



Newsletter

27 April & 4 May 2025



St George's Day 28 April

80th anniversary of VE Day 8 May

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Services for Sunday 27 April 2025 Easter 2

St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Revd Daniel Mullaney

St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Revd Daniel Mullaney

Services for Sunday 4 May 2025 Easter 3

St Paul's 10am **All Age Worship** with Revd Andy Smith and Anthea Darlington

St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Revd Daniel Mullaney

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Readings for Sun 27 April Acts 5: 27-32

John 20: 19-end

Readings for Sun 4 May Acts 9: 1-6

John 21: 1-19

(1) *The apostles before the council*

(2) *Doubting Thomas*

(3) *Conversion of St Paul*

(4) *Jesus and Peter*

Wed 30 April: Psalm 34:1-8; John 3: 16-21 Wed 7 May: Psalm 66:1-6; John 6:35-40

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Happy Easter! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

A very big 'thankyou' to everyone who helped to make this year's Holy Week so special. Our thanks go to Pam and Paul Smeeton and Eileen Booth for a wonderful **Maundy Thursday meal** attended by 50 people and followed by a very special service of Holy Communion as we prepared ourselves for Good Friday. Many thanks to Revd Steve Williams for organising the annual **Walk of Witness** of Churches Together in Prestwich and Kersal, and to the two police officers who marshalled the event so well, promoting good community relations in Prestwich. Thankyou to all who brought the **Passion of Our Lord** to life in St Paul's Church on Good Friday afternoon in words from St John's Gospel. Our Easter raffle raised **£170** for church funds- thank you, Beryl and Pam for organizing it and giving such lovely prizes. Finally huge thanks to all who came to our service on **Easter Day** at St Paul's- a record attendance where we celebrated with giant balloons (courtesy of Revd Andy), Easter eggs and singing along to Noel Richards' 'He has risen.' What a celebration!



Christ is risen! 🏰 Christ is risen! 🏰 Christ is risen! 🏰 Christ is risen! 🏰 Christ is risen! 🏰 Christ is risen! 🏰

St George's Day 2025. If you waved your St George's Day flag to celebrate England's patron saint last Wednesday, you will be surprised to learn you had the wrong date. St George's Day is usually celebrated on April 23 each year, but the Church of England put back the date to Monday April 28 because no saint's day can take place in Holy Week. A note issued by the church states: 'When St George's Day or St Mark's Day falls between Palm Sunday and the Second Sunday of Easter inclusive, it is transferred to the Monday after the Second Sunday of Easter. If both fall in this period, St George's Day is transferred to the Monday and St Mark's Day to the Tuesday.' This means we can all celebrate our patron saint this Monday. St George became a legendary figure for his courage and bravery – even though he never actually set foot in England. However, he wasn't English and, no, he didn't slay a dragon. Very little is known about the real man, although it is thought he was Greek, born in the third century in what was then Syria Palaestina. He was a Roman soldier turned Christian martyr. It is believed he protested against the persecution of Christians and was subsequently tortured and killed because of his religion. We share St George as patron saint with places like Venice, Portugal and Ethiopia. St George's emblem is a red cross on a white background, and often special celebrations and events are held to commemorate the day. Manchester held a St George's Day Parade last Sunday.



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Prayers



It was with great sorrow that we heard the news of the death of **Pope Francis** on Easter Monday. Our thoughts and prayers are with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters around the world at this time. Bishop David has expressed his condolences and paid tribute to Pope Francis, saying:

"Throughout his years as Pope, Francis radiated both the love of God and the joy of knowing that love. I know from my own meeting with him two years ago, that his closeness to God meant that to be in his presence was to feel God nearby. At a time when amoral and authoritarian leaders are coming to dominate power in so many parts of the world, Pope Francis has shown us a better, humbler, more compassionate way. I pray that his legacy will live long, both in the Church he led and in the world he cared for." May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

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News and Events

Bible Study: 10-week **God's Big Picture** course on Tuesdays at 7pm at St Paul's from 6 May. All welcome to this opportunity to refresh our understanding of what the bible means to us.

APCM: this year's annual parish meeting will take place at St Paul's at 10.45am on **Sunday 11 May** after a joint service of Morning Praise to commemorate the **80th Anniversary of VE Day**. On the same day our **Ladies' Choir** will be joining with colleagues from Bury Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in a **concert of popular music** at Eccles Town Hall at 2pm. See Bronwen for details.

Parish weekend away to Thornleigh at beautiful Grange-over-Sands **Friday 26-Mon 29 September**. Places still available- contact Alan Pendry on 07779127746 for more information. It is possible to pay in instalments: don't forget to pay if you have arranged this!

Next Two Weeks

Monday 28 April: Leadership Team meeting 7pm 5 Moorside Road.

Tuesday 29 April: Time Out 1.30pm at St Paul's. Nursery rhymes and their origins.

Wednesday 30 April: Holy Communion 10am St Paul's with Revd Daniel presiding and Revd Noel Proctor preaching.

Thursday 1 May: pre-APCM PCC meeting 7pm St Paul's

Monday 5 May: Spring Bank Holiday

Tuesday 6 May: God's Big Picture bible study course- first session 7pm St Paul's

Wednesday 7 May: Holy Communion 10am St Paul's with Revd Mike Dyson

CONTACT INFORMATION

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For more information visit our websites:

St Paul's: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15877

St Andrew's: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15878