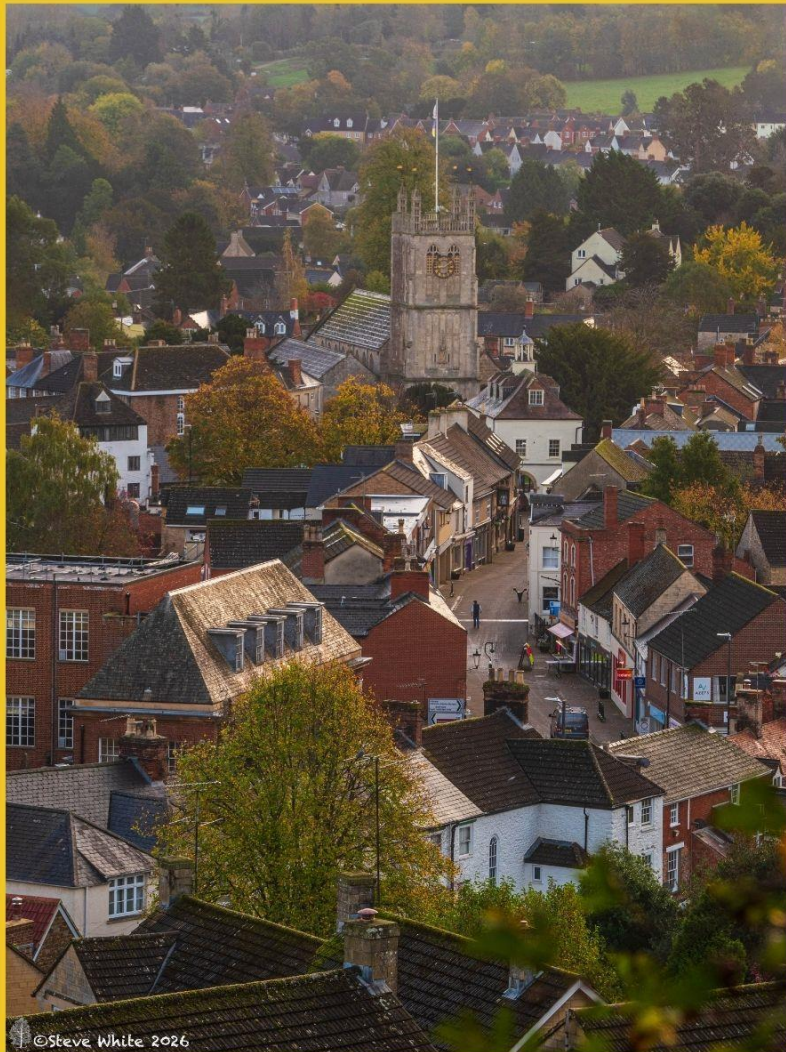


The Messenger

October 2026

The Parish Of Dursley



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Looking down Parsonage Street
to St James the Great.

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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 October edition of the Messenger.

Well at last everything has greened up thanks to some much-needed rain, although I suspect shortly we will say that's enough, bring back the sun.

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 of
Looking down Parsonage Street
towards St James Church.*

*A View of Dursley from
by ©Steve White*



OCTOBER 2026

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DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER 2026 ISSUE

IS SUNDAY 13th OCTOBER 2026



SAFEGUARDING

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Revd Canon Richard writes...

Dear Friends,

This year is seeing the introduction in the Anglican, Roman Catholic and many other churches of a new liturgical season, the Season of Creation, running from September 1st to October 4th, St. Francis of Assisi's Day. I assume its colour will be green, so no extra work for sacristans!

It calls us to give thanks to God for creation and to appreciate all that is good in the creation – colours, shapes, landscapes, plants and animals and human beings. In Genesis 1, the Bible begins with a liturgy of praise which affirms the goodness of creation – light and darkness, sky and earth, sea and land, plants, sun, moon and stars, sea creatures, birds and animals, wild and tame, including creeping things – insects etc., and humans. All is very good. And humans are given power over it in Genesis 1, but in Genesis 2 they are the gardeners, to till and keep the earthly creation.

The creation season calls us to appreciation, praise and thanks, for creation, but also to care for it. So it is about praying for the creation and asking guidance as to how to care for it. And, as our human record of care has not always been good, to confess our failure to care for creation through greed, arrogance, carelessness and lack of concern.

