

April 2025

www.stpaulsale.co.uk

Sale, St. Paul's

'Serving God and the community'

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with
boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim
your risen life and fill us
with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father

Paul Judson

Suggested donation **50p**

From the Vicar...

Dear friends,

It's a later Easter this year, which means the school holidays come before Easter, always a challenge for those with school-age children as clergy and musicians who are contractually obliged to be at Holy Week services. I say this tongue-in-cheek, but even my family forget and ask the children what have you been up to in the Easter holidays and get the one-word reply 'church'. We have been fortunate that over the years we've been in church communities that have celebrated Holy Week in various ways. For example, the rural village church that ran a Palm Sunday messy church, with folks starting in church for the palm procession up the road to the hall for crafts, Godly-play activities and lamb burgers courtesy of the local farmer. There's also been the church on the housing estate that partnered with other churches for Good Friday procession of witness and dramatic re-enactment in the local shopping centre followed by hot-cross buns in the nearby Methodist church. Not forgetting either the lockdown Easter Sunday of 2020 including a pre-recorded online service, the church car-park and pavements were covered in rainbow-coloured writing wishing everyone a Happy Easter, 'Alleluia he has risen' and an Easter Egg hunt set up around the

gardens for any passersby to join in with. Toddlers on their balance bikes followed the newly chalked rainbow paths, weaving in and out of the words 'Love', 'Joy', 'Hope', 'Kindness' and knitted Easter chicks were taken off to new homes. Not quite the Easter Day that we thought we were having. It can be tricky to get that balance right too, children, grand-children that need entertaining, perhaps you've got care-responsibilities for older members of your family or indeed have health issues yourself. It may be that you're away for Holy Week, I know from experience that some churches struggle to put on services as their regular church members are away and other churches that get an unexpected boost to their numbers.

Wherever you are, whatever your circumstances please do take the opportunity to attend a service during Holy Week whether that's here at St Paul's, on-line or on your holidays. The beauty and significance of Holy Week are difficult to put into words, and many who attend church during this time find it to be a powerful opportunity for faith renewal. During our Maundy Thursday service, we will be offering foot-washing. If you've never experienced this before, don't worry—just make sure you're wearing socks. All feet are welcome!

I still remember the first time I was invited to have my feet washed—it truly made me feel the depth of Jesus' love for me. As recipients of the greatest gift of all—God's love—it is our duty to continue the journey toward the Kingdom of God. No matter our circumstances or resources, we are called to respond to God's Love in the same way the first disciples did when they discovered the empty tomb and encountered the resurrected Christ.

May you have a Happy & Holy Easter,
Becky



On 8th May 2025 it will be the 80th anniversary of VE DAY. 80th ANNIVERSARY A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION 8 MAY 2025

On 8th May 2025 it will be the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day), when the nation will unite to remember the end of the Second World War in Europe. Around the country, events will be taking place to pay tribute to those involved in that conflict, as well as reminding us to pray and work for peace in our communities and in the world. Cathedrals and churches across the country will be ringing bells at 6.30pm to mark this special commemoration.

St Paul's will be hosting a special service on Sunday 11th May in partnership with Trafford Council and local Cadets. We reaffirm our commitment to world peace, ensuring future generations understand and cherish its value.

"Together, we honour the past and celebrate a future built on unity, hope, love and peace".



You are invited to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday May 4th at 11.30am in the Church Hall. Nominations for Churchwardens and Election to PCC are now open! Please fill in nomination forms from back of church.

Tuesday Group

First of all a huge thank you to Carole for the very interesting illustrated talk about the young men from Sale who gave their lives in the War.

April's meeting will take place at Paulas as the children's holiday club will be taking place in the Hall. I shall of course arrange lifts for people who don't drive and I look forward to



"I'm really not sure about this trend for clergy dressing down, dear."

Bible Bite

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 22:1-13, Mt 26:14-19, Mk 14:10-16

A short story from the Bible

It was just before Passover, when Jews celebrate God rescuing them from Egypt. Jesus and his disciples were in Jerusalem.

