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 21st December 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

St James, Dursley

8am Said Holy Communion

Canon Richard Morgan

9.45am Shine! Retelling the Christmas Story

Revd Juliet Jensen

6.30pm Carol Service

Revd Juliet Jensen

St Giles, Uley

10am Parish Holy Communion

Canon Richard Morgan

Advent 4 - Light of calling

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Come, Lord Jesus

The fourth candle is lit
We affirm the calling of God,
and light a light to say 'Yes'
to that vocation in our lives.

When life seems empty or meaningless,

we embrace that gift of calling.

In a world of conflicting ambitions and drives, let it be with me according to your word.

With Mary may we say,

let it be with me according to your word.

We light a candle in the darkness,

let it be with me according to your word.

O come, O come, Emmanuel Come, Lord Jesus

Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God. now and for ever.

Amen

First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and

choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

Psalm 80: 1-8,18-20

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Second Reading: Romans 1: 1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-end.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Intercessions

We pray for those who are ill at this time or in other forms of need, especially those we know. We remember Anne, Margaret, Ann, Bob, 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 lives of Ron Wilson, Mary Fisher and Dr Mary Wotton, recently departed, and we pray for their families and friends.

Post Communion Prayer.

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Evening prayer via Zoom is on Wednesday at 6pm, to join please use this login - Link – Meeting ID: 811 3331 8043 Passcode: 346570. *Evening Prayer will be suspended on 24th & 31st December, returning on 7th January*

This Week

Monday 22nd December

10.30am Christingle making – St Giles room, Uley6pm Carols and Christingle at St Bartholomew's,

Nympsfield Tuesday 23rd December

10am Christingle making in Parish Centre, Dursley

12pm Funeral of Mary Fisher at Glos Crem

6pm 9 Lessons and Carols at Holy Cross, Owlpen

Wednesday 24th December

4pm Crib & Christingle service at St James4pm Crib and Christingle service at St Giles, Uley

11pm Midnight Mass at St James

Thursday 25th December

8am Said Holy Communion at St James10am Holy Communion at St James10am Holy Communion at St Giles

Services for 28th December 2025 1st Sunday of Christmas

St Giles, Ulev

10am Benefice Holy Communion

The office will be closed until 2nd January.

We're collecting donations towards the Christmas flowers at St James.

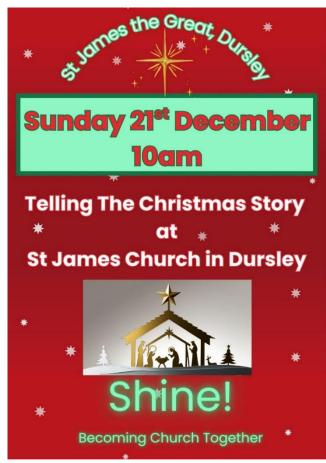
There are envelopes at the back of church.



St James Christingles will be made in the Parish Centre, Dursley on 23rd December at 10am.

Please come and lend a hand.





Safeguarding Officers

Heather Arnold

Safeguarding Officer for the Parish of Dursley 07757 468371

Email: arnoldheather@icloud.com

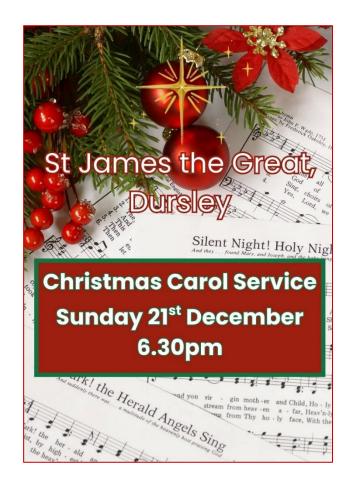
Pat Jones

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

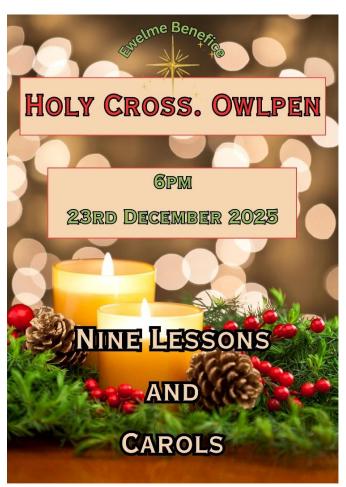
Email: patjones117@btinternet.com

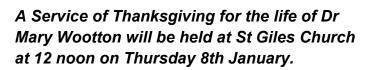
St Giles Christingles will be made in the St Giles room on 22nd December at 10.30am.

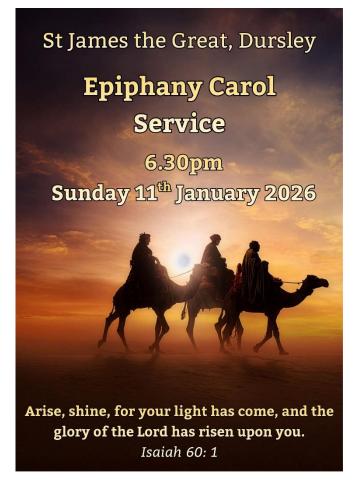
Please come and lend a hand.









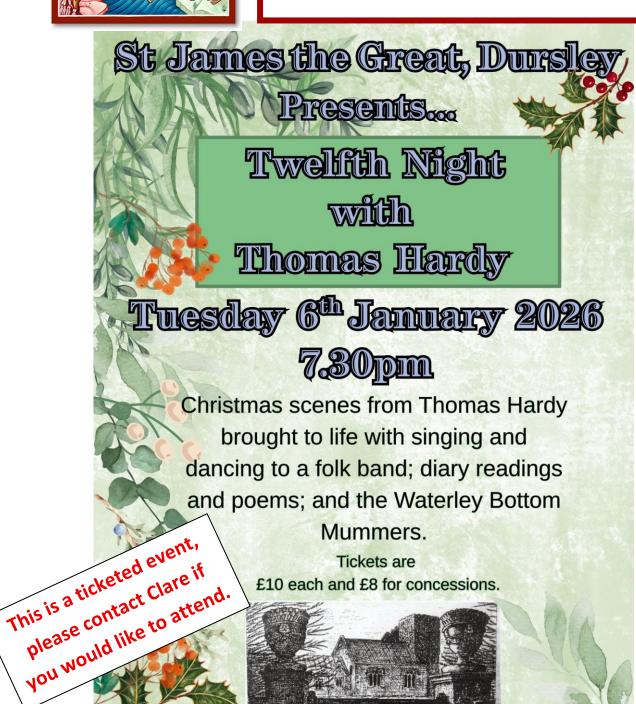




9.45am I I th January at St Giles

The service will begin with refreshments and will explore Baptism: why do it and what might it mean?

All Welcome



Contact Clare ewelmeparishoffice@gmail.com for tickets.

