

# The Messenger

July 2025

The Parish Of Dursley



60p each or £6 annually

# **The Ewelme Benefice**

**The parish of Dursley  
and**

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

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## **RECTOR**

Revd Dr Juliet Jensen

**Tel: 01453 350810**

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

**077769 10890**

## **SAFEGUARDING OFFICER FOR DURSLEY PARISH**

Heather Arnold

**Tel: 07757 468371**

**E-mail: [arnoldheather@icloud.com](mailto:arnoldheather@icloud.com)**

## **CHURCHWARDEN.**

Mr Danny Parker

**Tel: 0781 8878620**

**E-mail: [d7parker@hotmail.com](mailto:d7parker@hotmail.com)**

Mr Chris Tyler

**Tel: 01453 299162**

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

## **BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR – Mrs Clare White**

**Address letters to:**

**St James Parish Centre, Silver Street, Dursley, Glos, GL11 4NA**

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

**Tel: 01453 549280**

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC.**

Mr Nigel Davies, M.A., B Mus., F.R.C.O.,

**Tel: 01454 416867**

## **PCC: CHAIRMAN**

Revd Dr Juliet Jensen (as above)

## **VICE CHAIRMAN**

Chris Tyler (as above)

## **PCC SECRETARY**

Mrs Clare White

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

**Tel: 01453 549280**

## **PCC TREASURER**

Dr Sally Pearson

**Tel: 01453 542106**

**E-mail: [v6sep@aol.com](mailto:v6sep@aol.com)**



# JULY 2025



## A Message from the Editors

Dear Readers

Welcome to our July edition.

July is St James Patronal Festival and school holidays as Canon Richard reminds us on page 28. There are also several events coming up for us to enjoy.

If you have anything to say please let us know, we are always open to new ideas.

From Valerie and Judith (editors)

**Front Cover:** theme for 2025

'In and around St James'

Mosaic featuring St James and all things local.

*Photo by Clare White*

**Editors:**

Advertising please contact

**PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:**

**Judith Staddon**  
**and copy in Valerie Meares**

**Valerie Meares Tel: 01453 544677**

**Judith Staddon Tel: 01453 544312**

**Philip Staddon Tel: 01453 544312**

e.mail [dursley.messenger@gmail.com](mailto:dursley.messenger@gmail.com)

e.mail: [v.meares@btinternet.com](mailto:v.meares@btinternet.com)

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**DEADLINE FOR AUGUST 2025 ISSUE  
IS SUNDAY 15th JULY 2025**



## Revd Juliet writes...

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Dear Friends

Everyone loves a good story!

'Saturday Books' at St James, Dursley is always busy with free books available for anyone to take away and enjoy. From September, there will be a Family Storytelling at 10am each Saturday in the 'Children's Corner' of Church. If you have any children's books that you no longer need and would like them to be available for families to take away to read at home, then please drop them off at St James Church, they will be very much appreciated.

Recently, I enjoyed reflecting with others on preaching, wondering whether preaching can learn anything from stand-up comedy! You may be relieved to know that this wasn't about learning some good preacher-gags - which can be even worse than cracker jokes - but we reflected on the common aims of being fully present, connecting with our listeners, addressing the realities of our common humanity, and the place of truth-telling. The day also included an opportunity to learn something of what makes for a good story, and how to tell it well. You'll have to be the judge as to whether I ever manage to put any of this learning to good use!

Jesus told some very good stories. We sometimes call them parables. They are rooted in the everyday life of those who were listening to him. So, there are stories of sheep and goats, and farmers who have a bumper crop, seeds that get eaten up by the birds, and yeast that small though it is, causes a whole batch of dough to rise. There are other stories about things that are lost, and found again, possessions that cost nothing less than everything. The stories can be playful and poignant, often open-ended, raising more questions than they provide answers.

Godly Play is a form of Storytelling, based on Montessori principles and drawing deeply from the Christian tradition. The scripts are pared back to the minimum of words, as are the gestures, and little figures are used to help focus and create the imagined story-world. Some of us are beginning to learn to become Godly Play Storytellers so that we can share the stories of the People of God, the Christian Tradition and the Parables of Jesus with the next generation. What children do with

these stories is between them and God. After the story, we simply wonder together: Which bit of the story did you like best? Is there a bit of this story that you could take away and still have the whole story? Where might you be in this story?

It is our hope that, with the help of Uley village, providing colourful cushions to sit on; beautifully crafted wooden pieces to play with and a space at St Giles for our playthings, we will be a resource for many people, of all ages, to get the chance to hear a good story, well-told. And an opportunity to respond, in whatever way we can.

So, watch this space....

With love and my prayers

Juliet

*'There once was someone who said such wonderful things and did such amazing things that people followed him. As they followed him, they heard him talking about a kingdom, but it was not the kingdom they lived in. It was not like any kingdom they had ever visited. It was not like any kingdom that they had ever heard of.*

*They couldn't help it. They had to ask him what the kingdom of heaven was like. One time when they asked him, he said, 'The kingdom of heaven is like when a person who buys and sells fine pearls, a merchant, goes to search for the great pearl.*

*When he found the great pearl, he went....*

*...and exchanged....*

*....everything for the great pearl.'*

### **PASTORAL CARE**

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

## July Thoughts from The Benefice Office.... by Clare White

---

Here I had planned to tell you all about our Pilgrimage on Dartmoor, but...

