



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

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 166 ~ August 2022



Letter from the Vicarage...

'We're all going on a summer holiday. No more working for a week or two.' For those of a certain age, you may now have a picture of a very young Cliff Richard on a double decker bus in your mind! It is that time of year – people are going on holidays.



Holidays are a time away from things – from work, the normal routine, or where you live. But if truth be told, they can also end up being a time away from God. Maybe because of the change of routine, when we pack our bags, God sometimes gets left out.

But the name 'holiday' is a clue to where they first came from. Holidays were first 'holy' 'days'. Days set apart the ordinary specifically to consider God. In time, they came to mean any day of rest set apart from the norm of work or school.

Wonderfully with the coming of Jesus, God isn't any more known in a certain place or at a certain time. Rather Jesus is where we fully meet God, any time or any place.

However, I want to have that original meaning of holiday in our minds as we approach this August. Time away is not time away *from* God, but rather time away *with* God. Holidays can be a time, often in a different setting or pace, to engage with Jesus afresh – they can be holy.

We might be heading away this month. For others because of financial or health reasons we might not be able to. Yet August does have a different feel – so even if we are home, we could try some of these things:

- **Rest** – God made us physical creatures. So make sure you get some rest – however you do that! But as you do, maybe have Matthew 11:28 in your mind – and the greater rest Jesus offers.
- **Creation** – We often are out in creation more on holiday. Why not keep your eyes open for things of beauty which you can thank God for?
- **Time with God** – Holidays can be busy. Why not use this month to begin a daily habit of spending time with God, hearing from him in the Bible and praying to him? To begin with don't seek to bite off too much. Why not make 5 minutes space at the beginning of each day to spend time with our Father. Maybe read a Psalm and ask what to I learn about God? What do I learn about what it means to trust Him? Is there anything I need to thank God for?

Say sorry for? Then say a simple prayer saying thank you and asking God to help you do that.

- **Reading** – Holiday are a time to dig into a good book. Why not add a Christian biography into your reading pile – find out what it meant for someone in a different time or place to follow Jesus? If you want some ideas contact me. Or you can read the review of a new book on page 7 called 'The Air We Breathe'.
- **New places** – If you visit somewhere new – maybe find out how the good news of Jesus is going out in that area? Or simply pray for the area you are visiting that the churches there will be making Jesus known?

Whether you are at home or away, I hope you have a good August and time away with God, not from him.

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



Church A way Day

On Saturday 9th July, a group from St Paul's enjoyed a church away day. We were welcomed by Matthew from Christ Church Thornton who hosted us, enjoying coffee and time together before the first session began.



The two sessions looked at some wonderful truths from the Apostle John's first letter. Paul interviewed the Revd Alan Hogarth in each session. Alan shared how he came to follow Jesus, following his wife's conversion. Having had the good news of Jesus explained to him, he then had the opportunity to share it with course mates, whilst not fully believing it himself! But later that evening, he was moved to see its truth, his need of Jesus, and all that Jesus had done, whilst riding home on a Fishwick's bus. He gave his life to the Lord that night!



Alan shared from 1 John about the need for Christians to walk in the light, mirroring God's pure nature, and the forgiveness Christ offers when we fail. In the second session, he shared about the need to love one another deeply, after Christ's pattern of love for us. During the sessions we also sang.

During the coffee and lunch breaks, it was a joy to see people chatting, strengthening existing relationships and getting to know different people. It was also an encouragement to hear people discussing about that what they had heard.

Even though dinner was a little delayed (!), it was worth it as people ate good food and shared together. The day ended with a short concluding service.



Though the group was smaller than first planned due to last minute illnesses and family responsibilities, it was a good day. It paves the way for it to become a regular feature in St Paul's church life going forward.

If you were not able to come this time, look out for an opportunity in the future.

Here is what two of those who went had to say:

'A most enjoyable experience yesterday. It was just good to be able to spend 'detached' time focusing on the purpose of our worship... Conversation was focused on thoughts provoked by what we had heard...Great choice of speaker and so good to hear about his own life to put things into context. A very successful day.'

