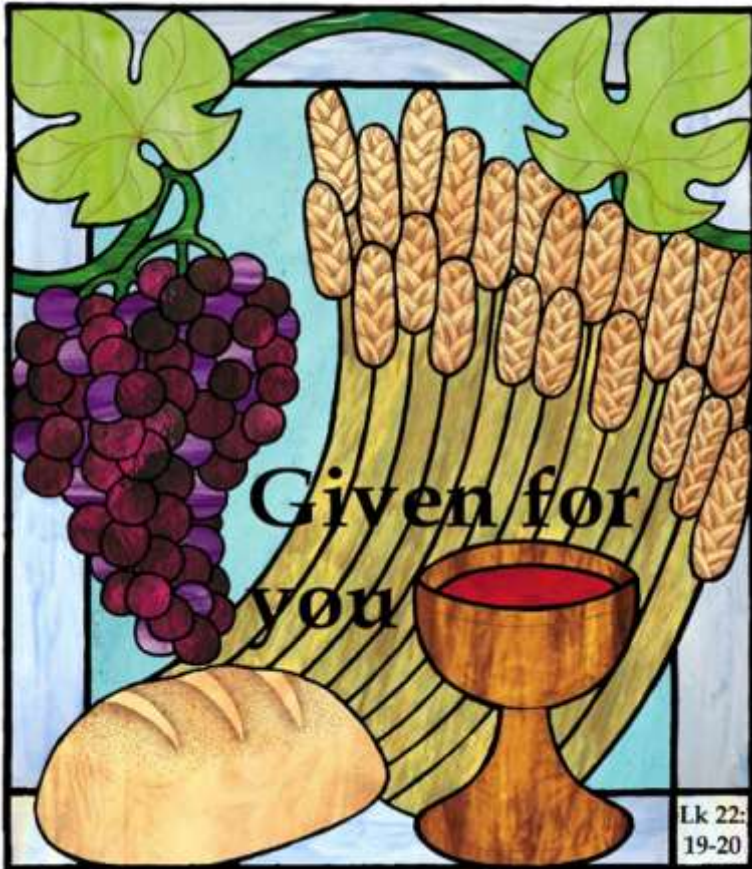




St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven
Working In Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 167 ~ September 2022



Letter from the Vicarage...

As we move into the autumn, Harvest comes into our horizon. With it comes the yearly reminder that our food and sustenance are not things to take for granted, but to be received with thanks from our gracious Father God.



The recent dry weather has further brought that to our attention. You may have heard farmers being interviewed about the impact the lack of water has had on crops. They have had to make decisions over which ones might have to be sacrificed to enable others to be watered and which might not be able to be planted for winter as usual. It is so easy to assume our food will be there. But these recent events remind us it is far from guaranteed.

In the time Israel were wandering through the desert, the Lord was training Israel in an important lesson. To look to him, and trust him to provide what they needed. Each day they were only to gather as much manna, the miracle bread the Lord gave them to eat, for that day. They were to trust him that he would give them enough that they needed for that day, and that he could be trusted to give what they needed tomorrow. The next morning sure enough what was needed was there. That lasted 40 years!

Jesus called his disciples to recognise the same reality when he taught us to pray *'Give us each day our daily bread.'* (Luke 11:3)

Though our food comes to us through hard work of many people, for whom we are thankful, it is the Lord who provides what we need. It is to him we need to look to provide our sustenance. It is him we are to trust to meet our needs. It is him who we are to thank ultimately when it is provided.

But the manna in the wilderness became a pattern for the wider pattern of God's workings with any who will trust him. We can trust him to give us whatever we need today. He doesn't give us everything in one go – for then we would forget to trust him! He graciously gives what we need today, and calls us to trust him to do the same tomorrow.

Those needs might be much wider than our food: Provision for what we need to serve him, for wisdom for the decisions we need to make, for the strength to say no to certain sins which keep coming back, and yes to go his way, the ability to love people, the courage we need in a situation, the help we need in another.