The Season of Creation thus points us to God as creator. Creation can help show us God and help us love God. Some see the creation as the great evidence for God and how we know God. I wonder. The creation as we see it is ambiguous. We have brought many disasters on ourselves by the abuse of nature, but earthquakes, many diseases, and so on are not caused by humans. Such things, we think, happened long before humans appeared. Genesis 1 describes a world without carnivores, but scientists think animals have been carnivorous for aeons, and mass extinctions occurred long before humans. Perhaps it is no wonder that the first heretics denied God could have created the physical world!

So how does creation show us God? John Keble wrote a poem about creation doing this, whose first verse thus describes the creation and how it shows us God:

'There is a book, who runs may read,
Which heavenly truth imparts,
And all the lore its scholars need,
Pure eyes and Christian hearts.'

It is through Jesus that we know creation aright, and we know how God cares for creation and what creation shows us of God.

Genesis 1 is the beginning of the Bible. Perhaps it is meant to be seen as an introduction to the whole book, and an introduction can be a summary of it all, or describe the goal of the book's subject. A world of total peace and harmony, where there is no death, and no preying on one another, is the vision of Isaiah 11. The Letter to the Hebrews sees the dominion of humans as given to the true human, the Son of Man, Jesus Christ. Our faith in the goodness of creation must be based on our faith in God's salvation through Christ, who entered creation, born as one of us, took on creation's evils including death and overcame them in love. Through him God pours out the Spirit of reconciliation, love and life. Christ will come again and complete creation in a new heaven and earth, the renewal of all things. So he will bring Genesis 1 into fullness.

All the Church's seasons, then, are seasons of creation – Jesus' birth at Christmas where God enters fully into the creation – and where not just humans but animals are drawn to him. St. Francis introduced depictions of the stable in cribs, but the ox and ass which appear there are prophesied in Isaiah 1! In Jesus' baptism water is used; the Spirit appears like a dove. Mark says Jesus was with the wild beasts in his temptations. He spoke of God's concern for the sparrows and the beauty of the lilies in his ministry. He shared all creation's death by his cross, and so he rose and ascended body and soul, as representative and forerunner of humans and all physical living beings. [Good Friday, Easter, Ascension] He sent the Spirit who is life giver in creation. [Pentecost] He will come again to renew all creation. [Advent]

Why are there evils in the world? Genesis 2 sees this as a result of rebellion against God, by Adam and Eve, but also by the snake. I don't suppose physical snakes are the source of all evil, but the serpent is a picture of great spirits, fallen angels, and a revolt of such powers may indeed be the best description we can give of the evils in creation. In effect, this suggests evils are the result of a similar rebellion to human sin. Why should God allow this? The Bible implies God gives creation a certain freedom and integrity which he will respect, not swallowing

creation up, as it were. In Christ, God enters creation to save it, to bring it to its goal while respecting its integrity, to its true goal and fulfilment in a unity of love with himself.

I suppose that, for many of us, our pets' relationship with us gives us a sense of the goodness of creation, and of its love and beauty.

St. Francis is famous for his care for animals – preaching to the birds, who responded, and having the Gubbio wolf as a pet – how an example of a fierce bit of nature could be transformed. So it's good to have a pet service this year on 3rd October, the eve of St. Francis's Day, as a sort of climax to our keeping the Season of Creation. Everyone is welcome, with or without pets of their own.

St James the Great, Dursley

Pet Service

5.30pm on
Saturday 3rd October 2026

All pets welcome, dogs must be on a lead and other animals in pet carriers.

Please bring your owner too!



SAFEGUARDING

Heather Arnold is the Safeguarding Officer for the Parish of Dursley

Tel: 07757 468371

Email: arnoldheather@icloud.com



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If people are in need, unwell,
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Please contact the
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Tel: 01453 350810 or 07776 910890



October thoughts from The Benefice Office... *by Clare White*

Autumn has come around again and we enjoy the beautiful colours of our trees, sadly very damaged from our long hot summer.

Mum and I read the version of the Lord's prayer at our last Reflective Worship service. Mum really loves this version as it makes you think about what you're actually saying.

How many times have we been at a service and stopped to really look at the words and not just say them by rote?

I love the Eucharist service here at St James but also enjoy our Reflective Worship services because they are always different and make you look at a subject from a different angle.

