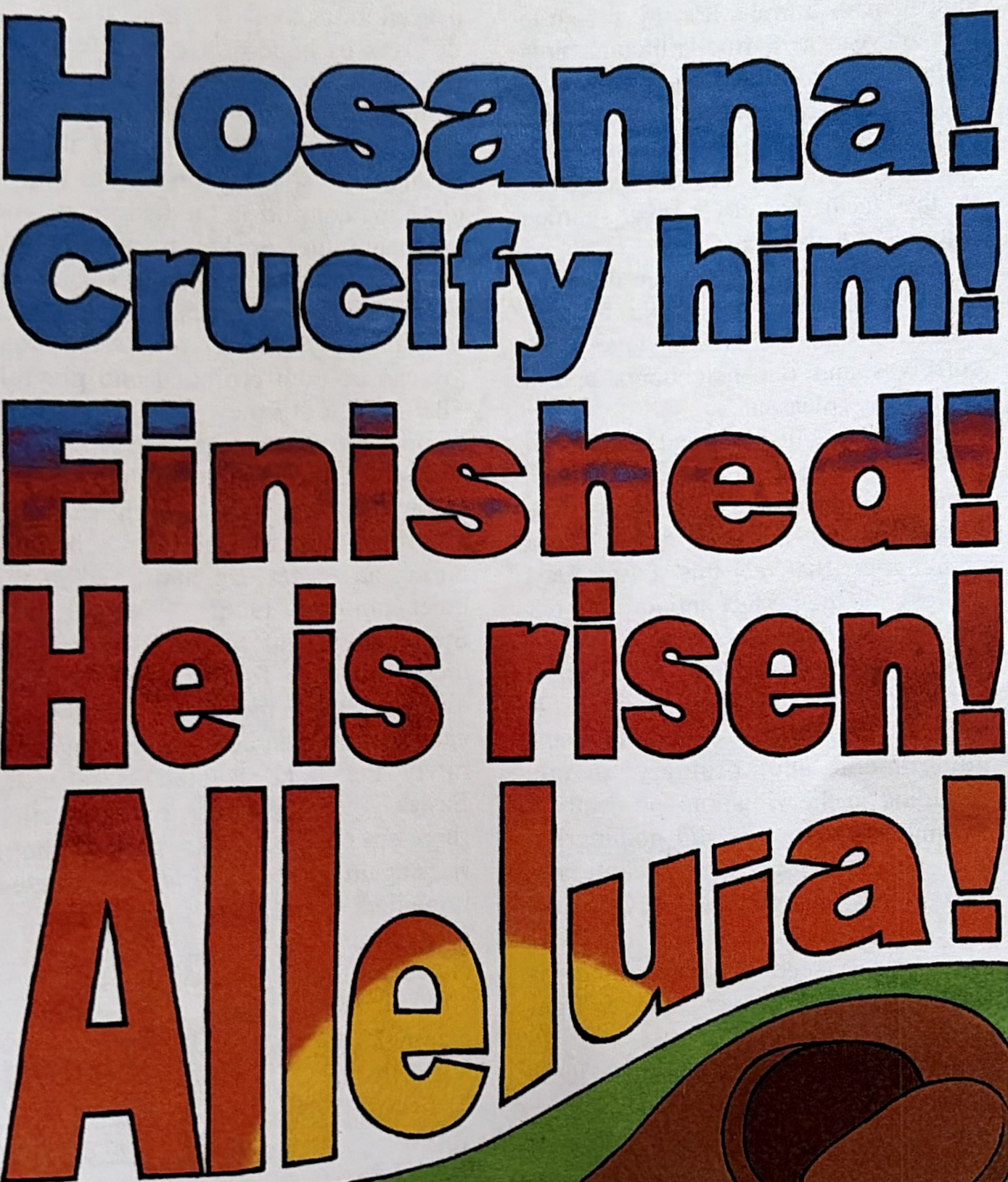


April
2026



Hosanna!
Crucify him!
Finished!
He is risen!
Alleluia!

From the Vicar.....

Dear Friends,

Chicks, bunnies and Easter eggs galore- by the time you read this, Easter will be almost here- hurrah! It's my favourite time of year, as daffodils bloom, birds twitter, signs of new life are all around and we move from winter darkness into light nights where we can sit out - whether for you that's in your garden or at the local hostelry's beer garden enjoying the evening.

In church too, we move from darkness to light. In Lent, we make time to reflect on our failure to love God, ourselves and our neighbours and it isn't always pleasant.

