

"Lord, as you have promised, you may now  
let your servant go in peace. For my eyes have  
seen your salvation, which you have prepared  
in the sight of all people."

*Luke 2: 29-30*

**Sale, St. Paul's**

*'Serving God and the community'*

**February 2025**

**Suggested donation 50p**

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





# From the Vicar.....

Dear friends,

Yes, you're right, we didn't manage to get a magazine out for the month of January, due to the busyness of December it just wasn't manageable. It was fantastic to see so many folks in church over the festive season whether coming to attend services, school carols or viewing the Christmas Trees. There were many comments about how lovely it was to be in such a peaceful and welcoming space. At a recent clergy gathering where we were reflecting together on Christmas attendance, we all noted an increase in numbers especially on Christmas Eve, which felt reassuring, despite the news about the safeguarding issues in the Makin report and the Archbishop of Canterbury's resignation. People were still attending and looking to the church for reassurance and hope. How this translates into regular Sunday morning attendance is another question. We know that people live increasingly busy lives, there's a plethora of choice, activities and events out there to occupy time across the weekends. For example, this month sees one of the biggest gathering of Lego fans, as we converge to Manchester Central for Bricktastic. This is a huge convention of models and activities which raises monies for 'Fairly Bricks' who provide Lego sets to poorly children in hospitals across the country. Exhibitors are drawn from fans of Lego groups across the UK who meet together regularly for socialising and talk about all things Lego. It's a community that brings together diverse people who share a passion for building and creating with the bricks. These groups remind me of what the church could and should look like, embracing diversity and sharing a passion for learning more about God and the

teachings shared by Jesus that help us to love one another and recognise in each other that care and compassion.

In this month when we can't help pass shops, restaurants and a new cinema advertising 'romantic meals' and heart-shaped decorations, we reflect on the radical concept of love that Jesus helped us to embrace. God's love knows no boundaries and isn't limited. This makes it radical because his love drives him to go beyond what we would expect, what our cultural 'norms' would be. As we approach Lent, we're reminded of Jesus' walk to Calvary. Imagine if we were all able to love in that way. *"9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Romans 12:9-10.* If we were able to get past surface level love, not just for those in our families, not just for our friends, but for others, for our neighbours, for our church families, people in our local community, and even the strangers we meet on the street.

If we could love them as God loved us, we would see a radical difference in the world around us. In her plea for mercy to newly elected President Donald Trump, The Bishop of Washington, the Rt Revd Mariann Budde embodied that radical concept of love, when she preached *"Our God teaches us that we are to be merciful to the stranger, for we were all once strangers in this land"*

As always if you'd like to chat further about this, please get in touch. A gentle reminder that Ash Wednesday falls on the 5<sup>th</sup> March which marks the beginning of Lent.

Yours in faith,                      Vicar Becky

## Winter Weather Plan (February)

### Sunday

**Morning services**— continue to meet in the Church, unless temperature goes below 0. Then we will meet for worship in the Church Hall.

### There will be no evening services in February.

*Help will be appreciated on Sunday mornings to move furniture/books/equipment over to the Hall and back.*

## Anna

(Luke 2:36-38)



All those years in the temple,  
In waiting widowhood.

All those years  
Worshipping, wondering,  
What had it all been about?  
Seven years of marriage  
Then this lifetime alone,

And yet  
There was this sense of purpose,  
Of Spirit-significance  
Impending,  
Then there He was,  
The child.  
And Simeon sang  
Of salvation and sorrow,  
Of rising and falling,  
Of light and loss,  
Of revelation and piercing.

I gazed at the child,  
Glimpsed the glory of God  
And gave thanks  
For the years.