Back in middle of June Steve and I started to walk the Arch Angel Way Pilgrimage. We packed our tent, food, clothes sleeping bags and waterproofs (luckily) into our rucksacks. My pack weighed around 11kg, Steve's a bit more and off we went to Okehampton station to park and catch the bus to the beginning of our walk.



The first church of the pilgrimage was in Brentor, visiting St Michael De Rupe, which sits on top of a hill and should be visible for miles around. The rain had already started and we were fully waterproofed from the start.

We were meant to walk for four days on Dartmoor visiting twelve churches, what we actually did was walk for two days, through torrential rain and visited five churches!

St Michael de Rupe, Brentor

We decided that after two days of being wet through it would be wise to abandon the pilgrimage for now and come back when the sun was shining and the moor wasn't saturated! We had waded through so much water that was pouring off the moor and the thought of another night camping on saturated ground didn't fill us with any joy. I'm not sure Steve and I are cut out to walk on water, even if we'd prayed as hard as we could.



The saturated moor

A great disappointment as we'd been planning this adventure since the depths of winter, when we were in need of adventure.

Disappointment can be a painful experience, as Christians we can find hope, strength, and growth by turning to God, and trusting in His faithfulness.

*Dear Lord, I acknowledge, that Your ways are not my ways, and Your thoughts are not my thoughts. I surrender my disappointments to You, trusting in Your perfect plan for my life. I choose to believe that out of these ashes of disappointment, beauty will rise. Amen*

We did walk for 24 miles over two days, camping overnight and we did have an adventure, even if it wasn't what we had planned and no one was injured, so It's not the end of the world and we can try again.

The weather is beyond our control and disappointment can be healed.



St. James the Great  
In the Heart of the Community

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12.30PM ON 25 JULY

AT ST JAMES CHURCH, DURSLEY

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St James the Great

# Pet Service



Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
at 3pm

All pets are welcome, but dogs must be on leads and cats and other small animals should be in baskets or similar.





# **St James the Great, Dursley**

# **Songs of Praise**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

**10am**

## **A chance for you to choose the hymns.**

Please think of a hymn or song that speaks to you - perhaps the words or the tune or because it reminds you of an important time in your life.

We would also like to know, more generally, the hymns you enjoy singing as an expression of your worship. This will be a longer list and they may not be used on 20th but will be useful in the coming months.



Please return your hymn choices by the 6th July.  
They can either be emailed to [revdavid.vonberg@gmail.com](mailto:revdavid.vonberg@gmail.com) or  
direct to the office [ewelme-parish-office@gmail.com](mailto:ewelme-parish-office@gmail.com),  
or in paper form to Clare in the Parish Office



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**



**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!**





**Ewelme Benefice**



# **Jumble Sale**

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

**9.30-12pm**

**St James Parish Centre**



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

**Please volunteer to help and your jumble.**

**This is a Benefice event.**

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## MUSIC NOTES

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### Coffee, Cake and Music 26th July

The July recital will be given by Pavlos Triantaris, a Greek organist who, after completing a doctorate in electrical engineering at Imperial College, London has stayed in the UK and has continued his musical studies on piano and organ. He also plays the guqin, which I was interested to learn is a plucked seven-string Chinese musical instrument. Currently he lives in Lincolnshire and serves as Assistant Director of Music at St. Swithin's Traditional Anglican Cathedral and is organist at Letchworth Traditional Anglican Church. His programme will include works by Bach, Boyce, Vierne and Widor.

### Music for July 2025

6th July am Listen Sweet Dove – Ives Wadeley in G  
13th July am How Beauteous are the feet – Stanford Stanford in B<sup>b</sup>  
pm Here O my Lord – Whitlock Lloyd in A  
Bertalot responses  
O Thou the Central Orb – Wood  
20th July am Informal Service  
27th July am Tantum Ergo – Vierne Mess Solonnelle – Vierne

The choir is on holiday until 7.30pm on Friday September 5th when we will be delighted for anyone interested to come and join our ranks. We are always keen to welcome new choristers to support a choir which has an unbroken history, dating from the time when the present chancel was built in 1887, and the singers became robed and moved from the gallery to the front of the church.

### **Lionel Jones and St James' choir** *by Nigel Davies*

---

In 1992, when I was appointed to St James' parish church, Lionel, along with David Wood and John Taylor, provided the backbone of the tenor section of the choir, and at the Christmas Carol Service of that year, Lionel sang the tenor solo in Harold Darke's setting of "In the bleak midwinter". "You see, old son", he said "we have links to Harold



Darke, as Cecil Adams had lessons from him while he was doing his vet's training in London".

