

The Messenger

May 2026

The Parish Of Dursley



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70p each or £7 annually

The Ewelme Benefice

**The parish of Dursley
and**

the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield

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A Message from the Editors

Dear Readers

Welcome to our May edition, of the Messenger.

It is a beautiful day as I page up with a lovely cold for company, but the garden is looking beautiful, and Valerie and I hope this continues as there are several outdoor events this month.

Please note views and opinions expressed within these pages are the writers own personal observations.

From Valerie and Judith (editors)

Front Cover: theme for 2026

'In and around Dursley Parish'

Photo this month is A View of Dursley by ©Steve White



MAY 2026

CONTENTS

Safeguarding	2
Rev Can Richard writes	3
Dates for your diary	4,5,6
Benefice Office thoughts	7
Music	8,9,10
Books	12,13
Eco News	14,16
Diary for May	18,19
Diocesan News	27
Word of the month	28,29
Obituaries	32,33,34
Year's Mind	35
Parish Registers & Flower Rota	36

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DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2026 ISSUE

IS SUNDAY 17th MAY 2026

**St James the Great, Dursley
APCM 2026
17th May at 11.30am**



**Please attend the meeting, it's
the future of our church.**

**We need new members on the
PCC, a new secretary,
churchwarden and
representatives on
Deanery Synod.**



SAFEGUARDING

Heather Arnold is the Safeguarding
Officer for the Parish of Dursley

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Revd Can Richard Morgan writes...

Dear Friends

This month we continue our celebration of Easter, and then of Christ's Ascension, the Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and, this year, we end May with Trinity Sunday. A real embarrassment of spiritual and theological riches!

So here is something to pray on Ascension and Pentecost:

ASCENSION

God our Saviour and King:

You lifted Jesus in his human nature to share your life, glory and reign: so may we realise the greatness of your love and gift to us, and how high is our calling, to share your life eternally through Jesus, and thus may we always honour humanity and care for all people.

You raised Jesus in his physical nature, shared with the whole material creation: so may we always value the physical world and seek its flourishing, and live our physical lives to your glory, in holy and faithful love.

You raised the physical and mortal humanity of Jesus to eternal life: so may we trust in your victory over death giving us and creation an eternal future.

You raised Jesus, who lived and died for love, to exercise your whole power and purposes: so let us live by your love now, that we may share it through Christ for ever. Amen.

A HYMN ON GIVING THE SPIRIT AT PENTECOST

[Can you guess the tune?]

God, you gave your Holy Spirit
On the day of Pentecost,
Free as the air,
On apostles there,
Sending them out to everywhere
With good news of Jesus,
New life for the lost,
Brought them by the Holy Spirit,
Sent through Christ at Pentecost.

Send us that same Holy Spirit,
Fill us all with life and love,
Bringing us peace,
Making joy increase,
Giving your life that will not cease.
May we know the freedom
Of the Holy Dove,
Living by the Holy Spirit
As the children of your love.

St James the Great, Dursley

**SPRING
CLEANING**

**9.30am
Friday
1st May**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.....

PLENTY TO DO THIS MONTH.

GET THE HARD WORK OUT OF THE WAY ON THE 1st AND THEN ENJOY THE QUIZ, THE MUSIC AND THE CAKE OF COURSE, THEN FOR THE GARDENERS WE HAVE THE ANNUAL PLANT STALL AND IF YOU ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OUT WITH FRIENDS AND A CREAM TEA, HEAD TO WOODMANCOTE AND YOU CAN ROUND THE MONTH OFF WITH ANOTHER QUIZ!!

Quiz Night
2nd May, 7pm



In aid of

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chrismorgan194@btinternet.com

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own drinks.**

St James the Great

Annual Plant Stall



9.30am 30th May 2026

The Church Lawn

Donations of plants welcomed



Open Garden
at

52 Woodmancote,
Dursley, GL11 4AQ.

Sunday 31st May 2026

1.30-5pm



Afternoon tea and quiz
All donations in aid of
St James the Great



Parking is limited,
so please only drive up
if you are unable to walk.



May Thoughts from The Benefice Office.... *by Clare White*



I'm writing this on the eve of going to the Isle of Wight on holiday, I'm feeling the wind down to a (hopefully) relaxing week away.

May brings us two bank holidays, where the weather should be improving and we can be outside celebrating life! Or sat indoors watching a James Bond movie if we're unlucky enough to get a wet day.