It is something I have been seeking to reflect on recently when faced with worries. *'Father, please give me what I need today. Help me to trust tomorrow to you.'*

So this Harvest, why not turn in a Bible to Exodus 16 and ponder the Lord's provision of our daily bread, but also ask him to help you trust him more and more to provide all your needs for that day.

With love

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



Heritage Open Days



St Paul's Church Airedale & Fairhaven
Working in Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

Thursday 15th September 2022 - 10.00am - 3.30pm

Saturday 17th September 2022 - 10.00am - 2.00pm

Join us for a chance to explore our beautiful church building.
Refreshments available. Everyone welcome!

Thursday 15th only: Short organ recitals at 10.30am and 2.30pm.
Longer recital at 12noon. Why not end the day with Sung Evening Prayer at 3.30pm?



Also in September:-

Back to Church Sunday ~ 18th September



1 Thessalonians

Are you familiar with Apostle Paul's first letter to the church in Thessalonica?

Do you find it hard to live as a Christian in a world so full of materialism and the worship of self?

Why not join us at the 10:30am Services from Sunday 11th September and find out how Paul encouraged the church in Thessalonica to stand firm in their faith, despite opposition and ridicule.

Harvest Sunday 2022

Sunday 25th September

Join us this Harvest as we give thanks to our God for all his gifts.

10.30am - Service of Holy Communion
with 'Bring and Share' meal afterwards

5.30pm - Special Service of Sung Evening Prayer

With opportunity to give to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal and Fylde Foodbank



Prayer for September



Father,
September – a month of new starts for many. We pray for all starting school, university or college, or moving into a new class or job.

We pray for the new Prime Minister to prove to a person of integrity, dedicated to working for the good of all.

We especially ask you to help those struggling with the rising cost of living who don't know how they are going to make ends meet.

Have mercy on this nation, Lord and bring us back to Your ways.

Thank You for Jesus and that through trusting in Him we can know You, as Father and God of truth, mercy and compassion.

Thank You that You never give up on us. You will help us if we turn to You, in Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

*All One in
Christ Jesus*



The title above is the motto of the Keswick Convention, a Christian Convention, which has been running in the Lake District for nearly 150 years. It is estimated that anywhere between 12 - 15,000 people attend over the three weeks each summer on the site of the old Cumberland Pencil Factory.

God's purposes for this world are focused on the local church. As it has once been said 'The local church as God designed it is the hope of the world.' So that has to be the focus of our joy, commitment and energy. However, the opportunity to meet with a much larger group of Christians at different points – from different places, and even different countries is a great blessing and encouragement. In a world where we can sometimes feel isolated following Jesus, it can be a real boost occasionally to sing Jesus' praises alongside several thousand at the same time! The Convention centres on a Morning Bible Reading and Evening Celebration each day, with other seminars, bookstalls, and Mission stalls as well. For younger people there are activities for those aged from 3-24!

The theme this year was 'Grateful' and Ruth and I were greatly helped hearing teaching from the life of Jacob in Genesis. We saw again the grace of God with sinners, and the transforming work of God in Jacob's life, which strengthened us in our own.

Next year, I hope to organise a church day trip to the convention, so watch this space.

But if you want to find out more go to: <https://keswickministries.org/> and if you want to hear many of the talks, seminars and lectures from the past few years you can follow along here: www.youtube.com/user/keswickconvention



Back to School

Canon Paul Hardingham considers
what we will 'do' this autumn



September is that time of year when we get back to school after the summer break, along with our other routines. As disciples (lit: *learners*) we are all called to learn from Jesus and live like Him. God wants us to make a difference as disciples in our school and workplace, family and friends. As Paul writes:

'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 3:17).

'WHATEVER you do': God is at work in every aspect of our lives. He can use whatever we do to make a difference to those around. Do we believe this? Our lives shouldn't be like an orange, segmented into the sacred and secular, but more like an apple, in which the whole is available to God.

'Whatever YOU do': God wants to use us to share God's love with the people around us, wherever we spend time. We can trust Him for the resources we need hour by hour, day by day, year by year. What do we need from Him?

