

**I am
the resurrection
and the life.
Those who believe
in me,
even though
they die, will live,
and everyone
who lives and
believes in me
will never die.**

From the Vicarage....

Dear Friends,

I'm aware as I write that Holy Week falls this first week of April. During what is left of this Lent season you might like to take time to pause and reflect on the love that God has for each one of us, and the promises that God makes to us. A few of us have gathered this Lent both on-line and in-person to read through together Emma Ineson's book 'Failure' which is the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2023 Lent book and is one of the 5 books that have been part of the

<https://theBigChurchRead.>

There are videos with the authors and questions for discussion and reflection if you would still like to undertake some individual reading. In chapter 4, entitled the Failing Church, Bishop Emma writes *"the Church is made up of a whole load of failures- imperfect saints in various times and places who constantly mess up, get it wrong, wound one another and the world around us, fail to say 'Sorry' properly, pitch one part against another, lose our way, Let's be kind to one another and focus most on the descriptive qualities that have the potential to bring us together, not to drive us apart- kind church, loving church, patient church, joyful church, bold church.*

This month our Annual Church Meeting takes place on Wednesday 19th April at 7pm. All are welcome to attend as we gather reports from individuals and organizations about what St Paul's has been up to over the last 12 months, what

we've achieved, what hasn't gone so well and what we could do better. As Bishop Emma writes I hope that despite our imperfections we remember to be kind to each other, say sorry properly and work together in enabling each person to fulfill their callings as part of the body of Christ here in Sale.

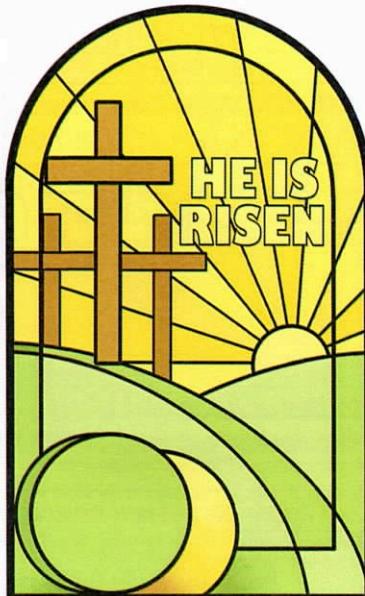
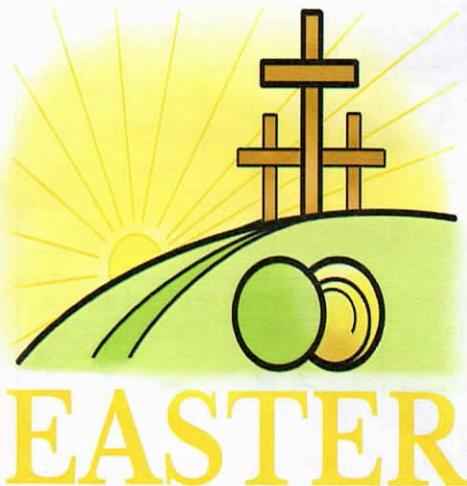
We continue to have volunteer vacancies which include key roles such as Hall Bookings Officer and Church Treasurer. We also have a Church Warden vacancy as Yvonne Kerridge steps down from that role. I'm grateful to Yvonne for journeying in that role over the last year and for all that she has done in making sure our church and buildings are well kept and her pastoral care with congregation members. Please pray that volunteers to fill these key roles come forward. Thanks also to those who have been volunteering assistance with Soup Sunday, a warm space initiative we have been running throughout the last 6 months with a small grant from Trafford Housing Trust. As the grant has now run out, a small group has been wondering about where we go from here. There is a desire to get together on a regular basis for fellowship and a suggestion is to serve hot drinks and cake, possibly with sandwiches over a Sunday lunchtime. Like so many things, you don't know if something is going to work unless you try it out.

Finally, I do hope you have the opportunity to attend a service during Holy week. The beauty and poignancy of Holy Week is hard to describe and those that attend church during this time often find it a time of faith renewal. I still remember the first time I was invited to have my feet washed, it really hit home the depth of Jesus' love for me. We will be offering foot-washing at the Maundy Thursday service, if you've never had your feet washed before, please don't worry – just make sure you're wearing socks rather than tights. If you're away at this time, please take the opportunity to attend an act of worship as a visitor.