Reflecting on ourselves and the state of the world, especially in these troubled times, can make us a bit gloomy to be honest- and I am sure it isn't just churchgoers that feel this. Easter Day, however, is the perfect antidote and our services will be full of unbridled joy!

Whilst Good Friday may encapsulate how awful humanity can be, with the religious authorities of that time, the government and ordinary people colluding in the violation and death of an innocent man who did nothing but love people, Easter Day encapsulates the goodness and greatness of God- and it is truly amazing.

Christ's resurrection shows there is NOTHING that can ever stop God from loving us.

Even when we tried to eradicate Jesus from the planet, he came back for us, just as he promised he would. And if

Jesus' promise that he would suffer death but rise again (unbelievable as that sounds) came true, we can trust his promise to prepare a dwelling place in heaven for us too.

It gives us hope of eternal life in the love of God- no wonder we celebrate! I find it an amazing thing to have faith in a God that will be with you always, no matter how many times you fail. It gives me comfort in the bad times, and my thankfulness makes me want to be a kinder, more understanding and loving person in the good times.

In many ways, Easter reminds us that joy can be both profound and playful. The miracle of new life appears in grand spiritual truths and in small everyday delights. It is present in blooming flowers, in warm sunshine after cold days, in a child's excitement during an Easter egg hunt, and in the quiet comfort of faith.

Spring invites us to pause and notice these moments. To breathe in the fresh air. To watch the world turn green again. To remember that endings are rarely the final chapter. Because at Easter, the message of resurrection rings out clearly: life is renewed, hope rises again, and sometimes the sweetest reminders come wrapped in chocolate foil.

Happy Easter,
Vicar Becky



Tuesday Group

What fun we had at our March meeting, when Carole talked about her early years of teaching under the title of “flood, fire and plague”! She really did have to cope with all three over time sometimes looking after over 140 infants with little or no help. She also told us stories of things children wrote or announced to the class which cannot be repeated here, but had us in stitches!

There will be no meeting in April due to the Easter holidays.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter.

Diana

STOP PRESS – SAVE THE DATE

Saturday June 20th – Foundation Day in conjunction with Sale Festival

A group of students from Manchester University will be joining us too and providing a history trail and exhibits.

St Paul's volunteers will be providing a tea-room, plus we will be having live-music, tower-tours, garden games and a Lego 'make and take' workshop.

Sale Festival are kicking off the festival season however with a performance of the opera 'Tosca' here at St Paul's.

Tickets available via the Sale Festival Webpage.

Resurrection

(John 20:1-18)

Even in the darkness
Still she went,
Stumbling, longing for light,
Finding a stone-moved emptiness.

Then her running
And the running and out-running of the men,
The believing whilst not understanding,
The tears and the angels with questions and messages.

Death transformed to Life
In the turning,
And revelation in a name,
Mary!

Lord, sometimes I don't understand
And the world seems dark,
But I choose to turn from darkness to You.

Speak *my* name Lord,
Hold me safe
In Your resurrection power and light.

By Daphne Kitching

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7pm
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Sale Festival

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English Translation by Christopher Cowell

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.

I'm most important because I've known him the longest

But I've given up the most to follow him!
I'm the oldest!



There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.

It was the job of the least important servant to wash everyone's feet...



The disciples didn't have a servant, and none of them wanted to do the foot washing...



Jesus took off his outer robe and tied a towel around his waist.



He filled a large bowl with water and started washing the disciples' feet.

Peter couldn't believe what he was seeing!



Are you really going to wash my feet?

You will understand later why I am doing this.



I can't ever let you serve me like this!

If you don't let me, you will no longer be my disciple



Then wash all of me!

If you've had a bath, then you only need your feet washing!

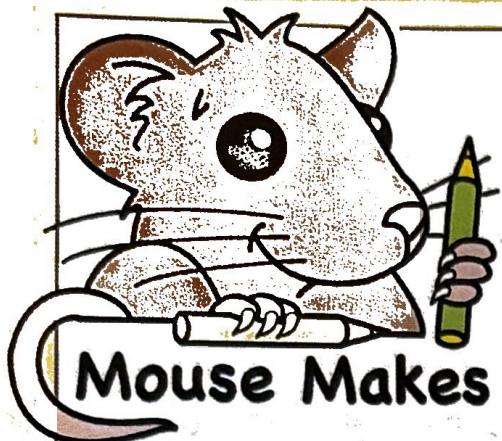


Once Jesus had washed all their feet, he put his robe back on and sat down.