Does our faith become a habit or are we constantly questioning what it's all about, growing and changing?

As lifelong Christians we're in danger of just doing what we've always done, unlike our recent confirmation candidates, of which some of them are new to faith and have made the decision to find out more, through questioning our clergy, reading or joining a study group to explore faith. I met three of the candidates whilst we ran an online Pilgrim course. The six-week course asked these questions-

Do you turn to Christ?

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit

Do you repent of sin?

Do you renounce evil?

Quite hard topics for new or exploring Christians. We do need to start somewhere though and these questions are a good start for a Christian pilgrimage and help to develop your faith.

The pilgrimage is the journey that we all take throughout our lives. Sometimes we are walking, running or swimming through it and sometimes we're just sat on a bench looking at it and trying to find the bit of the path we'd like to step onto.

In Philippians 4, verse 6 we are told not to worry about anything, but to let our requests be made known to God.

When Jesus instructs us to ask, seek, and knock, he based this invitation on the generous heart of our Father (Matthew 7:7-11).

When he tells us not to worry, he reasons that our Father wants to



take care of us. Because our God loves us, we can ask him for whatever we need to support our journey and put our trust in him.

So shall we just say the words or look at them in a new light and take faith from God our Father as we work our way along our Christian journey?

A prayer...

God, show me how you are leading me to learn and grow in faith so that I can be more effective as well as bring you glory. May I be able to share with all my faith community wherever I meet them. Grant that we will be able to take your light to all who seek to know the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Autumn

When hedgerows bleed with hips and haws
And prickly holly evergreen
When silken cobwebs lace the walls
And bobbing sparrows puff and preen.
When beech leaves tint a golden brown
And pinewoods lean against the wind
When plough men shape the furrowed ground
And all the harvest gathered in.
And all around is red and gold
And gone is summer's warm embrace
Early morning fresh and cold
And chapels filled with songs and grace.
When dewdrops glaze the purple sloes
That bitter grape of England's vine
When blackthorn sways with rooks and crows
And cupboards smell of country wine.
When steel grey evening streaks the sky
With pink and red as sunset wanes
And wily fox is all about
Through hedgerow, barn and country lanes
When local tippers hog the fire
And chilly nighttime spits with rain
And wily fox is all about
Through hedgerow, barn and country lane

Roland Swift



St James the Great, Dursley
Harvest Festival

10am
11th October 2026

**A collection will be made and
donated to
GARAS and The Food Bank**

See list of essential items

Harvest Lunch at St James

12 noon Sunday 11th October 2026

In the Parish Centre

Please volunteer if you can make a salad or a fruit pie



All are welcome

Items needed-

Tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits for drop in; and toiletries (particularly sanitary towels). Any of these

Food, household goods and toiletries:

- tinned tomatoes
- tinned pasta
- rice
- tinned chickpeas
- tinned fish
- New or nearly new kettles, toasters & microwaves
- Other kitchen items, such as crockery, cutlery, saucepans
- Toiletries, including sanitary towels

Educational materials for English classes:

- Pens
- Dictionaries:
 - Arabic-English dictionary
 - English-Farsi picture dictionary
 - Amharic-English dictionary
 - Tigrinya-English dictionary
 - Oxford Essential Dictionary(aimed at those learning English also available on Ebay)
- English Ukrainian Bilingual Visual Dictionary

Rucksacks (daysacks)

Footballs, sizes 3, 4 and 5

Laptops & tablets: laptops and tablets.





MUSIC NOTES FOR OCTOBER

The term “musical treat” is often used, but seldom was it more true than in describing Jill Crossland's piano recital on 13th September. I cannot remember attending a recital of such virtuosity and skill since my student days when we were extremely fortunate in being in the company of some of the greatest names in the world of music.

Jill's programme of Bach, Beethoven and Chopin was a *tour de force* where the technical skills needed were sublimated by the way in which the music itself shone through. There were no showmanship gestures and exaggerated postures, the music itself was the focus. A self-effacing and amazingly musically communicative musician, Jill really put our fine Bluthner piano through its paces with a vast range of dynamics from whisper soft through mighty crescendos which filled the building.

I came across a review of a similar concert given by Jill, and it really applies to what we heard.

“To my mind Jill loves playing music for itself – for structure and articulacy, not using the piano for display. “Music should speak and transport people.” With Jill you’re not pinned to the wall by an ego; she’s not a note-machine. “It’s improvisatory, I feed off the occasion, and I like to feel that it’s not going to be another performance.”

