



Welcome to the May edition of our monthly newsletter
Holiday Club is back at the end of this month and there are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved. Speak to Nick if you'd like to find out more about how you can help!

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

Rector: Rev Jake Eggertsen

jake@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

Curate: Rev Chris Adams

chris@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

Children's & Families Ministry Leader:

Nick Lambert


nick@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

Church Office Manager: Clair Matthews

clair@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

admin@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

Wardens: Richard Clarke & John Joy

 hello@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

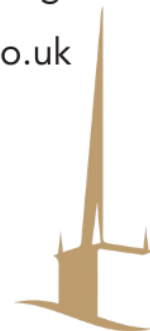
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Please
Recycle
Me



Curate's Contemplation

Do You Feel in Control?



I've been reflecting recently on how easy it is to tailor life to one's preferences, to control so much of life. Once, there was only one kind of coffee; now, you seem to have four kinds of milk to choose from. Once we had to watch whatever was on TV, but now the choices of what to stream are endless, and we can have all sorts delivered straight to our door. These are not bad things in themselves. I enjoy being able to choose a mocha or a cappuccino at a coffee shop, but it is easy for these things to slip into the way we approach life more broadly, thinking that deeper needs are in our control.

This can create a false self, a sense that we are in control more than we really are. We get used to having our needs fed to us by the world around us, and God can become a backup option, like dessert, an optional extra. Being able to obtain our needs as we choose.



But for many of us, one way or another, life escapes our control. World events, looming technology changes threatening jobs, family or friends struggling, or our own health. But what do we do when the false self is broken, and the control we once had is gone?

This loss of control isn't easy and can cause times of testing and pain, but in losing control, we have an opportunity to gain something so much

greater. We can surrender to the one who is truly in control.

For me, the Baptism/confirmation service on Easter Sunday was such a highlight of my time at St James, and getting to know some

of those involved has been a great joy. For a number of those in that group, losing control in one way or another has been when God has shown up in their lives. For all of us by losing the illusion of control, modern life can give us we can put our trust in the God who rules over all.

The sense of control we have over parts of our lives can cause us to become self-dependent. Controlling the world around us, but by trusting in God and his control over our lives, it can cause us to have our deeper needs met.

Prayer is a great way that we can give over control to God in our lives, speaking to God and trusting that he is in control. I love the verse from Philippians 4:6 *'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God'*. In every situation may you know, this month and beyond, the love and peace which only God, who is in control of all things, can give you.

God bless, *Chris*



Services in May

* indicates
livestreamed
services

Friday 1st May 10.30am: Morning Prayer

Sunday 3rd May

8.00am Holy Communion

10.45am Sunday Worship*

Readings: *John 14:1-14* *Philippians 2:12-30*

4.30pm Adult Sunday School

Sunday 10th May

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)*

Readings: *John 14:15-21* *Philippians 4:10-20*

4.30pm Prayer & Praise

Friday 15th May 10.30am: Holy Communion

Sunday 17th May Bell Sunday

10.45am Sunday Worship - Ringers Service*

Readings: *John 17:1-11* *Acts 1:1-14*

4.30pm Adult Sunday School

Sunday 24th May Pentecost

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)*

Readings: *John 7:37-39* *Acts 2:1-13*

Sunday 31st May

10.45am Sunday Worship, Holiday Club Finale

Readings: *Mark 16:1-8* *TBC*

Followed by a BBQ in the Rectory Garden.

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



St James' May Diary

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

Fri 1st	7.30pm	Quarter Peal Attempt (visiting ringers)
Sat 2nd	9.30am	Band Practice
Sun 3rd	12noon	Quarter Peal Attempt
Tues 5th	10.30am 7.30pm	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's house) PCC Meeting in Church
Wed 6th	2.30pm 2.30pm	Mothers Union Meeting in the Church Hall Wednesday Homegroup in the Lower Vestry
Fri 8th	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship in the Church Hall
Sat 9th	7.00pm	Trowbridge Philharmonic Concert
Mon 11th	2.15pm	Monday Fellowship Group at Farleigh Avenue
Thurs 14th	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
Sat 16th	10.00am 7.00pm	Christian Aid Market in the Church Hall SDGR Devizes Branch Practice
Mon 18th	2.15pm 7.00pm	Monday Fellowship Group at Farleigh Avenue Monday Homegroup in Church
Tues 19th	10.30am 10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's house) Raleigh Court Service
Wed 20th	10.15am 2.30pm	Mothers' Union Prayers in Church Wednesday Homegroup in Lower Vestry
Thurs 21st	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
Fri 22nd	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship in the Church Hall
Sun 24th	12noon	10/12 Bell Quarter Peal
Thurs 28th	11.00am	Goodson Lodge Service



Coffee Corner is open throughout the month:

Mon, Wed & Sat 10.00am to 12.00 noon

We will be closed on Monday 4th and 25th due to the bank holidays and Wednesday 27th due to Holiday Club

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: Bell News

May will be a busy month starting on the 1st with a visiting band attempting a Quarter Peal at 7.30pm.