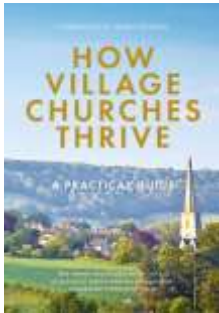
'Whatever you DO': Our work is for God alone, as a response to God's love for us. How does this perspective make a difference when what we do seems hard, unrewarding, or unappreciated by others?

A man standing on a train platform was asked one day: *'Who are you?'* He replied, *'I am a Christian thinly disguised as an accountant.'* If we were asked the same question I wonder what we would say. As disciples of Jesus Christ, our identity is rooted in God and His call upon our lives. For each of us, September represents going back to school with Jesus, to learn how we can live for Him.



Church of England Unveils Strategy to Help Rural Churches Thrive

By the Revd Peter Crumpler



The Church of England has launched a 10-point strategy to help its thousands of rural churches survive and thrive.

The CofE has published *How Village Churches Thrive*, a practical guide to help the churches – many of them historic listed buildings with small congregations – have a sustainable future.

The strategy sets out 10 key areas “where applying relatively small changes can make a big difference to the revitalisation, recovery and renewal of our village churches, amplifying the efforts that may well be happening already.”

The ten key recommendations set out in the strategy are:

Extend a warm welcome. Think carefully and objectively about who your welcome is aimed at.

Make the most of life events – weddings, baptisms and funerals. Many people’s first contact with church begins through the church being there for them at life’s big moments.

Use buildings creatively. With thought and planning, your buildings can provide opportunities for people to connect with the community.

Care for ‘God’s Acre.’ Engage the whole community in loving and caring for the churchyard.

Be the ‘heartbeat’ of a village community. Your church could affect positive change in village life. Leading a community audit could be an important place to start.

Celebrate your heritage. The history of the church buildings presents an opportunity for churches to connect with new people of all ages and backgrounds.

Cultivate fruitful festivals. Festivals across the year provide ideal opportunities to celebrate, be innovative and creative, and – in partnership with schools, businesses and local groups – to welcome others of every age group.

Welcome more children. Engaging with younger people is a priority for the CofE nationally – and village settings can offer great opportunities for creative ministry with children. Projects formed in partnership, especially with local schools, are most likely to thrive.

Reach the isolated and lonely. Village churches are in ‘the perfect position’ to make a positive impact on isolation and loneliness.

Communicate effectively. Focused communication supports your parish vision and strategy and ensures that all your efforts have more chance of being effective.

Church House Publishing, who published the new guide, describe it as “Packed with practical advice and inspiring case studies to encourage and increase confidence in all who work or worship in a village church.”



Why Belong to the Church?

Canon Paul Hardingham

Many people are struggling to connect with church today following the pandemic. However, we should *‘not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing’* (Hebrews 10:25). The church is not simply a building or services, but a shared friendship with Jesus, as the NT makes clear.

1. The Family of God

The church is a community united by their love for God and readiness to sharing this love with others: *‘a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light’* 1) Peter 2:9). It is in the life of the church that people can connect with God’s love.

2. The Body of Christ

The church is also Christ’s body on earth, *‘The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ’* 1) Cor 12:12). We all have a unique contribution to make, using our different gifts, experience and passion. However, beware of those attitudes that stop us representing Christ: *inferiority* (*‘I have nothing to offer’* (or *superiority* (*‘I don’t need you’* .(

3. A Holy Temple

In the OT the temple, was God’s home on earth; now the church has become His home: *‘In Him the whole building is joined together ... in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.’* Ephesians 1: 21,22). Church is a place where people can be loved, accepted and welcomed home. Is this our experience of church and what changes would make it more as God intends?

Don’t forget: *‘The local church is the hope of the world’* (Bill Hybels)

General Synod Presidential Address by the Archbishop of York



Here is an edited version of Stephen Cottrell's recent speech...

Following Jesus isn't easy.

