



Welcome to the March edition of our monthly newsletter

This month we begin our Passion for Life initiative, don't forget to invite a friend to come along and see the hope Jesus has to offer us all.

If you are new to our church please do introduce yourself to our welcoming team. You can also complete a contact card found in the pews.

CONTACTS

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Please
Recycle
Me



Rector's Reflection

Ever Feel Like Something's Missing?



That was the question at the heart of a recent national survey conducted by A Passion for Life. When asked what feels absent from their lives, the top three answers (across both men and women) were purpose, freedom, and security. Among 18-24 year olds, acceptance also featured strongly.

Those longings are not trivial. They are deeply human. And they are not new. They echo across generations and cultures. Beneath the busyness of daily life, beneath work, family pressures, and the constant noise of our age, many people quietly carry the same questions: *Why am I here? Am I truly known? Is there something more?*

Throughout March (on Sundays 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th), we'll be exploring how Jesus speaks directly into those longings. We'll be thinking about how he offers purpose that anchors us, freedom that liberates us, security that steadies us, and acceptance that restores us.

The services themselves won't feel drastically different. We'll still gather, sing, pray, open the Scriptures, and share in communion together. But we will be especially mindful of those who may be stepping into church for the first time in years - or indeed, ever. There will be a particular welcome and gentle explanation along the way, so that everyone can feel at home.

So may I encourage you to do two simple things this month.

First, pray. Pray for friends, neighbours, colleagues, and family members. Pray that conversations might open naturally. Pray that hearts might be ready.

Second, invite. A personal invitation is often all it takes.

And as we do, let's hold onto the promise of Jesus himself:

*"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"
(John 10:10).*

That is the life we long for. And it is the life he delights to give.

Jake

Life



ST JAMES' CHURCH
TROWBRIDGE

Join us at

St James' Church

10.45am

8th 15th 22nd and 29th March

Speak to Chris for more details



**Ever feel like
something's
missing?**

Find the hope
you're looking for.
Find life in Jesus.

findlifeinjesus.org

Hopefully you've seen the signs around church by now, picked up a bookmark or flyer, it's a question we can ask anyone. And we can all feel something missing in our lives sometimes. Passion for life starts with the felt needs which we all have, physical, emotional or otherwise. This is often how Jesus worked in his ministry, caring for and looking out for people's obvious needs and showing us our ultimate need, to find fullness of life in his presence.

Recently Passion for life did a survey to find out the most common thing people felt was missing in their lives and the top answers were purpose, freedom, and security. I wonder what your friends or family would say? Or you would say? As we prepare to welcome guests, it's a great time to remember how God indeed cares for our needs. That in knowing him we can rest in the green pastures of his presence.

Come along, bring a friend if they would like to come, and we can search together to find out what it looks like to know God and find purpose, freedom, security and so much more.

Chris

Invite your family, friends and neighbours to our Sunday Worship services and share the hope that you've found in Jesus with them. Let's Grow our Family in God!

Services in March

Sunday 1st March

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.45am Sunday Worship*
Readings Romans 4:1-17 John 3:1-17
4.30pm Adult Sunday School

* indicates
livestreamed
services

Friday 6th March 10.30am: World Day of Prayer

Sunday 8th March

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)*
Readings Romans 1:18-25 John 4:5-42
4.30pm Family Fellowship

Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday

10.45am Sunday Worship*
Readings: Ephesians 2:8-14 Luke 10:38-42
4.30pm: Adult Sunday School

Friday 20th March 10.30am: Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd March

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)*
Readings: Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45
4.30pm: Family Fellowship

Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday

10.45am Sunday Worship
Readings: Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 27:11-54

We pray for: Bob Hughes, Margaret Gilbert, Audrey Griffiths, Anne-Marie Glenn, Vic Fielding, Jeannette Worth, the Hamilton-Browns, Jan Shrapnell, Joanna Danak, Andrew, Nick Blakemore and Kate Winfield.
Please let Clair know of names to be added or removed.



St James' March Diary

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

Sun 1st	12noon	Quarter Peal Attempt
Tues 3rd	10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's house)
Wed 4th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union Lent Reflections in the Church Hall
Tues 10th	2.30pm	Bible Society Quiz Afternoon in the Church Hall
	7.30pm	PCC in Church
Thurs 12th	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
Fri 13th	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship in the Church Hall
Tues 17th	10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's house)
	10.30am	Raleigh Court Service
Wed 18th	10.15am	Mothers' Union Prayers in Church
Thurs 19th	2.00pm	Goodson Lodge Service
	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
Sat 21st	9.00am	Church Prayer Meeting
	7.00pm	SDGR Devizes Branch Practice
Sun 22nd	12noon	Thomas Helliker Memorial
	12.30pm	10/12 Bell Quarter Peal
Mon 23rd - Fri 27th:	All Day - Easter Experience	
Tues 24th	6.00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
Fri 27th	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship in the Church Hall
Tues 31st	6.00pm	Holy Week Play

Coffee Corner is open throughout the month:



