

# The Messenger

## SEPTEMBER 2024

### The Parish of Dursley



**Price 60p each  
£6 Annually**

# **The Ewelme Benefice**

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

**Web Site – [www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk](http://www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk)**

## **RECTOR**

**Revd Dr Juliet Jensen is installed on September 1st 2024.**

## **ASSOCIATE PRIEST**

Revd Jane Wood

**E-mail: [revjanewood@yahoo.com](mailto:revjanewood@yahoo.com)**

**Tel: 0798 362 3525**

## **READER**

Mr Tony King

**E-mail: [tonyking@gmx.co.uk](mailto:tonyking@gmx.co.uk)**

**Tel: 298897**

## **CHURCHWARDEN.**

Mrs Jan Vonberg

**E-mail: [janet.vonberg53@gmail.com](mailto:janet.vonberg53@gmail.com)**

**Tel: 519506**

Mr Chris Tyler

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

**Tel: 299162**

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

### **Address letters to:**

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

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

**Tel: 549280**

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC.**

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

**Tel: 01454 416867**

## **PCC: CHAIRMAN**

Mrs Jan Vonberg (see above)

## **PCC SECRETARY**

Mrs Clare White

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

**Tel: 549280**

## **PCC TREASURER**

Dr Sally Pearson

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

**Tel: 542106**



# SEPTEMBER 2024



## A Message from the Editors

Dear Readers

Welcome to our September edition.

A very warm Dursley welcome to to Revd Dr Juliet Jensen as she is installed as the Rector of the Ewelme Benefice on 1st September. This is a huge milestone for us and we wish her well and her first message to us is on pages 3 and 4.

Thank you all for your continued contributions to the 'Messenger'. If anyone else feels they could contribute, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Wishing you all, especially if you think you have a painting to grace our covers.

From Valerie and Judith (editors)

Front Cover:

*Painting by late Robin Linford*

**Editors:**

**Valerie Meares Tel: 01453 544677**

**Judith Staddon Tel: 01453 544312**

Advertising please contact

**Philip Staddon Tel: 01453 544312**

### PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

**Judith Staddon  
and copy in Valerie Meares**

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 OCTOBER 2024 ISSUE  
IS SUNDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2024**

## Revd Ian Gardner writes.....

---



Dear Friends,

On September 1st we welcome the Revd Dr Juliet Jensen as our new Rector of the Ewelme Benefice, for the communities of Uley, Nympsfield, Owlpen and Dursley.

It will be a wonderful gathering at St James for her installation and where Juliet will be invited to receive the "cure of souls". She will be welcomed by all within the church communities in which she will serve, as well as the wider Deanery, Churches Together in Cam and Dursley and by representatives from community organisations and leaders across the Benefice.

It will a joyous moment in the life of the Benefice with all that sense of hope and expectation that comes with new beginnings. Prayer has been part of all of our preparations in our welcome to Juliet. In God we trust that in her call to this place and to service in these communities, both she and we will have the love of God as our guide and and constant presence in all that we undertake together.

Juliet arrives I feel, at a time of consolidation, self-belief and trust in what has been maintained and achieved during the vacancy. Everyone has worked to keep alive the well-being of people in our parish communities and to welcome all who come into contact with the life and ministry of church here. People have offered their time and energies to what they might not see as ministry, but nonetheless the body of Christ is served and maintained in so many ways but good and faithful people working quietly and without ceremony.

What lies ahead is amazing to ponder, but at the heart of it will always be WELCOME. If we ever doubt the importance of a warm welcome then the words of a wedding couple might help: *"Marc and I sincerely want to come back to Uley and Dursley to attend another service and see the congregation again, because to a degree that I think surprised both of us, we feel really strongly attached now to the congregation and the church". Marc & Alex, August 2024.*

I've always thought that Jesus' invitation "Come and see" (John 1.39) is aimed at all of us. If our welcome and friendliness is genuine and loving, then people will capture something of the Spirit of Openness and may well want to explore this invitation to welcome for themselves.

Welcome Juliet, you have our love and our prayers.  
Every blessing,     *Ian*

## Arriving by Revd Juliet.....

---

Well, I'm here in The Rectory in the Broadwell, Dursley, on a sunny morning in August feeling hugely grateful. Anyone with a memory of moving house will know how much there is to be done, to learn and to decide, and how exhausting this all is. So, thank you to those who are keen for me to get going and are being patient. I am hugely grateful to everyone who has shouldered extra responsibilities during the vacancy, particularly to the Church Wardens: Moya, Pauline, Jan and Chris; to the Ministers: Jane, Tony, Paula, Ian, Richard and David and to Clare in the office.



This morning the rubbish was picked up from the end of The Rectory drive – and I feel incredibly grateful! I know this may sound silly, but all of this is new, and it felt like an act of faith putting my food box and bags out last night. Waves of gratitude are now being sent in the direction of the waste collection team who serve this area and the neighbours who have educated me in the system here.

In the last few weeks I've received some wonderful gifts, the best of which are the curtains and blinds, with beautiful material from Inches, that Julie made with great care and speed and Ian kindly came and put up on the day I arrived. I feel incredibly grateful for the Ewelme Benefice gift hamper of goodies from Leaf and Ground, to be able to enjoy a beer at the Hopticians and a meal out at the Everest, and to buy bread that is freshly made by a baker who gets up at 2am to do this. As you can see, I'm very pleased to be living in Dursley and am really, really, looking forward to spending time in the villages and the glorious hills.

This feels like the beginning of a new chapter in a Love Story.

The blank page feels both life-giving and a bit overwhelming, but I'm reminded of the Ewelme Benefice Profile which said something like: 'a new day has dawned, God has given us another opportunity'. So, I'm trusting that the newness of God's mercy and love will be sufficient to cover all the numerous ways I'll 'blot my copy book' as we learn what it means for God's life and love to deepen in us in the days and weeks and months ahead.

This hymn (see over the page) from the Installation and Institution Service on 1 September is an important reminder of God's continual gift of newness.

Please pray for me as I pray for you.

