

# Newsletter

## February 2024

Welcome to February's edition of our monthly newsletter. If you are new to our church please do introduce yourself to our welcoming team and pick up a copy of our Welcome leaflet.



'Not all of us can do great things but we can all do small things with great love' - *Mother Theresa*

**Rector: Rev Jake Eggertsen**

jake@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk | 01225 763680 (*Day off Thursday*)

**Church Office Manager: Clair Matthews**

clair@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk | 07565 917441 (*Day off Friday*)

**Wardens: Richard Clarke & John Joy**

CONTACTS



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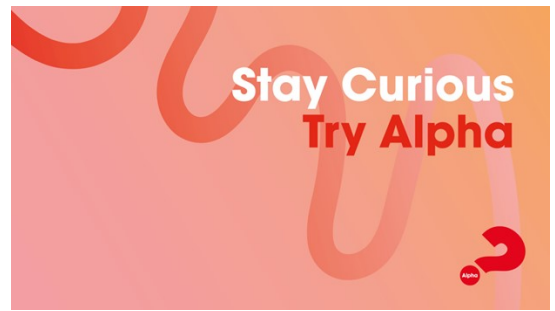
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# Rector's Invitation

During Lent, a time of reflection, repentance, and preparation for the joy of Easter, we are offering the Alpha Course, a six-week exploration of the Christian faith, designed for those who are inquiring about the faith, new to the faith, or returning after some time away.



## What is the Alpha Course?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Each session includes a thought-provoking talk and an open discussion where questions are not only welcomed but encouraged. It's a safe and welcoming space where people can explore the Christian faith in a relaxed and non-judgmental environment.

Over 6 weeks, we'll cover the following topics:

- Is there more to life than this?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- How can I have faith?
- Why and how do I pray?
- Why and how should I read the bible?

## Who is Alpha for?

If you are:

- Wondering about the meaning of life,
- Curious about Christianity,
- New to the faith and seeking a solid foundation,
- Returning to the faith after some time away,

... then Alpha is for you!

## When and Where?

The Alpha Course will take place every Sunday evening during Lent, starting on 18th Feb, from 4:30pm. We will gather at St James' Church and each session will include a ploughman's supper.

## How do I Join?

Simply sign up by visiting our website, scan the qr code to the right, or by contacting the Rector, Jake ([jake@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk](mailto:jake@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk)). Do feel free to invite friends, family, or colleagues who may be interested in exploring the Christian faith. Everyone is welcome, and no question is too big or too small.



May this Lenten season be a time of spiritual growth, connection, and discovery.

*Jake*

# Services in February

**Friday 2nd February 10.30am:** Holy Communion

**Sunday 4th February - 2nd before Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.45am Sunday Worship\*

*Readings: Matthew 28:16 to end*

**Sunday 11th February - Sunday next before Lent**

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)\*

*Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-12 Mark 9:2-9*

4.30pm Family Fellowship

**Wednesday 14th February 10.30am:**

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion and Ashes



**Sunday 18th February - Lent 1**

10.45am Sunday Worship\*

*Readings: Genesis 9:8-17 Mark 1:9-15*

4.30pm Alpha Course

**Sunday 25th February - Lent 2**

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)\*

*Readings: Genesis 17: 1-16 Mark 8:31-end*

4.30pm Alpha Course

*\* livestreamed services*



**Thursdays at 10.00am**  
(term time only)

# St James' February Diary

<b>Sat 3rd</b>	9.30am	Band Rehearsal in Church
<b>Sun 4th</b>	12noon	Quarter Peal Attempt
<b>Mon 5th</b>	11.15am 1.30pm 7pm	LPA Home Group in Church MU Wave of Prayer in Church Monday Home Group in Church
<b>Tues 6th</b>	10.30am 7.30pm	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's house) Property Committee Meeting
<b>Wed 7th</b>	2.30pm	MU Meeting in the Church Hall
<b>Thurs 8th</b>	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
<b>Fri 9th</b>	7pm	YF Board Games at the Rectory
<b>Mon 12th</b>	11am	Goodson Lodge Service
<b>Tues 13th</b>	11am	Raleigh Court Service
<b>Wed 14th</b>	ASH WEDNESDAY details of Lent Courses on opposite page	
<b>Thurs 15th</b>	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
<b>Sat 17th</b>	7.30pm	SDGR Devizes Branch Bell Practice
<b>Mon 19th</b>	11.15pm	LPA Home Group in Church
<b>Tues 20th</b>	10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's House)
<b>Wed 21st</b>	10.15am	MU Prayers in Church
<b>Fri 24th</b>	7.00pm	YF Baking in the Church Hall