The Chief Priests were plotting



How can we get rid of Jesus?
He always has crowds around him.

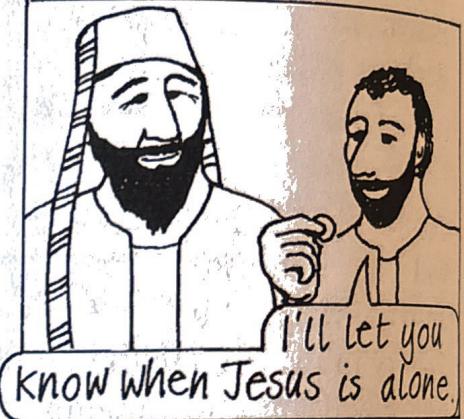
Jesus' disciple Judas came to them...



30 silver coins



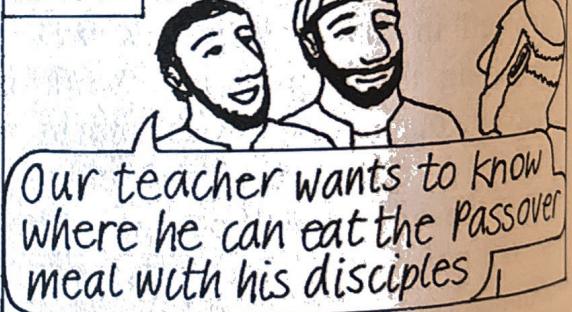
30 silver coins happened to be the same amount that had to be paid as compensation to the owner if a slave was killed
Ex. 31:32



Meanwhile, Peter and John asked Jesus...



They did, and asked the house owner



The room is upstairs on the roof, ready to use

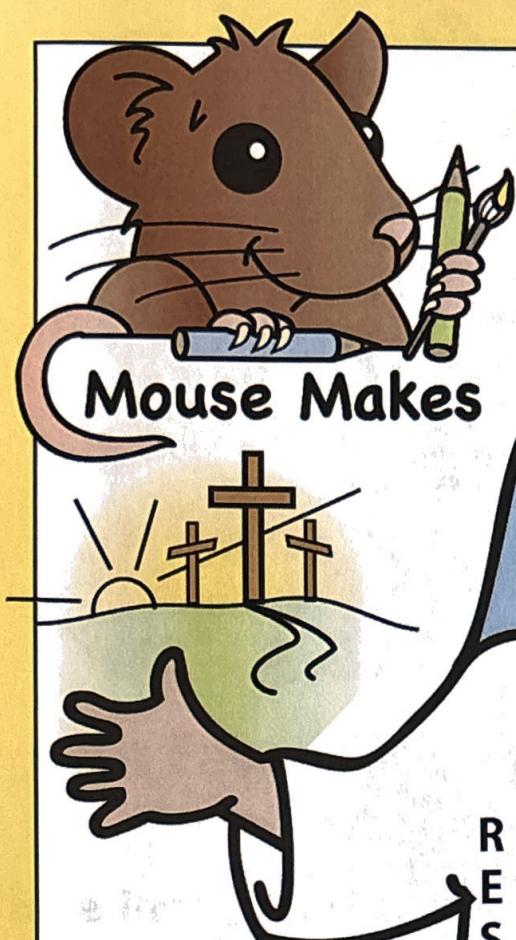


Peter and John got the meal ready



That evening, Jesus and his 12 disciples went to the room to eat the Passover meal.





On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
and showed us the resurrection to
come by His raising to new life!



Mouse Makes



Jesus is risen!

The angel said:
"Jesus ...is not here, for He
has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6

Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here

Jesus said:
"Where two or three
come together
in my name I am
there with them."

Matthew 18:20



READ the story of
the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and 21:1-14



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



Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:
"I will come back
and take you to
myself so that you
will be where I am."

