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'Serving God and the community'

July & August 2023

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From the Vicarage....

Dear Friends,

"In 1883 people came to the church, in 2023 the church has to go to the people" said Canon John Sutton during his sermon on Sunday as we celebrated our 140th anniversary. A great reminder from John that whilst the church was built on the great Victorian belief and indeed reality that church was at the centre of social life. Indeed the photos of yesteryear that people kindly brought along on Sunday showed people of all ages involved in amateur dramatics, weddings, rose queens, uniformed groups and choir. Over the decades, societal changes have led to less people needing or wanting the social activities that the church had provided. The number of activities, hobbies and leisure pursuits that folks can get involved in have increased massively – you don't now just visit the garden centre to buy plants, you go for the tea room, visit the displays and attend special themed events. Alternatively, you can spend the day playing computer games with people around the world without leaving your home. For the church of the 21st century as we find ourselves in a competitive market for people's leisure time. Leisure time is of course a good thing, for our health, wellbeing and our social interactions. When we work hard, we want to have fun and play hard too.

The biggest challenge though the modern church faces is handling change and adapting to the modern world. Many churches are set in their ways and resistant to change. Times change and the

world is a minefield waiting to catch you out. However, we know that Jesus operated out of love for everyone, no matter their background, political affiliation, culture or gender. Jesus taught that we should love one another, and another major challenge of the 21st-century church is to live this out.

Following the example of Jesus, we need to reach out to all people exactly where they are. He met people while they were fishing, out in the fields, on the way to draw water, going about their everyday lives. Our church needs to go out to the people, to literally be in the market place in Stanley Square, on the canal, in the library, at sports matches, the Maker's market, even hanging out by Greggs.

Jesus never said it would be easy. It is only easier because of the ability of the Christian to cast all worries and concerns on God. For those without faith, life can be hard. The world is changing rapidly, and that change seems to be accelerating. Declining attendance at churches can be seen as evidence that the church is out of touch. Many people profess a faith – but that faith does not align with the faith of the church, and therefore no action is taken to keep the faith alive. In times of rapid social change, such as those we have experienced in recent years, many have felt an unending torrent of fear, worry, and dread. God is working behind it all, but we need to have faith and be brave. We can't fix the world. In fact, it is wrong for us to say the world is broken – judging the world is not our job. What is

clear is that the world is not working in perfect harmony, and we must do what we can to help facilitate a better way of working.

Jesus drew people to him by the way He acted and the things He did. He didn't fix everything either- it was only in death that He was able to save the whole world, should the world choose to accept it. He travelled to different places, He healed the sick, He cared for the poor. He turned tables upside down when the money changers and merchants set up shop in the temple. Why? They were making an unjust profit from the poor and preventing people from communing with God within their own means. He fought against unjust practices and helped people to be who they were on their own terms. But He only did this in the one place. He didn't embark on a world tour and set everything right, but instead worked in his own area and did all that he could to promote inclusivity. This is what we must do – start with our own behaviours, work in our local area, and make the church a welcoming place for everyone.

The fundamental rule of Christianity is to love God and to love one another. Christianity is about a relationship with God. So let's see what we can do to get out into the market-place and listen well to those that are seeking something more in life.

Yours in faith,
Vicar Becky

Revds Becky and Shemil are on annual leave 3rd August – 19th August and 24th August- 29th August. If you need to contact a member of clergy during this time please get in touch with Revd Margaret Jones on 0161 9737790 or the Church Warden Yvonne on 07946 644214

New Bishop of Thetford



Congratulations Archdeacon Ian on his appointment as the new Bishop of Thetford in Norwich Diocese. His farewell leaving service will be on Sunday 23rd July 5pm at St Bartholomew's Church, Chancel Lane, Wilmslow. His consecration will be at Westminster Abbey on 29th September.



Archdeacon Ian covered services at St Paul's during the last vacancy including Holy Week and more recently he preached for us at the Falklands War Commemoration Service in 2022.