I look forward to seeing you,

Hope you have a happy and Holy Easter,

Yours in faith,
Vicar Becky



Tuesday Group

Our next meeting, on Tuesday 11th April falls yet again in the school holidays so the hall is not available! Paula has kindly invited us to a meeting room where she lives and Peter Green will continue his talk on Christians at Street Level. We are very grateful to Peter for making us so welcome.

Details of how to get there are available from Paula and lifts will be arranged.

Diana



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 21:1-11, Mk 11:1-11, Lk 19:28-38, Jn 12:12-19

Thousands of people went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast each year. This year Jesus and his friends went too.

Two miles outside Jerusalem Jesus said to two of his friends



Go into that village and bring back the donkey you find there.

If anyone asks, say, 'The Lord needs it.'

So off they went...

and they found it as Jesus had said



Why are you taking our donkey?

The Lord needs it.



They brought it back to Jesus, and made a saddle from a cloak.



They spread more cloaks on the road to make it a way fit for a king.



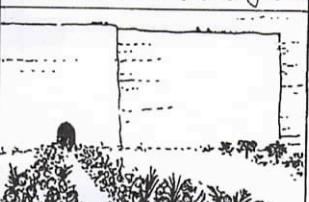
Others cut palm branches and waved them.



God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!



As they got closer to Jerusalem the crowd grew.



They shouted the traditional welcome to the Passover feast

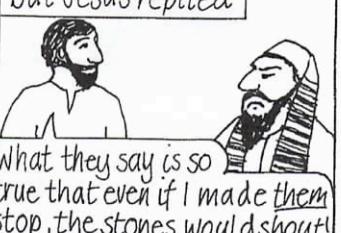
Everyone shouted to welcome Jesus as king



The teachers of the Laws were angry



But Jesus replied

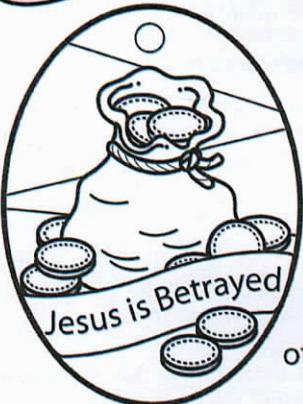


Teacher, you should stop them calling you 'king'.
What they say is so true that even if I made them stop, the stones would shout!

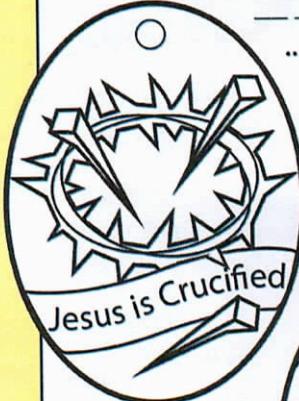
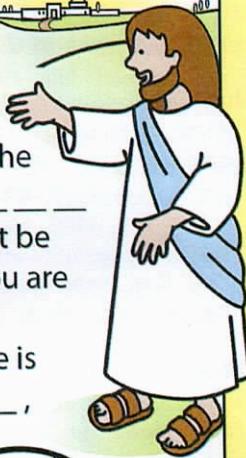


Mouse Makes

HE IS RISEN!
Read the story of
The Resurrection in
Matthew 28:1-20



An _____
of the Lord came down from
_____ and going to the
_____ rolled back the _____
... the _____ said, "Do not be
_____, for I know you are
looking for Jesus who was
_____, He is
not here; he has _____,
just as he said."



Glue this page onto
card. Cut out the
ovals then colour in.
Punch a hole at the
top and hang up
for Easter

Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the spiritual disciplines that help us to grow and deepen our faith.

Spiritual Disciplines — Confession

This month we are looking at the practice of *confession*. 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' (1 John 1:9). Confession enables us to enter fully into God's grace, as we are assured of forgiveness for our sin and shame.

It is the death and resurrection of Jesus that makes this a reality. On the cross he bore our sin in himself to put us right with God: 'God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.' (2 Cor. 5:21).

In '*Celebration of Discipline*', Richard Foster describes three aspects of confession:

Be Specific: It's easy to say, 'God, please forgive me because I sinned today,' rather than being specific, 'God, I spoke angrily today... please forgive me.'

Be Sorrowful: Confession is not primarily about feelings about sin, but having a deep regret at having offended the Father's heart.