Lionel was one of "Cecil's Boys" and began his membership of the choir in 1934, just a year after Cecil returned from London and became Organist and Choirmaster at St James'. Having researched the names of our organists, I wondered quite why Cecil had been appointed, as, according to the Royal College of Organists' handbook for 1933, the organist was listed as Peter Bornet, ARCO. Lionel was able to clear up the mystery! Sadly, Mr Bornet had a heart attack whilst accompanying a service and died, so Cecil's return to Dursley was timely.

The men and boys choir of Dursley Parish Church was well known in the circles of the Royal School of Church Music, and through this formerly musically powerful organisation, Lionel was one of those chosen to sing at the Albert Hall in 1951 as part of the Festival of Britain celebrations: it was one of those special moments which he told us about when he was Guest of Honour at a choir dinner. Church choir membership was an important part of his life and, like everything else he undertook, he was fully committed, well-organised and fussless.

However, I'm glad to say that Lionel wasn't perfect! On one occasion the choir was asked to sing for a 9.30am Saturday Eucharist at the cathedral which preceded a Synod meeting. As ever, with St James' choir, there was great support for this venture and we all arrived at the cathedral for a rehearsal at 8.45am. I remember the occasion well as, after the service, the clergy and synod representatives trotted off to have coffee in the chapter house, with no regard for the visitors from Dursley.....However, worse than that; Lionel, of all people, got a speeding fine!

Another connection with Lionel came from a surprising quarter. In 1977 I was appointed Organist and Choirmaster at Westbury-on-Trym Parish Church by the then vicar, Fr Conrad Sargisson. Many years later after playing for Fr Conrad's funeral in Cornwall, his widow gave me Conrad's Dursley Grammar School prefect's badge. It seemed that Conrad had been evacuated from Birmingham during the war, joined Dursley Grammar School en route to Oxford, and sang in the parish church choir. Lionel remembered him well!

For some years, after a shortened choir rehearsal on a night nearest the 5th November, we would make our way to "Everlands" and enjoy one of Lionel's three bonfires and many fireworks. It was a lovely occasion with Freda providing refreshments and only ended after complaints from the neighbours. On reflection the complaints were probably justified as the bonfires were raging infernos, and the flames were as impressive as they were frightening!

In July 2022 Lionel starred in Dursley's own version of "Cider with Rosie" which was arranged from Laurie Lee's original and directed by Barbie Davies entitled "Cider with Lionel" which took place with a large cast on the grass outside the old school (Parish Centre). Lionel's evocative lines were read beautifully and added a real authenticity to the story line.

I am so pleased that we were able to celebrate Lionel's 100th birthday with a special service at St James' on November 9th 2024. His loyalty to the choir for 88 years of service was exceptional and he was awarded several RSCM long-service medals, but he never managed to amass sufficient misdemeanours to merit the choir's own "Tambourine Award" despite a few nominations!

Lionel was "always there". Never one to seek the limelight, but always at hand with his fantastic memory and multifaceted interests. His was a steadying influence in the choir. In latter years, I was impressed with his computer skills, and his emails were always beautifully and correctly written. Here's a part of one he wrote in early December 2024; "My driving licence has been renewed since my birthday which is helpful in getting about locally. My main trouble recently is loss of hearing; it's a little bit better and I'm having a test on Monday to see what can be done to improve it". It really is heart-warming to read such a positive view of life from a centenarian.

If there was ever any concern as to the accuracy of something we had sung, he used to say to his fellow tenors "As long as you've done your best, old son". And that's exactly what Lionel did throughout his long and fulfilled life. We are grateful and privileged to have known him; a true gentleman and a Dursley institution. May he rest in peace.

This photograph was taken in 2004 at the Royal Oak, Rhandirmwyn where the church choir were fuelling up before singing Evensong at St Barnabas church. Lionel was not persuaded by the scrounging of Toby-the-dog.....



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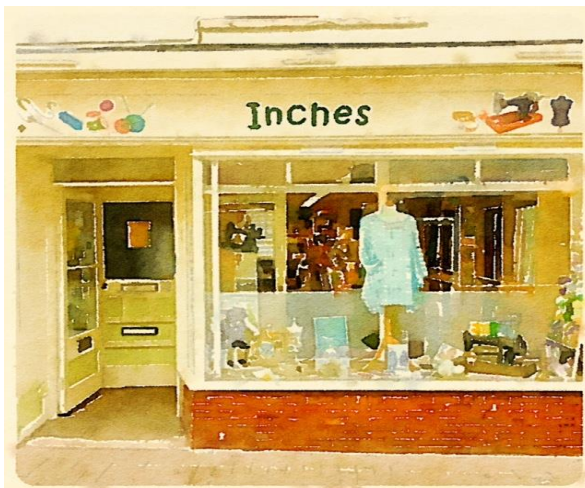
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## Acrostic Poems for July....by Sally Hayward

---

**J**uly is  
**U**sually the busiest time at an airport  
**L**uggage, Passports are being checked; now it's time  
for  
**Y**ou to get away and enjoy yourself

