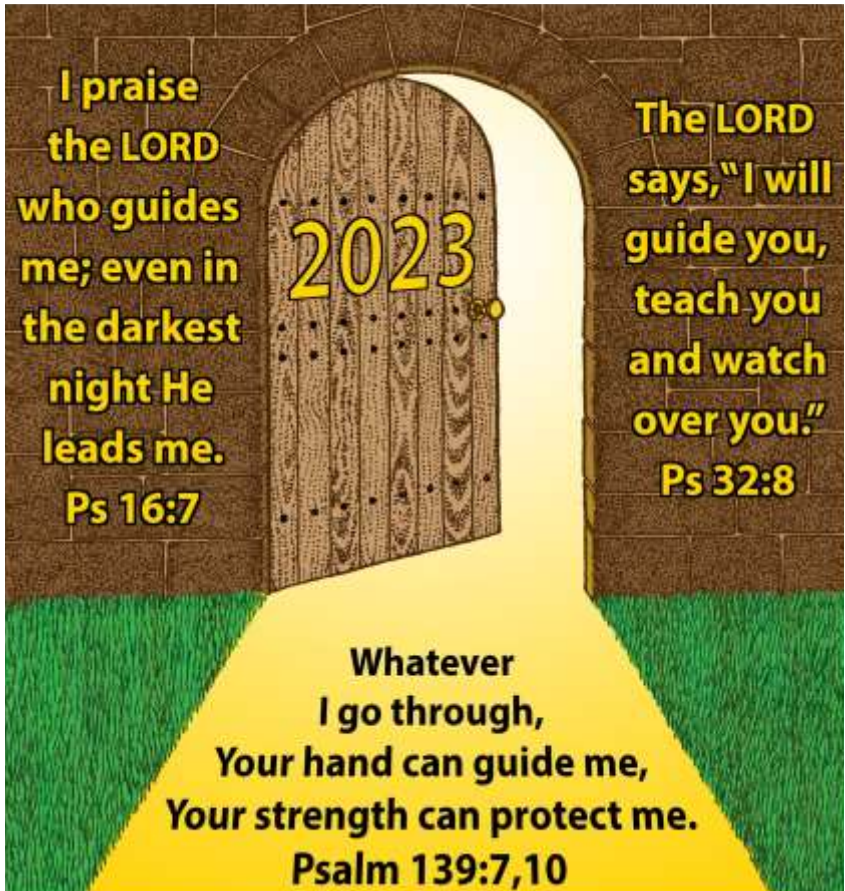




St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven  
Working In Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

# PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 171 ~ January 2023



# *Letter from the Vicarage...*

I don't know if you played any party games over Christmas? One which used to be a family favourite of ours was the 'Hat Game'. The paper crowns from the Christmas crackers would be repurposed, and a different famous person's name be written on them. The players would have a hat placed on their head, without seeing the name. They then had twenty attempts asking only 'Yes/No' questions to work out who they were. Usually hilarity followed. My Nan was almost always 'The Queen', and almost never remembered from the year before, that is who she would be given!



'Who am I?' That is not only an important question to ask ourselves as individuals, but also as a church. Wonderfully, it is not a question without an answer, nor a one where we have to forge an answer for ourselves. Our identity, as those made by God, and as Christians, bought by him, wonderfully comes from him. Life is found living out whom God has made us to be.

God also tells us who we are as a church. Around four years ago, with the church council, and followed by church vision sessions, we sought to discern from the Bible who God says we are to be. Our identity statement was born from this – what we long, and are called to be:

*'By God's grace, we are a loving family,  
of whole hearted disciples, making more disciples.'*

In those past four years, there have been changes in our world, our congregational life and indeed our congregation. So with the beginning of the New Year, with the fresh starts it brings, it felt right to look at them together again. In particular, we will be looking at each of the marks on a different Sunday in the earlier weeks of 2023. Of course, our identity doesn't change with a New Year, or the changes of the past years. But it is good to be reminded again and again. I trust it will be a refreshing and helpful opportunity, whether you were part of St Paul's when we sought to discern this identity in the past, or it is new to you.

Our memory verse for 2023 (which you can see on page 5) picks up on the first two marks, 'by God's grace' and 'a loving family'. Do pick up a motto text from St Paul's and put it somewhere you can see through the year.