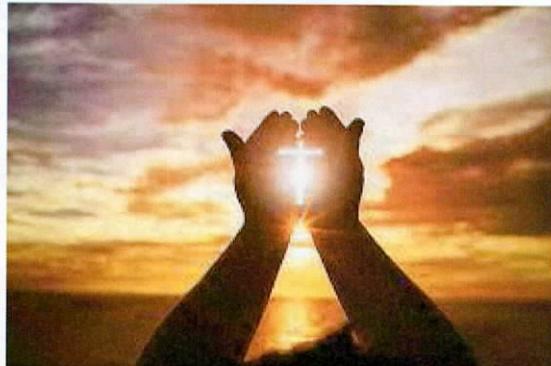
Be Determined to Avoid Sin: Confession gives us a yearning for a holy life and avoiding sin. It is the *will* to be delivered from sin that we seek. This is a gift, as it can only be done in God's strength, not ours.

Some practical tips: Make confession part of our regular prayer time, using the pattern ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication).

Reflect on what you need to confess, asking God to speak into the situation and then pray with a trusted friend.

Write down those things that are making you feel guilty, pray and then tear the paper up into pieces. This is a physical reminder of the sin being taken away.

'At the heart of God is the desire to give and to forgive.' (Richard Foster)



In this Easter season, how does Philippians 2 help us to understand more about the cross?

Jesus' Example (v6-8)

'He did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage... And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross!'

Paul reminds us of how Jesus, although fully God from eternity, entered our world as a man to take on a life of service. *'He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.'* He completely surrendered Himself, by identifying with all the weakness, problems, and frailties of human life. This took Him to the cross, where He rescued us from the power of sin and death, so that we might know God's eternal life.

Our Response (v3-5)

Paul says that our relationships should reflect the same attitude as Jesus: *'Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.'* We should look out for the needs of others before our own. This will transform our relationships at home and church. How practically can we develop a cross attitude?

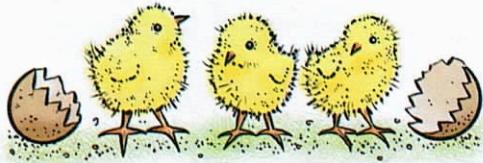
God's Purpose (v9-11)

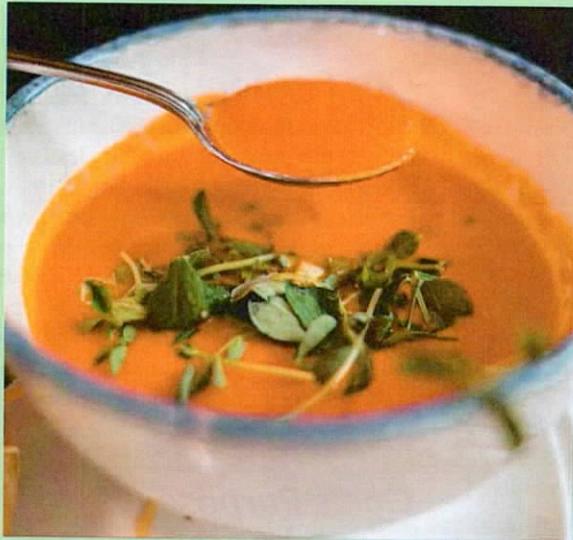
The resurrection demonstrates how God has exalted Jesus in triumph: *'Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name'* (v9). Our willingness to serve, like Jesus, will be rewarded by God, especially when we feel used or exploited.

*'This is our God, The Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering, Of worship to The Servant King
(Graham Kendrick)*

You can do this at home, leading up to Easter!

Why not put a small cross in your front window as Lent draws to a close, and Easter Week approaches? You can use a Palm cross or a wooden one. A cross is a visible reminder of the death of Jesus, and the Christian meaning of Easter and Resurrection.





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Ven John Barton visited York Minster last Good Friday ...

"All you who pass by...."

For Good Friday last year, the morning service at York Minster was offered online for everyone to see, anywhere in the world. It's the most solemn day of the year. Hymns, readings, prayers: all focused on Christ's death and its benefits for humanity, for all time.

