

**The Lord is my light
and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?**

Psalm 27: 1

Suggested donation **50p**



From the Vicarage....

Dear Friends,

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ."

These are the words that are said by the priest during the imposition of ashes, that moment on Ash Wednesday when a cross is daubed on a person's forehead. The forty days of Lent echo the Gospels' story of Jesus' time in the wilderness, and historically were a time to think of one's mortality and sinfulness.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on St Valentine's Day and whilst in itself is not unusual, there may be a bit of a dilemma. As we begin this season of Lent we are called to abstain or give something up, as well as undertake a spiritual spring-clean, to be more diligent in our prayer life and to be generous and charitable. However St Valentine's day is a day when we may like to be treated, possibly to the things we may be giving up for Lent.

Love however, is not just sweets and chocolates, and maybe the key to celebrating St Valentine's day this year as we begin Lent is to remember that true Love isn't slushy, self-focused or self-indulgent. Love is sacrificial and selfless, and only ever meant to be given away.

Valentine's day does a brilliant job at communicating love for one day, but it lacks the impetus to help us do the hard

work of love. The ashes placed on our foreheads are a mark and reminder, as deep and personal as jewellery or flowers. Those ashes show that we are loved and that our beloved's commitment to us is constant and true, even when we are not.

In Jesus, God puts aside everything to make us God's beloved on the cross. This is not a sentimental gesture. Ash Wednesday is in many ways one of the most passionate and powerful expressions of love- God's love for us and our love for God.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

Keep loving,
Becky

Don't forget...

Myself and Revd Catherine from St Martin's Ashton-on-Mersey will once again be taking to the streets of Ashton Village and Stanley Square, Sale for Ashes2Go.

Approximate timings:

11.30am Ashton High Street

12.30pm Stanley Square, Sale

Becky

Safeguarding Updates

Our Parish Safeguarding officer (PSO) Carole Shakeshaft is unable to attend church at the moment due to ill health. If you do have any safeguarding concerns, or would like to make a disclosure please do report to any of the clergy or contact the Diocesan safeguarding team.

We now have a new email address to be used to report any safeguarding concerns:

safeguardingstpaulsale@gmail.com

or ring 0161 2178795 to contact Revd Becky. Email

safeguarding@chester.anglican.org

to contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team or call 01928 718834

There has been a number of changes to safeguarding guidance over the last 2 years. From the 4th January 2022 the Church of England national policy changed, and DBS renewals are now due every 3 years. The deadline was set that by 3rd January 2024 all those requiring

enhanced DBS (with/without Barred List) checks will have a DBS certificate that is 3 years or less and be on a 3 yearly rechecking cycle. If you think your DBS is now out of date please contact Revd Becky or Carole Shakeshaft.

We now require our volunteers working with children and/or vulnerable adults to undertake safeguarding training which can be done via an online portal, you'll just need to set up an account.

Please remember to send your digital certificate to Revd Becky and Carole for our records.

Safeguarding Training Portal
(cofeportal.org)

There are also plans by the Diocesan safeguarding team to offer face to face training, dates will be publicised through the Deanery.



"Next Sunday I think I'll do a new take on the Parable of the Virgins and the Oil."

Annual Parochial Church Meetings:-

If you are a member of an organisation that submits a report and accounts to the Annual Parochial Church Meetings can you please submit these to the below email not later than 18th February.

officestpaulsale@gmail.com

The Annual Report does take quite a bit of time to put together.

Many thanks

Karen

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Exodus 2:13-4:23, 4:27-5:2

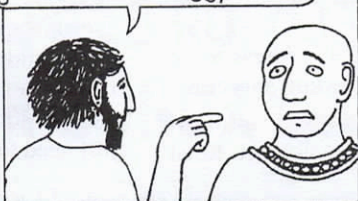
Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.

The next day...



Why are you beating up one of your own people?

Are you going to kill me like you killed that Egyptian?



Moses had to run away from Egypt.



He went to Midian, got married and looked after his father-in-law's sheep.



One day, on Sinai Mountain, he saw a burning bush that didn't burn up. Now God had got Moses' attention, He said..

