

# The Messenger

## August 2025

### The Parish Of Dursley



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and**

**the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield**

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## AUGUST 2025



### A Message from the Editors

Dear Readers

Welcome to our August edition.

Here we have some light summer reading for you with three different types of poetry.

If you have anything to say please let us know, we are always open to new ideas and we have had one recently which will be a competition, so get your dictionaries ready!! That's all we'll say at the moment.

From Valerie and Judith (editors)

**Front Cover:** theme for 2025  
'In and around St James' –  
The Pearl on the High Altar

*Photo by Clare White*

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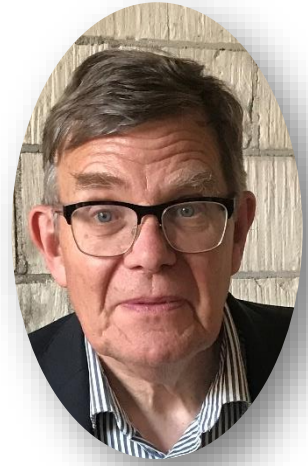
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**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE  
IS SUNDAY 17th AUGUST 2025**

## Revd David Vonberg writes...

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Welcome to what used to be called the “holiday month”

Waiting in A. & E. At Gloucester Royal hospital a few weeks back as the clock crept towards midnight, I reflected, as you do, on the amount of time in our lives we spend waiting: Waiting for exam results, sometimes with a sense of impending doom; then later on waiting for a phone call from the new girl friend. In the 1970’s it was only a landline, then on to waiting for test results from the doctors about the possibility of a cancer diagnosis; waiting by the bedside of a friend who is dying.

All these experiences of waiting are imposed upon us at different times of our lives. Some of them are excited waiting with something good at the end, others are less so for they may bring expected bad news. It is part of the human condition that we have to wait and be patient.

Yet waiting is anathema in our present world. Instant communication, increasingly speedy internet connections have become our birthright. And yet are we any the wiser, richer, or happier because we receive the latest parcel from Amazon more quickly?

There is however a different sort of waiting which is not imposed on us. It is expressed better in the word “Tarry” a word which has gone out of fashion. It is word which suggests an intention to be still and watch and wait. Rowan Williams says that we can use the image of bird watching to describe the value of tarrying or waiting. He writes:

“The experienced birdwatcher sitting still, poised, alert, not tense or fussy, knows that that this is the kind of place where something extraordinary suddenly bursts into view.” He loves the image of waiting on God as birdwatching. “You sit very still because something is liable to burst into view, and sometimes of course it means sitting in the rain with nothing very much happening. I suspect that for most of us a lot of our experience is precisely that. But the odd occasions when you do see what TS Eliot (In Burnt Norton) called the “kingfisher’s wing flashing light to light” make it all worthwhile. And I think that living in this sort of expectancy – living in awareness, your eyes sufficiently open to your mind both relaxed and attentive enough to see that when it happens – is basic to discipleship.”



He encourages us to believe that part of the Christian life is to learn to wait, with this expectation for the moment of seeing, understanding, or wonder.

In fact he makes it clear that unless we set time aside even just for a few moments there will be much that we miss about the beauty of the world and the possibility of God. His thoughts remind me of some words of that wonderful Welsh poet, R. S Thomas, who realises he has missed a flash of sunlight on a hillside because he is hurrying. He writes: "Life is not hurrying onto a receding future, nor hankering after an imagined past, but the turning aside....."

Perhaps, in this quieter month of August, it will benefit all of us to explore the value of intentional waiting: perhaps to take notice of the beauty of a sunset, to read a short poem, to be still. Perhaps we might even discover the benefit of not racing to the next event in your life?

Have a restful month!

### **PASTORAL CARE**

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Tel: 01453 350810 or 07776 910890 know  
of those who need to be contacted or are in hospital  
and she will get in touch.



### **Safeguarding Officer Heather Arnold**

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## August Thoughts from The Benefice Office....

by Clare White



This time last year we were looking forward with anticipation to our new Rector arriving, wow how time flies! This year we're looking forward to being able to heat St James and the inaugural switching on of the shiny new boilers.

Why are we always looking forward? Is it hope? Is it that we dislike the past? Or is it just that we need to be ready and prepared for what's to come?

We don't know what our futures hold (thankfully), there are so many different factors that get in the way, we do seem to always be speculating.



One of my favourite hymns is All my hope on God is founded...