For May Day Bank Holiday we're going to London to watch the Paddington musical. A small scatty bear who brings love to the Brown family. He has an endless capacity for innocently getting into trouble, but is known to "try so hard to get things right". This may be a mantra for me! The small bear is beloved by so many; especially after his comedy sketch with the late Queen Elizabeth at her platinum jubilee, and the comment – "Thank you, for everything".



In May as Christians, we celebrate Ascension Day, Pentecost Sunday and Trinity Sunday. All major feast days in the Church of England. Ascension day is 40 days after Easter and marks the start of Christ's reign in heaven.

Pentecost (Whitsun) is celebrated 50 days after Easter, it is a major Christian festival commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus in Jerusalem. Known as the "birthday of the Church," it marks the beginning of the disciples' mission to spread the Gospel.

Trinity Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday after Pentecost (May 31 in 2026), it honours the Christian doctrine of one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

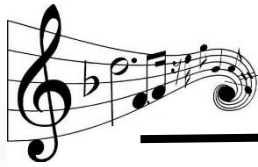
Whitsun bank holiday was first observed in 1871 and permanently fixed to the last Monday in May from 1972, I expect the majority of the UK don't even realise it is a Christian festival.

A prayer for Pentecost.

Dear Heavenly Father, on this day, more than 2000 years ago, you inaugurated the church by having the Holy Spirit indwell in your believers. We rejoice that you have allowed us, men and women, Jew and Gentile, to experience new life. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit, our comforter, our convictor, our guide, and many others. May we continue to celebrate this day until you return again. Amen.



Holidays, days out or time away from the normal lives we lead is important for a recharge and reset. Let us be filled with the Holy Spirit and say thank you, for everything, whilst trying so hard to get things right!



MUSIC NOTES FOR MAY

There are many jobs I can't imagine anyone wanting to do, and, apart from that of Prime Minister or a Traffic Warden, fairly high up the list comes the Archbishop of Canterbury. Looking at the increasingly bleak picture of the state of the C of E, I certainly don't envy the task ahead of the newly enthroned prelate.

I heard part of the broadcast Enthronement service and was pleased to note that all the hymns were "proper" with not a whiff of a "worship song". In fact it seems that the tide has turned a little more in favour of hymns with good tunes and words and this seems to be the focus of the recent RSCM initiative called the Choir Project. At last the powers that be are making an effort to support "traditional" church music; let's hope it's not too late. (Talking of "traditional", isn't it time we standardised the Lord's Prayer? Every time a national televised church service is aired, invariably the "traditional" version of that all-important prayer is used, yet we at parish level use (and have used) a variety of versions!

A recent article about pipe organs in churches made some waves during the past few weeks, even featuring in national newspapers and on Radio 4's "Today" programme. It seems that pipe organs are disappearing at a worrying rate as a result of the cost of maintenance and church closures.

As I write there are two prominent chapels in Carmarthenshire for sale (at a price of £130K) with all interior fittings in place including what the estate agents describe as "a magnificent organ". A number of rural churches are on their way to permanent closure by the Church in Wales' "Prune for Growth" initiative which seems to be lumping together swathes of parishes (called Local Ministry Areas) under one Vicar/Rector with non eucharistic services being taken by a lay person; more often than not, a churchwarden. So continuing the trend, there will be many more small pipe organs scrapped in the near future.

In our own benefice the completely original 1863 pipe organ at Nympsfield is in need of a thorough restoration – hardly surprising given that it has served the church for so long! However, because of the time-consuming work needing the many skills of an organ builder this will be an extremely costly restoration for a church which holds relatively few services during the year. The recent punitive move by

the Government to prevent churches recovering the cost of VAT will also impact on repairs to church organs.

However, a little bit like most consumer goods, pipe organs are not all of the same quality, and some instruments are just not worth preserving. I wondered about the term "magnificent organ" in the estate agent's information, as so many Welsh chapel organs had large, impressive cases hiding a small number of pipes and often built by firms whose products have not stood the test of time! The organ in St James' has been altered on several occasions since it was installed in 1888, but underpinning the whole instrument is the work of William Hill and Son who were one of the very best organ builders at that time, and all their instruments exude a feeling of quality and craftsmanship.

So, when I listened to the item on the "Today" programme which drew attention to the possible demise of many pipe organs in our churches and chapels, two thoughts occurred. 1. What is the function of the instrument; is it just used to accompany hymns, or is it used for recitals, accompanying choirs, special music for services like weddings and funerals. 2. Is it worth preserving as a good example of the organ builder's craft. Sometimes pipe organs are removed for a particular reason; I can instance two really good instruments scrapped so that kitchen and toilet facilities could be installed in what was the organ chamber!

