



Welcome to the February edition of our monthly newsletter. You may have noticed a few changes around the church recently like the addition of the sofa and the tidying up of the noticeboards. A big thanks to Becca Lambert for all her hard work on these improvements.

If you are new to our church please do introduce yourself to our welcoming team and pick up a Connect Card from our welcome desk.

CONTACTS

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Please
Recycle
Me



Rector's Reflection



The Wilderness Way

On Sunday 9 Feb, we begin a new preaching series in the Old Testament book of Numbers. Numbers is the fourth book in the Bible, and it gets its name from the long census at the beginning of the book, recording the tribes and numbering the people. It carries forward the story of Israel after the Exodus and the covenant God makes with his people at Sinai, as the people set out on their forty-year journey in the wilderness. We are focusing on Numbers because it reveals God's continuous grace and unwavering faithfulness toward his people - even when they lack trust, rebel, or struggle through their wilderness wandering. It will also teach us what it means to live as God's people and reflect his order and holiness in a world often resistant to his ways.

Will we trust God as he leads us through the wilderness of today's world? Or will we choose another way?

As we begin our journey through Numbers, let us trust the same God who guided Israel through the wilderness, keeping these words close to our hearts:

"The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)

Jake



Services in February

Sunday 2nd February

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.45am Sunday Worship*

Readings *Hebrews 2:14-end Luke 2:22-40*

4.30pm: Adult Sunday School

Friday 7th February 10.30am: Holy Communion
(preceded by MU Wave of Prayer at 10.00am)

Sunday 9th February

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)*

Readings *Numbers 1:1-4, 17-19, 44-54 Luke 5:1-11*

4.30pm Family Fellowship

Sunday 16th February

10.45am Sunday Worship* *with baptism*

Readings: *Numbers 3:1-13, 40-51 Luke 6:17-26*

4.30pm: Adult Sunday School

Friday 21st February 10.30am: Morning Prayer

Sunday 23rd February

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)*

Readings: *Numbers 4:1-20 Luke 4:5-8*

4.30pm Family Fellowship

** livestreamed services*

We pray for: Bob Hughes, Margaret Gilbert, Audrey Griffiths, Maelene Hunt, Jeannette Worth, the Hamilton-Browns, Jan Shrapnell, Mary Brooks and the family and friends of John Howard. *Please let Clair know of names to be added or removed.*



St James' February Diary

For all the latest updates go to
www.stjamestrowbridge.co.uk/whats-on



Sat 1st	9.30am	Band Practice in Church
Sun 2nd	12noon	Quarter Peal Attempt
Mon 3rd	2.15pm	Monday Fellowship Group at Farleigh Avenue
	7.00pm	Monday Home Group in Church
Tues 4th	10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's house)
	2.00pm	Goodson Lodge Service
Wed 5th	12.30pm	Mothers' Union Lunch and AGM in Church Hall
Fri 7th	10.00am	Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer in Church
Wed 12th	2.30pm	Wednesday Home Group in Church
Thurs 13th	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
Fri 14th	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship in Church Hall
Sat 15th	7.00pm	SDGR Devizes Bell Ringers Branch Practice
Mon 17th	2.15pm	Monday Fellowship Group at Farleigh Avenue
	7.00pm	Monday Home Group in Church
Tues 18th	10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's house)
	10.30am	Raleigh Court Service
Wed 19th	10.15am	Mothers' Union Prayers in Church
Thurs 20th	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
Sat 22nd	2.00pm	Society of Roving Ringers bell ringing
Sun 23rd	12noon	10/12 Bell Quarter Peal
Wed 26th	2.30pm	Wednesday Home Group in Church
Fri 28th	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship in the Church Hall



**Coffee Corner is open throughout the month:
Mon, Wed & Sat 10.00am to 12.00 noon**

We currently have various gaps on the rota, so do please have a look at this which is in the coffee corner and add your name if you can help. Keeping the coffee corner open is an integral part of St James' ministry and outreach to our wider community. *Thank you - Richard & John*

BELL NEWS: On February 1st there is a Devizes Branch meeting with ringing from 3 - 5pm and 6.15 - 8.15pm. | There are Quarter Peals scheduled for February 2nd and 23rd. | The Devizes Branch practices on the 3rd Saturday in the month have a new time of 7 - 9pm. | The Society of Roving Ringers will be ringing the bells at St James' on Saturday 22nd from 2pm.