As you do, ponder on the grace of God – that despite our weak love or lack of love for him, his underserved love is lavished towards us. A love which gives us what we most need, at great cost – our sins forgiven through Jesus. That is love, 'vast, unmeasured, boundless, free' to quote a hymn.

Then ponder that if we have received that love, what it looks like to live that kind of love towards one another – sacrificial, costly, generous, and holy, towards each other as a church family.

Pray that we would grow to know, depend on and live in God's grace more and more this year, and as we do, these four marks would show themselves in us more and more.

With best wishes for the New Year

*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](http://stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/st-pauls-tots)





## *A Parish Placement*

*by Kyle Mulholland*

For three weeks in January, I will be on a parish placement at St John's Church in Blackpool. This is part of my curate training.

It was decided that St John's would become something called an "HTB resourcing church." "HTB" is a network of churches spread across the country, with its own approach to theology, worship, and discipleship. The aim of the placement is to observe something different, and learn from the experience.

This means I won't be at St Paul's - on Sunday mornings and for most of the week - until the end of the placement on 30 January. I will however continue to pray for you all, and will be contactable either over email or by phone or text, so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Please pray that the Lord would show me helpful things and teach me, while I am on the placement.



### *What is an HTB Resourcing Church?*

HTB is short for Holy Trinity, Brompton, which, to quote from their website, is “.. a vibrant Church of England church in the heart of London, passionate about seeing lives changed in the name of Jesus.”

To many, Holy Trinity, Brompton is more familiar as the place where the Alpha Course originated in 1997, which has grown into a global ministry running in 169 countries.

Since 1985, HTB has initiated more than 20 church plants, including St Paul's Hammersmith, St Paul's Shadwell and St Peter's Brighton. To help build on this momentum of church planting in strategic cities across the UK, the Church Revitalisation Trust (CRT) was established in 2017.

Partnered with Church of England dioceses, the CRT is a catalyst for church planting that will see 100 Resource Churches and hundreds of other churches and sites planted and revitalised in strategic cities, towns and areas of high deprivation across the country, bringing revitalisation to the Church and seeing communities transformed.

**2023**

MEMORY VERSE

**This is love:  
not that we loved God,  
but that he loved us  
and sent his Son  
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

**Dear friends,  
since God so loved us,  
we also ought to love one another.**

1 John 4:10-11



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



## **The Conversion of Paul**

**Join us as we celebrate  
the work of God  
in our namesake,  
St Paul.**

**Sunday 29th January 2023**

**10.30am - Morning Service  
12noon - Bring and Share Lunch  
5.30pm - Special Sung Evensong**



## *St Paul's Fundraising Shop*

Our Church shop on Ansdell hill is a blessing in so many ways. The money raised has provided food for families in the Parish who are struggling with the cost of living rise, as well as other good causes linked to our Christian values. The money also supports the mission of St. Paul's Church by helping to pay towards the running of the church, which is particularly important at the moment as Church costs have risen significantly.

The shop also provides an important service for people within the parish and beyond so that they can buy goods more affordably such as clothes, toys, soft furnishings and kitchenware, which helps support families in these difficult times. We have many regular customers who rely on the shop for a friendly chat and a warm space as well as good quality pre-used goods.

When customers visit our shop they often say that our fundraising shop feels quite different to other charity shops. They are also increasingly made aware of the work we do as a church and are able to meet members of St. Paul's which lead to conversations about our Christian faith and may, hopefully, encourage new parishioners to join our congregation.

So as church members what can we do to help the fundraising shop? We can donate good quality goods, volunteer time to do a shift in the shop and at the same time chat to the customers. We can pray for the shop, so that it becomes a beacon for the Christian faith for customers and volunteers. At this time of year as we celebrate Epiphany after the birth of our saviour into the world, who brings hope and love, our humble fundraising shop can provide a taste of that faith, hope and love.



*Diane Austin*



### **Fundraising Shop Opening Hours:**

Monday - Friday

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

Saturday and Sunday

Closed

## *St Paul's Outside Support Fund*

Each year St Paul's commits £1000 to supporting financially Christian ministries which we also regularly support in prayer for. These organisations make Jesus known in word, as well as deed.