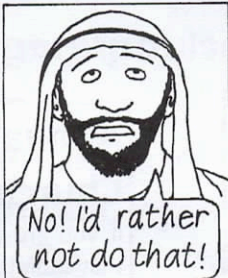


You will go to Pharaoh and tell him to let my people leave Egypt.



It's not a choice. Your brother Aaron can help you

No! I'd rather not do that!



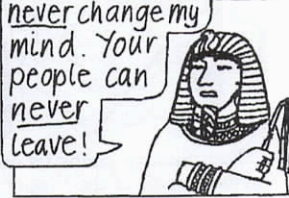
Aaron and Moses met up and went to see Pharaoh

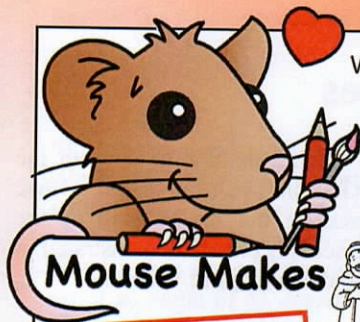


Our God says you must let all his people leave Egypt.



Your God means nothing to me. I will never change my mind. Your people can never leave!





Mouse Makes

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

and _____ Romans 16:3

Who were the first couple?
_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

_____ Genesis 19:26

Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

_____ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

_____ Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

_____ Matthew 1:5



FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
MFU OPU NBO
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
UFO WFSTF
OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

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

ABRAHAM
 ADAM • AQUILA
 BOAZ • ELKANAH
 ELIZABETH
 EVE • HANNAH
 ISAAC • JACOB
 JOSEPH • MARY
 PRISCILLA
 RACHEL
 REBEKAH • RUTH
 SARAH
 ZECHARIAH

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the subject of 'real love'.

Lenten Valentines

This month both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day! The link between the two can be summed up in terms of the nature of real love! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, focuses on learning to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. This is what Jesus found when He was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. Yet loving God and His word comes before satisfying physical desires.

Satan tempted Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is an expression of loving God and serving Him.

Finally, He was tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Real love for God does not put Him to the test, but wants to obey Him.

Now these three continue . . .



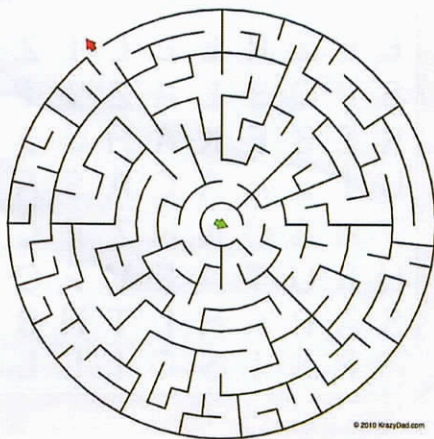
Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13

Lent also teaches us how to live out the love of God in practical ways, as we follow Jesus in the way of the Cross. We see this clearly demonstrated in the life and death of Saint Valentine.

Valentine was a Christian who demonstrated the importance of sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and that he was martyred on 14th February. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so had attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret, which is why today we celebrate our love for one another on his day.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found:

'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was His meaning.'



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True Love

(Lk2:22-35)

Broken world,
Broken lives,
Broken hearts
Without hope
Until there, in the Temple,
In that bundle of a baby,
Love provides
Restoration,
According to His word.

By Daphne Kitching

Nigel Beeton writes: '11th February is 'Transfiguration Sunday.' We have a window in St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds which depicts the Transfiguration, and I always find it really inspiring. It was a breath-taking moment, and we can scarcely imagine the impact it had on the watching Peter, James, and John.'

Transfiguration

Reveal Thyself to me,
Transfigured shining Son!
Thy Holy radiance may I see
God's own anointed One.

The prophets there with Thee
What stories do they tell?
What holy words of mystery?
What glories do they spell?

Then, God's own mighty voice
Rolling through shrouding cloud;
Must make the hardest heart rejoice
To hear Him clear and loud:

"This, my beloved Son!
"Listen to what He says
"Know that He is the chosen One
"And follow Him all thy days!"