Bell Ringing practice takes place every Wednesday, 7pm until 9pm



Mothers' Union will be holding their AGM proceeded by lunch in the church hall on Wednesday 5th February at 12.30. There will also be a wave of prayer at 10am before the Friday Communion on 7th February. Prayer group will be in the church at 10.15am on Wednesday 19th February.

Electoral Roll 2025 As many of you know every year members of the church are offered an opportunity to join our Electoral Roll and many of you will be on there already. Every six years, which is this year for St James', we are required to prepare a new electoral roll. This means that even if you have previously signed up you will be required to do so again this year.

What is the Electoral Roll? It is your parish church's register of electors. In the same way that being on the civic Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections and referenda, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC. Being on the Electoral Roll does NOT make you a "member" of the Church; simply regarding St James' Church as your spiritual home does that but it does give you certain rights in the running of the church.

If you would like to find out more about the electoral roll you can do so on our website at www.stjamestrowbridge.co.uk/electoral-roll.

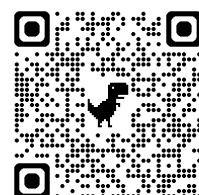
Registration will be open in February, there will be a link on the website to the online form or for anyone without access to the internet paper copies will be available from Carol Dix.



Benefact is the umbrella organisation for Ecclesiastical Insurance who insure all our properties. Every year they organise monthly draws as part of their way to give away all available profits to charity and good causes.

The more nominations there are for St James the better our chance of receiving an award during 2025. So please take a couple of minutes to nominate St James Trowbridge. In providing your details please indicate that your connection to the charity is as a supporter. Your connection to the benefactor group is none. Our charity number is 1131370. Thank you.

You can vote here <https://movementforgood.com/ecclesiastical>



OUR CHARITY FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY



Open Doors recently published its 2025 World Watch List of those countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution. North Korea continues to top the list, closely followed by Somalia with Sudan being listed as the 5th country in the world facing extreme persecution. Somalian believers are bravely following Jesus despite their enormous opposition, to raise support and awareness for the persecuted church. A violent Islamic militant

group called Shabaab in Somalia is committed to eradicating Christianity in that country.

We're also asked to pray specifically for all children of the persecuted church who face bullying, rejection and violence because they follow Jesus. Ask that they will know God's Fatherly love, protection and strengthening.

Give thanks too that Open Doors local partners are being equipped to bring relief aid and encouragement to displaced Christians in Nigeria (7th on the World Watch List) and other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Storehouse Foodbank



The food bank continues to be extremely busy, and consequently they are running very short of a lot of the items that are regularly given to clients.

Currently they need: tinned vegetables, tinned meals such as chilli, meatballs, stew, chicken in

white sauce, curries. Also tinned pasta meals e.g. ravioli, macaroni cheese, spaghetti hoops etc. For people with limited cooking facilities instant pot noodles, and microwave rice are useful, also spreads that can go on bread or toast such as marmite, peanut butter, chocolate spread, honey and jam. Squash, coffee, sugar, and UHT milk are also items that are also frequently needed and consequently in short supply.

Thank you for your continuous support of this important work.
Ann Cook



Children & Families

St James Tots
will be taking a break
for half-term on
Wednesday 19th
February.



**WHO LET THE
DADS OUT?**

Thanks for your prayers for our first Who Let the Dads Out. We had a good first session with some guest Dads and their kids there. The team were great, the food was delicious and overall, God blessed us with an excellent morning.

We're back again on Feb 8th.

GRAND 
PARENTS

Afternoon Tea

COMING SOON!

An opportunity to meet
with other Grandparents
to think about being a
Christian Grandparent

**Saturday 8th March
2.30 - 4.00pm
St James' Church**



Contact Nick Lambert to book
nick@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk
Or scan the QR code



St Leonard's Keevil



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Coming up this month at St Leonard's

Soup and Pud Lunch: Saturday 1st February in the village hall from 12 noon.

Breakfast in Church: Saturday 8th February from 9am

Hunger Lunch on Ash Wednesday, 5th March. In St Leonard's Church. 12 noon

Do pop along and join in if you are free and enjoy a catch up with fellow villagers.