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Sale, St. Paul's
Serving God and the community'
October
2026



God commanded the earth to sprout all kinds of vegetation - seed-bearing plants and fruit-bearing trees, and it was so. . . and God saw that it was good.



Gen 1:11-12

Suggested donation **50p**

From the Vicar.....

Dear Friends,

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35

During this month we will gather for our Harvest service on Sunday 11th October. We will celebrate the food that sustains us, the gifts of creation and the many blessings we so easily take for granted. But Harvest is not only about saying *thank you* for what we have received. It also invites us to ask: *What will we do with the gifts we have been given?*

Jesus gives us a powerful answer in Matthew 25. He speaks of those who fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty and welcomed the stranger. Yet the most remarkable part of his teaching is the way he identifies himself with those in need. Jesus says, *"I was hungry... I was thirsty... I was a stranger."* In other words, when we care for someone who is hungry or vulnerable, we are not simply doing something *for* Jesus. We are welcoming Jesus himself.

This gives a deeper meaning to Christian generosity. Generosity is not simply about giving away what we have in abundance. It is about seeing the person in front of us and recognising their dignity and worth. It means becoming more attentive to those who might otherwise be overlooked. There are many kinds of hunger in our communities.

Some people struggle to afford food, while others hunger for friendship, companionship or a sense of belonging. Some may have a roof over their heads

but still feel lonely or forgotten. Others may be new to our community and uncertain whether they are truly welcome. Jesus challenges us to look again.

Who have we not noticed? Who might need a welcome? Who could benefit from a conversation, a listening ear, a meal or simply the knowledge that someone cares?

Hospitality does not always require great resources. It can be as simple as offering a cup of tea, sharing a meal, remembering someone's name, making room at the table or taking time to listen. Small acts of kindness can become powerful signs of God's love.

The harvest itself offers us a helpful image. A seed does not fulfil its purpose by remaining safely stored away. It is planted, grows and gives itself so that there may be another harvest. In the same way, the blessings entrusted to us are gifts to be shared.

As we celebrate Harvest this year, may our thanksgiving lead to generosity. May our abundance make us attentive to those who have less. And may we learn to look more carefully at the people around us—not simply seeing strangers or people in need, but recognising Christ in them. For when we welcome the stranger, we welcome Christ.

When we feed the hungry, we feed Christ. When we offer kindness to someone who is lonely or forgotten, we discover that Christ has been among us all along.

May our churches be places where there is always room at the table.

Yours in faith and prayer,
Vicar Becky

Harvest Windows

Could you help with decorating the church for Harvest this year?

We are hoping for individuals/groups/families to have a go at decorating a window-sill inside the church.

You might like to consider a Harvest theme or use the verse that Becky has written about in her letter.

What does Harvest mean for you?

Decorating will take place on Saturday 10th October from 10am.



Tuesday Group

Our outing in September was to the Royle Tearoom in Sale Moor where we enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea. Thank you Paula for making all the arrangements.

On 13th October we are meeting in the Church Hall at 1.30pm when I hope we shall have a Speaker! At the time of writing this, it is unfortunately not certain. If things do not work out, please do still come and we will have a discussion and some nice eats!

Diana

The Word of God

(Heb 4:12, Isa 55:11, Jn16:33)

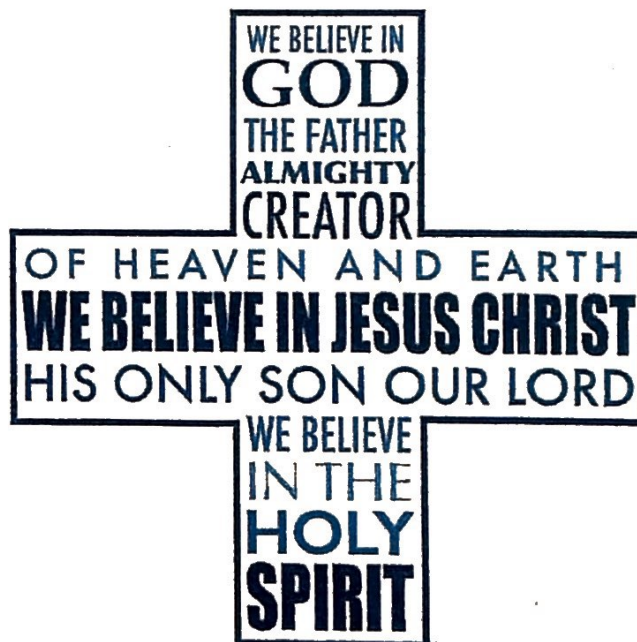
Changes,
so many changes
in a world fragmenting and frightening,
where hatred and prejudice destroy
and shock even the unshockable.

