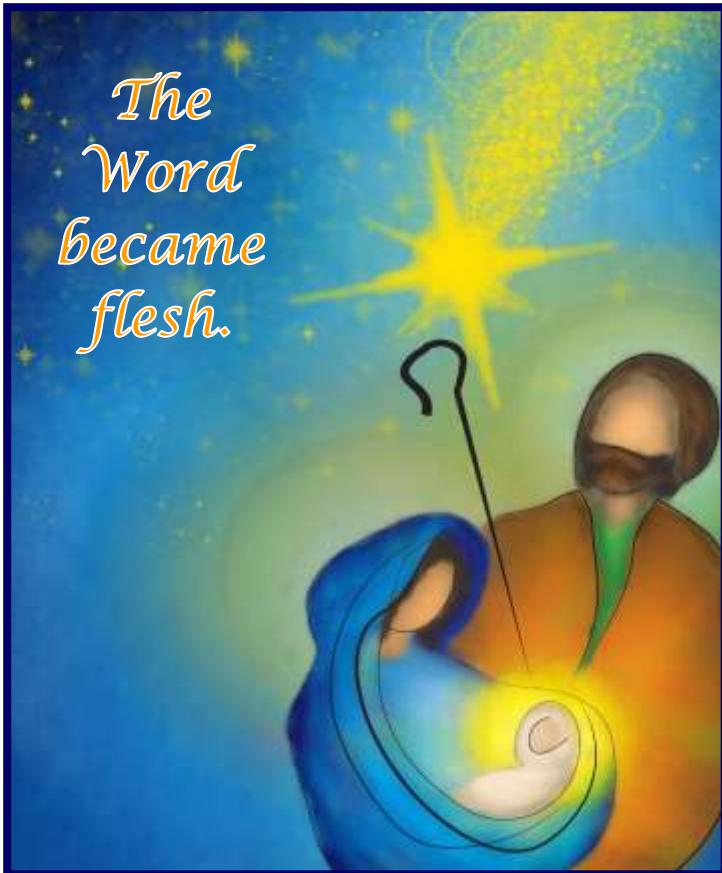




St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven
Working In Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 170 ~ December 2022



Letter from the Vicarage...

Although Advent has only just begun, I imagine the Christmas cards have started to arrive. I love seeing the different images which are represented there.

For those which mark the Christian nature of Christmas, a stable scene is likely to be the focus. Jesus, the infant baby in a manger, occupies our view.

Rightly so. The astonishment of that first Christmas is that the eternal Word took on flesh. Without losing his divinity, he took a human nature upon himself. So that in the person of Jesus, we find one who is fully God – on whom we are dependent, and the one who is fully human, who depended on his mother's milk. The never-to-be-undone miracle in the Bethlehem baby should be the focus of our wonder and worship.



Yet, sometimes at Christmas we can fall into a situation where we only see the infant Jesus, meek and mild. So when Christmas passes, he stays the same. As a baby, Jesus is easy to keep in his place, or even ignore. But that is to miss who he is.

It is beautifully captured in C S Lewis' book 'The Chronicles of Narnia' as Aslan (representing Jesus) comes to Narnia where it is 'always winter and never Christmas.' Lucy hears of Aslan's coming:

"Don't you know who is the King of Beasts? Aslan is a lion—the lion, the great Lion."

"Ooh!" said Susan, "I'd thought he was a man. Is he—quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."

"That you will, dearie, and no mistake," said Mrs. Beaver; "if there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly."

"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.

"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver; "don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

"Course he isn't safe. But he's good."

That is the reality which we need to hold as we look at the infant Jesus. We are to wonder at God coming as a child. But we are not to miss who Jesus is.

His taking on flesh, points to Jesus' gentleness, compassion and humility. It calls us to draw near, whoever we are.

But the one whose birth we mark is not to be mistaken to be soft, weak or dispensable. We are not to think he is safe. He is a mighty Lion before whom we ought to tremble. It is that truth which we recognise in Advent. One day every one of us will come face to face with this King. Each will have to give account as to how we have responded to him. Left to ourselves we will not be safe on that eternal day. That is why it is so wonderful that his goodness calls out to us before then, to return to him and find life.

This Advent and Christmas, join us as we wonder at the Word who became flesh. Hear his goodness calling out to you. But let us not fail to see who Jesus truly is.

With every blessing

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



PCC Update November 2022

Here are some headlines from November's PCC meeting:

Update – The Fundraising Shop Lease extension (with the potential of extension to December 2027) was passed by the PCC. This will now go to Blackburn Diocese for approval.

