The Parish Church of St Paul Ansdell & Fairhaven

Pews News Extra

Issue No 99 - January 2017



Listen! I am standing at your door and knocking.

Revelation 3:20











CHURCH OFFICERS

Vicar Tel

The Rev Paul Bye

Reader

Miss Janet Kimber

Reader Emeritus

Mr Peter Swindells

Church Wardens

Mrs Michele Briers

Mrs Pamela Rowell

Verger

Mrs Carole Johnson

Parish Secretary

Mr Alan Curtis

Treasurer

Mrs Loraine Lee

Organist

Mrs Linda Carrington

For a full list of Who's Who as St Paul's please pick up a list from the Parish Office, Church or St. Paul's Fundraising Shop

Parish Office Fundraising Shop

Website E-mail

Tel No 01253 732939 Tel No 01253 732253

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Letter from the Vicarage...

'A New Year's Resolution is something which goes in one year and out the other'. 'I was going to quit all my bad habits for the New Year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.' So said, some wise wits! It's that time of year. New Year. New Resolutions. A chance to turn over a new leaf.



There is something great about having that opportunity. For some that will be removing things out from life – a diet or a clear out the wardrobe. For others, it is about taking up something new – gym membership or a new hobby.

Yet there is a tension. One poll a few years ago recorded the average time of giving up on our resolutions is 24 days! For many, it is a lot less that that!

Deep down people often want change – in their circumstances or themselves. Yet in many cases we are unable to bring those changes about. Or even when we do, they don't necessarily get to the bottom of things.

That is where the good news of Christianity is so appealing and refreshing. It is all about a fresh start – a deep, lasting one. But it doesn't come through our trying hard or pulling our socks up in the New Year. Rather it comes from God.

The 'Jesus Rock' sweet we've been looking at these past few months helps point us to this. The next colour is white – representing the fresh start with God which is possible through Jesus.

A man called Isaiah wrote in the Bible many years ago, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow' (Isaiah 11:18)

It's as if all the wrong we've done, all the times we've lived in charge instead of God become dark marks that stain us. We can't get rid of them. They cut us off from God.

Yet through Jesus, the baby born in a manger and who died on a cross, it is possible to be washed clean and forgiven for turning away from God. Those dark stains become as white as snow, as Jesus deals with them, when we trust him. In God's sight, we become pure. The past is dealt with and we can begin a fresh start with God, knowing him personally in our lives.



More than that, this fresh start means knowing his help to live for him from now on. Charles Dickens reportedly said 'a new heart for a New Year, always!" God's fresh start gives us that – a new relationship with God and a new ability to go his way. Not just for a month, but for eternity!

By all means, set New Year's resolutions, and I hope 2017 brings all that you hope for. But why not make 2017 the year to explore the best and most needed fresh start there is! We'd love to welcome you at St Paul's in the coming days to help you do that. Do read through the rest of Pew News Extra to see what is coming up.

With best wishes in this New Year

Paul



Remember God in 2017

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. - Proverbs 3:6

In His love He clothes us, enfolds us and embraces us; that tender love completely surrounds us, never to leave us. As I saw it He is everything that is good. - Julian of Norwich

Endurance and perseverance are qualities we would all like to possess, but we are loath to go through the process that produces them.

- Jerry Bridges



First of all a big THANK YOU to Jean for holding the fort and keeping everyone informed during the time without a leader. I'm failing already by not getting this to Janet on time and lack the expertise of Jean's letter writing....room for improvement!

Our November meeting was very enjoyable with Yvonne from 'Pinny's Pots'. She demonstrated how she decorates flower pots using a variety of materials such as paper napkins, patterned fabric and paint. The diversity of design was something to marvel at. We had the opportunity to buy and put orders in with our own choice of design if wished. We hope to have a workshop in 2017 if it can be arranged.

The Christmas Lunch was held at The Inn on the Prom. A change of venue as the Chadwick Hotel was up for sale at the time of booking and we didn't want to risk being let down. Unfortunately the standard wasn't the same but the company made up for it. (Guess it's back to the Chadwick next time).

Our first meeting in 2017 will be on Monday 23rd January at 2.15pm. It will be our AGM so I hope you will try to attend to give us support.

By the time you read this we'll be in the middle of the Christmas activities. I hope you have a joyful time and we pray for a peaceful new year not only for ourselves but around the world.

Pam Chapman







Dig Deeper – a great New Year's Resolution



The Bible - Just a book for children? Too confusing? Wouldn't know where to start? Not sure I have the time? It may be that you connect with some of those reasons why adults have often never read the Bible.