**J**etting off for our holiday

**U**nderstanding the

**L**anguage

**Y**ou'll be surprised how much you learn!



### Leslie Gale Award

**L**eslie Gale Award has recently been given to Clive; very well

**E**arned from the

**S**aturday Books and

**L**ots more, it's

**I**mportant to acknowledge him for

**E**verything he has done

**G**ratITUDE and to

**A**llow us all to give him a round of applause

**L**ooking good in his T-shirt

**E**mphasises

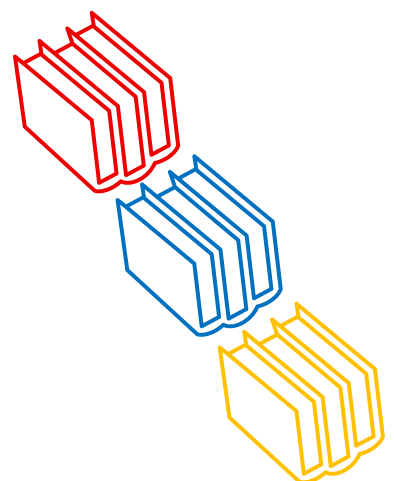
**A**ll about the books etc;

**W**e celebrate together

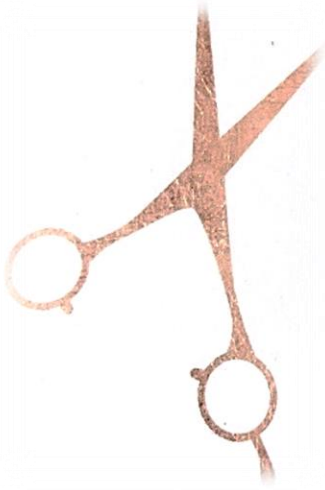
**A**nd

**R**emember our Clive; who

**D**emonstrates his good work.



**Don't forget to get some books for the holidays from the Book Stall**



## Hair by Sam

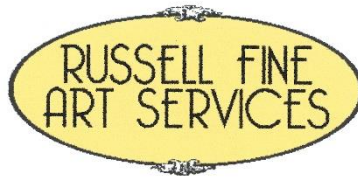
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## **July Diary 2025**

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(Joining Zoom details on Ewelme Benefice website)

### **Wednesdays**

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

#### **Thursday 3rd July**

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

#### **Sunday 6th July – Trinity 3**

10am Holy Communion at St James

#### **Wednesday 9th July**

2pm Open The Book meeting – The Choir Room

#### **Thursday 10th July**

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

#### **Sunday 13th July – Trinity 4**

10am Parish Holy Communion at St James

3pm Pet Service

6.30pm Choral Evensong

#### **Wednesday 16th July**

7pm Fabric and Finance meeting at 38 Woodmancote

#### **Thursday 17th July**

9am Dursley Academy School leavers service

10.30am Holy Communion at St James

#### **Sunday 20th July – Trinity 5**

8am Said Holy Communion

10am Songs of Praise

#### **Thursday 24th July**

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

#### **Saturday 26th July**

10.30am Coffee, Cake and Music (Pavlos Triantaris) at St James

12.30pm Friends of St James Garden Party at St James

#### **Sunday 27th July – St James Patronal Festival**

10am Benefice Holy Communion at St James

#### **Thursday 31st July**

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James



**Pictures from the Open Garden @ 52 Woodmancote...by**  
*Elizabeth Oakley*



**Judith and Philip**

would like to thank everyone who came and all who generously donated for their cream teas and plants.

Our thanks also to the rest of the Team in the kitchen, Clare, Steve and Moya, without whom it would not happen.

It was great to see everyone doing the quiz, sitting and chatting, enjoying the plants and admiring the view.





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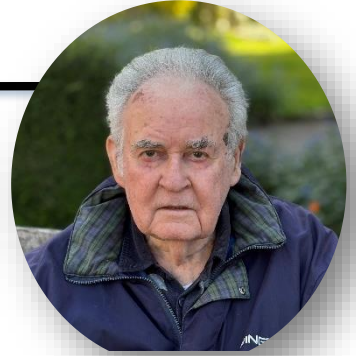
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This Month, Harry Atkinson is reflecting on what is important for him.

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

I enjoy John Grisham but latterly I have been reading David Baldacci who writes very similar moder thrillers. He has been around about ten years. I also like Jeffery Archer although I don't like his politics. Margaret put me on to him.

**What are you reading at present?**

I am reading "Conclave", by Robert Harris. It about the election of a new Pope. I am about halfway through it and it's different. I have read quite a few books by him and the one I enjoyed most of all was "Stalingrad".

**Is there a song or piece of music you turn to, to cheer you up?**

Definitely "Jerusalem". It has that something which is typically English, even though it is rather rebellious.

**Do you have a favourite piece of music?**

I would have to say that I love all music by Elgar, again very strongly English. I find him stimulating and stirring.

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

I had piano lessons as a youngster – a major failure. I would have loved to learn the guitar which I would have enjoyed. But in my day it was virtually piano or nothing. MY father who was a working man had a gift of being able to play the piano by ear. No teaching. He only had to hear a tune once and he could play it. He also played the banjo.

