

Uley, Owlpen & Nympsfield

July 2025

Village News

Supporting Church, Community and Local Business



uleyvillagenews@gmail.com

Uley Parish Council

Adam Biscoe | clerk@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|
| Juliet Browne (Vice-Chair) | j.browne@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk | 01453 860710 |
| Jo Dee | j.dee@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk | 01453 861566 |
| Geoff Keen | g.keen@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk | |
| Tracy Mason-Fayle | t.mason-fayle@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk | |
| Tony Mills | t.mills@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk | 07753 739636 |
| Sean Sage | s.sage@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk | 07484 302871 |
| Vacancy | | |

District Councillor

| | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| Martin Percy | dlr.martin.percy@stroud.gov.uk | |
|--------------|--|--|

County Councillor

| | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| Richard Dean | richard.dean@gloucestershire.gov.uk | |
|--------------|--|--|

Stroud District Council - Neighbourhood Warden

| | | |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| Andrew Beamish | andrew.beamish@stroud.gov.uk | 07834 419332 |
|----------------|--|--------------|

Volunteer Footpath Officer

| | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|
| Bill Bramley | bramley@fastmail.fm | 01453 861249 |
|--------------|--|--------------|

Police Community Support Officer

| | | |
|----------------------|--|--------------|
| PCSO Abbigail Barker | Abbigail.Barker@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk | 07811 292244 |
|----------------------|--|--------------|

Community Wellbeing

Email: communitywellbeing.stroud@nhs.net Tel: 0345 863 8323

Uley Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. You are very welcome to attend. Details of the meetings can be found on the notice boards at either end of the village or on the Uley village website at: www.uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk



The July edition of the Messenger is available to download from:

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-resources/communications/#messenger>

Please note, articles submitted by individuals do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Church and / or Parish Council.



ULEY SINGING ALLSORTS SUMMER CONCERT

TUESDAY 8TH JULY 2025
7.30PM

MATARA CENTRE, KINGSCOTE, GL8 8YA

AN EVENING OF MUSIC IN A LOVELY VENUE
WINE AND A RAFFLE
FREE ADMISSION

Proceeds from the evening will be donated to **SHAPE**
Supporting Health in Africa and Promoting Education

PLEASE BRING CASH FOR RAFFLE AND DONATIONS

Uley Parish Council

Farewell to Melanie Paraskeva

After 14 years of service to the community as a Parish Councillor, four of them as Chair, Melanie is sadly standing down and moving on to new challenges in education. Melanie has a proud record of achievements during her time on the Council, having been a prime mover in setting up and administering the Allotments, negotiating for Goldingham Close, saving the Surgery, supporting Prema and Uley School. There have been many other issues, events, organisations and people to which and to whom Melanie has applied herself and given commitment over all these years. Each of them has taken much time, energy, tact and diplomacy in an already very busy life. We are all hugely grateful to her for all that she has done for the Parish. We will all miss her.

Flooding, Sewers and the Potential Impact of Further Development in Uley - Debs Paproska Cole's Statement at the Parish Council Meeting on 5th February

Two questions: How much is your building excess? Can you choose who insures your property? If the answer is under £10,000 and that yes you can, consider yourselves fortunate. This is what having a property that floods costs you.

As Parish Councillors, you bear a responsibility for the well-being of the

Parish. This responsibility, in my view, includes alleviating the fear of flooding, particularly for those residing along the river. These residents are, to some extent, bearing the consequences of development along the valley's slopes. We should seek solutions to address the current and frequent flood issues, rather than worsening the situation by adding more buildings, especially on the Lampern Hill side of the valley, directly above the flood plain. The Parish Council must consider the broader perspective of protecting existing properties, some heritage properties, given the already high flood risk in this area, rather than succumbing to political pressure.

To put this into perspective, flooding of Dauncey's Mill occurred in July 2007 and several years before that prompting the previous owners to undertake extensive and very expensive remedial work. This work was carried out in 2008. The mill came close in 2012 and has many times since; the fields are regularly under water when we have sustained periods of rain. The river breached its banks only recently during storm Bert back in November (2024).

