



St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven
Working In Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 159 ~ January 2022



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Curate	The Rev Kyle Mulholland
Licensed Lay Minister	Miss Janet Kimber
Church Wardens	Mrs Pamela Rowell Mr Alan Curtis
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Useful Information

Vicarage	01253 734562
Parish Office:	01253 732939
Fundraising Shop:	01253 732253
Website:	www.stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com
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Help St Paul's Church, Ansdell & Fairhaven to raise money every time you shop online.

Every time you shop online using the Easy Fundraising website or the Easy Fundraising app, St. Paul's will receive a donation from the online store that you visit. There are more than 3,000 to choose from and it doesn't cost you any more than the price of your purchases!

Visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpaulsansdell>

Letter from the Vicarage...

As we move into January, we naturally look back and forward. Something within us also seems to recognise that for all the good which has gone, there are things which we want to change. It might be the leaving behind of one thing, or the taking up of something new. According to one reckoning, the most common resolutions people make are:



Exercise more; lose weight; get organised; learn a new skill or hobby, live life to the fullest, have more money / spend less money; quit smoking; spend more time with family and friends; travel more and read more.

Maybe some things you have in mind in 2022 are on this list? There are some good things there.

But what about in our Christian lives? Most of the things on that list are to do with our bodies, or experience of life. Of course our body is from God and so right to look after it. But what about that vital and precious thing – our following of Jesus? Both as individuals, but also together as a church.

One place I want to take us to is to Colossians 3:15-16. It is not the only description of church and the Christian life. But it is a great one! It is our Motto Text for 2022:

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

What would it look like as individuals and as a congregation to seek to see these grow in us in 2022?

The peace of Christ ruling in our hearts together – This is more than a feeling. It is the objective reality of the Christian message. Through Jesus' blood our sins are forgiven and for the one trusting Jesus, we are no longer God's enemies, but wonderfully have peace with God again. That message is to hold sway amongst us. This peace is to so work in our inner beings that our relationships with one another are shaped by it.

The message of Christ dwelling among us – Christ’s word is to live among us lavishly and deeply. Not simply a superficial knowledge or exercise of it, but a deep and lively one shaping our hearts, minds and actions. That comes in our preaching and teaching. But also our conversations – we all have a role in this. Notice, our singing too, though directed to God, is also directed to each other - a means of ‘teaching’ each other.

The service of Christ – All things done in the name of Jesus. Here there is no divide between Sunday and Monday to Saturday, or between inward and public life. Each part of life being shaped by Jesus and done for him. All this held together by a deep spirit of thankfulness to God.

Whatever other resolutions you are making this year, can I encourage you to be praying for, and with the Spirit’s help working for, these to grow in our individual and corporate life in 2022?

With every blessing for 2022

Paul



**St Paul's
Tots**

St. Paul's Tots is a baby and toddler group for **0-3s**; their parents, carers and grandparents.

With toys, songs, crafts and Bible stories.

Tuesdays

10am - 11:30am (Term time)

St. Paul's Church Hall, Lake Road North,
Lytham St. Annes, FY8 1BZ

£1 per family, which includes a hot drink for adults.

Booking not required

stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/st-pauls-tots



Motto Text 2022

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:15-17



Various Reflections on God's Grace for the New Year

New Year's Day is a good time to fix one's eyes on the only One who knows what the year is to hold. - Elisabeth Elliot

Enter the coming year with renewed hope in the power of God to do through you what you cannot. - John MacArthur

Although our New Year's resolutions may quickly crumble, God's plans never fail. - Charles Stanley

Let's make one resolution this year: to anchor ourselves to God's grace. - Chuck Swindoll

Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading. - Oswald Chambers

This one simple act of beginning each day with God sets each day on the path of wisdom. - Elizabeth George

On entering the house,
★ they saw the child
with Mary his mother
and they knelt down
and paid him homage.
Then, opening
their treasure chests,
they offered him gifts
of gold, frankincense,
and myrrh.