(Tune: Trentham) 7



Prayer for February

Father,

In this coldest and shortest of months, this month when traditionally thoughts turn to love and the promise of Spring, help us to be thankful and steadfast and to see Your bigger picture in what is sometimes a frightening world, a world where love between nations seems to be in short supply and the future uncertain.

We pray for all those whose lives are in turmoil through a lack of love and justice. Help us to remember the great love You have for Your world and Your people, so great that You sent Jesus to show us how to live, how to love and how to overcome the troubles of the world.

Thank you that Your love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. Help us to put our trust in Jesus, to keep our focus on Him, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that His love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death.

In his name,
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Revd Dr Jo White considers

Reflecting Faith—Memorial Stones

We begin to look at the outside of the church building. When you last visited a churchyard with very old memorials, what did you notice?

The oldest stones probably just had the name of the person, date of death and perhaps their age.

But the slightly more recent stones may well have included where the person had been born, lived, and who they had married. These stones probably belonged to the wealthier people, as they needed to be large, to include all this information!

As for the poorer folk, as cheaper stone became available, they also wanted to mark their loved one's place of rest, even with just the bare details.

With the advent of the railways, a firm in Scotland started a business for shaping the stone with recessing, into which a local stone mason would be able to carve the words. This is why you will see many similar shaped stones in every churchyard in England, Wales and Scotland for that period.

In different areas of the country, both locally sourced stones and the availability of the stonemason create very different looks – whilst within that area are many reproductions.

Also, the 'floweriness' of the inscriptions grew over the years. What started with just the name of the person later had added before the name, 'With affection', then 'With great affection', then, 'Greatly loved' and so on. It was almost as if people were trying to outdo each other on who loves who most.

Meanwhile, by the early 20th century many churchyards were 'full', and if adjoining land was available this was consecrated, but otherwise separate land was purchased – which became a 'cemetery' and was usually not the responsibility of the church.

A churchyard, on the other hand, is by definition under the auspices of 'the church', whether open or closed.

Because people continued to want to be interred in 'holy land', eventually all cemeteries were set aside and consecrated by and for the different religions and denominations, reflecting the needs of the local communities.

This month

Think about where you'd like to have as *your* final resting place. Whether you choose cremation or burial, is being in a set-aside 'holy place' important to you and to those who will visit?





**St Paul's Church,
Springfield Rd, Sale, M33 7YA**

Holy Week & Easter Services 2024

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday

10am Holy Communion with Procession & Blessing of Palm

Crosses- please gather in the Church Hall

3pm Forest Church – *in the Church Garden*

6pm Evening Prayer (BCP)



Monday 25th March

7pm Stations of the Cross - *a reflective hour walking inside the church using contemporary images of the Stations.*

Maundy Thursday 28th March

7.30pm Holy Communion- Commemoration of the Last Supper,
foot-washing & vigil.



Good Friday 29th March

2-3pm The Last Hour - *a service of readings, reflections,
music & symbolic actions.*



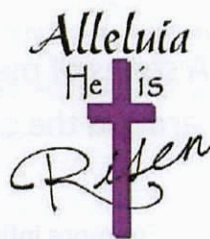
Holy Saturday 30th March

8pm Easter Vigil with renewal of baptism vows

Easter Sunday 31st March

10am Sung Parish Communion

6pm Evening Prayer



For more information please take a look at our webpage:

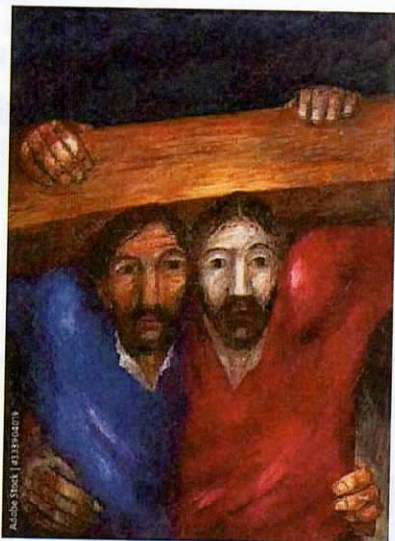
<https://stpaulsale.co.uk> or contact Vicar Becky on 0161

2178795.