With love            *Juliet*

## **Hymn from the Installation service:-**

New every morning is the love  
our wakening and uprising prove;  
through sleep and darkness safely brought,  
restored to life and power and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,  
hover around us while we pray;  
new perils past, new sins forgiven,  
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

If on our daily course our mind  
be set to hallow all we find,  
new treasures still, of countless price,  
God will provide for sacrifice.

The trivial round, the common task,  
will furnish all we need to ask,  
room to deny ourselves, a road  
to bring us daily nearer God.

Only, O Lord, in thy dear love  
fit us for perfect rest above;  
and help us, this and every day,  
to live more nearly as we pray.

"God of Love, You are with us in every transition and change, As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, We recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that has brought us to this moment. We thank you for the work of all who have enabled Revd Juliet to come here and minister to us. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen".



### **PASTORAL CARE**

---

Please let Chris Raffle - left  
(01453 545684 or 07517 380772), or  
Revd Jane Wood - right (07983  
623525) know of those who need to be  
contacted or are in hospital and we will get  
in touch.



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

---

I write this piece in anticipation of the arrival of our new Rector, Juliet.

With Revd Juliet starting here in the Benefice on 1st September, it feels like it's the start of a new school year, when you are full of a mixture of excitement and anticipation.

Although many of us have met the new Rector and she has been interviewed by a trusty team, her leadership is still unknown. We will need to make a new relationship with her and make her feel very welcome.

For "the new girl" it will be a huge step for her to enter an already established organisation, especially as we all have so much expectancy of her. I've heard the phrase "*when the new Rector arrives...*", so many times and worry that we are expecting too much, too soon.

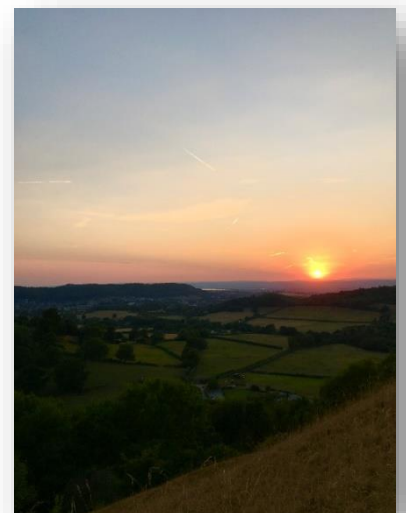
One of my favourite hymns is *All my hope on God is founded*, chosen at our wedding in 1990 and sung to the tune of Michael (my Dad's name). Here is where I place my hope and trust that God will provide for us as a Parish where we need to thrive as a Christian family here in Dursley. The hymn ends with the words "*Christ doth call, one and all: ye who follow shall not fall*".

Our hope and anticipation if we follow Christ that we will be supported in our faith journey.

As I was writing this piece I received an email from Revd Juliet's last parish, which said "*Although we are sad and will miss Juliet, we are excited for her and for you all as God leads you on this next step. We are keeping both you and us in our prayers during this time of transition.*" I believe it was a "God moment" when in both parishes we were obviously thinking about Juliet and our support of her - God supporting us in our time of change.

Trusting in God through the prayers we share with Him for our hopes & anticipations of a renewed beginning.

These prayers that sustain us as we change, are refreshed and supported, sharing faith in the parish of Dursley, the Benefice and our wider community. And most importantly with our new Rector, Juliet.



*August Sunset from Uley Bury towards Dursley.*

## **Notes from the PCC meeting on 24th July 2024.**

- New members of the PCC were welcomed, Anne Shipton, Edwina Walton, Donna Pinker to Deanery Synod and Chris Tyler as Churchwarden.
- The church will be open from 9-5 each day with a rota of people locking up.  
So far there hasn't been any anti-social issues whilst the church has remained open.
- St Mark's hand over of keys will happen on 31st July.
- Safeguarding policies have been updated by Rachel Brown. Items were discussed and the only policy that needed attention was the proposal that Clare White is the named person to monitor Social Media in the Parish. All were in favour.
- A Payaz machine will be installed in St James as soon as the Wi-Fi has been installed.
- We now have a Sumup machine to take online payments and can be used at events. An app needs to be installed on your mobile to use the machine.
- The Friends of St James launch day was a success. St Modwen's donated £215 for refreshments and 30 people signed up to be a Friend.
- There will be a quiz in aid of the Friends of St James at the Old Spot on 10th November.
- Friends of St James will become a regular item on the PCC agenda.
- The new church boiler- part 1 will include the chimney being lined, part 2 cannot begin until we are certain that the chimney is able to be lined.
- As proposed and agreed by the PCC the Parish Centre's new gas boiler will be installed once the listed building consent for a new flue has been granted.
- The Wi-Fi trench and cabling has been completed, the installation of the internal cabling and unit is waiting to be done.
- The Quinquennial inspection will start at the beginning of August.
- There is still a vacancy for a foundation governor at Dursley Primary Academy School.
- The new photo board will be completed once Revd Juliet is installed on 1st September.
- We need more sidespeople to help at Evensong worship.
- Japanese knotweed has been identified in the churchyard and is being removed.
- Juliet's licensing will be on 1st September at 3pm in St James.



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**14th SEPTEMBER 2024**

# Quiz Night

In aid of



Providing a loving home for abandoned babies in Maseno, Kenya

**14th September, 7pm**

**St James Parish Centre, Dursley**

**Teams of up to 6**

**Tickets- £10**

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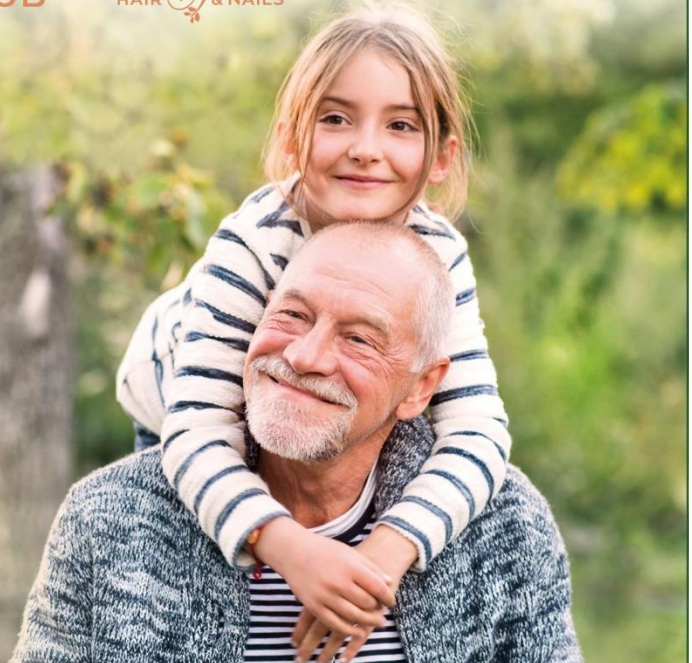
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**Hollies**