And yet if the Bible is what it claims to be, then there can be no more important

book! Imagine having a letter from the Queen and never reading it. The Bible is a love letter to us from the King of Kings. Why not make 2017 the year to begin to read it for yourself? But how?

Start small

Don't be too adventurous to begin. Take a small number of verses – maybe one story in a gospel – and a manageable time – maybe just 5-10mins. You can always build up, but you are more likely to sustain it.

Make a time

Like all things in life – it will only happen if we make time for it. Why not set aside some minutes when you get up? Or at the end of the day?

Ask for help

God hasn't just given us the Bible, he promises to help us as we read it. It isn't simply a text book to teach us things, but it's designed to change us! Begin each time with a simple prayer to God asking for his help to understand what you are reading and to live out what it means.

Start at the beginning (of the New Testament)

A wise lady once sang 'Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start.' With the Bible, the most accessible place to begin is one of the gospels (the eyewitness account of Jesus' life). Mark's gospel is the shortest. Jesus is the heart of the Bible's message and as we understand him the other parts begin to come into focus.

Get help

It can be hard sometimes knowing what parts of the Bible are about. Don't be discouraged. In part, the more we get to know the Bible, the more we understand the parts. But there are also some great things out

there to help you. For example, *Explore* are daily Bible notes to help you as you read. Or why not come to St Paul's and ask your questions!

Ask good questions

As you read ask...What is happening in this part? What has it come before or after? Are there tricky words or ideas I need help with? What does it teach me about God? How does it encourage me to trust Jesus? Are there things to change because of it? What can I give thanks for?

But what if you are not a 'reader'? There are some great audio Bibles to buy, such as the New International Version recorded by David Suchet (Poirot fame!) which means you can listen along to it being read for you.

Happy digging in 2017!



Join us at St Paul's for a new, more informal, service designed for all-ages!

The service will include a mix of songs from children's to traditional, drama, and Bible talks accessible to all.

All-Age services will take place on the **3rd Sunday of the month**, beginning at **10.30am** and will last no longer than an hour.

Whoever you are, whatever you age, you are really welcome to join us!

Parishioners' Notes

Leprosy Mission



I will be collecting in the Leprosy Mission boxes during the month of January, so if you have one, please let me have it as soon as possible.

In 2016, £158.20 was banked for the Mission, which is excellent; and we are proposing to mark Leprosy Sunday 2017 with a special collection. It just so happens to coincide with our Patronal Festival and Songs of Praise Service on Sunday 29th January.

Please support us if you can! Many thanks

Janet K.

Thank You

A huge thank you to the family of St. Paul's for your love, support and prayers during my recent illness. It's not often that I'm left speechless but it has been rather quiet in the Kimber household for most of December! I had hoped to join you for the Carol Service but any singing noise that I tried to make came out as a mixture of weird groans and breathy sighs! So, I spared you the pain of having to suffer them.

I wish you all, a happy and prosperous New Year! $Janet \mathcal{K}$.

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Parishioner Donations

This is proving to be very popular way of giving much needed items to church. So, if the thought of donating money towards a specific item, such as a box of candles, wine or wafers, appeals to you, then please speak to one of the Wardens or a member of the PCC.

They would be very pleased to hear from you.

Notes from the Organ Loft

CAROL SINGING

Thank you to our carol singers who, with smiling faces, took Christmas cheer to the residents of South Hey Community Centre and Lake View Care Home. We were again grateful to Ian and Mary Winterflood for lending their electronic keyboard to accompany the singing.





"SONGS OF PRAISE"

Our next "Songs of Praise" service will be on 29th January. On that day we celebrate our Patronal Festival so you may like to reflect that in your hymn choices. The deadline for submitting requests is Sunday 8th January. This is your opportunity to introduce us to some hymns we

may not normally sing at St. Paul's.

Linda

Notes from the Choir Stalls (continued)

As we come to the start of a new year I have been looking back at the amazing experiences I had as a result of being awarded a British Empire Medal at the start of the 2016.

After the presentation at Lancaster Castle and attendance at two garden parties in May I thought that would be the end to the celebrations. I couldn't have been more wrong as in November Ian and I made two separate trips to London to attend special services. First of all evensong at St Paul's Cathedral for all recent recipients of Awards of the Order of the British Empire. We were able to visit the chapel of the Order in the crypt and then took part in a very uplifting service with beautiful singing by the cathedral choir.

The Duke of Edinburgh, the Grand Master of the order, walked the full length of the cathedral without any difficulty. The sermon was delivered by the Bishop of London, Right Rev Richard Chartres, who preached on the behaviour which Award recipients should show: aim for excellence, be generous and humble at the same time and make friends; indeed this should be a message for everyone. We came out of the cathedral to a glorious peel of bells, which made it all the more a special occasion.