This is followed on the 3rd with a tower Quarter Peal attempt after the service and a Devizes Branch SDGR practice at 7pm on the 16th.

The 17th is Bell Sunday, a national event, which will be celebrated at St James with the annual Ringer's Service followed by a Quarter Peal attempt.

After the service on the 24th there will be a Devizes Branch SDGR quarter peal attempt.


Ringers from the Reading area will be visiting from 10 - 11.30am on the 30th

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

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

The MU will meet on Wednesday 6th May at 2.30pm in the Church Hall for Songs of Praise.

You can also join us on Wednesday 20th May at 10.15am in the Church for our monthly Prayer

Meeting. All Welcome 

MONDAY OFFICE

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

Christian Aid Week - 10th to 16th May

Christian Aid Week is a powerful expression of what can happen when compassion leads to action.

It's our shared moment to come together - across churches, communities and households - to stand alongside people living in poverty around the world.

For one week each year, thousands of people across Britain and Ireland give, fundraise, pray and act together. Together, those actions make change possible. Some events taking place in Trowbridge are:

- Sunday 10th May Big Sing and Tea; 4pm at Wesley Road Methodist Church.
- Saturday 16th May Coffee Morning and Market: 10am -12noon at St James Church Hall



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.





Parking Spaces Available

St James Car Park in Trowbridge, by the Church Hall, currently has three parking spaces available to let.

Please contact John Horsey if you or someone you know is interested.

TOUR DE TROWBRIDGE 2026

SUNDAY 31 MAY



The Tour De Trowbridge is on Sunday 31st May and there is likely to be more disruption than usual to the traffic. If you drive to church please be aware and set off a little earlier.

Surplus to requirements:

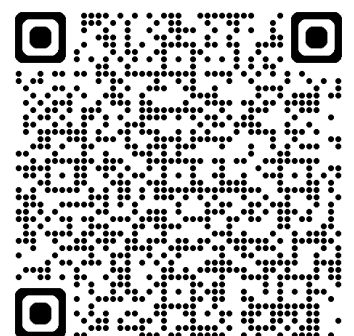
In the hall there are two pews which we'd like to find new homes for. If you would like them or know anyone who might have a use for them, please contact Clair or a warden. Measurements roughly 276cm long, 98cm tall and 50cm wide.



Also if you'd like ring binders or box files we have plenty to give away following the relocation of the office. Please speak to Clair.



Are you planning to visit Salisbury Cathedral? Did you know Salisbury Cathedral offers free entry during visiting hours to regular worshippers of churches in the Diocese of Salisbury? You will need to apply for a Salisbury Cathedral Diocese Card to redeem free visitor admission. Please download the form by [clicking here](#) or scan the QR Code and return to diocese-card@salcath.co.uk or bring a printed copy of your completed form to the Welcome Desk in Salisbury Cathedral.



ST JAMES' CHURCH
TROWBRIDGE

Ladies' Afternoon Tea



SUNDAY 24TH MAY
4.30 - 5.30PM
IN CHURCH

WITH GUEST SPEAKER
LAURA CHICA
SPEAKING ON WISDOM



Every blessing to the McLachlan Family in their new adventure

Stuart, Paige, Hope and Isaiah will be heading to Weston-Super-Mare for the start of Stuart's curacy at St Paul's Church this June. Stuart has been a valued member of the team at St James' for the past 2 years in his role as ordinand and Paige has been such a blessing to our Youth Fellowship team. Please pray for an easy transition and that the children settle in well at their new schools and find good friends.

Stu sends the following message: *Thanks for all your time together in fellowship over the past two years we have really valued being apart of the community. Blessings Stu.*

His ordination takes place on Sunday 28th June at 10.30am at Wells Cathedral for anyone who would like to attend.

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



OUR CHARITY FOCUS FOR APRIL & MAY

Bible Society, continues to work in Iran, where it is illegal to own a Bible and hold church services. Also, Iranians who have courageously accepted Jesus face danger every day. But, God is there, and observers have seen conversions by the thousand.