Do you understand why I, your teacher, did this? I am setting

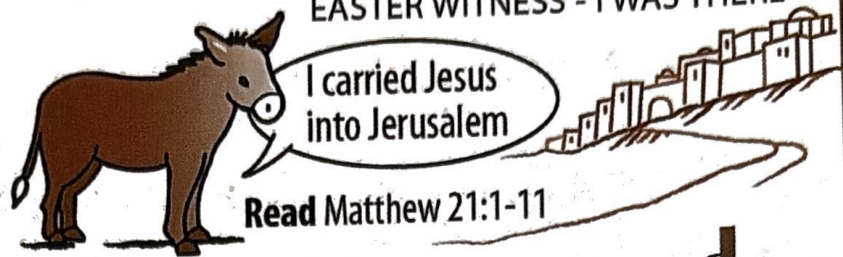
you the example of how you are to serve each other. Do it, and God will bless you.



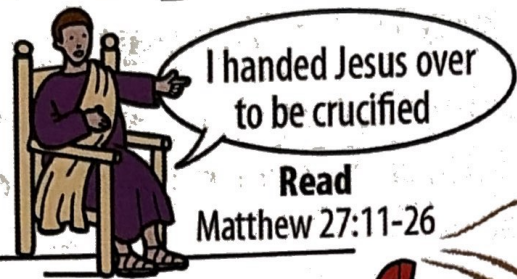
GOODNEWS
 OHOSANNA
 DEATHQBV
 VNCOEUI
 UAHNAARO
 MIREVSU
 ALIVETDR
 RISENEOK
 YOTHORNS
 PALMSQKA
 RPILATEN
 CRUCIFYG
 RHQUAKE
 OCJESUSL
 STOMBVDY
 SRYEMPTY

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY
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 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY

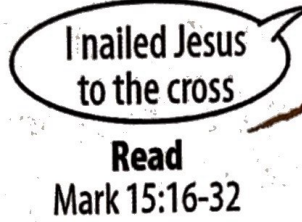
EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



Read Matthew 21:1-11



Read Matthew 27:11-26

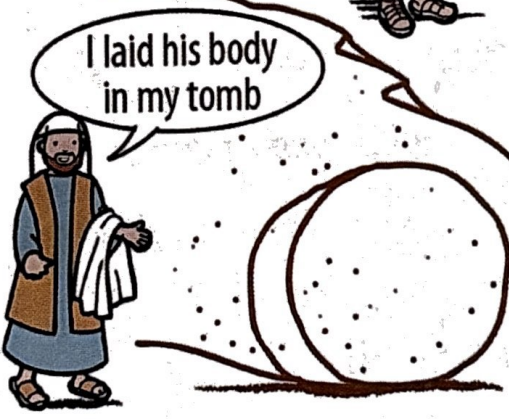


Read Mark 15:16-32



We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41



Read Mark 15:42-47



I guarded the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66



We saw the empty tomb

and spoke to the angel

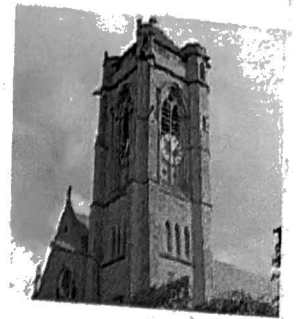
Read Matthew 28:1-10



Read Luke 24:13-35

St Paul's Church

Springfield Road, Sale, M33 7YA



Holy Week & Easter Services 2026

Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday

10am with Procession & Blessing of Palm Crosses -
please gather in the Church Hall for the start of the service
6pm Evening Prayer



Maundy Thursday 2nd April

7.30pm Commemoration of the Last Supper,
foot-washing, communion and vigil.



Feet Washing

Good Friday 3rd April

2-3pm The Last Hour - a *service of reading, music and reflection.*



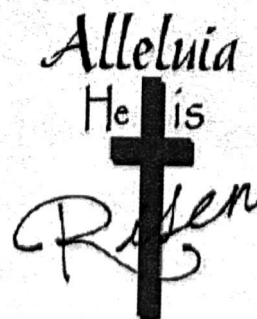
Holy Saturday 4th April

8-9pm Easter Vigil with renewal of baptism vows.
Please note part of this service will take place outdoors.



Easter Sunday 5th April

10am Sung Holy Communion



For more information please take a look at our webpage: <https://stpaulsale.co.uk> or phone 0161 9620082 or email: officestpaulsale@gmail.com



A Historic Day!
Wednesday 25th March was the
Installation of our new 106th
Archbishop of Canterbury,
the Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally.