Later I learned that, as a student at the Royal Northern College of Music, she was able to play all of JS Bach's “Forty-eight Preludes and Fugues” from memory! I hope she will be able to come and play for us again in the near future. If she does, make sure the date is in your diary as live performances of this standard are seldom heard outside our major concert venues. Yes, indeed it was a real treat.

Our final Coffee, Cake and Music Organ recital (October 31st) is to be given by Bernard West making a return visit. For many years Bernard, a former Cambridge organ scholar, was Director of Music at Shipton-under Wychwood in Oxfordshire where my late brother was a chorister and PCC secretary. Bernard is now “freelance” and helps out in the Oxford area.



Music for October

- 5th am Litany of the Holy Spirit – Hurford
Hereford Service – Richard Lloyd
- 11th am The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God – Haydn
(Harvest) Organ Mass – Haydn
- pm Thou Visitest the Earth – Greene Reading Responses
For the Beauty of the Earth – Rutter Sumsion in A
- 18th Service of the Word
- 25th am Benefice service at Uley
- pm Lord for they Tender Mercies' Sake – Farrant
Smith Responses
How Beautiful Upon the Mountains – Stainer Ireland in F

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
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October 31st Bernard West
(Oxford)



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Bellringing *by Frank Byrne*

Congratulations to one of our ringers, Daphne La Roux, on ringing her first quarter peal. This was rung at Berkeley. We often share ringers in this way. The quarter peal was particularly noteworthy because it contained several other 'firsts'.



Berkeley, Glos. St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 13 September 2026 in 41 minutes

1260 Changes of Bob Doubles

- 1 Jo Albon
- 2 Steve Chandler
- 3 Timothy P T Soanes
- 4 Jasmine Widdas
- 5 Lilia Widdas (Conductor)
- 6 Daphne Le Roux

First attempt 6

First as conductor 5

First away from cover 1

First as a family 1, 4 and 5



Band for Berkeley quarter peal L-R, 1-6

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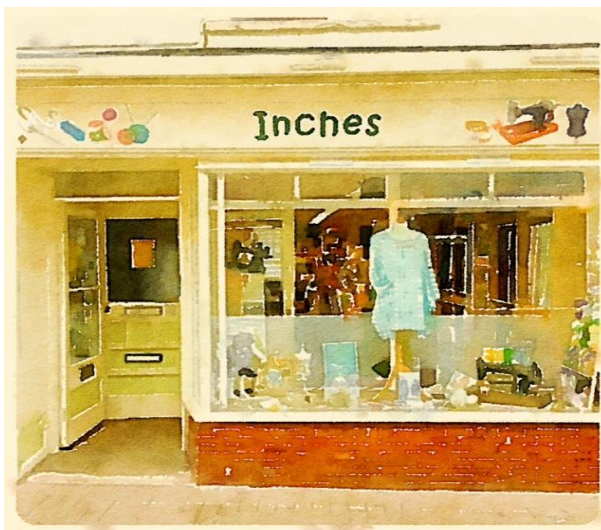
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Information on the local 'buses....by David Smith



Recently I was asked by a member of the St James church congregation about how to use the local bus services. More and more older people are finding car driving difficult for a number of reasons. Is the bus an alternative? I am semi-retired from active campaigning for better public transport but thought the following could be useful:

Destinations from Dursley Town Centre.

Uley, Selsey, Stroud. 65 and 65X. Bus from Sainsbury's stop. Hourly during the day.

Cam, Cambridge, Eastington, Stonehouse, Standish, Gloucester. 65 and 65X. Bus from opposite Sainsbury's stop. Hourly during the day.

Cam and Dursley Station. 65 and 65X. Bus from opposite Sainsbury's stop. Only early morning and early evening buses.

Woodmancote. The 65 Stroud bus about every 2 hours.

Nymphsfield. The Stroud bus about every 2 hours.

The Vale Hospital. 60 and 207 buses from the Bus Station. Infrequent service.

North Nibley, Wotton, Charfield, Thornbury. 60 bus from the Bus Station. Infrequent service.

Berkeley, Thornbury. 207 bus from the bus station. Infrequent service.

Bristol. No direct service but connections at Thornbury.