**What is your favourite film?**

My favourite film is "The Cruel Sea", which dates me. My father was in the RNVR in 1939 and joined up at the beginning of the war, and went right though the war on Corvettes which is the featured boat both in the book and the film. It is a regret that he never could talk about his wartime experiences. Jack Hawkins, the main actor is a star in the role.



**Do you have a favourite play?**

I went to see "Evita" with Margaret in the West End for her 50th birthday. Both the music and the story were brilliant, and I felt I was involved rather than simply watching. Margaret and I went to the theatre quite a lot, mainly locally in Cheltenham and Bath but sometimes to London.

**What about a favourite television series?**

Without doubt "Vera". Brenda Blethyn is magnificent. With a very good supporting cast, none of whom were particularly well known. It's a great shame that the series has finished.

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

Anything by Jack Russell, who kept wicket for England. But he has been for many years an accomplished artist. When he was at school he studied art. When he became a county cricketer for Gloucestershire, and there was time sitting about waiting to bat. He started painting a lot of county cricket grounds. And then battle scenes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. I got to know Jack some years ago when we opened the art centre in Kingshill House and I managed to get him to put on an exhibition of his works there.

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

Definitely St James because it meant so much to Margaret and me. My children were christened there, and my granddaughter was married there. Margaret's ashes are buried there in the Garden of Remembrance.

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

It's Sidmouth where we holidayed with the family for many years. It was a place we came to know very well and loved.

**You are having a fantasy dinner party for five**

Nelson Mandela was an obvious choice, but I had to think about the others. I admire female MPs and Barbara Castle and Harriet Harman stand out. Tony Blair also. He turned things around although he made a big mistake about Iraq. Dale Vince is an example who came up from the bottom. He went to university and then dropped out and became a new age traveller for years going all around Europe. As time went on, he came back locally and built his first wind turbine at Nymspfield. The final choice would obviously be my wife Margaret.



## **ST JAMES FREE BOOK STALL**

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A large number of books have been taken recently. From the 3,000 we had a few months back, when people were clearing their shelves but not coming out, we still regularly have over 1,500 available for you to choose from. Those of you with younger children know how many books they get through so, if you have any spare, please leave them in the back of the church. Remember all our books are absolutely free and you can take as many as you wish from our weekly Saturday stalls

The number of regular supporters continues to grow and we have decided that, as a "Thank You" to the people of Dursley for their support, we shall give any cash donations we receive on the second Sunday of each month to a small local charity starting on 11th July.

The first charity we are going to support, on 11th July, is "CALM" Children Achieving Lifelong Mobility" based at Bourton on the Water.

Children Achieving Lifelong Movement (CALM) is a small local charity through which fully funded one to one physical movement therapy sessions are provided to children affected by long-term movement disorders caused by many conditions including childhood strokes; cerebral palsy; brain trauma, hyper-mobility, Perthes Disease and Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis.

I hope you feel you can support us on this venture.

If you have a small charity that we can include in future months please give any details to the parish office.

Many thanks

Clive

See next page about 'Story Time' on certain Saturday mornings alongside the Books Stalls



# STORY TIME AT ST JAMES



FROM SEPTEMBER THERE WILL  
BE STORY TIME AT THE  
SATURDAY MORNING BOOKS.  
PLEASE CAN YOU DONATE ANY  
CHILDREN'S BIBLE STORY BOOKS  
THAT YOU HAVE.

VOLUNTEERS OF STORY TELLERS  
WOULD BE FANTASTIC TOO.



In June St James Eco Church held a separate Nature Count afternoon as well as a Nature Day. The aim of this was to make an initial, more detailed inventory of the plants and animals living in the churchyard, as well as have a morning inviting the public to explore and celebrate the nature existing in our urban churchyard.



St James Count on Nature afternoon was held on Friday 13th June. We were very grateful to have been supported by members of Berkeley Climate Action Network (BVCAN) who helped with taking an inventory of the plants and animals observed in the churchyard in that sunny afternoon.

Five of us, including Jan and myself and the 3 BVCAN members used the iNaturalist APP on our Smart Phones to identify all that we saw. We each took a different area, and by doing so managed to cover a large area all around the church in total.

The results of this will put together and made available soon. By using the APP, our observations are shared with other likeminded people in the iNaturalist community, who are interested in biodiversity. Among them, there are those qualified to verify observations we make which help with accuracy.



Jan, Chris & Jane making observations in the churchyard

The evening before, Jenny and Chris laid three 'mammal tubes' in the churchyard overnight to capture the tracks of any small mammals that may be visiting the churchyard. These are tunnels of about 1m in length, with carbon and paper (plus some food to lure them in to the tunnel. Any small animal visiting it then walks through the tunnel, eats the food, then walks out the other side leaving it's tracks on the paper. There were interesting tracks left which included what appears to be a



cat, but also, excitingly, a hedgehog. Jenny and Chris had also sighted a hedgehog in the churchyard the week before the event which is great news.