'Great venue, lots of space to chill and spend time with some our church family who previously I hadn't spoken much too. Loved the teaching and time to interact with the preacher. Food excellent and plenty of it. A brilliant day and I look forward to the next one.'



Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank St. Paul's Church Family for all their love and support during what has been a time of great turbulence in the Kimber family. From broken toes and a mini-stroke, to the entire family succumbing to COVID-19, we have been upheld and encouraged by the prayers and good wishes of a loving and generous fellowship of Christian believers.

Thank you so much for being there!

Janet Kimber



Fond Farewell to Bishop Julian



The Bishop of Blackburn, Rt Rev. Julian Henderson, and his wife Heather said farewell to The Church of England in Lancashire on Saturday 16th July, during a service at Blackburn Cathedral which was, at times, both moving and stirring.

Hundreds of clergy and laity from parishes across the County converged on the Cathedral to say goodbye and thank you ... alongside Bishop's Leadership Team members past and present; Lancashire faith and civic representatives (including the Mayor of Blackburn Cllr Suleman Khonat); Bishops from neighbouring Dioceses in the North West and many more.

All the hymns and songs were chosen specially for the service by Bishop Julian and Heather. Also present were the couple's close family, including their three young grandchildren.



After celebrating his final Eucharist, there was a moving moment when the retiring Bishop of Blackburn lay his crozier down on the altar of the Cathedral; symbolically bringing his tenure to a close.

Then, after a number of thankyou speeches, gifts were presented, including framed photos; a hamper packed with Lancashire-themed goodies; an album of pictures taken across the past nine years and much more.

As the service ended Bishop Julian said: "Thanks be to God for everything we achieved over the past nine years ... 'This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.' (Psalm 118).

"I'm grateful for the team God has sent here to fulfil the work and I particularly want to thank Heather and my family for all their support.

"We are now a Vision-driven Diocese and not a churchmanship-driven Diocese; the different churchmanships within the Diocese all now work towards supporting and enabling that Vision."



The Air We Breathe

Is Christianity history? Or is Christian history the deepest explanation of the modern world?

Today in the west, many consider the church to be dead or dying. Christianity is seen as outdated, bigoted and responsible for many of society's problems. This leaves many believers embarrassed about their faith and many outsiders wary of religion. But what if the Christian message is not the enemy of our modern Western values, but the very thing that makes sense of them?



In this fascinating book, Glen Scrivener takes readers on a journey to discover how the teachings of Jesus not only turned the ancient world upside down, but continue to underpin the way we think of life, worth, and meaning. Far from being a relic from the past, the distinctive ideas of Christianity, such as freedom, kindness, progress and equality, are a crucial part of the air that we breathe. As author Glen Scrivener says in his introduction: "The extraordinary impact of Christianity is seen in the fact that we don't notice it".

This is a book for both believers and sceptics—giving Christians confidence to be open about their faith and showing non-Christians the ways in which the message of Jesus makes sense of their most cherished beliefs. Whoever you are, you'll gain a deeper appreciation for the values you hold dear as you discover the power and profundity of Jesus and his revolution.

Glen Scrivener is an ordained minister and the Director of Speak Life, an organisation that exists to share the love of Jesus through creative communication.

You can buy a copy from The Good Book Company at: <https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk>

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Working from Rest

Canon Paul Hardingham
considers the link between rest and work.

August sees many of us taking holidays to get some well-earned rest from working. But what is the biblical relationship between rest and work? The Bible shows us that **we are to work from rest, not rest from work**. How is this working out in our current experience?

When God created human beings on the 6th day, the next full day was a day of rest before the work began: *'Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.'* (Genesis 2:3). Sunday is a day of rest at the beginning of the week.

Jesus lived out this rhythm of rest and work in His own ministry: *'Very early in the morning, Jesus got up and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed'* He then told His disciples: *'Let us go somewhere else so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come.'* (Mark 1:35-38).