*Daphne Kitching*

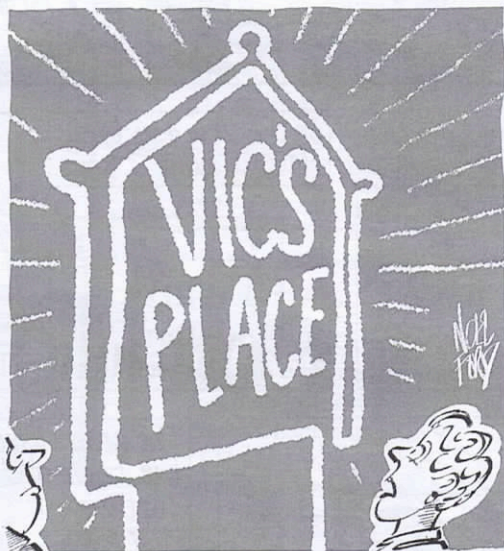
## Tuesday Group

This will take place in the Church Hall at 1.30pm on Tuesday 11th February.

If it's at all possible, please make an effort to attend as there will be important discussions on the very future of the Group. Please let me know in advance if you know you're unable to attend.

Please use the following mobile number if you need to contact me. 07473 287 730. This is because I am now so deaf that I am unable to hear on my landline.

Diana



"It may well attract more young folk to join the congregation but I still prefer the old church notice board"



# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

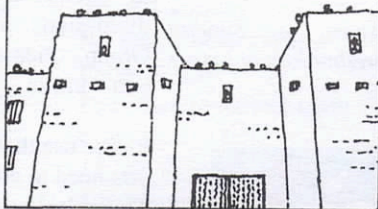
It can be read in the Bible in  
Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

Joshua led the Israelites across the river Jordan. They camped near the town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

The people in Jericho locked the town gates.



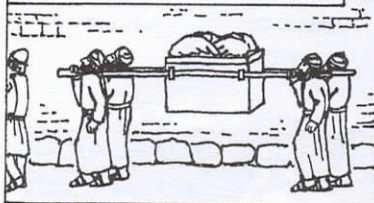
They thought they were safe.



God told Joshua what to do.



On the first day, the priests carried the sacred chest,



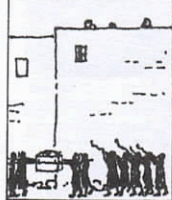
they blew trumpets, and walked round Jericho once.



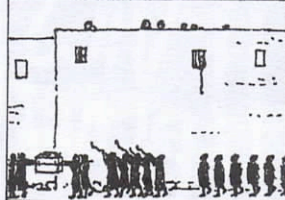
The army followed not saying a word.



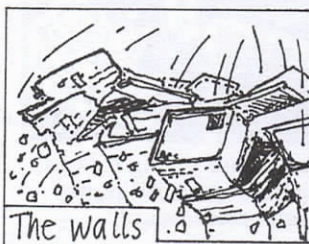
They did this for 6 days.



On the 7th day they walked round 7 times.



The army gave a victory shout!



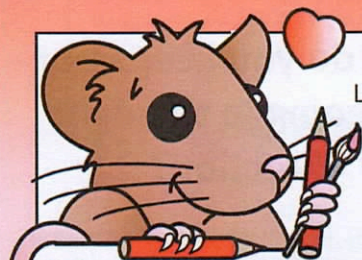
The walls of Jericho collapsed.

The army rushed into the town and captured it.



Jericho was destroyed.





## Mouse Makes

"Love is

love is \_\_\_\_\_  
It does not, \_\_\_\_\_  
it does not \_\_\_\_\_  
it is not \_\_\_\_\_  
it does not \_\_\_\_\_

others, it is not self - \_\_\_\_\_  
it is not easily \_\_\_\_\_  
it keeps no record of \_\_\_\_\_

Love delights in \_\_\_\_\_  
it always \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never \_\_\_\_\_;

His \_\_\_\_\_  
never come to an end;  
they are new every \_\_\_\_\_

Lamentations 3:20-23

I pray... you will understand...  
the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how \_\_\_\_\_  
and how \_\_\_\_\_  
and how \_\_\_\_\_  
that **love** is.  
Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.  
whoever \_\_\_\_\_  
in **love** \_\_\_\_\_  
in God, and God \_\_\_\_\_  
in them.