Matthew 2, verse 12

What about the Gifts of Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh?

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry

Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!

25th January: Conversion of St Paul

January is a month of the beginning of great things! As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith. Many books have been written on Paul, and here is the briefest of introductions.

He was a Jew, born as 'Saul' at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen. Then, on his way to Damascus, Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah for whom he had longed.

Saul changed overnight. He was given a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote epistles to the young churches that he founded - and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament.

Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: Paul was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in 64AD, and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many hundreds of millions of people down the centuries.



The Conversion of Paul **Sunday 23rd January 2022**

Join us as we give thanks for God's work in the life of our namesake, St. Paul and within our church, on our Patronal Festival.

10.30am - Morning Service
(Holy Communion)

4pm - Multigenerational Service

5.30pm - Special Sung Evening Prayer



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ~ 18th - 25th January

‘We Saw His Star in the East’

The story of the Magi visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem is one very familiar to us. The Magi have sometimes been seen as a symbol of the world’s diversity – different religions and cultures – that comes to pay homage to the Christ-child. The story might therefore represent the unity of all created that God desires.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East, the history of which was, and still is, characterised by conflict and strife, tainted with blood and darkened by injustice and oppression. The Christians of the Middle East offer these resources conscious that the world shares many of the travails and much of the difficulties that it experiences, and yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness.

Serving the Gospel today requires a commitment to the human being, especially the poorest, the weakest and those marginalised. It requires from the churches transparency and accountability in dealing with the world, and with each other. This means churches need to cooperate to provide relief to the afflicted, to welcome the displaced, to relieve the burdened, and to build a just and honest society. This is a call for churches to work together so that young people can build a good future according to God’s heart, a future in which all human beings can experience life, peace, justice, and love.

You can find out more at:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/>



Looking to the New Year

Canon Paul Hardingham considers 2022

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted as having two faces. As we look back on a difficult year dominated by the pandemic, how should we look forward to 2022 with fresh hope? The apostle Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13,14).

Firstly, to make a new start, you need to ***forget the things which are behind***. Paul saw himself as an athlete running for Christ and purposely not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and difficulties to define who he was. By God's grace, he no longer saw himself that way. The same can be true of ourselves, as we confess our sins and failures to receive God's forgiveness and new life.

Secondly, we need to ***focus on the things that lie ahead***. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the prize. Like Paul, we have to be single-minded in making Jesus the focus of everything we do. How can we go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading this year? What will it mean to better serve Christ in our workplace and neighbourhood, or family and children?

Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, who would say *'well done, good and faithful servant'*. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let's ask ourselves, *'What can I do this year that will help me bring glory and honour to God?'*



Have you ever wondered where the name 'Jesus' comes from?

The name Jesus is a transliteration of a name that occurs in several languages. It is of Hebrew origin, 'Yehosua', or Joshua. There is also the Hebrew-Aramaic form, 'Yesua'. In Greek, it became 'Ἰησοῦς' (*lēsoûs*), and in Latin it became 'Iesus'.

The meaning of the name is 'Yahweh delivers' or 'Yahweh rescues', or 'Yahweh is salvation'. No wonder the angel Gabriel in Luke (1:26-33) told Mary to name her baby Jesus: "because He will save His people from their sins."

The Reality of Faith in God

The Rev Dr Herbert McGonigle looks to Psalm 23
as the New Year begins....



As we enter this New Year of 2022 even the most devoted Christians can't ignore the uncertainties we face. The whole world was caught up in the persistent spread of Coronavirus. It is shaking national economies and causing untold stress and harm. Many people fear that their lives and families will never be the same again.

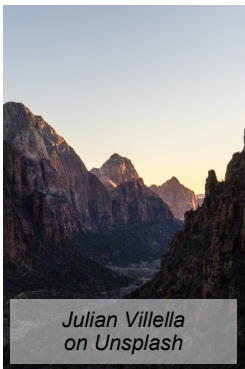
Almost daily the news has been gloomy and economic experts say the situation is the worst in living memory. How do we, as Christians, react to all this? What do we trust in? Has God something to say to us in these days?