Here is a rhythm for our own lives: *'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit'* (John 15:5). Our work/fruitfulness arises out of the time we abide/rest in Jesus. He will then show us what aspects of our lives need pruning: *'while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.'* (John 15:2b).

Let's use this month to reflect on how this pattern is working in our lives:

Are we spending enough time 'abiding' in Jesus?

Are we putting our energies into the right balance of rest and work?

Are there unproductive areas of our lives and churches that need pruning?

Remember God created us as *human beings* not just *human doings*!!



A Christian YouTube Channel for Primary School Aged Children

The team who distributed nearly half a million free storybooks to schools for the Platinum Jubilee with the Church of England have now released a series of cartoons and songs for primary school aged children, on the *Fruit of the Spirit*. Thousands of families have been using them during the summer holidays!

The *Cheeky Pandas* is an online cartoon series created by Christian charity Swell Revolution, which has previously featured contributions from people including Archbishop Justin Welby, and CBeebies' Gemma Hunt. With catchy pop songs and prayers, the stories are on love, joy, patience, faithfulness and kindness. *God Suit* is one of their most popular action songs. The episodes are all available with British Sign Language options too.

Songwriter Pete James says: "Cheeky Pandas is all about helping children have fun while they grow in their faith. The free storybook that went out before the Jubilee was on the theme of faithfulness, in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's 70 years of faithful service."

Songs and episodes are created by the makers of CBBC's 'Andy and the Band' and CBeebies' 'The Baby Club', with voiceovers from Gemma Hunt. Previous guests on the free online show have included Nicky Gumbel, Guvna B and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

YouTube is used by 86% of children aged 3-7, according to Ofcom. They watch for an average of a few hours a day, but this may be more during the summer holidays. Parents are often concerned about what their children are watching. The charity behind *Cheeky Pandas* wanted to create something which children will enjoy, and parents can know is helping them discover the love of God for them. Churches also use the resource, so there are free assembly plans, Sunday school downloads and activity sheets too, with recipes, crafts and games.

The Cheeky Pandas might be an answer to prayer for some young families this summer! Find out more at www.cheekypandas.com or find Cheeky Pandas TV on YouTube.

The Transfiguration of Jesus

6th August

The account of the Transfiguration is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36). At a time when Jesus' ministry was popular and people were seeking Him out, He made time to take Peter, James and John, His closest disciples, up a high mountain in Galilee.

While on the mountain, the appearance of Jesus changed dramatically. Elijah and Moses suddenly appeared beside Him and from a cloud they heard the voice of God. But what was it all about?

In the future, Peter, James and John would become prominent leaders in the Early Church; and what they witnessed would help them remember Jesus in the difficult years ahead. They were given a glimpse of Christ in His divine glory, where His face shone like the sun and His clothes dazzled with brightness.

Why were Moses and Elijah standing with Jesus? Moses was the giver of the Law and Elijah represented all the prophets. They had pointed people to the promised Messiah. Jesus was about to complete God's plan of salvation.

God's voice was heard to remind Peter there was no need to build shelters. They were not going to stay on the mountain. God spoke to get the disciples to fix their attention of Jesus. The wonder of the Transfiguration was a short interlude before Jesus had to return to His work and subsequent death on the cross.

This story is also a reminder that our times of spiritual blessing have to be followed by down-to-earth commitments and responsibilities. In the same way that Jesus gave His friends a glimpse of His awesome glory, to help them face challenging and traumatic times ahead, our special times in His presence are provided to encourage us and equip us for the trials we may have to face.



Our journey through life may sometimes rise to the peaks but we can't stay on a 'high' all the time – no matter how much we want it! We have to descend to face everyday challenges if we are to fulfil our calling in Christ. From *our* mountain-top experiences we all need to find a balance between times alone with God and serving Him in the company of others.

Grace - It Really Is Amazing

by Lester Amann

Most of us will know the hymn, *Amazing Grace*, by John Newton. Grace is an essential element of our faith, but what is it, exactly?