1 John 4:16

Give \_\_\_\_\_  
to the Lord, for He is \_\_\_\_\_  
his steadfast **love**  
endures \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 136:1

HOW DOES  
GOD **LOVE** ME?

**God sent me a saviour:**

He sent His one and only  
Son into the world so  
that we might have  
eternal life through Him.

1 John 4:9

**God gave me His spirit:**

He has given you the  
Holy Spirit to fill our hearts  
with His **love**.

Romans 5:5

**God called me His child:**

See what great **love** the  
Father has for us that He  
would call us His children.

1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:

**LOVE** the Lord your God with  
all your **heart**, all your **soul**  
and with all your **mind**.

Matthew 22:37

**LOVE** your neighbour the  
same as you **love** yourself.

Matthew 22:39

GOD • **LOVE**

PATIENT • KIND

GRACIOUS • PEACE

JUST • TRUTHFUL

TRUSTING • LOYAL

HOPEFUL

PERSEVERES

ENDURES

HUMBLE

SELFLESS

PROTECTS • DEFENDS

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



## In praise of the humble egg

We love eggs. On average, we eat at least two of them each week, which makes eggs one of Britain's most popular foods.

Eggs are exceptionally good for you – high in protein, containing all the essential amino acids, rich in the B vitamins, vitamin D and A, and choline, and a source of healthy fats.

Eggs are also filling, and with 7.5g of protein in less than 80 calories per egg, there are few other foods that can match them for so much protein per gram. They are also inexpensive and easy to cook.

Experts recommend eating one or two eggs a day, and choosing a low-fat way of cooking them, by boiling or poaching. Cooking them in butter is a bit lower in fat than frying them in olive oil. Free-range eggs generally contain more vitamin D.

## How do you keep your life going in the right direction?

*'Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be ...successful.'*  
Joshua 1.8

Any flying instructor will tell you that periodically all aeroplanes need to be 'trimmed' or 'balanced in flight'. After flying through storms and hitting air pockets, the plane's instruments need to be readjusted. That's true of our attitudes too. The air currents of life can 'knock you out of line' and keep you from reaching your destiny. 'Unexpected weather' like sickness, unemployment, divorce, death and disappointment can drive you off course.

In other words, your attitude needs to be constantly checked and adjusted. Have you checked yours lately? What are you encountering that calls for an attitude change? How are you handling it? Are you adjusting or resisting? So long as you live, you'll always need to be 'trimmed and balanced'.

The most important thing that affects your attitude in life is your faith, and that grows only as you live in God's Word. That's why God told Joshua to read the Word, speak the Word and obey the Word if he wanted to succeed.

Try the 3 x 5 Technique! Each week, write out one faith building scripture on a 3 x 5 card. Carry it with you wherever you go and memorise it. In one year, you'll know 52 new scriptures, and more importantly, your attitudes will be in line with God's Word, your faith will be strengthened, and your life will keep moving in the right direction.

*From UCB The Word for Today*



## Could YOU be our new volunteer Churches Together in Sale representative?

*Nigel Beeton writes: "2<sup>nd</sup> February is Candlemas - when we commemorate the presentation of Christ in the Temple. Zechariah was the priest there, he had been told by God that he would meet the Messiah before his death, and his beautiful prayer in Luke 2:29-32 became known as 'Nunc Dimittis.' It is very familiar to those of us who use the Compline service".*

### Nunc dimittis

A child within my arms now lays  
Asleep, He's in my care  
The Son of God, the Spirit says  
And now I speak this prayer:

*O Lord, now let me go in peace  
According to Your Word  
My earthly life may gladly cease,  
For I have seen You, Lord*

Salvation You have now prepared  
Before the face of men  
Salvation with the world is shared  
So all may live again

*O Lord, now let me go in peace  
According to Your Word  
My earthly life may gladly cease,  
For I have seen You, Lord*

A light upon the Gentiles, He  
And Israel's glory, too  
Now all Your saving love may see  
And all may come to You.

