ST JAMES' CHURCH
TROWBRIDGE

November 2026

Newsletter



Welcome to the November edition of our monthly newsletter

We hope you find this a useful guide to what is going on. Please check out our website for even more information and updates.

If you are new to our church please do introduce yourself to our welcome team. You can also fill out a contact card from the pews.

CONTACTS

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Please Recycle Me



Curate's Contemplation

Time is in God's Hands

The recent clock change has got me thinking about time and how it seems to have sped up. Nowadays, it never feels like there is enough time to get everything done, or perhaps, if you are in a season of life where you feel you do have enough time to get your own things done, the speed of the world around us feels out of control. The modern world often feels like we are trying to catch up.

In Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, there are famous words which start 'there is a time for everything' and off it goes, listing all sorts of things in life, each of which has its time and in due course is replaced, or disappears, every good and bad season eventually passes. The point of this part of Ecclesiastes is to show us that in the fabric of the world, everything has its season; the passing of time means that nothing lasts forever. Each aspect of our lives has its time and is eventually whisked away.

For all of us, time keeps rolling by seemingly faster than ever, which can leave us trying to control things in some way, either by reminiscing or trying to control the future. As the passing of time is beyond our control, enjoying the present can feel elusive, like trying to stay still on an escalator which keeps on moving. So what then is the solution to enjoying the present?



I believe in part it is to loosen our grip and let God be in charge, to remember that although we cannot control time, time is in God's hands. As Bobby Jamieson puts it in his book Everything Is Never Enough, 'God writes time in permanent marker, leaving us no chance to erase or revise so that we will come to discern the infinite difference between author and characters. So that we will come to consider history not as a tale told by an idiot but the steady, inscrutable handwriting of the living God.'

The fact we cannot pin time down and are easily distracted away by the past or the future shows that we are longing for something more, longing for a season of life which lasts or, as Ecclesiastes puts it, that God has 'set eternity in the human heart' (Ecclesiastes 3:11). An eternity where time no longer runs away from us, causing us to struggle to keep up. Instead, we will be forever with the living God in his presence. What we have to look forward to is a time when the clocks will be changed once and for all, and we will have a timeless enjoyment of God for eternity.

So as time keeps rolling by, and we gradually begin to look towards Advent and Christmas, a busy season for many of us, an act of great faith is to live in the present. Fully aware that we are not in control, we cannot control time, yet because God gives us a part of the great tapestry of history, we are privileged enough to know the one who does.

Chris



Services in November

* indicates livestreamed services

Sunday 1st November

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.45am Sunday Worship
Readings: 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12
6.30pm Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service

Friday 6th November 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 8th November

9.45am Remembrance Sunday
Readings: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21
4.30pm Prayer & Praise

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Sunday 15th November

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)
Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30
4.30pm Adult Sunday School

Friday 20th November 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd November

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)
Readings: Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25.31-46

Sunday 29th November

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)
Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37
6.30pm Advent Carol Service

We pray for: Bob Hughes, Audrey Griffiths, Anne-Marie Glenn, Vic Fielding, the Hamilton-Browns, Jan Shrapnell, Joanna Danak, Margaret Humphreys, Andrew, David Gilbert , Peter Hinchliffe, the family and friends of David Wildman. *Please let Clair know of names to be added or removed.*



St James' November Diary

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

Sun 1st	12noon	Quarter Peal Attempt
Mon 2nd	1.00pm	LPA Meeting in the Lower Vestry
	7.00pm	Monday Home Group at Stancomb Avenue
Tues 3rd	10.15am	Fellowship Group at Farleigh Avenue
	10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts at Pat Doels house
Wed 4th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union Meeting in the Church Hall
Fri 6th	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship BBQ in the Rectory Garden
Wed 11th	2.30pm	Wednesday Homegroup in the Lower Vestry
Thurs 12th	2.00pm	Goodson Lodge Service
	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
Sat 14th	2.00pm	David Wildman's Thanksgiving Service *followed by afternoon tea in the hall*
Mon 16th	7.00pm	Monday Home Group at Stancomb Avenue
Tues 17th	10.30am	Raleigh Court Service
	10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts at Pat Doels house
	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
Wed 18th	10.15am	Mothers' Union Prayers in Church
Thurs 19th	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
Fri 20th	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship in the Church Hall
Sat 21st	7.00pm	SDGR Devizes Branch Practice
Sun 22nd	12noon	10/12 Bell Quarter Peal
Tues 24th	10.15am	Fellowship Group at Farleigh Avenue
Wed 25th	2.30pm	Wednesday Home Group in the Lower Vestry
	2.30pm	MU Advent Holy Communion in Church
Sat 28th	2.30pm	Bratton Silver Band Christmas Concert



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

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.