*All my hope on God is founded,  
all my trust he shall renew;  
he, my guide through changing order,  
only good and only true:  
God unknown, he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.*

The words inspire me to trust that whatever is sent my way I will be able to cope with, there is no need to speculate on the future.

Revd David and his team prepared a service of "Songs of Praise" (20th July), many of your favourite hymns were sung including. Christ has made the sure foundation; Longing for light; Morning has broken and 8 others! Music to inspire, fill us with hope and praise our Lord for his goodness, support and kindness.



When Steve and I visited the Puffins on Skomer Island in Pembrokeshire, last month, I was filled with joy at God's creation. The puffins are thriving there, it is hope for nature, hope in conservation and hope for the future.

### **A prayer for Hope...**

*As the sun rises on our day, may your light dawn on our hearts. Reveal your character and goodness to us as we put our hope in you. Amen.*



**Ewelme Benefice**



# **Jumble Sale**



**9.30-12pm**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August**

**On St James Church  
Lawn or in the Parish  
Centre if wet**

All items £2 or less.

**All profits will be shared between Dursley and Uley  
churches.**

**This is a Benefice event.**





**Ewelme Benefice**

## **"What on earth am I here for?"**

**Revd Juliet intends to facilitate some time for people to reflect on their gifts and how they feel called to offer them in a short series of sessions called 'What on earth am I here for?'**

**We will be doing this using some simple resources.**

**Wednesday 13th August - The gift of who I am**

**Wednesday 20th August - Discovering our gifts**

**Wednesday 27th August - Sharing our gifts**

**Sessions will be held at  
The Rectory, The Broadwell, Dursley  
3pm-4.30pm or 7pm-8.30pm**

**This is for anyone from the worshipping communities  
across the benefice who is a bit curious -  
no other requirements!**



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## 13th SEPTEMBER 2025



## ST JAMES FREE BOOK STALL



### Clive says:

"Our venture into supporting, once a month, small local charities has had a good start. In July we raised £300 for **CALM** - **C**hildren **A**chieving **L**ifelong **M**ovement, a small local charity based in Bourton-on-the-Water that provides free physical movement therapy sessions to children affected by long-term movement disorders caused by many conditions including childhood stroke, cerebral palsy, brain trauma and Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis. They also provide rehabilitation therapy.

In August we shall be giving any donations received on the second Saturday to Horses for Wellbeing a small charity based at Windrush Farm, Elkstone. The charity uses Equine Facilitated Learning (EFL) to positively impact the lives of young people aged 5 to 18, particularly those dealing with mental health issues and trauma, providing a unique and therapeutic experience by partnering them with horses. They have a small herd of seven horses located in Elkstone, where children have the opportunity to connect with their equine companions. Please come along on August 9th take some books and/or make a donation.

If you are aware of a local charity that we can support in future months please let me know.

We continue to receive large numbers of books left in the church each week, and we are grateful to Dursley Academy and the parents for the very large number of children's books they donated at the end of the school year.

The Book Stall started as a fund raiser for the church but it has grown far beyond that. For those wishing to know the figures we have raised over £3,600 this year and over £33,000 since we started".

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## **MUSIC NOTES FOR AUGUST** *by Nigel Davies*

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This month's organ recital will be given by John Pennington who, until last month, was Director of Music at The King's School, Gloucester. He comes from Fleetwood, and his first organ teacher was John Askew (then at Blackpool Parish Church) who was also my first organ teacher! John Pennington studied at the Royal College of Music where he won several prizes before a teaching career which lasted for some thirty years. He will be playing an interesting programme inspired by hymns with arrangements by Grayston Ives, Herbert Chappell, Joseph Bonnet and others.

Thank-you to everyone who helped in any way to make our "Come and Sing" Evensong event (Sunday 29th June) such a success. Our visiting singers were extremely impressed with the welcome they received, and even more impressed with the choice of excellent cakes! The singing was quite good too.....!

As usual the church choir will be on holiday during the month of August when the service accompaniment will be shared between Chris Tyler and me. Our first rehearsal after the break will be on Friday 5th September at 7.30pm in the choir room at the Parish Centre.

Prospective "new" choristers most welcome!

