

# The Benefice Bulletin

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 – Fifth 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 22<sup>nd</sup> March

09:00 Holy Communion  
*St Michael's, Tatenhill*  
10:30 Sung Eucharist  
*St James', Barton*  
19:00 Pub Church  
*The Shoulder, Barton*

#### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

11:30 Funeral of Jono Hornblow  
*St James', Barton*

#### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March

14:30 Funeral of Rebecca Harmon  
*St James', Barton*

#### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

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

#### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

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

### Readings and Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

#### Readings

Psalm	130
Old Testament	Ezekiel 37.1-14
New Testament	Romans 8.6-11
Gospel	John 11.1-45

#### The Collect

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#### Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen

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**Ezekiel 37.1-14** The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.' <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

**John 11.1-16** Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." <sup>4</sup> When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup> So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, <sup>7</sup> and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." <sup>8</sup> "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. <sup>10</sup> It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light." <sup>11</sup> After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." <sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." <sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. <sup>14</sup> So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Then Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[al]</sup>) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with 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 Anglican Church of Korea

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

**Our Deanery:** Along with our deanery, we pray for other faith communities within our deanery.

**Our Benefice:** We pray for those who live and work on Dogshead Lane, Bar Lane and Green Lane in Barton, Dunstall Hall and Cricket Club in Dunstall and Cuckooage Lane and Callingwood Lane 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, John G, Brian, Rosemarie, Jess, Cliff, Viv, Dorothy.

**Those who have died:** Jono Hornblow, Rebecca Harmon, Sue Wood. We pray for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

## In Benefice News...

- St James' will once again be decorated with **Easter Lilies**. If you would like to make a donation in memory of someone, please hand to Grace or Miriam.
- 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.
- A **Benefice Agape Meal** will take place on Maundy Thursday evening at St James' in Barton. A sign-up sheet is available at the back of St James. Please sign up for catering purposes. If you would like to attend but cannot get to St James', please let Beth or Andy know.
- St James' **Church Family Easter Lunch** will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April following the service. A sign-up sheet is available at the back of church - please sign up for catering purposes by Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April.
- A **Benefice Palm Sunday Holy Communion** service will take place on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, starting with the Palm Procession with the Dunstall Donkeys from St James' Hall at 10:15. All are welcome to join us.
- St James' will be hosting a **Summer Proms** season this year with a series of 6 concerts by both local and international artists. The first will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April with Tutbury Band. Tickets are £7.50 or you can purchase a Proms Passport for £50 for access to all concerts (saving £15). Ask Beth for more information, tickets or passports.

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> March

11:30 Funeral of Jono Hornblow  
*St James', Barton*

18:00 Lent Time and Space  
*St James', Barton*

19:00 Lent & Confirmation Group  
*St James' Church, Barton*

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March

14:30 Funeral of Rebecca Harman  
*St James', Barton*

19:30 Tatenhill PCC  
*Venue TBC*

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

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

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

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

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

10:00 Bible Group  
*St James' Church, Barton*

12:00 Charity Lunch for Water Aid  
*Our Lady's, Barton*

17:00 Music Group  
*St James', Barton*

### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

10:30 Benefice Holy Communion  
*St James' Church, Barton*

## Future Dates

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Palm Sunday

10:15 Palm Procession  
*Meet at St James' Church Hall*  
10:30 Benefice Holy Communion  
*St James', Barton*

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Maundy Thursday

10:30 Funeral of Sue Wood  
*Bretby Crematorium*  
19:00 Agape Meal  
*St James', Barton*

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Good Friday

10:30 Good Friday Service with  
William Key Sermon  
*St James', Barton*  
12:00 Walk of Witness  
*Our Lady's, Barton*

### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April

19:00 Tutbury Band Concert  
(Summer Proms 1)  
*St James', Barton*

Hello All,

Today is the start of Passiontide and today's psalm is Psalm 130. This prayer/psalm is a prayer of deep longing and hope for, and in a God who redeems (puts back together even better than it was before) all things. The psalm starts with the words "Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord" and this is exactly what Jesus, the Jesus who wept at the news of Lazarus' death, does in our Gospel reading when he cries with a loud voice for Lazarus to "Come Out". I wonder, even though our "English Reserve" doesn't do Passion, what do we cry passionately to God for, from the depths of our being?



Yours in Christ, Rev Andy +