Only the Word of God is constant;
living, active
and powerful in proclamation.
Still able to accomplish
everything God desires.

The Word of God;
everlasting lamp for our feet
and a light for our path
that darkness can never dim.

The Word of God;
unchanging, unchangeable,
revealing and revealed
in Jesus, who has overcome the world.
Take heart!

By Daphne Kitching



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always ready for his return at the end of time by telling the story of two servants

The good servant



My master could be away a long time; I will work as if he was here.



When the servants came for their food, he had it ready



He made sure everyone got their full amount every day



Then his master came back



I am putting you in charge of everything I have



The bad servant



My master could be away a long time; I can do what I want!



When the servants came for their food, he chased them away!



He had friends come round, and they ate and drank as much as they liked.

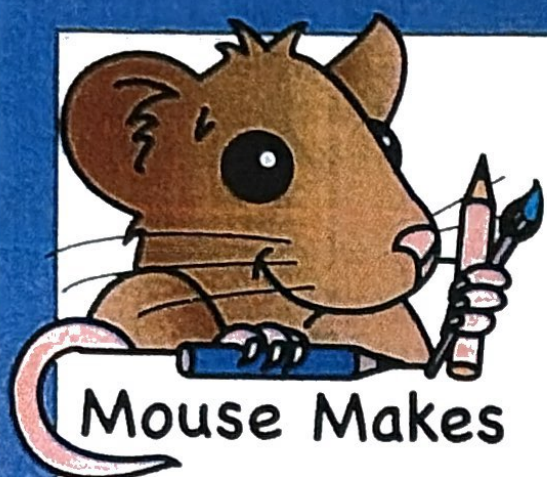


Then his master came back



Jesus said

This is the difference between those who follow me and those who only say they do.



The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



BIBLESUNDAY

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

5. The first book of the Bible.

6. God's word is like? A _____ and a _____ Psalm 119:105



8. The last book in the Bible.

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?

12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?

13. The Bible is also known as the _____ of God. Hebrews 4:12

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman





Photos from recent Harvest Celebrations

'Marlene Butlin has taken over as the contact for donations to the Mustard Tree from Eileen Craven. Please contact Marlene if you have any as taken over as the contact for donation items to donate. The charity is happy to receive kitchenware, curtains, cushions and bedding in addition to clothing for those in need of it.

Many thanks
Marlene



**Urgently
needed
items
this
week:**

Every item will
help!

Tralford
South
foodbank

- Cordial
- Peas & Sweetcorn
- UHT Milk
- Tinned Meat
- Rice Pudding
- Sponge Puddings
- Tinned Spaghetti
- Shower Gel
- Toilet Paper
- Toothpaste
- Shower Gel
- Shampoo/Conditioner



**St Paul's
Church**

Sale, M33 7YA

**Mustard
Tree**



Harvest Festival

**Sunday 11th October
at 10am**

**Trafford
South
foodbank**



Please bring your
donations for our local
Foodbank with you
on the day or drop-off

**Saturday 10th October morning
between 10am – 12noon.**

**Food, friendship
and community**



For more information
please contact Becky on
0161 2178795



Reflecting Faith: What's it worth?

Last time we reflected on the time of 'Receiving and sharing the Peace' within our service. This month, we consider what comes next.