Bible Society's work for Iran is led by Nahid, who with her team, serve Iranians around the world. She can't herself go to Iran at present, but is hopeful that this will change, and says 'it won't be soon, but we know it will happen. We've got to be ready.' Her long-term goal has for many years been to serve this rapidly growing church, and she knows that God's word can heal Iran. She and her team translate Bible-based trauma healing resources and adjust them to the reality in Iran. Trauma healing has changed lives around the world, by bringing God's word into the recovery of people who have experienced conflict, natural disaster

and personal crises. This ministry is working powerfully in Iran, with many people receiving Jesus through the programme. Nahid longs to be able to offer trauma healing openly in a free Iran, but currently the situation remains unpredictable. Please pray for God's protection of Nahid's vital work, and for protection of innocent people in Iran, Israel, and the other countries in the region.'

In the UK, young people across the country continue to be open to the truth of the Lord Jesus as stated in the Bible. Bible Society's appeal for funding for the provision of Bibles for young people to read is ongoing, so the money raised from our annual **Churchyard Sale**, which this year, is on **Saturday June 13th**, 10-12 noon, will be put toward that purpose. Gifts of cakes, jigsaws and bric-a-bac for sale that morning will be much appreciated, and we hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come along to support this important ministry. Refreshments will be served in the coffee corner. Thank you. *Barbara King, Len & Emie Haysom.*

Storehouse Foodbank



Thank you for your continued and generous support of the food bank; I am amazed each week by the number and variety of donations that have been left in the box.

There are a variety of items that are

particularly needed at the moment, which include: toiletries particularly shower gel and combined shampoo/ conditioner, sugar, coffee, tea, tinned meats e.g. ham, luncheon meat, corned beef etc. Also, biscuits, cereal bars and savoury snacks such as crisps, cheese flavoured crackers.

Please continue to pray for the work of the food bank, particularly the volunteers and the people that they support. *Ann Cook*

Children & Families



CALLING ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

Seekers

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



Seekers is our Sunday School group for Primary School aged children. We usually meet during the service on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. We love opening up the bible and sharing the good news of Jesus with children. This term we are looking at the life of Jesus from Mark's gospel. Our Seekers leaders are Angela, Ann, Becca, Jill, Mandy, Nick and Nikki.

WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

Saturday 9th May

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



St James'
TOTS
Wednesdays 10-11.30
in St James' Church Hall





JUNGLE EXPLORERS

Holiday Club

Wednesday 27th - Friday 29th May. 9.30am - 12.30pm
Sunday 31st May. 10.45am Finale
followed by family BBQ

SCAN
ME! >>



Bookings are now open for this year's Holiday Club! There are still spaces so if you have any family or friends with primary school aged children who may like to join us, please take a flyer from the welcome desk at church, or direct them to our website. Please give thanks to God that we have a good amount of leaders and a wonderful message to share with the families of Trowbridge. Please pray a good number of children sign up.

HOLIDAY CLUB CELEBRATION SERVICE AND BBQ will take place on Sunday 31 st May. All welcome to the BBQ afterwards. Please sign up.

- Holiday Club Art session will be on Saturday 9th May in the Church Hall from 11.30am - 3pm. All church family are welcome. No art skills required and it's a great way to feel you are contributing to the week even if you can't be there for the week itself.
- Set up date is Tuesday 26th May from 9am until 12.30pm, in Church. Again, all are welcome to help with this.

If you would like be involved in Holiday Club in any capacity please contact Nick. nick@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk.



St Leonard's Keevil



Sunday 3rd May

6.00pm Evensong

Readings: Philippians 2:12-30 John 14:1-14

Sunday 10th May

9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)

Readings: Philippians 4:10-20 John 14:15-21

Sunday 17th May

9.15am Sunday Worship (MP)

Readings: Acts 1:1-14 John 17:1-11

Sunday 24th May - Pentecost

9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)

Readings: Acts 2:1-13 John 7:37-39

Sunday 31st May

9.15am Sunday Worship (MP)

Readings: Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-end Matthew 28:16

Coming up at St Leonard's

The Wiltshire Singers and Keevil Singers present "Happy Together" supporting Wiltshire Sight on **Friday 8th May at 7.30pm** in the Church. £5 entry. Cash only please.

There will be a Breakfast in Church on **Saturday 9th May** from 9am until 11am. Come along and enjoy a bacon or sausage bap, with a nice cup of tea or coffee for just £3.

Save the Date:

Saturday 4th July, 2-4pm - Summer at St Leonard's

Stalls, picnic basket raffle, teddy zipline and much more! Further details next month!