Ewelme Benefice

# St James the Great, Dursley Coffee, Cake and Music 2025

April 26th

May 31<sup>st</sup>

June 28th

July 26th

**August 30th**

September 27th

October 25th

Nigel Davies

Keith Hearnshaw

Nigel Nash

Pavlos Triantaris

**John Pennington**

Nigel Davies

Jonathan Hope

**Coffee and homemade cake will be served from 10.30am.  
The music begins at 11am and last for 30-40 minutes**



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

**W I Poem.....***by Joyce Lombarde*  
*(written for the July competition*  
*at Castlegate WI Meeting)*

---



Oh W I, Oh W I.  
How you've adapted as time has gone by!  
Non-political you've always been,  
And non-sectarian can clearly be seen.  
Through towns and villages, you quickly progressed.  
Inspiring women to give of their best.  
Your influence helped to define their new role  
When wars came upon us and took their sad toll,  
And women were thrust into tasks not their own.  
They learned new skills, coped and triumphed alone.  
Not really alone - WI ever stood.  
To encourage and teach - a power for good.  
During times of danger and times of peace.  
It strengthened, encouraged, provided release.  
Our monthly meetings spread knowledge to all.  
Croquet to car maintenance - taste them all!  
Battles at Tewksbury, (including the Abbey).  
Races at Cheltenham - that'll make you happy!  
If cooking's your bag, try a hot vindaloo.  
(A riding taster includes hat, boots, insurance too).  
The range of speakers is varied and wide  
So come on, be brave, there's much to be tried.  
Something different - keeps the brain on its toes  
You'll end up forgetting your worries and woes!  
Perhaps you like coffee or tea and a chat  
Well our W I can help you with that -  
There's always scope for the sociable side.  
Along with the learning - enjoy the ride.

*So if anyone is interested in joining Castlegate there are many members in St James congregation who can tell you about it. We meet in the morning on the third Wednesday of the month, but we also hold a coffee morning on the first Wednesday of the month.*



# **Chris Pengelly**

## **Gardening Services**

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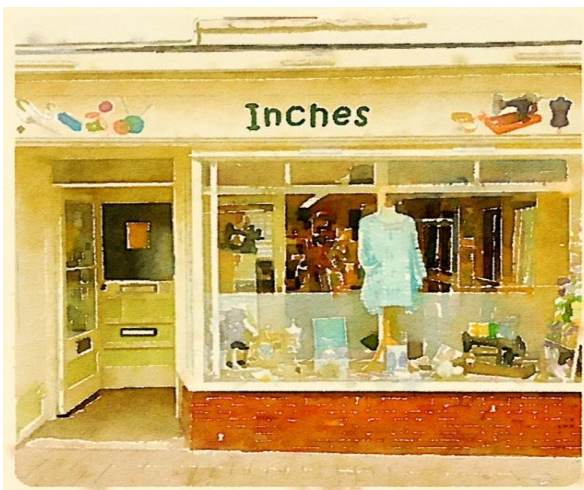
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# "Shine!"

## Becoming Church Together

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**The Vision:** Together we shine brightly!

Monthly from Sunday September 21st we are going to hold a church service at 10am at Dursley C of E Primary Academy School.

Revd Juliet has been working with Heather Gregory (School head) and Richard Witham from Sportily\* to initiate a partnership for young people, children and families through worship at our church school.

Members of St James will help during the school week to create content, activities and singing for the monthly service. Hospitality is an important part of the service, so providing cakes and drinks will be a major part of the social aspect of the services.

As a parish everyone has been crying out for young people, children and families to come to church. This initiative will be a fantastic start and will hopefully, grow, through prayer, engagement and support.

All are welcome at the services but the content will be geared towards children and families.

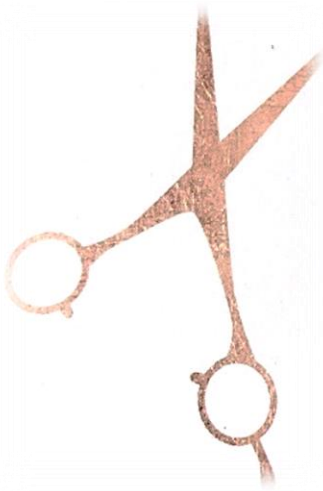
Secondary school aged children will be welcomed without an adult (a permission form will be necessary), primary aged children will need to be accompanied by an adult.

The services will happen on the same Sunday that we have a Reflective worship service at St James.

If you'd like to be involved please contact Rev Juliet for more information.



