

[www.stpaulsale.co.uk](http://www.stpaulsale.co.uk)

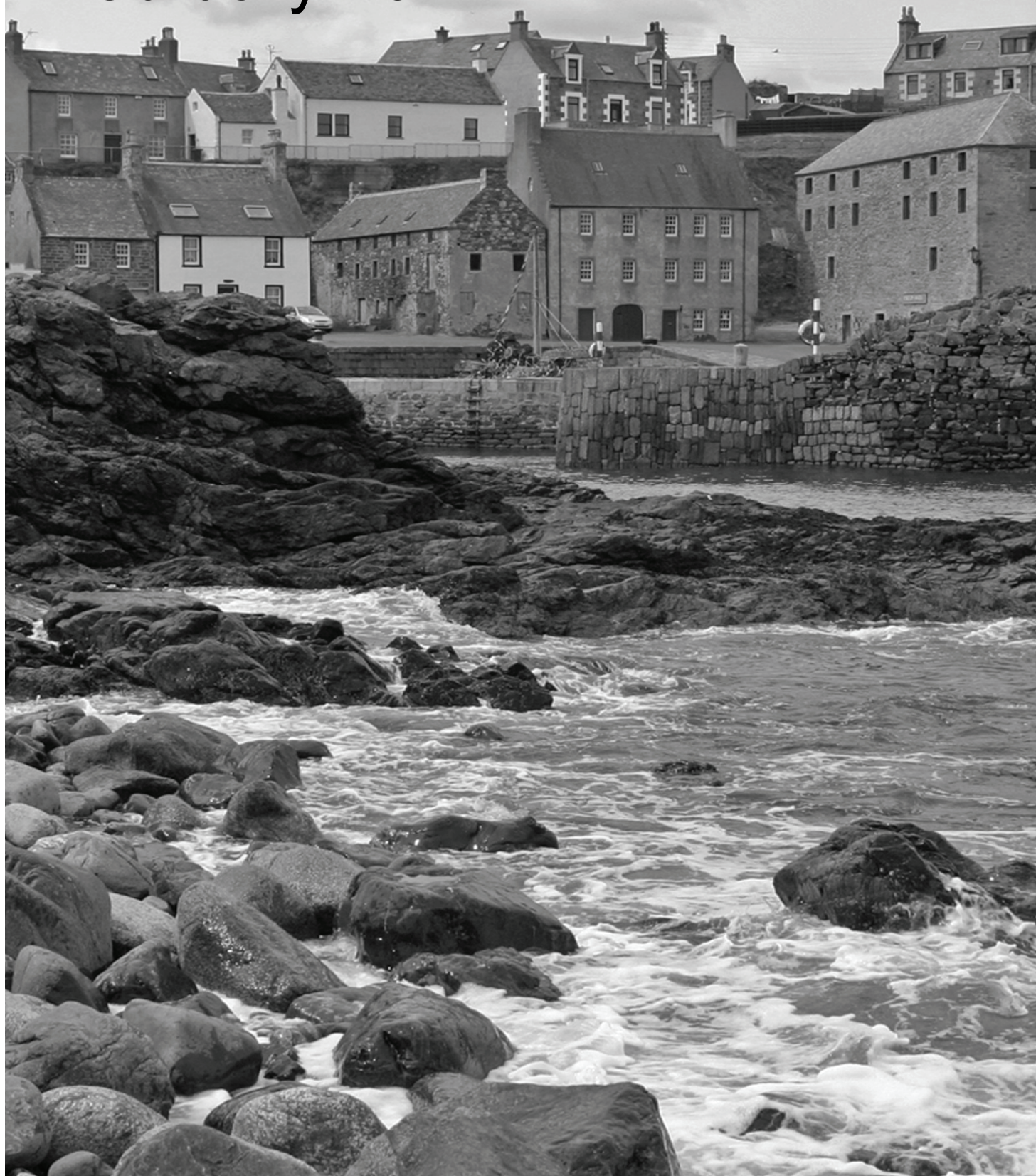
30p

**Sale, St. Paul's**

'Serving God and the community'