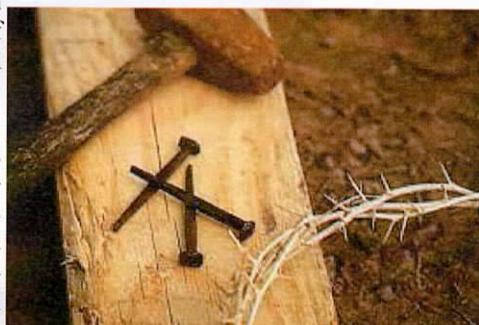
A hundred or so people were in the congregation, alongside choir and clergy. Towards the end, the Archbishop of York carried a large replica cross from the back of the cathedral to a stand at the front. People were invited to come forward in silence, to venerate the cross, in the way they chose. Many came and knelt, or stood to pray, or touch the wood in memory of Christ's suffering and death.

While this was going on, the entrance doors remained open, and scores of visitors wandered round that great building. A number stopped briefly to look at what was going on; some appeared bemused. One man wearing a baseball cap lifted his video camera for a few seconds to record a snapshot of what was happening, then moved on. A teenager ran from one side of the Minster to the other and then disappeared out of sight.

It was an extraordinary mixture of reverence and irreverence. Should the doors have been closed while the service was taking place? Then one remembered this was a commemoration of the actual Crucifixion, which was also witnessed by a cross-section of the human race. A handful of disciples, mainly women, were nearby; others perhaps observing from a distance. Curious onlookers stared. Some just passed by. Telling verses from the Old Testament are often recalled on Good Friday:

"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?

Look around and see. Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me, that the Lord brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?"



This was the day when Christ pronounced absolution on us for our ignorance, saying "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they are doing". When we hear this, we feel both ashamed and revived, for we know this is what it cost Him to allow us another go at living as we should.



News from Babes and Tots

Tuesday mornings are full of fun and joy in the Hall as week on week during term time we have an average of 50 parents/carers and pre-schoolers attending our babes and tots group. Sessions start at 9.30am and include free-play, tea and toast and song and story-time. Over the last 12 months we've been using a resource called 'Little Seeds' which has given us a focus to our time together based around a story book - we've recently been reading -The Rainbow Fish, The Squirrels that squabbled and the Hungry Caterpillar. Some of our parents are second language English speakers so are encountering these stories for the first time themselves. The St Pauls' pre-school group has been running for several decades now, with groups running twice a week before the covid pandemic.



At the current time we only just have enough volunteers to run one session a week. We are therefore sad to hear the news that the wonderful Clive B is stepping down as a babes and tots helper at the end of the summer term.



Clive has been an absolute stalwart of babes and tots, opening and locking up, moving equipment from the stage, greeting everyone at the door and making sure everyone is happy. He will be very much missed.

With Clive's absence, the team for babes and tots is much reduced and we need your help especially with arriving early and getting out the equipment before children arrive. If you'd like to come along to a session to see what kind of help is needed please do have a chat with Clive, myself (Becky), Diana K, David V, Eileen C or Joyce G



It's a brilliant opportunity to meet some younger parishioners, have a chat with parents and carers as a way of showing our love and care for them. As part of that duty of care we do ask all our volunteers to undertake the Church of England's basic safeguarding

training which can be done on-line (Carole and Becky can assist with this) and to undertake a DBS check (again Carole can advise).



Community “Sing-along” Choir: Summer term dates

Please note the Summer Term dates for the Community Choir which resumes after the Easter break on Friday 21st April.

April: Friday 21 & 28

May: Friday 5 – Coronation Eve special,
12, 19 & 26

Half Term: We will be closed for the half-term holidays Fridays 2& 9 June.

June: Friday 16,23 & 30

July: Friday 7, 14 & 21



We then break for the Summer Holiday and resume in early September for the Autumn term.

Our repertoire is always being replenished and we ask you to suggest new songs which you enjoy and which you think others will too.

We meet at 1:15pm to sing at 1:30pm and conclude at 2:30pm with a midway break for refreshments. We welcome singers of all abilities and provide a safe space for those with dementia and/or memory loss to come along with their carers/family.



A Date for your Diary — Saturday 10th June 3pm



As part of the 140th Anniversary celebrations at St Paul's this Summer, we are delighted that Jonathan Scott (The Bridgewater Hall) has kindly agreed to give an Organ Recital. Jonathan is well-known as an international performer, arranger and really wonderful ambassador for the organ. It is to be 'an un-missable programme which brings together organ favourites as well as Jonathan's own arrangements of epic orchestral masterpieces!'.