John 14:3



JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
RESURRECTION
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS



MESSIAH • REDEEMER
CHRIST • SON OF GOD
HOSANNA • PRAISE



wiggle worship

at St. Paul's Sale

What?

Sunday School for 0-7 year-olds and monthly All-Age Worship.

When?

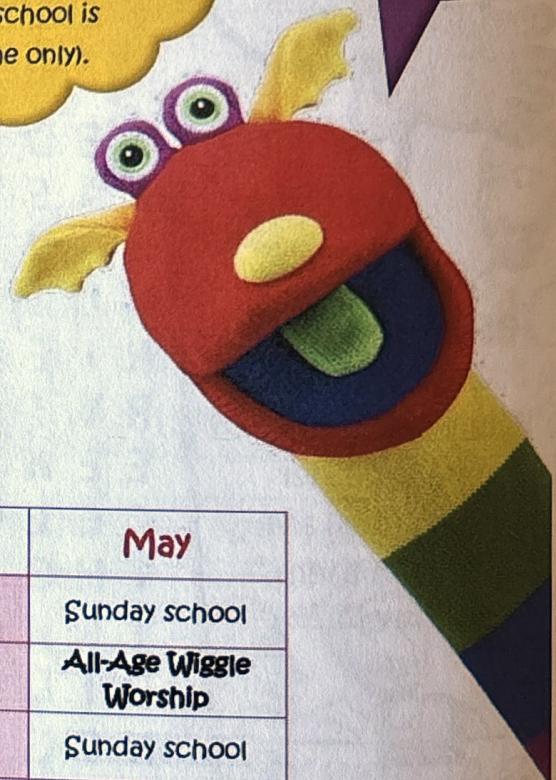
Sundays at 10am (Sunday school is term-time only).

I Can't wait to see you!

Where?

Sunday school: St. Paul's church hall (meet in church in the children's area).

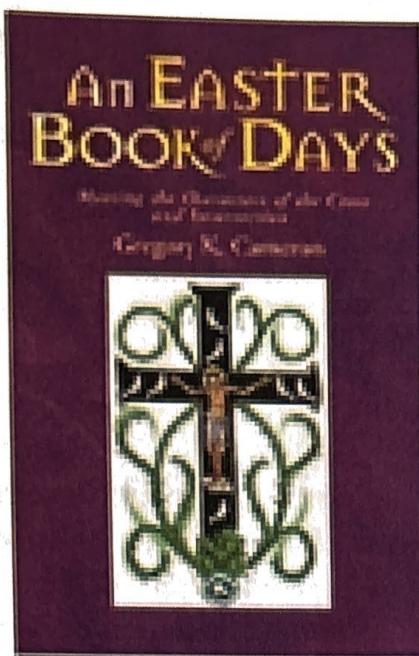
All-age worship: in church.



No Wiggle Worship	March	April	May
1st Sunday	Sunday school	School holidays	Sunday school
2nd Sunday	All-Age Wiggle Worship	Palm Sunday	All-Age Wiggle Worship
3rd Sunday	Sunday school	Easter Sunday	Sunday school
4th Sunday	Sunday school	Manchester Marathon	School holidays
5th Sunday	Mothering Sunday		

For more information, ask for **Laura** or speak to a member of the clergy.





An Easter Book of Days – meeting the characters of the Cross and Resurrection
By Gregory Cameron,
Canterbury Press, £10.99

Here are 25 characters from the stories of Lent, Holy Week and Easter - from the perspectives of scripture, history and legend. How can they enrich our practice of faith today?

As well as the familiar figures - Christ Himself, Mary His mother, Mary Magdalene, the disciples, Pilate, the soldiers, and the thieves crucified with Jesus, there is Veronica, wiping the face of Jesus as He carried his cross.

The author also explores the rich traditions that have built up around the cross and the crown of thorns, as well as tales of how the robin got its red breast, or what happened to the disciples after the Ascension. All in all, the book offers a richly textured guide to the Easter season.