Diocesan Conference – Pam, Kyle and Paul fed back to the PCC about the recent Diocesan Conference. Some of the highlights were: An opportunity to meet and worship with others, a dramatization of John's gospel, and hearing from John 4, 15 and 21 in talks given by Andrew Cornes, a retired minister. In particular Jesus' love for his people which feeds our love for Jesus. All three were struck by these talks.

Mission Partners – Further helpful conversations have been had with Crosslinks regarding potential Mission Partners. A visit of potential Parish links from a church in Thika Diocese, Kenya, will take place on November 19th at St Paul's.

Church of England – Paul briefly outlined that conversations will be needed in the coming months following recent events in the Church of England around calls to change its historic practice and belief regarding marriage and sexual relationships. If anyone wants to speak to Paul about these significant, and often personal, matters before then, Paul would be very happy to chat.

Budget – The PCC gave thanks for God's provision in 2022. Regular giving has increased above the amount planned for in the 2022 budget. The PCC were encouraged to 'seek first God's kingdom' as we look at the pressing financial needs in 2023. While seeking to be prudent, we want to be bold too, trusting God to provide. The PCC worked in detail through the proposed budget for 2023. An updated version will be voted on in December. Please speak to Loraine if you wish to find out more.

Hall Hire – A modest increase to hall hire rates was agreed, in light of the current financial situation, and no increases for many years.



*I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play,
and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth,
goodwill to men! – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Ansdell and Fairhaven

Christmas at St Paul's Church **The Word became Flesh**

*Wishing you a very
Happy Christmas
Everyone welcome*

Christingle:

Sunday December 11th 4.00pm

Carols by Candlelight:

Sunday December 18th 4.00pm

Crib Service

Saturday December 24th 4.00pm

Midnight Service

Saturday December 24th 11.30pm

Christmas Day Service

Sunday December 25th 10.00am

*For more information please visit us at:
stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/christmas*



St Paul's Fundraising Shop

St Paul's Fundraising Shop continues to flourish, with support from our loyal volunteers and customers. Donations continue to flow in and customer footfall remains high. Sales are good and becoming more consistent, aided by the amazing window displays, thanks to Sheila. Items are often in the window for a matter of minutes, before being purchased. We have a few new volunteers, who seem to be enjoying their time in the shop.

But..... the most exciting changes are the (re)introduction of daily prayers before the shop opens and the new volunteers who are coming into the shop specifically to be available to any customers who may need to talk or to be prayed with or for. A hot drink is being offered to people who may just want to sit and be warm in the company of others.

Many customers comment on the welcoming atmosphere and the open and airy layout; neither of these would be manageable without those regular and committed volunteers, varying in age from sixteen to.....much older!

I am enjoying my role as Manager, even with the challenges sometimes presenting themselves, such as scaffolding being erected along both sides of the shop, without prior notice, water appearing in the cellar from an unidentified source and a surprise request to allow plumbers to install pipes in the office to serve the neighbouring property.

We have continued to support local charities by supplying sleeping bags to the Bridge Project and baby/nursery equipment to Care and Share. More distantly, crutches, walking frames and other mobility equipment has been delivered to International Aid Trust for use by injured Ukrainian people. Derek has very kindly delivered these items for us.

For the future, I hope and pray for more volunteers to be able to support us, by giving time to just be in the shop to talk with customers or by regularly helping in the day to day routines and for customers to not be surprised to see clergy and lay people ministering to others in the shop setting.



Pam Rowell



Fundraising Shop Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday

10am - 12:30pm; 1:30pm - 4pm

Saturday and Sunday

Closed

The Coming of the King Advent Devotional

Only £1



The lead up to Christmas can be so busy. Ironically Jesus can get squeezed out at a time we are wanting to focus on him. This book gives 25 short readings looking at the second coming of Jesus from Matthew 24 and 25, and preparing us to celebrate the first coming of Jesus from Luke 1-2. Taken from reflections by the first Bishop of Liverpool, JC Ryle, each help us focus on Jesus in Advent, ending with a prayer for each day.



From 1st
December

COUNTDOWN WITH US!

This Advent, count down each day with
our Advent windows
which all the community can enjoy!

Look out for them
in the window of our Fundraising Shop on Woodlands Rd,
on our notice board on Clifton Drive,
on our website and Facebook!



SCAN ME

stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/advent-window
facebook.com/St.Pauls.Ansdell.Fairhaven/



90 Years of Broadcasting the Royal Christmas Messages

by Tim Lenton

This year we shall have our first Royal Christmas Message from King Charles III. He follows in a tradition that spans three generations.

It was 90 years ago, on 25th December 1932, that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham. A quarter of a century later, on 25th December 1957, the Christmas message by Queen Elizabeth II was televised for the first time.

King George V had been asked to broadcast a Christmas message in 1922, but at the time he felt that radio was for entertainment, and therefore not suitable. Ten years later, after a visit to the BBC, he was persuaded otherwise, and agreed to do it as part of the inauguration of the new Empire Service (now the World Service).