*\*Sportily is a network of fun-loving sport and Christian faith groups where you can try different sports, make new friends and explore what life is all about.*



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## August 2025

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**The Choir are on holiday until 9th September.**  
**No Evening prayer on Wednesdays in August**  
**Back on 3rd September**

### **Sunday 3rd August – Trinity 7**

10am Holy Communion at St James

### **Thursday 7th August**

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

### **Saturday 9th August**

**9-12** Jumble sale – Parish Centre (Benefice event)

10.30-12 Worcester Organists Association visit to St James

### **Sunday 10th August – Trinity 8**

10am Parish Holy Communion at St James

12.30pm Baptism at St James

4pm Piano recital by Ying Chang at St James

### **Wednesday 13th August**

“What on Earth Am I Here For?” – course at The Rectory

3-4.30pm The Gift of Who I Am

7-8.30pm The Gift of Who I Am

### **Thursday 14th August**

9am Morning prayer in St James

10.30am Holy Communion at St James

### **Sunday 17th August – Trinity 9**

8am Said Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion with baptism at St James

### **Wednesday 20th August**

“What on Earth Am I Here For?” – course at The Rectory

3-4.30pm Discovering our gifts

7-8.30pm Discovering our gifts

### **Thursday 21st August**

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

## **Sunday 24th August – St Bartholomew’s Patronal Festival**

10am Benefice Holy Communion at **St Giles**.

## **Wednesday 27th August**

“What on Earth Am I Here For?” – course at The Rectory

3-4.30pm Sharing our gifts

7-8.30pm Sharing our gifts

## **Thursday 28th August**

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

## **Saturday 30th August**

10.30am Coffee, Cake and Music – recitalist John Pennington

## **Sunday 31st August – Trinity 11**

10am Parish Holy Communion at St James

Evening prayer is suspended in August and will return on 3rd September.



### **August Acrostic Poem....by Sally Hayward**

---

**A**rduous trekking

**U**p and down the fields the Farmers

**G**ather their crops

**U**nusual temperatures have

**S**lowed everything down

**T**hank our God for all his creations



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## **CULTURE AND ME** *by David Vonberg.....*

This month we are delighted that Heather Arnold has been thinking about the things which interest and move her. Thank you, Heather.

---



### **Do you have a favourite author or book?**

It has to be "It's the little things" by Erica James. It's set a couple of years after the Boxing Day tsunami and is about a group of friends who are navigating life with young children, elderly parents and relationships starting and ending. It's also about not judging people about what they are but as an individual (even if their job involves them wearing exceedingly weird clothes, doing weird rituals and comes with people's expectations as to what they should do and not do!).

A close second is a trilogy of books by Sarah Rayner-One moment, "One Morning", "The Two Week Wait" and "Another Night, Another Day", which are again about how life can change in an instant and how friendships can be formed.

### **What are you reading at present?**

A Chorister's Guide to Evensong. Very funny, with references to highly flavoured gravy, garlic dressing, shepherd's pie and a few other

well-known mispronunciations/misreadings-Insane Vain Curate (Insanae et vanae curare). Think of The Tambourine Committee (A weird ritual in the choir, ed) writing a book!

### **Is there a book which you have often wanted to read or would like to read next?**

I'll flip this round. I really disliked reading Jane Eyre. I had to study it for English Literature GCSE, but I have not touched it since Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 1997 and I never will. Apparently, my suggested ending ("Reader, I shot him") was not appropriate, even though she had just been jilted at the altar due to the groom already being married!

**Is there a song or piece of music you turn to, to cheer you up?** The Sortie in E flat, by Lefebure-Wely. Nigel surprised us by playing us out with it on our wedding day and it's been a firm favourite ever since. This is also my favourite piece of music

**Do you play a musical instrument. If not, what would you like to have learnt?**

I used to play the recorder (descant/treble/tenor) and flute. I tried learning the piano but having already learnt treble clef for the recorder, my right hand was always a few bars ahead of my left hand on the bass. Dyspraxia didn't help. I do now have a piano and I try to remember (but usually fail) to practise the alto lines.

**What about a favourite television series?**

Anything documentary. Crime scene investigations, operations, trauma - that sort of thing.

**If there was one painting you could own, what would it be and what is special for you about it?**

I don't really know many paintings, but the things that I like are ones where there's always a detail that I haven't noticed before, no matter how many times I've seen it.

**Do you have a special building which means a lot to you and if so why?**

The Old Vicarage and the adjacent church, All Saints, in a tiny village in the Forest of Dean called Viney Hill. It's now an adventure centre, but years ago it was just a Vicarage where teens from across the Diocese would rock up and camp for a week, sharing our faith with people our own age with a lot of fun stuff thrown in. It was where in 2001 I got chatting to a postie from Dursley – and the rest is history!

**Is there a place (town, village, a county?) where you have felt happiest?**

A place called Beulah, Newcastle Emlyn, just into Ceredigion. We went there on honeymoon and we kept going back. If I ever win the Lottery I would love to buy a house round there. Every time we got close to the village I could feel myself relaxing.