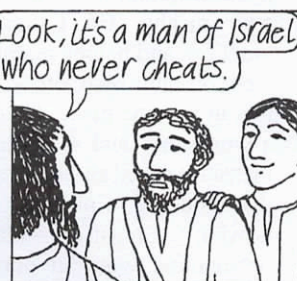
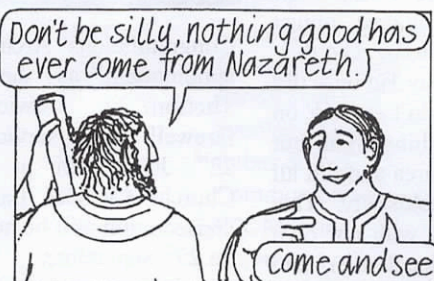
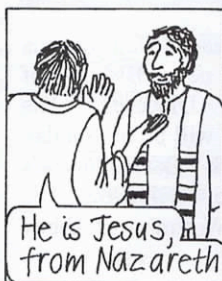
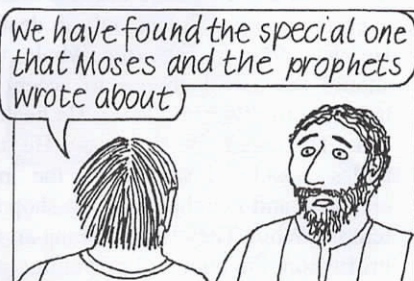
Please pray for Ian and his wife Sue as they prepare to leave the Diocese and for Ian's new calling into episcopal ministry.

Bible Bite

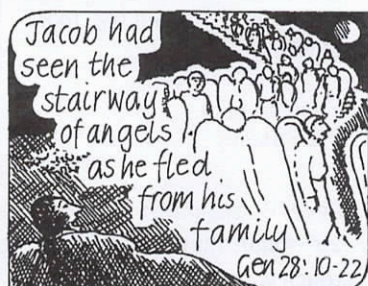
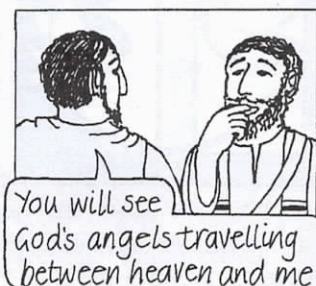
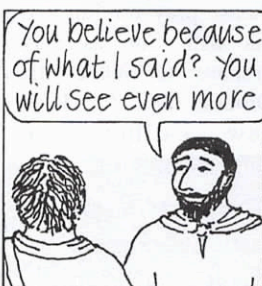
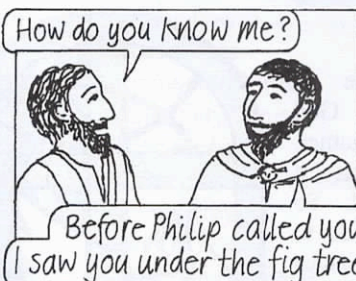
A short story from the Bible

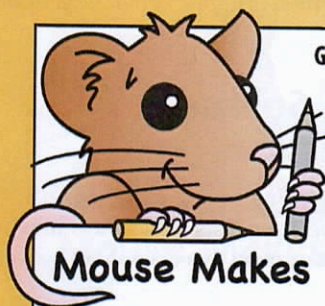
It can be read in the Bible in
John chapter 1 verses 35-51

After Jesus had called Peter and Andrew to be his disciples, he went to find their friend Philip...



Background: the ancestor of the Israelites was Jacob, whose name meant 'Grasper' or 'Cheat', and who cheated his father and brother. God gave him a new start and a new name - Israel - 'Prince of God'. Gen 25, 27, 32





Mouse Makes

Where did Goliath
come from?

1 Samuel 17:4

How tall was Goliath?

_____ cubits.

1 Samuel 17:4

What was Goliath's
armour made of?

1 Samuel 17:5,6

What weapons did
Goliath carry?

a JAVELIN,

a _____

and a _____

1 Samuel 17:45

How many stones
did David take from
the stream?

1 Samuel 17:40

Where did David's stone
hit Goliath? On his _____

1 Samuel 17:49

Goliath, the champion of the Philistine army, taunted the Israelites.
"Choose a man to fight with me and if he kills me
then we will be your servants!"

The Israelites were afraid, but **David**, a shepherd boy who had
come to bring food to his brothers on the battlefield said:

"The **Lord** who delivered me from the lion and bear
will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

So David went out
to face Goliath
on his own...

