



Selling Bird Feeders
made by young people
at our YF session.

Welcome to the October edition of our monthly newsletter
We hope you will 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.

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Please
Recycle
Me



Rector's Reflection

Stories that Shape Us

"Then Jesus told them this parable..."

Recent claims by researchers and developers that artificial intelligence poses a threat to human life have raised alarm bells. How credible these warnings are, I do not know. However, when it comes to AI Technology, there is another threat that concerns me: the threat AI poses to human story.

Fragmented digital experiences and algorithmic-driven content are increasingly pushing traditional stories out of the picture. For instance, many secondary schools no longer teach long-form classical texts. Teachers may choose shorter and simpler books for GCSE English Literature because they make it easier for students to pass exams. No doubt this approach can produce competent test-takers and good qualifications. But what might be lost? The older and harder task of reading deeply, inhabiting a story, and allowing the stories we read to cultivate virtue and to shape our understanding of what it means to be human.

Stories should do more than merely entertain us. A good story gives us a way of seeing the world. The great stories stay with us because, in some sense, we continue to live with them long after we have finished reading them.

Jesus was a master storyteller. His parables have captivated readers and hearers for 2,000 years. The characters within them – the good Samaritan, the prodigal son, the pharisee and the tax collector – are widely known, even outside the church. Yet, we must not be mistaken: Jesus' parables are not always as simple and easy to understand as we assume.



Jesus told his disciples that his parables contain the “secret of the kingdom of God.” He also quoted the prophet Isaiah, saying that “many indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand” (Mark 4:11-12). His stories invite us to look again at the world, and at ourselves. Sometimes they comfort us. Sometimes they unsettle us. Often they reveal that the people we thought were the heroes are not quite who we expected, and that the kingdom of God does not operate according to the assumptions we bring with us.

In Sunday Worship throughout the month of October, we’ll be exploring and reflecting on some of the parables Jesus told. As we do so, my hope is not simply that we will become more familiar with some of the best-known stories in the Bible. Rather, I hope that we will allow Jesus’ stories to do their work on us: to challenge our assumptions, deepen our understanding, and shape the way we see God, ourselves, and our neighbours.

In a world increasingly filled with noise, fragments, and endless new content, perhaps we need to recover the ancient discipline of listening to a story. And, above all, of listening to the stories Jesus told.

Jake

**New
Sermon
Series
During
October**

Parables Jesus Told



Services in October

* indicates
livestreamed
services

Friday Communion will not take place this month due to electrical works in the church

Sunday 4th October

8.00am Holy Communion

10.45am Sunday Worship

Readings: Ezekiel 24:11-16 Luke 15:1-10

4.30pm Adult Sunday School

Sunday 11th October

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)*

Readings: Hosea 11:1-9 Luke 15:11-32

4.30pm Prayer and Praise

Sunday 18th October

10.45am Sunday Worship*

Readings: Psalm 51:1-17 Luke 18:9-14

4.30pm Adult Sunday School

Sunday 25th October

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)*

Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7 Luke 20:9-18

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 Jeannette Worth. Please let Clair know of names to be added or removed.



St James' October Diary

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

Fri 2nd	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship in the Church Hall
Sat 3rd	9.30am	Band Practice in Church
Sun 4th	12noon	Quarter Peal Attempt
Tues 6th	10.15am	Fellowship Group at Farleigh Avenue
	10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts at Pat Doel's house
	7.30pm	12 Bell Competition Practice
Wed 7th	2.30pm	Wednesday Homegroup in the Lower Vestry
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union in the Church Hall
Thurs 8th	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
Thurs 15th	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
Fri 16th	11.00am	Goodson Lodge Service
	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship in the Church Hall
Sat 17th	7.00pm	SDGR Devizes Branch Practice
Mon 19th	7.00pm	Monday Homegroup at Stancomb Avenue
Tues 20th	10.15am	Fellowship Group at Farleigh Avenue
	10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts at Pat Doel's house
	10.30am	Raleigh Court Service
Wed 21st	10.15am	Mothers' Union Prayers in Church
Fri 23rd	5.00pm	Bright Lights Party in Church
Sat 24th	5.00pm	Trowbridge Town Singers Autumn Concert
Sun 25th	2.00am	Clocks go back
	12noon	10/12 Bell Quarter Peal
Wed 28th	2.30pm	Wednesday Homegroup in Lower Vestry

Building Closure: The church building will be closed for essential electrical work from **Monday 28th September until Friday 16th October**. During this time our ministry will continue. Weekday groups will be meeting at alternative venues. The church will open at the weekend so Sunday services will not be affected.