An answer may be found in a well-loved passage from the Bible – Psalm 23: 'The Lord is my shepherd ...He restores my soul ...he leads me ...I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.'

But in the middle of this lovely psalm there are three reminders that Christians are NOT exempt from the realities of life. The psalmist speaks of 'the paths of righteousness', 'the valley of the shadow' and 'the presence of my enemies.'

The mention of 'the paths of righteousness' is a reminder that we are called to love the Lord and live our lives in *righteousness*. The wonderful promises in this psalm come with a condition; they are given to those who determine by God's grace to live righteously. And that must be our first resolution for 2022.



The 'valley of the shadow' may refer to death, but generally the reference here is wider. It means all those occasions when fear and sorrow and heartbreak and loss come to even the best Christians.

Then there are our 'enemies.' Originally that probably meant those wanting to kill the psalmist. For us it may be the seduction of old temptations, the fears that paralyse us & the memories of sins that still haunt us.



*The
Lord
is
my
Shepherd.*

*Background picture
by Robert Koreeny
on Unsplash*

The psalmist is a realist! As Christians we live our lives in the real world! We are not floating on cloud nine; we are rooted in a fallen world and surrounded by temptations and sins and infirmities. Any day, pain, an incurable disease, even death itself, may come to us or to those we love. How do we face these realities?

Psalm 23 has the answer. If we, by God's grace, will walk in 'the paths of righteousness,' then all the promises are ours! The Lord will be our Shepherd. He will lead us by the still waters; He will restore our souls, prepare a table for us in the wilderness, protect and guide us with His rod and staff and, at the end, bring us into the house of the Lord forever. Let's make Psalm 23 our charter of faith for 2022!

Dr Herbert McGonigle is a former Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology, Church History and Wesley Studies in Nazarene Theological College, Manchester, England.



Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
- 3 he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of
my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever

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A New Year's Resolution from Micah

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the year ahead.

*Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression...? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you: To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.
(Micah 6:7-8)*

I quite like olive oil; not the Popeye character but the cooking ingredient. Although I am not sure what I would do with even one river of oil, and I have nowhere to put a ram.

Still, this is one of my favourite Bible passages, and it is an ideal one for lawyers. It sums up in a very simple but helpful way what true religion should be. That makes it a good verse to start the year. The message is simple: God does not want empty promises or lip service, but our real devotion, from our heart.

What does it mean for us?

Do justly - Be honest and open in our dealings with others this year. Be dependable. We should say when things are going wrong and be appreciative when they go well. Be fair in our dealings, whether at home or at work or in church. Keep confidences and never pass on gossip.

Love mercy - Give people the benefit of doubt, do not take advantage of others and do not always criticise or complain. Accept apologies and explanations where we can, and be generous.

Walk humbly - Quietly get on with things. Do not make a big show of what we do.

Lastly, we are *required* to do these things. They are not options or choices but requirements. Like many requirements in the Bible, they are simple to understand, but not always simple to do. Happy New Year.

Trust the Lord in 2022

The New Year

If we put our hand in God's hand
As we enter this New Year
Not knowing what the future holds
But that our Friend is near

We shall not fear what lies ahead
If He is by our side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If He will be our guide.

The Sinless One from heaven came
To dwell with us on earth,
He sought and bought us with His blood
And offered us new birth.

Now as we travel through this year
He knows the things He's planned,
So let us trust and know just this -
Our times are in His hands.

By Megan Carter



New Year Prayer 2022

Lord of all creation,
Lord of all the years,

Thank you for steering us through the fragmented landscape of two pandemic-riddled years. Here we stand at the beginning of a new year, not knowing what lies ahead. Our only security lies in you, Lord.