In 2022, St Paul's gave:

### **£250 – Crosslinks**

This is a mission agency which we are exploring partnering with missionaries from, now that the De Leeuws have returned from South Sudan.

### **£250 – Christians Against Poverty**

This charity works to help people become debt free, and sharing the good news of Jesus as they do.

### **£250 – The Bridge Project**

This project, run by the Salvation Army, supports adults in Blackpool who are homeless or in vulnerable housing situations.

### **£250 – Embrace the Middle East**

This is a development and aid agency working in the Middle East, which one of our church members recently travelled to Israel to experience their work.

Please pray that this money would enable more people to hear and respond to Jesus themselves, and be served in his name.



## *Food Parcels*

St Paul's also commits 10% of any profit from the Fundraising Shop to be given to ministries or organisations the PCC has discerned it is right to support.

Using money from 2021 we continued to provide food parcels for local families in food need in 2022. This Christmas we had the joy of supporting 15 families from two local primary school providing Christmas food parcels. These were received with great thanks, tears, and relief from some of those whom they were given too.

Please pray for our local community, especially those in need, that as they have them met in small ways, they might also taste and see the Lord is good.

The PCC will make a decision soon as to where the 2022 shop amount will be used.



## Community Foodbank Donations

The community foodbank donations at St Paul's Hall from April 2021 - March 2022 :

1340 kgs  
3190 meals  
£3175 in monetary value

From April 2022 to date (Nov 2022)

805kg  
1916 meals  
£1907 in monetary value

It's all quite amazing, please pass grateful thanks onto your church communities.

The demand for foodbank is increasing and the donations generally have been decreasing because of the current economic climate.

The foodbank does still need all the usual donations please, but especially women's and men's toiletries, long-life milk, juice, tinned fruit and vegetables; and meat.

Many thanks and best wishes

*Julie Webb*



### *Cost-of-Living Crisis Bites Deep*

More than four million people in the UK are now being forced to borrow money to cover the cost of essentials, such as heating and food.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) say that a poll carried out for them by YouGov has found that nearly one fifth of adults in the UK, or about ten million people, are now struggling financially. CAP says that of its clients who have done so, 44 per cent of them have a disability, 42 per cent are single parents, and 47 per cent have suffered abuse.

Higher earners are using up savings, while those on medium to low incomes are having to turn to high-cost credit to survive. One quarter of low earners (earning less than £15,000 a year) have already fallen behind on bills.



## Empowering Women in Pakistan with the Word of God

The Bible Society is helping women in Pakistan learn to read by holding regular Bible-based literacy classes in the Khyber region.

“Before the Bible Society came, there was not a single school for girls in this region. Education for girls was considered immoral,” says Beena, a former hospital cleaner and mother of eight children. “Now we have started a Bible study group in the family and every day we read two or three chapters. We started with the New Testament.”

The literacy rate in Pakistan is 58 per cent, but among Christian women it is estimated to be just 34 per cent. Bible Society hopes to educate 3,500 women in the region by teaching them to read the Bible. If you can help, please visit: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>



### *A Prayer Based on the 2023 Memory Verse*

*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:10-11)*

Lord God, Creator of all, we give thanks for all the love that You have showered upon us in so many ways over the years. We pray that by the grace of Your Holy Spirit, Your love may continue to touch the lives of others through the words and actions of those who love, trust and serve You.

Reveal Yourself afresh into the darkest corners of this earth, into the places where is much sorrow and suffering. Bring hope to those who are struggling to look after their families and loved ones because of debt, illness and misfortune. Bring new sight and understanding to eyes blinded by commercialism, materialism, self-seeking and cynicism.

At the start of this New Year, Lord, soften hearts and give wisdom, so that many will search and find You, just as the wise men searched and found You. And for we, who already know and love You, Lord, shine on us that we might reflect Your light and love; and make a difference, day by day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

# Conversion of St Paul

## 25<sup>th</sup> January

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.



*[Pictures courtesy of Sweet Publishing/FreeBibleimages.org.]*

*An ancient poem of hope for the New Year.  
The Peace of God*

When war did cease upon the earth,  
The stars looked out, the heavens rang,  
The small Lord Jesus came to birth,  
A lilt of peace His Mother sang.

A lilt of peace 'mid snow-clad sheen,  
Goodness-peace, forgiveness of sin,  
Confession-peace, penitent-clean,  
Peace with God and the peace within.