If you missed the service, it will be on
BBC iplayer for the next few weeks.



**The Diocesan Retreat House— ‘Foxhill’ near Frodsham
is holding an All-Age Eco Day
on Saturday 6th June 9.30am– 3.30pm**

Come and explore the great outdoors with: Woodland Walks – Discover hidden trails, breathe in the forest air, and enjoy the beauty of nature.
Wildlife Activities – Get hands-on with nature-based experiences and learn about the creatures that call our woodlands home.
Youth-Led Activities – Such as exciting challenges, team games, and creative sessions designed and led by young people.
Bring your enthusiasm, your sense of adventure, and a picnic!
We will be outside all day so dress for the weather and remember the ground is often uneven and sometimes steep. Bring your own picnic and water bottle.
All under 18s will need parental or guardian supervision.
Please share lifts or come by public transport where possible as parking is limited.
Please book via the Chester Diocese webpage– link to Eventbrite.

Reflecting Faith: Same Old, Same Old

Last time I wrote I suggested you listened carefully to your own internal thoughts and feelings before and after listening to a sermon – be it in church live or on a video or broadcast.

Well, here we are at Easter – and guess what the sermon subject is likely to be? Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!

In so many ways it really could be 'same old, same old' and the preacher could just repeat last year's sermon. Let's face it, nothing will have changed in the Easter story in the last 12 months.

Or has it? For me, and I suspect for most folks, 12 months can be a 'long' time; and things change in our lives. Babies are born, youngsters change school, teenagers leave school, young people move out, friends die, accidents happen, and pains and sorrows come and go.

Around all of that personal business the world turns: there are holidays, seasons, catastrophes, people hurting people, people caring for others and on and on it goes.

Things might repeat but they are never truly 'the same'.

So it is with the Easter story. Christ is risen – He is risen indeed! Really? In the midst of my life and the world around me? In the centre of your life and your community?

Is it any less amazing today than it was last year, or the year before, or a decade previously or when the women went to the tomb that first Resurrection Day?

In so many ways I need to hear this story again – but anew. New, not just because the preacher will (hopefully) have made it register with what's happening around my small community today and new because I am not the same person I was a year ago – for better or worse!

I shall hear those words differently this year than ever before. Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!

This month

Before you listen to this year's Easter Sermon, think about the changes you've had in your life since last year and the world around us. How much more do you need a living Christ today? May you say in your depths, with me: *Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!*



Could stained glass have a role in modern-day mission?

Millions of people visit cathedrals and historic churches in the UK and around the world every year. St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey are among London's most popular tourist attractions.

In many English cities, it's the cathedral that tops the TripAdvisor list for ratings and reviews. Local churches that remain open through the week often find visitors drawn to them – to look around, pray, reflect, or simply pause amid busy lives.

When the Bible Society's Quiet Revival report was published last year, the headlines rightly focussed on the numbers of young people being drawn to church.

But, within the report's pages was another, perhaps surprising, finding. It was that one of the top three places for people with no religion, or non-practising Christians to encounter the Bible was while sightseeing in a cathedral or church.

This underlines the importance of churches making available good, printed material and displays explaining the Christian gospel.

Yet it also may show the importance of a form of Christian communication that many modern-day evangelists may have ignored. The enduring appeal of stained glass.

Historian Janet Gough has recently produced 'Divine Light,' a survey of some of the best stained glass in England's cathedrals. She explained,

"The stained-glass windows of England's cathedrals illuminate interior spaces, communicate religious, historical and political messages, and perhaps offer us a glimpse of heaven."

Earlier examples of stained glass often depicted biblical scenes, illustrating scripture for those unable to read the accounts themselves.

In today's society, dominated as it is by the visual image – from Instagram to YouTube, TikTok and Facebook – these colourful windows could help introduce contemporary people to Bible narratives and gospel truths.

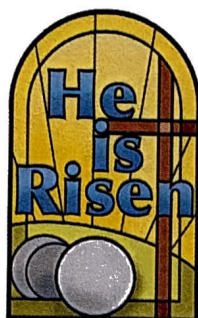
There is much biblical truth to be found in stained glass windows for those who look with an inquiring mind. In many cases, some knowledge of scripture may help decipher the stories being told. In others, the viewer is invited into an encounter with the divine: to look in awe and wonder at the artistry, and to feel

an emotional – perhaps spiritual – response to what they see.