Please take our hands and guide us, day by day, into January and beyond. We will not be afraid, Lord because you have promised never to leave us, never to forsake us. And you keep your promises. We are safe. 2022, here we come... expectantly,



In Jesus' name. Amen

By Daphne Kitching

Church Hall Hire

**We have vacancies on Monday/Thursday
Evenings and all day on Saturdays**

**Ideal for children's parties and other
activities requiring large space**

Enquiries and further information:

Email: stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com

**Telephone: 01253 732939
(and leave a message)**

or via our Facebook page



Would you like to be involved in the Community and help support St Paul's?

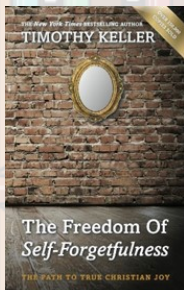
St Paul's Fundraising Shop would love to welcome new volunteers. There are a range of jobs to get involved in as best suits you, from working on the till, restocking the shop, sorting and more.

No experience needed. All training and support given.

To find out more email: stpaulscharityshop@gmail.com
or call 01253 732253.

Book Reviews

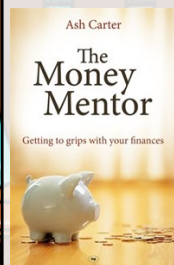
Have you read a good Christian book recently that you would recommend to others? How about writing a review, which could be published in the Pews News Extra?



The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness – the path to true Christian joy By Timothy Keller, 10Publishing, £2.99

In an age where pleasing people, puffing up your ego and building your résumé are seen as the methods to 'make it', the Apostle Paul calls us to find true rest in blessed self-forgetfulness.

This short and punchy book shows that gospel-humility means we can stop connecting every experience, every conversation with ourselves and can thus be free from self-condemnation. A truly gospel-humble person is not a self-hating person or a self-loving person, but a self-forgetful person.



The Money Mentor – getting to grips with your finances By Ashley Carter, IVP, £8.99

'If only I could manage my money better.' Many of us feel that.

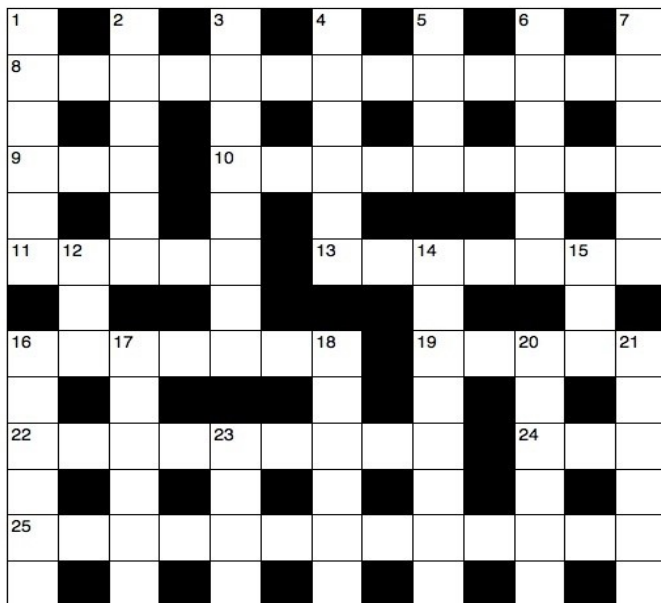
Author Ash Carter looks at the nuts and bolts of our daily financial decisions and shows us how such decisions can best serve God's greater purposes.

We find a godly yet simple model of Christian money management that we can adapt for our own purposes, an accessible, step-by-step guide to establishing good practices.

Whether you have lots of money or lots of debt, this book will help you to honour God with the money He has given you.

JANUARY 2022 CROSSWORD

(The Bible version used in these crosswords is the NIV.)



