

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

Rector: Revd Juliet Jensen 01453 350810

Parish Office 01453 549280

www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

**Services for Sunday 28th December 2025
First Sunday of Christmas**

St Giles, Uley

10am

Benefice Holy Communion
Revd Ian Gardner

Collect

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

First Reading: Isaiah 63: 7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us,
and the great favour to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
For he said, 'Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely';
and he became their saviour in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved
them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he
lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the
heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and
they were created.

He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds,
which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all
deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling
his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers
of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is
exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his

faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!

Second Reading: Hebrews 2: 10-end

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things
exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the
pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the
one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one
Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them
brothers and sisters, saying,

'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the
midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

And again, 'I will put my trust in him.'

And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has
given me.'

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he
himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death
he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is,
the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in
slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not
come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.
Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in
every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high
priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement
for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by
what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being
tested.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-end.

Now after the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord
appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the
child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there
until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to
destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his
mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there
until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been
spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I
have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise
men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the
children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old
or under, according to the time that he had learned from
the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken
through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud
lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused
to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly
appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up,
take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel,
for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then
Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to
the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was
ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was
afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he
went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his
home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been
spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be
called a Nazorean.'

Intercessions

We pray for those who are ill at this time or in other forms of
need, especially those we know. We remember Anne,
Margaret, Bob, Albie, Carol, Sam, Jane, Marion, Charlie and
Rita. Be with them in their suffering, support and comfort them
and give them peace of mind in times of trouble.

We give thanks for the lives of Mary Fisher and Dr Mary
Wotton, recently departed, and we pray for their families
and friends.

Post Communion Prayer.

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home,
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Evening Prayer will be suspended until 7th January

Services for 4th January 2026 Epiphany

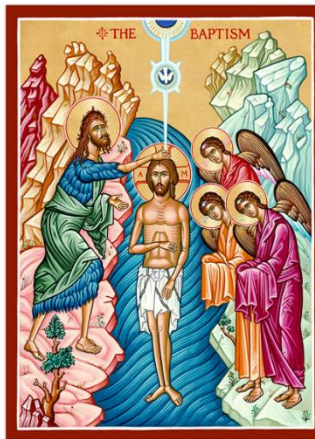
St James, Dursley

10am Parish Holy Communion

St Bartholomew's, Nympsfield

10am Parish Holy Communion

***The office will be closed until
2nd January.***



Safeguarding Officers

Heather Arnold

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Pat Jones

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01453 860696

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Second Sunday

9.45am 11th January

at St Giles

The service will begin with
refreshments and will explore

Baptism: why do it and what might it
mean?

All Welcome

St Giles Church, Uley

Sunday Music at

St Giles

"It's Bonkers"

4 piece Band

Sunday 18th January



3pm

Free, informal concert in
church followed by tea, cake &
a chance to chat
Donations welcome

St James the Great, Dursley

**Epiphany Carol
Service**

6.30pm

Sunday 11th January 2026



**Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the
glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

Isaiah 60: 1

St James the Great, Dursley

Presents...

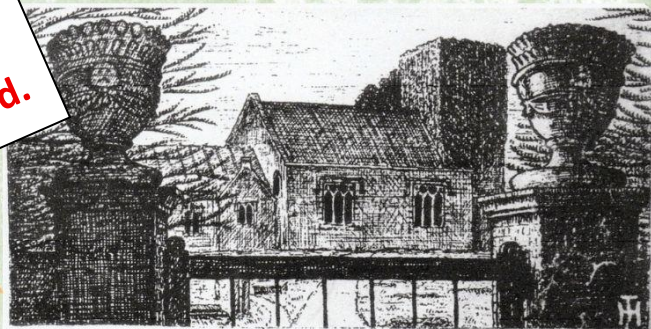
Twelfth Night with Thomas Hardy

Tuesday 6th January 2026
7.30pm

Christmas scenes from Thomas Hardy
brought to life with singing and
dancing to a folk band; diary readings
and poems; and the Waterley Bottom
Mummers.

Tickets are
£10 each and £8 for concessions.

**This is a ticketed event,
please contact Clare if
you would like to attend.**



Contact Clare ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com
for tickets.

Quiz Night

17th January, 7pm



**Providing a loving home for abandoned
babies in Maseno, Kenya**

St James Parish Centre, Dursley

Teams of up to 6

Tickets- £10

**To book or join a team contact
chrismorgan194@btinternet.com**

**Includes Ploughman's
supper, please bring your
own drinks.**