Read the story
of how David
defeated
Goliath in
1 Samuel 17
verses 1-58



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

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CHAMPION • GOLIATH • HELMET • ARMOUR • JAVELIN • SHIELD • FIGHT • BEAR
LION • SHEPHERD • STAFF • STONES • BAG • SLING • STRUCK • HIT • FELL • GROUND

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

Spiritual Disciplines — Solitude

'Solitude is a time when we withdraw from the company of others in order to give God our undivided attention' (John Ortberg).

The spiritual discipline of *solitude* is about spending time alone with God, to grow in relationship with Him and hear Him more clearly. This practice was a priority in Jesus' life and ministry, especially at crucial moments e.g. *'Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed'* (Mark 1:35).

Solitude is not so much about what we *do* as what we *don't* do! If we want to hear God, we need to consciously shut out the external noise in our lives and focus on the quiet inside us. If we are honest, this can be a real struggle. We want to do it, but other things can so easily get in the way: distractions, tiredness, jobs that need doing, wandering thoughts etc. Solitude gives us an opportunity to enjoy God's presence, as somebody who we really want to spend time with.

Richard Foster (*'Celebration of Discipline'*) suggests some ways in which we might grow in this discipline:

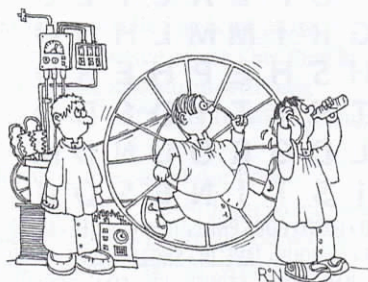
'Little solitudes': small everyday moments to seek inner silence eg, coffee times, travelling to work and time spent outside.

Quiet place: having specific places where we go to be quiet, e.g. a room or special chair in our home.

Retreat: organising a retreat where we can have time in silence and solitude.

We need to plan carefully how we use our time with God, including silent listening, meditating on Scripture, prayer, journaling, taking a meditative walk, or listening to a worship CD.

'If we possess inward solitude we do not fear being alone, for we know that we are not alone.' (Richard Foster)



When the solar panels weren't working,
there was Plan B.

Don't forget PCC meeting
on Wednesday July 12th at
the usual time of 7.45pm
in the Church Hall, please
check your emails for
agenda and briefing notes.

Teddy Bear Parachute Jump

St Paul's Church, Sale on

Saturday 29th July

Give your Teddy the chance of a lifetime,
parachuting from the tower of St Paul's in Sale.



11am-3pm
Jumps
every 15
mins

**You don't have to bring your
favourite bear, just your
bravest!**

**We'll provide the parachutes,
and your bear will be given full
training for their jump.**

**They will be taken up to the
tower whilst you shout
encouragement from below.**

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revbmathewstpaulsale@gmail.com

The story behind the HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who, from our mother's arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Oh may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

By Martin Rinkart

The joy and serenity of this hymn are staggering, when you learn the circumstances in which it was written. Martin Rinkart was a pastor at Eilenberg, Saxony, during the terrible Thirty Years' War (1618-1648).

As a walled city, Eilenberg offered some protection to the inhabitants. No wonder that political and military refugees of all sorts poured into the city, making it dangerously overcrowded. Soon the water

supply was fouled, the sanitation overwhelmed, and the food ran out – leaving people famished and diseased.

In 1637 a terrible pestilence swept through the city, killing some 8,000 people, including Rinkart's beloved wife. By that time Rinkart was the only minister left in Eilenberg, because the others had either died or fled for their lives. Rinkart alone conducted the burial services for 4,480 people, sometimes taking as many as 40 to 50 funerals a day!

Eilenberg was besieged and overrun three times – once by the Austrian army and twice by the Swedes. When a Swedish general demanded the town pay him 30,000 thalers, Martin Rinkart pleaded that the impoverished city could never meet such a levy, but the general scorned him. At that, Rinkart turned to his companions and said: 'Come, my children, we can find no mercy with man; let us take refuge with God.' On his knees there and then, Rinkart led his friends in a fervent prayer and in the singing of a hymn. The Swedish commander was so moved that he decided that the levy be not 30,000 thalers, but instead 1,350 thalers.

Somehow, out of the hell of the Thirty Years War, came this lovely hymn of peace and total trust in God. Martin Rinkart had had to dig deep into his faith to survive, and the result was utter, serene dependence on God – despite chaos and destruction all around.