17th April – What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is the 5th day of Holy Week. 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word for command, 'mandare'. On this day the Church looks back to Jesus' command to His disciples that they should: "Love one another as I have loved you."

On the evening of Maundy Thursday Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, before going on to the Garden of Gethsemane and being arrested. It was the last evening He had with them before His crucifixion.

Why do Christians wash feet on Maundy Thursday?

At the Last Supper Jesus shocked His disciples by washing their feet. He did this as an example, to demonstrate to them that they should serve others with humility. Over the centuries, some churches have recreated this act of

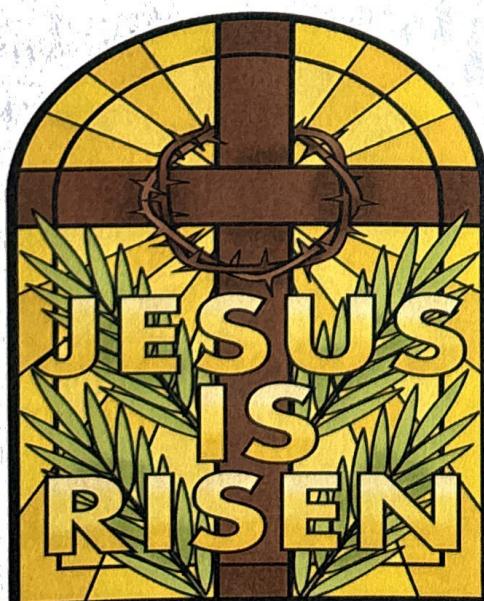


20th April - Easter morning, the 'Other' Mary

As the traditional Easter story is rehearsed again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary – not the mother of Jesus, but Mary Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first person to actually meet the risen Christ.

That's quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from 'seven devils' – New Testament language for some dark and horrible affliction of body, mind or spirit. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the 'fallen woman' a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus but there is no evidence to prove she was a 'fallen woman' but the contrast is sublime, Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity. Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes.



The dark cloud from which she was delivered may have been sexual, we are not told. What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen – and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to him that the body of 'her Lord' had been taken away and she didn't know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name 'Mary' and she instantly realised it *was* Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because His resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – but they wouldn't believe her.

Her words – 'I have seen the Lord' – echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.

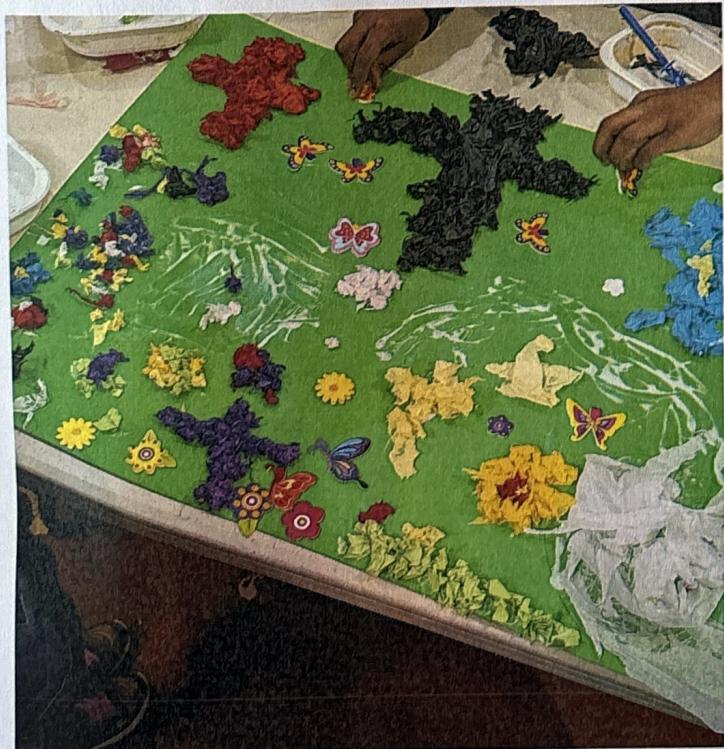
Experience Easter with Springfield School

It was wonderful to welcome all 90 pupils from Year 2 to St Paul's to take part in Experience Easter.