We are by no means unique as other properties in Uley have flooded. This problem will only worsen with the increasing intensity and frequency of rainfall.

Logically, the river, which serves as the valley's primary drainage system, cannot expand its capacity, nor can the land down here absorb further runoff. The community of Uley was established around a valley of mills, which now form part of its unique heritage. These mills, dating back over 400 years, are situated along the river. As we continue to build on either side of the valley, destroying more open pastureland—nature's sponge—additional runoff will inevitably flow to the valley's natural low point, increasing the already high flood risk. We will be the ones to suffer, unable to insure, sell, or repair our properties should they flood again. How many times must these buildings and roads flood before the councils are persuaded to halt further destruction of the surrounding green fields or add further housing?

Another significant issue is the outdated and inadequate sewer system, which is already unable to handle the daily waste from the village; the main sewer runs along the valley bottom. For the first few years we lived in this property, every time we had a sustained period of rain, raw effluent would pour out of manhole covers, with tissue paper and worse running along our track and in the gully directly beside the house, covering the nearby field before flowing into the River Ewelme. It was truly disgusting. The pressure even caused our downstairs toilet to nearly overflow. The stress of living in such conditions is overwhelming. We eventually convinced Severn Trent to fit the manhole covers beside the house with non-return valves, threatening to report

them to the Environment Agency. This helped near the house, but a few years ago, another manhole burst near our holding pond, close to the Millennium Green, flooding the field with grey effluent, which again, went directly into the River Ewelme. It smelt disgusting for months. Because the area around the holding pond gets saturated with runoff from the village when it rains, Severn Trent were unable to access the area to clean it for weeks. It killed aquatic plants and fish, damaged the natural habitats of the extensive wildlife down here, left a terrible mess and an awful smell for a few months. It was truly heartbreaking.

The impact of further building will increase surface water and grey water runoff from the village and built environment. It will also add further strain to a sewer system already unable to cope with demand. This must be carefully considered when evaluating potential new developments. The village's steep slope, dense built areas, lack of open ground for absorption, presence of many springs, and runoff from houses and non-porous infrastructure all contribute to a flood risk that recent developments have done little to address or acknowledge.

We must tackle the current water issues on Lampern Hill and Shadwell, and strive to mitigate, rather than exacerbate, the runoff from developed areas. We also need to seriously consider the wider implications of further development.

Thank you for listening.

Church News

As newly elected church wardens David and I will be taking on lots of new roles – one of which is the writing of the church news – and I for one will be learning by doing for quite some time so do bear with me. Moya has done a wonderful job of serving in this capacity and we wish her a well-earned break, although we are very grateful for her staying on and assisting with the vibrant wedding ministry.

In the last month (along with the many weddings) we have celebrated the baptism of Xanthe, the completion of the wall project, and hosted a thank you event showcasing some of the many beautiful artifacts held by our churches. Xanthe's baptism was joyous and it was wonderful to see the church full of families and friends there in support.

I'm very pleased to report that the wall project has come in under budget and would like to thank all those who have carefully overseen the project, as well as those who have contributed to the cost. I

know we are all glad to be without traffic lights again, and to get the road back for parking.

Today we gathered after the Pentecost service to hold our 'thank you' event for all in the village who contribute so much to the life of our church. It was heartening to see a steady throng of villagers come and share a glass of wine and a delicious array of canapes, whilst browsing some of the carefully arranged church items from our three churches. These comprised historic bibles and prayer books, wonderful robes and vestments, and altar silverware (communion vessels, candlesticks, travelling communion sets and baptism shells). Lots of conversations were happening among the aisles and it was agreed that we should make a point of doing this more often. I would encourage you all to come up to the church to see the meticulous map of the churchyard and index of graves made by Alex and Sarah. Thank you to all who contributed!

OLEY CHURCH
Breakheart
Quarry,
Dursley

21st-25th July 2025

Watt-A-Lott Castle

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

Closing date for registration forms is 6th July

Contact Clare for a registration form and details
ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com

Finally, David and I wanted to have a chance to introduce ourselves as your church wardens.