# Coffee, Cake & Music

## Organ Recital at St James The Great, Dursley on September 28th by Jed Hughes

(from Wotton-Under-Edge)

The coffee and homemade cake will be served from 10.30am  
The Music begins at 11am and lasts for 30-40 minutes.

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



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Ewelme Benefice

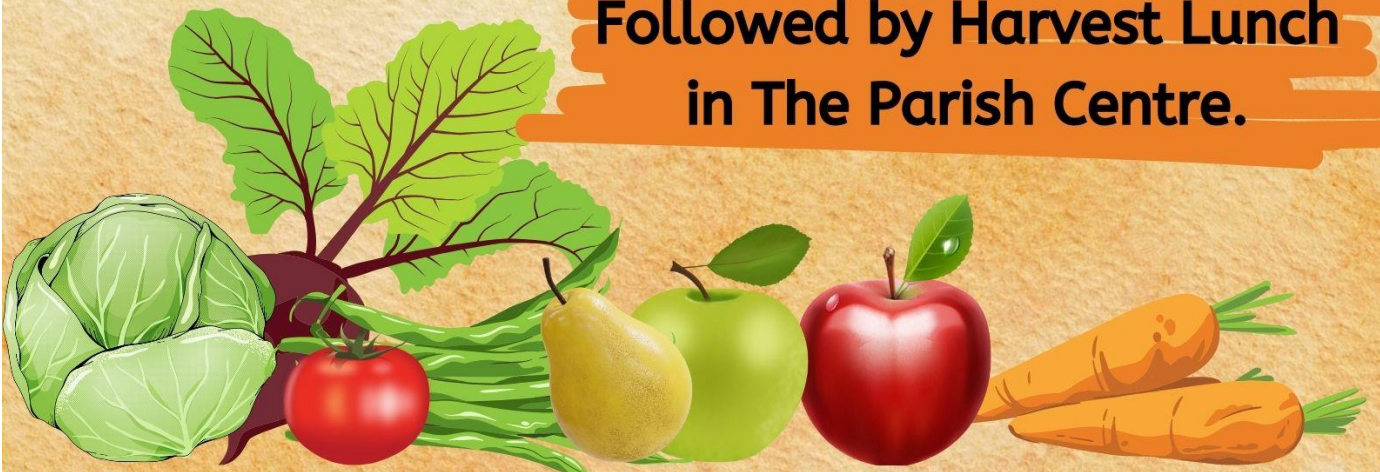


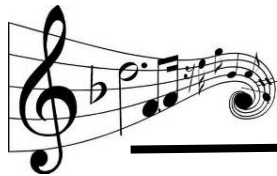
**St James the Great  
Dursley**

*Harvest Festival*

**13th October 2024  
10am**

**Followed by Harvest Lunch  
in The Parish Centre.**





## MUSIC LIST FOR SEPTEMBER

---

- 1st** Office Stanford in Bb  
Choir Motet Jubilate in Bb - Stanford  
Voluntary Processional - Mathias
- 8th**  
Office Sumsion in F  
Choir Motet Be thou my vision - Chilcott  
Voluntary Toccata - Georgi Mushel
- 22nd**  
Office Ireland in C  
Choir Motet Love Divine - Goodall  
Voluntary Toccata in G - Thèodore Dubois
- Choral Evensong**  
Responses Ayleward  
Canticles Wood in Eb  
Anthem Glorious and powerful God - Wood  
Voluntary Postlude in G minor - Lefébure-Wély
- 29th**  
Office Darke in F  
Choir Motet Jubilate in F - Ireland  
Voluntary Organ Concerto in D major (I) Allegro - Handel
- 

### Country Visit

The church lay flat like a promise.  
Summer wind passed over, unnoticed,  
And light as linen, quietly effortless.  
Inside - box pews and family vault.  
Outside - the heavenly path straight up  
The long winding silence of summer.  
In between - the (retired) church warden  
Reluctantly re-painting the open door.  
*"There are gaps. They lost that generation  
in the war".*

**Elizabeth Oakley**  
**A Dursley Poet**



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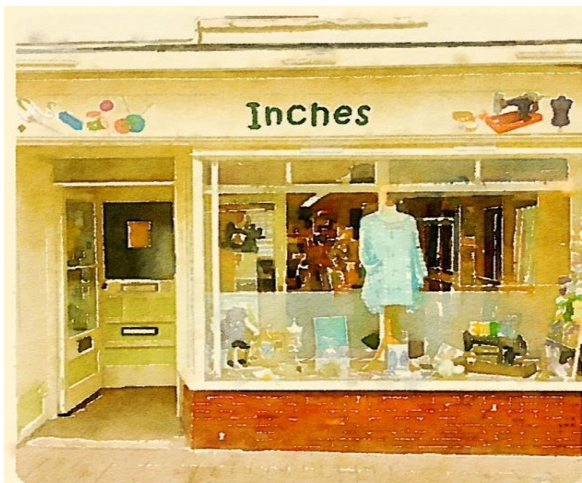
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# Bellringing

by Philip Pope



We regularly publish Peals and Quarter Peal performances that we have successfully completed at Dursley tower. What doesn't get recoded though are the attempts that are unsuccessful and these can be more numerous than the successful ones.

