



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

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 172 ~ February 2023



Letter from the Vicarage...

Should I have cottage pie or pizza for tea? That might be a decision you have made recently (or possibly not! If not, substitute my example for something which works for you).



How do we make that decision? I could base it on my feelings – my taste buds tells me what I fancy, so I will have that. It might be my reason – I am watching my cholesterol, so I will go for the healthy option. It could be my upbringing – my family always had that dish on Tuesdays, so I will go for that.

Even in the pretty small decisions, there are ‘authorities’ we listen to, to form our decisions. But what about the big decisions, like what should I do with my life, how should I live, how should I think about this topic?

In looking for an authority, we look for an answer to:

Who has the right to tell me what to do? Who knows what is best for me? Who wants the best for me?

Yet we often struggle to find an authority we can trust. Political scandals, abuse or misuse of power by those over us make us wary. So what authority do we often turn to then? The answer is ourselves.

After all who knows what is best for us? Who wants the best for us? But actually, at times we don’t know what is best for us. We don’t know what we might think or feel in a few months, let alone a few years. We can’t always be trusted to do what is best. We might all have made decisions we thought were the right thing, only to change or regret them later. So where do we turn?

Wonderfully Christianity tells us a better story.

It tells of a God who has made us. He has the right to tell us what to do. But it is not simply raw power. Having made us, he knows us better than we know ourselves. Having made the world, he knows how it is made to work best and be the place of flourishing he created it to be.

But does he want the best for us?

'This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins...'
(1 John 4:10 – part of our motto text to 2023)

Here is the one who gave what he most treasures for us. He does want what is best for us. This is the voice deep down we are looking for, even if we didn't realise it. Here is the voice to seek as we make the decisions of life.

May we know every blessing as we seek to do that.

Paul

(I am thankful for the writing of Christian writer, Andrew T. Walker, in shaping my thoughts and letter this month)



**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



Exciting News - A New Parish Link



We are pleased to announce that a new parish link has been formed between St Paul's Church here in Ansdell and Fairhaven and Kware Parish, in Thika Diocese, Kenya. Thika is situated around 60km north-east of Nairobi. The Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) parish is led by the Reverend Robert Kangethe, who is married to Pauline.

It was discussed and agreed at the PCC before Christmas, and since then both our Diocese and the Bishop of Thika have been informed.

The link seeks to develop a relationship between brothers and sisters in Christ in two Anglican parishes but in different parts of the world. It aims to support one another in prayer, find opportunities to learn together from God's word, and undertake parish visits.

The desire is that the link will enable both parishes to express partnership in the gospel (Philippians 1:6) and grow in their own worshipping life through involvement with Christians in a different part of the world.

The exact shape of the link is still being finalised, but there will be regular sharing of prayer points between parishes, 6 weekly joint on-line studies together with Christians here and there, able to 'meet' and study together, and the aim on approximately a two year basis, a visit from one parish to the other, and then two years later, a visit in the other direction.

Some members from St Paul's were able to meet Robert and Pauline in November when they were visiting another parish in our diocese. You can see the picture attached. Robert is in the clerical collar, and Pauline is in the green skirt.



Watch this space for more announcements coming soon!

Ash Wednesday

Service of Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2023
7.30PM

ST PAUL'S CHURCH
ANSDALL AND FAIRHAVEN



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



Sometimes It Is Wise To Retreat

Lent is supposed to prepare us for Easter, but making time for spiritual reflection in our busy lives can be hard. One solution is to take a short retreat, at one of the many retreat houses or centres around the country.

It has been said that *"Retreats are for ordinary people at any time in their life. There are no expectations of you when you're there and you don't need to be a churchgoer."* Just step back, relax in quiet and calm, and allow yourself some time to reflect and grow in your relationship with God.

Jesus Himself started the idea, when He invited his disciples to *"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while"* (Mark 6: 31). His disciples needed to be alone with Him then, and they still need to be alone with Him today.

Retreat houses offer a warm welcome, and many are set in beautiful buildings with gardens. Most offer overnight accommodation and wholesome, home cooked food. Just visit: <https://www.retreats.org.uk>

New Easy & Secure Giving

One of the really important ways that each of us lives our faith and participates in the mission of the Church, is through the act of giving.

While there is joy in the spontaneity of a one-off gift when the Spirit moves us, it is regular giving that offers a prayerful expression of faith in action. Regular giving sustains our church and helps us to plan for the future. That is why we are members of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).