Peace with God and goodwill to men,  
The peace of triumph on the Tree,  
The rising peace that followed then,  
The peace of God for you and me.

The peace of God, lake-waters by,  
The peace of God, mist o'er the sea,  
The peace of God, ascending high,  
The peace of God, unceasingly.

*From Poems of the Western Highlanders*



*Week of Prayer  
for  
Christian Unity*

*18th -25th  
January 2023*

**Be-Longing:**

Praying for Unity amidst Injustice



## *The Epiphany ~ 6<sup>th</sup> January*

### **Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh for the infant Jesus**

Epiphany is also known as 'Twelfth Night', or the last night of the Christmas festival. According to the song, it is also the day when that over-enthusiastic 'true love' of yours dumps no less than 78 presents on your doorstep, among them a dozen leaping lords of the realm and a final partridge – to go with the 11 you have already been given.

In many parts of the world, 6<sup>th</sup> January is celebrated as Christmas Day. As we Western Christians are packing away our tree, the Greek Orthodox world and Catholic Spain are giving presents and celebrating the wise men, or magi. For what better time to give presents to each other, than on the day the wise men presented gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus?

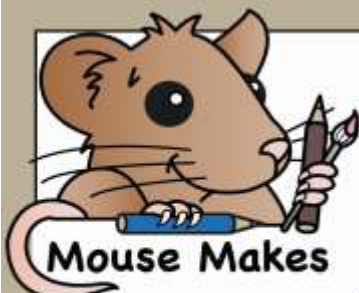
What do we make of these presents? Gold is for kingship, proclaiming a royal child. Frankincense carries a feeling of worship about it: it was used in the temple worship and indicated access to the presence of God. Frankincense is thus for worship and incarnation.

The third gift, myrrh, finds its place at Calvary. After the crucifixion, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea prepared Jesus' body for burial, using myrrh as an embalming fluid. Thus, when the wise men visit the baby Jesus, the shadow of the cross already falls across the crib. But myrrh is also symbolic of love, so you could say that the third gift is about adoration as well as death. And Christ's death on the cross is for love of the Church, His bride.

As for the magi, they were not Jewish grandees, but foreign Gentiles. And so it was clear, from as early as the manger in Bethlehem, that Jesus was not just the Messiah for the Jews, but the Saviour of the whole world.



# A Page for the Young at Heart



## A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM



When the Magi (wise men) came to Bethlehem where had they travelled from?

The \_\_\_\_\_

Why did they make the journey?

What did they follow to get there?

A \_\_\_\_\_

What did they see?

Read *Matthew 2:1-12*



Why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem?

Read *Luke 2:1-4*

When Samuel came to Bethlehem who sent him? Who did he go to see?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and his sons.

Who had he come to anoint as king?

Read *1 Samuel 16:1-13*



Naomi and Ruth came to Bethlehem where had they travelled from?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and why?

When did they arrive?

At the \_\_\_\_\_ harvest.

Read *Ruth 1:22*

E B A O F O O D K J E S S E S  
M O A B A I J E I T J I A M E  
R R M R A N O I N T O D M E A  
U N J E S U S B G N U A U S S  
T P B A R L E Y H A R V E S T  
H G O D O S P F O O N I L I A  
M A R Y B E H N Y M E D I A R  
B E T H L E H E M I Y M A G I



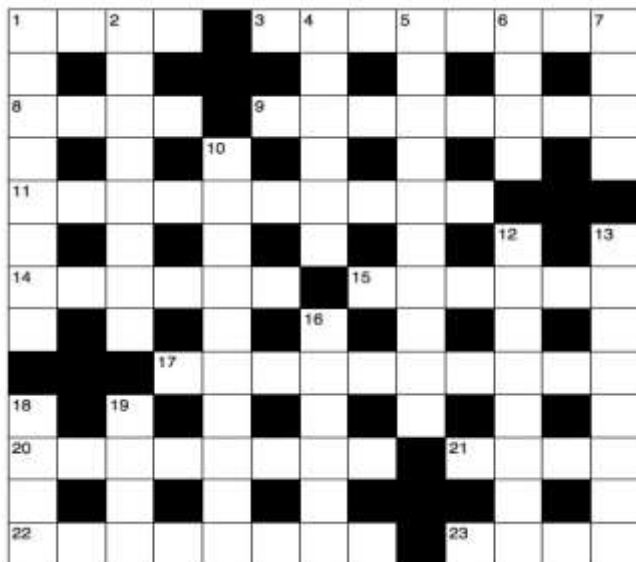
The name **BETHLEHEM** means 'House of Bread'