I (Nikki) moved to Uley in 1975 (as a one year old) and have many happy memories attending church youth group, singing in the church choir, getting confirmed and eventually married in St Giles. After 20 years living away I moved back to Uley in 2012 with my two daughters and attended church in Minchinhampton until a year ago when I finally decided I wanted to walk to church and worship with my neighbours. I'm delighted to serve in the capacity of church warden, I have extremely big shoes to fill but will do my best!

And I, David, am picking up where Pauline sadly left off when - last November - she

succumbed to oesophageal cancer and passed away 'in harness'. A hard act to follow, but I'll also do my best. Like Nikki, I have deep roots in Uley, as we moved here from Berkeley a long time ago – Juliet is the sixth rector I've known here! I've served on the PCC for many years, and in more recent times have taken particular interest in the maintenance and enhancement of the fabric of our three churches. I anticipate that, while sharing in all the duties of a churchwarden, I will in particular maintain this close involvement with the care, maintenance and improvement of our diverse and wonderful buildings.

*Nikki Clarke and
David Thomas*

Calling all children and young people of Uley!

The summer holidays are approaching and it's time to get creative and send us photographs or images of your ideas of an outdoor space for play and having fun.

These pictures can be photos of spaces or artistic designs, creative models of a play space, a painting, or any artistic crafted design.

All images to be sent to clerk@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk by the 30th August.

One image per person. No image of a person or child please. The images will be printed in the Village News.

We hope you all enjoy your summer, we look forward to receiving digital photographs of your work.

Tracy Mason-Fayle

on behalf of Uley Parish Council

Garden Notes for June

The Fifth Month (in the Roman Calendar) was renamed Julius, in honour of Julius Caesar's birthday in 44BC by the Roman Senate, gradually evolving to July.

Personally, July takes me back to my childhood. Windows wide-open and the sounds of fast tennis balls drifting out over the garden while I played. So whether you're parked up in front of Wimbledon on the TV or unable to tear yourself away from the delights of being outside and enjoying the garden - the product of months of endeavour - this is a month to be savoured... preferably with strawberries and cream!

Last year was all about the wet (and the slugs), this year the record dry spring. How did your garden fair in these yo-yoing conditions? Despite cracks opening up and the grass taking a hit, the late winter mulching has done its job here. Suppressing weeds and retaining moisture so most watering was restricted to pots and the kitchen garden. In the dry Spring, the mini meadow and long grass areas were, and still are, a haven for insects and wildlife. Hopefully you kept some long grass areas... this is a good time to sit and quietly observe the life within.. grasshoppers, leaf-cutter bees, moth caterpillars, many other pollinators and the rustle of voles safe from the owls at night. A 'weedy' lawn also provides benefits to bumble bees feasting on the clover nectar across our lawn. If you have sown yellow rattle to reduce the virility of your grass in the meadow, at the end

of the month, as the seed heads dry and rattle, you can cut and up end the seeds into a paper bag to be sown after your meadow is cut down in late summer/autumn. At £35 for 100g its worth doing!

If you have mint, catmint or marjoram in your garden, look out for the tiny mint moth (*Pyrausta aurata*). This is a day flying moth with a wingspan that's the width of a thumbnail. Visible from May to August, it lays its eggs (which look like minuscule cream beads) on the underside of mint type leaves. Often to be seen sunning itself on its favourite minty plant, it is dark purple with a single yellow dot on each side - hence its common name of Small Purple and Gold.

Of course you can't spend the whole month floating about in a dreamy haze .. Don't forget to:

- Deadhead
- Cut back brown or fallen plants
- Pick sweet peas
- Harvest your produce - everything often ripens at once, so be prepared with jars/freezerbags and labels
- Remember those beautiful irises .. now is the time to lift and divide, replanting into free draining, gravelly soil with the rhizomes on the surface, facing south.
- Keep feeding your pots
- Give your indoor plants a holiday outside - they'll be so happy!

Have fun :)

Caroline @awalledgarden



Saturday 5th July Uley Millennium Green

2pm - on the day registration

2:30pm - start of games

£45 per team of 7-9

players (advance)

£7 per person (on the day)

Cakes and snacks | Tea and coffee Beer, cider, wine and soft drinks

Come along to play or support the teams and enjoy a fun summer afternoon. All ages welcome. If you don't have a full team we can match you up.