The team at PGS makes it safe and easy for you to give regularly, and just as safe and easy for your church to receive. Every pound you donate can be put to Christian service in your community, free from time-consuming admin for church staff and volunteers. There's also an option for you to increase your gift annually to keep pace with the rising cost of living, with the peace of mind that you can adjust your donation at any time if your circumstances change. If you are a UK taxpayer you can opt to add Gift Aid, increasing the value of your donation by 25%, which PGS will collect from HMRC on our behalf.

Now, with the addition of a simple and secure online process, there are three easy ways to donate to your parish through the PGS; you can set up your Direct Debit one of three ways:

- online,
- by telephone,
- fill in a gift form and post it to PGS.

Donors who would like to make use of the new online service from PGS can simply visit parishgiving.org.uk, find your church using the easy search tool, and follow a few simple steps to set up your donation securely.

Alternatively, you can set up your regular gift by phoning the PGS team on 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm.

If you'd like to know more, please get in touch with me, Pam Rowell, Stewardship Secretary. It really is a very simple and straightforward process, whether completing the online forms or telephoning Parish Giving – much easier than contacting your bank by phone to change or set up a standing order.

You Know We Have a Fund-raising Shop but What Does It Do?

by Alan Curtis (Church Warden)

I was recently asked if I would do a report for the Fund-raising Shop and when I sat down to think about it, the title of this report came to mind and below, I have tried to highlight just a few things the shop does apart from raising funds.

A lot of new members at St Paul's may not be aware that the shop has been around for at least twenty years. It came about as a way of supporting the parish share payments even though like now, we were being subsidised by the diocese.



When the shop first opened it was run totally by church volunteers including a full-time manager, the then Church Warden, Sue Jones. This small hard-working team enabled a move to a larger premises in the shop's current location.

Over the past twenty years, we have seen volunteer managers and even paid managers but the one constant has been our team of loyal volunteers, some have been there from the very beginning and are still assisting to this day. And I have found myself asking why?

The answer became very clear to me when I was told that I had a brain tumour. After the surgery I was told that I had suffered a mild stroke during the operation.

When I arrived home from Salford Royal, I was unable to walk and was placed under the care of the brain injury rehabilitation team based at Lancaster and with their support, I was taught to walk again and this is where my connection with the shop really started. My occupational therapist asked if I could find a way of constantly using my hands and Jackie, the shop manager at that time, gave me the simple task of sorting the CD's and DVD's, which I did while sitting on the settee in the shop. This simple task formed a major part of my rehabilitation.

After this, I became a regular volunteer and now carry out the Portable Appliance testing using the skills from my former life as an electrician. Over the years the shop has also been used to assist in the rehabilitation of prisoners from HMP Kirkham.

Also during my time at the shop I have met many wonderful young people some doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award and some with various needs ranging from dyslexia to other more complex issues. It has been really heart-warming and a privilege, that the Lord has sent these young adults to us because week upon week, we can see them relax and become part of the team. Seeing their confidence grow each week is a real blessing to all volunteers and even more impressive is their ability to learn, despite any difficulties they may have; and their enthusiasm to share the skills they have with the other regular volunteers, such as showing them how to do something, for example, how to use the till. It was even more pleasing to see one young lady starting out on her career in aviation and being confident enough to put the shop forward as a reference for her employment.

The PCC recently took the decision to go back to our roots and employ a Christian manager and to reintroduce morning prayer, something that was done when the shop first opened. This has proved to be a real gift from the Lord. Since we have started praying each day, we have all seen that our prayers are being answered. Customers feel they can talk about anything, knowing it will be received with compassion and care by all members of shop staff, Christians and non-Christians working together to support our community. The Lord truly is at work in the shop and if you wish to come to the prayer group please do. You can pray silently or pray out loud without any pressure.

When I talk about the volunteers, their devotion to the shop is second to none. We have people of other faiths and non-Christians working side by side and we all know that the Lord is at work here too.

Though the shop's primary role has been to support the church in paying the parish share, the PCC has taken the decision that we should start to reduce our reliance on the shop and use the income to better support our mission and outreach. Some of the charities that have already been supported by funds raised through the shop, include Africa Inland Mission, The Salvation Army Bridge Project, Crosslinks and Embrace the Middle East.

We have become a place where people can have a tea or a coffee and a chat with our volunteers for support or guidance and even their pastoral needs. We have been able to sign post them to the help they may need, or even involve our own clergy, which has placed us right in the centre of the community.

