

Newsletter

April 2024

Welcome to the April edition of our monthly newsletter. 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

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Children's & Families Ministry Lead : Nick Lambert

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Church Office Manager: Clair Matthews

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CONTACTS



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Please
Recycle
Me

Rector's Reflection



Christian Unity

²⁰ *“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”*

- John 17:20-23

In John 17:20-23, Jesus prays for all his disciples. Specifically, he prays for their unity with one another. However, it's crucial to grasp the nature of this unity. It's not a human construct or built on our own terms. It is a unity devised and defined by God. The prayer highlights how the unity of the church is attained through Christ, given so that we share in Christ's glory, and purposely designed to display the eternal love of God before a watching world. In fact, the staggering assertion in Jesus' prayer is that our unity with one another reflects the perfect oneness in God, the Holy Trinity. Insert “mind blown” emoji here. 🤯

So, Christian unity is an imperative. It is always something we should pursue. Yet, Christian unity is not unity-on-our-terms or unity-at-all-costs. It's indelibly tied to Christ and the truth in him. May Christ's prayer for unity serve as our guide for navigating the complexities of unity within our parish and the wider Church of England.

Jake

Services in April

Sunday 7th April - Easter 2

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.45am Joint Benefice Sunday Worship*

Readings: Acts 4:32-34 John 20:19-end

Sunday 14th April - Easter 3

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)*

Readings: Acts 3:12-19 Luke 24:36b-48

4.30pm Family Fellowship

Friday 19th April 10.30am: Holy Communion

Sunday 21st April - Easter 4

10.45am Sunday Worship*

Readings: Acts 4:5-12 John 10:11-18 Psalm 23

4.30pm Adult Sunday School

Sunday 28th April - Easter 5

10.45am Sunday Worship (HC)*

Readings: Acts 8:26-end John 15:1-8

4.30pm Family Fellowship

** livestreamed services*

***Please note our usual first Friday of the month service will not be taking place this month. ***



Thursdays at 10.00am
(term time only)

St James' April Diary

Wed 3rd	2.30pm	MU Meeting in the Hall
Thurs 4th	2pm 7.30pm	Goodson Lodge Service Band Rehearsal in Church
Sat 6th	4pm	Peal Attempt (tbc)
Mon 8th	2.15pm	Monday Fellowship Group at Farleigh Avenue
Tues 9th	10.30am	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's house)
Thurs 11th	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
Mon 15th	7pm	Monday Home Group in Church
Wed 17th	10.15am	MU Prayers in Church
Thurs 18th	6.30pm	Soup Run Duty
Fri 19th	7pm	Youth Fellowship in the Hall
Sat 20th	5.00pm 7.30pm	Trowbridge Town Singers Spring Concert in Church SDGR Devizes Branch Bell Practice
Mon 22nd	11.15pm 2.15pm	LPA Home Group in church Monday Fellowship Group at Farleigh Avenue
Tues 23rd	10.30am 11am 7.30pm	Fellowship and Crafts (Pat Doel's House) Raleigh Court Service APCM in Church
Mon 29th	11.15am 7pm	LPA Home Group in Church Monday Home Group in church
Tues 30th	7.30pm	Property Committee Meeting



Coffee Corner is open throughout the month:

Mon, Wed & Sat 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Please note Coffee Corner will be closed on Easter Monday 1st April

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*



To make available more parking spaces in the hall carpark on Sunday mornings the Bellringers will park their cars in the passage alongside the kitchen as they are first to arrive. So please do not park in the passage even if it seems a space is available as we do not want the bellringers to be blocked in as they leave earlier than the rest of us.
Thank you, the wardens.



Mothers' Union will meet **Wednesday 3rd April** at 2.30pm in the church hall for Easter Celebrations. On **Wednesday 17th April** our prayer group will meet at 10.15am in the church.

CATA CURRY EVENING, Wednesday 17th April 6.30pm at Bethesda Baptist Church. Hear all about Nigel and Joan's recent visit to Uganda. Suggested donation £6 Text Nigel on 0744 987 3403 to reserve a place.