I say 'next' but actually, during that time of sharing the Peace most of us multi-task! We move around saying hello and catching up on the latest news from folk we only see on a Sunday in church; we shake hands and say the words of 'The Peace'; and we also scrabble around looking for cash to put on the plate or in the bag.

Our cash offering to the church is then processed up to the altar to be received by the priest who blesses it and prays over it. (Many years ago, when we were first able to give by standing order to the local church, I recall some people saying they would prefer to continue to give using cash, as the money in the bank was 'not blessed'!)

In more recent years I have attended, and indeed been the incumbent for, churches where no plate or bag is passed around at this point but rather that folk are both encouraged to give by standing order or if by cash then on a plate or in a box as they enter the building.

Some churches today do not bring forward any financial collection, even if there is a plate on entering /leaving.

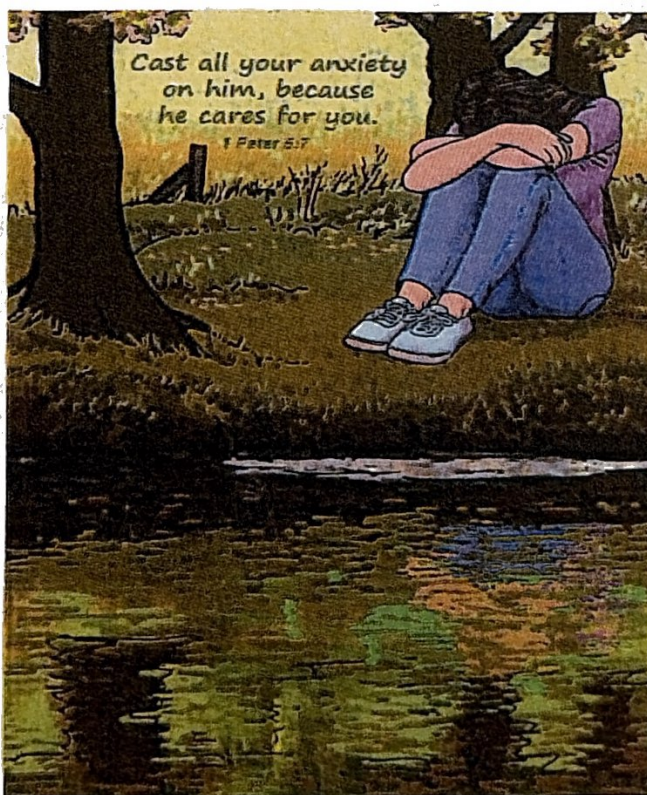
So what has changed?

It's a reflection of our understanding of the real meaning behind the 'collection'. A reversion to the original intention by the church fathers.

It was never intended to be just a small percentage of our possessions or the leftover cash we have lying around. Instead, it was intended to be an offering of our whole lives. The money was just a visible token.

This month

Have a think about what you are 'offering' when this time comes in your next church service. Are you able to offer yourself and put yourself to God's use?



Revd Paul Hardingham considers our earth.

Season of Creation

In the church year the *Season of Creation* (September 1st - October 4th) is an opportunity for us to reflect on our responsibility to care for the planet. As the season draws to an end for this year, have you considered:

The world is not ours:

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God's! This means we have a responsibility of caring for God's world: 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.' (Genesis 2:15). Clearly, we have not done the best job! The effects of global warming have been all too obvious this summer. And 2025 ranked as the third warmest year on record globally, 1.3°C to 1.44°C above pre-industrial levels. This follows the historic peak in 2024, driven by ongoing fossil fuel emissions and high ocean surface temperatures.



Our hope is found in Jesus:

Any hope for the future lies in Jesus Himself. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion: *'all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.'* (Colossians 1:16,17). God's plan is *'to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.'* (Ephesians 1:10). We can look forward to the climax of history when God through Christ will restore our broken world and make everything new.

In the present, we are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth. Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving, choosing reusable options, careful diet and a commitment to simple living can help the planet.

However difficult the climate crisis gets, as Christians, we can engage it with faith and not fatalism!

Prayer of trust in God's Word.