There will be a service of **Thanksgiving for the Life of David Wildman** on **Saturday 14th November** followed by afternoon tea in the church hall. All Welcome

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

We will meet in the church hall at 2.30pm on **Wednesday 4th November** for the MU Meeting.
MU Prayers take place in church at 10.15am on **Wednesday 18th November**
🙏 **All Welcome!** 😊

MONDAY OFFICE

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

Bell News

There will be quarter peal attempts by the tower band on the 1st and 8th . The attempt on the 8th will be with the bells half muffled as it is Remembrance Sunday and commence at 11.30 rather than the usual 12 noon.
Devizes Branch SDGR practice is scheduled for the 21st starting at 7pm with the branch quarter peal on the 22nd following the morning service.
Continuing the tradition of ringing the bells for the town Christmas Lights Switch On, we will be ringing at approximately 6pm on the 27th

Bell ringing practice takes place every Wednesday 7pm until 9pm

Annual Celebration 2026

Christian Action in the Trowbridge Area (CATA)

CATA

Saturday 7th November 2026

14.00–16.30pm

St Thomas' Church, BA14 8PT

Be a CATAlyst for Christ
Speaker – Rev Tina Hodgett, leader of Church Mission Society Southwest Hub in Pioneer Mission

all welcome

Prayer Chain: We now have a dedicated email address for all your prayer requests, please email: prayers@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

Coffee Morning at North Bradley Baptist Church, Saturday December 5th, 10am - 12 noon in aid of Bible Society's work both in the UK and internationally. All Welcome.

We currently have car park spaces free to hire in the hall car park. Please speak to John Horsey if you are interested.
We also have some free slots during the week in the hall for regular bookings. Please contact Clair for more info.





St James' Church Trowbridge

Christmas Tree Festival

Tuesday 1st to Saturday 5th December 2026
Open daily 10am until 5pm
(4pm on Saturday)

All Welcome
Free Admission
Refreshments available

www.stjamestrowbridge.co.uk | 07565 917441
ctf@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk



OUR CHARITY FOCUS for November is

storehouse
FOOD | COMMUNITY | HOPE

GIVING HOPE, SHARING LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS

Every year, the Storehouse Foodbank provides hampers for about 70 plus families, who otherwise would not be able to enjoy Christmas with food and treats, which we are fortunate enough to enjoy.

This year, the Storehouse Foodbank are hoping to be able to provide 100 hampers and are collecting items to help to achieve this goal. They have asked for a certain number of particular items and for people to sign up to donate these things. As part of our commitment to 'Loving Trowbridge' I have signed up to St James' donating:

- 10 tubs of Quality Street , Heroes or similar.
- 10 boxes of biscuits for cheese
- 20 jars of cranberry sauce

Donations in the foodbank box have always been generous, particularly in the leadup to Christmas, so if you are able to donate one or two of the items listed, it will help to attain the number needed to enable the foodbank to reach their goal. Once you have contributed your donation, please could you tick off the item on the sheet at the back of the church, so that I can keep a track of numbers.

Items for the hampers need to be collected by 1st December. Understandably the usual items are still needed as the use of the foodbank continues to grow.

Thank you for your continued support of the work of the foodbank. Ann Cook







storehouse
FOOD | COMMUNITY | HOPE

ST JAMES' CHURCH
TROWBRIDGE

Youth Ministry Leader

St James' Church, Trowbridge is seeking a committed Christian to lead and develop our youth ministry as we seek to **Proclaim Christ, Grow Disciples and Love Trowbridge.**

This is an exciting opportunity to build relationships with young people, help them grow as disciples of Jesus, and develop a vibrant and engaging youth ministry. The role will include prioritising Sunday worship, developing opportunities for Bible study and discipleship, leading Youth Fellowship, and equipping and supporting a team of volunteers.

We offer training, mentoring and support.

Full-time, three-year fixed-term contract. Salary £27,000–£30,000 per annum, dependent on experience.





Application pack available at: www.stjamestrowbridge.co.uk/vacancies

For any queries please contact Becca in the church office:
becca@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

The application deadline is 31/12/26.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Children & Families

