

Sale, St. Paul's

'Serving God and the community'

November 2023

www.stpaulsale.co.uk

Suggested donation **50p**

From the Vicarage....

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3)

Dear Friends,

Remember, remember..... but not just the 5th of November. For me, the month of November epitomises remembrance. This year, as I write this letter mid-October, I do so with a heart heavy with sadness against the backdrop of the dramatic and horrific escalation in the conflict in the Middle East which has become a dreadful reality for many millions of people in Israel and Gaza over the last few days. We are all, I'm sure, wrestling with the horrors unfolding day by day which are being relayed through the media and the stark images and stories of suffering, the personal stories of loss and grief and the utter hopelessness that many feel as homes, livelihoods and loved ones are taken on both sides. Some of you, no doubt will have friends or relatives who are in some way affected. Yet again, as in the ongoing war in Ukraine, we see the dreadful human cost of war, particularly the cost to ordinary people, men, women and children caught up in a struggle not of their making.

It seems that we have learnt so little through the years, through the conflicts which we will recall again on Remembrance Sunday in two World Wars, through the wars in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq, The Falklands, the conflict in Northern Ireland, Syria, and so many more....

In such dark days where is hope to be found?

In times of trouble many of us turn to God, and ask the questions that have no answers, and pray for peace. I believe that God weeps with those who weep and stays close to those who ask for his presence with them.

The Bible makes it clear that peace is not just the absence of war or being untroubled. It means being in a right relationship with God with other people and with wider society. Of course, the prophet Micah's words are looking to the end of time when God will make all things new. However, these promises also can speak to us now.

The ministry of Jesus demonstrated the kingdom or reign of God breaking into the everyday, as He healed the sick and brought reconciliation and hope. When we pray for peace, we're rejecting the 'old



order of things', of violence and war and asking God to make His kingdom real today. When we stand up for justice and refuse to participate in division we are citizens of the new kingdom, reshaping the old.

Today, and in the days to come I will continue to pray for peace in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine and beyond, across our world. I hope that you will share with me in that prayer and that, even now, nations at war will turn back to seek God's way of peace.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.'
Matthew 5:9

May God fill you with the hope of peace in a troubled world

Yours in faith,
Becky



Santa's Grotto

Santa will be visiting St Pauls Church Hall on Saturday 9th December 10-12noon and 12.45-1500 and again on Saturday 16th December 10-12 noon and 1300-1500

Your visit includes an hour of craft activities and a gift.

Tickets are to be pre-booked only: £5 per child and £15 for 3 or more children from one family.

Please ring 07989 138644 for tickets.

Tuesday Group

In October, Dr. Jean Robinson gave us a most interesting talk, with beautiful illustrations of her holiday in Japan last year. The variety of scenery was amazing! This month we are moving to Paula's for our meeting. Jean Law will help us to make a Christmas decoration and she has asked that everyone brings a pair of suitable scissors and if possible some greenery with berries on. Please ask if you need a lift.

Looking forward to seeing you all on 14th November.

Diana



ST PAUL'S CHURCH.
SALE M33 6PN

"IN LOVING
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ALL SOUL'S DAY SERVICE

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NOVEMBER 5-6PM

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SINGLE STEM FLOWER IN MEMORY
OF A LOVED ONE TO PLACE IN
CHURCH.

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BECKY FOR MORE
INFO
TEL: 0161 2178795



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Genesis chapters 41:46 - 45:28

Joseph: sold by his brothers, taken to Egypt,
now in charge of the stored food as famine
spreads through Egypt, and beyond...

Joseph's father sent 10 of Joseph's
brothers to Egypt to buy food.



To prove you are
not spies, you must
bring your other
brother to me...



Joseph saw they did not recognise him.
He wanted to see his little brother Benjamin.

They needed more
food so they had
to take Benjamin
to Egypt.



Joseph gave them food...



but to test them he
had his cup put in Benjamin's sack.

Then as they
went home...



You have stolen my
master's special cup.



It was
in Benjamin's sack.