Jenny and Chris laying the 'Mammal Tubes'

St James Nature Day was held the following day alongside the Book Stall. Both events were held indoors due to the inclement weather. We were very grateful to all the helpers, including the Gloucestershire Wildlife expert Keith, who supported the event, and we had a very enjoyable morning.



Peter Cranswick (AKA 'The Moth Man') did a couple of moth displays which was fascinating



Tom ran an art table encouraging people to create images of plants and animals using a 'Tetra; print system. Really clever stuff and some brilliant images were produced!



Elizabeth held a couple of drawing sessions outside and produced two wonderful pictures in the churchyard.



Gill and Steph ran a craft table and people were invited to make paper dragonflies and cardboard bee badges

Thank you to everyone who supported both events and helping us think about the importance of biodiversity both on a global scale as well as locally, including St James churchyard!

Best Wishes from Gill

(St James Eco Church team member)



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

[Gill.mather@btinternet.com](mailto:Gill.mather@btinternet.com)

Everyone Welcome 😊



## **July –is time to celebrate St James the Great**

*....by Canon Richard Morgan*

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July is the month the Church celebrates the patron saint of Dursley Church, St. James the Great, and also the month school summer holidays begin, so a time when many people travel. This month, however, we welcome Rev. Simon Helme, United Reformed Church minister of the Tabernacle and Quarry Chapel back from his sabbatical, when he walked the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostella in Spain, the shrine dedicated to St. James the Great. It is one of the great pilgrimage destinations of Europe, so James has become a symbol of pilgrimage. Our stained glass window of James shows him with a scallop or cockle shell on his arm – cockle shells were and are the badges of pilgrims to Compostella, as it is near the sea and pilgrims ate them a lot! So the cockle shell has become a symbol and badge of Christian pilgrimage. I wonder if Simon will have one! Pilgrimage, travelling to holy places, has been a great tradition in Christianity and in other religions. The Protestant Reformers were dubious about special holy places, and about too much devotion to saints. It is, in a way, therefore, ironic that the perhaps the greatest and most read book among English Protestants after the Bible is *The Pilgrim's Progress*, by John Bunyan, for whom the Church of England was not Protestant enough! Yet Bunyan got hold of the truth that pilgrimage, travelling with God to meet God, is a good picture of Christian life as a whole. I'm sure that's why Simon used it in his sabbatical. So I include a prayer exploring how Christian life can be seen as pilgrimage, and, at baptism, I give those baptized a cockle shell, as a symbol of their call to travel their lives' journey with God through Christ and the Holy Spirit, and of God's promise to receive us for eternity in his heavenly realm.

Maybe pilgrimage for our ancestors gave the change from ordinary life and work that holidays give! That may remind us that our Christian life is first of all God's gift, and not our work, though we have to live it out







The NHS is in the final throws of terminal illness, of that there is no doubt! Less evident seems to be that there is no sense in repeatedly pouring money into a bottomless bucket with more holes than a colander!

I trained and qualified as a State Registered Nurse in the 1950s and for the next 35 years spent much of my professional career tramping UK inner city streets with short spells in very remote areas around the world.

In Africa, for example, I soon ran out of pills and plasters I had carefully packed, only to find that their primitive practices were often more effective. Despite lack of any amenities (water was scarce and carried from the river in jugs!) or disinfectants, their hygiene was paramount. Food was scarce but freshly cooked and just enough!

The Australian Aborigines taught me to forage for food and healing herbs, and that village pow wows with singing together round the camp fire was a soothing end to everyone's day!

Back in UK was a very different story as the population rapidly exploded, old diseases like T.B reappeared and devastating new ones proved hard to combat!

Prescriptions were freely handed out, regardless of contra indications or any monitoring of regime or evaluation! Waste and costs soared inexorably! The downward spiral was already a gathering storm. Provision of collaborative, community care was gradually eroded and the mighty force of District Nurses, Health Visitors and School Health so reduced, it left a gaping hole in easily accessible advice and support. Valuable vaccination programmes in schools were abolished! GP surgeries became crowded and A and E departments filled with patients anxious about anything from simple cuts, colds, sprains, bruising, infectious rashes and runny noses to major trauma!

I was most fortunate, due to an understanding manager, to be allowed the freedom to practise regionally, under a huge professional umbrella based both in schools and clinics.

T.I.M.E. was my mantra. Talk, investigate and implement, mentor, moderate and educate. I had TIME.

It worked well in the community covering all aspects of daily family well being from simple first aid, infectious diseases and minor illnesses, regular vision and hearing tests, obesity and eating disorders, bedwetting, sex education and teenage pregnancy.

Any issue was addressed according to individual circumstances, not rules and regulations.

It was a different world in the 1970s, 80s and early 90s without personal computers and mobile phones to clutter up our lives we had to communicate verbally and work together wisely.

Starting today, we can all make a difference in taking more responsibility for ourselves and others nearby, by sharing and caring and using common sense.

The Ten Commandments perhaps a useful first step!

Modern medicines and technology are amazing, but not the solution! If each one of us would stop, look and listen, accept limitations of life and limb, make do and mend, heed warnings, be resourceful with what we already have, that would be Good News!

