

# The Benefice Bulletin

25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Conversion of Paul

The Vicarage, Church Lane, Barton under Needwood DE13 8HU



## Please take this bulletin home with you

Here for the first time? Relax. Please make yourself at home and please sit where you feel comfortable. Those who greeted you, our wardens, or the clergy will answer any practical questions that you may have. Posture notes on the service sheet and verbal instructions are intended for those who can comfortably follow them. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us.

### Services this week

#### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

09:00 Holy Communion  
*St Michael's, Tatenhill*  
10:30 Sung Eucharist  
*St James', Barton*  
13:30 Baptism of Hugo  
*St James', Barton*

#### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

09:15 WoW Wednesday  
including informal worship at 10:00  
*St James', Barton*

#### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January

09:15 WoW Thursday  
including informal worship at 10:00  
*Tatenhill Village Hall*

### Readings and Prayers for the Conversion of Paul

#### Readings

Psalm	67
Old Testament	Jeremiah 1.4-10
New Testament	Acts 9.1-22
Gospel	Matthew 19.27-End

#### The Collect

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 forever. Amen

#### Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

---

<b>Clergy</b>	Revd Andy Simpson ☎01283 712359	✉ <a href="mailto:vicar.bundtbenefice@outlook.com">vicar.bundtbenefice@outlook.com</a>
	Revd Liz Chamberlain ☎07917 077014	✉ <a href="mailto:lizchamberlainuk@yahoo.co.uk">lizchamberlainuk@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Coordinator</b>	Beth Flashman ☎07464 835189	✉ <a href="mailto:coordinator.bundtbenefice@outlook.com">coordinator.bundtbenefice@outlook.com</a>
<b>Churchwardens:</b>		
<b>St James'</b>	Ray Holder ☎01283 327814	✉ <a href="mailto:rayholder2006@gmail.com">rayholder2006@gmail.com</a>
<b>St Mary's</b>	Angela Moffat ☎01283 713735	✉ <a href="mailto:rangelamoffat@icloud.com">rangelamoffat@icloud.com</a>
<b>St Michael's</b>	Phil & Emma Coleman ☎01283 538983	✉ <a href="mailto:stmtatenhill@gmail.com">stmtatenhill@gmail.com</a>

## **Jeremiah 14-10**

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, <sup>5</sup> 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' <sup>6</sup> Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.' <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

## **Acts 9.1-22**

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' <sup>5</sup> He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' <sup>7</sup> The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. <sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' <sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' <sup>21</sup> All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' <sup>22</sup> Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

## **Matthew 19.27-End**

<sup>27</sup> Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' <sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup> But many who are first will be last. and the last will be first.

## For your prayers

**The World:** We pray for His Majesty King Charles and Queen Camilla, and the wider Royal Family. We pray for all areas of the world where there are conflicts, poverty, drought, disaster, terrorism, and humanitarian crisis.

**The Anglican Communion:** Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

**Our Diocese:** We pray for Bishops Michael and Matthew and Archdeacon Megan

**Our Deanery:** Along with our deanery, we pray for all our schools within the deanery.

**Our Benefice:** We pray for those who live and work on Main Street, St James' Close and Bell Lane in Barton, Dunstall Cross in Dunstall and Branston Road in Tatenhill. May God be with all those who live and work in these places as they go about their daily lives this week.

**Those who are not well:** Mike S, Heather S, Lesley S-D, Doreen, Enid, Shirley, Phillipa, Tim S, Stephen, Sara, John G, Brian, Rosemarie, Jess, Beth, Cliff, Rebecca

**Those who have died:** Velma Hodgson, Ron Stafford, Peter Bailey, Frank Clarke, Geoffrey Wright. We pray for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

## In Benefice News...

- The **Christmas Tree and decorations** at St James' are coming down on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January. If you can help at all, please be at church for 10:00.
- The **Barton Churches Together Quiz Night** takes place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Entry is £2 per person. Bring a team or join one on the night. BYOB and nibbles - it's always a good evening!
- **Bible Group** starts again for 2026 on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 10:00 in St James' Church. All are welcome to this mixed, friendly group to discuss aspects of the bible and our Christian faith. Refreshments provided. For more information if you have any questions, please speak to Paula Drage in church or call 07879 882058.
- Rev Andy will be running a joint **Lent Group and Confirmation Class** this year on each Monday during Lent. The sessions will look at the foundations of our faith and the Eucharist. The sessions will run at 19:00 starting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at St James' Church. All are welcome to join.
- If you are interested in being **confirmed**, then please speak to Rev Andy for more information.

**If you would like a home visit from the Ministry or Pastoral Visiting Team, please contact the Benefice Office on 01283 712359 to arrange a time.**

## Diary Dates for the Week Ahead

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Tuesday 27<sup>h</sup> January**  
**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**  
09:15 WoW Wednesday  
*St James', Barton*  
**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January**  
09:15 WoW Thursday  
*Tatenhill Village Hall*  
**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January**  
**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February**  
09:00 Holy Communion  
*St Mary's, Dunstall*  
10:30 Holy Communion  
*St James', Barton*  
10:30 Holy Communion  
*St Michael's, Tatenhill*

## Future Dates

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**  
19:00 Home Group  
*The Vicarage, Barton*  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**  
14:00 Dunstall PCC  
*Dunstall Church Hall*  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February**  
13:30 Tea and Chat  
*St James' Church Hall*  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February**  
19:00 Ash Wednesday Holy Communion  
with imposition of Ashes  
*St James', Barton*  
**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**  
11:00 Barton Pancake Races  
*Main Street, Barton*  
18:00 Lent Time and Space  
*St James', Barton*  
19:00 Lent & Confirmation Group  
*St James' Church, Barton*

Hello All,

Today we mark the conversion of St Paul on the road to Damascus! A dramatic event by any measure and a dramatic change in direction for Paul, from persecuting followers of Jesus to becoming an apostle in his own right. The last shall be first indeed! This shows us that none of us are beyond the pale where God is concerned. That no matter who we are, how we behave, how selfish or cruel or even evil we are, God loves us as we are. Yes, the awareness of God's unconditional love and mercy for us may well cause a change in us, but change (repentance) is not a requirement for God to love us or for his forgiveness (otherwise God's love and grace would not be unconditional).



Yours in Christ, Rev Andy +