Please leave payment in an envelope with your captain's name and a contact phone number in the Uley Village Shop.

In the event of wet weather, the refreshments will be available in St Giles Church, along with an alternative games tournament.

If you have any queries please contact friendsofstgilesuley@outlook.com
Raising funds to contribute to the preservation of St Giles Church

Church Letter

Everyone loves a good story!

'Saturday Books' at St James, Dursley is always busy with free books available for anyone to take away and enjoy. From September, there will be a Family Storytelling at 10am each Saturday in the 'Children's Corner' of Church. If you have any children's books that you no longer need and would like them to be available for families to take away to read at home, then please drop them off at St James Church, they will be very much appreciated.

Recently, I enjoyed reflecting with others on preaching, wondering whether preaching can learn anything from stand-up comedy! You may be relieved to know that this wasn't about learning some good preacher-gags - which can be even worse than cracker jokes - but we reflected on the common aims of being fully present, connecting with our listeners, addressing the realities of our common humanity, and the place of truth-telling. The day also included an opportunity to learn something of what makes for a good story, and how to tell it well. You'll have to be the judge as to whether I ever manage to put any of this learning to good use!

Jesus told some very good stories. We sometimes call them parables. They are rooted in the everyday life of those who were listening to him. So, there are stories of sheep and goats, and farmers who have a bumper crop, seeds that get eaten up by the birds, and yeast that small though it is, causes a whole batch of dough to rise. There are other stories about things that are lost, and found again, possessions that cost nothing less than everything. The stories can be playful and poignant, often open-ended, raising more questions than they provide answers.

Godly Play is a form of Storytelling, based on Montessori principles and drawing deeply from the Christian tradition. The scripts are pared back to the minimum of words, as are the gestures, and little figures are used to help focus and create the imagined story-world. Some of us are beginning to learn to become Godly Play Storytellers so that we can share the stories of the People of God, the Christian Tradition and the Parables of Jesus with the next generation. What children do with these stories is between them and God. After the story, we simply wonder together: Which bit of the story did you like best? Is there a bit of this story that you could take away and still have the

whole story? Where might you be in this story?

It is our hope that, with the help of Uley village, providing colourful cushions to sit on; beautifully crafted wooden pieces to play with and a space at St Giles for our playthings, we will be a resource for many people, of all ages, to get the chance to hear a good story, well-told. And an opportunity to respond, in whatever way we can.

So, watch this space....

With love and my prayers

Juliet

*'There once was someone who said such wonderful things and did such amazing things that people followed him. As they followed him, they heard him talking about a kingdom, but it was not the kingdom they lived in. It was not like any kingdom they had ever visited. It was not like any kingdom that they had ever heard of. They couldn't help it. They had to ask him what the kingdom of heaven was like. One time when they asked him, he said, 'The kingdom of heaven is like when a person who buys and sells fine pearls, a merchant, goes to search for the great pearl. When he found the great pearl, he went....
...and exchanged....
...everything for the great pearl.'*

From the Uley, Nympsfield and Owlpen Church Registers

July Years Mind.

Anne Maxwell Brooke, Vera Carter, Kathleen Chappell, Jean Coulson, Winifred Hulbert, Miriam Kelly, Diana Oldham, Joan Neale, Jack Witchell, Doreen Swirski, Joan Weir, Leonard Freeth

Funerals at St Giles, Uley

29th May - Tony Curnock

Weddings at St Bartholomew's, Nympsfield

14th June - Adam Reynolds and Rebecca Williams

Weddings at Holy Cross

7th June - Charlie Miles and Sian White

28th June - Jared Bentsi-Enchill & Sophie-Marie Neal

Banns of marriage to be read in July

James McCann & Harriet Kemp
Charlie Barclay-Hudson & Danielle Chick

Ashley Smith & Emily Knowles



13th September

Open to the
public 2pm



Uley Annual Show 2025

**Schedules and Entry Forms now
available from Uley Community
Stores**

Any queries contact the Team: uleyannualshow@gmail.com

The Uley Memorial Playing Field 80th VE Day Appeal

We are delighted to announce that the Appeal reached and exceeded its target!