Coffee Corner is open throughout the month:

Mon, Tues, Wed & Sat 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Please note coffee corner will only be open on Saturdays from Monday 28th September until Friday 16th October due to electrical work taking place in church.

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.

BELL NEWS for October:

- Quarter Peal attempts will take place after the morning service on the 4th and 25th by the tower band and Devizes Branch SDGR respectively
- Devizes Branch SDGR will practice from 7 - 9pm on 17th
- Ben Kipling, our Tower Captain, will climb to the clock and put it back an hour on 25th as British Summertime ends
- Ringers from Essex will be visiting on the 30th from 9.15 - 10.15am
- There is a 12 bell striking competition practice on the 6th at 7.30pm. The competition itself is on the 10th.



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

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Mothers' Union will meet in the Church hall on Wednesday 7th October for a Harvest themed Text Auction.

For those who do not know what a text auction is; Bring along an item to be auctioned and a text which describes it or is linked to it. One which I remember from many years ago is someone bringing a box of tissues and the text "Jesus wept"

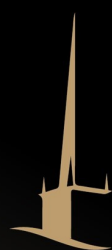
Mothers' Union Prayers in Church Wednesday 🙏
21st October at 10.15am.
All Welcome

Adult Sunday School

4.30pm in Church

First and third
Sunday of the month

Term Time Only



Prayer & Praise



A monthly gathering for people to pray, sing, and listen to God together.

Every Second Sunday
4.30pm in Church
Term time only

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

MONDAY OFFICE

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

Please note these meetings will be relocating to the Parish Office (Lower Vestry) on 28th September, 5th and 12th October

REMINDER

The clocks go back by one hour at 2:00am on **Sunday 25th October**.

How will you spend your extra hour?



Christian Aid Quiz: Friday 30th October at Wesley Road Church, please see notice board for full details.

A service of Thanksgiving & Remembrance

Sunday 1st November
6.30pm



ST JAMES' CHURCH
TROWBRIDGE

If you would like the name of someone dear to you to be included please let Jake or Clair know.



By the time you read this article we will have had our Harvest Festival, so thank you to all who donated items for the foodbank which will be much appreciated by them to continue their work.

As the church will be closed during

the week from 28th September, I will not be able to collect donations, so please could you keep them back until Sunday 19th October, as the church will be open the following week. Once the church is open again during the week there will be information about the collection of donations for the foodbank's Christmas hampers.

Thank you for your continued support of this important work in our community. *Ann Cook*

OUR CHARITY FOCUS September and October is



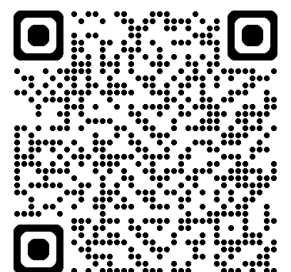
Wiltshire Youth for Christ is a dynamic and innovative Christian faith-based youth and community organisation

How can you help WYfC?

- Join their Trustee board - this meets 4 times a year and is made up of a wide variety of people who are all able to help with strategy and leadership.
- Join one of their amazing volunteer teams: offering 1:1 mentoring in secondary schools as well as supporting summer pop up weeks in Trowbridge. They provide training and supervision for all of these activities, providing a great way to get involved in local communities, and making a real difference to young people.

- Join their team of sessional youth workers: do you have skills and experience in working with young people? There are opportunities for paid work in funded projects.
- Could you give regularly as a Friend of Wiltshire Youth for Christ? Having regular donations, whether small or larger, helps enormously in planning finances. Please see the Donate link on their website.
- Pray. Please pray for the work of Wiltshire Youth for Christ; for the team and trustee board, for the volunteers who work with them, for the young people they support and the events they organise. Also please pray for their new youth worker Hannah Lake who joined the team last month.

Find out more about WYfC on the board at the back of church or on their [website](#).



Dear all,

In previous years we have sent individual letters of thanks to everyone who generously gives financially to the ministry and mission of St James' church. We would like to do that again. However, due to ill-health, we've had to draw in new members to our church finance team and, unfortunately, we haven't been able to coordinate the letters this year. For that, we are sorry.