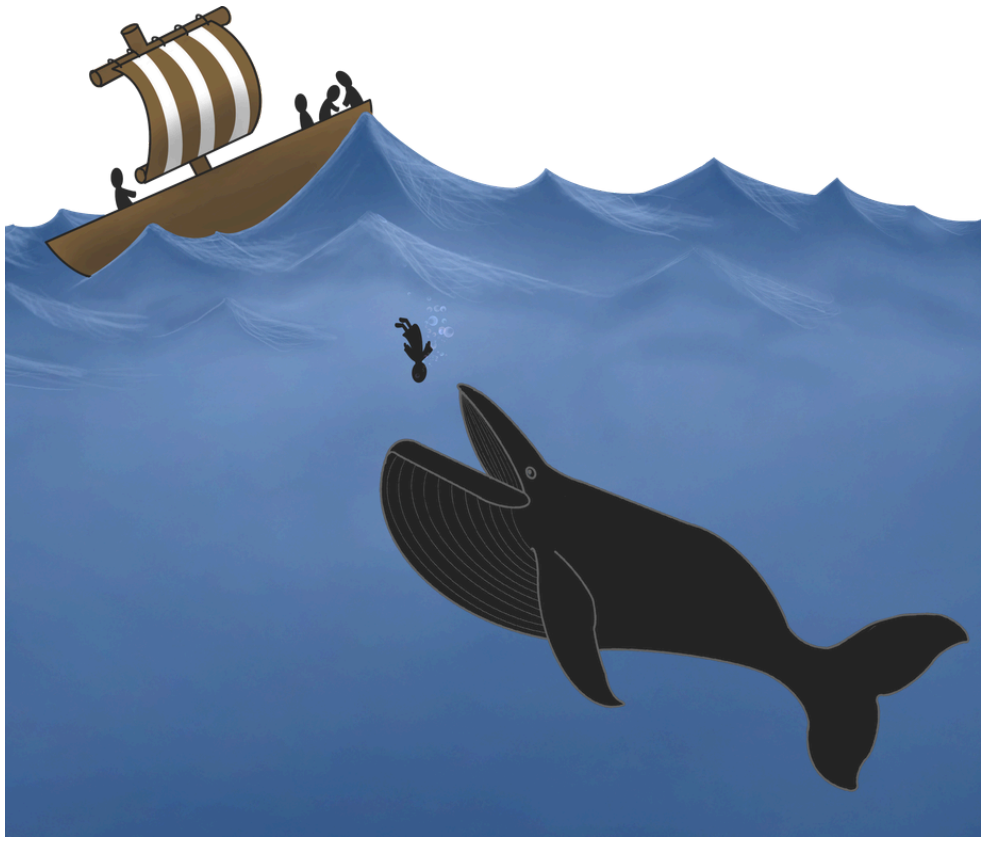


Seekers Update

Seekers is our Sunday school group for Primary School aged children and the leaders for this are Angela, Ann, Becca, Jill, Mandy, Nick and Nikki. This term we have been in the book of Jonah and what a whale of a time we've had! OK, no more puns, I promise!

The book is well known because of Jonah being swallowed by a big fish (the kids had lots of questions about this!), but there is so much more to it than this. In chapter 1 we saw that God made the sea and the dry land (Jonah 1:9) and is in charge of all things. He commands Jonah to go to Nineveh, he sends the storm and he sends the Fish. In chapter 2 we saw the God is a saving God. (Jonah 2:9). He rescued Jonah from the sea by sending the big fish and he rescued us by sending Jesus to die for us. Chapter 3 sees Jonah calling Nineveh to repentance and they respond by believing (Jonah 3:4-5). Their repentance is genuine and heartfelt. This chapter personally challenged me in that my repentance can sometimes feel quite shallow. And chapter 4 comes as a bit of a shock! Jonah is not pleased that God has mercy on the city of Nineveh. As I write, we've not yet done this chapter with the children, but may they be children who like the Lord Jesus, grow up having a heart for the lost.

There's loads more that can be said about the book, but I'll stop there! I will finish by saying it's been a privilege teaching it to the children. May they continue to know the God who is in charge, who has saved them and who calls them to a life of deep repentance and faith in him. And may they be those who look to share him with others.



Schools update

You may recall that in the September newsletter I wrote about developing deeper relationships with the schools in our Parish. Don't worry if you don't! Well I'm pleased to report that since then I've had good meetings with the headteachers of Bellefield, Paxcroft and Willowbrook and all of them are keen to maintain or deepen their partnership with St James'. Whether it's involving them with the Christmas Tree festival, going in and doing assemblies (Open the Book and me on my own) or having them here for Christmas and Easter events, please pray that the relationships with these schools continue to flourish and that as a result many children and members of staff get to hear the life giving news of Jesus. *Nick*



Open the Book Dates

Please pray for the team.

Monday 16th November: Open the Book rehearsal & school visits.

Wednesday 18th November: Open the Book visits to schools.

Monday 23rd November: Open the Book visits to schools & care homes.

CALLING ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

Seekers

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

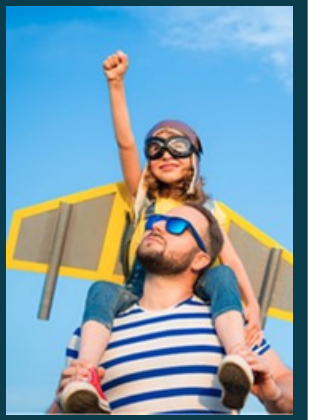
St James' Tots

Wednesdays 10–11.30
in St James' Church Hall

WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

Saturday 7th November

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



St Leonard's Keevil



Sunday 1st November
9.15 am Sunday Worship - Patronal festival
Readings: 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday 8th November
11.00am Remembrance Sunday Service
Readings: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21

Sunday 15th November
9.15 am Sunday Worship (HC)
Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday 22nd November
9.15am Sunday Worship (MP)
Readings: Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25.31-46

Sunday 29th November
9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)
Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37



The Joy of Christmas *with the Keevil Singers*
4th December 2026 7.30pm St Leonard's Church Keevil
Entry £5, under 16's free
Includes Bar, Raffle, Singalong
In Aid of Church Funds - For info tel: 07850 165186

Fundraising for the Roof

We are currently fundraising to find the £100,000 needed for a major south roof lead replacement project. Can you help by collecting any of the following: Foreign notes and coins, UK coins, clean aluminium drink cans? Please let Clair know and she will pass your info on.

Church Wardens: Gill Gosling: 01380 870553 Debbie Meatyard: 07954 117515