In everyday life the word 'grace' has many uses: in the courts, a pardoned person has been 'shown grace'; in the arts, an exquisite dancer moves with beauty and grace; if someone undertakes an unpleasant task cheerfully and willingly, it is done with 'good grace' and composers sometimes add 'grace notes' to their music to enhance the playing of their music.

The biblical use of the word 'grace' is quite different! The New Testament describes grace as God doing something for us that we could not do for ourselves. That 'something' is the free and unearned favour of God towards us. It is God's goodness which removes human inferiority and worthlessness and which raises our status. It pays the debt of sin. Grace welcomes the wretched, the weak and the wayward. It adopts us – homeless orphans – into God's family.

The story of King David and Mephibosheth is a remarkable example of grace. (see 2 Samuel 9:1-13) When David discovered a disabled relative of a former friend, he opened the way for this person to be brought into the royal household. He was accepted into David's family and given the same status as one of his sons.

Similarly, God accepts the unacceptable into His Heavenly Family. He accepts us as we are, regardless of status, health - or any objections we may have! Our gracious God loves us even though we are unlovely, undesirable and unholy.

We most see God's love in the gift of His Son. We can only be thankful that through Christ we have a new relationship with God. It is by His grace we are saved.

In John Newton's famous hymn, he wrote 'grace will lead me home'. Through the grace of God we can be assured of eternal life, joy, peace and security with Christ.



"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus."

Christian Basics: Prayer

Canon Paul Hardingham

Most of us identify with the disciples' request: *'Lord, teach us to pray'* (Luke 11:1); having seen Jesus pray, they wanted to know *how* to pray!

A Loving Relationship

Jesus begins with *father*: *'When you pray, say: Father'* (2). Prayer is like a child asking their parent for help. This reflects Jesus' own intimate relationship with His Father. He invites us to share this relationship using the Lord's Prayer, as way into His presence (2-4). Imagine using this prayer as a child sitting on your parent's lap. God delights to hear us!

A Loving Readiness

Jesus' parable makes the point that God is always ready to hear our prayer. When the man turns up at midnight asking for bread, his friend inside gives him whatever he needs because of his *'shameless boldness'* (*lit*)' (v.8). If the man answers despite all his family being asleep, *how much more* will our Father in heaven respond to our prayers. We should never give up!

A Loving Richness

Jesus concludes with a threefold promise: *'ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.'* (9). Does this mean that God will give us whatever we ask for? As earthly parents only give good things to their children, *how much more* is this true of our heavenly Father: *'Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?'* (11,12). He doesn't give us everything we want, but what is best for us.



*'If God were to say to me,
'I want to give you a
special love gift, what
would you like?'* I would
say: *'you choose'*
(SD Gordon)

*A summer break can be a time of reflection and peace –
before the busy round begins once again...*

A Blessing Comes

It's good to get away from noise
From chaos and from din,
To seek in solitude and peace
The beauty that's within
To go into a quiet place
Where all is fresh and green,
And contemplate in silent calm
Great truths and things unseen.

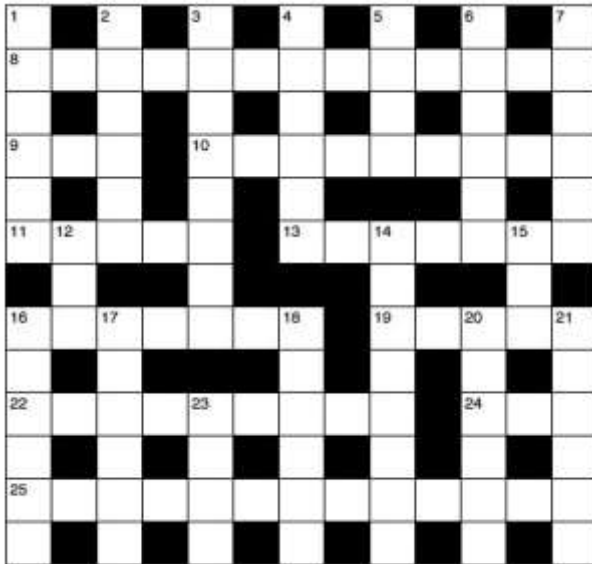
The mysteries of the universe
The wisdom of the sage,
Or take some old and lovely thought
From a bygone age,
And meditate upon the good
The honest and the true,
This calms the mind and you will find
A blessing comes to you.