For many churches unable to afford the expense of repairing an ailing pipe organ, a digital organ is the answer and a suitable instrument can be obtained for a fraction of the cost of the repair of a pipe organ, added to which the speakers can be placed to suit the building and so be more effective than a pipe organ squeezed into a cubby hole. Ancient churches were simply not designed to house an organ! The digital instrument which used to be in St Mark's Woodmancote (which is now kept at the back of St James') makes a very convincing sound even though the technology dates from the 1990's.

If the present trend continues, apart from our cathedrals and major parish churches, it seems that pipe organs in the majority of churches and chapels will eventually become like preserved steam railway engines; few in number, but cherished by those responsible for their upkeep.

It's not often a cathedral has to advertise for an organist to play at a Sunday service, but this is what happened recently at Truro Cathedral. Just after Easter, the choir had gone to give a recital at a church on the Scilly Isles, and were all set to return on Saturday but were unable, as the ferry had broken down and was not able to be repaired

easily! So a request appeared on the Facebook page of the "Organist and Choirmaster" which many of us thought was a spoof; but of course it wasn't! Someone did come to the rescue and the ferry was repaired (no doubt with a few red faces!) and after enjoying extra hospitality from the islanders Truro's cathedral musicians are happily home.

Music for May

3rd	am	The Strife in O'er – Ley	Mass of St James – Davies
10th	am	Love Divine – Goodall	Woodard Service – Shephard
	pm	O Praise God – Batten	Smith Responses
		Save us O Lord – Bairstow	Dyson in D
14th	pm	God is gone up – Finzi	Hereford Mass – Lloyd
(Ascension Day)			
17th	am	Informal Worship	
24th	am	Justorum Anime – Stanford	Stanford in C
	pm	May the Grace of Christ - Davies	
		Sumsion Responses	Expectans expectavi – Wood
		Wood in Eb	
31st	am	Ave Verum – Mathias	Mathias in G

St James the Great, Dursley
Coffee, Cake and Music 2026




10.30am coffee,
 tea and cake
 11-11.40am
 Recital

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

May 30th Tim Selman

(Organ Scholar, Lincoln Cathedral)

June 27th Keith Hearnshaw

(Concert Organist)



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The Hollies care home, Dursley

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ST JAMES FREE BOOK STALL

Books @ St James Church *by Joy Bell*

What Do You Use as a Bookmark?

When we're sorting through donated books each Friday and Saturday for the book stall, we never quite know what we'll find tucked between the pages. Over the years, an astonishing variety of "bookmarks" has emerged — some practical, some puzzling, and some downright delightful.

Our most memorable discovery — which I think Clive has already written about — was a pair of Scottish twenty-pound notes. Fortunately, the donors were still in the church at the time. They were wonderfully gracious and insisted we keep the money as a donation.

This week's unexpected treasure was a restaurant bill from 1995, slipped neatly inside a hardback. It came from a place called *Paolo* in Tetbury and is, in its own way, a tiny piece of social history. The bill shows a slap-up three-course meal for two, complete with wine, bar drinks, and coffee, all for £47.50. According to the Bank of England's inflation calculator, that's close to £100 today — still a bargain for such a feast.

And here's a detail that really dates it: the bill includes optional charges for cigars and cigarettes. I can't remember the last time I saw those on a restaurant menu.

Who knows what next week's books will reveal?



Clive Adds:

Saturday mornings are certainly evolving with many new people coming in, and we even had two people come to church for the Easter Sunday service.

We continue to support small local charities by giving them the donations we receive on the second Saturday of the month. Already this year we have given over £500.



In May we shall be supporting Night Angels who provide support for vulnerable women, patrolling the streets and providing safe places, providing transport, administering first aid and supporting those facing mental health struggles and have also been first on the scene help those who have been subjected to domestic violence. You are welcome to make a donation if you wish.

Celebrations are on the way.

Since she began two years ago, Joy Bell has raised an amazing £2,917.50 on the books she has sent off online. In July we shall have a celebration party, hopefully in our garden, to recognise us passing £40,000 raised.

Although these are tremendous amounts of money raised, the fundamental idea is that the books are actually free and the social aspect is much more important. It is also an important recycling exercise too!!