Highfields Garden Centre. No direct bus but can be reached using the 65 Gloucester bus and changing at Stonehouse.

Bus passes can be used. Maximum single fare is currently £3. Dursley Library can supply timetable booklets. Bus times can also be found at bustimes.org

The Berkeley Robin On-Demand bus service. This can be used to reach places in Stroud District which do not have a frequent bus service. There are some exceptions including Frampton on Severn.

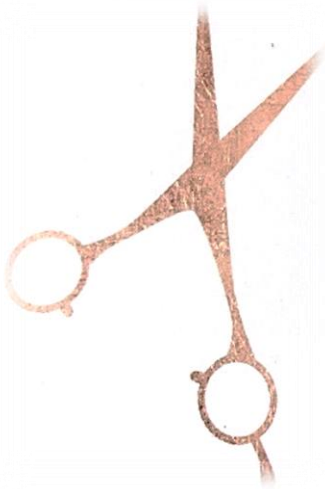
Places have to be booked in advance.

Pickup and drop-off points are at most recognised bus stops. Phone 0345 263.8139 or online at

gloucestershire.gov.uk/therobin

I think that this information is accurate but please check before travelling.





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DIGNITY
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October 2026

(Joining Zoom details on Ewelme Benefice website)

Thursday 1st

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

Saturday 3rd

9-12 Fairtrade Event in St James.

9.30am Bellringers peal attempt

5.30pm Pet Service

Sunday 4th – 18th Sunday after Trinity

10am Parish Holy Communion

Wednesday 7th

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 8th

9am Morning Prayer in St James
10am Holy Communion at St James
11.15am Communion at Henlow Court Care Home

Sunday 11th – 19th Sunday after Trinity

10am Harvest Festival
12pm Harvest Lunch in the Parish Centre
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 13th

2.30pm Communion at Holly Oak Care home

Wednesday 14th

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 15th

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

Sunday 18th – 20th Sunday after Trinity

8am Said Holy Communion at St James
10am Reflective Worship Service at St James
10am Shine! at Dursley Academy School

Tuesday 20th

6pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday 21st

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 22nd

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Saturday 24th

7pm Julius and Dora Quiz in the Parish Centre

British Summer time ends.

Sunday 25th – Last Sunday after Trinity

10am Benefice Holy Communion at St Giles, Uley

6.30pm Choral evensong

Tuesday 27th

2.30pm Communion at the Hollies Care Home

Wednesday 28th

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 29th

9am Morning prayer

10am Communion

Saturday 31st

10.30am Coffee, Cake and Music



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Most months we organise to go out
to lunch after the meeting.
We have Coffee Mornings most months.
You will in fact find many contacts in
St James on a Sunday.

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON
Wednesday 21st October**

Speaker: Paul Murphy on the Von Trapp Family.

Contacts:

President:

Glenys Muir 01453 543391

Secretaries:

Val Sheen 07842 427452

Judith Staddon 01453 544312

CHANGE OF LIFE....*by Jennifer Kendrick*



I am rapidly learning that aging can be physically hard and emotional draining, however one tackles it!

After all, my beloved Bristol Granny (the one with the wonderfully wobbly, untethered bosoms, whiskery chin, and eyes that resembled pools of glistening diamonds) was always making me giggle. Her floaty skirts disguised the fact that she, in her very early sixties, was cruelly crippled and permanently confined to a chair by arthritis. There was no lasting relief from pain or National Care Service, and her diet was most restricted due to diabetes, but she never complained.

By the time I was in training on an orthopaedic ward, she had died. Hip replacement surgery was in its infancy and I was so wrapped up in using my nursing skills to get patients well and walking, it never occurred to me that they had suffered and the idea of new life waiting for them away from the hospital was truly miraculous.

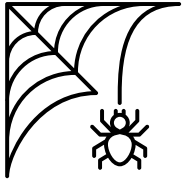
My own replacement hips are 20 years old and show no signs of giving up, but sadly other body bits are less resilient and my heart, almost 90 years old, is worn out! Relentless shoulder pain makes everything an exhausting chore! Doctors are kind but restricted.

I constantly count my blessings, I am especially thankful for recent surgery for removal of cataracts which has freed my eyes to pick up colour and detail that I had no idea existed.

