



Lent is a journey that moves us toward the cross

Welcome to the March edition of our monthly newsletter. This month we enter the season of Lent where we reflect and prepare for Easter. We start the season on Ash Wednesday, 5th March. There will be a Holy Communion service at 6pm which will include the imposition of ashes.

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.

Rector: Rev Jake Eggertsen

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

**Children's & Families Ministry Leader:
Nick Lambert**

nick@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk
(*Day off Saturday*)

Church Office Manager: Clair Matthews

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

Wardens: Richard Clarke & John Joy

 stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

 [stjamestrowbridge](https://www.facebook.com/stjamestrowbridge)

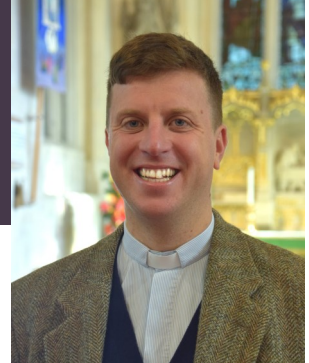
 hello@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

 07565 917441



Please
Recycle
Me

Rector's Reflection



Prayer - "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1)

I'll be honest; I don't find prayer easy. The truth is that prayer is difficult for most Christians. Why? Because prayer requires effort. It means *exercising* faith, humbly offering ourselves to God, confessing our sins, making petitions, and giving thanks for God's mercy. Prayer is a discipline. And, like any kind of exercise or discipline, it's easy to get stuck in a rut. Far too often, prayer can become a duty, not a delight.

Yet we are promised so much in prayer! *"Ask,"* invites Jesus, *"and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened unto you."* (Matthew 7:7)

Prayer is (or, at least, should be) an awe-inducing, personal, and intimate encounter with God. If we truly grasped *why* we pray and *what* is on offer when we do, we'd surely pray more readily, joyfully, and easily.

That is why, in the coming months, we're going to fill ourselves with a diet of the Bible's



promises in *prayer*. Beginning on 2nd March, I'll be teaching on prayer at Adult Sunday School. And, throughout Lent, we're going to exercise our spiritual muscles and practice prayer together. This will include four *Lenten Prayer Meetings in Church* - on different times and days to accommodate all.

So, come and join in as we learn how to pray on the following occasions at St James':

Sun 2nd March (4:30pm): Adult Sunday School on *Prayer*.

Fri 7th March (10:30am): World Day of Prayer service.

Sun 9th March (4:30pm): Family Fellowship.

Tue 11th March (6pm): Lenten Prayer Meeting in Church.

Sun 16th March (4:30pm): Adult Sunday School on *Prayer*.

Fri 21st March (10:30am): BCP Morning Prayer.

Sat 22nd March (9am): Lenten Prayer Meeting in Church.

With coffee and pastries.

Sun 23rd March (4:30pm): Family Fellowship.

Sun 30th March (6pm): Lenten Prayer Meeting in Church.

Fri 4th April (10:30am): BCP Morning Prayer.

Sun 6th April (4:30pm): Adult Sunday School on *Prayer*.

Tue 8th April (6pm): Lenten Prayer Meeting in Church.

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



Services in March

** indicates livestreamed service*

Sunday 2nd March

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.45am Sunday Worship*
Readings Numbers 5:1-10 Luke 9:28-36
4.30pm: Adult Sunday School

Wednesday 5th March 6.00pm: Ash Wednesday Joint Benefice Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Friday 7th March 10.30am: World Day of Prayer Service

Sunday 9th March

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)*
Readings Numbers 6:1-27 Luke 4:1-13
4.30pm Family Fellowship

Sunday 16th March

10.45am Sunday Worship*
Readings: Numbers 9:15-23 Luke 13:31-end
4.30pm: Adult Sunday School

Friday 21st March 10.30am: Morning Prayer

Sunday 23rd March

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)*
Readings: Numbers 11:1-23 Luke 13:1-9
4.30pm Family Fellowship

Sunday 30th March - Mothering Sunday

10.45am Sunday Worship*
Readings: Numbers 12:1-16 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-end

St James' March Diary



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

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)
Wed 5th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union Lent Reflection in the Church Hall
Thurs 6th	7.30pm	Chilcompton Ringers Visit
Sat 8th	9.30am	Who Let the Dad's Out in the Church Hall
	2.30pm	Grandparents Afternoon Tea in Church
Tues 11th	6.00pm	Lenten Prayer Meeting in Church
Thurs 13th	2.00pm	Goodson Lodge Service
	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
Fri 14th	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship in Church Hall
Sat 15th	7.00pm	SDGR Devizes Bell Ringers Branch Practice
Tues 18th	10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's house)
	10.30am	Raleigh Court Service
	7.30pm	PCC Meeting in Church
Wed 19th	10.15am	Mothers' Union Prayers in Church
Thurs 20th	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
Sat 22nd	9.00am	Lenten Prayer Meeting
	12noon	Thomas Helliker Memorial
Sun 23rd	12noon	10/12 Bell Quarter Peal
Thurs 27th	2.00pm	Goodson Lodge Service
Fri 28th	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship in the Church Hall
Sun 30th	6.00pm	Lenten Prayer Meeting in Church