St Paul's Church, Sale

Stations of the Cross 7-8pm



Monday 19th February

Monday 26th February

Monday 4th March

Monday 11th March

Monday 18th March (Experience Easter workshops)

Monday 25th March

A series of meditations, prayer and song as we journey around the church following the Stations of the Cross.

For more information please contact Becky on 07584604627
or email: revbmatthewstpaulsale@gmail.com

Life on a spin

Many years ago, at the Pleasure Beach at Blackpool, there was a certain 'ride' or amusement that was strictly for the physically fit. It consisted of a flat wooden disc about 20 feet in diameter and set at an angle of 45 degrees in the floor. When it began to rotate, the aim was to get to the centre where there was a pole. As the disc rotated faster and faster, everyone who failed to get to the pole got flung off. Nowadays there's probably a European Community regulation banning it as far too dangerous!

The principle of the game was a basic law of physics. When any wheel rotates, the outer rim moves fastest of all. Half way to the centre and you are moving a lot more slowly. And, at least theoretically, at the absolute centre will be a point which is totally still. That's why anyone who reached that pole could stand there quite comfortably.

We have just started the Church's season of Lent. It's generally thought of as being a time for giving up chocolate, wine, whatever. But it's really a time to remind us that in our own rapidly spinning world, God is the still centre.

All around God is motion, sound, change and decay – galaxies circling, seasons and years rotating, life developing and decaying. And at the still centre, where there is no variableness, is God, the same yesterday, today and forever.

Only about seven weeks ago Christians worldwide were thinking of God getting involved in a special way in the ever moving and changing life of the world. And one great characteristic of Jesus was His stillness. Busy, harassed, injured people found someone with neither clever chat nor idle gossip, neither vulgar boasting nor loud opinion. His life always seemed to rotate round a still central point, which gave Him balance and authority.

"Be still then and know that I am God" wrote the Psalmist. Lent is a time for us to try and do just that – to find the still centre of God in our own individual lives.

Of course, we're all of us very much in the world, and must live our lives in all of its busyness. But it may do none of us any harm to be a little more silent than we often are – quick to listen and slow to speak. And the more silent spaces we give ourselves, the more we'll give that still, small voice within each one of us the chance to be heard.



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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

"It has been a pleasure dealing with you & the service I have received is second to none."
Vivian, 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	283-7668
Jean Law	962-6761
Fiona Vaughan-Thomas	

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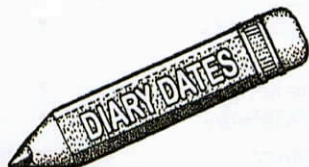
Revd Lisa email:

revlredfernstpaulsale@btinternet.com

Webpage: stpaulsaleco.uk

**All ages welcome- under 16's must be
accompanied by parent/carer.**





February 2024

2 nd	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
4 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Taize Style Evening Prayer
6 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
7 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (CW)
9 th	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
11 th	Sunday	10.00am	All Age Worship
		6.00pm	Holy Communion

Deadline for the March Parish News

14 th	Wednesday	10.00am	No Communion Service
			Rev'd's Becky & Catherine will be offering
			Ashes2Go in Sale & Ashton Upon Mersey
		7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Communion with Ashes
18 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer

Reports and Accounts for inclusion in the Annual Report

19 th	Monday	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
20 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
21 st	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (BCP)
23 rd	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
25 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		2.00pm	Forest Church
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer
26 th	Monday	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
28 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (BCP)

Next Month —

1 st	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
3 rd	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Taize Style Evening Prayer

Annual Parochial Church Meetings Sunday 21st April

*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—*

officestpaulsale@gmail.com

St. Paul's Parish Directory

Churchwardens:	Yvonne Stevenson	*	07946 644214
	Vacant		
Pastoral Workers:	Yvonne Kerridge	*	962-4066
	Karen Salisbury	*	283-8309
Treasurer to the PCC:	Joe Blaney		treasurerstpaulsale@gmail.com
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:	Rodney Hadwen		
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. Dr. Shemil Mathew	217-8795	

Parish Office

962-0082

Parish Office e-mail

officestpaulsale@gmail.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	2 nd Sale Central Rainbows