Currently I am entertained by a big spider outside on the glass of my living room window. Maybe it has special needs, but the web, made with such industry and skill, is only attached by one thread to the washing line, and swings freely in the wind, so hardly an invisible trap! A much smaller spider is far more successful in landing a catch in a secure web tucked up out of the breeze!

A dear little cat dabs at the bees on the blossoming sedum, but seems wary of actual contact. Virginia creeper is galloping along the fence and will be a beautiful red in a few short weeks. Big, fat fluffy white clouds sweep by on a warm westerly wind as I enjoy my lunch, home cooked, deliciously simple salmon: now if only there was somebody here to do the dishes.

They must wait while I do a little bit more to the 1000 piece jig-saw that is demanding my undivided attention and provides another welcome distraction!



STRING OF STEEL...*by Jennifer Kendrick*

I spy with my little eye, a spider.
I spy, with my little eye, a fly beside her.
Unseen by my little eye, a string of steel;
unseen by the little fly whose pain I feel.
She spins him in a silk cocoon
that shimmers like a silver spoon,
Then once she's sure he's safe in store,
she mends her net and waits for more.

'Friends at Christmas' are looking for a cook to head up the kitchen team at the Methodist Church on Christmas Day. The cook will be responsible for cooking a Christmas lunch for up to 70 people. A team of volunteers is in place to help with procurement and preparation. For more details contact Nicky Yudin (F@C coordinator)
Mobile: 07999755138, Email: harrowyudins@aol.com

A big thank you to all who supported me on my recent Ride & Stride... *by Austin Meares*

A total of £330 was sponsored for Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, helping historic churches - our living heritage. In due course, half the money collected will be returned to St. James' to support our ongoing fabric repairs and mission. In recent years, GHCT has awarded us several grants to support fabric projects for which we have been very grateful. Last year the organisation awarded grants to 34 Gloucestershire churches – an organisation well worth supporting!
Thanks again for your contributions.

October Acrostic Poem....

by Sally Hayward

On we go into the autumn months
Clocks go back and hour
The leaves change colour; sat in front of an
Open fire, our summer has
Been the hottest for a few years; our
Evenings are much longer
Remember our yester years





Adrian has recently bought a new pair of jeans to replace a loved old pair. The reason that I am sharing this news with you all, is that I am quite excited about getting my hands on the old pair and trying to make as many repurposed Christmas gifts for the family as I can from this single pair!

I've seen friends make things such as handy heavy-duty aprons, which started me to think about all the wonderful, preloved clothes that will appear in the church at the Bring & Take event soon. I was also watching a tv programme about the many different things one can make with an old blanket, including draft excluders, cosy pet cushions and even a warm 'relaxed fit' blanket coat (which I fancy 😊).

Anyway, back to Adrian's jeans! I ventured onto the internet, searching for possible projects. I was overwhelmed with the extensive numbers of ideas that came up, many of them ingenious. Many come with free instructions and sometimes free down-loadable patterns. After spending far longer than I should have done looking, I short-listed enough ideas for each member of the family, and I thought you may find them interesting. Indeed, you may even be inspired to make some.

It's certainly worth thinking about ways in which preloved clothing, curtains, bedding and towels can have a useful extended life. Second-hand clothing can be an excellent way to source interesting, low cost and often good quality fabric. Before working on the material, I find it's good practise to have a close inspection and often wash and press the prepared fabric. In this way you have a good starting point.

Any unwanted fabric needs responsible textile recycling. According to their website, the Salvation Army say that about £140 million of clothing (350,000 tonnes) goes into landfill each year. They say that for every tonne of clothing reused, greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by around 7 tonnes.

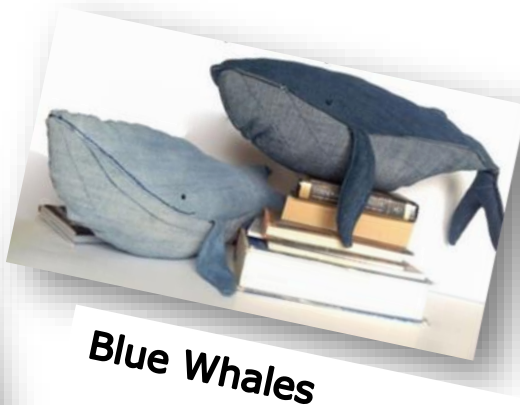
The Bring and Take event in St James runs every two months and is in association with Dursley Freegle. This charity is dedicated to recycling and rehoming items, including clothing, with the aim of avoiding landfill. It also runs alongside the Saturday morning Book Stall.