*O Lord, now let me go in peace  
According to Your Word  
My earthly life may gladly cease,  
For I have seen You, Lord.*

Meetings take place once a quarter and are held midweek in the evenings. This volunteer role would suit someone with good IT and communication skills, who enjoys working with others and has a desire to get involved with where God is at work in the local area alongside those worshipping in local churches.

You will need to prepare a short report for the Parochial Church Council so you can feedback from Churches Together meeting any actions that need taking.  
Contact Vicar Becky

Could you help with serving St Paul's through any of the following roles:

Church Cleaning  
Reading/Intercessions  
Looking after the external noticeboards

Hall Bookings Officer  
Deanery Synod Rep

Please have a chat with Becky or  
Church Warden Yvonne S.



*It can be hard to pray sometimes, and most of us need all the help we can get! By the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle, formerly principal of the Nazarene Theological College, Manchester*

## **Prayers of the Bible:**

### **Praying in your Discouragements**

*'Moses said to the Lord, "...I am not able to carry all this people alone, the burden is too heavy for me..."' Numbers 11:10-15.*

Moses prayed this prayer in a day of dark depression and discouragement. The opening verses of the chapter relate how divine punishment fell on the people of Israel because they complained about almost everything. Moses prayed and the punishment stopped but not the people's complaints. They wanted meat to eat.

For years they had been sustained by manna from heaven, but now they longed for the fish, cucumbers and melons they had eaten in Egypt (vv.5,6). They forget how the Lord had delivered them from Pharaoh's bondage. Now they preferred Egyptian food, and the slavery that went with it, to the goodness of the Lord and His provision for them.

Moses was beside himself with despair. Would these ungrateful people never stop complaining? Then the Lord's anger threatened the people again (v.10). Moses was caught in the middle. On one side of him the people complained, and on the other side God's wrath was about to fall. Moses couldn't go on.

His frustration broke out in petulant questions to the Lord. 'Why are you dealing so severely with me?' 'Why do you lay this burden on me?' 'Did I conceive these people?' 'Why am I a nursing mother to them?' 'Am I responsible for getting them to Egypt?' 'How can I provide meat for so many?'

'Lord, this burden is too great for me.' 'I'd rather die now than go on like this' (see vv.11-15).

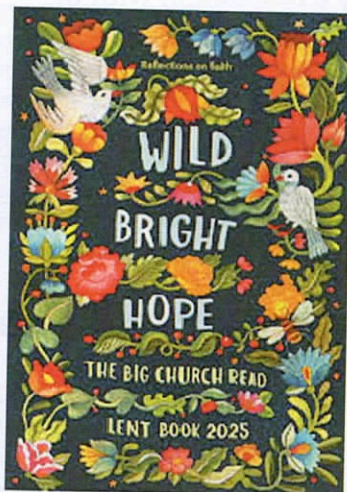
Moses was depressed, irritable and resentful. He poured it all out before the Lord. It was a prayer born of frustration and anger. He was angry with his ungrateful congregation, and he was angry with God. Why did the Lord leave it all to him? After all, it was God's plan to bring the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan. Moses had only gone along with it because God commanded him. But now it was all too much. Worn out with listening to the people's whining and not sure of what God would do next, Moses had had enough. He blamed the Lord for giving him a burden he couldn't carry, and he wanted to die.

But God answered Moses graciously! He understood the frustration, the petulance, the lack of faith and the rebellious spirit that blamed God for it all. He provided Moses with seventy elders who eased the burden of leadership (vv.16, 17). He sent an east wind that brought quails into the camp and provided meat for them (vv.31, 32). In grace and mercy God 'overlooked' the faults of Moses and sent him help and refreshment.