By *Kathleen Gillum*

Photo by Dan Barrett on Unsplash

AUGUST 2022 CROSSWORD

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



Across

- 8 One of the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah's prediction (Isaiah 9:6) (6,2,5)
- 9 International Nepal Fellowship (1,1,1)
- 10 Single(1Corinthians7:27)(9)
- 11 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's seminal book about Soviet prison camps, The — Archipelago (5)
- 13 Treachery(2Kings11:14)(7)
- 16 Of India(anag.)(2,3,2)
- 19 'God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the — ' (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)
- 22 Follower of a theological system characterized by a strong belief in predestination (9)
- 24 'Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to — the ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (3)
- 25 They brought together all the elders of the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 4:29) (5,3,5)

Down

- 1 The season when kings 'go off to war' (2 Samuel 11:1) (6)
- 2 Simon Peter's response to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee: 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a — man' (Luke 5:8) (6)

- 3 Beaten with whips (1 Kings12:11) (8)
- 4 'You shall not — adultery' (Exodus 20:14) (6)
- 5 Encourage (Hebrews 10:24) (4)
- 6 Service of morning prayer in the Church of England (6)
- 7 'Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and — — him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving' (4,2)
- 12 Run(anag.)(3)
- 14 Member of 17th-century party that denied the right of autonomy to the Church (8)
- 15 'We will triumph with our tongues; we—our lips'(Psalm12:4) (3)
- 16 Earnings(1Corinthians16:2)(6)
- 17 'I rejoice greatly in the Lord that—you have renewed your concern for me' (Philippians 4:10) (2,4)
- 18 How Paul described Philemon (Philemon 1)(6)
- 20 Multiple territories under the rule of a single state(Daniel11:4)(6)
- 21 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women,—to Israel's guilt' (Ezra 10:10) (6)
- 23 This month(abbrev.)(4)



**Crossword Solution
July 2022**

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

Many of the articles and pictures in the Pews News Extra are sourced from the Parish Pump Website.



ARTICLES FOR THE SEPTEMBER PNE



If you have an article for inclusion in the September PNE, please make sure that I have received a copy by **Wednesday 10th August**. Please note that any articles received after that date will be included in the October edition. My contact details are on the inside back page.

Thank you.

Janet Kimber

Time for a Smile

How prayer reaches God

An anxious mother confided in her minister: "My 10-year-old daughter says her prayers every night, but I am not sure they are reaching heaven."

Touched by her worry, the minister spent some time explaining to her about God's omniscience and omnipresence. But still, the mother looked worried. So finally he asked the mother why she thought her daughter's prayers would NOT be heard by God.

She explained: "Because when my daughter finishes, instead of saying 'amen', she says 'click, send'."

Wrong water

A mother was watching her four-year-old son playing in a small plastic pool half-filled with water. He was walking back and forth with an expression of great concentration on his face, while making big splashes. Suddenly, the little boy stopped, stepped out of the pool, and with a look of disgust, began to scoop the water out with a pail. "What's wrong, dear?" asked the mother. "On Sunday the minister said Jesus walked on water, and this water doesn't work," he replied.



"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, 'Chopsticks'."



New perils

A child was trying to memorise the Lord's Prayer: "...and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from email..."

Baptism

In a church, at the font, her small brother was being christened.

Little girl whispers: "Behind his ears, too, Reverend Smyth!"

Labels

As part of the admission procedure in the hospital where I work, I ask the patients if they are allergic to anything. If they are, I print it on an allergy band placed on the patient's wrists.

Once when I asked an elderly woman if she had any allergies, she said she couldn't eat bananas. Imagine my surprise when several hours later a very irate son came out to the nurses' station demanding, "Who's responsible for labelling my mother 'bananas'?"



*Weeks after the Pet Service,
nobody had claimed the monkey.*



Miscellaneous one-liners:

What is a smile? It's when you laugh in a whisper.