AUCTION OF PROMISES, Friday 19th April 7.30pm at John of Gaunt School Hall. Come along to a fantastic night and bid on a range of exciting items for an amazing cause. Please support our friends at Wiltshire Youth for Christ and maybe grab yourself a bargain in the process. Over 60 amazing experiences, promises and items from hot air balloon rides to drum lessons. Book your ticket here shorturl.at/GKNR2

MENUNITED BREAKFAST, Saturday 20th April 8.15am at Trowbridge Rugby Club: Guest speaker Paul Ogunyemi of Church Army. Book by sending an email with your full name, name of any guests and your church to menutrow@gmail.com

APCM, Tuesday 23rd April in Church: All welcome to the Church annual meeting to be reminded of some of the highlights of 2023 and to look into the future. With optional fish and chips at 18:30 before the meeting. Further details regarding booking food to follow soon. **If you would like to join the Electoral Roll the closing date is 7th April 2024. More details on our website or speak with Carol Dix.**

NEWCOMERS LUNCH after Church, Sunday 28th April: If you're new to St James', we invite you to our special newcomers' lunch after the service on April 28th. It's a fantastic opportunity to meet others, hear what our church is all about, and discover how you can become a part of our family here at St. James'

WEDNESDAY PM HOME GROUP: Hazel Shaw is thinking about starting a new Home Group, meeting fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons, in church. If you are interested please speak to Hazel for further info.



Bell News: Plans for April are somewhat up in the air thanks to planned strikes on GWR. This is because people plan to travel from Bristol for the peal attempt on 6th April. If the peal attempt does go ahead we won't ring the Quarter Peal on 7th April.

The next Devizes Branch SDGR practice will be on April 20th.

Bell Ringing practice takes place most Wednesday evenings 7pm until 9pm

We pray for: Bob Hughes, Margaret Gilbert, Audrey Griffiths, Maelene Hunt, Jeannette Worth, the Hamilton-Browns, Jan Shrapnell and Christopher Rickard. *Please let Clair Matthews know of names to be added or removed.*



Sally Adams is very thankful to everyone for their prayers, cards and good wishes before and after her operation. She's recovering at home; frustrated that she must wait 6 weeks before swimming!

Sunday Coffee Corner Needs

The aroma of coffee before 10.45 may be sensed
Patiently we wait until it's time to be dispensed
But who's in the kitchen sorting mugs, milk and flasks?
A stalwart small team that requires growth for these tasks.

It's a very important ministry serving one another
St James' would be the poorer without this rich cover
More people to help with making, serving and clearing
Would really prevent this service from overloading.

Please do consider joining our Sunday coffee teams
When new friendships often start over coffee it seems.
Friendship and fellowship are sound Christian ways,
And serving each other gives blessing for our days.

Thank you in anticipation for volunteering in this way,
The more people we have, the better our rota we say,
Then it won't be the same people week in and week out
And you'll be encouraged by much gratitude, no doubt.

Please speak to Barbara or Cath about this ministry – we'd love to have you grow our team. Thank you.





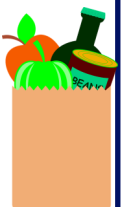
OUR CHARITY FOCUS FOR APRIL IS BIBLE SOCIETY In 1804, The British and Foreign Bible Society, as it was then known, was founded following fifteen-year-old Mary Jones' 25 mile walk alone through some very wild Welsh countryside to Bala in 1802, to buy a Bible from a Welsh minister, the Revd Thomas Charles. So moved by her determination, he sold Mary three Bibles for the price of one. Mary's long walk for a Bible also inspired The Revd Joseph Hughes, another Welsh minister, who by then was very aware of the need for affordable Bibles in Wales. He said "if there is a need for Bibles for Wales, then why not for the kingdom? And if for the kingdom, why not for the world?" Captured by this vision of the Bible being available for everyone, the MP William Wilberforce attended a meeting in London on 7 March 1804 when the British and Foreign Bible Society was formed. Now known as Bible Society, its headquarters are in Swindon.

Bible Society's vision is for the Bible to shape the lives and communities of people everywhere. Their staff have translated the Bible into nearly every language in the world, and they provide many resources for use nationally and internationally, including materials for Open the Book that our OtB team use in our local schools.

The first meeting of the Trowbridge Action Group for Bible Society was in 1814, when the then Rector of St James', George Crabbe, (also a poet and surgeon), was the Secretary and Charles Bythesea, Rector of Freshford was President. The present Trowbridge Action Group continues to be made up of representatives from the local Churches, with the purpose of arranging fund-raising events to support Bible Society's national and international ministry. These include coffee mornings, churchyard sales and quizzes. Information about the events is in our monthly newsletters. The next event is a coffee morning on **Saturday April 20th , 10am -12 noon at Wesley Road Methodist Church**. All are welcome to attend.