Two weeks later we were back again at Westminster Abbev to attend a Thanksgiving service for the 60th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This was a much busier event 2000 with over employees, volunteers and Award holders invited and attended not just by the Duke of Edinburgh but also by her Majesty the Queen, Prince Edward and the Countess of Wessex. It was Prince Edward. who gave the address. He is helping lot with now а



Mary is pictured with a former pupil who gained her Gold DofE Award and now works for the Royal British Legion.

presentations and planning for the future of the D of E Award. He told us that the Award had started off as a 6 month pilot scheme run by the army and scouts, and had continued as more and more voluntary organisations wanted to get; (girls were admitted to the programme in 1959). The Award is successful because of the belief of those involved that it is a worth-while achievement. In fact it has been described as "the young person's do-it-yourself kit to becoming an adult". Ian and I very much believe that it is even more relevant to today's young people and we are continuing to deliver it at our school, AKS, while we can!

Mary Winterflood

We, Three Kings?

Editor: Canon David Winter considers the role of the Magi



all, a Saviour.

They're there in most Nativity plays, resplendent in regal gowns and cardboard crowns, carrying their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Actually, the Church celebrates the coming of these exotic people to the stable at Bethlehem not at Christmas but now, in January, in a season called 'Epiphany'.

The word means 'revealing', and it reminds us that the Saviour was a gift to the whole world – even Gentiles from 'the East' were welcome at His coming. The story of the Wise Men, as we usually call them (but more accurately the Magi), is a 'revealing' – the 'new king' was to be the Saviour of the world, 'good news for all people', as the angels proclaimed to the shepherds.

The name 'Magi' should alert us to their true role. They were 'wise' in the sense that they knew and studied the stars, but their primary trade was fortune-telling. 'Magi' is the root of our word 'magic', and people like them held the ancient world in thrall to their predictions. In the Greek and Roman world of the time no major decision would be made without their sanction. Think of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar and the superstitious fear that dominated people's lives.

Yet when these powerful representatives of the world of magic, portent and fear came to the stable, they prostrated themselves before the infant Jesus, as they gave Him their gifts. Thus, as the first Christians saw it, the old world of fear and superstition gave way to the new world of love, grace and faith. That was the 'revealing' that we celebrate in Epiphany – not some elderly men bringing gifts to a baby, but a baby bringing to the world the greatest gift of

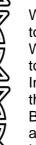
Quiet Corner



New Year

(Psalm 139)

A new year!



We look back to the old, to the leaving, gladly or sadly. We look ahead to the unknown, to days which might bring love, or loss. In our own strength, with our own wisdom this is a scary place.

But our God is already there - ahead and behind.

He created us.

He knows all our days. So we need not be afraid. In Him we are secure for this new year and forever. He will be with us if we trust, lift up our eyes and walk on.

And, with His help, we can.

By Daphne Kitching

New Year Prayer 2017

Lord of the Years, At the start of this New Year we ask for your presence, protection and guidance for every minute of every day of every month ahead. Thank you that we do not go into this New Year

alone. Thank you for loving us so much that you gave us Jesus to lead us to you. May we commit ourselves afresh to serve you, to love you and to share your love with those who don't yet know you.

May we make a difference for your Kingdom in 2017.

In Jesus name. Amen

By Daphne Kitching

Friday Focus 2017

As a church, we have begun to think through what Blackburn Diocese's exciting Vision 2026 – 'Healthy Churches, Transforming Communities' will mean for us! In the coming year, we will hear much more about it. But we are not the only people thinking about taking out the good news of Jesus. Here is news about the HOPE network. Maybe ideas from Friday Focus might be something we use at St Paul's or you could use personally in helping us pray?

Churches across the UK are preparing for mission together in 2018 to make Jesus known. A major new initiative, 'Friday Focus 2017' provides the opportunity for us to pray where we are, and unite across our nation on Fridays (whenever possible), supporting all on-going mission across the UK and preparing the way for HOPE 2018.

Many Christian denominations, agencies and churches are already part of HOPE 2018 (www.hopetogether.org.uk) and there are many local and national initiatives being planned to make Jesus known to people in our villages, towns and cities during 2018. The aim is to see the entire church mobilised to work together for a year of mission, so that the good news of Jesus Christ is shared in words and action. The dream is to see 10 per cent church growth in these next two years. Without prayer and seeking the empowering of the Holy Spirit, our work will not be as fruitful.

