

The Benefice Bulletin

8th March 2026 – Third 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 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

Wednesday 11th March

09:15 WoW Wednesday

including informal worship at 10:00

St James', Barton

Thursday 12th March

09:15 WoW Thursday

including informal worship at 10:00

Tatenhill Village Hall

Readings and Prayers for the Third Sunday of Lent

Readings

Psalm 95

Old Testament Exodus 17.1-7

New Testament Romans 5.1-11

Gospel John 4.5-42

The Collect

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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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

Exodus 17.1-7

17 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' ⁵The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

John 4.5-26

⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³ Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' ¹⁵ The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷ The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you¹ say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' ²⁵ The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' ²⁶ Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

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 Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East

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

Our Deanery: Along with our deanery, we pray for the parish of St Modwen's, Burton and all those who minister and worship there.

Our Benefice: We pray for those who live and work on Brookside Road, Westmead Road and Radhurst Rise in Barton, The Dunstall Estate in Dunstall and The Woodlands and Dunstall 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, Viv, Dorothy.

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

In Benefice News...

- 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.
- 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 12th April following the service. A sign-up sheet is available at the back of church - please sign up for catering purposes by Sunday 5th April.
- A **Benefice Palm Sunday Holy Communion** service will take place on Sunday 29th March, starting with the Palm Procession with the Dunstall Donkeys from St James' Hall at 10:15. All are welcome to join us.

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 9th March

13:30 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

Wednesday 11th March

09:15 WOW Wednesday

including informal worship at 10:00

St James', Barton

Thursday 12th March

09:15 WOW Thursday

including informal worship at 10:00

Tatenhill Village Hall

Friday 13th March

17:00 Music Group

St James', Barton

Saturday 14th March

12:00 Soup and Crusty

Barton Methodist Church

Sunday 15th March

09:00 Holy Communion

St Mary's, Dunstall

10:30 Lay Led Service

St James', Barton

Future Dates

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

Tuesday 24th March

11:30 Funeral of Jono Hornblow

St James', Barton

14:30 Funeral of Rebecca Harman

St James', Barton

19:30 Tatenhill PCC

Venue TBC

Friday 27th March

10:00 Bible Group

16 Hardy Close, Barton

12:00 Charity Lunch for Water Aid

Our Lady's, Barton

Hello All,

When was the last time you invited a friend or family member to come and see what church is like? These are the very words used in our gospel reading today by the Samaritan woman, to her friends and neighbours, following her encounter with Jesus. We might find it hard to talk about Jesus and what He means to us, but we can all invite those we know to "come and see". Often the simple act of an invite to church or to an event is all that it takes. The Holy Spirit then takes that openness and transforms lives. Try it, you might be surprised.



Yours in Christ, Rev Andy +