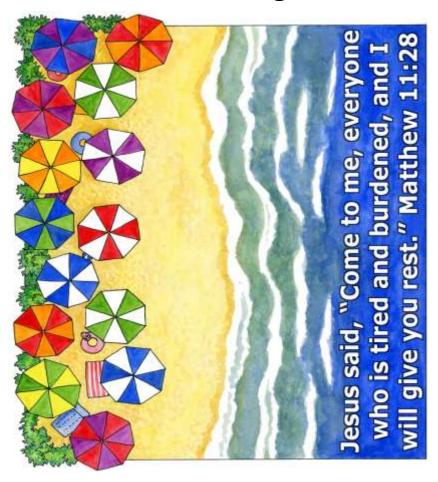


PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 178 ~ August 2023



Letter from the Vicarage...

"For I am the LORD, I do not change" (Malachi 3:6)

I've recently been reading a book looking at ten ways in which God is different from us. It has been a real blessing.

One way God is different from us is that God does not change. To use a big word for it, he is immutable. That might seem academic and dry – but it is the best news for us!



Think about it, we are surrounded by change. You have changed from being a baby to a child to an adolescent to being an adult. With each of those changes come more changes, the excitements and trials of each we are called to navigate.

You may be experiencing the change of health. Maybe for some that change is be deeply frustrating and painful.

You may have or be experiencing relational change – friendships growing together or apart, children arriving or leaving home, even loved ones dying.

Even if we were to stay the same, the world around us doesn't. There is no such thing as 'no change' in life. Be it our culture, the technology that surrounds us, our living conditions and more.

Change can be exciting and good. We can see steps forward for God in our lives, or signs of the kingdom breaking in as people come to know Jesus. We can have new challenges and opportunities which show us more of ourselves, others and God.

But change can be hard. We can feel unsettled, out of control, vulnerable, and insufficient for the change. Sometimes change can bring forth in us patterns which aren't always healthy as a way of trying to fix ourselves to a static point against the change which feels like it is washing in.

Here God's nature is such good news. He is the one fixed reality in the universe. The one person who does not age or move or develop. His character – good, holy, loving, merciful, just – is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. His eyesight doesn't decline with age that he can't see us and our needs like he used to. His hearing doesn't go so that he no longer hears our prayers as in days gone by. His promise to save

those who trust him from our just deserts, to instead receive gracious relationship with him. That does not blow hot and cold depending on our performance. It is fixed in his unchanging character.

His nature is good news in the face of situations, problems, or character traits which seem unable to be changed. Intractable. Permanent. We might sometimes tell ourselves 'I just can't change' – sometimes that is out of despair, or sometimes it is to let ourselves off the hook. Sometimes it seems a situation is so fixed, nothing could ever be different. And yet God is the only unchanging reality in the universe. So, in God's power, even those most permanent things are able to be changed eventually. That brings real hope.

This month have a think about the changes around you and in you. Then cast your eyes to the Lord who does not change.

With every blessing

Paul



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

With toys, songs, crafts and Bible stories.

Tuesdays

10am - 11:30am (Term time)

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

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

Booking not required

stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/st-pauls-tots



Heritage Open Day

Saturday 16th September 2023

Join us for a chance to tour our beautiful church building.

Refreshments available.

Short Organ Recitals – 10.30am and 2.30pm Longer Organ Recital – 12noon

St Paul's Church, Lake Road North, FY8 IAG
Call 732939 or visit stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com to find out more.

Part of



Church A way Morning 2023



Saturday 30th September 2023

Christ Church Thornton - 9:30am (for 10am start) until approx. 1:30pm

Join with us as a church family as we have some time away together 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 you have been at St. Paul's for many years, or you are relatively new.

Our guest speaker will be Bishop Tony Porter, retired Bishop of Sherwood.

Look out for booking forms.



St Paul's Fundraising Shop



Hello,

A very warm welcome from St Paul's Shop.

I'm the new manager Joseph Hinkson-Heys, I would like the start by thanking all of our volunteers and customers this past couple of months as I know its been quite a challenging patch for the shop with ever changing

leadership and these rapidly contrasting weather patterns.