In our deepest disappointments, God understands. In our frustrations, God is merciful. When we lash out at circumstances and even at God Himself, He does not answer in kind. In our deepest discouragement, His love and grace and understanding are with us still.



## Recommendations For Lent Books 2025



This book on hope gathers together a fantastic range of lively, up-and-coming writers who are willing to dig deep. Here they write passionately about what gives them hope, in reflections including Seeds of unity, A beautiful and messy awakening, Kingdom diplomacy across faiths, A vision for hope in politics, Wild paths of peace and Hope in suffering.

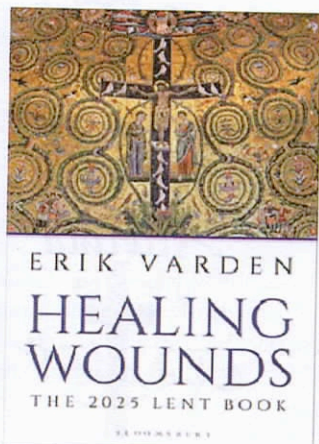
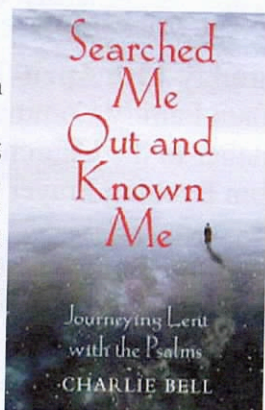
Wild Bright Hope urges us not only to embrace a more hopeful perspective, but also to consider how we ourselves might play a full part in bringing in the kingdom of God.

As part of the Big Church Read, there are additional resources available online with exclusive videos.

[Homepage - The Big Church Read](#)

This is first and foremost a pastoral Lent book, based on an exploration of the Psalms.

Over 15 chapters contain individual Psalms and a corresponding theme are explored for example Psalm 51 (Preparation, Repentance, Reflection, and Sin). Each chapter unpacks the theme, the day's Gospel according to the Church of England's lectionary, and concludes with the daily collect. There are questions too for those wanting to use this in a small group or individually.



Are we healed through our wounds or are our wounds themselves healed from some other source? In this 2025 Lent Book, Erik Varden starts by examining the New Testament where it spells out why Christ's wounds were efficacious for the healing of humankind.

Bob Dylan once said, tongue in cheek, 'Pain sure does bring out the best in people.' The philosopher Donald MacKinnon said, 'Suffering never ennobled anyone.' Suffering by nature poses questions people wrestle with today in many fields of life with counsellors, therapists, philosophers, and spiritual directors. But the conundrum remains and in this book Varden sets out to resolve it.

## **Lent 2025**

**Ash Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March** 10am Said Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes & 7.30pm Sung Holy Communion with Imposition. 12Noon—1pm Ashes2Go in Ashton & Stanley Square

### **Stations of the Cross**

**Thursday evening 7.30-8.30pm in Church**  
**13th March, 27th March & 10th April**

**Don't forget Wednesday morning said communion at 10am**

**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR INFO ON LENT GROUPS**

## **Holy Week And Easter Services 2025**

### **Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday**

10am Family Communion with Procession & Blessing of Palms  
Gather in the Church Hall  
6pm Evening Prayer



### **Maundy Thursday 17th April**

7.30pm Holy Communion—Commemoration of the Last Supper & Foot-washing

### **Good Friday 18th April**

2-3pm The Last Hour

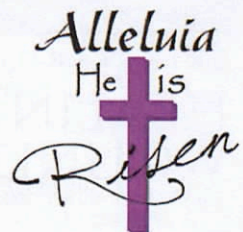


### **Holy Saturday 19th April**

8pm Easter Vigil with renewal of baptism vows

### **Easter Sunday 20th April**

10am Sung Parish Communion  
6pm Evening Prayer





## Reflecting Faith: Church Buildings

We have been thinking about different aspects of church buildings. But what about 'the whole thing'? - the impression you have when you first see a church building?