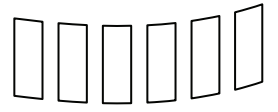
# Parish News

February 2017





# From the Vicar



The Christmas season finally ends on February 2<sup>nd</sup> Candlemass or as it is also known 'The presentation of Christ in the temple.' It is a transferable feast so at St Paul's it was kept on January 29<sup>th</sup>, the nearest Sunday. On that day at the end of the ten am service there is a procession to the back of church where we remind ourselves who it is we have been celebrating during the Christmas and Epiphany seasons. It is the Christ, our Saviour, the light of the world and to remind us of the light we each hold a candle as we say the words of the Nunc Dimittis those words spoken by Simeon when he saw the 40 day old baby Jesus and knew he was looking at the long promised Messiah. Let me remind you of those words, in the wonderfully poetic Kings James Translation.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart  
in peace according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
Which thou hast prepared before the face  
of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to  
be the glory of thy people Israel.

Then we ask God to help us to live Christ's life, to help us to be thankful for God's gift of His Son. We ask God to help us to trust God's promises, help us to never forsake the light of Christ but to be willing enter into the Easter mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. And we ask that we might shine as lights in the world in the world.

As we move through February toward Lent which begins this year on March 1<sup>st</sup>, and we will mark by service at 7pm which will include the imposition of Ashes, I ask you to consider what you will do to shine as a light in the world. Perhaps between now and the start of Lent you could light a candle each day and remind yourself that you are a light for Christ and pray for guidance about how God wants you to shine for him, asking which bit of the world does he want you to light up? Which people in his world does he want you to enlighten with his Gospel message? Which bits of this difficult and often unjust world does he want you to help bring justice and peace to. Have no doubt that you are called to help spread the light of Christ and his Gospel message. Spend the next four weeks thinking about what you can do and then in Lent start to it start to get yourself into the good habit of being a light to the gentiles and help to light up the dark places that are still waiting to be shown the Christ.

Yours in Christ  
Barbara



*...and yet the Church Mice still put it about  
that they were poor*

## Church Flowers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who contribute to the cost of flowers be it for remembrance of a loved one or at one of the Church's special celebrations. This year's book is ready for dates to be filled in, and it rests on the table at the back of Church.

Carol and I would be pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join us in arranging the flowers. If you have always wanted to have a go, please come and talk to us. We would be glad to see you.

Joyce Littlewood and Carol Cook

## Tuesday Group

Happy New Year everyone.

Our pre Christmas Coffee Evening held at Shawbury Grove in December was enjoyed by all those that attended. We had lots to eat as usual and spent the evening having a friendly chit chat amongst us all. In January we will be meeting at the Aspire Restaurant, South Trafford College, on the 24th January at 12 noon, where we will enjoy lunch together.

On 14<sup>th</sup> February it is our Annual General Meeting, commencing at 8.15pm.

Joyce Littlewood



## Church Electoral Roll Update

If you have changed address, telephone number or email address please can you pass this to the Electoral Roll Officer as soon as possible.



# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

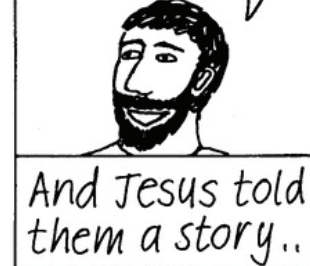
It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew chapter 18 verses 21-35

Jewish teachers used to say you only had  
to forgive people three times before  
before getting revenge, so Peter asked Jesus..

How many times do I have  
to forgive? Seven?



You must never  
stop forgiving.



A king decided to check  
his accounts



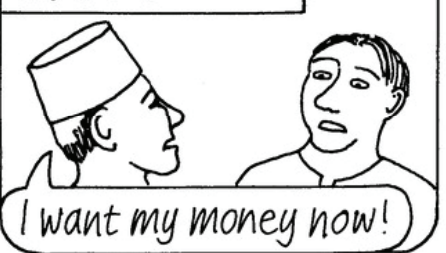
One servant owed him  
50 million silver coins



Please give me more  
time to pay



Then the servant saw  
someone who owed him  
100 silver coins



Please give me more  
time



and they told the king.



You bad man! I forgave you  
so much - why did you not  
forgive?