**Coffee Corner** is open throughout the month:  
**Mon, Wed & Sat 10.00am to 12.00 noon**  
**and Sunday morning after the 10.45am Service**

**PLEASE HELP! OUR COFFEE CORNER NEEDS YOU** 😊

The Coffee Corner is an important part of our ministry here at St James'. As part of the Warm Welcome Spaces initiative we offer a valued service to those who visit us. We are currently so desperate for volunteers that on occasions have been unable to open up due to the lack of helpers. Please could you spare just a little of your time and join the team? Please email us or speak to Cath. No amount of time is too small and you may find that you really like it.

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25 v 40*

**We pray for:** Bob Hughes, Margaret Gilbert, Audrey Griffiths, Maelene Hunt, Jeannette Worth, the Hamilton-Browns, Jan Shrapnell and Christopher Rickard. The friends and family of Marion Thwaite. *Please let Clair Matthews know of names to be added or removed.*



There will be a 'Wave of Prayer' on **Monday 5th February** in church at 1.30pm. This is a continuous expression of our commitment in prayer to each other.

Mothers' Union will meet **Wednesday 7th February** at 2.30pm in the church hall for Lent reflections. On **Wednesday 21st February** our prayer group will meet at 10.15am in the church.



The Funeral of Marion Thwaite takes place at the Crematorium on **Monday 5th February** at 2.45pm. Marion was an active member of St James'; she was a leader of the Mother Union group for 6 years. When our teatime services first began she organised the rota and was also involved with our toddler's group.

**BIBLE SOCIETY NEWS** The Trowbridge Action Group for Bible Society has planned a series of events through 2024 with the purpose of raising funds for Bible Society's work including providing materials for "Open the Book", trauma counselling in devastated countries and bringing God's word, the Bible to people in their own heart language. The next event is:-

**Soup and Pudding on 24th February** 11am - 2pm at Upper Studley Baptist Church. All welcome and donations invited. *Barbara King, Emie & Len Haysom*

### **LENT COURSES in HOME GROUPS**

This year during Lent we will be following a 5 week course based on the book 'The Nail' by Stephen Cottrell, which looks at Jesus's crucifixion through the eyes of key witnesses.

Both Monday home groups will both be using this book and in addition Hazel will be leading a group on Wednesday afternoons in church.

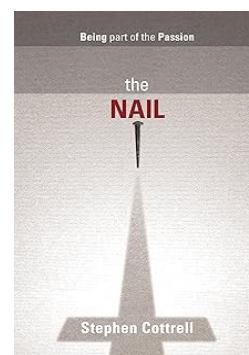
### **THE DATES FOR THESE GROUPS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Mondays 2.15pm at Farleigh Ave:** FEB 12th, 19th, 26th. MAR 4th, 11th, 18th.

**Mondays 7pm in Church:** FEB 19th, 26th. MAR 4th, 11th, 18th.

**Wednesdays 2.30pm in Church:** FEB 21st, 28th, MAR 6th, 13th, 20th.

*You are welcome to join any of these groups.*



**Bell News:** 5 of the tower band were joined by 5 members of the Devizes Branch SDGR for a successful Quarter Peal attempt on 7th January. February looks to be a relatively quiet month.



There will be a Quarter Peal attempt on Sunday the 4th at midday and Wednesday practices continue as usual.

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



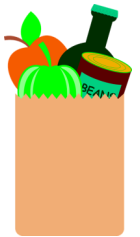
## OUR CHARITY FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY IS OPEN DOORS

"Our prayers can go where we cannot" - words spoken by Brother Andrew founder of Open Doors, and still so relevant today. Christians are imprisoned for their faith in many countries including Sudan, where they are at great risk of further persecution when sharing their faith. Please pray that they will be enabled and protected by the Holy Spirit to go on sharing the love and hope of the Lord Jesus.