The events are worthwhile and you get to meet many people in the community. We are always keen to have people helping set-up, run and put away everything afterwards. If you would like to help, please

just come along to any of the events and join the friendly team.
Here are some of the ways in which I will be repurposing those jeans soon. Don't mention them to Adrian ('Mum's the word 😊)



Denim Robots



Blue Whales



Bookmark



Wall-hanging



Plant Pot Cover



Earrings

References

www.diyncrafts.com/15200/repurpose/40-incredible-repurposing-projects-for-old-jeans-that-you-just-arent-ready-to-toss
www.Allmyfriendsareflowers.com
<https://www.treehugger.com/ways-repurpose-old-jeans>
<https://liviolee.com/repurpose-old-jeans>
<https://www.amfthings.com/genius-ways-to-upcycle-reuse-old-denim-jeans-that-are-actually-useful>
[tps://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/recycle](https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/recycle)

WORD OF THE MONTH - Impecunious

Bad investments can be ruinous -
They can leave you impecunious.
If your investments should be trash,
Then you'll be very short of cash.

From Can Richard

From Paul Prodger

When the two boys were getting ready for school their mother said
"I have no money, I'm impecunious. So when the boys had sports they
had to use the kit left by the school leavers in a box in the changing
rooms.

From Jean Gardiner

They were both students coming to the end of a university course with
its accompanying accumulation of debts.

They were very much in love and determined to get married as soon
as possible, much to the horror of friends and family who all advised
to wait in view of their financial state.

But love conquered all and in spite of being impecunious at the start of
their marriage, they successfully built a happy and stable life together!

And the Winner is.....Can Richard...



WORD OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

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 October is pedagogical

Send entries to the Office, Valerie or Judith
by 20th

St James the Great, Dursley

Fairtrade Event

on



**FAIRTRADE
FOUNDATION**

Saturday 3rd October from 9 till 12

The event will include -

- **Fairtrade refreshments (tea, coffee and homemade cakes)**
- **An information stand**
- **A craft activity**
- **Traidcraft Christmas cards for sale at discount prices**

We will be happy to receive donations for the Fairtrade Foundation and Transform Trade.



FLOWER ROTA



Oct 4th

High Altar
Tanner Chapel
Lady Chapel

Kate Sant
 Glenys Muir
 Anthea Fittall

October 11th & 18th - Harvest

High Altar
Tanner Chapel
Lady Chapel

Cynthia Martin
 Steph Say
 Anne Shipton

Pulpit
Font

Clare White
 Sandra Longstreth
Hymn Book Chest

Nave Pillar
Porch

Kim Pugh
 Sheila Gardner
 Sarah Hodge

October 25th & November 1st

High Altar
Tanner Chapel
Lady Chapel

Ann Orchard
 Valerie Meares
 Margaret Lloyd

Prayer/poem by Paul Martin read by his Mum Cynthia at the recent Songs of Praise service in St James.

Oh Jesus I exalt you, through every hardship I endure,
 For there's a reason for my struggle, for every ounce of pain I'm sure,
 Each affliction brings me closer, to the one that I call Lord,
 Every suffering cry out in, with every prayer that I afford.

The fear that comes upon me, will never overcome my faith,
 For when I pray I know You hold me, how much more can I be safe?
 So then hold me Lord forever, and let my suffering never end.
 Till the day I come to meet you, and you greet me as your friend,
 I'll not pray to have it lifted, for anxious thoughts to fade away,
 For I know now they have purpose, and that you'll meet with me
 today, I'll just focus on your presence and remind myself I'm saved,
 And that in you I have a refuge, and all the comfort I have craved,
 So come cradle me Almighty, come on and wrap me in your care,
 For in your arms I find my solace, just the thought that you are there,
 And through my struggle I will worship, and give praise for what you
 give, For the blessings and your mercy, and the privilege to live,
 You the Abba Father, You the Christ and Spirit too,
 Come pour your love upon me, and give me strength in all I do,
 For if your love is for me, there is none can strike me down,
 You my King, my Lord, my saviour, the only one who wears that crown



Bereavement Cafe

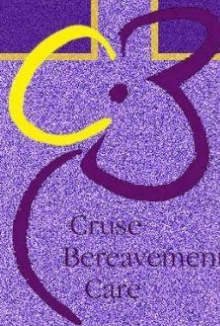


**A warm welcome and listening ear.
You are not alone.**

**A safe friendly space to talk,
share or simply be with others
who understand.**

**Cam Parish Offices
Noel Lee Way
2nd Monday of the month
10.30-12.00pm**

**The Chantry Centre
Dursley
3rd Monday of the month
2.00-3.00pm**



Take your time...

