

The Benefice Bulletin

17th May 2026 – Ascension Day

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 17th May

09:00 Holy Communion

St Mary's, Dunstall

10:30 Lay Led Service

St James', Barton

18:00 Confirmation Service

officiated by Bishop Matthew

St James', Barton

Wednesday 20th May

09:15 WoW Wednesday

including informal worship at 10:00

St James', Barton

Thursday 21st May

09:15 WoW Thursday

including informal worship at 10:00

Tatenhill Village Hall

Readings and Prayers for Ascension Day

Readings

Psalm

47

Old Testament

Daniel 7.9-14

New Testament

Acts 1.1-11

Gospel

Luke 24.44-End

The Collect

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven, help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and forever. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ and have fed us with the bread of heaven: mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings, we may set our hearts in the heavenly places; 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'	Steve Gardner	☎07960 960509	✉ stevegardneruk@gmail.com
	Linda Felgate		✉ linda_felgate@hotmail.com
St Mary's	Angela Moffat	☎01283 713735	✉ rangelamoffat@icloud.com
St Michael's	Phil & Emma Coleman	☎01283 538983	✉ stmtatenhill@gmail.com

Acts 1.1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Luke 24.44-End

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.' ⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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 Papua New Guinea

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 Paul's, Burton and all those who live, work, and minister there.

Our Benefice: We pray for those who live and work on Station Road, Meadow Rise and Holland Park in Barton, Scotch Hills Lane in Dunstall and Falcon Avenue and Spitfire 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, John G, Brian, Rosemarie, Jess, Cliff, Viv, Simon

Those who have died: Dorothy Jenkins, Claire Johnson-Phillips. We pray for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

In Benefice News...

- **Saturday Coffee** will be held at Dunstall on Saturday 16th June, starting at 10:00am. Pop along for coffee and cake in the lovely (hopefully) warm weather!
- If you want to find out why Rev Andy "don't like Monday's", head to **Pub Church** on Monday 18th May, 7pm at The Shoulder. A relaxed and informal service over a drink!
- Thank you to everyone who attended the **APCMs** help recently within our churches. Please do keep our new wardens, and all PCC members in your prayers as we start a new year of governance within our churches.
- **Rev Liz** will be licensed as Incumbent of Hanbury with Draycott, Newborough and Rangemore on 20th May at St Werburgh', Hanbury starting at 7:00pm. All are welcome to the service. Please pray for Liz and Ray as they move into this new Ministry.
- As we move into the **summer season**, there is lots of events coming up. Please do keep an eye on the bulletins and social media for information about events and services.

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 18th May

19:00 Pub Church

The Shoulder, Barton

Tuesday 19th May

19:00 Barton Spring Sounds Prom

St James', Barton

Wednesday 20th May

09:15 WOW Wednesday

including informal worship at 10:00

St James', Barton

19:00 Licensing of Rev Liz

St Werburgh's, Hanbury

Thursday 21st May

09:15 WOW Thursday

including informal worship at 10:00

Tatenhill Village Hall

Friday 22nd May

10:00 Bible Group

St James', Barton

Saturday 23rd May

Sunday 24th May

09:00 Lay Led Service

St Michael's, Tatenhill

10:30 Lay Led Service

St James', Barton

Future Dates

Tuesday 26th May

19:00 Churches Together Meeting

Our Lady's, Barton

Friday 29th May

12:00 Churches Together Charity Lunch

Our Lady's, Barton

Sunday 31st May

10:00 Benefice Holy Communion

St Mary's, Dunstall

13:30 Baptism of Archer

St James', Barton

Tuesday 2nd June

19:00 Barton PCC

St James', Barton

Saturday 6th June

11:30 Interment of Ashes - R Harmon

St James', Barton

14:00 Wedding of Lauren and George

St James', Barton

Monday 8th June

19:00 Tatenhill PCC

The Vicarage, Barton

Tuesday 16th June

19:00 Deanery Synod

St Mary's, Dunstall

Hello All,

Alleluia He is Risen!

As the Easter story moves towards Ascension, the disciples face another change. Just as things are beginning to make sense, Jesus speaks about leaving. Why come back only to go again? Perhaps Ascension is less about absence and more about trust: the disciples can no longer rely on Jesus simply standing beside them telling them what to do next. Instead, they are asked to become witnesses, carrying what they have seen and experienced into the world. But what does faith look like when certainty is missing? How do we keep trusting when the path ahead feels unclear? And what if faith is not about having everything neatly sorted, but about learning to keep going anyway?

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Every blessing, Beth