Children moved around 6 reflective workshop areas where they listened to the story of Holy Week and then were invited to join in with an activity ranging from writing their hopes and dreams on a palm cross, to washing each other's hands, to holding a red ribbon hanging from the cross to remember those struggling in difficult situations.

The children were given colouring-in books containing the story of Holy Week. Many of the children also helped to make a collage for their classroom of the Easter garden and crosses.

We had great feedback including a child telling 'Brown Owl' that Jesus made her smile.



Parish Prayer Walk

After morning service we were led on an hour long, gentle walk around Sale to pray for our town and various areas on the theme of 'joy' led by Revd Lisa



World Day of Prayer 2025

Was hosted this year by St Paul's and led by members of the World Day of Prayer committee. The service was put together by women in the Cook Islands based on Psalm 139:14: 'I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made'.

At the closing of a gathering, ongareva elders always say these powerful words of encouragement: 'Kia mau te

serenga! Kia mau te napena! Kia mau!', This means 'hold on tight to who you are, in all aspects of your existence!' We are wonderfully made by God, and we should cherish all the aspects of who we are!"

The WDP service for 2026 is being planned and put together by Christians in Nigeria.



Just in case you missed them, Revd's Becky & Catherine were out on the streets on Ashton and Sale offering Ashes2Go to passersby on Ash Wednesday. It was a lovely bright sunny day and with plenty of footfall we were greatly

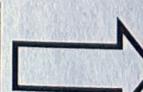
encouraged by numbers requesting prayers as well as the imposition of ashes.



Mothering Sunday

Alongside the traditional posies of daffodils this years we were able to gift each person a candle tea-cup, made out of recycled church Advent & Easter candles.

Renew, reuse, recycle!



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Stray and feral
Rescue

Animals In Need **EASTER FAIR**

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Saturday 5 April, 1pm - 4pm

**EASTER GIFTS BOTTLE TOMBOLA CAKES RAFFLE
REFRESHMENTS TOYS BRIC-A-BRAC AND LOTS MORE**



Sharing the Easter story – with the help of an egg

There are 80 million Easter eggs being sold in the UK this year, but The Real Easter Egg is unique.

It is the *only one* which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

There are six types of eggs to choose from. Each Real Easter Egg comes with an Easter story in the box, the stories range from simple guides to 24 page activity book versions. So, buy a 2025 edition Real Easter Egg this Spring, and encourage others to give one to their loved ones, a school or sponsor a food bank donation.

The 2025 Real Easter Egg is not available in any supermarket, but the full range can be ordered at www.realeasteregg.co.uk, or by calling 01925 877004.

The Real Easter Egg is made by The Meaningful Chocolate Company which was 'crowd founded' in 2010 by thousands of churches and church schools which pre-paid for the manufacture of The Real Easter Egg. Since then more than two million eggs have been sold, and £420,000 raised for charitable causes.



Something to reflect on this Holy Saturday as we await the Resurrection of Our Lord - this is a powerful yet moving poem by Ruth Etchells

Thanks to Andrew Robinson for sharing this

**In Hell there grew a Judas Tree
Where Judas hanged and died
Because he could not bear to see
His master crucified
Our Lord descended into Hell
And found his Judas there
For ever hanging on the tree
Grown from his own despair
So Jesus cut his Judas down
And took him in his arms
"It was for this I came" he said
"And not to do you harm
My Father gave me twelve good men
And all of them I kept
Though one betrayed and one denied
Some fled and others slept
In three days' time I must return
To make the others glad
But first I had to come to Hell
And share the death you had
My tree will grow in place of yours
Its roots lie here as well
There is no final victory
Without this soul from Hell"
So when we all condemned him
As of every traitor worst
Remember that of all his men
Our Lord forgave him first.**

