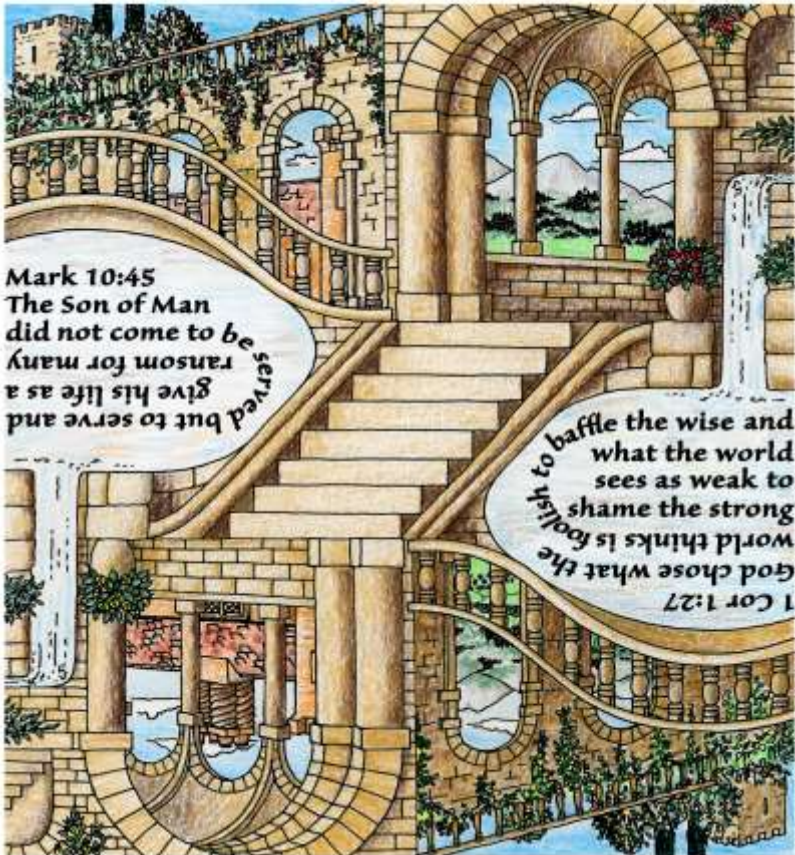




St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven
Working in Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 177 ~ July 2023



Upside-Down Kingdom by Francesca Ross

Letter from the Vicarage...

Maybe because we are in Ephesians on Sunday mornings with its famous image of 'putting on the full armour of God', my mind has been on some of the language in the Bible, which we have lost a little these days. I am thinking particularly of the language of battle, warfare and conquest. Some of our famous hymns are full of it - 'Onward Christian soldiers' and 'Fight the good fight'. In recent years, there seems to be hesitancy around those themes.



It is true that we see the devastating consequences of war in our world. It breaks our hearts. Maybe seeing this leads us to hold back on this language? Certainly the Bible never glorifies war. Indeed it promises that Jesus is the one who will end all wars.

Maybe it is because of some of the church's history? Examples such as conquest by force in the Crusades cause us to grieve at actions done in our Lord's name which did not honour him.

But while being sensitive to these, it is clear that the Bible uses this language to help us understand our world and mission.

We are in a battle, but our battle is not with flesh and blood

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:12)

The Bible uses language of warfare because we are in a war! Raging around us (even if we don't see it) is a battle. If we are trusting Jesus, we are enlisted in his ranks. It is a battle Jesus will win (his resurrection has sealed it), but it is not yet fully seen.

But it is not a battle against people. It is a spiritual battle. The devil wages war against God's good purposes. He works that out at times through people. But our battle is with him.

In this battle, we are not just on the defensive. Christ is taking his church forward 'gaining ground' as more people come to know Jesus and find freedom under his good rule. Christ will be seen on the last day to be victorious – having defeated those that stand against him, and having won for himself a people. But this conquest is not in the way we see it worked out in our world.

³*For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.*

⁴*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the*

contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (2 Cor 10:3-5)

Unlike some in other religions who take up weapons and instil fear in order to win converts, we reject that. Instead we take God’s word and in the power of the Spirit (not in any use of force) we hold forth Christ. We pull strongholds down but not to destroy people. In fact, just the opposite - to set them free. We hold forth our mighty but gentle saviour who conquers hearts, and in doing so brings life in its fullness. It confidence in Jesus’ victory which actually frees us from temptation to use force in any way.