Look up the Bible references to find the missing words, find them and these words below in the wordsearch

- JOURNEY
- BETHLEHEM • GOD
- JOSEPH • MARY
- JESUS • BORN
- MAGI • MESSIAH
- NAOMI • RUTH
- FOOD • HARVEST
- SAMUEL • ANOINT
- KING • BREAD

# JANUARY 2023 CROSSWORD

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



## Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

## Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)

- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)



**Crossword Solution  
December 2022**

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



*Happy New  
Year to all  
our Readers.*



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



**ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY 2023 PNE**



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

Thank you.  
*Janet Kimber*



***With beginning a New Year in mind...***

God loves us; not because we are loveable but because He is love;  
not because he needs to receive but because He delights to give.  
- C S Lewis

A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle. - Anon

Time is nothing to God. - Oswald Chambers

The fruit of the Spirit is not push, drive, climb, grasp and trample...  
Life is more than a climb to the top of the heap. - Richard J Foster

# Time for a Smile

## A Bible Quiz – of Sorts!

- Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?  
A. Ruthless
- Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?  
A. German Shepherds.
- Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?  
A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.
- Q. What was the greatest female financier in the Bible?  
A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.
- Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?  
A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.
- Q. What's the phone number of the Garden of Eden?  
A. ADAM-8-1-2



*"That's two t's in Matthew",  
said Osric*

## Statistics

Statistics show we're getting stronger. Fifty years ago you needed an estate car to hold £50 worth of Christmas presents. Twenty years ago, it took two people to carry £20 worth of groceries -- now a five-year-old can do it.

## Oops!

A father had given his daughter a young puppy for Christmas. Next day, he found her in the kitchen, looking sadly at a puddle in the centre of the floor. "Look Dad," she said, "My pup runneth over!"





### Ministry on Ice

As a chaplain to the local hospital, I sometimes get called out early. In a rush to work one morning, with no time for breakfast, I pulled up to the drive-through window at a fast-food restaurant, determined to at least grab some coffee. Because I was in a hurry, I asked them to put a couple of ice cubes in the coffee so it would cool down more quickly and I could drink it faster. I sat there at the pick-up window for a few minutes, wondering where they had to go to get my coffee, when a frustrated teenager finally came up and said, "I'm sorry for the delay, but the ice you wanted in your coffee keeps melting!"



### Your Cat's 10 Top New Year's Resolutions

1. My human will never let me eat their pet hamster, and I am at peace with that.
2. I will not use the bathtub to store live mice for late-night snacks.
3. I will not play 'Thundering Wildebeest Stampeding Across the Plains of the Serengeti' over any humans asleep in bed at night.
4. When it rains, it will be raining on all sides of the house. It is not necessary to check every door.
5. I will not play 'dead cat on the stairs' while people are trying to bring in groceries or laundry, or else one of these days, it will really come true.
6. When my human is typing at the computer, their forearms are not a hammock.
7. TV screens do not exist to backlight my lovely tail.
8. I will not suddenly freeze and puff my entire body to twice its size for no reason after my human has watched a late-night horror movie.
9. I will not perch on my human's chest in the middle of the night and stare until they wake up.
10. Above all, I will not walk on the key board when my human is writing important adagfsg gjag ;lnk\*?!

Heavenly Father,  
Jesus was revealed  
as Your Beloved Son  
at His baptism.



May we acknowledge  
Him as our Lord  
and know ourselves to be  
Your Beloved Children;  
through Jesus Christ  
our Saviour.

## 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](mailto:stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com)**

**Telephone: 01253 732939 (and leave a message)  
or via our Facebook page**

## Church Officers

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



## Useful Information

<b>Vicarage</b>	01253 734562
<b>Parish Office:</b>	01253 732939
<b>Fundraising Shop:</b>	01253 732253
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com">www.stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com</a>
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com">stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com</a>



**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.*