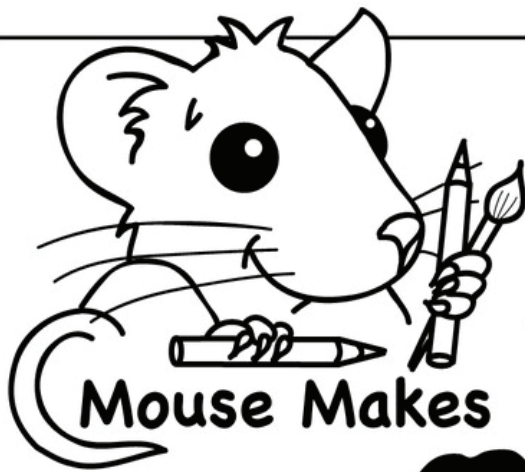
So he was put in  
prison



Jesus ended by saying...







*Read Jesus' teaching  
on prayer in  
Matthew 6 : 9-15*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven:  
May your holy name be honoured;  
may your Kingdom come;  
may your will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.

Give us today the food we need.  
Forgive us the wrongs we have done,  
as we forgive the wrongs that  
others have done to us.

Do not bring us to hard testing,  
but keep us safe from the Evil One.

**AMEN**

*Write a  
prayer of  
praise to God*

LORDS  
PRAYER  
OUR  
FATHER  
HOLY  
NAME  
HONOURER  
KINGDOM  
COME  
WILL  
DONE  
EARTH  
HEAVEN  
TODAY  
FOOD  
NEED  
FORGIVE  
WRONGS  
TESTING  
SAFE  
EVIL  
AMEN

O	D	S	F	O	O	D	H
T	O	D	A	Y	G	C	W
A	F	X	T	B	P	O	R
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K	I	N	G	D	O	M	S
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R	P	R	A	Y	E	R	S
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E	D	E	H	L	Y	G	R

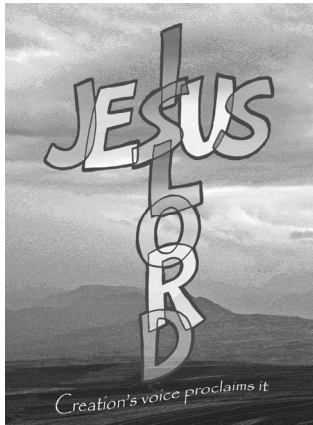
Can you find all  
the words from  
the list in the  
wordsearch?

# Thank you

Brian and family would like to thank all who attended Margaret's funeral on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016, all who sent messages of sympathy and who visited Margaret in the Nursing Home.

Many thanks also to Revd Barbara for arranging the funeral service, many people have said 'what a lovely service it was' to Yvonne for her involvement and for putting together and reading the eulogy and finally to Michael and Anne and the Choir for leading the singing.

Brian Walker and family



## Men's Society Notes

The Annual General Meeting and Hot Pot Supper were due to be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017. There will be a report on this meeting in the March issue of 'Parish News'.

The next meeting of the Society is at 8pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 and is a Diocese of Chester initiative entitled "Community Building, Transforming Lives Together". Mrs. Kath Leigh will present this. It is an Open Meeting and all are welcome.

John Clisset



## Home Made Cake Sale

Hello everyone, Joyce and I thought it would be nice to inform all of our wonderful bakers in the congregation just how much their efforts have raised for the Church Hall over the last two years since we began. From January 2015 until November 2016 we raised a Grand Total of £455.03 so give yourselves a well deserved pat on the back. Thanks also goes to everyone who purchased our cakes without whom we would not have done so well.

With very best wishes

Eileen and Joyce



## Past and future



### Prayer of thanks for God's light

Father of all creation,

Thank you for signs of life and light, even in the dark and sometimes difficult days of winter. Thank you for Jesus' victory over darkness and death – and for the assurance that, if we put our trust in Him - nothing can ever separate us from you.

Help us to hold onto the hope you have given us and to walk on with Jesus as our guiding light. And may His light attract others who don't yet know Him and whom the darkness threatens to overwhelm.

Shine on us, Lord, that we may reflect your light and receive your peace.

In Jesus's name.

Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

The theme for the week of Christian unity this year was 'Crossing Barriers'. On the day I led the service we were invited to ponder some questions, one of them was, What do you value about the past? Another was what must change in my church? They really got me thinking about St Paul's and I wonder what do we value about the past and what are we willing to change in order to ensure this church's future. I would be very interested to hear your views and invite you to write comments for me in regard to our worship, our social activities and our buildings about what you see as essential for us to keep and what you think we could change.

