



## Mid-Wydean Churches

serving Coleford, Clearwell,  
Newland, Redbrook, Staunton  
and surrounding communities

**Sunday January 25th**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany/  
Conversion of Paul

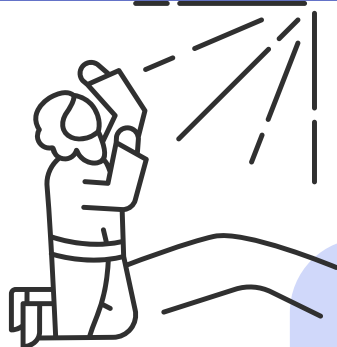
### BIBLE READINGS

Acts 9.1-22

Psalms 67

Galatians 1.11-16a

Matthew 19.27-30



### PRAYER FOR THIS SUNDAY

Almighty God,  
who caused the light of the gospel to shine  
throughout the world through the preaching of  
your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who  
celebrate his wonderful conversion  
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is  
alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

### REFLECTIONS.....REV. BEA ERSKINE

#### The Conversion of Paul

When you think of St Paul, do you have a picture of how he looked in your mind? Although there isn't a detailed description in the New Testament, in other writings he is described as small of stature with bow (bandy) legs, a bald head and bushy eyebrows meeting in the middle, so probably not the most handsome of chaps. In the reading from Acts this Sunday we hear the story of his conversion on the road to Damascus. It is a truly gripping read, Saul of Tarsus (St Paul) was a very zealous and faithful Jew, convinced that the new Way, i.e. following Jesus, was wrong, he was focused, brutal and absolutely confident in his mission to bring all who followed Jesus to account.

### CONTINUED....

So it is hard to imagine the total devastation and terror he must have felt when through the brilliant light that appeared to him on the road and actually spoke to him was Jesus himself. God had kept his promise, to rescue his people, but in the most outrageous and shocking way – Jesus, crucified, died and risen from the dead. Blinded by the light, the shock was profound and his whole life from that moment on was given to Jesus, an extraordinary ministry that was to propel the Good News of the gospel into the wider world, the ripples of which we still feel today as we encounter St Paul in his wonderful letters and writings.

Bea.

### SERVICES THIS SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

**9.30am All Saints, Staunton**

Communion

**10:30am All Saints, Newland**

Communion

### SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY

**10:30am The Good Shepherd, Broadwell**

Parish Communion

**4.00pm St.Saviours, Redbrook**

All age, family friendly service

## PRAYERS AND NOTICES

### **GIVE THANKS....**

- that for the first time in two years, humanitarian aid has provided people in Gaza with enough food to fulfil minimum nutritional needs, the United Nations reported this week.

### **PRAY....**

- for initiatives that combat injustice, protect creation, and overcome exclusion and isolation, that all may flourish.
- for creative ways of connecting with new housing developments, building communities of faith and friendship.

- for those who are sick or sad in our parish or known to us:

Jane (waiting for results of several tests), Sue R, Jackie, Dean and family, Elijah and family. Lisa, Percy, Christine (Marian's sister in law)

### **CONCERT IN AID OF MONMOUTH FLOOD RELIEF**



by Border Belles Ladies Choir

7.00pm Saturday January 31st  
at St. Mary's Priory Church, Monmouth  
Tel: 07782 509219



### **PUPILS NEED YOUR HELP FOR FAITH SURVEY**

Please take time to fill out this questionnaire put together by **Hazel Class** at **St John's CofE Academy** for their RE lesson. They would very much appreciate your support.

**Click this link - it will only take a couple minutes.**

## REGULAR EVENTS + MEETINGS



### **MUSTARD SEEDS**

Stay & Play for 0-5 years old.  
Tuesdays in term time,  
9.45-11.15am  
at Coleford Baptist Church.

### **TOGETHER FOR PRAYER**

Tuesdays 12.00- 1.00 at The Vicarage.  
All Welcome

### **BROADWELL CHAT**

Coffee and chat  
**1st Thursday of the month**  
**10.00- 12.00** at The Good Shepherd Church, Broadwell.  
Children & pets welcome.  
Next meeting Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Feb



### **CRAFT CLUB**

Crafts in Good Company  
at The Good Shepherd, Broadwell,  
**Thursdays, 2- 4 pm**

### **YOUR OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS WANTED**



The Cobalt Charity is based at a diagnostic imaging unit which supports the NHS. They **upcycle old Christmas cards** and sell them in different venues, such as Yorkley Community Centre. If you'd like to **donate your old Christmas cards**, I'll provide a box at the back of The Good Shepherd Church, Broadwell, and get them to the charity.

Many thanks. Marian