Mon, Wed & Sat 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Please note coffee corner will be closed on Monday 23rd and Wednesday 25th due to the Easter Experience

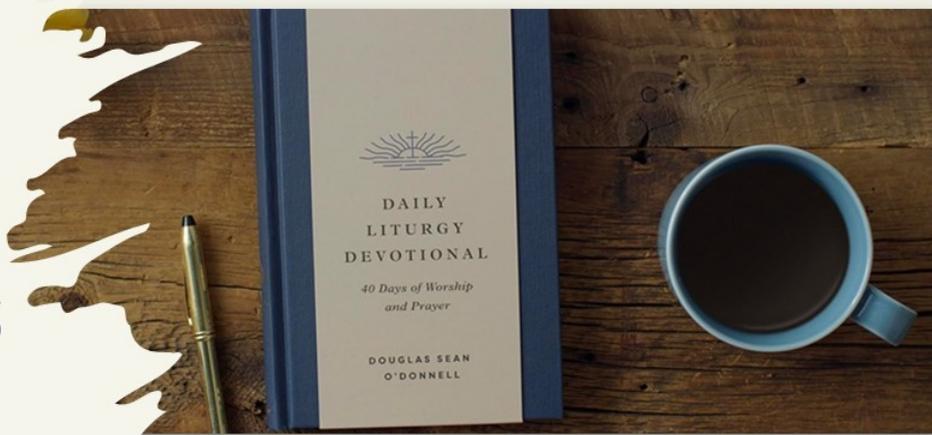
Keeping the coffee corner open is an integral part of St James' ministry and outreach to our wider community. We currently have various gaps on the weekday and Sunday rota, please prayerfully consider helping out in this important service. Speak to Cath Senior or Barbara King. *Also a big thank you to those who donate biscuits, it is much appreciated.*



ST JAMES' CHURCH

Lent Groups

Weekly during Lent



Mondays

2.15pm at Cath's House

7.00pm in Church

Wednesdays

2.30pm in Church

7.00pm in the Upper Vestry

Please speak with Jake or Chris if you'd like to join a group.



BIBLE SOCIETY QUIZ AFTERNOON

Tuesday 10th March, 2.30pm

Come and join us for a fun afternoon in St. James' Church Hall with eight rounds of questions, each one based on a different topic. Tables of four, so bring a team if possible, but if not, you will be able to join another table. We'll have an interval for tea and cake. Free admission but donations invited towards the Bible Society's international work and ministry.

We look forward to seeing you on March 10th. *Barbara King, Emie and Len Haysom.*

BELL NEWS: Quarter peal attempts are planned for Sunday the 1st and 22nd. Saturday 21st is Devizes Branch SDGR practice.



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



The MU will meet on Wednesday 4th March at 2.30pm in the Church Hall for Lent Reflections. You can also join us on Wednesday 18th March at 10.15 in the Church for our monthly Prayer Meeting. All Welcome

Prayer Chain:

If you have a request for prayer please contact Dilys Beckett
prayers@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

REMINDER

The clocks go forward by one hour at 2:00am on
Sunday 29th March



Do you have a spare sofa you no longer need?

Youth Fellowship would be happy to take it off your hands for their new breakout room. Please speak with Clair or Nicola. Thank you

St James' Youth



Flower Cross for Easter



This Easter Sunday (5th April) due to it not only being our Easter celebration but also Baptism and Confirmation we thought we would like to arrange a Floral Easter Cross.

We have done this in the past and would like to mark this special occasion by assembling one for the service on Easter Sunday. This would mean asking members of our congregation to bring small posies ready assembled to place into the cross on Easter Sunday morning. The posies would be handed to the flower team when entering the Church prior to the service beginning.

We would ask that the posy be of a similar size shown in the picture above and can be of any flowers of your choice the more colourful the better. The stems should be wrapped in a piece of wet kitchen roll and then secured using a small piece of foil, this prevents the flowers from wilting. We do hope you will be willing to help us to create this cross. *Many thanks the Flower Team*

Chris Adams Ordination will take place on Saturday 27th June at 4.30pm in Salisbury Cathedral. If you would like to attend please let us know so we can book suitable transport.



MONDAY OFFICE

A Short service of Morning Prayer on Mondays from 9 to 9.30am in church.

CHURCH PRAYER MEETING

Our Church Prayer Meeting for March will take place in church at 9am on Tuesday 21st

OUR CHARITY FOCUS FOR MARCH

Open Doors

The Open Doors World Watch List 2026 is now published and there is a copy at the back of church. The top ten most persecuted churches are in North Korea, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan, Eritrea, Syria, Nigeria, Pakistan, Libya and Iran. The booklet is headed "10 Impossible Stories From the Persecuted Church" and is inspiring reading. A Somalian Christian called Aweis writes, "Do not feel bad for us. Rejoice with us because we're seen worthy to be persecuted as Christ was persecuted. Do not pray that persecution disappears and goes

away because then what's left will not be real Christianity. Instead, pray for us to be stronger spiritually, that we thrive in the middle of persecution, that we become more Christlike, so when persecutors see us, they think, "Wow, they are so different, we want to be like them!"