One of the things that has already changed is having a full time Vicar, I now work for 31 hours a week plus Sunday duties and therefore am looking to employ a part time (4 hours a week ) Admin assistant. If you know someone who might be interested in the post please ask them to contact me as soon as possible, Applications will close on 16<sup>th</sup> February. The person will need to have experience of office work, a good knowledge of be IT packages, administrative and organisational skills, and able to work unsupervised.

Barbara

Jesus is the bread of life,  
not the cake for special occasions.

*Anon*

### Save the date!

### Saturday 25th February—Pancake Party

More details to follow—watch out for the Pew Sheets and Notices



## 2 The Presentation of Christ in the Temple / Candlemas

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



*David Winter is happy to be a member of the public....*

### Join the Public!

'When I arrived at the scene, a member of the public was assisting the victim'. We all recognize that as 'police-speak'. To a police officer the world consists of other officers, paramedics, members of the armed forces and this mysterious identity, 'member of the public'.

I'm one, and so probably are you. But when did I join? And what exactly is this club I belong to? I know what 'public' is - public toilets, public houses, public right of way. But all of those mean 'for everybody'. How does one join 'everybody'?

It can get odder. The word 'public' derives from the amalgamation of two Latin words: 'people' and 'adult'. So was I automatically enrolled as a 'member of the public' when I was born, or when I became an adult? I'm very happy to be a member of the public (along with all the other bodies I voluntarily belong to). But it would help to know what the terms and conditions of membership are, and what the subscription is.



# Friday Focus prayers for February 2017

## **February 3    *Prodigals Luke 15: 11-24***

Jesus tells the story of the prodigal son who rejected his father and left home. But his father waited for him and welcomed him home with a party! Many of us know prodigals. Let's commit to pray for them to come home; that they might 'come to their senses' and realise their loving heavenly Father is waiting to welcome them back.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your generous love and grace to us. We bring before you the prodigals we know. We ask for you to have mercy - on us and on them. We pray that they may hear your call to come home. Give us open hearts and open homes to welcome them back. Amen

*Jane Holloway, World Prayer Centre*

## **February 10    *Reconciliation in families Ephesians 6:4***

This passage invites husbands and wives to love and respect each other, laying down their lives for each other. When this is our aim, we go a long way to providing the role model that our children need to be witnesses to the love of Christ, encouraging them rather than 'exasperating' them, and building the kingdom of God as a family.

Heavenly Father, in Jesus you commanded us to love you, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. May this love begin in our homes, bringing healing where there is brokenness, understanding where there is frustration, joy where there is sadness and hope where there is despair. May we lay down our lives, as Jesus did, for our families and for those in need. Amen

*Father Simon Penhalagan, Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism*

## **February 17    *What I have I give to you Acts 3:1-10***

Peter and John could not bypass need. They had been called by Jesus Christ and filled by His Spirit. Moved with compassion for the beggar, they gave what they had. They had Jesus. They boldly stepped out in faith in Jesus' name. In the face of need, is knowing Jesus the motivation for all we are doing, and are we confident to share Him with others?

Wonderful Saviour, author of compassion, fill us with the language of mercy. Never let our love grow cold and in the face of need may we always be so close to you that we can say 'What I have I give to you.' Lord let us always be filled by you; excited by you and living for your kingdom coming. Amen.

*Fred Drummond, Evangelical Alliance*

## **February 24    *The Millennial Generation Psalm 33:11; 20-22***

18-35 year olds have been dubbed the missing generation. They have left the church building and aren't fitting into traditional structures. But the *Talking Jesus* research ([www.talkingjesus.org](http://www.talkingjesus.org)) tells us that they are very open to having conversations about Jesus. Let's pray for fresh outpouring of the grace of God on this vital generation that they may know God's dream for this world and all He has purposed for them.

But the plans of the Lord stand firm for ever, the purposes of His heart through all generations. We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you (Psalm 33:11; 20-22).

*Kiera Phyto, Tearfund*

# The key to a happy life

Your mental health is the biggest single predictor of your personal happiness. So suffering from depression or anxiety disorders can devastate your life.

Finding love is also a vital ingredient for happiness. “People need to be needed and to be in meaningful relationships”, says a recent study by the London School of Economics. It goes on: “Happiness is hugely affected by the ethos of a society, which affects everyone in it. For example, happiness is higher in societies where people trust each other. Freedom is also a crucial determinant of happiness.”