In our supremely visual age, these works of art – both ancient and modern – can capture the attention and imagination of the millions who are drawn to our cathedrals and historic churches.

Have you a favourite stained glass window here at St Paul's or have you taken inspiration from one you have seen?

Why not share your thoughts with us



Rev'd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E

wiggie 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 Wiggie Worship	January	February	March	April
1st Sunday	School holidays	Sunday school	Sunday school	School holidays
2nd Sunday	All-Age Wiggie Worship	All-Age Wiggie Worship	All-Age Wiggie Worship	All-Age Wiggie Worship
3rd Sunday	Sunday school	School holidays	Sunday school	Sunday school
4th Sunday	Sunday school	School holidays	Sunday school	Sunday school
5th Sunday			School holidays	

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

Planned Giving and Gift Aid

The biggest source of income for St Paul's Church is that which is given by parishioners.

If someone is a basic rate tax payer they can gift-aid their donations to St Paul's.

This means that the 20% basic rate of income tax which has been paid via Inland Revenue PAYE, can be claimed back from the Inland Revenue by St Paul's.

For example, £25 can be claimed back on a donation of £100. Gift Aid is therefore an important source of income.

It is however essential that an individual is paying more in basic rate income tax than they gift aid in any financial year.

In order to comply with the Inland Revenue rules, a parishioner needs to complete a simple Gift Aid Declaration Form which myself as St Paul's Parish Giving Officer will keep on file.

There are a few ways in which donations can be made to the church.

Standing Order is the preferred method of regular giving because it is easy for someone to set up and donations are consistent which helps St Paul's with budgeting.

One-off donations can be made by cash or cheque by using the small, white Gift Aid envelopes which can be found at the end of pews in church.

The same tax rule applies in that one must pay more in basic rate income tax than is being gift aided and hence the need to fill in one's name, address, date and signature on the envelope if choosing to donate this way.

St Paul's has a card payment machine at the back of church which can be used to make donations. Donations can also be gift aided when paying by machine.

There is also a **Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS)** which allows churches to claim a Gift Aid payment from the Inland Revenue on small cash or contactless donations of £30 or less. Church service plate cash collections qualify under this scheme, but donations by cheque are excluded. Payments by the card payment machine which are not gift aided on the machine can qualify under the GASDS scheme. Churches can claim up to a maximum of £8,000 donated income which can be declared under GASDS in any one financial year.

Finally, to clarify, the money which is gift-aided by an individual has already been paid in income tax and therefore *has no effect on personal tax allowance.*

It is my job to reclaim this gift aided money back from the Inland Revenue to the benefit

of St Paul's, no one is paying twice.

If anyone has any questions with regards to income tax and Gift Aid then please

have a word with myself.

Brian Kerridge

St Paul's Parish Giving Officer



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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)**

Joyce Green 973-0396
Eileen Craven 283-7668
Jean Law 962-6761
Joe & Laura Jackson
Lisa Clarke
Vicky Moore
Gill Etherington



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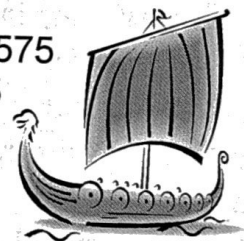
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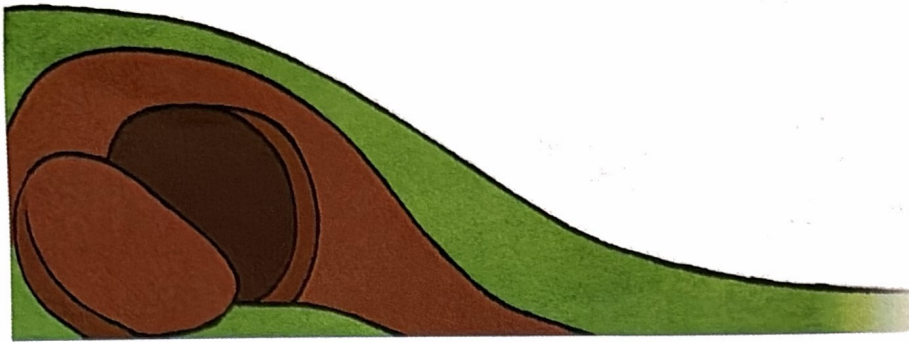
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April 2026