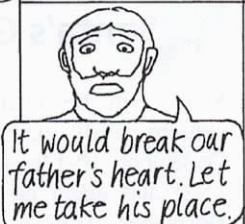
The servant
took them back
to Joseph.



You are a thief and
must stay as a
slave.



But Judah said



It would break our
father's heart. Let
me take his place.

Joseph saw that his brothers had
changed.



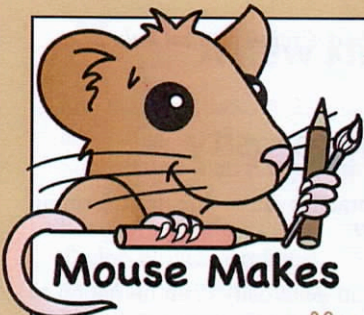
I am your brother Joseph. You
sold me but God sent me to Egypt.

I can look after you.
Come and live with me.



So all of Joseph's
family moved
to Egypt.





Mouse Makes

"Do not be anxious about anything,
but in every situation, by
_____ and _____

with thanksgiving, present your
_____ to God."
Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

"The _____

is _____

to all who _____

on him in _____"

Psalm 145:18

"For where two or three _____

in my name, there
I am with them."
Matthew 18:20

SAY SORRY

PRAY FOR OTHERS

PRAY FOR YOURSELF

THANK GOD

FOR MY FAMILY

PRAY FOR FRIENDS

PRAY FOR THE NEEDY

PRAY FOR THE SICK

PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

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

PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

Find these words too:

- APPROACH
- MEDITATE
- HEAR • LISTEN
- BLESS • PRAISE
- FORGIVE • NAME
- CRY OUT • AMEN

"_____ always, _____
continually, _____
_____ in all circumstances."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Therefore, _____

your sins to one another and
_____ for one another,
that you may be healed."
James 5:16

"_____ yourselves
to prayer, being
watchful and
thankful."
Colossians 4:2

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

Spiritual Disciplines — Generosity

'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35).

What does generosity look like for us? The practice of generosity is about more than finance, as we recognise that everything we possess belongs to God (Ps 24:1). We are stewards of all our resources, including time, possessions, gifts, as well as our love and compassion for others. God enables us to be generous, because of all that He has given us:

'You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.' (2 Cor 9:11).

Here are some practical ways of practising generosity:

Give consistently: Planning our financial giving ensures that it isn't an afterthought, but carefully considered (2 Cor 9:7). We can offer time to volunteer in church or in the wider community. We might open our home to others for a meal or coffee.

Give spontaneously: God often brings opportunities across our path where we can respond spontaneously. This might be prompted by a text from a friend in crisis or giving a neighbour a helping hand. Acting spontaneously reminds us that God is always working in and through us.

Give sacrificially: Being generous also involves making sacrifices with our time and priorities, as we help others, share our possessions, or use our gifts. How can we simplify our busy lives, in order to free up

space to practise more life transforming generosity?

To engage in generosity is an invitation to experience more of God's provision in our lives:

'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you' (Luke 6:38).

Hi All

I would like to thank all of you for donations/sponsorship for Lymphoma Action. Luckily some of us managed to do it on the Monday as weather conditions were against us on the Saturday, as a team of 3 from Sale we managed to raise over £1,600 between us, which went towards a national total of just over £20,000 and rising. Once again thanks for your help it will make a great difference to people during difficult times.

Many thanks
Chris Hughes

PS - from mum

I would also like to say a big thank you to St. Paul's and the Community Choir and friends, you raised £251.

Paula

Forest Church – beside the still waters of Sale.

“He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside the still waters, he restores my soul.” Psalm 23: 2

Have you ever contemplated the moon and stars and thought about God’s light? Have you ever felt the wind and thunder of a storm and thought about God’s power? Have you ever dwelt in God’s presence in a garden?

The Psalmist did the first of these, the disciples did the second, and Jesus himself did the third.