The first couple of weeks for me were for sure eye opening, the charity shop world of retail is very different from my more secular retail background. I have received the warmest of all welcomes; and finding my feet has been a fun experience. I aim to modernise the way we do things here in the shop and make it a real contender as one of the best shops to visit, not just here in Ansdell but on the Fylde coast. I don't just mean the retail aspects because at St Paul's we do things a little differently: as our shop is a direct extension of the church, we offer an area where we can minister comfort, companionship and prayer. All of our volunteers aim to be the best version of themselves within the church family and community family that run side by side.

I didn't think this would be where I ended up this year: I was thinking about changing jobs and never expressed an interest in taking on this role but Paul brought up a conversation one afternoon out of the blue and I felt it was the right thing for me.

There have been challenges and joys, often in answers to prayers.

Our volunteers are amazing, completely committed to the shop, so much so that when they are unavailable there is a big impact on the shop's efficiency. We continue to get generous donations and we would benefit from additional volunteers, who are able to help with stock processing, till operation and providing a loving ear to customers. If you feel able to help in any of these areas, please talk to me about joining our volunteer team.

We are currently running an end of season sale to try to reduce the amount of stock held in the cellar and to continue to achieve, and exceed the financial targets.

As I become more established in the role, my vision for the shop is to introduce a fresh and modern vibe whilst keeping all that works well, continuing to develop the spiritual as well as the community side of the shop.

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

An Open Door

Are you looking for something to read over the summer holidays? Why not try this excellent biography by Maude Kells?

Maude is in her 80's, and still lives in Northern Ireland. But for most of her life, she lived and served in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The book tells the story of answered prayer, trials,



God's marvellous intervention, sickness, even being shot in the course of serving Christ. But Maude does not paint herself as a 'superwomen' but simply a lady enabled by a super God.

The publisher writes: "When twenty-five-year-old Maud Kells gave up her home in Ireland to replace martyred missionaries in Congo she was acutely aware of the risk she was taking. Despite the state of the war-torn country, her own reserved nature and the objections of her family, she chose to follow the God who promised, 'I am with you. That is all you need.' This is the remarkable story of an ordinary woman who decided to walk through the door God opened for her, whatever the cost."

A moving, heart-warming and challenging read accessible to a wide range of ages. You can buy it from 10ofthose.com for £9.99. They also have other biographies in the series available there.

A.S.A.P.

Have you ever considered the abbreviation A.S.A.P. (As Soon As Possible)? Generally, it brings even more hurry and stress into our lives. Yet there is another way to think of A.S.A.P, a way which might help us deal with those difficult times in our daily lives.



When there's work to do, and deadlines to meet, and your colleagues are rushing around, here's what you can do to help: A.S.A.P. – *Always Say a Prayer.* When your worries mount up and you don't know how you are ever going to cope with what is coming at you: A.S.A.P. – *Always Say a Prayer.*

God knows how stressful our lives can be, and He wants to ease our cares. In the Bible He promises to respond to our calls for help. So – call Him! A.S.A.P.!

The Spiritual Discipline of Rest

by Canon Paul Hardingham

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:28).

Today, the spiritual discipline of *rest* is a challenging one. We are pressured to cram more and more activities into fewer hours. This has been described as *'hurry sickness'* and is an enemy of our spiritual life. August is a month for resting, and so is a good time to look at this discipline.

God instituted the discipline of rest in the creation of the world. He created everything in six days and rested on the seventh (Gen 2:3). He instituted the Sabbath, a weekly day of rest (Lev 23:3). However, it is helpful to draw a distinction between busyness and being hurried. Busyness is an outward condition, while hurry is about our inner state, resulting from too many competing priorities. Jesus was often busy but never hurried! What questions should we be asking about getting more rest?

Balancing Rest and Work:

What is a helpful rhythm of work and rest in our lives? How can we take seriously the Sabbath principle of having one day a week to rest and not work? How might we use our time differently eg taking a long walk or having an unhurried conversation with a friend?

Using Our Leisure Time Creatively:

When we actually take a break we often end up simply watching TV, surfing the net, shopping unnecessarily or eating when we are not hungry! Can we choose leisure activities that really refresh us? It's not a case of more leisure time, but using the time we have more creatively.



'The solution to an over busy life is not more time. It's to slow down and simplify our lives around what really matters.'

(The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry: John Mark Comer).

The Transfiguration ~ 6th August

Canon Paul Hardingham considers a dramatic story from the gospels.