As you may know a quarter peal will consist of at least 1250 changes. (a full peal has to be over 5000 changes) which usually takes us somewhere in the region of 50 minutes to complete. A full peal cannot be counted if any changes are repeated, all 5000+ must be different. When seven bells are involved there are only 5040 possible changes (7 factorial) so all of these will have to be rung and nothing else. The figure for 8 bells is 40320 which would take us most of a day, it has been done once or twice historically but not by us!

For quarter peals there are no such strict rules but we do try and make sure that what we do is 'true' and that no changes are repeated. There are many reasons why we may fail in our attempts. All of the band have to learn the chosen 'Method' that we will use to complete the changes. Some may not have learnt the method very well and so will flounder early on. Much the commonest reason is that one or more of us will lose our concentration at some point and will fall off 'the line' of the method. This usually results in bells ringing at the same time and can be unpleasant to listen to! Often we can get them back on track but if more than one or two people join in and lose their line there is little alternative than to 'stand it up' and stop the ringing.

The performance is managed by a Conductor who will use certain calls (you may hear shouts of Bob! or Single! coming from the ringing chamber) to guide us through the quarter peal. Some are very expert in keeping an eye on what the other ringers are doing and can correct an error as it's made (Frank is a master at this) but others of us have to muddle through as best we can and hope things stay on the straight and narrow.

Of course there are always physical reasons for a failure. A ringer may feel unwell and have to stop. Sometimes a rope will break and fall back into the ringing chamber while the bell slowly rings itself to a standstill. We've even had a clapper fall out of the bell during an attempt which makes a terrific crash in the tower above.

We try and ring these performances for national events or to celebrate births, deaths and marriages but often we just ring them to try and



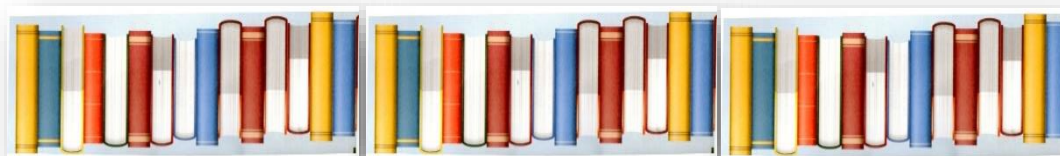
improve our own ringing and just enjoy the sound of the bells being rung well.

The attempt on Tuesday 13th August was for the latter reason. We try to get as many of our own local band as possible involved although we often rely on our friends from other towers to fill in. Ian Bucknell, who is in charge of the ringing at Bisley, and his wife Carole regularly come over to help us and we reciprocate when we can.

Quarter peal rung on Tues 13th August at Dursley

1344 Yorkshire Surprise Major in 51 minutes

1. Helen Binstead
2. Anne Pope
3. Carole Bucknell
4. Ian Bucknell
5. John Taylor
6. Andrew Binstead
7. Andrew Ward
8. Philip Pope (Conductor)



## **ST JAMES FREE BOOK STALL**



The month started with a skeleton crew who worked so hard and handed over £313 for the past two stalls and the latest online sales from Joy of £58. On the second Saturday we received £84 plus £18 from online sales. Total online sales this year now exceeds £400. On the third Saturday Gill Mather, Hilary Barnett and Glenys Muir joined the team and we were given another £128.

On Saturday morning, at the moment, we arrive at 7.30 for tables, 8.00 for books and 12.00 for putting everything away. Volunteers to help are always given a very warm welcome.

Congratulations also to Ann and Clive on there Diamond Wedding Anniversary celebrated back in August.

Thanks to all who came...*from Philip and Judith Staddon*

---



We wish to thank everyone who came along on 28th July to our Open Garden.

Clearly enough prayers must have been said as the weather was absolutely perfect. Everyone was able to sit in the garden, have a good natter and enjoy a cream tea.

Our thanks to Clare, Steve and Moya for working in the kitchen all afternoon, as without your help we couldn't cope.



For Clare making the scones, with a bit of assistance from me. For participating in Philip's Quiz, most people got it all right.

And we made £511.00 for St James Church.

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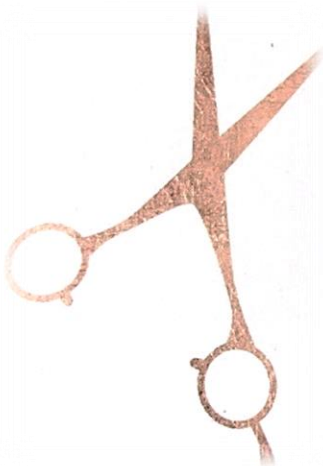


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# September 2024



(Joining Zoom details on Ewelme Benefice website)



## **Sunday 1st September – Trinity 14**

10am Parish Holy Communion at St James

3pm Licensing of Revd Dr Juliet Jensen at St James, followed by tea in the Parish Centre

## **Tuesday 3rd September**

10am Rector, Staff and Wardens meeting in the Parish Centre

## **Wednesday 4th September**

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

## **Thursday 5th September**

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

## **Saturday 7th September**

4pm Licensing of Revd Jimmy Cullingford at Dursley Methodist

## **Sunday 8th September – Trinity 15**

10am Parish Holy Communion at St James

## **Wednesday 11th September**

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

7pm Fabric & Finance meeting

## **Thursday 12th September**

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

## **Saturday 14th September**

Ride and Stride for Churches

¼ peal to Celebrate Philip & Ann Pope's Ruby Wedding

7pm Quiz in Parish Centre in aid of Julius and Dora Orphanage

## **Sunday 15th September – Trinity 16**

8am Said Holy Communion at St James

10am Service of the Word at St James

## **Wednesday 18th September**

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

### **Thursday 19th September**

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

### **Sunday 22nd September – Trinity 17**

10am Benefice Holy Communion at St James

6.30pm Choral Evensong

### **Wednesday 25th September**

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

### **Thursday 26th September**

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

### **Saturday 28th September**

10.30am Coffee, Cake and Music at St James

### **Sunday 29th September – Trinity 18**

10am Parish Holy Communion at St James



### **September Acrostic poem.....by Sally Hayward**

---

**S**urely not the autumnal days have begun  
**E**venings getting darker earlier  
**P**repare ourselves for  
**T**he New vicar Juliet Jensen  
**E**verlasting memories of Canon Michael Cozens  
**M**aking decisions  
**B**elieving  
**E**ntrusting and  
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**CULTURE AND ME** by David Vonberg.....  
This month we hear about Adrian Mather's thoughts.  
Thank you, Adrian, for taking time to do this.