A huge thank you to all of you who donated. Funds came from people in and around the village and from people with links to Uley and the Memorial Playing Field. This included relatives of the Servicemen who died and people who had spent many happy hours on the playing field in their youth.

The funds we have raised will preserve the memory of the Servicemen who died in the Second War and will help towards keeping the Memorial Field and Pavilion in a suitable condition for the needs of the current generation.

Special mention goes to the Parish Council whose donation paid for the new Memorial Plaques and to the Uley Society for its very generous donation: also thanks to the invisible army of volunteers who delivered the Village News Appeal letter to all the households in the village.

Particular thanks go to the following businesses for their invaluable community support – **Altrans, Amelore Ltd, Mark Bailey Painter/Decorator, Chorley's Auctioneers,**

Everhot, Goldingham Contracts Ltd, Renishaw, Sage Residential, Matt Summers Furniture, WDSL diary equipment.

The VE Day Appeal has now closed but we will keep you updated with developments. There are more replacement trees to be planted and we want to put a permanent display about the soldiers in the pavilion

If you want to continue to support the Pavilion and Playing Field – money is always needed! – you can donate by Standing Order, bank transfer or by joining the 100 Club. See website for details.

John Dauncey

On behalf of the Playing Field and Pavilion Management Committee

**Late Friday opening at
Tinkley Gate
13 June – 25 July**

Wind down until late each Friday - Woodchester Park is open until 8pm (last entry and café open until 7:30pm). Hot pizzas on offer all evening.

Uley WI Diary – June 2025

This month we were given an inspirational talk by two amazing women who started a small charity in Gloucestershire called CALM (Children achieving lifelong movement) about 10 years ago. Possibly the only one in the country, it provides intensive physiotherapy for young children with severe mobility issues caused by strokes, rheumatoid arthritis and other debilitating conditions. We were shocked to learn that the NHS does not provide long-term physiotherapy for very young children. With the support of a generous physiotherapy practice with a well-equipped gym, they are transforming the lives of at least a dozen children in Gloucestershire. We watched two heart-warming films of the impact of their personalised approach to physical therapy. You can find out more about their work at www.lifelongmovement.org

One of our enjoyable outings this month was a river boat cruise on the Thames from Lechlade with lunch in a riverside pub. Pity about the weather, but it didn't dampen our spirits.



There will be plenty more activity this month including croquet, walks and coffee mornings. Our next meeting on Wednesday 9th July will be a social occasion with a fun quiz, games and light supper. If you are interested in coming along, please let us know and it will be our pleasure to welcome you!

For more information on Uley WI please contact our email address: secretary.uleywi@gmail.com. You can also follow us on Facebook at 'Uley WI'.

Uley Community Stores & Post Office Diary

Tel Shop: 861592 | Tel Post Office: 860203 (Ailsa, Sadie and Angela)

www.uleycommunitystores.co.uk | Run by Volunteers

The spring sun has been shining brightly, lovely and warm too! Are you ready for a barbeque? There are plenty of sausages in the Deli Fridge, baps and frozen burgers too. Plus locally sourced, organic British charcoal in stock.

Hopefully it's hot enough for your dogs to enjoy the ice-cream we stock for them located in the ice-cream freezer, alongside the one you will enjoy. The Volunteers once again enjoyed a complementary ice-cream or lolly for this year's Volunteers Week. This is just one of the benefits to becoming a volunteer. The main reason is "your shop needs you", the summer months can get tricky. Full training will be given, ask for details in the shop.

Pete the Fish van visits Uley Wednesday mornings, between 9.30 and 10.15. With a great variety of fish, prawns etc. to choose from.