Prayer Point: Bible Society asks us to pray that all their planning and acting is guided and empowered by God's Spirit so that their vision will become reality. Please pray too for our Open the Book team as they go into schools to share God's word through story telling. *Barbara King, Len & Emie Haysom (All gifts in the blue envelopes during April will be donated to Bible Society.)*

THE STOREHOUSE FOODBANK: The foodbank continues to be extremely busy, especially as people are still struggling with the cost of living. With the approaching Easter holidays, some families are going to have increasing food worries as the children will not be receiving a school dinner for over two weeks.



Currently the need is for UHT milk, full fat and semi-skimmed, sugar and coffee. Tinned fruit, custard, rice pudding and individual jelly pots. Tinned meat such as corned beef, spam, ham as well as tinned meat meals, such as chilli con carne, chicken in white sauce, chicken stew etc. Rice- boil in the bag or microwave rice is particularly useful. Spreads e.g. peanut butter, marmite, chocolate spreads and jam to go on bread or toast. *Thank you for your continued and generous support of this vital service. Ann Cook*

Cosmos Petal



A personal Testimony by Mandy who was baptised at St James' on Easter Sunday

I have never met you all, but I hope this story will make you wonder about life. A grand statement to make, but only because this flower has changed my life and I wish you the same happiness.

Isaiah 58:11 The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Imagine a bright, sunny morning in July. All is fresh and new, all you can hear are the birds, no one is awake yet. The world is calm, warm, welcoming. Walking around my garden I see the Cosmos flowers have bloomed, a shocking pink which grabbed my attention, so perfect, each petal tissue thin, dancing in the early morning breeze.

Time seemed to stand still, only one person could make something this perfect and it wasn't man. Cosmos flowers have eight petals, this realisation for me was marked by petal number one.

Life had not been kind in my early years. I was harmed by my father. I told my family, but it was all hushed up, seemingly easier to ignore it than to respond. I was angry at God. How could He let this happen? Where was He? How was I supposed to live with all this? Why would God love a person like me?

Petal number two marked a phone call. Surely such a beautiful flower could only have been created by God. For all of man's achievements a beauty so sublime was not man's creation. A feeling came over me that this phone call, if I had the faith to make it, could be life changing, maybe.

I spoke to Jake on the phone that day, we met and at once I felt peace, I was in the right place at the right time. Jake listened patiently and suggested it may be good to meet with his wife Nicola, who was embarking on a journey of offering Soul Care. A way to relate to the world through faith, with God's help.

Petal number three marked my meeting with Nicola, the beginning of my journey to faith. We trod gently, little by little. Step by step. My husband is very ill, I could use lots of medical words, but cancer seems to suffice in most people's minds. My heart wanted to connect with God, it was ready to, but how? My mind felt lost, unsure but strangely guided towards faith.

Petal number four marked faith. Nicola guided me gently, how to read the bible, where to look. Not how to understand it as I feel we all understand the bible in

different ways, but to guide me on the many ways it can be understood. A whole new world opened up for me.

Petal number five marked confidence. Not only in the words of the bible, but in Nicola and in myself. As I shared my childhood with Nicola and my journey with cancer, my life with my husband, life suddenly made sense. The Bible and Nicola's words were like a warm blanket, I had felt so cold for so long. It was like coming home. I would never be alone again. Whatever the future holds.

Matthew 6:28-34 ²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Petal number six marked work. Not hard work, nothing about this is hard. Nothing is negative, this is Church Work as I call it. Looking at life with a whole different perspective. A handing over of worries to God, faith in Him to guide me. Faith that no matter what He will be with me. A faith that everything is working out as it should do even when I wish it were different. The key to this for me is self-discipline, daily prayer, daily faith, deep breaths. Not really work at all, a labour of faith, the best kind of labour.

Petal number seven will be my baptism. A goal I am working towards. One that will come at exactly the right time. One which will mark my journey, one which I will be proud of. A goal which will be reached through love, hope and faith in God.

So, to Petal number eight. Well, this petal has not been marked and may never be marked. Cosmos flowers symbolise order, harmony, peace and balance. The Victorians also believed Cosmos flowers symbolised joy in love and life.

For me this means ongoing Church Work, and seeing these petals with hope in my heart. A life long journey of love. Joy and love in life is ongoing, so is faith, that's how I view my journey in life.

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand

When the cosmos flowers bloom this year, maybe you might view your journey this way too. x



Early Years

The **St James' Holiday Club** is back! This year it's called The Restoration Station and is happening from May 29th – May 31st + the 2nd June Finale in church. The week is for primary school aged children.