In the public square our words will often be misunderstood, misinterpreted and misquoted. People will think we're woke, naïve, misguided, too left wing, too right wing, too liberal or too conservative. We will be applauded for taking a moral stand, and pilloried for getting involved in politics. At the same time. On the same issue. But, knowing very well that we will sometimes get it wrong, what we are trying to be, is faithful to Jesus.

In personal witness we will sometimes meet scorn, apathy, even hostility. That which means most to us, will be considered trivial, laughable and neanderthal by some. But when we do share the gospel, we will find ourselves standing on the holy ground of other people's stories - and their pain - and often we won't have the words to say, such as when we're ministering to those whose lives are cut short, or when taking the funeral of a child.

Our hearts will be pierced, and like Mary standing at the foot of the cross, our witness will be a silent vigil and a determination to abide.

We will carry a towel, not a flag. We will issue an invitation, not a summons. We will, wherever possible, roll away stones.

In overseeing and resourcing the church for ministry, a responsibility that we all share, we will have to make painful and difficult decisions. In facing up to mistakes, we will be humbled, especially by our failings to safeguard the Church or to root out racism or even just to communicate well, and show kindness to each other, in these things, we will be pierced & broken.

Yet the sight of the Most High gladdens and sustains us. For me, that is around the table of the Lord and in the daily slog and diet of prayer and the comfort of scripture.

And for all of us, laity, priests and bishops, the whole people of God, we must, as our first priority and the first call upon our lives, pay attention to those sources of replenishing grace that are given us in word and worship, in sacrament and fellowship, enabling us to persevere, to get better, to make amends, to love one another.

So this is what I say to myself each day: Stephen, know your need of God; know that you need resources outside yourself; don't believe your own publicity; own up to your mistakes; don't think you're in charge or this is your church. It isn't. And seek out those places of prayerful contemplation and replenishing where you will know God's love for you.

The following poem has been written with 'Back to Church' Sunday (18th September), in mind.



Going back

(Luke 15:11-32)

Could I go back
After all this time,
After all I've done,
The places I've been,
The wild living
And the wasted years,
Could I go back?



Would they let me in,
Would *He* want me at all,
Is it possible even now
To turn round
And simply go home?



From the coming to my senses
Comes decision,
Comes a risking,
Comes a turning
And a danger of rejection, after all.



But when I'm still far off
And searching
The way beckons like a beacon -
And there He is,
Arms wide in welcome.
And He's running out
To bring me in
To the still place of the love
That is my Father and my home.

By Daphne Kitching

Images courtesy of FreeBibleimages.org

Harvest Festivals



The celebration of harvest isn't an exclusively Christian festival. It has been celebrated since ancient times and in many cultures. One tradition of giving at harvest-time is found in the Old Testament of the Bible, when the Jews would give a tenth of their harvest to God. This was known as a tithe. (Leviticus 27:30). Much later, in this country, farmers used to give a tithe of everything that came from the ground. They would give their crops, wool or milk, which totalled an agreed amount of their yearly profits. The tithes were often given to help to support the parish church and its clergy, with any grain being stored in huge tithe barns, many of which can still be seen today.

The first Harvest Thanksgiving Service in an Anglican church was held on 1st October 1843 at Morwenstow in Cornwall. It was led by the Rev. Robert Hawker as a way for people to say 'thank-you' to God for the harvest. It became a regular tradition, with many churches now holding a Harvest Festival of Thanksgiving during the autumn.

The church building is often decorated with flowers and food, and may include a large loaf shaped like a wheatsheaf. During the church service, further gifts of food are often added to the display; and afterwards, all the produce is distributed to those in need.

The celebration of the harvest helps us to recognise that all good gifts come from God. By the giving of both food and money, we are saying thank you to God in a practical way whilst also remembering that He commanded us to love and care for each other.

This year, perhaps more than most, it is especially important to give thanks; and to pray for those whose crops have failed; to remember and pray for the hungry, that they may find sufficient food to sustain them.

Nigel Beeton explains it like this:

"September is a time when we begin the celebration of harvest, and the rhythms of the seasons that lead up to it. But, as this Summer shows, the seasons have been disturbed. My cousins are farmers in Suffolk, and it has been so dry this year that they couldn't even drill one field until June.... So our harvest celebrations this year must be tempered with a humble awareness of the part we've played in upsetting the rhythms of creation."