**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*

Wednesday March 5th Mothers' Union meet in the Church Hall at 2.30 pm for Lent Reflections. Wednesday March 19th Mothers' Union Prayer Group at 10.15 in Church. All welcome.

MENUNITED



Trowbridge

CURRY EVENING

Friday 14th March
7.00pm for Drinks
Seated at 7.30pm
closing at 9.30pm

At Trowbridge RFC, Doric Park
Hilperton, BA14 6JB

Guest speaker: Jake Eggertsen

Cost is £14 paid in cash on the
night at the Rugby Club

Book via email

menutrow@gmail.com

Include your full name, church
and names of any guests

*Booking closes on Sunday
9th March*

Forthcoming Bible Society Event



The Trowbridge Action Group for Bible Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 25th at St Mary's Church, Horse Road, Hilperton at 2.30pm. After the short AGM, Gareth Davies, Bible Society's lead for church engagement will be speaking about Bible Society's ministry through working with church and network leaders to help resource them to encourage Bible use in every sphere of life. It will be an interesting talk, and all are welcome to attend. *Barbara King, Len & Emie Haysom.*

Ash Wednesday Lunch, St Leonard's Keevil

St Leonard's invite members of St James' to a lunch on Ash Wednesday March 5th, which will be held in the Church at 1.00 pm. This event will be appropriate to Ash Wednesday as it will be a semi fasting hunger lunch comprising soup with bread or roll and a piece of fruit. There will not be a fixed charge for this lunch but we request that you donate at least the amount your main meal costs you (or better still the cost of a restaurant meal!) because St Leonard's will donate the profits to Bishop Hassan's appeal for famine relief in his Diocese of Kadugli caused by the ongoing civil war. If you would like to come please email rodneyweaver380@gmail.com by 8.00 pm on Sunday 2nd March. This will give us an idea of numbers. The postcode for St Leonard's church for your Sat Nav is BA14 6SB

BELL NEWS: Quarter Peals are planned for the first and fourth Sunday this month. The Chilcompton ringers will be visiting at 7.30pm on the 6th and the Devizes practice is scheduled for the 15th. A new Facebook Group has been launched for Friends The Bells St James, Trowbridge with the aim of sharing information on what's happening in the tower.



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

LENT COURSE

This year's Lent Book is "Forty Women" by Ros Clarke, looking at unseen women of the Bible from Eden to Easter. The Home Groups will all be using it and a copy of the book will automatically be ordered for each person in the group. If you would like to join a Lent Group or would like to use the book independently please sign the list at the back of the church so we can order a copy for you.

There are 40 chapters in the book, although they include slightly more than 40 women because some are considered in pairs or small groups. If you follow Lent from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday, remembering that Sundays are not included, you will have a chapter for each day. At the end of each chapter are questions and a prayer.

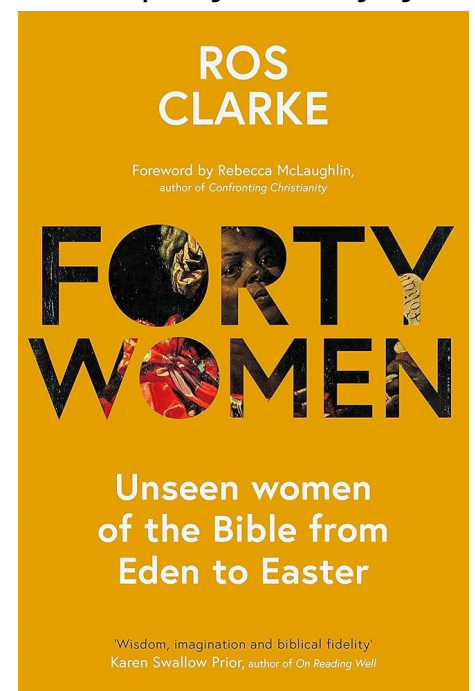
This is quite different from last year's course but I hope you enjoy it! As we spend time with these women, may we grow in knowledge and love of the Lord.