The report also found that a boost in income, or more education, did not significantly affect our overall well-being. Having good mental health and someone to love were far more important.

# Caring for others helps YOU

Looking after your grandchildren, or providing emotional support to others, can help extend your own life by up to five years, according to a recent study.

Grandparents who provide occasional care for their grandchildren live, on average, five years longer than those who do not. And childless people who provide occasional care for others in their social network live on average three years longer.

The study, at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin, concluded that a ‘moderate level of caregiving involvement does seem to have positive effects on health.’”

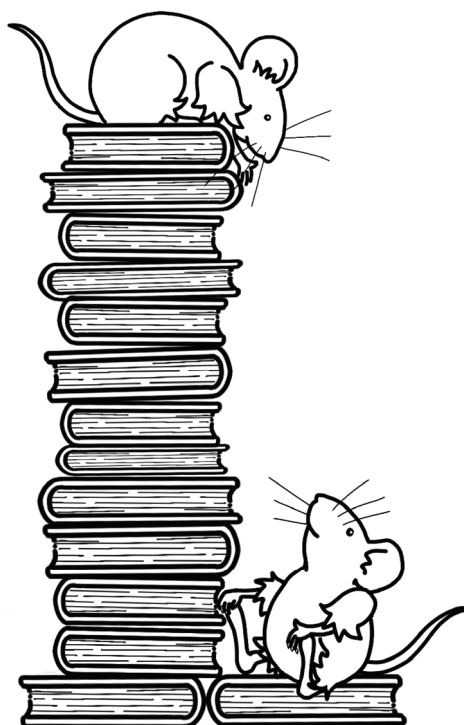




# Asking questions about Christianity

A 16-year-old boy – let's call him Adam – was given a Bible and was curious about it. But he didn't know how to cope with reading such a huge book so he found [www.Christianity.org.uk](http://www.Christianity.org.uk) and clicked on the button which allows anyone to ask a question.

Peter Graystone, is the coordinator for the Christian Enquiry Agency, which runs the Christianity.org.uk website. Peter responds to questions received through the website, and he began an online conversation with Adam last September. Peter writes: 'He and I have been reading Luke's Gospel at the same time, and every time he had a question he emailed me for an answer. Great questions – many have been about praying! At the start of November he discovered one of his school friends is a Christian. So he went to church for the first time ever and enjoyed it. We have finished Luke, and he has asked me what we should read next.'



Churches or organisations can add the URL Christianity.org.uk to any website or printed literature free of charge and without asking permission. It means your community and contacts have an easy way to find answers to their questions about the Christian faith from a huge website of information. With thousands of

people visiting Christianity.org.uk every week, this is an effortless way for you to do evangelism.

You can also join the prayer team who receive weekly emails, passing on the prayer requests from people who visit Christianity.org.uk. Names are disguised for privacy, but we are sure that God knows who we are praying for. If you would like to join the Christian Enquiry Agency prayer team, please email Peter Graystone:

[peter@christianity.org.uk](mailto:peter@christianity.org.uk)

Every week around 5,000 people visit the Christianity.org.uk website and dozens make contact with a question or comment. Peter responds on behalf of the Christian Enquiry Agency, by giving them what they ask for, and only what they ask for. Typically, people might ask to be sent part of the Bible that tells the story of Jesus (a Gospel). They might request prayer about something, ask a question about Christianity or seek a local church where they can explore issues of faith.



## Candlemas 2 February (Luke 2:22-40)

February snowdrops we welcome you!  
Candlemas Bells,  
winter's half-way markers,  
symbols of hope and light to come,  
creation's reminders of the Creator  
revealed in the child in Simeon's arms.

Jesus -  
fulfilment of God's promise  
to save and illuminate.

Jesus -  
who overcame darkness and death  
to live for us and in us.