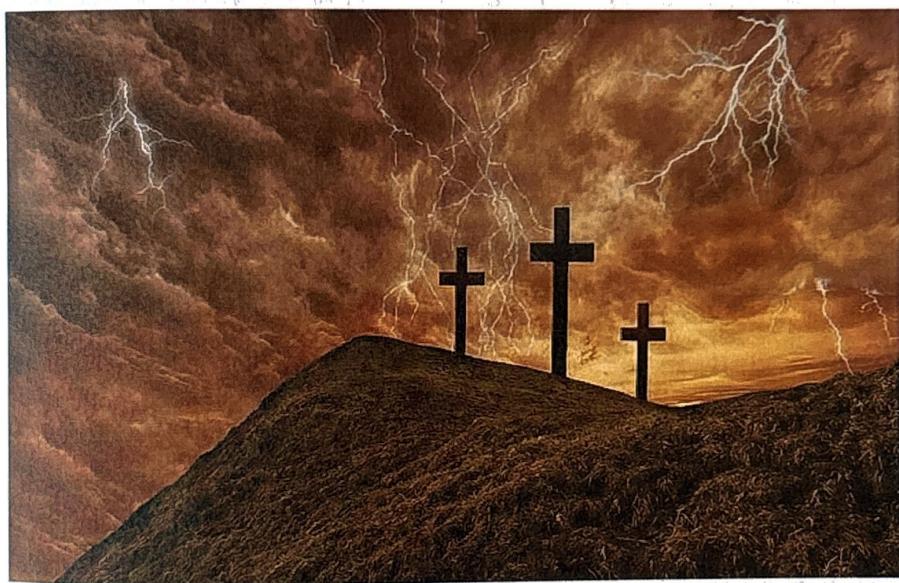
© D. Ruth Etchells

18th April -

Good Friday, Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, *'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself'* (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: *'this man has done nothing wrong.'* He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, *'remember me when You come into Your kingdom'*, the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.



The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: *'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.'* He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

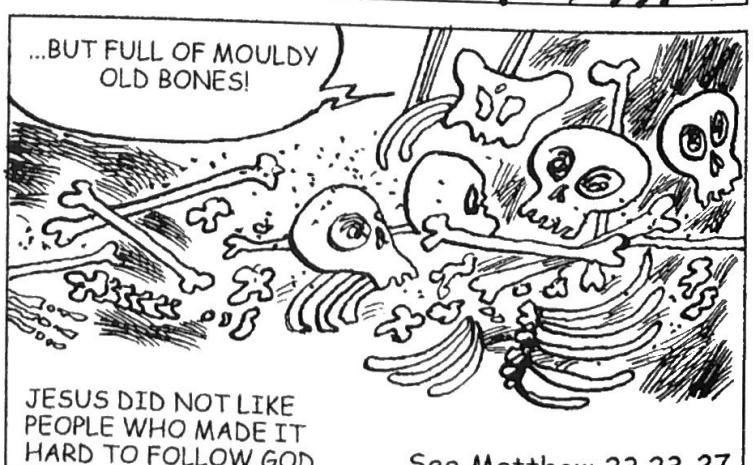
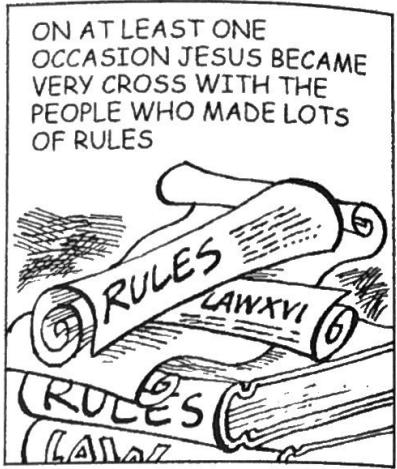
So - what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; *'Today you will be with Me in paradise.'* Jesus used the picture of a *walled garden* to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into His kingdom, or not?

If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? *'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God'* (1 Peter 3:18).