If you feel you could donate some of your time to the shop as a volunteer, please ask Pam or myself, as we would love to see you. It does not

matter if it is an hour or for a full shift, your role could be welcoming customers, if you feel that is your gift but we always need help sorting donations or to be on the till; and trust me it can't be that hard as even I can do it!

But the one thing I can tell you is that the rewards of working for the Lord are repaid in full through the benefits gained as a volunteer and the friendships made both with customers and volunteers alike.

To clarify this point, I once said to Paul that the shop is the window to our Church but based on recent events, I have reflected on this statement and I was wrong. It should read as a window to the soul of our Church!

Alan Curtis
Church Warden



Fundraising Shop Opening Hours

Monday - Friday	10am - 12:30pm; 1:30pm - 4pm
Saturday & Sunday	Closed



Morning Prayers



Start your day with prayer.

We'd love you to join us from Monday to Friday for morning prayers.

We meet in our Fundraising Shop at 9:40am.

St.Paul's Fundraising Shop

42 Woodlands Road,
Ansdell, FY8 4BX

Telephone:
01253 732253



Ukraine - One Year On

by the Ven John Barton

On 24th February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine without warning. Ukraine had been part of the Soviet Union 1922-1991 and even before that had been overshadowed and often overpowered by its larger neighbour. In 1932 millions of Ukrainians were deliberately starved to death in a famine, contrived by Joseph Stalin. This genocide, or Holodomor, is commemorated every year on the fourth Saturday in November.

The area had been overrun for centuries by successive external forces, until absorbed by Russia. In 1991, when the USSR was dissolved, Ukraine voted for independence, by a huge majority. There are still pro-Russian minorities in the East of the country, as there were in Crimea before 2014, when it was annexed by Russia.

In the last 12 months, one-quarter of the civilian population of Ukraine has been displaced, with 5+ million refugees escaping for temporary sanctuary in other countries. 95% of them are women and children. They have had to learn new languages (and a new script), find jobs and schools, and become accustomed to foreign cultures. When it seems safe, they want to return home and some have already done so.

The UK government, in partnership with County and District Councils, launched the Homes for Ukraine scheme last year. Would-be homes were inspected, and prospective hosts checked out for suitability and safety. A young Ukrainian woman lived in my home for six months before returning to Kyiv. In that time my pantry and fridge made room for bulgar wheat, lots of mushrooms and Salo, which is the name for slabs of cold cured pork fat, and much tastier than it sounds!

Most Ukrainians count themselves as Christian, including a number of Greek-Catholics, but the majority belong to what was the Russian Orthodox Church, and is now the independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The two churches separated after the Moscow patriarchate backed President Putin.

The Archbishop of Canterbury visited Kyiv in December and had to take cover in a bomb shelter when air raid warnings were sounded. He said the people of the West needed to realise the costs of this war were not short term, adding "there must be no way in which we force peace on Ukraine ... Peace is always better than war. But there are times when justice demands the defeat of an evil invasion."

One year on there is still an urgent need for British people to open their homes to Ukrainian refugees.

Additional Notes from a different Parish Pump Article:

If you would like to mark the first year by helping the people Ukraine, here are some charities from which you might choose:

The Disaster Emergencies Committee (DEC) is an umbrella group of UK charities. <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Christian Aid was founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches to help refugees after the Second World War. Sadly, with war back in Europe, it is now back at work on the Continent. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal-2022>

Barnabas Fund distributes food through local churches to Christians in the poorer areas, both in Kyiv and in rural regions. <https://www.barnabasfund.org/gb/latest-needs/help-ukrainian-christians-in-their-hour-of-need/>

Samaritans Purse has been airlifting medical supplies into the country, distributed more than 45 million kilos of food, and built water systems providing more than 30 million litres of water. <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/idr-crisis/crisis-in-ukraine/>



A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,

for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children,
at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby & Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



What the Temptations Mean for Us

by Canon David Winter

Immediately after His baptism in the River Jordan, Jesus faced and resisted three powerful temptations during 40 days in the wilderness of Judea. This time of testing and temptation was His preparation for the work God had sent Him to do on earth. It's the principle behind the season of Lent, which begins on 22nd February. Although the temptations were personal to Jesus, many of us will recognise their relevance in our own lives.



The first was simple. 'You're hungry. You can do miracles. Well, turn these hot stones at Your feet into loaves of bread'. It sounds quite plausible, but in fact it's an invitation to put one's own needs first. Temptation rejected.

