

The Benefice Bulletin

1st March 2026 – Second Sunday of Lent

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 1st March

09:00 Holy Communion
St Mary's, Dunstall
10:30 Holy Communion
St Michael's, Tatenhill
10:30 Holy Communion
St James', Barton

Wednesday 4th March

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

Thursday 5th March

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

Readings and Prayers for the Second Sunday of Lent

Readings

Psalm	121
Old Testament	Genesis 12.1-4a
New Testament	Romans 4.1-5, 13-17
Gospel	John 3.1-17

The Collect

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way may we come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

Genesis 12.1-4a

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' ⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Romans 4.1-5,13-17

⁴ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3.1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³ Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵ Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

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: The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

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

Our Deanery: Along with our deanery, we pray for the parish of Holy Trinity, Anslow and all those who minister and worship there.

Our Benefice: We pray for those who live and work on Thornhill Close, Saffron Close and The Alders in Barton, Dunstall Hill in Dunstall and Postern 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: Heather S, Lesley S-D, Shirley, Phillipa, Tim S, Sara, John G, Brian, Rosemarie, Jess, Cliff, Rebecca, Viv.

Those who have died: Foster Rogers, Carol Billings, Mike Storr, Monica Chamberlain, Jono Hornblow. We pray for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

In Benefice News...

- 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 23rd 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. The confirmation class will run jointly with the Lent Group on Monday evenings at 7:00pm.
- **St James PCC** - please note the change of date of the next meeting from Tuesday 24th February to **Tuesday 3rd March**.
- Rev Andy will also be putting on a **Children's Confirmation Class** on Sunday evenings (dates tbc). If you know a young person who may be interested, please speak to Rev Andy.
- John Taylor High School are hosting an **Afternoon Tea** on Tuesday 10th March from 1:30pm. Please call 01283 247800 to book.
- The **Benefice Easter Timetable** is now confirmed and will be shared with all churches. There are lots of services and events happening so please do look out for it.

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 2nd March

18:00 Lent Time and Space

St James', Barton

19:00 Lent & Confirmation Group

St James' Church, Barton

Tuesday 3rd March

19:00 Barton PCC

St James', Barton

Wednesday 4th March

09:15 WOW Wednesday

including informal worship at 10:00

St James', Barton

Thursday 5th March

09:15 WOW Thursday

including informal worship at 10:00

Tatenhill Village Hall

Friday 6th March

17:00 Music Group

St James', Barton

18:00 Light Factory

Barton Methodist Church

Saturday 7th March

Sunday 8th March

09:00 Holy Communion

St Michael's, Tatenhill

10:30 Second Sunday Service

St James', Barton

16:00 Evening Prayer

St Mary's, Dunstall

Future Dates

Monday 9th March

14:00 Tea and Chat

St James' Church Hall

18:00 Lent Time and Space

St James', Barton

19:00 Lent & Confirmation Group

St James' Church, Barton

Tuesday 10th March

13:30 JTHS Afternoon Tea

John Taylor High School

19:00 Churches Together Meeting

Our Lady's, Barton

Saturday 14th March

10:00 Soup and Crusty

Barton Methodist Church

Monday 16th March

18:00 Lent Time and Space

St James', Barton

19:00 Lent & Confirmation Group

St James' Church, Barton

Sunday 22nd March

19:00 Pub Church

The Shoulder

Monday 23rd March

18:00 Lent Time and Space

St James', Barton

19:00 Lent & Confirmation Group

St James' Church, Barton

Hello All,

Today in our Gospel reading we have the rich story of the Visit of Nicodemus!

Nicodemus was a Holy Man; a man of status, so it is unsurprising he wanted to keep his visit to Jesus a secret by approaching under the cover of darkness!!

I wonder if this encounter changes Nicodemus, the way Jesus said that he must change; ny being born again? We certainly see Nicodemus standing up for Jesus later in John's narrative and he is the one who publicly helps with Jesus' burial! Some pretty big steps of faith! Some Christians use the phrase "born again" to distinguish themselves from other followers of Jesus. I'm not sure this is helpful! We are all changed by an encounter with the Risen Christ and those encounters may be very different! Like with Nicodemus, it's not really the event that's important, it's how we then chose to live! Do we choose to live as followers of Jesus or not!



Yours in Christ, Rev Andy +