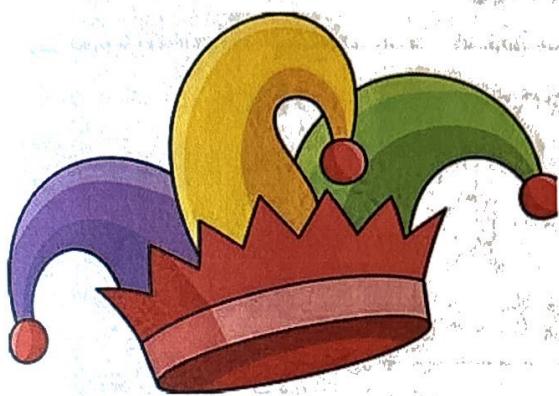
"Some tough talking"



See Matthew 23,23-27

1st April - All Fools' Day

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1st April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.



And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for *The Life of Eve's Mother*. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula: 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'

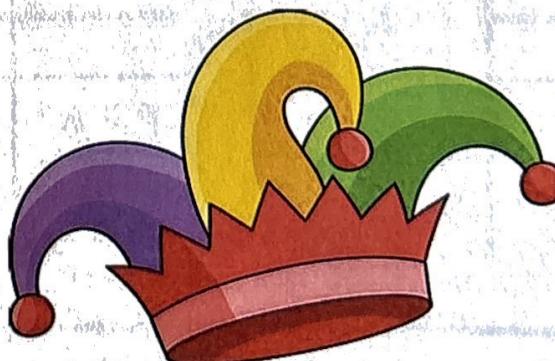
Probably the most famous April Fool's joke of all time was the 1960's BBC TV broadcast feature on the spaghetti farms of Italy. A BBC reporter interviewed Italian farmers about their work and the progress of the spaghetti plants in great detail. Spaghetti plants were filmed being carefully planted, and then being harvested. And all in the BBC's most serious documentary manner. It took a while to appreciate that this was Aunty playing games. Whatever next!

The odd thing is that no one is quite sure of the origin of this very British tradition. Most attribute it to changes in Britain's calendar in the 1700s, when New Year's Day moved from 25th March to 1st January. Not surprisingly, the change caused a lot of confusion and mistakes around the start of April. Others look even further back, to the ancient Roman feast of Hilaria, when the goddess Cybele was celebrated with pranks and jokes around the Spring Equinox, 25th March.

Have you been 'fooled'? or have you 'fooled' someone else?

Do you remember any funny ones that you have been involved with or heard about over the years, perhaps ones that you wished you have thought of?

I know I have.



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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."

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Who's Who?
**Members of the Parochial Church
 Council (not mentioned on the
 back page)**

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



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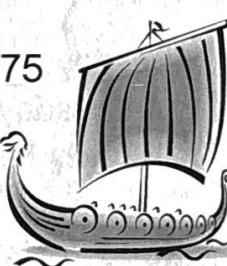
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April 2025



1 st	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots Easter Celebration
2 nd	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (CW)
		11.00am	Lent Group
4 th	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
6 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
Lent 4 Passion Sunday		6.00pm	Taize Evening Prayer

8 th	Tuesday	9.30am	NO Babes & Tots (School Holidays)
9 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (BCP)
11 th	Friday	1.30pm	NO Community Choir
13 th	Palm Sunday	10.00am	Family Communion
Start of Holy Week		6.00pm	with the Blessing of Palm Crosses

NO Babes & Tots (School Holidays)
 Communion Service (BCP)
 NO Community Choir
 Family Communion
 with the Blessing of Palm Crosses
 Evening Prayer (BCP)



Deadline for the May Parish News

15 th	Tuesday	9.30am	NO Babes & Tots
16 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (BCP)
17 th	Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper with Foot Washing and Vigil
18 th	Good Friday	2.00pm	The Last Hour—a service of readings, music & reflection

19 th	Holy Saturday	8.00pm	Easter Vigil with lighting the new Paschal Candle and renewal of Baptism Vows
20 th	Easter Sunday	10.00am	Easter Sung Communion