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

Reading a book does not come easily as I am usually very busy with all my other activities. I do like reading biographies and have recently finished Michael Parkinson's.

Another book I really enjoyed was "The Salt Path" by Raynor Winn showing how a couple overcome the difficulties of medical issues and losing their home to travel the South West Coast Path.

**What are you reading at present?**

I'm afraid I have no book on the go at present, but with a holiday coming up, hopefully I can redress the situation.

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

Music is one of my great joys in life and I have very eclectic tastes from Glam Rock, Punk, Blues, classical piano through to Grand Opera. I am very fortunate to have a reasonable voice and enjoy my singing with Dursley MVC as well as singing in the congregation in Church where a good rousing hymn will lift me up.

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

I have a few favourites I'm afraid so would need to include You Raise Me Up composed by Rolf Løvland and written by Brendan Graham, DMVC have an arrangement by Barrie Cooper Joint MD of DMVC, Chopin Etude OP64 in C# Minor, Eric Clapton Tears in Heaven.

**Do you play a musical instrument.**

I can play the piano badly, when I retire, I hope to take it up more seriously. I learnt the Cello at school but did not continue after leaving. I also have a large piano accordion which one day I will get to grips with.

**What is your favourite film?**

Four Weddings and a Funeral – just joyous throughout, very funny and also thought provoking about marriage and death.

**What about a favourite television series?**

Strangely I am drawn to The Great British Sewing Bee I do admire the skill and imagination of the contestants.

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

Salvador Dalí's Christ of St John of The Cross I was lucky enough to see this in the Kelvingrove Museum. Although it is not a peaceful picture in the suffering it shows, on display with few people around, there is a calmness in the painting which kept me there for some considerable time. We have a small copy at home.

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

St David's Cathedral, it is a beautiful building in a lovely setting. Every time I go there, I can just sit and reflect in the quiet calmness.

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

That's easy, Parkham, a small village in N Devon near Bideford, I lived there from 15-18 (Mum is still there) I still go back frequently and feel the worries and troubles fall away as I drive up into the village. It is peaceful, but very vibrant under the surface.

**You are having a fantasy dinner party for five – who would you invite? (This could be anybody from any century and from any country)**

Helen Mirren, Chris Bonnington (Mountaineer & Explorer), Bryn Terfel (Opera star), Donald Soper (Baron Soper, British Methodist minister, socialist and pacifist), and Martin Johnson (2003 Rugby World Cup winning Captain).





I must be honest, thinking about insects can sometimes make me feel a little queasy! It does depend on what I'm thinking about or looking at. This is of course a bit unnecessary, and I've had an increasing wish to find out a bit more about these vitally important creatures.

Trouble is, where does one begin with insects. There are so many different and amazing creatures involved!

Maybe I will just try to think of a few interesting facts and take it from there.

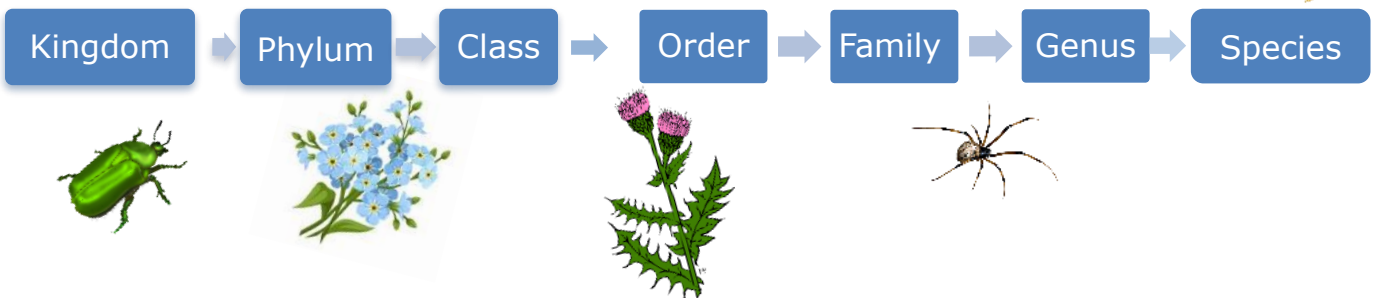
At school, I learnt about how scientists have over the years classified the millions of living organisms to help make things easier to study them and make sense of the world. This is called Taxonomy.

Organisms are identified, named and classified (BBC Bitesize).

In the 1700s, the Swedish scientist called Carl Linnaeus developed a system of classification of animals and plants. This was a huge volume of work and allows for creatures to be sorted into smaller, and more specialised groups. The Linnaeus System continues to be revised and used today.



Carl Linnaeus  
1707 - 1778



Insects belong to the class of Insecta or Hexapoda and they make up the largest group of the Phylum Arthropoda. They have segmented

bodies, jointed legs and their skeletons are outside their bodies (exoskeletons).

Astonishingly, insects make up about 70% of all life on earth, and their combined biomass is about 16 times that of all the humans on the planet!

In his short video presentation on the BBC Ideas website, David Goulson (Professor of Biology, Sussex University) discusses why insects are crucial to life on earth. Here are some of the main points from the video:



Insects are the main source of food for a vast number of creatures including birds, bats, lizards and fish.



80% of wildflowers and 75% of plants grown for food rely on insects for pollination



Although complex to carry out, many studies have shown a worrying trend in reduction of insect populations globally



Invasive species such as rats take their toll by eating some insect species to extinction



Light pollution lures moths to bash themselves to death as well as disrupting insect life cycle patterns



Insects are also having to cope with climate change, although some species such as mosquitoes, cockroaches and house flies benefit from the warmer temperatures



An estimated 4 million tonnes of pesticide are released globally into the environment

### **What can we do to help insects?**

Rewild our gardens, balconies, churchyards, verges to invite insects into them.