This was the opening hymn in our 140th Celebration Choral Evensong



Pet Blessing SERVICE



**St Anne's & St Paul's churches invite
you to a Dog-Walk & Pet Blessing on
Sunday 23rd July**

**11.30am Meet at St Anne's Church (M33 3GD) for a walk to St
Paul's Church in Sale.**

**12 noon Arrive at St Paul's (M33 7YA) for Pet Blessing &
refreshments in the Church Gardens (*or the Hall depending on the
weather*).**

**You may like to bring a picnic to enjoy by the canal-side, tea, coffee,
cake & squash will be provided.**

**Please bring dogs on leads and other animals in suitable
carriers/cages. You may wish to bring a photo of your pet or
favourite animal instead. All are welcome for a blessing.**

For more information please contact Revd Canon Alison (St Anne's)
Email: alisoncox19@hotmail.com Tel: 0161 973 4145 or Revd Becky (St Paul's)
Email: revdbmatthewstpaulsale@gmail.com Tel: 07584604627



Ordination Season is upon us



Please keep in your prayers those being ordained as deacons and priests this year. For new clergy in the Deanery including Revd Anees Gill about to start serving her title curacy at St Mary's and Sale West A-O-M and Revd Tom Ryan currently serving his curacy at St Alban's Broadheath.



Life-changing Audio Bibles for people with sight loss

At the end of 2021, Torch took "a leap of faith" and ordered 1,000 Pathway audio Bible players containing the New Testament and Psalms read by the actor David Suchet.

Knowing the power of Scripture to change lives, they planned to "give these Bibles for free to anyone in the UK losing their sight. 16 months later, all of these Bible players have been sent out and the stories coming back are so amazing that Torch has ordered 1,000 more."

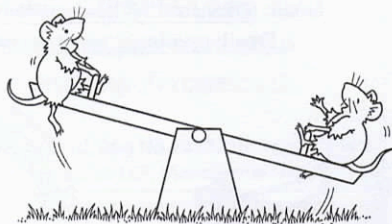
Gayle-Ann told us "It is my friend...with me wherever, it is just so convenient. I have read the New Testament, but the way this is read is just easily understood".

Kenneth wouldn't have called himself a Christian, and hasn't enjoyed audio books, but 'I like listening to the Pathway. I'm really listening to the New Testament now, not just odd verses. I'm realising what it all means.'

Losing sight can be a time of real questioning and searching, so what better gift can a newly blind person receive than the Word of God?

Torch is encouraging anyone who is living with sight loss to contact them for a free audio Bible at www.torchtrust.org/pathway, or by calling 01858 438260.

Most of the first 1,000 players were sponsored by individuals, churches or trusts. Torch is also seeking people to donate £20 to cover the cost of sending out one of the new audio Bibles.



Reflected Faith Series : The Pulpit

The pulpit is one of the four most obvious pieces of 'furniture' in a church; the others being the lectern, altar and the font.

Today the pulpit is where the preacher stands to give the sermon during a service. It is generally raised higher than the chairs or pews, so the preacher can be seen more easily by the congregation. Pulpits often have a 'sounding' board canopy above them, so that the words may 'resound' more audibly.

The pulpit may be simple or heavily ornamented; engraved with pictures and/or words in a creative manner. There are examples of some pulpits which require the preacher to climb up over a dozen steps to reach the preaching platform, while others have only five or six steps.

In Anglican churches they are likely to be situated between the nave, where the congregation sits, and the chancel, where the choir or church leaders sit. In Methodist chapels, pulpits are normally centrally placed, often above the altar.

In bygone generations, the pulpit was used for all sorts of announcements. Without any microphones, it was better to use a raised area from which to address people.

So the pulpits were used not only by priests for preaching, but also by the churchwardens for notices. The pulpit was also where Marriage Banns were called, excommunications were pronounced, and indulgences were advertised.

In fact, pulpits were not much used for sermons before the Reformation! This is because the clergy in those days were required to preach only four times a year.

Most commonly, the pulpit was used for the bidding prayers. These, partly in English, were said for the leaders of the Church, the King, the governing orders, the people, special needs, and, finally, for those parishioners who had paid to have their names

read out.

This month

Have a close look at your church's pulpit. What does both the pulpit itself and the sermons that you hear from it reflect about your faith?