The time chosen was 3pm because it was the best time for reaching most countries in the Empire. In fact the first message started five minutes late and lasted only two and a half minutes, but it made a massive impact and established itself as a regular Christmas Day event.

Edward VIII never delivered a Christmas broadcast, but King George VI continued the tradition, using it to encourage people during the second world war. Queen Elizabeth II broadcast her first Christmas message in 1952, again from a room at Sandringham, and five years later agreed that her Christmas message could be televised – live. She proved to be a natural broadcaster.

But times changed, and in 1960 the message was pre-recorded from Buckingham Palace, which meant that it could be sent to Commonwealth countries for broadcast at a convenient time. However, the 3pm UK broadcast continued every year – except 1969, when the Queen wrote a message instead, believing that the Royal Family had received enough exposure with the TV documentary *Royal Family*, which had aired in the summer.

But the tradition was resumed the following year. The Christmas message is now also available each year as a podcast and can be seen through Facebook and YouTube. King Charles III is expected to give his first Christmas message this year.

Reflections on the Christmas Story

The following is a mix of Bible readings and comments by Tony Horsfall, a former OMF missionary to the Far East and now a retreat leader and author based in Yorkshire.

Matthew 1:18 Joseph's Dilemma



This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit....

It is not clear at what point Mary told Joseph the news of her pregnancy, but when she did it came as a bombshell. What should he do, knowing the child was not his? Could her story be true? He was however a righteous man, and he sought God for direction rather than acting impulsively. God spoke to him through a dream, confirming that the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and this gave him the courage to stand by her, and take her as his wife. It was a brave decision, but he now knew that the child would be the One to save people from their sins.

It is easy when we have difficult decisions to make to be impetuous or hasty, but the best decisions are made slowly and with prayer. When you are making important choices ask God to guide you clearly, and to give you the courage to do what is right.

Matthew 1:22 Long-awaited Immanuel



All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us') ... And Joseph gave Him the name Jesus.

The plan of salvation is intimately connected to the Old Testament, and was the fulfilment of prophecies made long ago. God was sending His Son into the world that we might be saved. God is with us – this astonishing, mind-blowing truth underpinned Joseph's straight-forward trust in Him. Today as you get on with your life, pray that the wonder of knowing that God is with you will never be far from your awareness.

Luke 2:1-7

Bethlehem



In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... so Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

This is perhaps the most familiar picture we have of the Christmas event—but remember what was happening. This was no ordinary child. In Jesus God became a human being and dwelt among us, perhaps the greatest miracle (and mystery) of all. As you visualise the scene again, let worship arise in your heart: *‘From heaven you came, helpless Babe, entered our world your glory veiled.’* Emmanuel, God with us! The Servant King, worthy of all our adoration and love.

LORD God, in this season please help me to live in the wonder of your upside-down Kingdom where your love for us compels you to become helpless, vulnerable and dependent. May your Kingdom come in and through my life today.

Luke 2:8-12

The Shepherds Arrive



And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

The first visitors are not VIPs but humble shepherds who have been summoned by an angelic visitor. For those who have eyes to see, there hidden in the manger beneath the blankets is the Son of God, the one sent by the Father to be the Saviour of the world. Very few of those crowded into Bethlehem that night were aware of what was happening. Only those with faith could recognise the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah. It is the same today.

Lord, I pray for eyes to see where the glory of Heaven touches earth. May I be alive today with the truth that the Saviour, rescuer, King Jesus has been born 'to us' and that there is joy in this for all people. May my life reflect that glory even in a small way in my interactions with people, so that in this Christmas season the good news of great joy will be known.

Luke 2:13-15 Angel Hosts

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'



The darkness of the Judean hillside was lit up by the appearance of a great angelic choir, messengers sent to herald the birth of the Saviour. Their song breaks the stillness of the night, first in praise of God for his act of mercy in sending the Son, and then in proclamation of the peace the child will bring to earth. The shepherds now decide to do the unthinkable -leave their flocks, and head off into town to see the new born King. Such is the drawing power of the Saviour.

Sometimes there are things we too must leave behind if we are to follow his call, but whatever sacrifice is needed, it will be worth it just to find him for ourselves.

Luke 2:16-20 Mary Ponders

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ... Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen...



The shepherds became the first evangelists, proclaiming the good news... That was their response, and it should be ours too.

But for Mary there followed a time of reflection. Exuberant witness and quiet contemplation are not opposites. They are in fact good companions in the spiritual life.

Thank you, LORD Jesus, that you are still found when we search for you. May I be willing to share the discovery I've made with others at this time. But I also want to know you better in my inner life, too. Please give me that balance of active following and heart-pondering reflection, especially in this Christmas season.