Where does seaweed go to look for a job in the summer? The 'kelp wanted' section.

Happiness is not having to set the alarm clock.

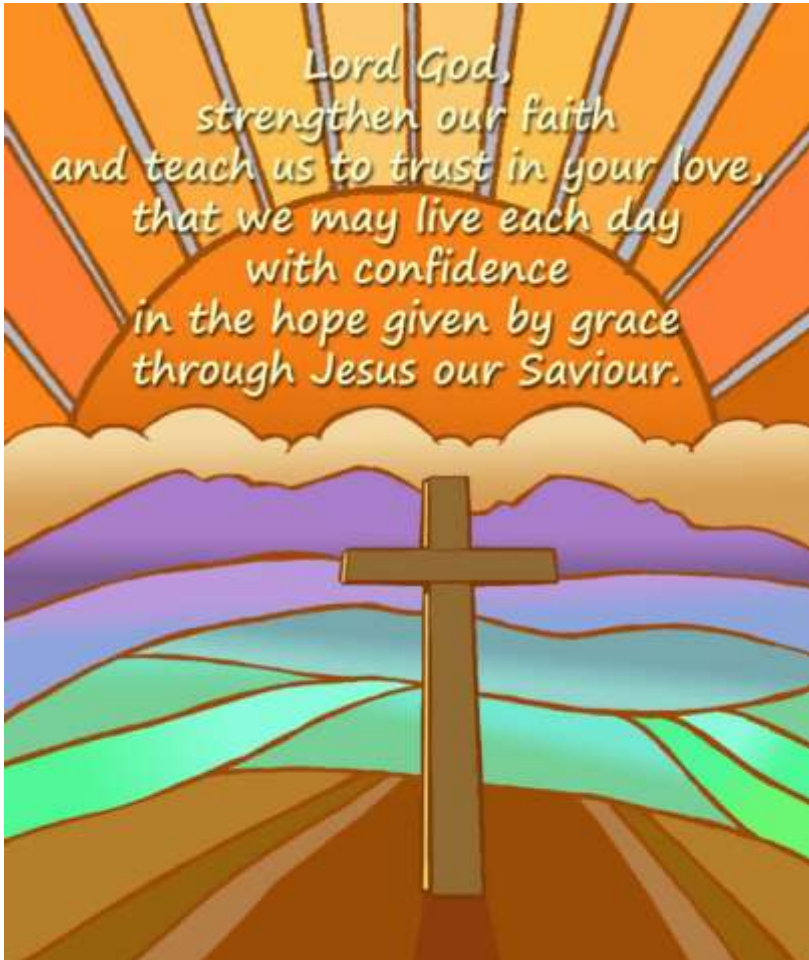
Everything is wonderful

My face in the mirror isn't wrinkled or drawn.
My house isn't dirty, the cobwebs are gone.
My garden looks lovely and so does my lawn.
I think I might never put my glasses back on.



You Wouldn't Believe It. (A True Story!)

The Treasurer of a Church had been requested by the bank to close one of their accounts. Along with the Churchwarden both of them visited the bank. The account name was St Mary Magdalen Vicar and Churchwarden account. After giving each of their names to the bank clerk (a young person who had not previously dealt with this particular bank action, but who was being supported by a supervisor) they were asked "But who is Mary?" To their credit no untoward answer was given, but the supervisor promptly escorted them to a side-room and eventually completed the account closure.



Church Hall Hire

We have vacancies on Monday/Thursday Evenings and all day on Saturdays. The hall is 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**

Church Officers

Vicar	The Rev Paul Bye
Curate	The Rev Kyle Mulholland
Licensed Lay Minister	Miss Janet Kimber
Church Wardens	Mrs Pamela Rowell Mr Alan Curtis
Parish Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Mrs Loraine Lee
Organist	Mrs Linda Carrington



Useful Information

Vicarage	01253 734562
Parish Office:	01253 732939
Fundraising Shop:	01253 732253
Website:	www.stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com
E-mail:	stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com



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

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.