At the snowdrops' prompting,  
Lord Jesus, we welcome you afresh,  
Hope and Light in person.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## Members of the Parochial Church Council not listed on page 16 and their phone numbers

Diana Kelly	973-4578
Jane Gigner-Hollies	07944793292
Robert Chilton	905-2507
Sian Gissing	-
Tilly Rothwell	07792421867
Paul Rothwell	07415922706
Clive Bancroft	286-1684
Hilary Moore	969-1831
Carole Shakeshaft	969-6319
Rob Moodie	286-1955

## Wanted Part time Admin Assistant to the Vicar

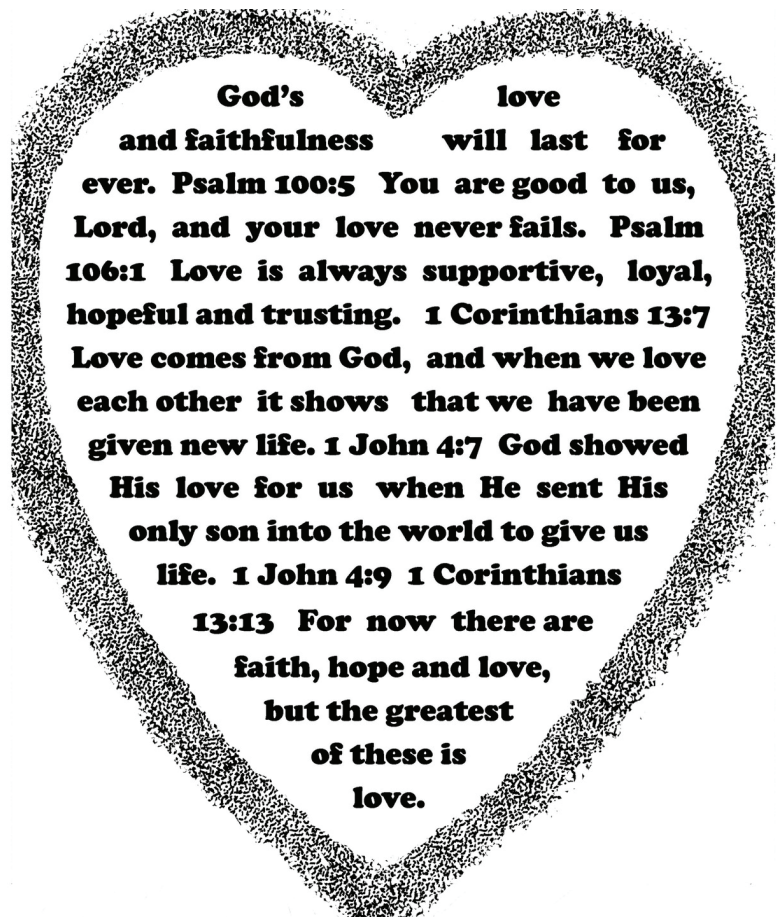
4 hours per week, flexible hours including  
occasional evening.

Must be self motivated, familiar with IT  
packages, and with working with  
volunteers or community groups.

Must be in sympathy with the aims and  
values of the Church of England.

For more information and application form  
please contact Barbara.

**Closing date for applications 16<sup>th</sup>  
February.**







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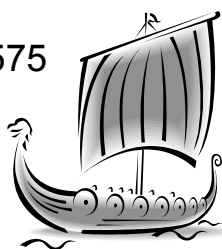
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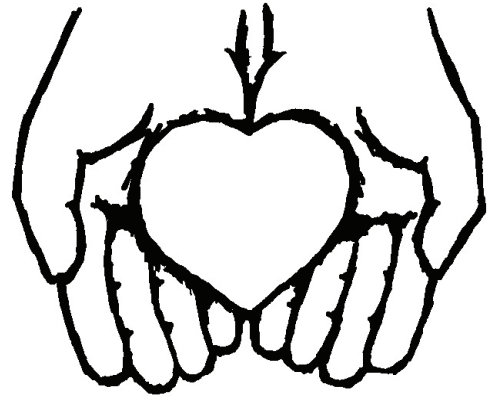
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# **FEBRUARY**

## **2017**



1st February	Wednesday		
2nd February	Thursday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
		10.00am	BCP Communion
		7.30pm	Choir Practice
3rd February	Friday	1.00pm	Community Choir
4th February	Saturday	9.30am	No Open Church
		10.30am	Charity Coffee Morning
5th February	Sunday	8.30am	BCP Communion
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evensong and Encountering the Bible
6th February	Monday		
7th February	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
		6.30pm	St. Paul's Brownies
		7.30pm	St. Paul's Guides
8th February	Wednesday		
9th February	Thursday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
		10.00am	BCP Communion
		7.30pm	Choir Practice
10th February	Friday	1.00pm	Community Choir
11th February	Saturday	9.30am	Open Church
		10.30am	Charity Coffee Morning
12th February	Sunday	8.30am	BCP Communion
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evensong
13th February	Monday		
14th February	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
		6.30pm	St. Paul's Brownies
		7.30pm	St. Paul's Guides
		8.15pm	Tuesday Group
15th February	Wednesday		
16th February	Thursday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
		10.00am	BCP Communion
		7.30pm	Choir Practice