This month we celebrate Jesus' transfiguration, when Jesus took Peter, John and James with Him up a mountain to pray (Luke 9:28-36). Jesus was transfigured alongside Moses and Elijah: 'As He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.' (29).



Jesus' Transfiguration: Watch!

The disciples' eyes were opened, as Jesus' hidden divinity was revealed. The presence of Moses and Elijah confirmed Him as God's promised Messiah, who fulfilled God's plan and purposes. By foreshadowing the cross, resurrection and ascension, this event powerfully calls us to entrust our lives into Jesus' hands to experience His presence and power.

The Father's Word: Listen!

There came a voice from the cloud covering them: 'This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to Him.' (35). God affirmed His love and call on Jesus, as His beloved and chosen Son. This is the second time God spoke audibly about Jesus (cf Luke 3:22), but on this occasion He was speaking for the benefit of the disciples. Do we hear God speaking these same words to us? We listen to what Jesus says to us, knowing that like Him we are deeply loved and accepted by God.

The Disciples Response: Learn!

'The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen' (36). They were impacted by this experience and needed time to reflect on what they had seen and heard about Jesus. Eight days before they were asked by Jesus: 'Who do you say I am?' (Luke 9:20). In the transfiguration their understanding of Jesus was being transformed. As we reflect on Jesus' ministry, to encounter the real Jesus, we are also transformed.

'No one who meets Jesus ever stays the same.' (Philip Yancey)

Transfiguration

(Luke 9:28-36)

Praying on the mountain top
We saw amazing things,
Moses and Elijah
And Jesus, in dazzling white,
his face shining.
The Lawgiver, the Prophet
And the Lord.
Written Word, Spoken Word,
Living Word
In glorious splendour.
It was so good to be there,



Father, help us
When we are back down in the valley,
In the everyday muddle and mess,
To remember your voice,
To see through the clouds
To Jesus, the one you sent
To complete the Law and the Prophets.
Help us to rejoice in knowing your Son.
Tuned in by your Holy Spirit,
Help us to go on listening.

By Daphne Kitching

On the mountain top.



Teach Us to Pray

Lord, teach us to pray. Some of us are not skilled in the art of prayer. As we draw near to thee in thought, our spirits long for thy Spirit, and reach out for thee, longing to feel thee near. We know not how to express the deepest emotions that lie hidden in our hearts. ...We know that we are closest to thee when we have left behind the things that have held us captive so long.we pray that thou wilt give unto us only what we really need.give us the vision, the courage, that shall enlarge our horizons and stretch our faith to the adventure of seeking thy loving will for our lives.

By Peter Marshall (a former chaplain to the US Senate, lived 1902 – 1949)

What's your next step?

Roger Roberts reflects on the endings that early summer can bring.

Does this summer spell the end of school, college, or even a job, for you? Then congratulations are in order: you have completed a significant step!

Now it is time to consider your next step. The dictionary defines 'step' as a physical movement that advances you in a desired direction. You take a 'step' forward in order to get somewhere specific, not just to stop yourself falling flat on your face. Each 'step', however small, can take you towards a specific goal.

The Bible reflects this. It is filled with the metaphors of stepping, walking, running and goals, pilgrimages, journeys, all to describe the years of our lives.

When we were babies, we clung to our parents' hands as we learned how to take our first steps. They stayed right by us, to keep us from falling, and to steer us in the right direction. As adults, the Bible tells us that a successful journey through all of life is based on how near we walk to God – and let Him guide us in the steps we should take.

Choosing your next step in life this year is important. The good news is that you need not do it on your own. The Bible makes clear that in God, you have a divine 'life coach'. He knows you perfectly and has a plan for your life. Most of all this involves a personal relationship with Him.

We've all seen toddlers staggering towards danger, ignoring their parents' cries of warning. We've all seen adults making a mess of their lives. They are ignoring their personal divine Shepherd, Guide, Teacher and Helper.

A baby learns to walk safely by listening to its parents. We learn what God's will is for us through daily reading of His Word, in the Bible, and in obeying what we read.

For when God guides us, He does not hand down a divine map of our lives. His guidance is more like that of a torch – light for our daily path.

God's final 'step' for you is that you should know, enjoy, and glorify Him forever. Throughout our lives, we are to be taking small daily steps towards the Eternal City and He will see that we reach our final goal.

Meanwhile, the Lord wants you to succeed in the earthly goals that He has for you! Ask God to be your guide and helper as you take your next step.

