



25th January 2026
Conversion of Paul

St James' Church Exeter

www.stjamesexeter.org

Rector

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297

Day off: Thursday

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Charity register number: 1128877

Notices

Welcome

As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity draws to a close, we welcome the Rev'd Simon Leigh, Minister at the Mint Methodist Church, as our preacher today.

Electoral Roll Forms

For those not on our electoral roll who wish their names to be added, forms are at the back of the church and may be returned to either Rachel Martindill or Sue Pinn, our churchwardens.

TODAY

4.00 pm Service for Homelessness
Sunday, St Pancras' Church

This Week

Morning Prayer is said at 8.30 am

Online: Mon, Wed

In the church: Tue, Thu, Fri

Mon 26th January Mark 3: 22 – 30

10.15 am Communion, The Old Rectory

7.00 pm Choir practice

Tue 27th January Mark 3: 31 – 35

Wed 28th January Mark 4: 1 – 20

12.00 noon Eucharist

Thu 29th January Mark 4: 21 – 25

Fri 30th January Mark 4: 26 – 34

10.30 am Coffee morning

Sat 31st January Mark 4: 35 – 41

Next Sunday: 1st February

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

(Candlemas) Luke 2: 22 – 40

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

4.00 pm Celebrate Together

6.00 pm Evening Prayer & Benediction

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.

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.

10.00 am Music

Music Setting: Inwood et al.

Processional hymn 157 Firmly I Believe and Truly

Offertory hymn 300 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Recessional hymn 701 We Have a Gospel to Proclaim

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

Psalm 67

God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. O let the nations rejoice and be glad, for you will judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, and God, our own God, will bless us. God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

First Reading: Acts 9: 1-22

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 baptised, 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: 27-30

Peter said to Jesus: '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.'