17th February	Friday	1.00pm	Community Choir
18th February	Saturday	9.30am	Open Church
		10.30am	Charity Coffee Morning
19th February	Sunday	8.30am	BCP Communion
		10.00am	All Age Worship
		6.00pm	Evensong
20th February	Monday		
21st February	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
		6.30pm	St. Paul's Brownies
		7.30pm	St. Paul's Guides
22nd February	Wednesday		
23rd February	Thursday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
		10.00am	BCP Communion
		7.30pm	Choir Practice
24th February	Friday	1.00pm	Community Choir
25th February	Saturday	9.30am	Open Church
		10.30am	Charity Coffee Morning
			Pancake Party—
			More details to follow!
26th February	Sunday	8.30am	BCP Communion
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evensong
27th February	Monday		
28th February	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
		6.30pm	St. Paul's Brownies
		7.30pm	St. Paul's Guides
1st March	Wednesday		
2nd March	Thursday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
		10.00am	BCP Communion
		7.30pm	Choir Practice
3rd March	Friday	1.00pm	Community Choir
4th March	Saturday	9.30am	Open Church
		10.30am	Charity Coffee Morning
5th March	Sunday	8.30am	BCP Communion
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evensong

Open Church – this is for about 1 hour where you can come along and meet with the Vicar and book Baptisms, Weddings etc or drop in for private prayer or some quiet time

## St. Paul's Parish Directory

Incumbent	Revd. Barbara Sharp	*	973-1042 07779319167
Reader	Michael Riley	*	969-2795
Reader Emeritus	Ann Morris	*	973-1042
Pastoral Workers:	Yvonne Kerridge	*	962-4066
	Karen Salisbury	*	283-8309
Churchwardens:	Yvonne Kerridge	*	962-4066
	Harry Thomas	*	969-7794
Treasurer:	Brian Hirst	*	969-8463
Secretary to the PCC:	Rachel Lee		973-1282
Parish Assistant:	Anne Ibbotson – Community Links		962-1727
Director of Music:	Anne Allen	*	01925-763103
Assistant Organists:	John Clisset		962-2096
	Kevin Drury		962-7963
Junior Church	David Allen		01925-763103
Parish Giving Officer	Brian Kerridge	*	962-4066
Electoral Roll Officer:	Yvonne Stevenson		
Parish News Editor:	Karen Salisbury	*	283-8309
Bible Reading Fellowship:			
Men's Society:	Michael Riley	*	969-2795
Women's Tuesday Group:	Pauline Spriggs		637-6164
St. Paul's Babes & Tots	Rachel Lee	*	973-1282
Tower Warden:	Ian Moore		969-6707
Christian Aid:	Jeff Cook		969-1767
Children's Society:	Sheila Clarke	*	962-4678
Church Hall Bookings:	Eileen Craven		
Badminton Group:	Brian Walker		962-4502
4 <sup>th</sup> Sale Central (St. Paul's) Brownies:	Vicky Williams		07986 525898
4 <sup>th</sup> Sale Central (St. Paul's) Guides:	Nicola Little		962-8626

**Parish Office**

**962-0082**

**Parish Office e-mail**

**salestpaul@aol.com**

**Hall Bookings**

**salestpaulshall@gmail.com**

**Names above marked with \* are members of the Parochial Church Council**

### Parish Organisations

<b>Monday</b>		
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.30am	St. Paul's Babes & Tots
	6.15pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Sale Central (St. Paul's) Brownies
	7.30pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Sale Central (St. Paul's) Guides
	8.15pm	Women's Tuesday Group (2 <sup>nd</sup> of every month)
<b>Wednesday</b>	8.00pm	Badminton Group
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30am	St. Paul's Babes & Tots
	7.30pm	Chorister Training and Choir Practice
	8.00pm	Men's Society (last of every month Sept to May but not Dec)
<b>Friday</b>	1.00pm	Community Choir
<b>Saturday</b>	10.30am	Charity Coffee Morning