Most of us have visited many church buildings, either to worship or as a tourist: to enjoy the splendour, the colours, the style and the architecture, with or without necessarily a time of prayer or worship.

There are some amazingly staggering designs around the world – one only has to think of the complex and intricate stone carving of Gaudi's catholic basilica in Barcelona, Spain (due to be completed next year!) and then compare that to the sleekness of the Lutheran (Church of Iceland) parish church in Reykjavík, Iceland.

How about the grandeur of St Peter's in Rome, full of baroque gold and rich colours? Or what about St Basil's Cathedral in Red Square, Moscow – now a museum but topped with amazingly coloured onion domes?



Just looking at the outside of a building tells you a lot about what it is likely to be like inside, the purpose of the building and the style of worship to expect there.

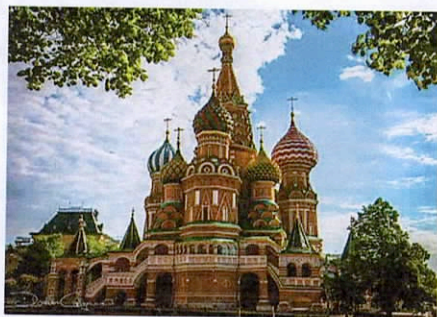
It's not just about the condition of the fabric, or the tidiness of the grounds but rather the architecture itself.

When we see a contemporary modern building, we will expect the worship to match it: whether that is Protestant, Catholic or any other denomination.

### *This month*

If you were designing a brand-new church building today, what would you put into it and therefore what would the exterior look like? What would you want on the outside, to express your faith? Would you include any specific Christian symbols, or be more all-encompassing?

*What a challenge to design a brand new church— is it a challenge you would like to take?*



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DO GIVE ME A CALL NOW OR AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE. I AM HERE TO HELP YOU WITH ANY TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM, HOWEVER BIG OR SMALL.

**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)**

GARRY PROLZE

[garry@prolze.freemove.co.uk](mailto:garry@prolze.freemove.co.uk)

Diana Kelly	973-4578
Paula Hughes	973-5121
Joyce Green	973-0396
Eileen Craven	283-7668
Jean Law	962-6761

0161 976 3176  
07779650931



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### Arthur Gresty Limited Trafford Funeral Homes

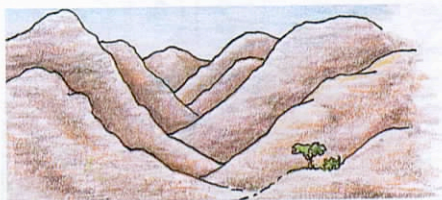
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# February 2025

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	<b>No</b> Taize Evening Prayer
4 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
5 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (CW)
7 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	All Age Worship
		6.00pm	<b>No</b> Communion Service
11 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
12 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (BCP)
14 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	<b>No</b> Evening Prayer (BCP)
<b>Deadline for the March Parish News</b>			
18 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	9.30am	<b>NO</b> Babes & Tots
19 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (BCP)
21 <sup>st</sup>	Friday	1.30pm	<b>NO</b> Community Choir
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	<b>No</b> Evening Prayer (BCP)
25 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
26 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (BCP)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir

**No** morning prayer in Thursdays during February

## Next Month—March 2025

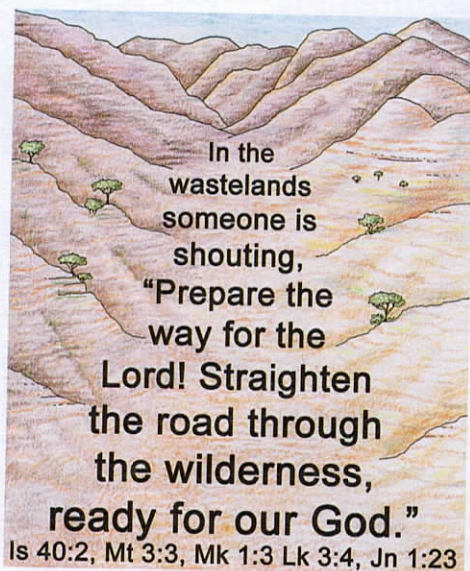
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Taize Evening Prayer
4 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
5 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (CW)
		7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Eucharist
7 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir