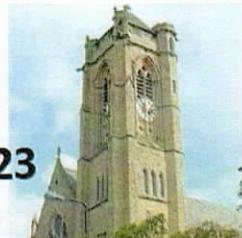
Look him up on YouTube and you will see that it will indeed be something not to miss!



St Paul's, Sale

Wednesday 19th April 2023

In the Church Hall



7pm Annual Meeting of Parishioners which includes
election of Churchwardens followed by the

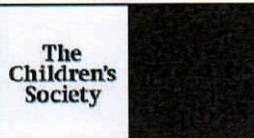
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Including approval of Minutes, reports from individuals and organisations and finance, elections of PCC members, sides-people and Deanery Synod representatives (3).

The APCM is an opportunity to hear about what St Paul's has been up to over the last 12 months and to consider what we might like to undertake in the future.

Everyone is welcome to attend both meetings, only those on the Church Electoral Roll are eligible to vote at the APCM and/or be elected to the Parochial Church Council.

**Dementia
friendly church**



Reflected Faith Series : Easter Flowers

Many types of flowers are used in churches, but during Easter, there is one that is especially loved: the Easter Lily. It is a tall, stately flower topped by large, graceful, white trumpet-shaped blooms.

While commercial bulb production of Easter lilies only began in the 19th century, Easter lilies make many appearances in both the Old and New Testaments, emphasising the flower's importance to Christianity. King Solomon spoke of them, and Christ referenced them, too.

These strikingly beautiful flowers are highly perfumed, with the central stamens covered in bright yellow or orange pollen. Unfortunately, the pollen can be a hazard, as it can permanently stain cloth due to chemicals it contains! For this reason, good florists and especially church flower arrangers will remove all the stamens before bringing them anywhere near church fabrics, or near to where ministers wearing white might brush against them.

It's thought that Easter lilies came to symbolise Christ because they embody purity - the trumpet-shaped blooms recall the horns that heralded the resurrection of Christ. This is also why lilies are identified with the Virgin Mary, and in artworks depicting the Annunciation to the Virgin they are often found in the angel Gabriel's hand.

The second reason that Easter lilies represent Christ is because of their life cycle. Each one grows from a bulb that for several years has lain quietly beneath the earth, before growing tall and stately, and blossoming into magnificent flowers. What a picture of Jesus' life and resurrection!

This month

Have a look around the church over Easter. Daffodils and Easter lilies are often displayed, because they are the first flowers of spring, when Nature is being reborn. Their life after the death of winter reminds us of the Resurrection. For we cannot imagine the death and the passion of Christ without having in mind the empty tomb, radiating hope. Christ's death has no meaning without His Resurrection.



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STOP PRESS!!! Microsoft have now removed support for all Windows XP systems, which could affect the security of your software. If you are using XP, do give me a call for FREE & independent advice.

"Your service is very good, it is good to know someone is available to help & understands we are not all experts."

G Singer, Sale



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Who's Who?

Members of the Parochial Church Council (not mentioned on the back page)

Diana Kelly	973-4578
Carole Shakeshaft	969-6319
Paula Hughes	973-5121
Joyce Green	973-0396
Eileen Craven	282-7668
Jean Law	962-6761
Fiona Vaughan-Thomas	
Amanda Pearson	

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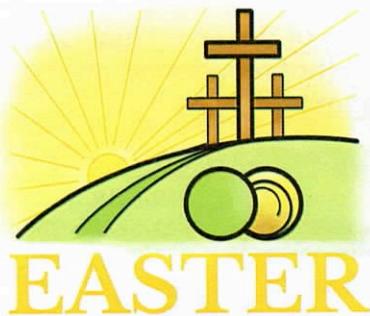
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April 2023



2 nd	Sunday	10.00am	Palm Sunday Parish Eucharist
Lent 6	Palm Sunday	6.00pm	Taize Evening Prayer
3 rd	Monday	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
4 th	Tuesday	9.30am	NO Babes & Tots
5 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Midweek Communion
6 th	Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	The Last Supper and Watch
7 th	Good Friday	2-3pm	Last Hour
8 th	Holy Saturday	8.00pm	Vigil & Renewal of Baptism Vows
9 th	Easter Sunday	10.00am	Easter Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer
11 th	Tuesday	9.30am	NO Babes & Tots
12 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
16 th	Sunday	10.00am	No Service due to the Marathon
		6.00pm	Parish Eucharist
18 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
19 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
		7.00pm	Annual Parochial Church Meetings
21 st	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
23 rd	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer
25 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
26 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
28 th	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
30 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		12.00noon	Soup Sunday
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer

*“Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see.
Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me,
that the Lord brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?”*

Next Month:-

2 nd	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
3 rd	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
5 th	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
7 th	Sunday	10.00am 6.00pm	Parish Eucharist Taize Style Evening Prayer

Please check the weekly pew sheets for any service changes that may occur.