May is the month to support pollinators

Nothing says Spring like the buzz of a bee! But these precious pollinators are declining due to habitat loss, climate change and agricultural intensification. Wednesday 20 May is World Bee Day, (the date commemorates the birthday of Anton Janša, a pioneer of modern beekeeping) a global observance that highlights the vital role bees and other pollinators play in our ecosystem. This day raises awareness about the importance of pollinators, the threats they face, and their contribution to biodiversity, food security, and sustainable agriculture. It's a call to action for individuals, communities, and governments to protect bees and their habitats for the health of our planet, and it's also a good moment to learn how to improve habitats for bees and other pollinators.

Here are some ways to help them:

Sowing a pollinator-friendly seed mix in a pot or flower bed (look for the bee motif on seed packets)

Making or buying a bee hotel and putting it in a sunny spot

Taking part in No Mow May, and letting wild flowers grow in grassy areas - bees love dandelions! Even a small patch left to grow longer will benefit pollinating insects
Avoiding the use of pesticides, as they have a very negative effect on bees' health

Bee hotel in St James churchyard.

Metallic sweat bee.



Contd page 16

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Email:

cwrpengelly@hotmail.com

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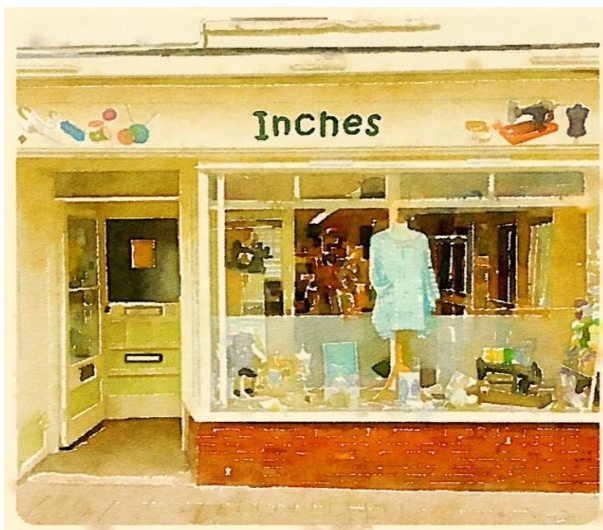
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Eco News contd....

Did you know?

There are 270 species of bee in Britain and Ireland.

They have four wings (two pairs), two antennae, and three segmented body parts (the head, the thorax, and the abdomen).

Bees will generally reside in any habitat, as long as there is a place for them to build a hive, abundant flowering plants, and a water source.

Climate change may be causing bumblebees to wake from hibernation in winter, increasing their dependence on early-flowering garden plants and if these are not available, bees can starve.

(Information from the environmental charity A Rocha)



Garden bumble bee

Photos by Jan Vonberg (member of St James Eco Church Group - if you would like to join us, please email Janet.vonberg53@gmail.com, or ring 07850 267091)



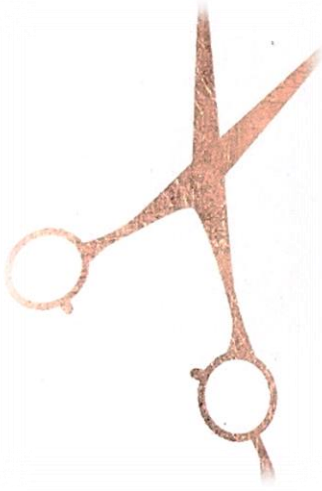
May Acrostic Poems....by Sally Hayward

As the word May only has three letters Sally has given us three acrostics.

May, we are
Almost half - way through the
Year already.

Many
Anniversaries, Birthdays are celebrated throughout the
Year.

Many
Animals wake up from hibernation & farmers are busy at this time of
Year.



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DIGNITY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS



May 2026

(Joining Zoom details on Ewelme Benefice website)



Saturday 2nd May

7pm Julius and Dora Charity Quiz in the Parish Centre

Sunday 3rd May – 5th Sunday of Easter

10am Parish Holy Communion at St James

Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday – OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday 6th May

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 7th May

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Friday 9th May

3.45pm Gloucestershire Organists Association at St James

Sunday 10th May – 6th Sunday of Easter

10am Parish Holy Communion Service at St James

6.30pm Churches Together Christian Aid Service

Tuesday 12th May

2pm Communion at Holly Oak Care Home

Wednesday 13th May

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 14th May – Ascension Day

OFFICE CLOSED

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

11.15am Communion at Henlow Court Care Home

7.30pm Parish Holy Communion for Ascension Day

Friday 15th May

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday 16th May

9-12noon Bring and Take event

4.50-5.50 UBSCR Bellringers

Sunday 17th May

- 8am Said Holy Communion at St James
- 10am Reflective Worship at St James
- 11.30am APCM at St James
- 10am Shine! Informal worship at Dursley Academy CofE School