Reduce lawn mowing and use of pesticides.

Get involved with community projects which promote rewilding green spaces, verges and parks.

Join a group such as Eco Church.

Investigate and consider supporting the work of organisations such as the Pesticide Action Network UK. This is a charity which is focused on tackling the problem caused by pesticides. They promote safe and sustainable alternatives in agriculture, as well as in homes and gardens and urban spaces. Further information about this charity can be found on their website <https://www.pan-uk.org/>



## St James Bug Hotel Up-Date

You may have noticed that the bug hotel has a nice new edging to help manage the various herbs planted and wildflowers that have appeared. A big thank you to Adrian for helping install this. The area is starting to mature nicely, and several bugs including woodlice and centipedes have been observed. A few bees visiting the foxgloves, Geranium and Verbena have also been spotted which is great.

Best Wishes from Gill Mather

(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 😊

## References

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxhhvcw/articles/zdj3vwx#zy3m2v4>

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Carolus-Linnaeus/625446>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/ideas/videos/why-insects-are-so-crucial-to-life-on-earth/p0fw94cs>



## **The Holy Communion ....by Canon Richard Morgan**

---

The Holy Communion is the distinctive service of Christian faith, for it picks up a particular action of Jesus, which expresses the meaning of Jesus' saving work for us. On the night before he died for us, Jesus had supper with his friends, took a loaf and gave thanks, blessed and broke it and shared it with them all, and took and shared a cup of wine likewise. There are many names for the Holy Communion service, and all say something important about it and the good news of Jesus, and can help us to understand, to meditate, to pray and to live out the service and the good news of Jesus.

Some Churches call the service 'The Breaking of Bread.' Acts 2 seems to call it this, though it may refer to common meals of the Church. Breaking of bread was a usual part of meals. Jesus saved us by union with our ordinary physical life, and we need to respond to him in our whole lives, with the love his life and death showed to us. Breaking of Bread reminds us that the Communion is a symbol of Jesus' body being, as it were, broken on the cross. Jesus saved us by suffering, by taking on our pains and sufferings, all the results of evil, to cancel their final power over us. In the Breaking of the Bread, we receive the results, the benefits, of his pains for us, as in the wine we receive and are united with his life poured out to death for us.

The receiving of one loaf broken and one cup also reminds us of our being united in one body – made members of the body of Christ.

Some Churches call the service 'The Lord's Supper.' 1 Corinthians 11.20 seems to give it this title. This is the alternative name for it in the old Book of Common Prayer and an alternative in the new Common Worship. This name again shows the ordinariness of the means Jesus takes to meet and save us, and the importance of common meals as a sign of this. Maybe the sharing refreshments after the service is more important to it than we sometimes realise! The Lord's Supper reminds us of Jesus' sovereignty in it, which makes it special, not just any meal. Jesus gives himself to us in it.

The Book of Common Prayer and our modern service book call the service, 'Holy Communion.' Paul said, 'The bread which we break, is it not a communion – sharing - of the body of Christ? [1 Corinthians 10.16] The service is about sharing, Jesus' sharing himself with us, and we, accepting, sharing with him and with each other, sharing his

life, sharing his love. Communion points to our salvation and life with God in Christ being all about love.

The service is also called 'The Eucharist.' That is an alternative name for it given in Common Worship. Eucharist is just Greek for thanks. 'Jesus took a loaf of bread and gave thanks,' says 1 Corinthians 11.22-3. Our receiving the Communion is to done in gratitude. Thankfulness is a central part of our worship and all receiving of God. The gratitude is to shape our lives, so that we live in loyalty to Christ's love.

Roman Catholics use the title 'the Eucharist,' but tend to refer to it as 'the Mass,' from the Latin, 'Missa.' It seems an odd name. It comes from the traditional ending of the Eucharist, 'Ite, missa est. Deo gracias.' The modern translation renders this, 'The Mass is ended ... Thanks be to God,' which could sound like relief that the service is over! But 'Ite, missa est, means, Go, you are sent!' It's about mission. Christ's gifts, Christ's self-giving and feeding us, Christ's sharing and making us his community, and Christ's rousing our gratitude all need to rouse us to a response of sharing his love, sharing Jesus himself and his good news with others by love and service and the witness to Christ they give, and by our words when appropriate. So calling the Breaking of Bread/Lord's Supper/Communion/Eucharist the Mass seems a gift of providence!

### **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, our Saviour,  
As you broke bread at your Last Supper  
to share your saving death and resurrection with us,  
may we realise the importance and goodness of ordinary and material things,  
including sharing food, and companionship.  
May we trust that your giving yourself to death for us  
brings us your love and forgiveness.  
May we live always in holy communion, sharing,  
with you, with fellow Christians, and with others.  
May our whole lives be marked by thankfulness to you,  
and may we go, as you send us,  
to share your love and truth with all we can.  
We ask for your sake.  
Amen.

## LAUNCH OF THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES

..... by Sally Pearson



Saturday 20 July saw the launch of the Friends of St James. The event in St James Church was attended by over 30 members of the community who enjoyed a stimulating tour of the church led by Austin Meares. His talk included the story of the 14th century font including its use as a animal trough before being reinstated in the church and a challenge to find the butterflies in the wonderful reredos in the Tanner Chapel.

The Friends of St James has been established to bring together people who are interested in the care and use of this magnificent building in the heart of Dursley. We hope to set up a small organising committee to plan future events and activities for members

If you would like to join, there are leaflets in the church which is open to the public every day between 9 and 5

If you would like to join you can:

- Send cash or cheque to PCC Dursley Fabric Fund with reference "Friends" written on the back, to the Parish Office, Dursley, GL11 4NA
- BACS transfer £10 to: PCC Dursley Fabric Fund, Ac no; 02391693, sort code;30-98-29 reference Friends



Austin Meares  
explaining the history  
of the font

### FOOTNOTE TO AUSTIN MEARES' FINE TALK

by Can Richard Morgan

Austin pointed out that the shield on the right of the screen of the new kitchen etc. is the coat of arms of the Worcester Cathedral and Diocese. That is because Gloucestershire was part of the diocese of Worcester until Henry VIII's time. Austin could not tell us what the

coat of arms means. That is because no one knows. The Dean of Worcester says the shield with ten red balls was the coat of arms of Bishop Godfrey Giffard, who was bishop of Worcester in the 13th and 14th centuries, and the cathedral just kept it. But no one knows what, if anything, the ten balls mean.