2 nd April	Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper Foot Washing, Communion and Vigil
3 rd April	Good Friday	2.00pm	The Last Hour
4 th April	Easter Eve	8.00pm	Easter Vigil with Renewal of Baptism Vows
5th April	Easter Sunday	10.00am	Easter Eucharist
7 th April	Tuesday		No Babes & Tots
8 th April	Wednesday		No Midweek Communion (BCP)
10 th April	Friday		No Community Choir
12th April	Sunday	10.00am	All Age Worship
	Easter 2	6.00pm	Holy Communion
14 th April	Tuesday	9.30am	No Babes & Tots
15 th April	Wednesday	10.00am	Midweek Communion (BCP)
17 th April	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
19th April	Sunday	10.00am	MANCHESTER MARATHON— NO SERVICE
	Easter 3	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
21 st April	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots restart
22 ⁿ April	Wednesday	10.00am	Midweek Communion (BCP)
24 th April	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
26th April	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		11.30am	ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING IN THE HALL
	Easter 4	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
28 th April	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots



Resurrection Prayer

Loving Father,
Thank you for Jesus; for His life and death, but most of all for His resurrection, which makes all things new and possible.

Thank you for the reality that He defeated death by His work on the Cross and offers life forever with Him to all who believe in Him and receive Him into their lives as Lord and Saviour. Thank you for that incomprehensible but very real resurrection peace that we can know even in our darkest times by the presence of your Holy Spirit in us.

In joy and thankfulness, we praise and honour you this Eastertime.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

That Day

That day was a day like never before
As the Saviour died and the darkness grew,
Earth shuddered and rocks were split apart
As the veil of the temple was torn in two.

The centurion who witnessed all these things,
The earthquake, the One who was nailed to the wood,
Seeing Him die could only say,
'Surely this man was the Son of God'.

Death was defeated, the stone rolled away -
And man was released from all his bonds,
Christ rose as victor that glorious day.

The Light had pushed the darkness back,
He now stands resplendent for all to see,
Forgiveness, redemption all wrought on the cross,
The eternal fruits of Calvary.

By Megan Carter

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

11.30am on Sunday 26th April

This is the meeting where we elect for the next year our Churchwardens and members to the PCC. The Annual Report and Accounts from the PCC will also be presented.

Do **you** feel called to be our Churchwarden or a PCC Member?

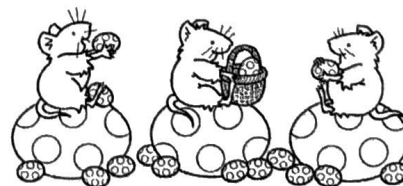
Next Month— May 2026

1 st May	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
3 rd May	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
Easter 5		6.00pm	Taize Evening Prayer

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

Vicar:	*	Revd. Becky Mathew	0161 2178795/ 07584604627 revbmathewstpaulsale@gmail.com
Associate Ministers:	*	Revd. Dr Lisa Redfern	
	*	Revd. Dr Margaret Jones	0161 973 7790
	*	Revd. Shemil Mathew	0161 217 8795
Churchwardens:	*	Yvonne Stevenson	07946 644214
		Vacant	
Pastoral Workers:	*	Yvonne Kerridge	0161 962 4066
	*	Karen Salisbury	07854 171308
Treasurer to the PCC:	*	Joe Blaney	treasurerstpaulsale@gmail.com
Secretary to the PCC:	*	Karen Salisbury	07854 171308
Director of Music:		Anne Allen	01925 763103
Assistant Organist:		Kevin Drury	0161 962 7963
Safeguarding Officer	*	Fiona Vaughan-Thomas	safeguardingstpaulsale@gmail.com
Church Hall Bookings:		Vicky Moore	officestpaulsale@gmail.com
Parish Giving Officer		Brian Kerridge	0161 962 4066
Electoral Roll Officer:	*	Yvonne Stevenson	07946 644214
Parish News Editor:	*	Karen Salisbury	07854 171308
Eco Church Champion	*	Vicky Moore	vicky.moore@hotmail.co.uk
Bible Reading Fellowship:	*	Rachel Lee	9731282 / 07710 717444
Tuesday Group:		Becky Mathew	
St. Paul's Babes & Tots		Ian Moore	0787 6706834
Tower Warden:		Anita Evans	0161 9734679
Christian Aid:		Lisa Clarke / Joyce Green	/ 0161 973 0396
Children's Society Rep:		Laura Jackson	TBC
Wiggle Worship	*		
4th Sale Central (St. Paul's) Rainbows, Brownies & Guides		Vicky Williams	0798 6525898

Parish Office (Answerphone)

0161 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