



PARISH OF CIRENCESTER
St John Baptist | Holy Trinity | St Lawrence

The Conversion of Paul
(Epiphany 3)
25th January 2026

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.

Jeremiah 1.4-10

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
⁵'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.'
⁶Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a
boy.'
⁷But 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.'
⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you
to deliver you, says the Lord.'
⁹Then 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.'
¹⁰See, 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.'

Acts 9.1-22

⁹Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord,
went to the high priest ²and 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. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus,
suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a
voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' ⁵He asked, 'Who are you,
Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.' ⁶But get up and enter
the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' ⁷The men who were travelling with
him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul 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. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and
neither ate nor drank.

.../

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ He answered, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ ¹¹ 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, ¹² 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.’ ¹³ But Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.’ ¹⁵ 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; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.’ ¹⁷ 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.’ ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is the Son of God.’ ²¹ 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?’ ²² Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

Matthew 19.27-30

²⁷ Then Peter said in reply, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?’ ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

Post Communion

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.

or Lord God, the source of truth and
love,
keep us faithful to the apostles’
teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of
bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of
heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

BCP Sunday 25th January - The Conversion of St. Paul

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 202

This Week's Sunday Services more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP and 10a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Evening Worship

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist and 10a.m. Eucharist

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Prayer

**Next week's CW readings for Sunday 1st February - The Presentation of Christ
in The Temple [Candlemas]**

Malachi 3.1-5; Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40

BCP Sunday 1st February - The Presentation of Christ in The Temple

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 205

Next Week's Sunday Services (Candlemas) more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

**St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP Eucharist; 10a.m. All-Age Eucharist;
4p.m. Choral Evensong**

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist and 10a.m. Non-Eucharist Family Service

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Restore@4

**Parish Forum open for enquiries Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri...10a.m. – Midday
Canon Graham is available every Monday 5.30 - 6.30p.m. in the Parish Forum**

NOTICES FOR THE PARISH

Planned Giving for 2026. We should like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have given so generously in 2025, either by Direct Debit, Standing Order or Weekly Envelopes. New boxes of envelopes are available in church. If you have started to give by Direct Debit or Standing Order and do not require a new box of envelopes, please let me know so that the box can be removed from church. If any other members of the congregation would like to join this scheme, please give your name and telephone number to one of the Churchwardens, the Parish Office or contact me by phone on 01285 652113 or by email at PTWCiren@aol.com. Thanks. *Peter Wilson*

Holocaust Memorial Day in Cirencester. Tuesday 27th January 12.30-1.15pm.
Tithe Barn at the Royal Agricultural University. On the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz extermination camp, we gather to tell the stories of genocide - in WW2, Cambodia, Rwanda, Yugoslavia & Darfur. We will listen, pause, pray, resolve to act & light a candle. Led by Matt Frost, RAU chaplain. Refreshments served throughout.

On Saturday 31st January at 10.30am, we will be making Christingles at St John Baptist. All are welcome!

Contributions to pewleaflet@cirenparish.co.uk by Tuesday evening please!

On **Wednesday 4th February** at **1.10pm**, **Tim Selman** from **Lincoln Cathedral** will be performing our **lunchtime organ recital**. Entry is free with a retiring collection. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mothers' Union. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday February 4th** at **2.30pm** in the Parish Hall, Watermoor. It is our AGM and will be followed by Pauline reading some of her "famous" poems. There will also be a Bring and Buy stall. All welcome.

Nicholas Morrow-Brown will be returning to **St John Baptist** on **February 7th** to perform a **guitar recital** for us at **2pm**. Entry is free with a retiring collection to support the work of the church. See you there!

The **Cirencester Foodbank** is actively looking to recruit more **Trustees** to their board as several of their trustees are due to be stepping down from their roles next year and they are keen to recruit some fresh faces, with a range of experience. Trustees are a vital aspect of running their charity, keeping good governance and ensuring they are fulfilling their objectives to the communities they support. Apply now at: <https://cirencester.foodbank.org.uk/support-us/become-a-trustee> or email: recruitment@cirencester.foodbank.org.uk to find out more.

From the Parish Calendar:

- Tue 27 Jan 10am: Clock Service – Holy Trinity
- Tue 27 Jan 10.30am: Funeral (Benjamin Lees) – St John Baptist
- Tue 27 Jan 1.30pm: Thanksgiving Service (Sylvia Hemmings) – St John Baptist
- Tue 27 Jan 7.30pm: Christian Wellbeing Course – St Lawrence
- Wed 28 Jan 8am: Aqiva to access Tower – St John Baptist
- Sat 31 Jan 10.30am: Christingle Making – St John Baptist

Contact Details:

Canon Graham 01285 239655 / 07871 571147; email: vicar@cirenparish.co.uk

Rev'd Luke 07850 270719; email: revlukefalvey@cirenparish.co.uk

Parish Office 01285 659317; email: office@cirenparish.co.uk

Monday to Saturday:

St John Baptist: Morning Prayer: Daily at 9.15am

Midday Eucharist: Daily at noon (Saturday at 10am)

Evening Prayer: Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 5pm

Little Angels: Mondays at 9.30am

Holy Trinity: Eucharist: Wednesdays at 7pm

St Lawrence: Drop In: Wednesdays at 9am

Parish Forum: Coffee & Chat: Thursdays at 10am

Contributions to pewleaflet@cirenparish.co.uk by Tuesday evening please!