So let’s be aware of the spiritual battle, have confidence in Jesus’ increasing victory. But not respond in the world’s way but instead take up the weapons of our crucified by conquering Lord.

In Him

Paul



**St Paul's
Tots**

St. Paul's Tots is a baby and toddler group for **0-3s**; their parents, carers and grandparents.

With toys, songs, crafts and Bible stories.

Tuesdays

10am - 11:30am (Term time)

St. Paul's Church Hall, Lake Road North,
Lytham St. Annes, FY8 1BZ

£1 per family, which includes a hot drink for adults.

Booking not required

stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/st-pauls-tots



Three Year Plan

In 2026 Blackburn Diocese will be 100 years old, and Paul (God willing) will have been Vicar here for 10 years. He, along with the PCC, is in the process forming a 3 year plan as a church.

While there is much to give thanks for in the past few years, and we should be encouraged by the Lord taking us forward, it has also been a period (in part because of adjusting to and coming out of the period of the pandemic) where our sights have often been on the short to middle distance. The aim is to form a plan for the medium term which can help guide us through those three years and help steer our decisions and actions.

In Acts 16 as Paul and his companions head into new mission fields we see two dynamics – human discernment and divine direction. Human discernment as they reflect on God’s priorities and revealed plan for the gospel to go to the ends of the earth, and discern the best course to bring that about. But the Lord also directs them specifically along that way. We want to use God’s gift of discernment as we look at this revealed word to see what priorities he ways we should have, but also seek his leading in the specifics of our situation.

Please commit to praying with us. *“Heavenly Father, we desire to be a church which displays your wisdom to the universe (Ephesians 3:10). Lead us by godly discernment from your word, and your divine prompting to discern the priorities you would have us have, to be that church for these coming three years. Amen.”*

But we would like your input too. Please prayerful reflect on this question, and let us know anything which is laid on your heart:

By the end of 2026, what would your aims/hopes be for St Paul’s?

Church Trip to the Keswick Convention

On Monday 24th July, we are organising a visit to the Keswick Convention, for those who would like to attend. The convention has been running for nearly 150 years, and sees the coming together of Christians from all parts of the country and world. It is a great opportunity to enjoy Jesus in God's word, enjoy meeting God's people, all in the beautiful setting of the Lakes.



There is no cost for entry (but donations are encouraged), and we will be car sharing so donations to each other's fuel would be helpful.

The theme this year is 'Human' – looking at what it means to be human. There are mission stands, a full book stall and the town to explore. We will be leaving at 8.30am to get there for the morning session.

If you would like to find out more, speak to Paul or sign up in church.



Church A way Morning

Last summer, we had our first church away morning. A number have asked when we are having another one. Good news – on Saturday 30th September at Christ Church Thornton, we will! If you consider yourself a part of the St Paul's church family, can I encourage you to consider coming?

It will be taking place on from 9.30am (for 10am start) until approximately 1.30pm. It is an opportunity for us to take time away together to get to know God better in His Word, and to get to know each other better as we share time, food, and fellowship.

It is for anyone in the church family – young or old. It is for you, whether we have been at St Paul's for many years, or you are relatively new.

Our quest speaker will be Bishop Tony Porter, retired Bishop of Sherwood, and former Chaplain to Manchester City.

More information to follow – but save the date!

♪ Music for a ♪
Summer's Evening



Friday 7th July

6.30pm

**St Paul's Church,
Lake Road North, FY8 1AG**

Featuring Heyhouses Community Choir,
Clifton Primary School Choir and
instrumental soloists.

All donations towards the Fylde Foodbank and the Bridge
Project. Refreshments available.

Fundraising Shop Opening Hours

Monday - Friday

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

Saturday & Sunday

Closed

St.Paul's Fundraising Shop

42 Woodlands Road,
Ansdell, FY8 4BX

Telephone:
01253 732253



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.



Church Hall Hire

For all enquiries and further information, please contact us
in one of the following ways:

Email: stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com

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

Editor: Some folk may recognise this as an article that I have run before; but as we consider a Three Year Plan for St. Paul's, maybe we should look to the example set for us by the early Christians in Jerusalem.