Lent Groups at St James' All Welcome

Monday - 7.00pm - St James' Church
10th, 17th & 24th March 7th & 14th April

Wednesday - 2.30pm - St James' Church
12th, 19th & 26th March 2nd, 9th & 16th April

Monday - 2.15pm - Farleigh Avenue
17th & 24th March | 7th & 14th April



OUR CHARITY FOCUS FOR MARCH



What's it like to face prison for your faith? Or to know you might be attacked, rejected or even killed for loving Jesus? How do you stay faithful when you can't go to church and have to pray and worship in the dark, terrified of being discovered?

Open Doors tells the story of our persecuted church family and the story of the Light of the World who sustains, comforts and strengthens them. We may never meet our persecuted family but our prayers, gifts and advocacy can help Open Doors

shine light into some of the darkest places on earth. They equip our courageous brothers and sisters in more than 70 countries with relief and trauma care, livelihood projects, Bibles and training. It means so much to our persecuted family to know that they're not alone.

An Iranian Christian writes; "Many Christians get arrested every day for their faith, with lasting mental effects. The same applies to those who flee; they live uncertain, displaced lives. Please pray that God would heal their wounds and strengthen them to stand up again."

Find out more about the work of Open Door on their website <https://www.opendoorsuk.org>

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion

With imposition of Ashes

Wednesday 5th March

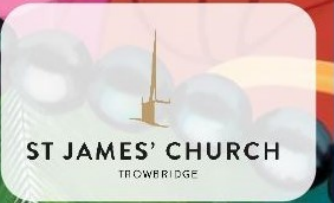
6.00pm

in Church



ST JAMES' CHURCH
TROWBRIDGE

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025
Friday 7 March
 A service for everyone! **10.30am**



Cook Islands *I made you wonderful*



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION
 24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led
wwdp.org.uk Registered Charity Number 233242

Storehouse
Foodbank

at West Wilts Vineyard

This month sees the fourth anniversary of the Community Lunch which is another important aspect of work that Storehouse do. This lunch is still popular, with an average of about 30 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

Children & Families




Calling all Grandparents! Join us for our upcoming Grandparents tea on March 8th. This will be a chance to gather with other Grandparents, have some input about what it means to be a Christian Grandparent, pray together and of course, eat Cake (other sweet options will be available including fruit!). Whether this is something you've thought about before, or whether this is new to you, we think you'll find our time together encouraging. Plus, we'll give you a chance to talk about your Grandchildren, and which Grandparent doesn't love doing that?! See details below for how to book in. Or sign up on the sign up sheet at the back of church.

GRAND PARENTS

Afternoon Tea

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

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



ST JAMES' CHURCH
TROWBRIDGE

To book contact Nick, nick@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk,
go to our website or scan or scan the QR Code



WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

Saturday 8th March
9.30 - 11am
St James' Parish Church Hall

Toys for the Kids | Tea, Coffee + Great Food
Meet other Dads

Second Saturday of each month



In Seekers we've begun looking at the book of Numbers! That's right, you read that correctly. We think this book of the Bible is as



relevant to children as any other book of the Bible, so we're having a go at teaching it to them! As I write, we've only done one week, but so far so good. We're excited to share how the book connects with today, with us being numbered amongst God's people and that church is a place where we get to meet and worship God. Look out for the camp we're building out of

furniture packaging! I'm sure we'll show it to the church family at some point. Please do pray for the children at church. That they would be named and numbered amongst God's people and safely journey with God to the new creation.



St Leonard's Keevil



Sunday 2nd March

9.15am Sunday Worship

Readings: Numbers 5:1-10 Luke 9:28-36

Wednesday 5th March 6.00pm: Ash Wednesday joint Benefice Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at St James' Church, Trowbridge

Sunday 9th March

9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)

Readings: Numbers 6:1-27 Luke 4:1-13

Sunday 16th March

9.15am Sunday Worship (MP)

Readings: Numbers 9:15-23 Luke 13:31-end

Sunday 23rd March

9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)

Readings: Numbers 11:1-23 Luke 13:1-9

Sunday 30th March

3.30pm Sunday Worship for Mothering Sunday

Readings: Numbers 12:1-16 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-end

Coming up this month at St Leonard's

Hunger Lunch: Ash Wednesday 5th March 1.00pm in St Leonard's Church. Profits will be donated to Famine Relief in Sudan. For more info speak to Rodney Weaver or Geoff West.

Lent Group: Tuesday 11th March at 5pm for 5 weeks. This is being run by Jane Knowles and Michele du Saire.

Bangers 'n' Mash Lunch: Saturday 15th March 12noon in the Village Hall. Please contact Geoff for more Details.

Easter Lilies: If you would like a lily in church at Easter in memory of a loved one please let Rachel or Pat know by 31st March. Cost £5 each.