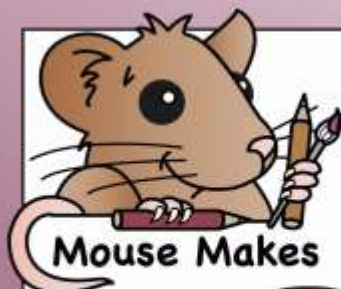
Then came the second: 'throw yourself off a pinnacle of the Temple. You know that God will send His angels to catch you before you hit the ground'. Again, it's plausible (there was even a verse from the Bible to back it up). But this would be to substitute one spectacular publicity stunt for the hard slog of travel, preaching, healing and touching individual lives. Temptation rejected.



The third was outrageous. 'Fall down and worship corrupt and evil power, and You will have infinite worldly power and success'. In other words, the divine Son of God should deny His Father and worship the devil, to glean success without going to the Cross. For the third time, temptation resisted.

I know these temptations were tests of the Messiah Jesus, but can't we see in them temptations that come to all of us from time to time? Look after number one, and all will be well. Take the short cut to success and avoid all the hard slog. Compromise your integrity, in order to fulfill your ambitions. Or choose the hard way: walk the narrow path of honesty, commitment, and truth. That's really the Lenten choice.

A Page for the Young at Heart



Mouse Makes

What did Jesus give thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say this represented?

His _____
Matthew 26:27-28

What was the special meal Jesus was preparing to eat?

Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus take, bless and break?

Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus say this represented?

His _____
Matthew 26:26



Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup "in

of me."

1 Corinthians 11:24-25



SUPPER
LAMB • LORD
DISCIPLES
TOGETHER
EVENING
ROOM • JAR
WATER • TWELVE
JESUS • CHRIST
NIGHT • TOOK
THANKS
BLESSING
BROKE • GIVEN
COVENANT
DRINK • EAT
FORGIVENESS
SINS • HOLY
COMMUNION
EUCHARIST

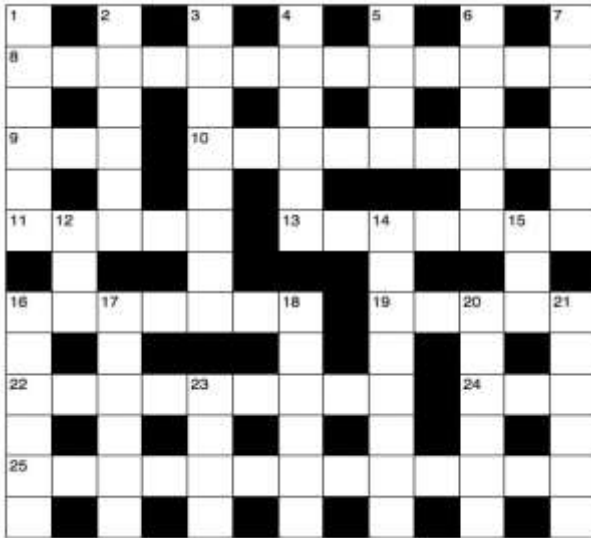
O R F B R O K E J H O L Y C
R O O M B C U P T O O K E H
L O R D R U B A W G D J A R
T E G J E S U S E E R E T I
M U I N A N E S L V I S O S
L C V C D E C O V E N A N T
B H E O C I N V E N K B I B
L A N M W A T E R I L L G O
O R E M E M B R A N C E H D
O I S U P P E R I G O S T Y
D S S N M U G I V E N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

Find the words from the questions too!



FEBRUARY 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
January 2023**



Shrove Tuesday ~ 21st February

ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH 2023 PNE



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

Thank you.

Janet Kimber



**St. Valentine's Day
14th February**



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

Time for a Smile

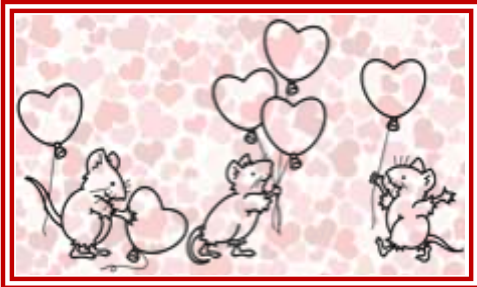
Little Teapot

Our new curate had young children and they insisted he choose for his screensaver a picture of a dancing teapot, playing the children's song 'I'm a Little Teapot'. When the earnest young HR officer for the diocese came to call, she sent back a message to the bishop: "The curate may be suffering from an identity disorder."



