



# Newsletter

## 18 & 25 January 2026



Conversion of Paul 25 January

Thomas Aquinas 1274 28 January

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### Services for Sunday 18 January 2026 Epiphany 2

St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Revd Canon Anne Edwards, Senior Bishop's Chaplain

St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Revd Andy Smith

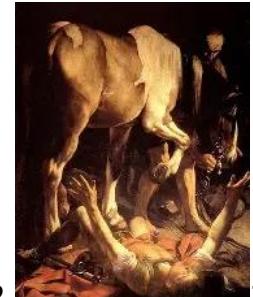
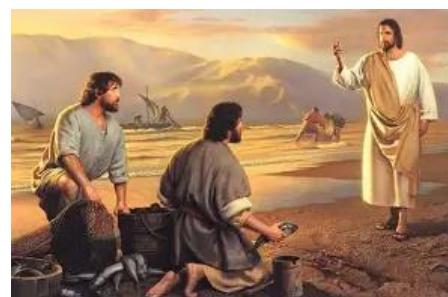
### Services for Sunday 25 January 2026 Conversion of Paul

St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion** preside Revd Mike Dyson; preach Dapo Ajibua

St Andrew's 11am **Morning Praise** lead and preach Anthea Darlington



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Readings for Sun 18 January

Isaiah 49: 1-7

(1) *The servant's mission*

John 1: 29-42

(2) *The first disciples of Jesus*

Readings for Sun 25 January

Acts 9: 1-22

(3) *Conversion of Paul*

Matt 19: 27-end

(4) *The first will be last and the last first*

Wed 21 Jan: Psalm 144: 1-2,9-10; Mark 3: 1-6; Wed 28 Jan: Psalm 89:19-27; Mark 4:1-20

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The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026** will be observed from January 18 to January

25 this year. It is an annual event that invites Christians from all denominations to come together in prayer for unity. The theme for 2026 is inspired by Ephesians 4: 4, which emphasizes the unity of the church: 'There is one body ad one spirit, just as you were called to one hope of your calling.' The theme for this year has been prepared by the Armenian Apostolic Church along with the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches, drawing on centuries-old traditions of prayer and hymns from Armenia. The Week of Prayer offers a significant opportunity for Christians to come together in prayer and worship, reflecting on their

shared faith and commitment to unity. During the week we ask you to pray for the church in the world, using the prayer below. A service to mark the end of the week will be held at St Paul's Church on **Sunday 25 January** at 3pm. This will be a Mission Community and Churches Together in Prestwich event, led by Rev David Cooper, Mission Community leader and Rector of St Mary's Prestwich. Please join us on this special occasion.

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### A prayer for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:

Heavenly Father, you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ to continue his work of reconciliation and reveal you to the world: forgive us the sins which tear us apart; give us the courage to overcome our fears and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



**Our Prayers.** We continue to pray for Lynne Marsland whose funeral is on 20 January and for Pam Smeeton's mum whose funeral is on 19 January. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends at this sad time. Please pray also for Tracy Kehoe, Maureen Roberts, Michael Teo, Malcolm West and others known to you who are in need of prayer at this time.

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### **Bible Study and Homegroups**

Our **Tuesday evening Bible study** resumes this **Tuesday 20 January** weekly at 7pm at 5 Moorside Road. This bible study homegroup is for those who want to deepen and increase their Bible knowledge through discussion and sharing of experience in a homegroup atmosphere: no previous knowledge presumed. It will be led by Eileen and accompanied by tea, coffee and cake.

Our **Thursday evening Homegroup** meets fortnightly at 47 Agecroft Road West, led by Rev Avis Gordon. The next session is this **Thursday 22 January**. The group is looking at the book 'God calls everyone' which explores the link between Old and New Testament topics and what they teach us about our walk with God. It's not a Bible study; it's mainly a chat about our journeys with Jesus and how we can learn from each other and biblical characters. Lots of tea, coffee and cake/biscuits included!

All are welcome to either or both- we are learning together, so no previous experience of either the Bible or homegroups needed.

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**St Paul's School.** We hope to be able to bring you updates on the work and activities of our church primary school in each Newsletter from now on. This term we welcome our new Headteacher, Paul Puckey, who comes to us from St Stephen's Kearsley. Paul says the staff have made him feel really welcome and he's had a lovely first week. In March school will be celebrating World Book Day (2026 is National Year of Reading) and holding parents' evenings.



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**Parish Profile and Rector post:** this is your last opportunity (Sunday 18 January) to have your say before we update the Profile. What do you think is good about St Paul's and St Andrew's? What are the challenges for the future? Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT). Write your opinions on sheets provided in church.

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**Keeping our churches open and funding the work we do.** A reminder following on from the message in the Christmas magazine about stewardship. Both our churches are now running at a deficit, and if we are to keep going we will have to find ways of increasing our income. A Stewardship Campaign is being planned for later in the year. If you can commit to increasing your weekly giving or have not yet set up a standing order to do this, please see David Martin, Robert Hambleton or a member of the clergy. All suggestions for raising funds welcome.

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### **Details of Services and events for the next 2 weeks**

**Monday 19 January:** 10am meeting with Parish Support Officer Carolyn McGloughlin

**Tuesday 20 January:** 7pm **Bible study homegroup** at 5 Moorside Road

**Wednesday 21 January: Holy Communion** 10am with Rev Mike Dyson and visiting preacher Simon Mars from St Mary's and the Mission Community

**Thursday 22 January:** 7pm **Homegroup** at 47 Agecroft Road West

**Sunday 25 January:** 3pm at St Paul's **Mission Community Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** led by Rev David Cooper, Mission Community Leader

**Monday 26 January:** 7pm at St Paul's **PCC meeting**

**Tuesday 27 January: Time Out** 1.30pm **Tasting session and Lancashire quiz**

**Tuesday 27 January:** 7-8pm at St Paul's **Holocaust Memorial Day vigil**

**Wednesday 28 January: Holy Communion** 10am with Revd Mike Dyson

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### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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)

### **All other needs:**

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 [eileenchris5@gmail.com](mailto:eileenchris5@gmail.com)

**For more information** visit our websites:

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

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