Across

- 8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)
- 9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)
- 10 The Ten Commandments (9)
- 11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)
- 13 Des cons (anag.) (7)
- 16 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)
- 19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)
- 22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)
- 24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)
- 25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

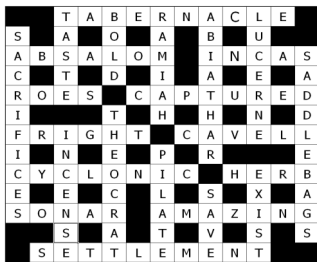
Down

- 1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)
- 2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)

- 3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)
- 4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)
- 5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)
- 6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)
- 7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Be-rea (Acts 17:15) (6)
- 12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)
- 14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)
- 15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)
- 16 Vat car (anag.) (6)
- 17 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)
- 18 'The parts that are unrepresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)
- 20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)
- 21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)
- 23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)



**Crossword Solution
December 2021**





Many of the articles and pictures in the Pews News Extra are sourced from the Parish Pump Website and the Association of Church Editors monthly edition of the "Ideas Forum".





ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY PNE



If you have an article for inclusion in the February PNE, please make sure that I have a copy by **Monday 10th January**. My contact details are on page 2. Thank you.

Janet Kimber

Time for a Smile

Spotted on a Church Notice Board:

When you were born, your mother brought you here.

When you were married, your partner brought you here.

When you die, your family will bring you here.

In the meantime, why not try coming on your own sometimes?

Who Am I?

A rather pompous minister asked his confirmation class: "Why do people call me a Christian?"

After some hesitation one lad ventured: "Perhaps because they don't know you?"

Church News (1)

A church pewsheet reported that Mr and Mrs Brown had left for a ten-day motor trip, and that their two young daughters were starving with relations during their absence.

Church News (2)

One Birmingham parish newsheet announced: 'Pram Service this Sunday in church. Followed by a talk about the wind.'



"We're looking for something to help us survive our church's early morning winter services."

The End?

A local priest and pastor stood by the side of the road holding up a sign that said, "The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!"

"Leave us alone, you religious nuts!" yelled the first driver as he sped by. Then from around the curve they heard a big splash.

"Do you think," said one clergyman to the other, "we should just put up a sign that says 'bridge out' instead?"



Free travel

Living on earth may be expensive, but it includes an annual free trip around the sun.

Lint

Considering all the lint you get in your dryer, if you kept drying your clothes would they eventually just disappear?

Chocolate

When I look at chocolate, I hear two voices in my head. The first one says, 'You need to eat the chocolate.' The second one says, 'You heard. Eat the chocolate.'



Inspection

My husband, a US Coast Guard pilot, was on an exchange tour with the Royal Navy in England. Everyone who drove through the base's gates was required to hold an official ID card up to the windscreen for inspection by the guards. As a friendly competition, my husband's squadron started flashing different forms of ID, such as a driving licence, just to see how far they could go to fool the busy guards. The winner? The fellow who breezed past waving a piece of toast.

What children have to say about angels

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you have to agree to wear those angel clothes. -Matthew, age 9

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to do something else. - Mitchell, age 7

My guardian angel helps me with maths, but he's not much good for science. - Henry, age 8

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from holy cows. - Jack, age 6

Meeting Together at St. Paul's

Sunday

- 9:45am Short prayer meeting (Church Hall)
- 10:30am Our morning service with a common liturgy incorporating traditional and more contemporary elements and music across each month. Refreshments served after the service.
1st Sunday - Service of the Word;
2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays - Holy Communion
Sunday Club meets on the 2nd & 4th weeks for 3-11s
- 4:00pm Our new complementary, multigenerational service seeking to reach and disciple all ages of the church together with a deliberate intention of incorporating children, young people and families. Followed by refreshments.
- 5:30pm Our sung service of Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer to mark selected Christian festivals six times a year.

Wednesday

- 10:00am Our mid-week Holy Communion service from the Book of Common Prayer; followed by refreshments.

Thursday

- 3:30pm Our weekly service of Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, alternating between said and sung forms.

Safeguarding

St Paul's Church takes safeguarding very seriously.
You can view all of our safeguarding information at:-

<https://stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/safeguarding.html>

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others please seek advice from the Parish or Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary, report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.