Since I came to St Paul’s in February this year folks have asked me what Forest Church is and I would say that it is all the above and a bit more too. Forest Church is All Age Worship: we acknowledge God as Creator of the Universe, and we meet to encounter and praise God. Sometimes in our busy lives there is no time to stop and enjoy creation. We forget to notice the beauty of trees, the delight of plants, the discovery of strange and fascinating insects, and geese on the canal banks.

Forest Church is an opportunity to think about our protection of God’s creation. Living Christ – filled lives in this century means living lives of Creation Care.

Much of the message of the scriptures draws on the natural world in which Jesus lived. Reading scripture outdoors sheds a new light on many passages – so in September’s Forest Church amidst the trees of the Church garden we read the story of Zacchaeus who climbed the Sycamore Fig tree (not a spelling mistake – the tree Zacchaeus chose was different from our UK sycamore) to see Jesus and ask ourselves why he did that.

Forest Church is an informal church, meeting (as much as possible!) outside and experiencing the natural environment. We greet one another, enjoy an activity in the outdoors, and there will always be a scripture passage and some prayers. One advantage that open doors church has is that we can spend time in quiet contemplation – and hear the birdsong and sound of our environment around us.

Forest Church is a bit different from our usual church environment as we travel light – we have some Bibles and activities are kept as simple as possible. For some of us, me included, getting outside of the building means turning to the prayers and scriptures memorised over the years.

Help would be much appreciated for Forest Church and I’m open to new ideas too!

You may say that there is no forest in Sale – true! – but the name of Sale (Sailh=willow) suggests we were once rich in woodlands. We are still blessed living here with trees and parkland.

So, to take the words of the Psalmist that we started off with, we can encounter God beside the still waters of Sale – the Bridgewater Canal and the Mersey. Come and join us on fourth Sunday of the month at 3 pm. In December, we won’t be holding Forest Church as it would fall on Christmas Eve, so instead there will be Forest Church indoors under the boughs of the Christmas Tree Festival.

Rev’d Lisa



St Paul's Parish Church,
Sale, M33 7YA
Tel: 0161 9620082



Christmas TREE FESTIVAL

Free Admission

Friday 8th December
2-5pm 6-8pm
Saturday 9th Dec 10-4pm
Sunday 10th Dec 12-5pm

For more information see
www.stpaulsale.co.uk
or St Paul's facebook page.



SEASONAL
REFRESHMENTS



Revd Dr Jo White considers

Reflected Faith Series : Remembering Our Loved Ones

For the last couple of months, we've been looking at seating in the church building.

Perhaps you've noticed that on the more 'special' items there are dedication plaques to the person who donated the money to buy the item or in whose name the item was purchased.

In some churches, pretty much everywhere you look you will find such labels, whilst in others they are much rarer.

Of course, many people donate financially and give specific items in their own name or in memory of someone else without wishing for this to be publicly noted. But often when folk donate something they do like it made clear.

A couple of centuries ago people would leave money after their death for a mass to be said for their soul. In some rich cases this would be every day for a year or even longer.

The 'very' rich paid for a new altar to be placed in the church building or even in an extension to the building – a chantry. This is where their personal mass would be conducted each day. In these cases, a stipend would also be paid to cover the cost of a separate priest to do this task, rather than the rector or vicar having it as an extra daily task.

A room would be provided for that priest above the chapel often.

This all stems from the belief that we

have sinned and will be punished in purgatory or hell but can 'buy' time off through prayers.

Today our theology has moved back to a more biblical understanding, that Christ is the one who bore our sins on the cross, and we can't earn our way to heaven; we can only get there by faith in Him.

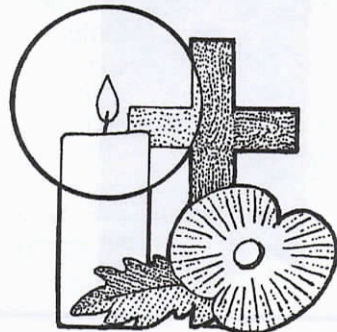
But we still love and think about the people whom we loved, even though they are dead. Some Christians believe that, as we prayed for them in life, why should we stop just because they are dead?