Wow indeed! What faith! And what a lesson for us. We are called, here in England also to be so different that people will want to be like us, will want to come to church with us and will want to meet Jesus. A challenge indeed!

Explore the Watch List on the Open Doors website [click here](#) or scan the QR Code



Storehouse Foodbank



This month sees the fifth anniversary of the Community Lunch which is another important aspect of work of the Storehouse. This lunch is still popular, with an average of about 35 plus clients each week. The people attending may be those struggling to afford a hot meal, or they may be homeless or sofa surfing, or are lonely and in need of a meal with some company.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers

and generous support of the vital work of Storehouse. As the foodbank continues to be very busy, donations of a variety of goods are very welcome including: toiletries which are always in short supply, items such as deodorants, shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, baby toiletries and nappies. Other things that are regularly needed are: cleaning and laundry materials, as well as tea, coffee, sugar and UHT milk.

If you have a drawer full of carrier bags, or a surplus of the bags for life; the Storehouse would be only too happy to receive them! Just pop them in the collection box with the donations. *Ann Cook*

Safeguarding Update Following the recent Safeguarding Service lead by Nick I thought it might be helpful to give some written information about what we do to try and keep everyone safe in church especially when volunteers are recruited.



DBS checks at enhanced level are needed for anyone who works with our children and young people and also for working with vulnerable adults in roles such as Lay Pastoral Assistant. These highlight if there are any criminal records to be aware of and are carried out free of cost to the volunteer.

Training is required via online units which are also free and can be done at home via the Church of England website safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org Anyone can do this and it will be of benefit to have this knowledge to use for yourself and within your community as well as church.

Although these things help in the first instance it is really the church family who can be aware and notice things of concern within their groups and friends and talk with either the Parish Safeguarding Officer or Rector. There are also posters displayed in the North Porch detailing sources of help with contact numbers.

In future Newsletters we will cover other topics such as abuse of elderly people, domestic abuse and supporting survivors.

Parish Safeguarding Officer Pam Wort
safeguarding@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk 07470 781600

Nigeria 2026

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

10.30am
St James' Church
Trowbridge



Children & Families



I am writing this the day after our church pancake party, which went really well. Please join me in giving thanks to God for this. We had 30 children there, and the most encouraging thing was that all who were there had a connection with church, whether they were invited by a child from church, had been to one of our early years groups, or had a been invited by a Grandparent or Great-grandparent from church.



At the party we played games, got to know each other better and enjoyed hot dogs followed by pancakes. Yum! Everyone seemed to enjoy it and the leaders, mostly made up of Seekers leaders, were wonderful. Please join me in praying that these children and families would start coming to church, especially as we approach Passion for Life. Events like this are good, but having children and families coming to church, where they can hear the life changing news of Jesus, is even better!

I also want to let you know some good news about Who Let the Dads out, which is our once a month Dads/Grandads and kids group, that meets in the church hall. Please join me in giving thanks for the 2 really good sessions we've had to begin the year, with several new Dads coming along. Please pray that we'll get to know these Dads better and again, that they and their families would begin to come to church. *Nick*

Palm Sunday Worship Service

With Donkey!

Sunday

29th March

10.45am in Church

Followed by a bring your own lunch in the church grounds or hall depending on the weather.



WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

Saturday 14th March

Toys for the Kids, Tea, Coffee & Great Food,
St James Parish Church Hall 9.30 - 11am



GRAND ♥ PARENTS

Topic: Connecting with
your Grandchildren

Saturday 14th March
2.30 - 4.30pm
St James' Church Hall

Afternoon Tea



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



CALLING ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

Seekers

EVERY 2ND, 3RD, 4TH AND 5TH SUNDAY
TERM TIME - ONLY
FIND OUT MORE FROM NICK



st James'
Tots

Wednesdays 10-11.30
in St James' Church Hall



St Leonard's Keevil



Sunday 1st March

9.15am Sunday Worship

Readings: *Romans 4:1-7* *John 3:1-17*

Sunday 8th March

9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)

Readings: *Romans 1:18-25* *John 4:5-42*

Sunday 15th March *Mothering Sunday*

3.30pm Sunday Worship

Readings: *Ephesians 2:8-14* *Luke 10:38-42*

Sunday 22nd March

9.15am Sunday Worship (MP)

Readings: *Romans 8:6-11* *John 11:1-45*

Sunday 29th March

9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)

Readings: *Philippians 2:5-11* *Matthew 27:11-54*

Coming up this month at St Leonard's

Bangers & Mash Lunch - March 28th, 12 noon:

In the village hall, if you'd like to join us please let Geoff know.

EASTER LILIES: If you would like to have an Easter lily displayed in St. Leonard's Church in memory of a loved one, please let Rachel or Pat know by no later than Sunday 15th March on 07812 754847 or 01380 870443

racheltony19@gmail.com or sign the list in church.

Donations for each lily will be £5 as in previous years.

Many thanks, Rachel Howe and Pat Bartholomew.