Acts for Everyone

With over 3000 people becoming Christians at Pentecost, the early Church was established in Jerusalem (Acts 2: 42-47). This new community is a yardstick for what church can be like in every age, including our own.

A learning community:

'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.' (42). The new Christians were eager to learn from the apostles about their new faith. They were a community that was always learning. Is this true for us: ourselves, in groups and as a church family?

A loving community:

They had *'everything in common'* (44) and gave *'to anyone as he had need'* (45). This was an expression of the *'fellowship'* (42) they enjoyed with one another. This doesn't mean that normal Christian community has no private ownership, but the church is to offer a radically different community to the world around. It reflects the loving relationship found in God himself. Is this true of our church life?

A worshipping community:

'Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God.' (46,47). They met both in the temple, and in homes to worship. It was a heartfelt response to all that Jesus had done in their lives. Is such worship the basis of the whole of their lives, not just what we do on Sunday?

A witnessing community:

This community shone out with God's love, resulting in them *'enjoying the favour of all the people.'* (47). The impact of this resulted in *'the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.'* (47). Can we say this of our own church? *'we need to humble ourselves before His sovereign authority.. not to quench Him but to allow Him His freedom'* (John Stott).

Storms of Life

The boat was tossed from side to side
Buffeted by the wind and rain,
Alarm and panic filled their hearts
Would they ever reach the shore again?

The sky was dark and looking out
They thought they saw a ghost appear,
Transfixed with horror, what could it be
Treading on water and drawing near?

Their hearts were stilled as hope arose
As they heard the voice of the One they knew,
'Do not be afraid, this storm will pass'
And the sea grew calm and the wind withdrew.

When storms of life assail our boat
And our hearts are filled with dread and fear,
Remember the One who treads the waves,
He sees our plight – He's drawing near.

By Megan Carter



Sea Sunday ~ 9th July 2023

Sea Sunday is a day when Christian churches remember, pray and give thanks for the more than 1.5 million merchant seafarers and fishermen worldwide. If seafarers seem irrelevant to your daily life, think again: 90 per cent of everything you buy in the shops comes to you by sea. Merchant seafarers quite literally keep our global economy afloat. Yet it is a tough life, far from loved ones. Merchant ships are harsh working environments, never mind the threat of piracy or even shipwreck.

To help the seafarers, a worldwide network of port chaplains has sprung up. They offer hospitality and friendship, as well as practical, emotional and spiritual support, providing almost a 'home from home' in hundreds of ports, in more than 50 countries.

Time Choices

(Lk 10:38-42)

Martha is distracted,
too busy
preparing for the needs of the day.
Not enough time... not enough time.



*www.LumoProject.com.

Mary is focused,
taking time to meet the needs of the heart.
Sitting still,
seeing through the paraphernalia of every day
with a new clarity that changes her world.
Mary listens to Jesus.
She chooses life.

There is time...there is time.
We all have our life time.
What will we choose?

By Daphne Kitching

Editor: *There is a further article about Mary on the following page.*

A Prayer for July

Loving Father,

July brings long days and summer pleasures, for many, but not for all. Lord, we pray for those who are finding life to be a struggle; for families with no hope of a holiday this year; for parents who don't know how they will feed their children during the upcoming long school break; for those who are lonely, or discouraged, or isolated, or afraid.

Lord, we pray for justice and compassion from those in positions of power and responsibility. And please Lord, show *us* how to help, how to be part of the solution. May we, as your children, reflect your loving kindness wherever we can. May your Kingdom come on earth, through us. In Jesus' name. Amen

By Daphne Kitching

Mary Magdalene

By Canon Paul Hardingham

Six Marys are mentioned in the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene, who is remembered on 22nd July in the church's calendar. What can we learn from Mary's story?



*www.LumoProject.com.

We don't have to be defined by our past:

When Jesus encountered Mary, He cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). As a result, her life was transformed and she became a follower of Jesus. Her life as a disciple was no longer defined by the person she had been before. Like Mary, we don't have to let our past without Christ dictate how we see ourselves today.

Put Jesus at the centre of our world:

Along with some of the women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases (Luke 8:1-3), Mary followed Jesus and His disciples and supported them in ministry. She was there at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56) and one of the first to the tomb on the Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1 and John 20:1-18). Like Mary, we are called to serve Jesus as dedicated disciples.