Wednesday 20th May

- 11am Burial of Joan Spilsbury's ashes at Kingshill Cemetery
- 6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 21st May

- 9am Morning Prayer in St James
- 10am Holy Communion at St James

Sunday 24th May – Pentecost Sunday

- 10am Benefice Holy Communion at St James, Dursley
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 25th May

Bank Holiday – OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday 26th May

- 2pm Communion at The Hollies Care Home

Wednesday 27th May

- 6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 28th May

- 9am Morning Prayer in St James
- 10am Holy Communion at St James

Saturday 30th May

- 9.30am Plant Stall at St James
- 10.30am Coffee, Cake and Music.
Recitalist – Tim Selman.

Sunday 31st May – Trinity Sunday

- 10am Parish Holy Communion at St James, Dursley
- 1.30pm Open Garden at 52 Woodmancote, Dursley

The window in the Tanner Chapel showing the Ascension



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JUST SAYING.....by Jennifer Kendrick



At the real risk of being pilloried, pitied, criticised and challenged, I feel it's time to say, loud and clear, I would welcome having a choice in when to die.

Now 89 years old, my life has been long, not always straightforward or trouble free, but, strengthened by my simple faith, richly rewarding, and I still have things to do!

Currently I am looking for a keyboard to exercise stiff fingers and, hopefully, resume the piano playing I loved long ago.

I have ordered an antique rocking horse to be fully restored to fulfil my only unrequited childhood dream of magic moments galloping away like the cow who jumped over the moon!

My kitchen has recently had a gentle refit to make my favourite hobby of cooking less irksome! New lights, eye-level fridge and an air fryer to replace an old clumsy oven, all so satisfactory and exciting.

No longer able to tend my garden, I have teamed up with professionals and, together, we will have fun in my special, small corner of England! I feel closer to God's heart in the garden, than anywhere else on earth, as the saying goes!

The only trouble is, my heart is worn out and cannot keep pace with all this activity, so the smallest task takes me time to do and even longer to recover! The rest of me, having been miraculously repaired and restored many times over the years, is fine considering the relentless wear and tear of a lifetime of careless action, thankfully devoid of health and safety limits!

My neighbours are wonderful, and friends call by for catch-ups. Happy with my own company, I am never lonely and have plenty of interests to pursue in my cosy home, although, it must be said, this winter has been challenging for us all, and I am thankful, to resume regular, local daily toddles as the clocks have sprung forward, giving daylight saving. All we need is the bitter winds to move away allowing the sun to warm us through!

The ongoing monitoring I have from the GP surgery is complete, caring and totally understanding that I am resistant to any heroics to keep me alive by artificial means.

My loving and devoted children, scattered globally and approaching retirement, I know constantly have half an eye on airline schedules, in case of need to be suddenly called back to the UK for an emergency! Even the younger family members living closer, are juggling busy

lives, demanding jobs and child rearing, but find time to visit now and then.

I want for nothing, except for certainty about when my life will end. Of course, it is all in the Lord's hands and I pray for sufficient notice to have just enough time for my loved ones to be gathered round me in everlasting thanksgiving and praise that, together, we can share a last supper and celebrate my time on earth. Then I can climb Jacob's Ladder for new beginnings, or rest in peace in eternity, job done! Win, win, either way. It's only a case of whenand I must be patient about that, pace myself, and carry on, mindful each day, of all my blessings. Having travelled far and wide, I know that being alive, full of positive thought, free of painful persecution, and able to speak freely without fear is a privilege often cruelly denied to people, regardless of circumstances. I give thanks to God for sparing me for so long, and am quite ready to move on when, eventually, He calls my name.

PLEASE REMEMBER *by Jennifer Kendrick.*

A long time ago and far, far away
In a land that nobody knows,
A huge, humble, bee landed,
Plop, on a beautiful rose.
Nicely, precisely with infinite grace
It settled sedately and soon found a place
Safely, secure and, ready to rest
It snuggled up, happy as a bird in a nest.
Its body was covered in pollen just fine,
Pure and unblemished, tasting like wine,
But the bee had no notion, so vital its role:
To be sharing and caring was its only goal.