**You are having a fantasy dinner party for five – who would you invite?**

This has been a hard one, and I keep changing my mind, but:  
Queen Camilla- I would love to get to know her in her own right.  
Esther Ghey – the mother of murdered teenager Brianna.

Pope Francis, and finally, my maternal grandmother Helen (Granny Huntley-named after her dog) and her eldest daughter my Auntie Judy as they both died when I was little, and I can't really remember them.

## THROUGH ALL THE CHANGING SCENES OF LIFE!

.....by Jennifer Kendrick

---



Suddenly my children are 59, 60 and 61 years old! How did that happen?

I, so clearly remember the early days of family life, living comfortably in the countryside, with no car or technology but regular visits from the baker, grocer, vegetable lady and daily milk arriving overnight on the doorstep as if by magic! The district nurse/health-visitor was also the local midwife doing her rounds on her bike and she skilfully fitted in delivering my first born at home, in between attending to all her other responsibilities.

Several years later we lived by the sea and whilst the two older ones were in school my youngest and I spent every day on the beach whatever the weather! Magic moments just watching the emptiness of sound and seeing the sky fill and calmly change, guided by the gentle tidal ebb and flow. Beach combing after a severe storm left flotsam and jetsam carelessly scattered like confetti on the sandy beach, was exciting and cost nothing!

When they were 10, 9 and 8 years old we moved to a house on the main road in Brixton, South London which was a huge shock! I spent time just looking out of the living room window pretending that was television, not real life. Suddenly there was a major road accident so I quickly dialled 999 and having no idea they dealt with simple emergencies as well as rape, pillage, crime and murder, was surprised to find Scotland Yard on the phone and on scene within moments! In Cornwall we were lucky if PC Plod was only 15 miles away simply equipped with a pedal cycle and took for ever to come, by which time we had the problem solved!

We moved to Birmingham and our house was always overflowing with young people as teenage years flowed with excitement, dread, fast motorbikes and broken dreams, fun and freedom, futures for all, when all at once they fledged and were prepared to fly without a parachute or adult advice! Then, almost overnight it seemed, the nest was empty and echoing, our parenting roles redundant!

Now, 40 years have disappeared into history and they, and their friends are happily settled around the world, as easily meeting up and communicating as if they were near neighbours. I have travelled to see them and am sufficiently tech-savvy to email, zoom and face-time but refuse to be a slave to anything more, which means making a stand. As I become less eager or able to be far from my beloved home, ageing needs addressing very firmly! It's OK to ask for help,



but be specific! It's OK to refuse assistance, but explain why. It's wise to be equipped with aids to daily living round the house. Folk think a wheeled walking aid is an acceptance of frailty, but mine has a seat, a box for shopping and is like a pilot to my plane. It allows me freedom to be out and about, to appreciate my blessings, see the beauty on my doorstep and, perhaps be a candle in the dark. There are privileges to being old! I am making a list....

### **Long Barrow**.....*by Elizabeth Oakley - A Dursley Poet*

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And so we passed it at speed -  
turning to see what's signposted  
across brown fields.  
The barrow beckons.  
Stories are carried all around if I  
could catch them...  
Figures clumped together on the ridge.  
Depositions made to desperate earth.  
Symmetries made and then forgotten.  
Great stories of people past  
who loved and lost and cursed.



### **Uley Long Barrow or Hetty Peglar's Tump**

*Picture by English Heritage*



I have read some mixed news recently, in an article by the BBC presenter Elizabeth Rizzini; Our warmer spring and summer months have been affecting our insect populations in different ways.

According to the Royal Horticultural society, the warmer weather has led to an increase in aphid populations. Whilst this can be frustrating in many gardens, more aphids help their predators further up the food chain, including birds and other insects. Like many, I've noticed a large increase in Ladybirds in our garden.

According to Dr Richard Fox of the Butterfly Conservation charity, this contrasts with last year. The warmer drier weather of 2025 has shown an increase in butterfly sightings. Apparently, butterflies like most insects, are 'cold blooded'. They rely on warmth from the sun to give them energy to fly more and progress through their life cycle faster. In this way, the time they are as caterpillars, and potential bird food, is shorter.



Phew!!!

However, a predicted downside to the warmer weather, is the drying up of wetland habitats, where many insects and amphibians lay their eggs. This of course, may have the effect of lower insect numbers next year.