Giving up for Lent

At the end of the pre-Lent sermon, the vicar suggested, as an example to the rest of the community, that the congregation should worship in an unheated church for the whole of Lent. As they made their way into the chill Sunday air the vicar addressed one member of the congregation, asking what she had decided to give up for Lent. "Church," she replied firmly.



Blessing

One Sunday, when my granddaughter was about two years old, her daddy and mummy made their Communion at my local church and took her up with them for a blessing. Arriving back in our pew she said in a loud voice: "Granny, the man has said his prayers on my head, and he has a lovely dress on."



He's been updated. He's now the patron saint of tweeting!

In a sack

Seen in a church magazine: "Bring your old newspapers (and your neighbours), put them in a sack and tie them if possible."

Hands

A teacher saw a student entering the classroom with very dirty hands. She stopped him and said, "John, please wash your hands. My goodness, what would you say if I came into the room with hands like that?"

Smiling, the boy replied, "I think I would be too polite to mention it."

Windows

She texted her husband from home on a cold winter's morning: 'Windows frozen, won't open.' He texted back: 'Gently pour some lukewarm water over it.' She replied five minutes later: 'Computer *really* screwed up now.'



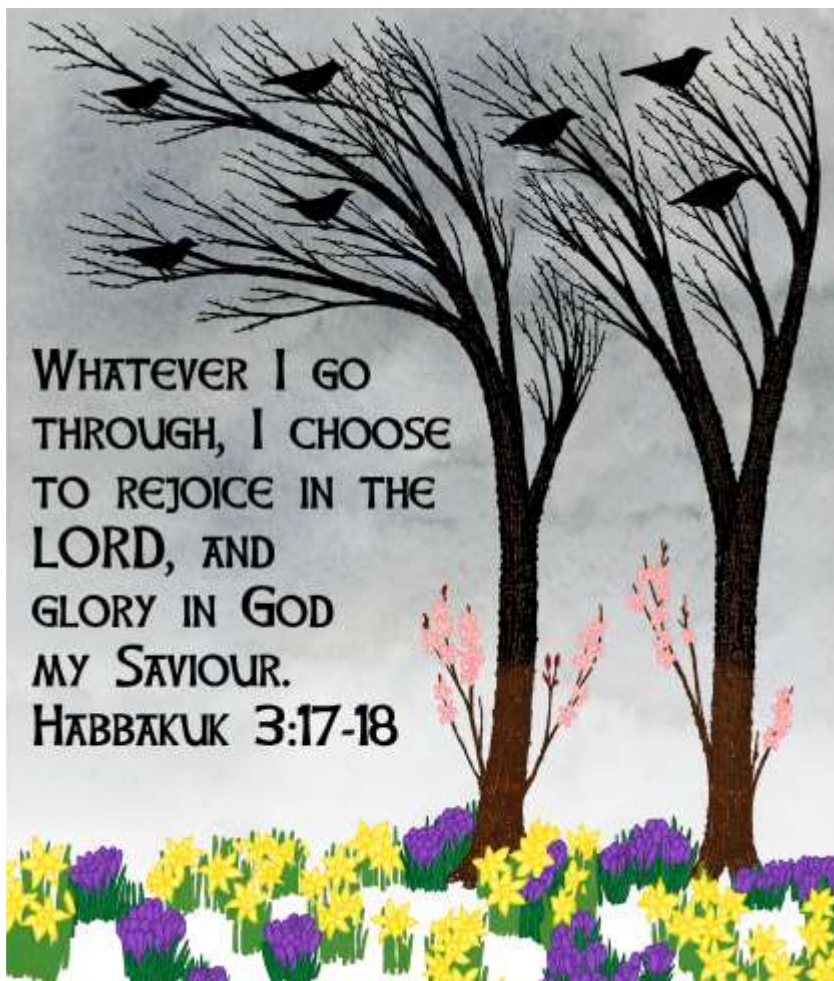
"But look", said Martin, "Maltesers have hardly any chocolate on."



With Valentine's Day in mind...how do you define love?

A group of 4-to-8-year-olds was once asked: 'What does love mean?' The answers they gave were surprising for their depth of insight....

- ♦ "When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca - age 8
- ♦ "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4
- ♦ "Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl - age 5
- ♦ "Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4
- ♦ "If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." Nikka - age 6 (We need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)
- ♦ "My mummy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night." – Clare, aged 6
- ♦ "Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day" Mary Ann - age 4



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: stpauloffice2@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.