

**Prayers for those in need:** David Fielden, Yvonne Stewart, Aisling, Jane, Wai Ping, Hugh Nowlan, Judy Matthews, Mick Dunk, Marri Carmichael, Janet

**RIP:** Keith Berry, Julie Daniel

**Years Mind for January:** Gladys White, Roy Watts, Brian Hiscott, Lillian Caley, Baby Ellen Housley, Lilian Carey, John Eyles, Erica Lay, Joan Stephenson, Pamela Kirkham, Maggie Hannant, Alan Charlesworth

### The week ahead

Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	CC Finance Meeting at the Vicarage
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	St. Mary's PCC Meeting in the hall
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Holy communion at St. Mary's
	2.30pm	Holy Communion at Greenhill Grange
	7.00pm	Contemplative Service at Christ Church
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Christ Church PCC Meeting in the Vestry
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Scallop Shells Choir at Christ Church
	5.15pm	Choir practice at Christ Church
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup>	11.00am	A Flock of Ravens talk in Christ Church

Funerary businesses are common on high streets across the country and an important part of the response to death in our communities. How did this trade and its familiar services come to be, where and why did the funeral trade begin? This talk journeys through eighteenth-century England to discover the origins of the funeral trade and the identities of some of the first undertakers. A Flock of Ravens – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> in Christ Church raising funds to 'energise our sacred space'

### Services Next Week: 1<sup>st</sup> February

**8.00am Holy Communion(BCP) at Christ Church**  
**10.30am Christingle Eucharist at St. Mary's**  
**6.00pm Choral Evensong at Christ Church**

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**Benefice of Christ Church and St Mary's, Frome**  
Diocese of Bath and Wells

### Sunday 25th January

#### Collect

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

#### First Reading: Jeremiah 1.4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God ! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord .' Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

#### Psalm 67

God be merciful unto'us and'bless us : and shew us the light of his countenance, and be' merciful' unto' us : 2 That thy way may be ' known upon ' earth : thy saving' health a'mong all' nations.

3 Let the people ' praise thee O ' God : yea let ' all the ' people 'praise thee. 4 O let the nations re'joice and be'glad : for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the' nations up'on' earth. 5 Let the people ' praise thee O ' God : let' all the' people praise thee. 6 Then shall the earth bring' forth her' increase : and God even our own' God shall' give us his ' blessing. 7 God' shall' bless us : and all the ' ends of the' world shall' fear him.

### **Second Reading: Acts 9.1-22**

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.'

But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I

myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 19.27-end**

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.