He has written the poem 'The Rhythms of Creation' in response. It can be found on the next page.

The Rhythms of Creation

The rhythms of creation -
The never-ceasing beat
Of seasons in rotation
As cold gives way to heat;
We know, when it is raining
The sun will dry the rain
And when the moon is waning
It soon will wax again.

The farmer drills his acres
When springtime rains shall fall
Then gathers wheat for bakers
As sunflowers grow tall;
In spring, the fruit trees, blooming
Attract the busy bees;
As autumn clouds are looming
We pick from loaded trees.

The Lord, our Great Creator
Allowed us, by His grace
To be the regulator
Of earthly time and space
But mankind has been greedy
In burning coal and oil
So farmers now are seeding
In dry and desert soil.

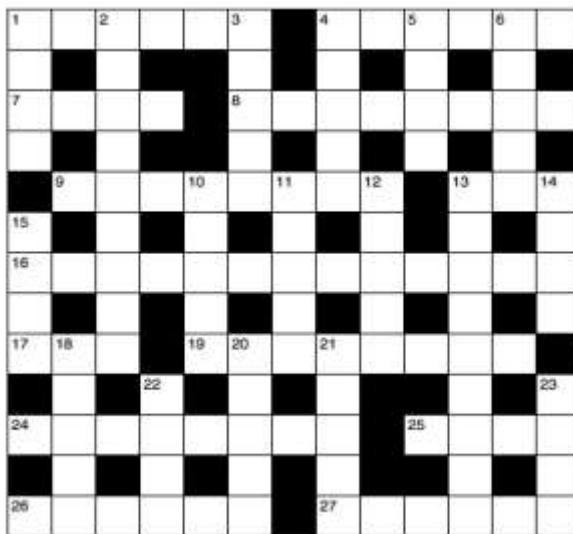
The rhythms of creation
Are wand'ring from their beat
Increasing suffocation,
Of fire, flood, and heat.
Lord, teach us new behaviour
To spend, with care, our days:
Dear loving Lord and Saviour
Forgive our foolish ways!

By Nigel Beeton

Photo by Zeb Zakovics on Unsplash

SEPTEMBER 2022 CROSSWORD

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



Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock(Luke14:29)(8)
- 24 Disgrace(Psalm44:13)(8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4)(4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome(6)
- 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)

Down


- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)

- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten(anag.)(5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used(1Kings7:36)(9)
- 14 'Each one should — his own actions'(Galatians6:4)(4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just —— was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts(5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher(Genesis46:17)(5)
- 22 Be distressed(Proverbs24:19)(4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)



**Crossword Solution
August 2022**

G	S	S	E	C	S	M	F
P	H	I	N	C	E	O	F
R	N	O	C	E	O	F	P
I	N	F	U	N	M	A	R
N	U	R	I	N	A	R	I
G	U	L	A	G	T	H	E
R	L	A	S	E	R	A	S
I	N	A	I	D	O	F	A
N	T	H	E	R	S	M	O
C	A	L	V	I	N	I	S
O	A	N	E	I	I	I	I
M	O	S	E	S	A	N	D
E	T	T	D	N	E		



parish pump
www.parishpump.com

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



ARTICLES FOR THE OCTOBER PNE



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

Thank you.

Janet Kimber

Time for a Smile

How To Get To Heaven

"If sold my house and my car, had a big car boot sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into Heaven?" the teacher asked her Sunday School class. "No!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the grass, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into Heaven?" Again, the answer was "No!"

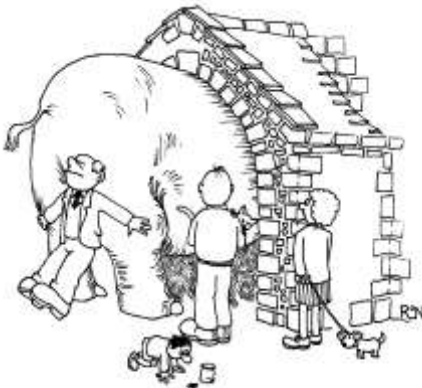
"Well", she continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?" A five-year-old boy shouted out, "You gotta be dead first!"