## **ST. MODWEN**

The builders, St. Modwen, are building a lot of houses in Dursley. I believe they have been helpful to the Church. But who was St. Modwen? My dictionary of saints wonders if she existed at all, as traditions about her are so contradictory! Burton on Trent is confident that she did, though. Several saints may have been mixed up! She may have been an Irish noblewoman. She founded a nunnery at Burton on Trent, probably in the 7th Century, though maybe in the 9th. It was refounded later and remained rich and important until Henry VIII dissolved it.

But why is the building company called St. Modwen? Did it start at Burton of Trent?

## **CASHLESS PAYMENT COMES TO CHURCH**

For all those people who no longer carry cash, you are now able to make donations using your bank card! The first cashless donation was made by David Vonberg to support the Friends of St James, at the launch event on 20 July.

The PCC submitted a successful application to the Church of England's National Giving Team three-year project to help thousands more churches access digital mechanisms for receiving donations. As part of this project, 50 devices were offered free of charge across the Diocese of Gloucester. We received a free Payaz device. This is a donation terminal which will be installed at the back of the church as soon as

we have Wi-Fi. It will offer visitors a range of donation sums or the ability to choose their own. In the meantime, we will have a device which connects to a mobile phone, which can be used. If you have an event coming up where you think this might be helpful please speak to our Treasurer, Sally Pearson (contact details at the front of the magazine).



Our Treasurer, Sally Pearson, takes the first cashless donation from David Vonberg

**FAITH IS LIKE A RIVER.** by Jennifer Kendrick

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Faith is like a river. It begins very small and out of sight, like a spring.

Then it begins to grow and make a way, joined at intervals by other little streams, changing direction from time to time, feeding and being fed by other sources, tributaries, ponds and lakes.

Passing through tunnels of darkness and valleys of light, thankful for the sun but relying on resilience to move obstacles or negotiating a passage, knowing the difference.. Being replenished by the rain after a drought, it reaches the open sea, a bolder and bigger edition of itself, it happily succumbs to the rigours of the great oceans of the world.

Faith is a challenge, to be respected, accepted and used with discretion., allowing time for growth and development. Small is beautiful but fragile. It requires patience and an open heart to make progress in preparation for encountering inevitable hurdles and immovable obstacles. Confidence goes up and down in the search for more knowledge and understanding. Storms cause alarm, often followed by unnerving loneliness when everything is dry, nothing moves and the future looks bleak in the shadows of mountains that show no mercy.

There is no shame in being vulnerable and seeking shelter. That's when the still small voice is heard above the chaos of silent thunder, the lightning strikes simply to show the path is clear and the future is unfolding with an inevitability that each and every one of us must face independently.

We are all equal in God's eyes and deserving of his love and in return we must trust in Him as the world, so charged with emotions that destroy the most vulnerable and silence the soothsayers, spins ever faster, leaving us feeling helpless.

Its then that Faith steps in. When we are most vulnerable, we are most blessed.

Deep in each one of us is a longing for meaning and a quest for purpose.

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**JUST A THOUGHT:** Once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skywards, for there you have been and then you will always long to return.

..... Leonardo da Vinci.



**OVERDOING IT.**     *Jennifer Kendrick.*



It was a beautiful day so I decided to empty my garden bin housing just kitchen waste that the worms had cleverly chomped into yummy compost! It was only later I realised that the effort had taken its toll, my muscles and body seized up, leaving me with the luxury of two weeks time and contemplation to recover!!

I made a list of Desert Island Discs which was the perfect prescription as I rested and gently exercised!

QUEEN: Bohemian Rhapsody.  
RONALD BINGE: The water Mill.  
DVORAK: New World Symphony.  
JOHN BARRY: Out of Africa,  
DOIG WOOD BAND: Drag Racer.

(Snooker followers will know that one!)

JOHN RUTTER: The Lord Bless You and Keep You.

ROGER WHITTAKER: New World in the Morning

FILM: Ladies In Lavender.

LUXURY: a family photo with my daughter and granddaughter.

BOOK: Trees by Percival Everett about the Mississippi slave trade in 1861.



My granddaughter, daughter and me.....desert island luxury photo.!

**Bishop Rachel's podcast series: 'Holding the key: A series of conversations to unlock the door to doing prison differently'**  
Bishop Rachel has released two episodes so far in her podcast series, which discusses the purpose of prison sentences and the possible alternatives.

Episode #1: In this first podcast of the series, Bishop Rachel is joined by Andrea Coomber, Chief Executive for the Howard League for Penal Reform, and Pia Sinha, CEO of the Prison Reform Trust, as they reflect on what they learnt during their visit to the Netherlands to discover more about the Dutch criminal justice system. They discuss their key takeaways from the meetings that took place and the visit of PI Alphen aan den Rijn prison.

Episode #2: Bishop Rachel talks to Tom Wheatley, President of the Prison Governors' Association, and Mark Icke, Vice President of the Prison Governors' Association. Tom and Mark bring over 57 years combined experience working in Prison leadership roles, and they discuss their experience of the effectiveness of the justice system, as well as their hopes for what the future might hold.

Listen to the podcast episodes by visiting <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2024/podcast-holding-the-key-a-series-of-conversations-to-unlock-the-door-to-doing-prison-differently-2/n.org> or visit our Spotify or Apple Podcast channel by searching 'In conversation... Diocese of Gloucester'.

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[nsansom@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:nsansom@glosdioc.org.uk) Have you got a story that you would like to share? We are always looking for stories – contact Natalie at [nsansom@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:nsansom@glosdioc.org.uk)



## Heritage open days this September

Heritage Open Days 2024 are taking place from 6 to 15 September. These events are free and explore history and culture across the country. Lots of events are taking especially in our churches.