As C.S.Lewis wrote;

"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me."

This month

As you remember your loved ones whom you see no more, hold them close in ways that make sense to you, and reflect your faith in God's loving grace and mercy.



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

G Singer, Sale

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

Vivian, Sale



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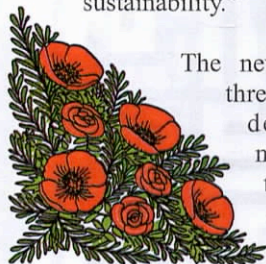
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A new kind of Remembrance poppy

For the first time in 28 years, there is a new kind of poppy for Remembrance Sunday this year: it is plastic free.

Director of the Poppy Appeal, Andy Taylor-Whyte explains: "We are very proud to introduce the plastic-free poppy. It will not only enable people to support our Armed Forces community but also continues the RBL's commitment to sustainability."



The new poppy has been three years in the development and making. The aim was to reduce the use of single-use plastic

and to "be economical, sustainable, and less impactful to the environment."

The new poppy design has a 40% smaller carbon footprint, and it made from "bespoke red and green paper." The paper comes from a blend of renewable fibres, 50 per cent of which has been recovered from the waste used in the production of coffee cups.

The plastic-free poppy will be available alongside remaining stocks of the current poppy, to reduce any waste of poppies already produced. Poppies containing single-use plastic can be returned to Sainsbury's stores for recycling.

Why go to church?

A church-goer complained to his minister: "I've been coming to church every Sunday for 30 years, and in that time I have heard thousands of sermons, but for the life of me, I can't think of a single one now. So, I think I have wasted my time."

The minister thought for a moment and replied: "I've been married for 30 years, and my wife and I have cooked thousands of meals. For the life of me I can't recall the entire menu of a single one of those meals now. But I do know that each one nourished us and gave us strength to carry on living. If we had not had those meals, but snacked on rubbish instead, we would have been stunted and eventually starved. Without regular Christian nourishment, we also will starve – spiritually."



The vicar got a little carried away with the church's new state-of-the-art PA system

Watch, Wait

(Mk 13:31-37, Rev 21:3,4,22:20)

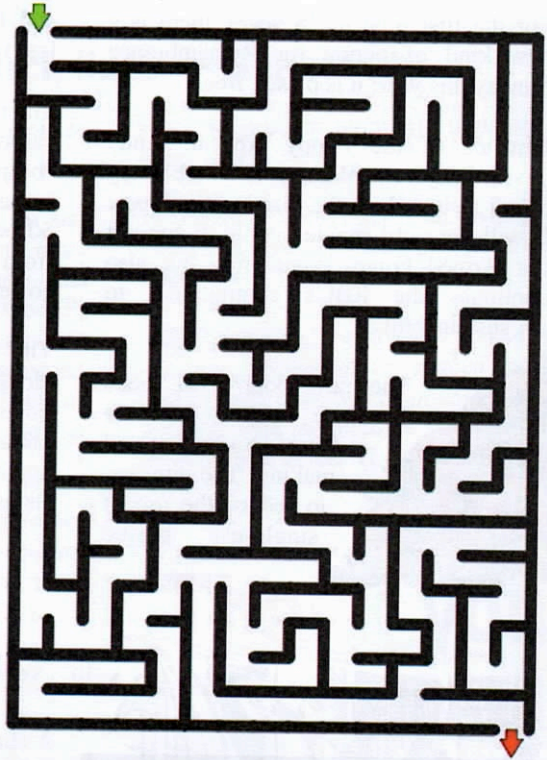
Help us to watch, Lord,
While we wait.
To watch as we serve You,
On the margins,
In the mainstream,
In the mix-up of this world.
Yet always preparing,
Building for Your kingdom
Ready for Your return.

Help us to respond, Lord,
To the signs,
While we wait.
Not demanding details,
But trusting Your word,
Holding Your promise
To wipe away tears and suffering
When You make all things new
On that day.

