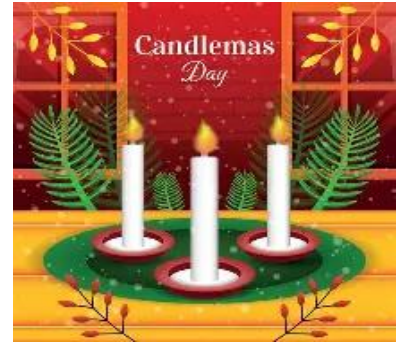




Presentation of Christ in the Temple

# Newsletter

## 1 & 8 February 2026



Candlemas

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### Services for Sunday 1 February 2026 Candlemas: Presentation of Christ in the Temple

St Paul's 10am **Morning Praise** lead and preach Anthea Darlington  
St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Rev Avis Gordon

### Services for Sunday 8 February 2026 2 before Lent

St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion** preach and preside Rev Andy Smith  
St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Rev Avis Gordon



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Readings for Sun 1 February

Malachi 3: 1-5

(1) *The coming messenger*

Luke 2: 22-40

(2) *Presentation in the Temple*

Readings for Sun 8 February

Genesis 1:1-2:3

(3) *Creation*

Matt 6: 25-end

(4) *Consider the lilies of the field*

Wed 4 Feb: Psalm 32: 1-8; Mark 6: 1-6a; Wed 11 Feb: Psalm 37:3-6,30-32; Mark 7:14-23

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The Leadership Team wanted to know what you really thought about our churches- what we do that's good and what we could do better- so that anyone applying for the post of Rector here would have an idea of what we are like and the direction in which the congregation would like to move in the future. Here are the results of our recent **SWOT analysis**. We asked you all to record your feelings about our churches under the headings of Strengths- what we are good at and what people like about us; Weaknesses: what we could do better; Opportunities: what more we could do to succeed in our aims; and Threats- what's stopping us from achieving what we want but is largely outside our control.

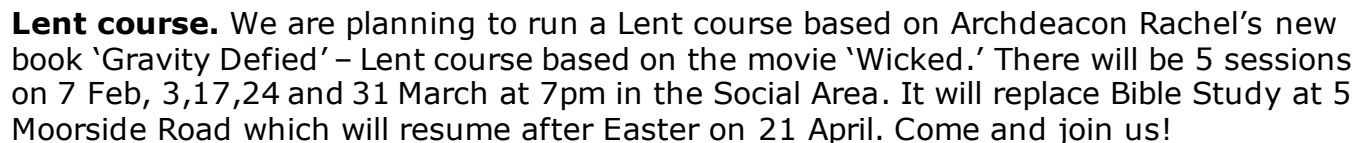


**Strengths:** both churches stressed the quality of friendliness and welcome; the sense of community and fellowship; the nature of the buildings- warm, clean, versatile, maintained as well as we can, with space for social activities; the quality of the worship, varied to meet differing needs and occasions, made as enjoyable and interesting as possible. At St Paul's the quality of the welcome team was noted- 'making people feel valued and special'; the active commitment to the single and widowed; how newcomers were made welcome; the active support of charities (Ripple Effect, Nicholas in Kenya, St James Pantry, shoeboxes); the involvement of children/young people in all we do, and that we still have a Sunday School; bible study and prayer opportunities; the special worship a different times and seasons, especially the midweek Wednesday Holy Communion; the openness to change; how all was underpinned by prayer. Special mention was made of the committed Leadership Team whose 'spirit-filled leadership' made a continuous impact. Being able to park on Moor Lane makes a difference!

**Weaknesses:** at both churches most people mentioned the ageing congregation and now relatively small (and ageing) Leadership Team, and the difficulties of succession planning resulting from this. Fluctuating Sunday School numbers at St Paul's and no children at St

**Threats:** the greatest by far was the age of the current congregations and especially leadership- fear of burnout. St Andrew's felt that if they lost any more people they would not be viable. Next most important was the lack of funding to enable both churches to keep going, and the need for a major stewardship campaign to counter the deficit and improve people's giving in every respect. External threats were noted: vandalism at St Andrew's; safety concerns at St Paul's in the light of the Heaton Park synagogue attack; and the decision of the Diocese to cut the Rector post to 0.5, thus restricting applicants and our ability to effect meaningful change. Please feel free to let the LT know if you have anything to add to this list. It will inform what we include in the new Parish Profile.

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The logo of St Paul's CE Primary School is a circular emblem. It features a blue outer ring with the school's name 'St Paul's' at the top and 'CE Primary School' at the bottom in white. The center of the logo depicts a stylized tree with a brown trunk and branches, and leaves in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple). The tree is set against a white background with a green grassy area at the base.

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**Tuesday 3 February: 7pm Bible study homegroup** at 5 Moorside Road

**Wed 4 February: Holy Communion** 10am with Rev Mike Dyson and Canon Noel Proctor

**Thursday 5 February:** 7pm **Homegroup** at 47 Agcroft Road West

**Saturday 7 February:** working party St Andrew's am (see Rev Andy Smith)

**Monday 9 February:** 7pm **Pastoral meeting/Leadership Team** 5 Moorside Road

**Tuesday 10 February:** 1.30pm **Time Out** – Valentine celebration

**Wednesday 11 February: Holy Communion 10am** with Rev Christine Hardy

**Thursday 12 February:** 7pm Worship Planning Group 32 Moor Lane

**Current Clergy Team:**  
 Revd Mike Dyson (Associate Minister)  
 792 1098 [beardandsandals@hotmail.com](mailto:beardandsandals@hotmail.com)  
 Revd Hilary Shedlock (Associate Minister)  
 07817 651408 [revhilaryshedlock@gmail.com](mailto:revhilaryshedlock@gmail.com)  
 Revd Andy Smith (Associate Priest)  
 07496726669 [smudger1275@gmail.com](mailto:smudger1275@gmail.com)

**David Martin** Parish Churchwarden  
0161 766 2736 [dandhmartin@live.co.uk](mailto:dandhmartin@live.co.uk)  
**Anthea Darlington** Parish Churchwarden, Data Officer,  
Bookings 0161 792 1780 [awdarlington@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:awdarlington@hotmail.co.uk)  
**Eileen Booth** PCC Secretary 0161 792 9960  
[eileenchriss5@gmail.com](mailto:eileenchriss5@gmail.com)

St Paul's: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15877](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15877)

St Andrew's: [www.achurchnearvov.com/church/15878](http://www.achurchnearvov.com/church/15878)