Father,

Thank you for your written Word to us in the Bible, inspired and interpreted by your Holy Spirit. Thank you that from beginning to end it reveals Jesus, the living Word, sent by you to rescue us from the mess of selfishness and disobedience. May we treasure your revelation to us and allow you to guide us by it through the confusion and pain of this world, confident that your Word is unchanging and powerful and trustworthy.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



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	September	October	November	December
1st Sunday	Sunday school	Sunday school	School holidays	Sunday school
2nd Sunday	All-Age Wiggle Worship	All-Age Wiggle Worship	Remembrance Sunday	All-Age Wiggle Worship
3rd Sunday	Sunday school	Sunday school	Sunday school	School holidays
4th Sunday	Sunday school	School holidays	Sunday school	School holidays
5th Sunday			Sunday school	

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

Canon Paul Hardingham looks back on
a national tragedy...

Aberfan - 60 years on

On 21st October 1966 the Aberfan disaster took place in South Wales. A colliery slag heap collapsed, releasing a torrent of slurry onto the village. It engulfed a number of houses and Pantglas Junior School, killing 116 children and 28 adults. It was a disaster that shocked the nation. As we reflect on it today, we are left asking the question, *'where was God when this happened?'*

At the time there was a mixture of strong emotions: grief and sadness over the loss of those who had died, and anger against the Coal Board in allowing the disaster. However, people gave their energy to support each another. A local Baptist Minister, Revd Kenneth Hayes, who lost his eldest son at the school, responded in this way: *'For 36 hours he was working non-stop either at the school, or going around comforting bereaved and stricken families and kept open house for many who came seeking news and comfort.'*

How should we respond to such an incident? *'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?'* (Romans 8:35). Paul reminds us that even in our darkest times of loss, God is with us to bring comfort. *'Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.'* (34). Paul also tells us that Jesus understands our suffering and is praying for us. *'If God is for us, who can be against us?'* (31). We can let go of bitterness and blame, because God is a God of justice. King Charles III (then Prince of Wales) on the 50th anniversary summed up the community's response: *'darkest sorrow, but also the most shining selflessness.'*

Announcement - Change to Evening Services

For some time now the PCC have been reviewing and considering the future of the evening services at St Paul's. At the PCC meeting in September it was necessary to make a decision around this provision as we headed into the autumnal and winter months when attendance was markedly lower, noting too that there were changes in the personal lives of those that welcome, officiate and provide music. It was clear that we were struggling to resource and sustain these services on a week by week basis.

To that end, the Ministry Team have agreed to reduce provision to one evening service a month (excluding January). **This will begin in November** with the All Soul's Day service on Sunday 1st November, at the timing of 4pm with refreshments in the church afterwards.

We will endeavour to publicise the evening services in the pew-sheet, magazine, website and social media. From February the timing will be the 1st Sunday of the month at 6pm with a rotation of Taizé, Traditional Prayer Book Evening Prayer and 'one-off' services for example Songs of Praise. There may also be the opportunity to gather in an alternative locations with other local Christians, as part of Churches Together or Messy Churches.

A big thank you to everyone that has attended, welcomed, played, prayed and preached at evening worship over the years.

"Have you a computer problem? If so, I am local and here to help..."

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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
 Joe Jackson
 Lisa Clarke
 Gill Etherington

Both Joyce and Eileen are our Deanery
 Synod Reps



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October 2026



4 th October	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Taize Evening Prayer
<i>Don't forget to look out for road closures due to the Manchester Marathon today</i>			
6 th October	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
7 th October	Wednesday	10.00am	Midweek Communion (CW)
10 th October	Saturday	10.00am	Decorating Church for Harvest
11 th October	Sunday	10.00am	Harvest Festival
		6.00pm	Holy Communion
13 th October	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
		1.30pm	Tuesday Group
14 th October	Wednesday	10.00am	Midweek Communion (BCP)
18 th October	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		12 Noon	Baptism
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer

Deadline for the November Parish News

20 th October	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
21 st October	Wednesday	10.00am	Midweek Communion (BCP)
25 th October	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist (Bible Sunday)
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer
27 th October	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
28 th October	Wednesday	10.00am	Midweek Communion (BCP)

Next Month—November 2026

1 st November	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
International Day of prayer for the persecuted church			
		4.00pm	All Souls' Memorial Service



*Key-Holders—could you assist with opening and closing church up for visitors?
Please have a chat with Becky and Craig if you can assist.*

Don't forget:

Please use the sheets at the back of church to sign up names to be read out during All Souls Day.
Bring a flower in memory of a loved one.