God in the Sciences Parable: The Strength of a Seed

by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz*

At this time of year, we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring: the miracle of life coming from small dead-looking things. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leafed campion, buried by squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own.

The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the sower is the most famous (in Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth.

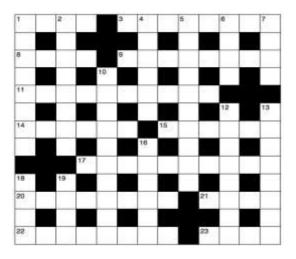
What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of that moment of connecting with something divine, scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimally small, but it's not zero. The seed may be incredibly tough, just waiting for a chance to grow.

The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years. They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of stretch to draw out of the parable of the sower to include the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points, and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive — or are open to — the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge; and writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

AUGUST 2023 CROSSWORD

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



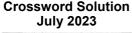
Across

- 1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
 - 3 See 1 Across
 - 8 'Let us draw to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
 - 9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)
- 11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
- 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
- 15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
- 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
- 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
- 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18)(8)
- 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)

- 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
- 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7 'For Christ died for once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
- 16 'You have of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)









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

ARTICLES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2023 PNE

Please note, that if you would like to have an article published in the September 2023 PNE,

I will need a copy of it no later than Thursday 10th August.

Anything sent in after that date will automatically be included in the October 2023 PNE edition.

My contact details are on page 19. Thank you.

Janet Kimber

Time for a Smile

Forgive us

One four-year-old prayed: "And forgive us our trash baskets, as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

A couple of Smile Lines showing us how children sometimes mis-interpret things.

Not late

A little girl, dressed in her

Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for church. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again.

As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! But please don't shove me either!"



Doctor's appointment

I told my doctor's receptionist I need an appointment. "How about 10 tomorrow?" she asked.

"I don't need that many," I replied.

Conversation

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.



The start of the football season was the cause of universal joy.

Smart worms

Earth flew in all directions as the crimson-faced would-be golfer attempted to strike the ball. "Goodness," he finally blurted to his caddie, "the worms around here will think there's been an earthquake."

"Never mind," said the caddie, "they are pretty smart – by now they will be hiding beneath the ball for safety."

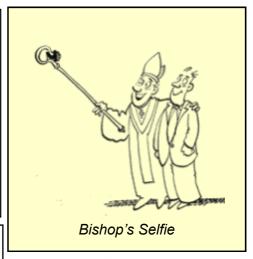


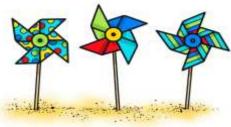
People aren't really so smart. The turtle had a streamlined body for travel, a hard top, retractable landing gear and a mobile home for thousands of years before we did.

Ready

I don't understand why people have to 'get ready for bed'. I'm always ready for bed.









Towels

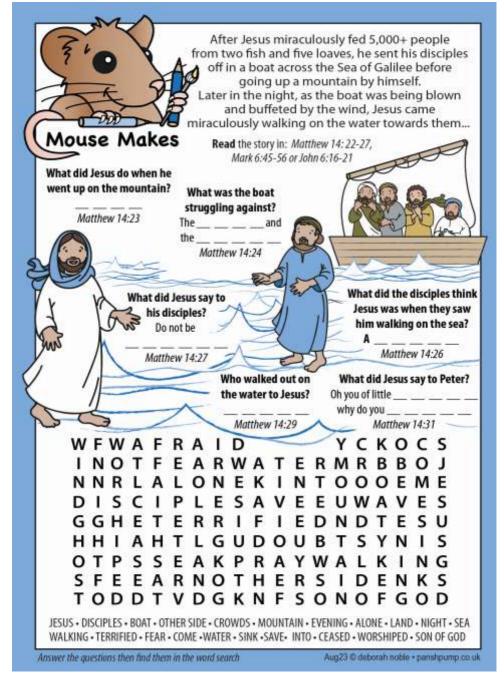
Our organist and his wife have their towels marked Hymns and Hers.

Blessings

The student was writing to the head of the mission in England who had founded his local school in the African bush. He wanted to end with a blessing, 'May heaven preserve you.'

Not being quite confident of his English, he looked up the word 'preserve'. When the letter reached the head of the mission, it ended with the words: 'And may Heaven pickle you.'

A Page for the Young at Heart



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:

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.