Listen Up

While I was giving a sermon one Sunday, two teenage girls at the back giggled and disturbed people. Finally, I interrupted my sermon and announced sternly, "There are two of you here who have not heard a word I've said." That quieted them down.

When the service was over, I went to greet people at the front door. Three members of the PCC shuffled by, apologised for going to sleep in church, and promising it would never happen again.



Eventually they decided to hold the pets' service outdoors.

What They Say

When my older brother was very young, he always walked up to the church altar with my mother when she took Holy Communion. On every occasion, he tugged at her arm and asked, "What does the priest say when he gives you the bread?" Mum would always lean over and whisper something in his ear. Imagine his shock many years later when he learned that the priest doesn't say, "Be quiet until you get to your seat."

Mystery Music

A friend of mine, a professional organist, was asked to play for a wedding. Unfamiliar with the church's organ, she went to the sanctuary to practise. Curious about a small keyboard that slid out from under the two regular keyboards, she tapped out a couple of bars of a simple tune but heard nothing. Then she played a few more notes, but still no organ music.

Just then a man came running into the church, shouting, "Who's playing 'Three Blind Mice' on the church-steeple bells?" She had been operating the carillon.



"Finally, we're still waiting for someone from last week's Parent & Toddler Group to come and claim this lost property..."

Confess

A man walked into a minister's study and confessed: "I think I'm addicted to Twitter."

The minister looked at him and replied, "Sorry, I don't follow you."

September 

Can't hear to see?

Why is it that when you're driving and looking for an address, you turn down the volume on the radio?

Broken

How do you fix a broken website?
With stick e-tape.

Technology

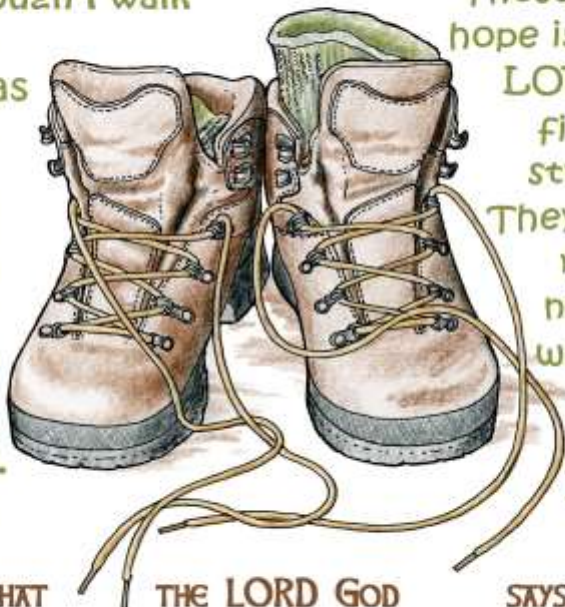
After ringing mobile phones disrupted the flow of a service, one minister laid down the law in the following week's pew-sheet: "Let's turn off the technology and turn on each other."

When Adam met Eve

The topic for my class was palindromes, which are of course words or sentences that are the same read forward and backward. I asked the question 'What is the first thing Adam said to Eve?' I was expecting 'Madam, I'm Adam', but one student had a better reply: "Wow."

What does the LORD God want from you? To respect Him, walk in all His ways, and to love and serve Him. Deut 10:12-13

Even though I walk through valleys as dark as death, I will not fear any danger, because You are with me.
Ps 23:4



Those whose hope is in the LORD will find new strength. They will . . . run and not tire, walk and not faint.
Is 40:31

THIS IS WHAT THE LORD GOD SAYS, "STAND AT THE CROSSROADS AND LOOK. ASK FOR THE ANCIENT PATHS, THE GOOD ROADS. WALK IN THEM AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS." JEREMIAH 6:16



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



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>

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.