Are you going away this summer but worried about carrying cash or extra charges when using your debit/credit card? The Post Office offer a Travel Money Card that you can load with any currency, use anywhere that takes MasterCard and control from an App on your phone- check

Shop Opening Hours

Monday to Friday: 8am - 5.30pm

Saturdays: 8am – 1 pm

Sundays: 10am – 12pm

Post Office Opening Hours

Monday to Friday: 9am – 5.30pm

(Closed for lunch 1pm – 2pm)

(Wednesdays closes 4.30pm)

Saturdays: 9am – 12.30pm

Sundays: Closed

the balance, top-up from your bank account or freeze if some ne'er do well pickpocket targets you. Ask at the Post Office for more details - you could pick one up today. If you'd rather have some good old fashioned cash too, Euros are always available from the Post Office. Order other currencies either from the Post Office or on line.

Thanks for the kind donations of your home grown fruit, vegetables and plants. Please keep them coming.

If you have any suggestions for any other new items you'd like stocked please let us know.

Dami Davis

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Cotswold Warden Guided Walks

There are lots of guided local walks with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens happening each month. There is no need to book and there is no charge for joining the walks. However, there is a box for a voluntary contribution towards materials for our work on footpath maintenance. Some of the upcoming local walks are:

“Stinchcombe to Stancombe”

Tuesday 1st July | Start: 10:00am at Stinchcombe Hill Village Hall, GL11 6SW
Distance - 5 miles | Difficulty - Moderate

Haresfield

Tuesday 16th July | Start: 9:30am at National Trust Haresfield Car Park at Shortwood near GL6 6PP | Distance - 5.5 miles / 8.85 km | Duration - 3 hours

Wotton Under Edge

Thursday 17th July | Start: 10:30am at The Edge Cafe, 44 Long Street, GL12 7BT
Distance - 5.5 miles / 8.85 km | Difficulty - Moderate

More information can be obtained for wardens' walks throughout the Cotswolds from the website below. Walks are graded by difficulty and sorted by location.

<https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/exploring/guided-routes/>

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Recent Highlight

Our team completed the Snowdon Sunrise Trek, raising £1,250!

Get Involved:

- Photo Competition – £2 to enter, free for under-16s. Closes 31 July. Funds support the Teenage & Young Adult Nurse.
- Coffees That Count – Host a coffee morning to support local cancer patients. Email emily.janes@cobalthhealth.co.uk for a pack.
- Glos Vintage & Country Extravaganza – Visit our stand, 1–3 August.

Upcoming Events:

- Highnam Court Open Garden – 22 June



- Lunch at Prithvi – 12 September
- Coffee Morning at Cobalt – 27 September

Learn more at www.cobalthhealth.co.uk or call 01242 535922. Every contribution counts!



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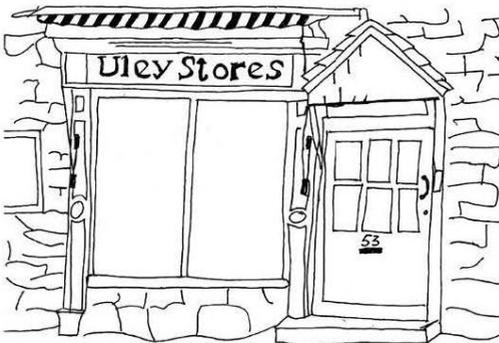
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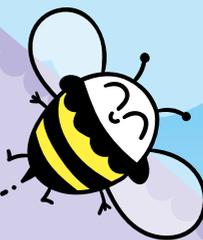
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The Uley Playing Field and Pavilion

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Contact us on hire.uleypavilion@gmail.com or 07771 526082 for more information.

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The Ewelme Benefice
Parish of Uley with Nympsfield and Owlpen

Rector: Revd Dr Juliet Jensen: 01453 350810 ewelmerector@gmail.com
Churchwardens - Nikki Clarke and David Thomas

Services in July 2025

6th July - Trinity 3

**Parish Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's,
Nympsfield**

13th July - Trinity 4

Parish Holy Communion at St Giles, Uley

20th July - Trinity 5

Parish Holy Communion at St Giles, Uley

27th July - Trinity 6

**Benefice Holy Communion at St James,
Dursley**

Church opening times

St Giles, St Bartholomew's and Holy
Cross are open daily.

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By arrangement, please contact
Clare White, Benefice Administrator

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