*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](mailto:officestpaulsale@gmail.com)**





## Prayer for February 2025

Dear Lord,

February can be a trying month, but there are special associations too and we thank you for the hope they bring.

In February we remember how Jesus was taken, as a baby, to the Temple. Simeon took Him in his arms and by the power of the Holy Spirit, recognised Him as the Saviour you had sent as a light, to bring revelation to the whole world. And how this world needs your light and revelation in this new year, 2025.

Lord - as we notice more light in the lengthening days of this month, as we see the promise of the Spring in the bobbing heads of the beautiful snowdrops – help us most of all to recognise Jesus as our Light and to trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of each new day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## St. Paul's Parish Directory

<b>Vicar:</b>	Revd. Becky Mathew	217-8795 / 07584604627 revbmathewstpaulsale@gmail.com
<b>Associate Ministers:</b>	Revd. Dr Lisa Redfern	
	Revd. Dr Margaret Jones	973-7790
	Revd. Shemil Mathew	217-8795
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Yvonne Stevenson	* 07946 644214
	Vacant	
<b>Pastoral Workers:</b>	Yvonne Kerridge	* 962-4066
	Karen Salisbury	*
<b>Treasurer to the PCC:</b>	Joe Blaney	treasurerstpaulsale@gmail.com
<b>Secretary to the PCC:</b>	Karen Salisbury	*
<b>Director of Music:</b>	Anne Allen	* 01925-763103
<b>Assistant Organists:</b>	Kevin Drury	962-7963
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Fiona Vaughan-Thomas	safeguardingstpaulsale@gmail.com
<b>Parish Giving Officer</b>	Brian Kerridge	* 962-4066
<b>Electoral Roll Officer:</b>	Yvonne Stevenson	* 07946 644214
<b>Parish News Editor:</b>	Karen Salisbury	*
<b>Eco Church Champion</b>	Vicky Moore	vicky.moore@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Bible Reading Fellowship:</b>	Rachel Lee	* 973-1282
<b>Men's Society:</b>	Rodney Hadwen	
<b>Women's Tuesday Group:</b>	Hilary Moore	* 969-1831
<b>St. Paul's Babes &amp; Tots</b>	Rachel Lee	973-1282
<b>Tower Warden:</b>	Ian Moore	0787-670-6834
<b>Christian Aid:</b>	Anita Evans	973-4679
<b>Children's Society Rep:</b>	Sheila Clarke	962-4678
<b>Church Hall Bookings:</b>	Contact via the Parish Office	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sale Central (St. Paul's) Rainbows, Brownies &amp; Guides</b>	Vicky Williams	07986525898

**Parish Office (Unmanned)**

**962-0082**

**Parish Office e-mail**

**[officestpaulsale@gmail.com](mailto:officestpaulsale@gmail.com)**

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

*Please note that **Vicar Becky** is part-time so she might not be able to reply or respond immediately to your calls and emails. Please leave an answerphone message.*

### Parish Organisations affiliated to St Paul's

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

<b>Tuesday</b>	9.30am-11am	St. Paul's Babes & Tots (school term time)
	1.15pm	Women's Tuesday Group (2 <sup>nd</sup> of every month)
	6.15pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Sale Central (St. Paul's) Brownies
	7.30pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Sale Central (St. Paul's) Guides
<b>Thursday</b>		Men's Society
<b>Friday</b>	1.30pm-2.30pm	Community Choir (school term time)
	5.30pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sale Central Rainbows