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"It has been a pleasure dealing with you & the service I have received is second to none."
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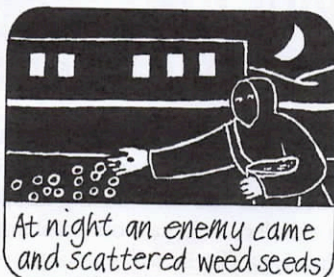
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

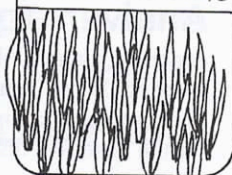
It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew chapter 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus told this story to help explain
what his Kingdom, the Kingdom of
Heaven, is like...

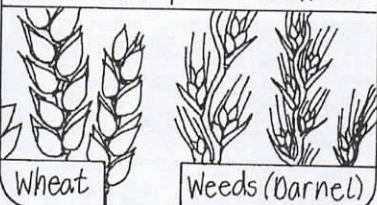
A farmer's workers sowed
good wheat seed in his field.



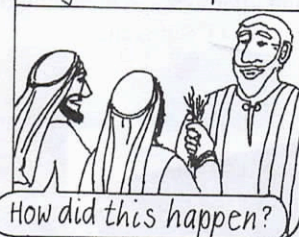
When the seeds
sprouted they
looked the same



When the plants grew bigger
the workers spotted the weeds



They asked the farmer



An enemy did this



No, you might pull up
some wheat with them.
Wait until harvest time



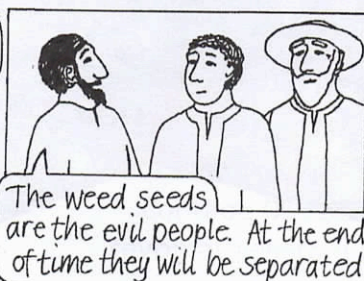
You will be able to sort them
out, and put the wheat in the
barn... and burn the weeds



People asked



The field is the world
and the good seeds are
the good people



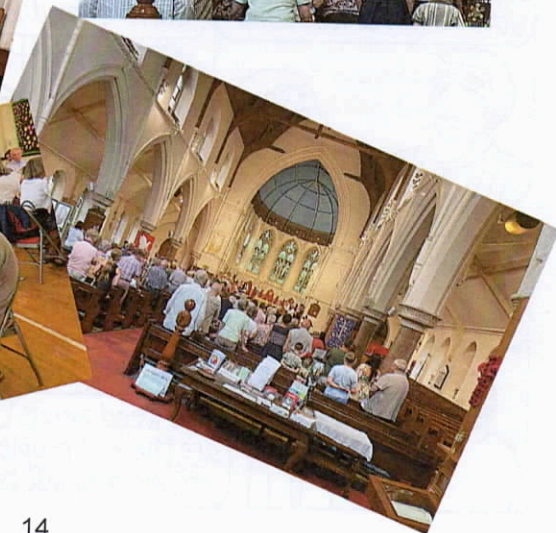
The angels will bring
the good people to me
in heaven.

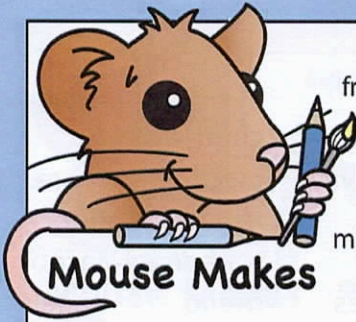




A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who took part in the **140th**

Anniversary celebrations, including Anne Allen for her musical expertise, Canon John Sutton as our guest preacher, Jean Law for flowers and catering, Jayne Gigner-Hollies and her amazing family team of caterers, Carole Shakeshaft for baking and decorating a wonderful anniversary cake, Michael Riley for the historical display, Lisa Clarke for organisational skills, Karen for admin and printing, for everyone who cleaned, polished, welcomed, read, prayed, washed up, served refreshments and moved furniture. We welcomed over a hundred people to the service and afternoon tea including our special guest, the Mayor of Trafford Councillor Dolores O' Sullivan.





Mouse Makes

After Jesus miraculously fed 5,000+ people from two fish and five loaves, he sent his disciples off in a boat across the Sea of Galilee before going up a mountain by himself. Later in the night, as the boat was being blown and buffeted by the wind, Jesus came miraculously walking on the water towards them...