### **In Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL1 2LX**

Will Jones, Head of Visitor Experience at Gloucester Cathedral said:

"We're excited to share the rare opportunity to open our doors late into the evening, allowing visitors to explore areas behind the scenes and meet our nationally-renowned team of Stonemasons.

"Heritage Open Days is all about making our rich heritage accessible to everyone, and we can't wait to share these hidden treasures with our community in an inclusive and engaging way."

**Late-night openings, 2 hours** - The Cathedral will be opening later than normal for visitors to explore the Cathedral in the evening.

**Date and times:** Thursday 12 September, 6pm to 8pm, Saturday 14 September, 6pm to 8pm

**Details:** Pre-booking not required.

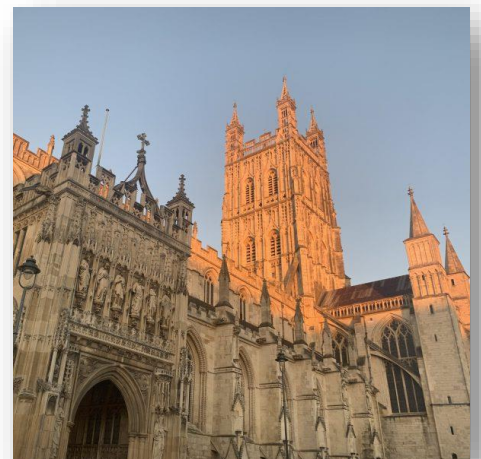
### **NEW 2024 immersive soundscape, 15 minutes**

Experience the new 2024 immersive soundscape at the Cathedral's medieval library. Explore this rarely seen 15th-century library while listening to a unique piece of music inspired by its history, its ancient books, and its atmosphere. Visitors can also engage for a short time with expert guides and the archivist during the visit.

**Date and time:** Friday 13 September, time entry tour slots from 10.15am to 4.15pm.

**Details:** Pre-booking is required. To pre-book, go to the following website: [Heritage Open Days: Immersive soundscape in the library | Gloucester Cathedral](#).

There is a maximum of 30 people per tour. The library is accessed via a narrow spiral staircase.



### **Gloucester Cathedral precincts tour, 1 hour**

A walking tour of Gloucester Cathedral precincts, giving a history of the area surrounding the Cathedral from the earliest Minster church up to the most recent developments.

**Dates and times:** Friday 13 September, 11am, Saturday 14 September, 2.30pm

**Details:** Pre-booking not required, but there is a maximum of 15 people per tour. Meet at the Cathedral South porch on the dates and the times listed above.

### **Parliament rooms, 30 minutes**

Visit three historic rooms in Church House, the former Deanery for Gloucester Cathedral. These rooms, part of the old Abbots' Lodgings, were the site of Richard II's parliament in 1378 and hosted Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn during their royal progress in 1535.

**Date and time:** Saturday 14 September, 10am to 4pm

**Details:** Pre-booking not required, but there is a maximum of 40 people at one time. Parliament rooms, Crypt and Tower tours are not suitable for wheelchair users.

Drop-in sessions are being held in the Stonemasons' workshop – one of only ten Cathedral workshops in the country. This is an opportunity for visitors to learn about the traditional heritage skills used to keep the Cathedral in a condition which lasts for future generations.

**Date and time:** Saturday 14 September, 10am to 3pm

**Details:** Pre-booking not required.

### **Children's walk, 1 hour**

A walk around Gloucester aimed specifically for children aged 9 to 12.

**Date and time:**

Saturday 14 September, 2pm

**Details:** Pre-booking not required, but there is a maximum of 15 people per tour. It is especially for children 9-12. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Cathedral South porch on the date and the time listed above.

If you need more information on all the above, contact Debbie Vass at 07977593296.

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## **Years Mind in September**

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### **From the registers...**

Geoffrey James 2003, Eileen Puddle 2004, Jenny May Poole 2006, John Theaker 2018, Graham Westley 2012, Callum Fletcher, Maureen Critchley, Peter Newman 1988, Betty Clegg 2011, Leonard George Carpenter 1997, Brenda Browning 2017, Mary Powell 2021, Mervyn Morgan 2003, Bryant Witts, Jack Banfield 2002, Ruth Merritt 2000, Rosalind Medcroft 2005, Sam Trump 2014, Betty Williams 2001, Sheila Wright 2013, Caroline Smith 2010, David Dixon, Constance Pate 2003, Bob Littleford 2012, Yvonne Green 2017, James Cook 2021, Wendy Tomlin 2023, Jo Edgington 2001, James Grimes 2007, Michael Cornock 2013, Audrey Pearson 2017, Jennifer Price 2019.

**FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.**



**1st September 2024**

Licensing of Revd Dr Juliet Jensen

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

**FLOWER ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER**

**Sept 1st**

**High Altar**

Sarah Hodge

**Tanner Chapel**

Glenys Muir

**Lady Chapel**

Valerie Meares

**Sept 8th & 15th**

**High Altar**

Kate Sant

**Tanner Chapel**

Sandra Longstreth

**Lady Chapel**

Margaret Lloyd

**Sept 22nd & 29th**

**High Altar**

Ann Orchard

**Tanner Chapel**

Ann Bussey

**Lady Chapel**

Sarah Hodge



**100 CLUB**

**100 club draws for August 2024 is as follows:-**

1st 204 - Richard Lane

2nd 152 - Tom Arnold

3rd 190 - Sarah Hodge

Many Thanks from Sarah.

**DURSLEY CofE  
PRIMARY ACADEMY**



**Mrs Gregory – Principal**

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*est. 2009*

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For more information

Contact Barbara Weldon

07816 533206

email: [bandbweldon1@gmail.com](mailto:bandbweldon1@gmail.com)

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

**BELLRINGERS**

Elizabeth Byrne     Tel: 543536.

**100 CLUB**

Sarah Hodge     Tel: 545155

**CHOIR**

Anne Shipton     Tel: 545419

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