MANCHESTER
BAROQUE

Manchester
Cathedral

J. S. BACH

St. John Passion BWV 245

7pm, Good Friday,
April 7th 2023
Manchester Cathedral

Manchester Baroque & Manchester Cathedral Choir
Conductor: Christopher Stokes
Leader: Pauline Nobes
Tickets from £10 at www.manchesterbaroque.co.uk

Only Jesus

(John 19:17, 1:4)

Carrying the cross by Himself
He went out.
Sent out,
Yet choosing to go.
Word of life,
Choosing death,
Knowing the end from the beginning,

Carrying the cross by Himself
He went out.
The only one who could,
The only way He could,
He went out
To the Skull Place,
For me.

By Daphne Kitching

Donald's 90th Birthday Celebrations

The amount collected for the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund amounted to
£568.65

Thank you all for your generosity
Donald

Future Dates and Events

6th to 8th May—Coronation Weekend
15th to 21st May—Christian Aid Week
28th May Churches Together in Sale
Pentecost Songs of Praise 3pm
25th June 3.30pm Choral Evensong and
140th Church Anniversary Afternoon Tea
celebrations on the South Lawn
(weather permitting)

St. Paul's Parish Directory

Churchwardens:	Yvonne Stevenson	*	283-1065
	Yvonne Kerridge	*	962-4066
Reader:	Michael Riley	*	969-2795
Pastoral Workers:	Yvonne Kerridge	*	962-4066
	Karen Salisbury	*	283-8309
Treasurer to the PCC:	Vacant (Contact the Parish Office)		
Secretary to the PCC:	Karen Salisbury	*	283-8309
Director of Music:	Anne Allen	*	01925-763103
Assistant Organists:	John Clisset		962-2096
	Kevin Drury		962-7963
	Donald Brooks		
Safeguarding Officer	Carole Shakeshaft	*	969-6319
Parish Giving Officer	Brian Kerridge	*	962-4066
Electoral Roll Officer:	Yvonne Stevenson	*	283-1065
Parish News Editor:	Karen Salisbury	*	283-8309
Bible Reading Fellowship:	Rachel Lee	*	973-1282
Men's Society:	Michael Riley	*	969-2795
Women's Tuesday Group:	Hilary Moore	*	969-1831
St. Paul's Babes & Tots	Rachel Lee	*	973-1282
Tower Warden:	Ian Moore		0787-670-6834
Christian Aid:	Anita Evans		973-4679
Children's Society Rep:	Sheila Clarke		962-4678
Church Hall Bookings:	Contact via the Parish Office		
4 th Sale Central (St. Paul's) Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	Vicky Williams		07986 525898

Vicar:	Revd. Becky Mathew	217-8795 / 07584 604627
Email:		revbmathewstpaulsale@gmail.com
Associate Ministers:	Revd. Dr Lisa Redfern (Forest Church)	
	Revd. Dr Margaret Jones	*
	Revd. Shemil Mathew	973-7790
		217-8795

Parish Office

Parish Office e-mail

962-0082

salestpaul@aol.com

*Names above marked with * are members of the Parochial Church Council. Please note that Vicar Becky is part-time and her working hours are flexible so she might not be able to reply or respond immediately to your calls and emails.*

Parish Organisations affiliated to St Paul's

The following groups meet in St Paul's Church Hall unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday	9.30am-11am	St. Paul's Babes & Tots (school term time)
	1.15pm	Women's Tuesday Group (2 nd of every month)
	6.15pm	4 th Sale Central (St. Paul's) Brownies
	7.30pm	4 th Sale Central (St. Paul's) Guides
Thursday	7.30pm	Chorister Training and Choir Practice
	8.00pm	Men's Society (last of every month Sept to May but not Dec)
Friday	1.30pm-2.30pm	Community Choir (school term time)
	5.30pm	4 th Sale Central (St Paul's) Rainbows