Each week Friday Focus will be taking a different theme: supporting national initiatives of prayer and mission; key seasons in the church's calendar; the different people groups highlighted in the Talking Jesus report (www.talkingjesus.org); the people we know and meet; the communities we are part of, and the places where we live. Leaders from denominations, mission and prayer organisations and networks are writing the reflections based on a Bible passage, with prayer to accompany each theme. Prayer Focus can be used for private and public prayer.

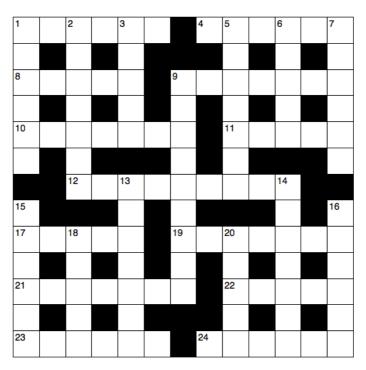
Colossians 4 v. 2-3 sums up what Friday Focus longs to see from this year of praying together. We want to see every individual and church devoting itself to prayer – being watchful and thankful. We want everyone to be asking God to open the doors for mission opportunities, and asking for clarity as we talk about Jesus. We want to encourage each other to make the most of every opportunity, to give the reason for the hope we have, with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).



Do join in and be part of the answer! Download the prayers from www.hopetogether.org.uk/prayer

January 2017 Crossword

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



Across

- 1 Protective covering recommended to the Ephesians (Ephesians 6:11) (6)
- 4 The number of apostles (Matthew 10:2) (6)
- 8 Tenth-century Bishop of Augsberg for 48 years, who became the first saint to be canonized by a pope (5)
- 9 'Do not what is evil but what is good' (3 John 11) (7)
- 10 Reading desk in a church (7)
- 11 'He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like walking around" (Mark 8:24) (5)
- One of the qualities that Paul exhorted Timothy to pursue (1 Timothy 6:11) (9)
- One of the meaningless pleasures acquired by the Teacher (Ecclesiastes 2:8) (5)

- 19 'Like babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation' (1 Peter 2:2) (7)
- 21 Jesus said that Moses allowed this only because men's hearts were hard (Matthew 19:8) (7)
- 22 Girl's name (5)
- 23 Most sagacious (Judges 5:29) (6)
- 24 How Stephen, the first Christian martyr, died: after being (Acts 7:59) (6)

Down

- 1 A Jew whom Paul met in Corinth, whose wife was Priscilla (Acts 18:2) (6)
- 2 For example, turning water into wine, feeding the five thousand, walking on water (John 7:21) (7)
- 3 Abram's relationship to Lot (Genesis 14:12) (5)
- 5 'Jesus answered, "It is —: 'Man does not live by bread alone.'" (Matthew 4:4) (7)
- 6 'Peace I with you; my peace I give you' (John 14:27) (5)
- 7 'May the Lord deal with me, be it — severely, if anything but death separates you and me' (Ruth 1:17) (4,2)
- 9 Lack of knowledge (Acts 17:30) (9)
- 13 This woman 'followed Paul and believed' after his words to the Areopagus in Athens (Acts 17:34) (7)
- 14 Or noise (anag.) (7)
- 15 'Even though I walk through the valley of the of death, I will fear no evil' (Psalm 23:4) (6)
- 16 '— Christian soldiers, marching as to war' (6)
- 18 Saver (anag.) (5)
- 20 'Unless a grain of falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed' (John 12:24) (5)

Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF).

Crossword Answers for December 2016

ACROSS: 1. Lame 3. Obtained 8. Omit 9. Merchant 11. Burdensome 14. Crafty 15. Please 17. Blacksmith 20. Splendid 21. Tier 22. Singeing 23. Hand

DOWN: 1. Look back 2. Main road 4. Breast 5. Accomplish 6. Near 7. Date 10. Pestilence 12. Basilica 13. Tethered 16. Action 18. Asa's 19. Clan

Time for a Smile

Grannie?

The little boy came home from his first day at Sunday School and informed his mother that his Sunday school teacher was Jesus' grandmother. Astonished, the mother demanded: 'What on earth makes you think that?' "Easy, said the little boy. 'She never stops talking about Jesus."

Not all free!

The nursery school teacher was teaching her class about living in a democracy. She said, "One of the things we should be happy about in this country, is that we are all free." One little boy stood up in protest. "No," he said indignantly. "I'm not free. I'm four."



There were many signs of economic downturn.

Challenge

It was the beginning of term at a primary school. The teacher asked the children their names one at a time, and for each to spell their name out loud. When she came to a young boy and asked his name..... 'Ravashanka Vankatarataam Bannerjee,' he replied.

'Ah - how do you spell that?' gulped the teacher. 'I don't,' said the little boy, 'but my mother can.'