Jesus uses the weakest in the world:

Mary is a great example of Paul's words: *'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.'* (1 Corinthians 1:27). At a time when women were regarded as second-class citizens with no real autonomy, Jesus had a special compassion and care for women. Alongside Mary, the women's witness to the resurrection was taken seriously.

We should be careful not to dismiss the things that don't follow our expectations, because Jesus doesn't always do what we expect! He delights in working out His plans through unlikely people and in surprising ways. He did this through Mary, and if we let Him, He can do it through us!



***ABOUT THE LUMO PROJECT**

These high quality photographs of the Life of Christ are shot on location in the Middle East. They are photographic stills from films of the four gospels created by the LUMO project.



God's Garden

A poem for the gardeners in the congregation

Plant three rows of peas:
Peas of mind
Peas of heart
Peas of soul



Plant three rows of squash:
Squash gossip
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness



Plant three rows of lettuce:
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be obedient
Lettuce love one another



Plant three rows of turnips:
Turnip for services
Turnip for meetings
Turnip to help one another



Plant three rows of thyme:
Thyme for God
Thyme for Bible study
Thyme for prayer.

Finally –
Water freely with patience,
Cultivate with love,
And remember – you will only reap what you sow!



An Observation on our Christian faith...

I have found in the Bible words for my inmost thoughts, songs for my joy, utterance for my hidden griefs and pleadings for my shame and feebleness. - *Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

Everything I need to know... I learned from Noah's Ark

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're very old Someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics. Just get on with the job needing to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.



Author unknown



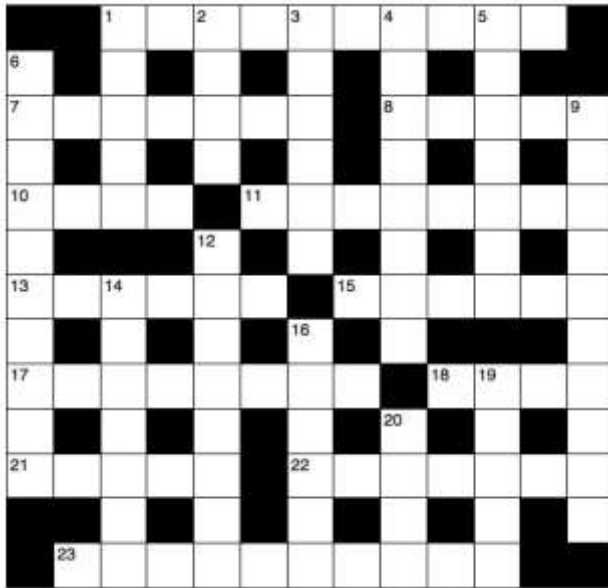
The Bible in 50 Words

God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Joseph ruled
Jacob fooled
Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed

Saul freaked
David peaked
Prophets warned
Jesus born
God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.
- Anon

JULY 2023 CROSSWORD

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



Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1–6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)

- 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1–11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)



**Crossword Solution
June 2023**

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



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



ARTICLES FOR THE AUGUST 2023 PNE



Please note, that if you would like to have an article published in the August 2023 PNE, I will need a copy of it no later than **Monday 10th July**. Anything sent in after that date will automatically be included in the September 2023 PNE edition. My contact details are on page 19. Thank you.

Janet Kimber

Time for a Smile

Church School Test

For a church school exam, young children were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. These were some of the (real) results...



A set of Smile Lines showing us how children sometimes mis-interpret the things we say and do.

1. In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.
3. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
4. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
5. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.
6. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
7. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still, and he obeyed him.

July



Water

My friend was working at an amusement park when a couple stopped him. "Excuse me," said the woman, pointing to a pond. "What is that water made out of?" Bemused, my friend replied, "Two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen." "See?" she said to her boyfriend. "I told you it wasn't real."



"It's not a new stained-glass window—the Youth Club put its skateboard ramp too close to the church's west wall!"

Swim?

If a lot of swimming is so good for your shape, then why do the whales look the way they do?