Insect populations are also affected by the widespread use of pesticides and creation of monocultures. The Wildlife Trusts say that we can help the problem by supporting local rewilding projects, creating our own ponds or bog gardens, and mowing the lawn less frequently.

The Butterfly Conservation charity has good information on their website, about their work, and what we can do to help butterflies.

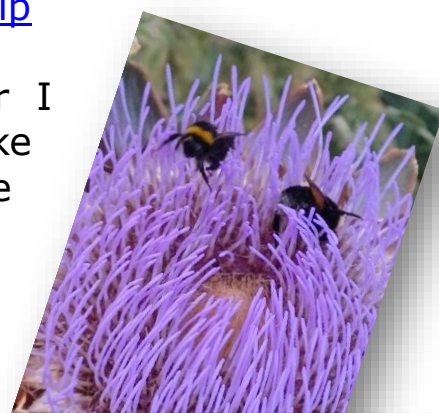
<https://butterfly-conservation.org/how-you-can-help>



There's a cuppa & cake when we meet



Out of interest, last summer I bought a small Globe Artichoke plant, and planted it in the rough dry patch of earth at the front of our house. Surprisingly, the plant grew and is now covered in huge purple flowers. Each flower is covered with bees, taking the pollen. Fascinating to watch.



If you would like to join and support St James Eco Church group, please email.

Gill.mather@btinternet.com

Everyone Welcome ☺

Ref:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce9xlrqypp5>

## Message from Bishop Rachel,

Published: Tuesday July 22, 2025

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On 22 July 2015, she was consecrated by Justin Welby, then Archbishop of Canterbury, during a ceremony at Canterbury Cathedral, being the first woman to be consecrated as diocesan bishop in the Church of England.



On the day that this historic announcement was made, Bishop Rachel toured the Diocese of Gloucester, visiting the Royal Agricultural University, All Saints' Academy, Great Oaks Hospice and Eastwood Park Prison. She ended the day with evening prayers at the Cathedral.

These visits were characteristic of Bishop Rachel's desire to build relationships across the Diocese of Gloucester. In 2017, Bishop Rachel launched a season of prayer and conversation, involving 6000 people from across the diocese to help discern our LIFE vision.

As I write this letter, I cannot quite believe that it is 10 years since my consecration in Canterbury Cathedral. As I give thanks today I do so with a grateful heart, and I am looking forward to the **special Evensong at the cathedral this evening at 5.30pm**. For me, today is about all of us and who we are as the Church among the people and places of this diocese.

As I will say this evening, I could not have been more delighted that the day of my consecration as a bishop in the Church of God was on the feast of Mary Magdalene. She undoubtedly knew the transforming love, healing and forgiveness of God offered us in Jesus Christ, but has too often been portrayed as a woman with a history of immoral behaviour. There is no biblical evidence for that. The gospels are clear that she was one of the faithful early followers of Christ who was present at Christ's crucifixion and was the first to bear witness to his resurrection. After her encounter with the risen Christ that first Easter morning (John 20:11-18), Mary Magdalene "went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord' ", and she told them what Jesus had said to her. It is not surprising that Mary Magdalene is often named as the first apostle.

In a service of consecration, much is said about the ministry of bishops, including the reminder that we are to be '*... guardians of the faith of the apostles, proclaiming the gospel of God's kingdom and leading his people in mission*'. Prior to the declarations made by the people about to be consecrated as bishops, there are beautiful and challenging words which end with a reference to the apostles:



*'Following the example of the prophets and the teaching of the apostles, (bishops) are to proclaim the gospel boldly, confront injustice and work for righteousness and peace in all the world.'*

As Mary Magdalene went to share the good news of the risen Christ with the other disciples there is no sense of arrogance or superiority, but rather a boldness and a humble confidence. It is good to be reminded of that humble boldness today. The past months in the Church of England have surely pointed us ever more deeply to our need for God's love, forgiveness and mercy, and the fact that there is no place for arrogant superiority. Yet, there is a need for a renewed confidence in who we are as the Church and the Body of Christ. This is to be lived boldly but with humility.

In my ongoing desire to follow in the footsteps of Mary Magdalene in bearing witness to Jesus Christ, I am reminded of the many declarations I made 10 years ago, including my commitment 'with God's help', to be *'diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen (my) faith and fit (me) to bear witness to the truth of the gospel'*.