Nevertheless, I want to say a big thank you to all our donors. We simply couldn't maintain the everyday life and ministry of the church without you. Discipleship, pastoral care, worship preparation, administration, communication, and new opportunities for mission - much of which is supported by our paid staff - are all fuelled and enabled by your generosity.

So, thank you for giving so generously, often in sacrificial yet unseen ways. May you know the joy of giving to God's work as you continue to give in his name.

Every blessing, Jake



'Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver' (2 Corinthians 9:7)



PARISH
GIVING
SCHEME

If you'd like to start giving to the work of the church, the best way to do so is via the Parish Giving Scheme. Visit stjamestrowbridge.co.uk/giving for more information.

OpenDoors ARISE AFRICA PETITION

Our Christian brothers and sisters across sub-Saharan Africa are suffering terribly for their faith. Their Christian leaders are calling on the global church to stand with them against violent persecution. They are asking for robust protection from violent militant attacks, for just and fair prosecutions of the attackers and for restoration to bring healing to all affected communities. Please sign the petition form at the back of church or online at opendoorsuk.org/ariseafrica **before Nov 2nd**. The petition will be presented to the UK government and other decision-makers around the world in November. Please pray for the impact of the petition. Thank you.

Children & Families



For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. Ephesians 5:8

Halloween will soon be upon us and I wonder how you're feeling about that? Do you dread it or is it something that doesn't bother you? As Christians we know there is darkness in our world, but because of Jesus, we are now in the light and can live as children of light. But how can we do that effectively especially at Halloween?

As a church, we will be hosting a Bright Lights Party on Friday 23rd October. One of the reasons we moved it from 31st October is, so it doesn't provide a clash for our friends who might want to come to this party, but also want to be out trick or treating.

The party should be a wonderful time to celebrate Jesus, the light of the world and we would love the church family to support it by praying and if possible, by serving. There are various ways to serve including helping with the set up and clear up, being there as a leader on the night, or by baking some treats. It's also a really good opportunity to invite friends and grandchildren. If you want to serve in any way, please let me know.

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER, 5-7PM
ST JAMES' CHURCH



Bright Lights
PARTY

But what about the 31st October itself? What can we do then? Again it's a good evening to pray for our town of Trowbridge. That the light of Jesus would break through and change lives. But another reason we've freed up this evening by not having our light party clashing, is so people can be at home to answer Trick or Treaters if they wish to. It's very unusual to have children and young people knock on our door and it gives us an excellent opportunity to shine our light before them. We can do this by giving out sweets, saying a kind word on the doorstep and maybe give out bible verses like John 8:12 (Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world'...) or Christian tracts. I would be very happy to recommend some. If you want people to knock on your door, then it usually helps to have a carved pumpkin outside. Could you even carve out a cross shape and put an electric candle inside? Equally I totally understand that for some, you may not want to answer the door when it's dark, which is of course, absolutely fine.

May God shine his light on our town of Trowbridge, this Halloween.

Seekers Update: We have had a great start in the book of Jonah. As I write, we've only done chapter 1, but already we've seen that the book is not ultimately about Jonah, but about God who rules all things. We will go onto look at God being a rescuing God who rescues Jonah from the fish but also rescues the city of Nineveh when Jonah calls them to repent. If you get a chance after church, do ask the children about their Seekers sessions.

Nick

CALLING ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN



**WHO LET THE
DADS OUT?**

**Saturday 10th
October**

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





St Leonard's Keevil



Sunday 4th October

9.15am Sunday Worship

Readings: *Ezekiel 34:11-16* *Luke 15:1-10*

Sunday 11th October

9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)

Readings: *Hosea 11:1-9* *Luke 15:11-32*

Sunday 18th October

9.15am Sunday Worship (MP)

Readings: *Psalms 51:1-17* *Luke 18:9-14*

Sunday 25th October

6.00pm Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service

Readings: *Isaiah 25:6-9* *John 11:17-27*

Coming up at St Leonard's

Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service: on Sunday 25th October we have our Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service at 6.00pm. If you would like the name/s of a loved one read out please advise Debbie or Gill.

Breakfast in Church: Saturday 10th October from 9am until 11am. Come along and enjoy a bacon or sausage bap with a nice cup of tea or coffee for just £3.

A Big THANK YOU ... to all of those of you who attended and supported the organ recital at St Leonard's last month. It was a huge success, donations are still coming in but the total will be over £1,000 towards our roof appeal. A special thanks goes to Keith Strickland without whom the event would not have been possible.