Join us for a week of friendship making, fun activities and finding out more about who Jesus is and what he came to do.

Families, we'd love your children to come and wonder whether they might have any friends who would like to come. Grandparents, would any of your grandchildren like to come? Scan the QR code opposite to find out more/register or go to our website www.stjamestrowbridge.co.uk/holidayclub

MINI GROUPS - Have a great Easter Break

Our weekly early years groups will be back again following the Easter Break

- Mini Stay and Play - Wednesday 17th April
- Mini Church - Thursday 18th April

We look forward to seeing you then - Nick and the Early Years Team

WEDNESDAYS

in the Church Hall (Union Street)

10.00-11.30am

Refreshments served throughout



A safe & fun place for children, parents & carers to meet & play!

THURSDAYS

in the main Church building (Church Street)

10.00-11.00am

includes refreshments & activities from approx 10.30am



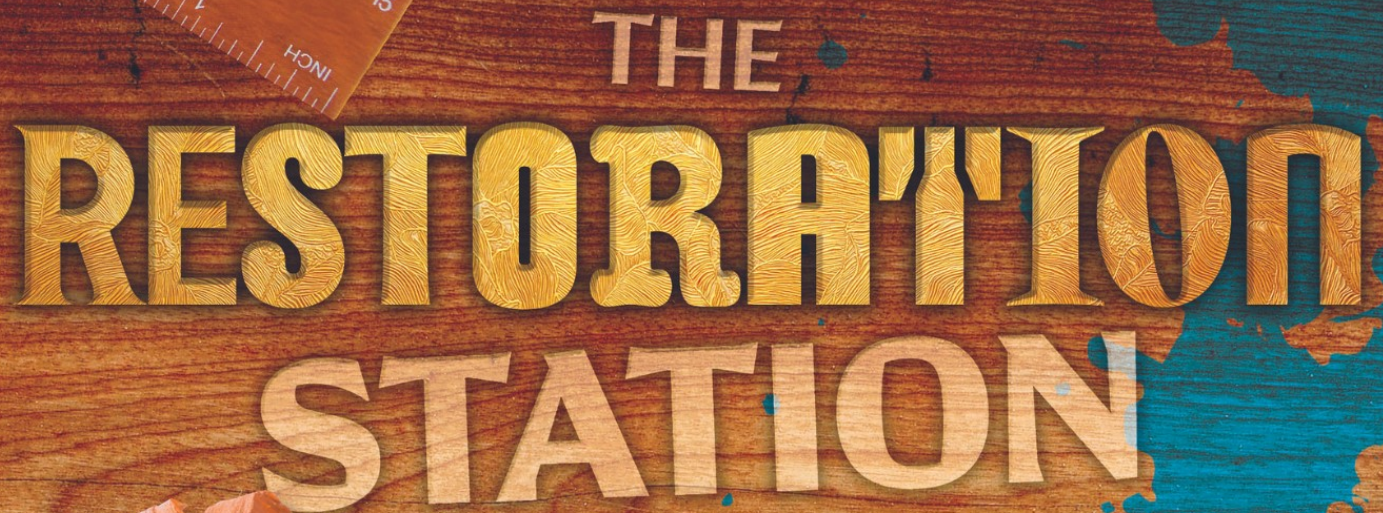
A fun and interactive Church service especially for under 5s!



Free parking available in Church Hall car park.

☎ 07858 821148 ✉ families@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk

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THE
RESTORATION
STATION

St James' Church

HOLIDAY CLUB

Fun, creative activities,
bible stories

Wednesday 29th - Friday 31st May
2024 + Sunday 2nd June finale!



Scan QR code to find out more and register

St Leonard's Keevil



Sunday 7th April - *Easter 2*

10.45am **Joint Benefice Service at St James, Trowbridge**

Readings: Acts 4:32-35 John 20:19-end

Sunday 14th April - *Easter 3*

9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)

Readings: Acts 3:12-19 Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday 21st April - *Easter 4*

9.15am Sunday Worship *Bun Service*

Readings: Acts 4:5-12 John 10:11-18

Sunday 28th April - *Easter 5*

9.15am Sunday Worship (HC)

Readings: Psalm 118:1-2,19-end John 12:12-16

WHAT'S ON

Breakfast in Church: Saturday 13th April from 9am until 11am

Come along and enjoy a bacon or sausage bap and a catch up with friends.



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Church Wardens: Gill Gosling: 01380 870553 Debbie Meatyard: 01380 828226