These commitments are perhaps apt for all of us as we walk into August. Hopefully the weeks ahead will allow many of us to live life to a slightly different rhythm and perhaps there might be more time for reading and immersing ourselves in scripture and prayer, not least in praying confidently for the contexts of our daily lives – Praying for the transformation of people and places; and for children, young people and adults to have new or deeper encounters with the risen Christ who offers us life in all its fullness. This was Mary Magdalene's experience. Of course, she encountered the *embodied* risen Christ, but encountering the one who speaks our name is still made possible in every place and every time through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Today, on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my consecration, I pray that together we may be refreshed and renewed in our commitment to go on discovering, and boldly living and sharing the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ, and to do so rooted in scripture and prayer. And if you're not sure where to start, be bold in asking a friend or an ordained or lay leader in your worshipping community. Mary Magdalene and the disciples went on an adventure of discovery together. May it be so with us.

With my thanks and prayers,

+ Rachel



## REMEMBERING LIONEL JONES...

*by Canon Richard Morgan and his family.*

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Lionel Jones was a loving son, brother, husband, father, grandparent and great grandparent. When we call God Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit, we are trusting that our family love, at its best, reflects and shares in God's life, and that God is loving and caring like a good father, and we can share his life as his children through Jesus, God the Son. And the Bible also describes God as like a husband to his people, caring for them. We are called to love in return, like a faithful spouse. Lionel was a member of Dursley Church choir for nearly ninety years. The Bible contains visions of angels and humans singing in worship around God's throne. We sang the hymn 'Angel voices ever singing,' which reflects on this and considers that our singing in worship on earth, and all production of beauty to God's glory shares in the life and worship of heaven. Lionel indeed prepared for the glory of eternity in his singing and in his recording, appreciation and producing beauty in his photography – he won a prize as late as in this year's photography club competition, by the way! Beauty, appreciation, adoration are at the heart of our true life now and for ever. Lionel has given us an example of this.

Lionel was an engineer and an author. In understanding and being able to use the way things work, and in creativity, we can share in God's work as creator and fulfil our calling in creation to share in God's running and ordering the world for our good and its enrichment. The hymn, Angel voices ever singing, says, 'Craftsman's art and music's measure for thy pleasure all combine,' and Lionel's singing, photographic skills and engineering seem to fulfil that hymn's promise and show us an inspiring pattern of life.

Lionel was also a gardener. That role combines the creativity, ordering, and producing of beauty of which we have just spoken. When Jesus rose from the dead, the first person he met was Mary Magdalene. He met her in a garden and she thought he was the gardener. And she was right in a sense, for he is the gardener of our lives, seeking to give us growth and new life, to bring beauty, as we mentioned above, to bring life out of death, as gardens return to life after winter. May we trust in his gift of new life for Lionel and ourselves, for it is a renewing and enriching of life in this world and in eternity.

We sang our last hymn, For All the Saints, in trust that Lionel is now one of them, resting from earthly labours. Losing him will make life harder for those who were close to him, and some may indeed feel like

weary warriors, but we trust that we shall share in the eternal day of Christ's completion of all things, singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost in an everlasting music of praise.

**What's That Baba?** *by Freddy Charters (Lionel's Grandson).*

I'm not one to remember dates and times  
But I do remember stories, jokes and signs  
So today, I'll share, through verse and a grin  
The ways that I will remember him.

Lionel Jones, a name so fine  
Undoubtedly, the coolest in our family line  
A name I envied, if truth be told  
But my name for you, Grandad, never got old

Even in your nineties, you wore youth like a flat cap  
Although you might have needed the occasional nap  
If someone elderly were to board the bus,  
You'd have offered them your seat, without a fuss

You were the gentlest soul I ever knew  
Even the most nervous of dogs trusted you  
To this day, I will always defend  
That you were, in fact, Pixie's best friend

A favourite memory was on holiday 'en France'  
When the order we needed was six croissants  
I will always remember the baker's dismay  
When you proudly called out, "six baguettes! S'il vous plait"

With Grandma near, you shone your best  
Like cap and coat, like bird and nest  
Two souls who walked through life as one  
Two peas in a pod, who's love still lives on.

You would always have a story to tell  
and just like that, we'd be under your spell  
And when I'd ask questions, and boy did I blabber  
You'd say with a smile, "what's that baba"?

So today, I'll whisper gently to the air,  
As if you might still be there  
'What's that, Baba'? - just like then  
And hope you smile and ask it again.





**Canon Richard Morgan** conducted the annual Pet Service in St James on a very hot sunny Sunday afternoon in July.

The photos were taken by Christine Morgan.

It seems to mostly be dogs in the congregation, although I think I can see a Reindeer called Pip too!