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Would you believe it, 7th June *Spectator* has a poem about wallpaper, page 35, and so of course I had to do one on that theme too. It is a true situation from childhood.

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### **Life History**

There had been an early itch  
in my brain about wallpaper.  
It turned out it was good training  
for later un-conforming habits.  
The itch was concerned with a  
panel and its paper-plaited border.  
The panel was like a picture frame  
that had nothing in it at all, and  
therefore seemed out of order.  
So logic could be by-passed and  
it was a real cock-a-snook to the  
usual moral situation pertaining  
to wallpaper. So prising plaited  
sections off the big wall became  
an activity in itself. Eventually  
the border was gone and I was  
finally alone with the wallpaper  
for the rest of its life.

**Elizabeth Oakley, A Dursley Poet**

## **RECOGNISE: A time to celebrate Children, Youth and Families Ministry**

**RECOGNISE, from 7 to 13 July, is a week-long celebration of the work of those in Children, Youth and Families Ministry.**

RECOGNISE brings to the forefront people like Joshua Robertson, who serves as the Children, Youth, and Families Minister at St Mary's Church in Newent.



"I first got into youth ministry for the volunteering element of my Duke of Edinburgh Award," he said. "A curate needed help with a youth Alpha course, and I needed to volunteer. So, I joined in – and I fell in love with it. Talking with young people, engaging with families, helping them find a voice in the church – that's when I knew this was my calling."

As a Children, Youth and Families Minister, Josh's role is to help children, young people and their families grow in faith.

He said: "The most rewarding part of my role is seeing the lights go on in a young person's eyes when faith becomes personal. It's that moment when they say, 'Oh, I get it now,' and it's theirs. That personal connection with Jesus is what it's all about."

"The biggest shock is realising how many young people don't even know who Jesus is, right here, on our doorstep. It drives me to make church accessible, relevant, and welcoming."

"I hope more churches will invest in youth ministry, not just paid roles, but someone championing this work in every parish."

"We need our voices heard nationally. Youth and Families Ministry is vital."

Barrie Voyce, Senior Youth Connector for the Diocese of Gloucester, said: "I'm super excited that we get to RECOGNISE the hours of work and dedication given by those in ministry to children, youth and families across our churches."

"Investing in people and programmes that inspire young people often happens around the edges of church, and this week of celebration will bring it to the front and centre. We encourage everyone to get involved."



RECOGNISE is a time to show gratitude to those who work hard to help to guide the faith journey of the next generation.

On 13 July, churches nationwide are asked to make space in their usual Sunday service to 'recognise' the children and young people who serve and contribute to CYPF Ministry.

Share your appreciation online using #RECOGNISE to help amplify the message across the Church and beyond. - For more information about the 30k project, visit <https://www.churchofengland.org/30kproject>.

### **Cubs in the Cathedral, Lions at Large!**

**This summer, from 11 to 14 September, a pride of decorated lion cubs will be hiding around Gloucester Cathedral – as well as 32 large lion sculptures dotted around Gloucester and Cheltenham.** - Stop off at Gloucester Cathedral along the way to find the hidden cubs, each created by local schools and community groups. You might spot a lion outside the Cathedral too.

The trail is in support of the Big Space Cancer Appeal, which is raising money for new cancer care facilities in Cheltenham.

It is free and no booking is required. After the trail ends, the lions will reunite for a weekend at the Cheltenham Racecourse, before being auctioned off to bidders.

For more information, visit <https://lionsatlarge.co.uk>

### **Bishop Rachel's youth survey**

**Bishop Rachel has launched a short, anonymous online survey for young people in Gloucestershire aged 13-18 about their views of the criminal justice system.**

She wants to hear what young people think about what prison is for and what would make society a better place.

If you have someone between 13 and 18 years-old at home or are involved in youth groups, please ask them to your young people in the survey: <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2025/voices-of-youth>

### **Events and training**

More details for all these events at [gloucester.anglican.org/events](https://gloucester.anglican.org/events)

**Library tour and tea package**, Gloucester Cathedral, **8 July, 2pm**, A rare opportunity to go on a library tour, followed by a choice of savoury or cream tea in the Monk's Kitchen with fellow library visitors and the tour guide. <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/library-tour-and-tea-package-3>

**Have your say** - Visit Facebook **f/Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email Katherine at [kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk), follow us on Twitter **@glosdioc**, view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website [Gloucester.anglican.org](https://gloucester.anglican.org)