6.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

22 nd	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
23 rd	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (BCP)
25 th	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
27 th	Sunday	MANCHESTER MARATHON— NO MORNING SERVICE	
		6.00pm	Holy Communion
29 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
30 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (BCP)

Holy Communion
 Babes & Tots
 Communion Service (BCP)



Next Month—May 2025

2 nd	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
4 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		11.30am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
		6.00pm	Taize Evening Prayer
11 th	May Sunday	10.00am	VE Day Commemoration Service
		6.00pm	Holy Communion
16 th	June Monday	7.30pm	Archdeacon's Visitation St Mary Magdalene, Ashton Upon Mersey

*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

Nigel Beeton writes:

Hidden within the Passion story is a glorious illustration of Justification by Faith. The 'Penitent Thief' may or may not have been a thief, but up until his crucifixion he doesn't seem to have been a good guy, he is quoted as saying that he felt that his crucifixion was a 'just punishment' for his deeds. He must have done something pretty bad to have felt that way about one of the cruellest forms of execution ever devised by man's sick mind. But he recognised Jesus as his Lord and put his faith in Him, and Jesus responded by promising him paradise, despite the fact that this thief could do nothing in the way of good works in return!

A Common Thief

I've lived a life of emptiness
A common thief am I;
Of no great use to man or beast
And now I have to die.

They've nailed me to a wooden cross
They took my clothes as well;
The pain and shame is all I have
And soon I'll be in Hell.

But this man nailed next to me
He's done no evil thing!
His innocence is clear to see -
They say He is a King.

There hangs, beyond, another thief
Just hear him swear and curse!
Demanding that He saves us all
He's making all this worse!

"We knew that this would be our fate!
"We've known it all along!
"But have respect for this poor man
"For He's done nothing wrong!"

"O Jesus, when Your Kingdom comes,
"My Lord, remember me!"
He looked at me with tender love,
Responding to my plea:

"The truth of what I say to you
"You'll shortly come to see
"For you will come, this very day
"To Paradise with Me."

I wept upon my painful cross
No thing I had to bring;
But yet He looked upon this wretch
And gave me everything!

St. Paul's Parish Directory

Vicar:	Revd. Becky Mathew	217-8795 / 07584604627
		revbmathewstpaulsale@gmail.com
Associate Ministers:	Revd. Dr Lisa Redfern	
	Revd. Dr Margaret Jones	973-7790
	Revd. Shemil Mathew	217-8795
Churchwardens:	Yvonne Stevenson	*
	Vacant	07946 644214
Pastoral Workers:	Yvonne Kerridge	*
	Karen Salisbury	*
	Joe Blaney	treasurerstpaulsale@gmail.com
	Karen Salisbury	*
	Anne Allen	*
	Kevin Drury	01925-763103
	Fiona Vaughan-Thomas	safeguardingstpaulsale@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer	Brian Kerridge	962-4066
Parish Giving Officer		
Electoral Roll Officer:	Yvonne Stevenson	*
Parish News Editor:	Karen Salisbury	07946 644214
Eco Church Champion	Vicky Moore	vicky.moore@hotmail.co.uk
Bible Reading Fellowship:	Rachel Lee	*
Women's Tuesday Group:	Hilary Moore	*
St. Paul's Babes & Tots	Rachel Lee	969-1831
Tower Warden:	Ian Moore	973-1282
Christian Aid:	Anita Evans	973-4679
Children's Society Rep:	Sheila Clarke	962-4678
Wiggle Worship	Laura Jackson	TBC
Church Hall Bookings:	Contact via the Parish Office	
4th Sale Central (St. Paul's) Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	Vicky Williams	0798-652-5898

Parish Office (Unmanned)

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 so might not reply or respond immediately to your calls and emails. Please leave an answerphone message.*

Notices for the weekly pew-sheet please contact Revd Becky

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	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
Friday	1.30pm-2.30pm	Community Choir (school term time)
	5.30pm	2 nd Sale Central Rainbows