Not like it used to be

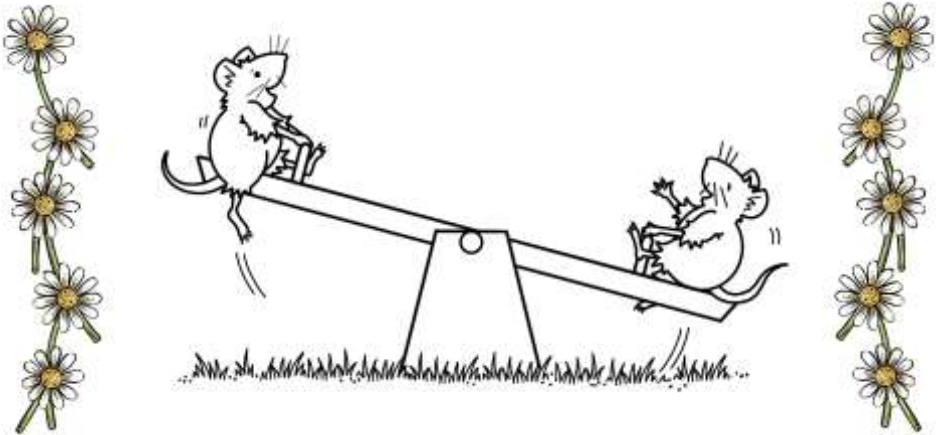
I used to be able to do cartwheels. Now I tip over while pulling on my socks.

Sun

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.



When the solar panels weren't working, there was a Plan B.



The Third Hut

A man was stranded on a deserted island in the ocean for several years. Finally, one day a boat came sailing by, and the crew stopped to rescue the man. One of the sailors asked,

"What are those three huts you have here?"

"Well, that's my house there."

"What's that next hut?"

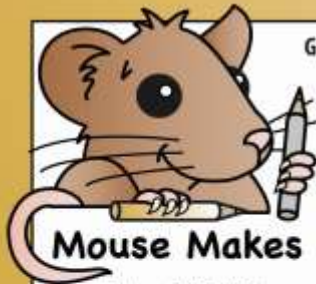
"I built that hut to be my church."

"Then what about the other hut?"

"Oh, that's where I used to go to church."



A Page for the Young at Heart



Mouse Makes

Where did Goliath come from?

_____ *1 Samuel 17:4*

How tall was Goliath?

_____ cubits.
1 Samuel 17:4

What was Goliath's armour made of?

_____ *1 Samuel 17:5,6*

What weapons did Goliath carry?

a JAVELIN,
a _____
and a _____
1 Samuel 17:45

How many stones did David take from the stream?

_____ *1 Samuel 17:40*

Where did David's stone hit Goliath? On his _____

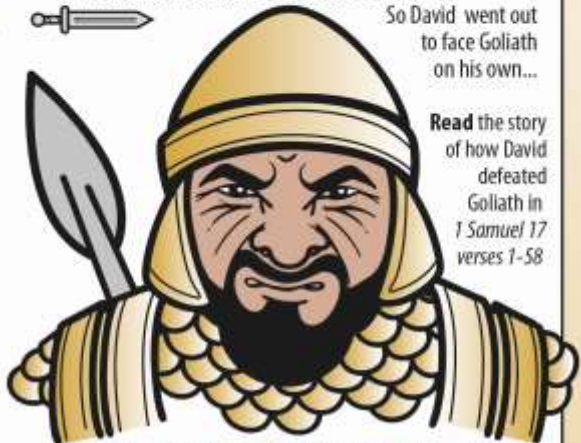
_____ *1 Samuel 17:49*

Goliath, the champion of the Philistine army, taunted the Israelites.
"Choose a man to fight with me and if he kills me then we will be your servants!"

The Israelites were afraid, but **David**, a shepherd boy who had come to bring food to his brothers on the battlefield said:
"The **Lord** who delivered me from the lion and bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

So David went out to face Goliath on his own...

Read the story of how David defeated Goliath in *1 Samuel 17* verses 1-58



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

ISRAEL • SAUL • DAVID • LORD • GOD • PHILISTINES • BATTLE • CAMP
CHAMPION • GOLIATH • HELMET • ARMOUR • JAVELIN • SHIELD • FIGHT • BEAR
LION • SHEPHERD • STAFF • STONES • BAG • SLING • STRUCK • HIT • FELL • GROUND

Church Officers

Vicar	The Rev Paul Bye
Curate	The Rev Kyle Mulholland
Licensed Lay Minister	Miss Janet Kimber
Church Wardens	Mr Alan Curtis Mr Mike Fenton
Parish Secretary	Mrs Pamela Rowell
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.