**Eweleme Benefice**



**St Bartholomew's, Nympsfield  
'Community Tea and Hymns'  
Celebration  
of  
St Bartholomew's Day  
Sunday 24th August at 4pm.**

**For all the village.**

**Please nominate your favourite hymns.  
We will sing as many of them as we can!**

**Send hymn nominations to Jane Williams at  
[jazzingjanie62@gmail.com](mailto:jazzingjanie62@gmail.com) or  
07791 057144. by 31st July.**



## Years Mind in August.

2nd Jesse Edmonds 2005  
4th Mary Morgan 2013  
5th William Davies 1983; Clive Brain 2023  
6th Diana Collins 2001; Harry Kitson 2005  
7th Gwyneth Talboys 2016  
9th Connie Newman 1998  
10th Ronald Jackson 2021  
13th Phyllis Phipps 2009; Norman Bullimore 2015  
14th Susan Martin 2020  
16th Amelia Hopkins 1976; Gladys Jackson; Stan Vaisey 2019  
17th Tim Arnold 2019  
19th Mavis Billett 2019; John Reginald White 2021  
20th Joyce Stalker 1999; Peggy Moon 2015; Margaret Parfit 2023  
22nd Lilian Lambell 1999  
24th Ken Parfit 2020  
25th Dan Rutter 2011; Dennis Phillips 2014; Glynis Frost 2017  
29th Gertrude Lucy Ethel Kilminster 2007  
30th Basil Allen 2002; Peter Bailey 2010

	
<p><b>Independent Family Funeral Director</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 24 Hour Service</li><li>• Tailored Funerals</li><li>• Prepaid Funeral Plans</li><li>• Home Visits</li><li>• Woodland Burials</li><li>• Memorials</li></ul>	<p><b>Cam's Local Post Office</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cards and Gifts</li><li>• Parcel Drop Off</li><li>• Purchase of Stamps</li><li>• Friendly Service</li><li>• Cash Withdrawal/Deposit</li></ul>
<p><a href="http://www.LWClutterbuck.co.uk">www.LWClutterbuck.co.uk</a> <b>Dursley: (01453) 542754      Thornbury: (01454) 660088</b> <b>24-26 High Street, Cam, Dursley</b></p>	

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.



### FUNERALS & INTERMENT SERVICES AT ST JAMES:

**We share our thoughts and prayers  
with the families of those who mourn  
the loss of those they love.**

10th July - June Reynold's funeral at St James  
14th July - Burial of Janet Whittard's ashes at St James  
22nd July - Margaret Bryant's funeral at Westerleigh  
30th July - Valerie Banham's funeral at St James  
31st July - Dennis Hill's Funeral at St James

### FLOWER ROTA

#### **August 3rd**

**High Altar:** Ann Orchard,  
**Tanner Chapel:** Valerie Meares,  
**Lady Chapel:** Sandra Longstreth,  
**Pulpit:** Margaret Lloyd,  
**Font:** Clare White,  
**Nave pillar:** Glenys Muir,  
**Hymnbook chest:** Sarah Hodge,  
**Porch:** Sheila Gardner.

#### **August 10th & 17th**

**High Altar:** Marian Paisley,  
**Tanner Chapel:** Anthea Fittall,  
**Lady Chapel:** Cynthia Martin.

#### **August 24th & 31st**

**High Altar:** Kate Sant,  
**Tanner Chapel:** Kim Pugh,  
**Lady Chapel:** Steph Saye



### **100 club draw for July as follows:-**

1st - 158 - Carole Allen  
2nd - 146 - Jean Ind  
3rd - 121 - Huw Clayton  
Many thanks Sarah



Mrs Gregory – Principal

Dursley CofE Academy,  
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Dursley,  
GL11 4NZ

t: 01453 542304 e: [admin@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk)

e: [www.dursleycofeprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.dursleycofeprimaryschool.org.uk)

Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust.

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**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES THE GREAT  
DURSLEY**

**St James Church is open each day  
between 9.00am and 5.00pm.**

**Useful Telephone Numbers**

**TO BOOK THE PARISH CENTRE.**

Clare White      Tel: 549280

E-mail: [ewelmebenefice@gmail.com](mailto:ewelmebenefice@gmail.com)

**BELLRINGERS**

Elizabeth Byrne      Tel: 07788 800849

**100 CLUB**

Sarah Hodge      Tel: 545155

**CHOIR**

Anne Shipton      Tel: 545419

David Wood      Tel: 545073



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