Autumn Nocturne

Chopin's quavers tumble in their chords,
Nocturnes gently soothing as they play;
Arpeggios – saying more than words
As autumn shades replace the summer day.

Sapphire skies give way to rainy grey
The heat is gone from damp and misty air,
The maple sheds its fire of yesterday
The moonlight shines on boughs now stark and bare.

Hands of gentle skill caress the keys,
The nocturne soothes our spirits as it's played.
We sigh not for the baring of the trees
Nor for the coming of the winter shade.

Forgotten soon the frozen frosty ground
The mem'ry stowed beside our winter coats;
As warm we sit, enfolded by the sound
Of Chopin's Nocturne and his graceful notes!

By Nigel Beeton

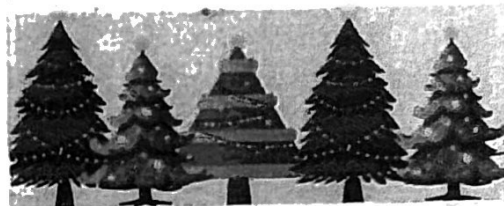
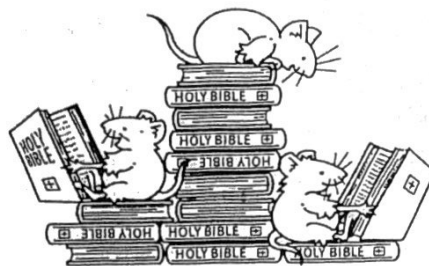
The free phone-line Daily Hope continues to be a source of inspiration for many who cannot get to church:

 **0800 804 8044**
DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

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



Date for your Diary

Just a reminder that we are beginning to plan for our Christmas Tree Festival which will be held this year from Friday 4th December through to Sunday 6th December.

Do you know any local organisations, clubs, groups, businesses who might like to display a tree?

Could you help with setting-up, welcoming, refreshments and clearing up?

Sign-up rotas will be available in November

Thank you in advance!



St. Paul's Parish Directory

Vicar:	*	Revd. Becky Mathew	0161 217-8795/ 07584604627 revbmathewstpaulsale@gmail.com
Associate Ministers:	*	Revd. Dr Lisa Redfern	revlredfernstpaulsale@btinternet.com
	*	Revd. Dr Margaret Jones	973-7790
	*	Revd. Shemil Mathew	0161 2178795
Churchwarden	*	Craig Myerscough	07544 316 213 churchwardenstpaulsale@gmail.com
		<i>Vacancy</i>	
Pastoral Workers:	*	Yvonne Kerridge	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	962-7963
Safeguarding Officer	*	Fiona Vaughan-Thomas	safeguardingstpaulsale@gmail.com
Church Hall Bookings:	*	Vicky Moore	hallbookingstpaul@outlook.com
Parish Giving Officer		Brian Kerridge	962-4066
Electoral Roll Officer:	*	Joe Jackson	
Parish News Editor:	*	Karen Salisbury	07854 171308
Eco Church Champion	*	Vicky Moore	vicky.moore@hotmail.co.uk
Bible Reading Fellowship:		Rachel Lee	973-1282 / 07710 717444
Tuesday Group:		Diana Kelly	07473 287 730
St. Paul's Babes & Tots		Becky Mathew	07584604627
Tower Warden:		Ian Moore	0787-670-6834
Christian Aid Rep:		<i>Vacancy</i>	
Children's Society Rep:	*	Lisa Clarke / Joyce Green	973-0396
Wiggle Worship	*	Laura Jackson	07742 126903
4 th 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	5.30pm	2 nd Sale Central Rainbows