May we remember as we blunder about
In careless confusion, confounded by doubt,
Each human matters, and every insect and flower
Needs our mindful reaction, each day, every hour.
We are careless and selfish and greedy,
Intent on emptying life's shelves,
Forgetting the climate is changing and
We have no body to blame, but ourselves!

JENNIFER KENDRICK
invites you to
A BREATHING SPACE
at 21 Upper Poole Road, Dursley
on any Tuesday in May 2026
between 2pm and 4.30pm
whatever the weather.

**No speaker, agenda, entertainment or
charge!**
Just free time!

Please bring your own picnic and drink.

A small stool might be useful to sit on!
More details. Call Jennifer
Mob 07905 111039.



Light Lent Lunches.....

Photos by Cynthia Martin.



These were served on Mondays throughout Lent. Cynthia and Anthea organised it with help from many people in the congregation, who laid tables, served and then washed up. Many thanks to them all.

The sessions were well attended and people generously donated £1440 plus Gift Aid, towards the various charities supported by the Ministry Team.





First course was soup and bread, followed by yummy



cakes and tea or coffee. As you can see there was not much left at the end.



Thy Kingdom Come 2026: 'God with us'**From 14 to 24 May 2026, Christians around the world will once again unite in prayer as part of Thy Kingdom Come.**

This year's theme, 'God with us', focuses on the presence of God through His spirit. It reminds us that God is not distant but involved in the everyday moments of our lives – in both joy and sorrow and everything in between.

Taking place during the eleven days between Ascension Day and Pentecost, this global movement invites us to pray for more people to come to know Jesus, while also renewing our own faith in the power of prayer.

Throughout these eleven days, Christians are invited to take part in daily reflections, drawing on stories from scripture such as the story of Ruth and the story of Gideon. Each is intended to reveal something of God's transformative presence, faithfulness and power that's at work in ordinary people and situations.

As we reflect and pray, we are invited to recognise that same presence at work in our own lives and communities. At its heart is an invitation to pray each day for five people we know - whether it be friends, family, neighbours or colleagues – that they might encounter the love of Christ.

As churches and individuals across our diocese and beyond join in, this is an opportunity to come together with a shared purpose, trusting that God is at work in the lives of those we hold before Him.

Whether you are new to prayer or have taken part in previous years, Thy Kingdom Come offers a fresh opportunity to join this global wave of prayer. Individuals, households and churches are all encouraged to take part in ways that feel natural and meaningful to them – through personal devotion, small groups, or gathered worship.

To help individuals and churches get involved this year, there are a range of free resources on the Thy Kingdom Come website to help guide you through; this includes daily prayer resources (Novena) written by Archbishop Sarah Mullally, a 2026 prayer journal, and practical ideas for ways your church can take part → visit <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources-0>





WORD OF THE MONTH – APRIL.

Laggard: moving at a slow rate.

As usual some interesting entries:

Something on laggard. Should I have sent it late??

If I sometimes drop behind,
I hope you will not really mind.
If I go slow and thus delay,
I hope you will not turn and say,
"You really are a dreadful blackguard -
A lazy slowcoach and a laggard!"

Can Richard

When my brother and I used to walk home from Church School, my mother said "You have dawdled home" We laughed - she called us Laggards.

Paul P

Keeping Up

Cap - Worn on your head
Salty - Taste of bacon
Tea - A lovely brew in a china cup
Ghost - Beings in a haunted house
Goat - Pet with horns - given to butting
Buzzing - Bumble Bee's sound
Woke - Awake from sleep
Peeps - Taking a quick look

All wrong according to the younger generation. These, and many other words have completely different meanings, all alien to me!

Ah! Well: I'll have to admit to being a laggard when it comes to communicating with modern day youth!

Jean Gardiner

AND THE WINNER IS.....

We thought all the entries were all very good and conveyed the meaning of the word but after much deliberation we have chosen this lovely poem by Roland, this is his first entry. Congratulations.

As I stroll through a carpet of bluebells,
in a wood that is older than time
each shade of green there has ever been
flirts with these eyes of mine.
I dawdle on through springtime
happy to be by myself.
A snail pace dreamer, a Laggard.
Oblivious to time itself.

Roland Swift

Valerie, Clare and Judith



WORD OF THE MONTH COMPETITION FOR MAY

Each Month there will be a new word which we need you to fit into a sentence. The sentence, which best conveys the meaning of the word and will be judged by the editors and Benefice Administrator, will be the winner. There will be a small prize.