## **Notes from The PCC meeting on 4th June 2025.**

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- A new PCC was welcomed, including new members Heather Arnold, and Donna Pinker; plus Danny Parker as our new Churchwarden.
- Caroline Marrow and Chris Morgan were co-opted onto the PCC for the next year.
- Working as an effective PCC was discussed.
- We will work as a transparent group, sharing information with the parishioners, through our Churchwardens.
- Chris Tyler and Anne Shipton have completed an inspection of the Parish Centre. There are many health and safety issues that need addressing. Chris will engage professionals as appropriate. The Parish Centre needs to be warm, clean and attractive for all users, first for Church community use and also for other groups. What is the Parish Centre's purpose? Admin, Music, hospitality, mission, ministry, youth & children's work.
- Church Boiler update – new gas pipes are needed to be able to run the new boilers. Wales & West have this in hand.
- The new fire alarms in St James were fitted on 9th/10th June.
- We have paid £42k towards our £60k share so far this year.
- A Benefice Finance Committee has been proposed, this will be for our treasurers to have support across the Benefice with churchwardens and investment experts involved.
- We must standardise how money from collections and donations is counted. There must be two people at all times counting the takings and recording it.
- PCC accepted the control of the financial procedures paper.
- Heather Arnold (Safeguarding Officer) reported that she is working through the Dashboard, is updating DBS checks and safeguarding training.
- The Use of Social Media policy was read and checked by PCC members. Clare White and Caroline Marrow were approved as the users of our Social Media accounts
- Heather Arnold, Caroline Marrow and Clare White are DBS evidence checkers.
- The procedure for dealing with safeguarding issues was proposed and agreed on.
- The next Friends of St James meeting will be at 12.30pm on Saturday 26th July at St James.
- Year 6 pupils from Dursley Academy are coming to a Thursday morning communion to help and learn about the Eucharist service.

- The head of Dursley Academy wishes St James to hold some services at the school, hopefully to attract children and their families. Revd Juliet is going to talk to the Head Teacher to discuss how we will try this form of worship.
- A church architect has visited church to help with grant funding to complete any work advised from our quinquennial report.
- Taking the cup and intinction at communion was discussed. A decision will be made at the PCC meeting on 9th September as to how we will address parishioners' concerns.  
Danny Parker and Chris Tyler will be encouraging our congregations to discuss their concerns with them about this issue.
- The next meeting will be 9th September 2025 at St James.

### **A PILGRIMAGE PRAYER.....from Can Richard**

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God of our life's journey, our Companion in the way,  
 God our Destination:  
 Go with us in all the changes of this life,  
 that they may be progress for us, not mere wanderings.  
 Protect us in dangers.  
 Be our guide through the unknown times and places of life.  
 Give us a sense of your companionship to encourage and enrich  
 our lives.  
 And bring us at the last to your full presence,  
 where we may praise and enjoy you for ever,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who himself travelled this earthly life with you,  
 and, at Jerusalem, gave his life and rose again for you and us,  
 so that our journey and destination can indeed be with you,  
 and we may dwell in your presence for ever.  
 Amen.





## Years Mind in July

2nd Sadie Coldrick

4th Jonathan Littleford 2020, Keith Midgley 2022

5th Connie Cuff 2002, Richard Robertson 2015

8th Kenneth Grimes

7th John Simmonds 2022

9th Davis Brown 2016, Timothy Frankau 2020

10th Dorothy Poole 2016

13th Pearl Thompson 2020, Marie Tomlins 2021

14th Christopher Osgood 2023

16th Ruby Easthope 2002, Gerald Bannister 2020

17th Stephen Hall 2001, Violet Powell 2001, Catherine Riddick 2002  
Eric Sainty 2008

18th Hilda Swann 2002

19th Gillian Kirvan 2014

20th Alice Clift, Julia Carter 2015

21st Stephen Hill 1989, Baby Amelia Ind-Smith, Frederick Bailey 2006,  
David Muir 2017

22nd Phyllis Hurcombe 2002, John Yorath 2015

24th Frank Roper 1993

25th Vera Story 1997

26th Doug Phillips 1998

28th Dorothy Brown 2016, Michael Holigan 2023

29th Daryl Matthews 2008, Kathleen Wiggins 2014

30th Irene Rutter 2009, Robina Bailey 2012, Wendy Rose 2022

31st Constance Workman 2001

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## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.



### **FUNERALS & MEMORIAL SERVICES AT ST JAMES:**

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

14th May - Barbara Higg's funeral at Westerleigh  
29th May - John Lord's funeral at Westerleigh  
30th May - Len Frost's funeral at Westerleigh  
23rd June - Lionel Jones's funeral at St James  
25th June - Marion Osgood's funeral at St James  
2nd June - Burial of Jackie Strange's ashes at St James

### **FLOWER ROTA**

**July 6th, 13th & 20th**

**High Altar:** Anthea Fittall,

**Tanner Chapel:** Anne Shipton,

**Lady Chapel:** Glenys Muir.

**Benefice Patronal Festival**

**July 27th High Altar:** Ann Orchard,

**Tanner Chapel:** Valerie Mears,

**Lady Chapel:** Sandra Longstreth

**Pulpit:** Margaret Lloyd,

**Font:** Clare White,

**Nave Pillar:** Glenys Muir,

**Hymn book Chest:** Sarah Hodge,

**Porch:** Sheila Gardner



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

1st - 115 - Heather Arnold

2nd - 171 - Gill Mather

3rd - 164 - Sally Pearson

Many thanks Sarah



Mrs Gregory – Principal

Dursley CofE Academy,  
School Road,  
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)

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**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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