### Open Doors' prayer for Sudan this month is:-

"Father God, we cry out for peace in Sudan and an end to this latest conflict. May it not be used to give extremists a renewed foothold in this country. Encourage believers at this time, particularly those who are despondent, weary and hurt. Pour fresh hope into their hearts . Be a place of refuge for Your children, meet their every need and strengthen their faith. During this time of uncertainty and unrest, help our brothers and sisters to be beacons of light that draw others to You. Amen". *(All gifts in the blue envelopes during January will be donated to Open Doors.) Barbara King.*

**THE 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.

Please ensure that the tops of any liquid products placed in the donation box are tightly screwed on, as recently a bottle had leaked in the box and sadly spoilt some of the donations. *Thank you for your continuous support of this important work. Ann Cook*

**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP** Thank you to those of you who have already taken part in the 'Fireside' Quiz to raise funds for the Youth Fellowship. Entry forms are at the back of the church and you can also pay via the card reader in church if you don't have cash so no excuse not to have a go! 😊 **Closing date for entries, 9th February.**

Also, if anyone has any bean bags they no longer use or a spare notice board we would be very grateful to receive them. *Thank you, the YF Team.*

St James' Youth



Fun ☺ Faith + Fellowship!

# Early Years

## WELCOMING THE LAMBERTS - Church Family Lunch

On **Sunday 3rd March** we will be welcoming and commissioning our new Children and Families Ministry Lead Nick Lambert at our 10.45 am service, there will be a hot lunch in the hall afterwards, which will give us further opportunity to welcome Nick and Becca with Ben, Libby and Alfie to our midst. The cost is £5.00 for adults but no charge for children. To help with the catering arrangements, there's a sign up sheet in church. We do hope and trust that many of you will be able to come for that very special occasion. Thank you. *The Wardens Team*

**WELCOME PACK for The Lambert Family** There is a large plastic box on wheels on the table by the West Door entrance to put your donations. Possible suggestions are FOOD - store cupboard item eg: Rice, pasta, cereals, tins of beans, tomatoes, soup, custard, rice puddings. Coffee, Tea, Sugar. Bottles of sauces, oil, etc. HOUSEHOLD items - Toilet rolls, kitchen rolls, washing up liquid, cleaning sprays, soaps. Please feel free to offer money donations. Closing date for donations 28th February. *Carol Dix on behalf of the Wardens Team*

## HALF TERM HOLIDAYS - 12th to 16th February.

During half term Mini Stay and Play will be closed on Wednesday 14th Feb. and Mini Church will be closed on Thursday 8th and 15th Feb. After half term Mini Church will be continuing their series of stories about Bible Beasties.

## WEDNESDAYS

in the Church Hall (Union Street)

10.00-11.30am

Refreshments served throughout



A safe & fun place for children, parents & carers to meet & play!

## THURSDAYS

in the main Church building (Church Street)

10.00-11.00am

includes refreshments & activities from approx 10.30am



A fun and interactive Church service especially for under 5s!



Free parking available in Church Hall car park.

 07858 821148  [families@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk](mailto:families@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk)

 [stjamestrowbridge.co.uk](http://stjamestrowbridge.co.uk)  [sjearlyyears](https://www.facebook.com/sjearlyyears)

# St Leonard's Keevil



## Sunday 4th February - 2nd before Lent

9.15am Sunday Worship

Readings: *John 1:1-14*

## Sunday 11th February - Sunday before Lent

9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)

Readings: *2 Kings 2:1-12*      *Mark 9:2-9*

## Sunday 18th February - Lent 1

9.15am Sunday Worship

Readings: *Genesis 9:8-17*      *Mark 1:9-15*

## Sunday 25th February - Lent 2

9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)

Readings: *Genesis 17:1-16*      *Mark 8:31-end*

## COMING UP

**Saturday 10th February, 9am to 11am: Breakfast in Church.**

Come along and enjoy a bacon or sausage bap.

**Saturday 9th March: Bangers and Mash Lunch.** In the church

Please let Geoff or the churchwardens know if you would like to come along!



Church Wardens: Gill Gosling: 01380 870553 Debbie Meatyard: 01380 828226