The word for May is Loquacious which means talkative
Send entries to the Office, Valerie or Judith by 20th

The Saturday Sale (short story) by Elizabeth Oakley



It was good to be able to access the book exchange on a Saturday. Less trees (with print) must go into landfill that way. It was a re-cycling of the mind too. You could get through a few books in a week and take them back the next. A six-day window into the written word. In order to speed things up, she had a system. Either she would open each book at random and start from there, or start at page 21 once the plot had got going. Along the way, as soon as the plot stalled, she would flip to the very end and then back to the beginning of the first few of the very last pages. Perhaps, all in all, these systems were a practical argument for the revival of the short story.

The books also persuaded her that between hearth and home, and home and the book sale, there were other lives to be lived. But she often felt the writers had missed something. Despite all the adventures described, they did not cover routines in real time unless the character was thinking of something exceptional at the same time as emptying the laundry basket. So stories were heightened experiences with much of the routine missed out but hopefully the meaning put in. Then again, perhaps it was her fault for dipping and diving into the books. Unlike the laundry basket stories were not intended for the application of her special systems.

So time for reform. She dutifully used her short system for the first half of the next week, and then switched to an A to Z system for the second half of the same week. Slower and less trees for re-cycling this way. But it was as well to be more respectful of the writer and observant of all their details before returning their books to the Saturday exchange sale.





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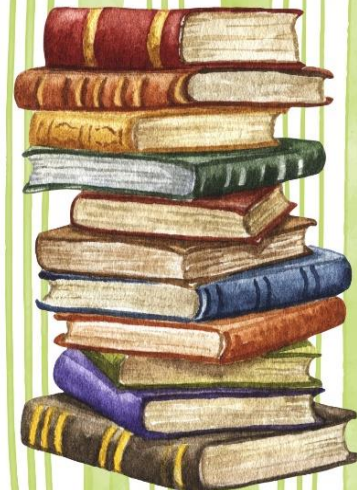
St James the Great, Dursley

Free Books

Here Every Saturday from 9am

ALL BOOKS ARE FREE

Everyone is welcome to come in



**Please leave book donations at the
back of church**

Anne Easey RIP.....Can Richard writes.....

The funeral of the late Anne Easey was held at St. James' on 13th April, and was attended by a large congregation of relations and friends, including those connected by being close neighbours, by the dance which was her great interest and skill, by the Dursley Operatic and Dramatic Society, by the Church, and by the Inner Wheel.

We gave thanks:

For the family love during her upbringing in Bradford,
and her coming safely through World War 2:

For the love she gave and received
as a daughter, sister, including with her identical twin, Shirley,
wife, mother to James and Andrew, and grandmother:

For her loving marriage to Mike,
and for their homes in Hampshire and in Dursley,

especially for the home in Five Acres where they
lived so long:

For her dancing, as a child, as a Tiller Girl
and as a performer and teacher of ballet and tap
over so many years, especially in her dancing
school in Dursley and around,

for the DODS, and even at Moreton Hill Home,
and for her work as an examiner of dance school
exams:

For her membership, service to and enjoyment of
the DODS

and the Inner Wheel,

and the wonderful friendships she made there:

For her worship at the tabernacle

and St. James' Church here in Dursley,

and her faith in you.

For the care she received in her last years at Moreton Hill Home.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

May her family find comfort.



Joan Spilsbury RIP...

(long time member of St Mark's Church)



Notes from her son David's eulogy.

He began by firstly thanking everyone for being there for Joan's funeral which took place at Torquay crematorium, and he thanked his brother Andrew for making the funeral arrangements. The service was well attended by her family who all found the service, planned in advance by Joan, appropriate and very moving.

'It means a great deal to Andrew and I that we are here to celebrate our wonderful Mum's life ... and what a life.

Mum lived until the impressive age of 97 and within her lifetime was a loved wife, treasured mum, granny, great grandma, sister, auntie and friend to so many. Mum outlived most of them but we would like to remember a few, our father Ted with whom she was happily married for 28 years, her sister in law Bon and husband Bob who were a great support to her after losing dad (and where the family get the infamous phrase 'an uncle bob plate'), much loved sister in law Dorothy, school friend Nancy, lifelong nursing friends Bev and Marion and later in life, companion Frank.

Mum will be remembered by everyone that knew her for her kindness, her quiet strength, her caring nature and for her frequent and infectious smile. I have spoken to many friends and family over the past few weeks and they have unanimously said what a special person our Mum was.