**For more information, call
07875 266575**



Dursley & Cam Royal British

Presents our

Poppy Proms 2026

Featuring

**Wotton & District Silver Band,
The Singing Project - The Oriel Singers
Dursley Tyndale Choral Society**

Rachel Howgego Cellist

Saturday 24th October

7pm @ Chantry Centre

Doors open at 6pm

**Tickets £15.00 (cash only)
available from the Chantry Centre
Belle's Kitchen & Durcan's
Or call 07763 495156**



Registered Charity No 219279. RBL, Poppy, Poppy Appeal, Poppy Shop, are all registered trade marks of the Royal British Legion. All profits to Poppy Appeal



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Quiz Night

24th October, 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.**



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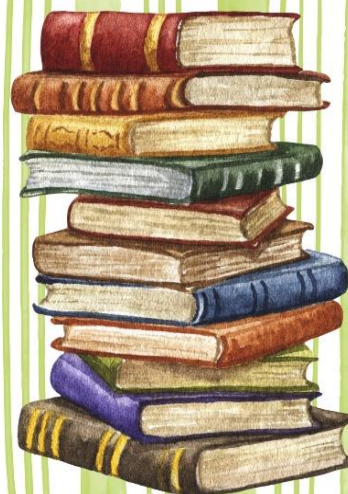
St James the Great, Dursley

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**

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.



CONFIRMATION

Rob Marrow confirmed at St Giles, Uley by
+Bishop Rachel on 27th September.

Banns of Marriage to be read at St James in
October for

Emmeline Pearson and Stephen Bentham

FUNERAL & MEMORIAL SERVICES:

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

Burial of Gerald Halford's ashes on 14th September 2026

Funeral of Jean Smetham on 17th September 2026

We remember with affection.....Year's Mind in October

Year's Mind in October

- 1st Nancy Walker 2022, Mary Robinson 2023
- 2nd Mary Violet Cuff 1975, Stuart Young 2000
- 3rd Lily Neale, Angela Mary Sandalls 1997, Molly Chandler 2011,
Laurence Bishop 2024
- 4th Lorna Eades 2004, Margaret Roper 2005
- 5th Ivor Ford 2019
- 6th Lena Smith 2018, Leslie Duncum 2020
- 7th Dorothy Wareham 1979, Frances Douglass 2017
- 8th Audrey Grover 2019, Gerry Pierce 2024
- 9th Michael Parsons 1984, William Turner 2013, Paul Ayland 2018
- 10th Di Russell 2025
- 11th Robert George Mack 2006
- 12th Cecil Clarke
- 14th Alan McVicar 2015, Mary Gale 2017
- 15th Florence Pope 1966, Harry Prodger 2022
- 17th Michael Wiggins, Frederick Sheppard 2014
- 19th Kenneth Cocke 2000
- 20th Ray Phipps 2000, Bryan Read 2000, Mary Cleverdon 1995,
Marion Jones 2020
- 24th Bill Nelves 2004
- 25th Sally Bedwell 2016, Kathleen Newman 2025
- 26th Audrey Price 2017
- 27th George Fouweather 1991
- 28th Brian White 2016
- 29th Stuart Read, Patricia Harrold 2022
- 30th Margaret Ryan 1998
- 31st Ruth Hamner 2006

NB the flower rota is on page 26



Mrs Gregory – Principal

Dursley CofE Academy,
School Road,
Dursley,
GL11 4NZ

t: 01453 542304 e: admin@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk

e: www.dursleycofeprimaryschool.org.uk

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THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES THE GREAT DURSLEY

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

Useful Telephone Numbers

TO BOOK THE PARISH CENTRE.

Clare White Tel: 549280

E-mail: ewelmebenefice@gmail.com

BELLRINGERS

Elizabeth Byrne Tel: 07788 800849

CHOIR

Anne Shipton Tel: 07557 784858

David Wood Tel: 01453 545073



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