for your prayers for Bill Grant, recently departed. We pray for his family and friends and all those who grieve.

Post-communion prayer

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth,
and the life:

grant us to walk in his way,

to rejoice in his truth,

and to share his risen life;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

Service Sheet for Worship at Home

If you are unable to join the Sunday services, please do make use of the reflective service for use at home alongside the prayers and readings for the day which can be found on this pew sheet. If you would like a copy please contact the office ewelmebenefice@gmail.com

No Live stream this week.

The next will be on Sunday 5th May from St James.

"We have received a communication from the Lord Chancellor's office, saying:

You will be pleased to know that the Lord Chancellor has approved the appointment of Reverend Juliet Jensen as Rector of Dursley, Uley, Owlpen and Nympsfield and known as the Ewelme Benefice in the Diocese of Gloucester.

We have also been informed by the Archdeacon's office that the licencing will take place in the afternoon on Sunday 1st September.

Thank you all so much for your prayers, and for your patience, as we have gone through the process of appointing a new rector. I hope you are all looking forward to this next period in the life of our Benefice."

St James the Great, Dursley
Coffee, Cake & Music

April 27th - Paul Bailey
(St Helen's, Alveston)

May 25th - Nick Sherwood
(St Monica's, Bristol)

June 29th - Nigel N...
(Bristol)

August - Andrew Millington
(Exeter)

September 28th - Anthony Burns-Cox (Romsey)

October 26th - Nigel Davies
(St James The Great, Dursley)

The coffee and homemade cake will be served from 10.30am. The Music begins at 11am and lasts for 30-40 minutes.

SATURDAY!

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

Morning and Evening Prayer in April

Morning Prayer Wednesday via Zoom at 9am and in person at 9am on Thursdays in St James

Evening Prayer Wednesday via Zoom at 6pm.

The link can be found by going into our website- www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

Zoom Meeting ID: 893 3298 0143 Passcode: 899154

Pastoral Care

Please let Chris Raffle (01453 545684 or 07517 380772), or Revd Jane Wood (07983 623525) know of those who need to be contacted or are in hospital and we will get in touch. Moya Wallis (01453 861675) and Pat Jones (860696) are happy to be contacted for Uley, Owlpen and Nympsfield.

You can also contact Clare in The Parish office- ewelmebenefice@gmail.com 01453 549280

This Week

OFFICE CLOSED

Weds 1st May

9am

Morning Prayer

6pm

Evening prayer via Zoom

Thurs 2nd May

9am

Morning Prayer in St James

10am

Holy Communion at St James

Services for 5th May 2024 Sixth Sunday of Easter

St James

10am

Parish Holy Communion

St Bartholomew's

10am

Parish Holy Communion



PLEASE NOTE the office will be closed this week and reopen on Tuesday 7th May.

Electoral Roll review

Dursley's electoral roll is now closed for updating in 2024.

Churchwardens-

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To read the weekly diocesan update please click on this link- <https://gloucester.anglican.org/>

The date of the APCM in Uley is 12th May 2024

The date for the APCM in Dursley is 19th May 2024.

Spring cleaning will take place in St James from 11 am on Thursday 16th May (upper walls and sills only) and from 9.30 am on Friday 17th May (general spring cleaning). Do come along if you feel you can help



Coffee Morning

at

St James, the Great

9th May 2024

10.45-12pm

Together we can protect and restore creation

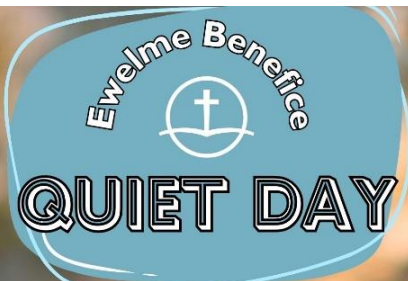


Join Wild Christian at arocha.org.uk/wildchristian

Proceeds in aid of AROCHA, Eco Church Charity

A Rocha UK is part of the international A Rocha family, a network of Christian organisations present in more than 20 countries in six continents. This year the network is celebrating the significant milestone of 40 years engaging communities in nature and conservation.

Eco Church is a learning community of churches of all shapes and sizes. It provides a framework to support your church and its leadership to take practical action on caring for God's earth.



11th May 2024
10am-2pm

Nymphsfield Village Hall

A day to rest and draw nearer to God in Stillness, Silence and Prayer
St Bartholomew's will be open for quiet reflection.

A soup, bread and cheese lunch will be provided.

Cost: Donations

Please sign up at the back of church or contact the Parish Office on ewelmeparishoffice@gmail.com

Revd Jane

All are welcome



ULEY CHURCH
SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

22nd-26th July 2024
10am-2.30pm

Breakheart Quarry, Dursley
For primary school aged children

Places by booking only

Application forms from ewelmeparishoffice@gmail.com
Closing date for registration forms is strictly 5th July