

The Benefice Bulletin

15th March 2026 – Mothering Sunday

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 15th March

09:00 Holy Communion

St Mary's, Dunstall

10:30 Lay Led Service

St James', Barton

Wednesday 18th March

09:15 WoW Wednesday

including informal worship at 10:00

St James', Barton

Thursday 19th March

09:15 WoW Thursday

including informal worship at 10:00

Tatenhill Village Hall

Readings and Prayers for Mothering Sunday

Readings

Psalm	34
Old Testament	Exodus 2.1-10
New Testament	2 Corinthians 1.3-7
Gospel	Luke 2.33-35

The Collect

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; 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

Exodus 2.1-10

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

2 Corinthians 1.3-7

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, ⁴who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. ⁵For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. ⁶If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. ⁷Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

Luke 2.33-35

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

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 Kenya

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

Our Deanery: Along with our deanery, we pray for the parish of All Saints in Newborough and all those who minister and worship there.

Our Benefice: We pray for those who live and work on Wales Lane, Collinson Road and The Green in Barton, St Mary's Church and Church Cottages in Dunstall and Tatenhill Lane and Tatenhill Common 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...

- 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 16th March

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

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

Tuesday 17th March

Wednesday 18th March

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

Thursday 19th March

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

Friday 20th March

17:00 Music Group
St James', Barton

Saturday 21st March

Sunday 22nd March

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

Future Dates

Monday 23rd 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 24th March

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

Sunday 29th March

Palm Sunday

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

Thursday 2nd April

Maundy Thursday

19:00 Agape Meal
St James', Barton

Hello All,

It's Mothering Sunday, the day in the church calendar when we think and reflect what it means to mother and be mothered and to celebrate and give thanks for all those, not just our mums, who do the important job of mothering us: those who teach us how to care, how to forgive, how to show compassion and how to provide comfort and protection. The maternal instinct to give away: to empty oneself out of love for another may be instinctive for mother's but it isn't easy and often comes with an unbelievable emotional pain. In our reading from Exodus, we have the heart-breaking story of the Mother of Moses, knowing that she must "abandon" her child if he is to survive. God in Christ empties himself for us too. Allows us to "go" out of love for us yet stands with us in the pain we experience and bears it with us. This example of the motherhood of God is so important for us: it enables us to look to those who truly mother us for glimpses of the Divine presence in our lives.



Yours in Christ, Rev Andy +