Mums' younger days were spent in the family run pub, the Railway, in Cam which is still there today. As a young girl mum used to throw crab apples to spook the customers and American soldiers that frequented the establishment, winning extra points to land one in a pint glass.

Mum's father had a rather unique dual role of both publican and optician. Her mother, who sadly passed away when Mum and brother David were very young, was one of the first women to obtain a degree in Music.

In testament to Mum's caring nature she went on to study nursing and qualified as a SRN. She practiced at Bristol Royal Infirmary and later as a district nurse. She was a dedicated and resilient practitioner even contracting TB in her nursing duties.

Mum and Dad were married in 1953. Her brother David recalled them courting. One summer day, as a protective and heroic younger brother, he decided to follow the young love birds, to make sure that this boyfriend was treating his older sister Joan well. However, the young

hero was outwitted by our dad who kindly offered to buy David an ice-cream. A generous and thoughtful gesture thought David, however when he emerged from the shop, delicious ice-cream in hand, to his dismay there was no sign of his sister or her future husband. Fortunately, this charming ice-cream buyer transpired to be our Mum's loving husband and father of Andrew and I.

As well as working as a nurse our mum also later worked in a plant nursery. Mum loved nature. She had a tremendous passion and extensive knowledge of plants and birds and it's a love that has been passed on to members of her family including Andrew becoming a horticultural botanist, and we will continue to think of her in our gardens and in moments of noticing the beauty of the nature that surrounds us.

Mum was an active and devout Christian, attending and latterly helping to run St Marks church, in Dursley. Her church friends have asked to be remembered and will attend her interment in Dursley on 20th May at 11am at Kingshill Cemetery.

Dursley was a happy home for mum and she had a loving community of friends and close by to her brother David and nieces Bridget, Gill, Georgie and Jackie - who helped her enormously particularly during covid.

The final chapter of her life was at Westlands care home in Teignmouth where she was looked after by professional and caring staff. The staff found her charming and she was very loved. She received regular visits from family, including her great grandson Sidney. She passed away peacefully on the 28th of February.

To summarise - Mum had a wonderful life, she was deeply loved by her family and friends. She walked through the world in contentment, without expectation, with gratitude and grace. We will carry her with us in our hearts and aspire to have a fraction of the twinkle of her infamous smile'.

Philip and I certainly remember Joan, from St Mark's days,. with much affection, a gentle, caring lady, who didn't push forward but would always help when asked. Judith

Joan's interment of ashes will be at the Kingshill cemetery at 11.00am on Wednesday May 26th May 2026. It will be a very simple interment, with a small number of close relatives, and if anyone who knew Joan in Dursley would like to come they would be most welcome.

Years Mind in May

1st Betty Evans 2020; Joan Smith 2023, Andrew Parsons 2007
2nd Philip Bazeley 2016; Margaret Atkinson 2022
3rd James Houghton 1999
6th Marjorie Selman 2016; Dave Fittall 2021
7th Gwen Thomas 2020; Len Frost 2025
8th Kathleen Woodward 2003
9th Florence Tavender 1999; Cicely Weaving 2022
10th Emily Houghton 2001; Bryan Auger 2011; Kathleen Foster 2021
13th Aaron Woollam 1981
14th Joyce Staddon 2006; Marian Harrold 2010; Doreen Beardsley 2017
15th Ojars Zamkevics 2008
16th James Exell 1999
17th Kathleen Miles 2017
20th Eric Averiss 2021
21st Mary Joseph 2005; Gillian Davis 2022
22nd Eric Hinder 2000; Terry Hodge 2014; Ursula Woodward 2000
23rd Sydney Walker 2003; Pixie McVicar 2020; Lionel Jones 2025
24th Tom Ryan 2003, Marion Osgood 2025
25th Arthur Skinner 1998
26th Barbara Halford 2019

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unwell,
at home or in hospital
Please contact the
Revd Dr Juliet Jensen.



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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.



Banns read in April at St James

Suzanna Young & Darren Crosbee
Alina Szajer & Matthew Chinnick

FUNERAL SERVICES:

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

13th April Funeral of Anne Easey

28th April Memorial service for Malcolm Miles

30th April Funeral of David Jewell

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May 3rd, 10th and 17th

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Tanner Chapel Kim Pugh

Lady Chapel Clare White

Pentecost

May 24th and 31st

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Tanner Chapel Valerie Meares

Lady Chapel Sarah Hodge

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Font Ann Orchard

Hymnbook Chest Kate Sant

Porch Sheila Gardner

Nave Pillar Anthea Fittall





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