Help us Lord, oh help us
While we watch
In the darkness,
While we wait
Through the between times
For You
To come,
To be our God,
Our glorious, victorious King.

Come Lord Jesus.

By Daphne Kitching



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PAULA JAMES
HCPC REGISTERED
MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PODIATRY

**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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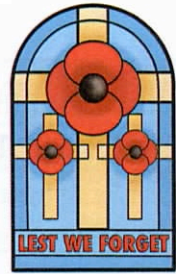
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November 2023



1 st	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
3 rd	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
5 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		5.00pm	Service for All Souls'
7 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
8 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (CW)
		7.45pm	PCC Meeting
10 th	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
12 th	Sunday	10.00am	Service of the Word
		10.40am	Depart for Sale Town Hall and Cenotaph and the Remembrance Service
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer

Deadline for the December and January Parish News

14 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
		1.15pm	Tuesday Group— <i>don't forget it's at Paula's</i>
15 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
17 th	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
19 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer
21 st	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
22 nd	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service
24 th	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
26 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		3.00pm	Forest Church
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer
28 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
29 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service

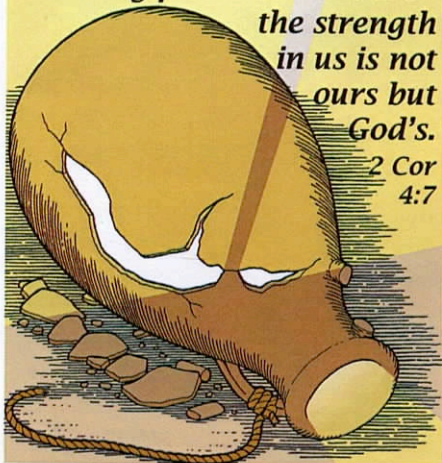
Next Month—

1 st	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
3 rd	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Taize Style Evening Prayer
5 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
6 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (CW)
8 th to 10 th	Friday to Sunday		Christmas Tree Festival

*Please check the weekly pew sheets for any service changes that may occur.
Don't forget—email any articles for the Parish News to the Parish Office email address—
salestpaul@aol.com*

**We are like fragile clay jars
holding priceless treasure -
the strength
in us is not
ours but
God's.**

**2 Cor
4:7**



Prayer for November

Father God,

November is not many people's favourite month, unless there is a birthday or a delight in bonfires. Short days, sometimes dismal weather can lower our mood. The days of springtime optimism and summer sunshine seem a long way away, whether we look back or forward.

Help us Lord, whatever the month, whatever our circumstances, whatever our mood, to know the reality of Your presence and peace; to treasure each new day and know it is transformed by You into the most precious and beautiful gift. Help us not to waste a single one of them, Lord. Thank You so much for November days. In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Christmas Tree Festival - 8th-10th December 2023.

This festival will continue to have a theme of well-being and welcome and this year we'd love as many people as possible to join in. You might like to sponsor your own tree, perhaps you run your own business or can encourage your employer to have a tree.



We are asking this year that folks supply their own trees, artificial or real, no bigger than 6ft. You might be able to assist with publicity- we have posters and leaflets that need distributing across the local area. Perhaps you can help on the day itself with refreshments or simply having a chat with visitors. We're also looking for folks to help with craft activities for all ages, is there something you can bring along to teach others? Lisa Clarke is the main coordinator so please do contact Lisa if you'd like to decorate a tree or can offer any time to assist with activities, email her via

events.stpaulssale@outlook.com

or ring the parish office on 0161 962 0082 to leave a message.

Sign up sheets are at the back of church, we are also hoping to collect items for a Christmas hamper raffle and there are suggestions for items at the back of church

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:	Revd. Becky Mathew		217-8795 / 07584 604627
Email:			revbmathewstpaulsale@gmail.com
Associate Ministers:	Revd. Dr Lisa Redfern (Forest Church)		
	Revd. Dr Margaret Jones		973-7790
	Revd. 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)
Friday	1.30pm-2.30pm	Community Choir (school term time)
	5.30pm	4 th Sale Central (St Paul's) Rainbows