Read the story in: *Matthew 14: 22-27,*
Mark 6:45-56 or John 6:16-21

What did Jesus do when he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 14:23

What was the boat struggling against?

The _____ and
the _____

Matthew 14:24



What did Jesus say to his disciples?
Do not be

Matthew 14:27

What did the disciples think Jesus was when they saw him walking on the sea?

A

Matthew 14:26

Who walked out on the water to Jesus?

Matthew 14:29

What did Jesus say to Peter?

Oh you of little _____
why do you _____

Matthew 14:31

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

JESUS • DISCIPLES • BOAT • OTHER SIDE • CROWDS • MOUNTAIN • EVENING • ALONE • LAND • NIGHT • SEA
WALKING • TERRIFIED • FEAR • COME • WATER • SINK • SAVE • INTO • CEASED • WORSHIPED • SON OF GOD

Word Search



come	good	fig
stairway	prophet	more
tree	Nazareth	Prince
son	Nathanael	Jacob
Moses	friend	angels
Philip	King	God
cheat	silly	Jesus
believe	Israel	heaven



Storms of Life

The boat was tossed from side to side
 Buffeted by the wind and rain,
 Alarm and panic filled their hearts
 Would they ever reach the shore again?

The sky was dark and looking out
 They thought they saw a ghost appear,
 Transfixed with horror, what could it be
 Treading on water and drawing near?

Their hearts were stilled as hope arose
 As they heard the voice of the One they knew,
 'Do not be afraid, this storm will pass'
 And the sea grew calm and the wind withdrew.

When storms of life assail our boat
 And our hearts are filled with dread and fear,
 Remember the One who treads the waves,
 He sees our plight – He's drawing near.

By Megan Carter



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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	283-7668
Jean Law	962-6761
Fiona Vaughan-Thomas	
Amanda Pearson	

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ASHBROOKS

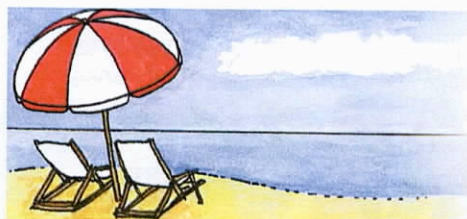
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 Visit our showrooms at:-
 16-20 Washway Road, Sale
 Telephone: 0161-973-3406

July 2023



1 st	Saturday		
2 nd	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Taize Style Evening Prayer
4 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
5 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
7 th	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
9 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer
11 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
12 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
		7.45pm	PCC Meeting
14 th	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
16 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer
18 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
19 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
21 st	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
23 rd	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		12.00noon	Pet Blessing Service (see posters / page 9)
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer
25 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
26 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
29 th	Saturday	11.00am	Teddy Bear Parachute Jump (see poster / page 7)
30 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer





August 2023

2 nd	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
6 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Taizé Style Evening Prayer
9 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
13 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer
16 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
20 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer
23 rd	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
27 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer
30 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service

Deadline for the September Parish News

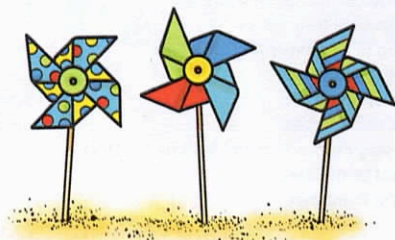
Communion Service
Parish Eucharist
Evening Prayer
Communion Service
Parish Eucharist
Evening Prayer
Communion Service

September:-

3 rd	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Taizé Style Evening Prayer
8 th	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
9 th	Saturday		Heritage Day



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



St. Paul's Parish Directory

Churchwardens:	Yvonne Stevenson	*	07946 644214
	Vacant		
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:	Rev. Dr. Becky Mathew	217-8795 / 07584 604627	
Email:	revbmathewstpaulsale@gmail.com		
Associate Ministers:	Rev. Dr. Lisa Redfern (Forest Church)		
	Rev. Dr. Margaret Jones	*	973-7790
	Rev. Shemil Mathew		217-8795

Parish Office

962-0082

Parish Office e-mail

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)
	1.30pm-2.30pm	Community Choir (school term time)
Friday	5.30pm	4 th Sale Central (St Paul's) Rainbows