



# Newsletter

## 1 & 8 March 2026

St David's Day 1 March

St Chad Bishop of Lichfield 2 March

+++++

### Services for Sunday 1 March 2026 Lent 2

St Paul's 10am **All Age Worship** lead and preach Rev Andy Smith

St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Rev Avis Gordon

### Services for Sunday 8 March 2026 Lent 3

St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion** preach and preside Rev Mike Dyson

St Andrew's 11am **Morning Praise** lead and preach David and Heather Martin

+++++



Readings for Sun 1 March

Genesis 12: 1-4a (1) *The call of Abram*

John 3: 1-17 (2) *Nicodemus visits Jesus*

Readings for Sun 8 March

Exodus 17: 1-7 (3) *Water from the rock*

John 4: 5-42 (4) *Jesus and the Samaritan woman*

Wed 4 March: *World Day of Prayer* booklet; Wed 11 March: *Psalm 147: 13-end; Matt 5: 17-19*

+++++

**St David's Day** takes place on 1 March. Who was David, or Dewi Sant as he is known in Welsh, and why did he become patron saint of Wales? What do we know about him? He lived during the 6<sup>th</sup> century, about 1500 years ago. He was the son of a Welsh king Sant and a very religious mother, St Non. He became a priest and lived as a monk. He founded lots of monasteries, including one at St David's where the cathedral dedicated to him now stands. His monks lived very simply, drinking only water and eating bread and vegetables- including leeks, which is the national emblem of Wales. They treated animals with respect so that they didn't even use oxen for ploughing- they pulled the plough themselves. At night the monks prayed and studied. They had no personal possessions- think of what you would have to give up if we lived like that! They provided hospitality to travellers in their monasteries and helped poor people in their local community. There is a story that David was asked to speak at a big meeting of church people called a synod at a place called Brefi in Wales. There were so many people there that he couldn't be seen or heard by most of them, so the ground rose up into a hill so that all could see him and hear what he had to say. The story tells us that as he was speaking a dove came and perched on his shoulder, a sure sign that God was with him. If you look carefully in St Paul's this Sunday, you will find a 'dove' (actually a pigeon) perched somewhere in church!

Just before he died, St David preached a sermon in his church in which he said 'Be joyful and keep your faith. Do the little things that you have heard about and seen me do.' Lent is a good time to be thinking about doing the little things. It's important to show love and care in small everyday ways. You don't have to be a saint or someone special to do this - we can all do it. Check out Eileen's list in the Newsletter for 15 and 22 February- that will help!





**Our Prayers.** We continue to pray for Tracy Kehoe, Maureen Roberts, Michael Teo, John Battye, Mark Critchlow and others known to you who are in need of prayer at this time. A message from **David Martin**: David thanks the church family for the prayers, emails, cards and phone calls following his operation at the end of January. Heather and David hope to be back on 8 March, when they will be taking the service at St Andrew's.

+++++

**Retirement** After 30 years at St Andrew's and 8 years as a minister for the parish, **Rev Hilary** has announced her retirement. Her last Sunday will be 30 August. Both Hilary and her husband Phil have long term health conditions and they will be moving away from the parish. Hilary says: 'Thank you all for your prayers and support over the years. It has been such a blessing and privilege to be your minister, being alongside you in the ups and downs of life. Although we will miss you, the time feels right to move to a new place. I have been reminded that there is a time and season for all things (Ecclesiastes 3) and I have taken comfort in the words of Jesus promising to be with us all, wherever we are (Matthew 28:20). We hope to see you at St Paul's and St Andrew's over the next few months. God Bless.'

As Rev Hilary's ministry has been mainly at St Andrew's, there is going to be a **meeting there at 4pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** so we can begin to think about what the future will look like at St Andrew's. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested, from both churches.

+++++

**Important events coming up soon**

**Lent course** Our second session takes place this Tuesday at 7pm in the Social Area. An hour of prayer, bible study and praise on the theme of 'Hearts on fire for learning'. Come and join us! Refreshments and social time at the start.

**World Day of Prayer joint service** Wed 4 March- see below

**St Andrew's meeting** 12 March at 4pm at St Andrew's: looking to the future. All welcome.

**Maundy Thursday meal** 6 pm on 2 April in St Paul's Social Area £5 per person followed by Holy Communion. Places limited: book now - see Anthea or Eileen.

+++++

**St Paul's School.** On 5 March St Paul's School will be celebrating National Book Day. There will be a special 'Shakespeare Today' dance workshop for KS2. Our school is committed to encouraging reading at all levels as a priority: the well-stocked school library is the first place you see on entering the school building!



+++++

**Annual Parish Weekend Away** 9-12 October 2026 at Thornleigh, Grange-over-Sands. Guest speaker: Anne Rockley; theme: 'What's in a name?' £316.00 all-inclusive. A wonderful time of fellowship, worship and study together- highly recommended. See Alan Pendry for details.

+++++

**Details of Services and Events for the next 2 weeks**

**Tuesday 3 March:** 7pm **Lent course 2** in St Paul's Social Area.

**Wed 4 March: World Day of Prayer service** 10am with Rev Hilary Shedlock and Jean Dyson: we welcome friends from our fellow Mission Community churches and Churches Together in Prestwich and Kersal for this annual event. Theme: 'I will give you rest. Come.' Prepared by the women of WDP Nigeria. All welcome! Refreshments afterwards.

**Thursday 5 March:** Diocesan training at St Paul's 8.30am-1pm

**Thursday 5 March:** 7pm **Homegroup** at 47 Agecroft Road

**Tuesday 10 March: Time Out** at St Paul's 1.30-3.30pm Street games of our childhood

**Wednesday 11 March:** 10am St Paul's **Holy Communion** led by Rev Mike Dyson

**Thursday 12 March:** 4pm at St Andrew's **Meeting** to discuss future plans

Details of our **Easter services** will be out soon.

**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 [dandmartin@live.co.uk](mailto:dandmartin@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)