"By providing a really strong mobile signal, the vicar's hoping to attract more young folk to the church."

Overheard on the Wise Men's journey to Bethlehem:-

- The camel is definitely the ship of the desert. I know it because I'm getting seasick.
- OK, we got the gold, the frankincense and the myrrh. Do you think we should get something more practical, like nappies, maybe?
- At least this gold has doubled in price since we set out from home....
- Suppose He really wanted a PlayStation?
- They call us wise men for following a star. But I notice they are all using satnay instead.

READERS' ROTA - SUNDAY (10:30am)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>		<u>Name</u>
1 Jan Naming of Jesus	OT & Ps	Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8	Pam Rowell
	NT	Galatians 4: 4-7	Mike Briers
	Gospel	Luke 2:15-21	Janet Kimber
8 Jan Epiphany	OT & Ps	Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Sheila Swindells
	NT	Ephesians 3:1-12	Pam Chapman
	Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12	Barbara Jackson
15 Jan Epiphany 2	Gospel	John 1:29-42	All Age Worship
22 Jan Epiphany 3	OT & Ps	Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 5-13	Ken Pocock
	NT	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Jo Pocock
	Gospel	Matthew 4:12-23	Janet Kimber
29 Jan Epiphany 4	OT & Ps	1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 36:5-10	Liz Geddes
	NT	1 Corinthians 1:18-34	Eileen Russell
	Gospel	John 2:1-11	Janet Kimber

SUNDAY EVENINGS IN DECEMBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	Said/Sung	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
January 1st	Naming of Jesus	Sung	Janet	Janet
January 8th	Epiphany	Said	Paul	Paul
January 15th	Epiphany 2	Sung	Janet	Paul
January 22nd	Epiphany 3	Said	Paul	Paul
January 29th	Epiphany 4	Compline ~ Janet		



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



Association of Church Editors monthly edition of "Ideas Forum"

Come and Join Us! Everyone is Welcome!

Regular Church Hall Activities

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	Organisation	
Monday	2:15 - 4:15pm	Mothers' Union (4th Monday)	
	7:30 – 8:30pm	Zumba Class	
Tuesday	6:00 – 8:15pm	Beavers & Cubs (Term-Time only)	
Wednesday	From 10:30am	Church Coffee Morning	
	6:30 - 7:30pm	Zumba Dancing	
Thursday	6:15 – 7:30pm	Family Service	
Friday	5:00 - 9:00pm	Rainbows, Brownies & Guides (Term-Time only)	

Other Regular Church Activities

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Where</u>
1st Saturday	8:00-9:00am	Prayer Breakfast	In the Shop

St. Paul's Fundraising Shop

(Woodlands Road)

Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday 10:00am until 4:30pm.



Volunteers are needed. If you can help in any way please contact the Volunteer Managers on 01253 732253.

Ansdell and Fairhaven St. Paul Church Services

Sunday

8:30am Holy Communion (BCP)
10:30am Parish Eucharist (CW)
4:00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

Wednesday

10:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday

6:15pm Family Service

(A service for the younger members of our church, including songs, Bible Stories, prayers and activities.)

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(BCP ~Book of Common Prayer; CW ~ Common Worship)

'Parish Surgery'

If you would like to discuss any matter with Paul, the Vicar, you are welcome to attend the following surgery:

Wednesday ~ 9:00-9:30am at the Parish Office



Weddings, Thanksgiving, Baptisms etc.

Thanksgiving/Baptism

If you're interested in finding out about the possibility of having a thanksgiving service or baptism for your child or yourself, please contact Paul, the Vicar where he can explain the process more, or join us on a Sunday morning at 10.30am.

Weddings

If you wish to arrange a wedding, please contact Paul, the Vicar.

You can contact Paul about these, and other matters by:

- telephone on 01253 734562, or
- email at vicar.stpaulsaf@gmail.com

Dates for Your Diary January 2017

Saturday 7th Men's Prayer Breakfast

8:00am ~ in the Shop

Wednesday 11th **PCC Meeting**

7:00pm ~ in the Church Hall

Sunday 15th All Age Worship

10:30am ~ in Church

Mothers' Union AGM Monday 23rd

2:15pm ~ in the Church Hall

Songs of Praise Service 10:30am ~ in Church Sunday 29th



ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY PNE

If you have an article for inclusion in the February PNE, please make sure that I have it by Sunday 15th January. Thank you.

Janet Kimber

For more information about our Weekly Services and Activities please see pages 18 and 19





The Word Live

Catch up with the Word as preached at the 10:30am Service by logging on to:http://stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/the-word---live.html.