All photographs used in this article are from the LUMO project on FreeBibleImages.com



Christmas Day

*An acrostic poem, using the first letter of the word
CHRISTMAS DAY to start each new line.*

Carols sound throughout the land
Heralding a special birth
Rejoicing as from Heaven's realm
Immanuel comes to bless the earth.

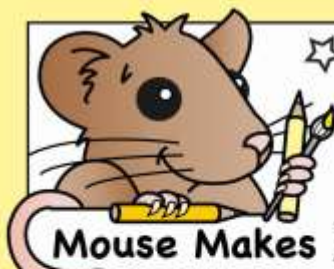
So in the town of Bethlehem
The Saviour Jesus gently lies,
Mary rocks the tiny child
As angels serenade the skies.

Shepherds told the awesome story
Divinity will now reside
As He who ruled in Heaven above
Yet Lord of all comes as a child.

By Megan Carter

Photo by David Beale on Unsplash

A Page for the Young at Heart



Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!
Read the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-21.
Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

GLORY

Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?

What did Mary dress her baby in?

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?


Why were the shepherds afraid?

What good news did the angel tell?

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?

GBABYNGOODDABLF
VOSHEPHERDSAVIOUR
DAYTMARYNENFRRO
SCHRISTEPGLTD
ALAI DRWHEOH
EPRAISELC
HEIVALLSK
EEANIGHTOLD
SMCNDCEEB
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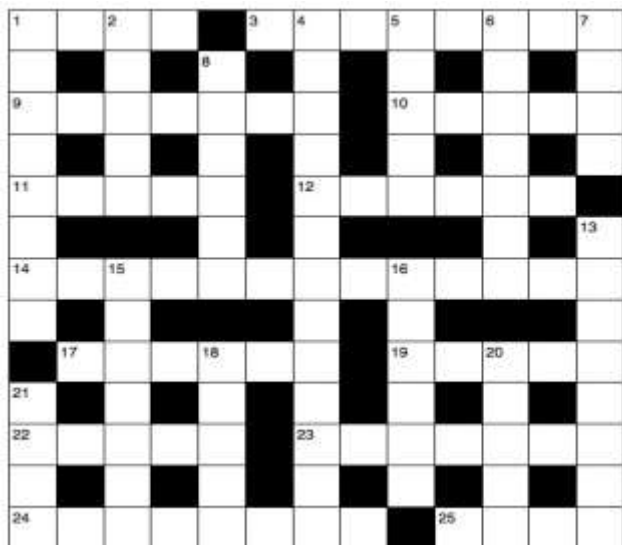


ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER
INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY
SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE

Dec22 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

DECEMBER 2022 CROSSWORD

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



Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
- 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore' (Hebrews 13:13) (8)
- 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
- 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
- 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
- 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
- 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
- 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
- 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
- 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
- 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
- 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
- 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — —' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
- 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)

- 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
- 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
- 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
- 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
- 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
- 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
- 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
- 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
- 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
- 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
- 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)



**Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year to all our readers.**

Photo by Debby Hudson on Unsplash



**Crossword Solution
November 2022**



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



ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY 2023 PNE



If you have an article for inclusion in the January 2023 PNE, please make sure that I have received a copy by **Saturday 10th December**. Please note that any articles received after that date will be included in the February 2023 edition. My contact details are on page 19.

Thank you.

Janet Kimber

Time for a Smile

Christmas card

Richard, my husband, and I had a hectic Christmas holiday schedule involving work, care of parents, driving of teenagers, shopping, and all the required doings of the season. Running out of time, I asked a local printer to simply print our name on our Christmas cards, to save me signing each one.

Soon we started getting cards from friends signed 'The Modest Morrisons', 'The Clever Clarks', and 'The Successful Smiths'.

This baffled me until I looked again at our card. I had posted out a hundred cards neatly imprinted with 'Happy Holidays from the 'Rich Armstrongs'.



A Part in the Play

A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!"

"What part?" asked his mother. "I'm one of the three wise guys!"



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

Church officials

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel demanded.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two big men standing by the door and glaring at you? They're hushers."

Visiting Father Christmas

A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

Santa

I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me, and has discovered I am Claustrophobic.

A Couple of Seasonal Jokes

What do you call Santa's helpers?
- Subordinate Clauses.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
- Frostbite.



Rodney didn't know how she'd got in, but she seemed very keen to audition for the nativity play...

Predictions

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be when the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter. - Anon.



The Christmas Story from a Child's Point of View

- ◆ - When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manager.
- ◆ When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
- ◆ - Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.



Luke 2:14



Church Hall Hire

We have vacancies on Monday and Thursday Evenings and Saturday afternoons. 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 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.