

The Parish of St Paul Kersal Moor and St Andrew Carr Clough



Easter 2026

**Our aim is to KNOW God through Jesus
To GROW in faith
To SHOW God's love in our community**

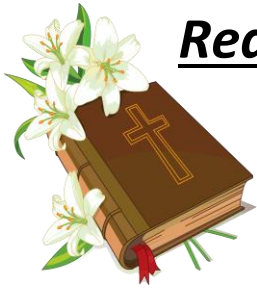
The Leadership Team writes:

This has been a busy Lent season for us as the PCC has been involved in drawing up the Parish Profile and holding the meetings necessary to prepare for the appointment of a new Rector. We hope that the post will be advertised over Easter, to enable us to plan for a new beginning with a new permanent priest in charge after a long period of uncertainty.

Easter is a time of hope and new life, when we remember and put our trust in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a gift of hope and new life that defeats death once and for all for each of us. We look forward in this hope to see what the future will bring us, trusting in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to be with us and through his loving and constant support to see us through.

We thank all those who have worked so hard over the past 6 years to keep both churches going: at our Lent course last week we discussed new ways of moving forward using the many gifts and talents which our congregation members bring to us, to make us thriving churches at the heart of our respective communities, reaching out in faith and hope towards a bright future. We value everyone's contribution: this Easter, as you celebrate Christ's resurrection, think about what you can bring to enable us to thrive and move forward in Jesus' name.





Readings for Palm Sunday and Easter

Sunday 29 March (Palm Sunday): Matthew 21: 1-11

Wednesday 1 April: The Way of the Cross:

Matthew 16; Mark 14 and 15; Luke 23

Thursday 2 April (Maundy Thursday): Exodus 12: 1-14; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Friday 3 April (Good Friday): John 19:16-19 & Luke 23:34, 43

Sunday 5 April (Easter Day): Acts 10: 34-43; John 20: 1-18

Sunday 12 April (Easter 2): Acts 2: 14a, 22-32; John 20:19-end

Wednesday 15 April: Psalm 34: 1-8; John 3: 16-21

Sunday 19 April (Easter 3): Acts 2: 14a, 36-41; Luke 24: 13-35



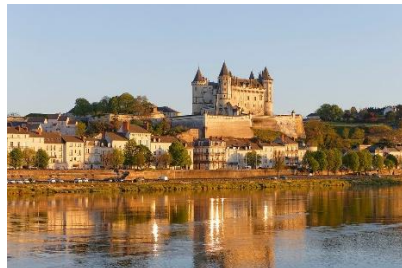
At a recent 'Time Out' meeting, members brought photos recording a memorable moment in their lives to share with each other. We were treated to a fascinating afternoon of reminiscences of events including weddings, holidays, family occasions, most thoroughly enjoyable and good to look back on, but with one or two hairy moments for some! Eileen brought a framed collection of family photos- a family tree in pictures. Others recalled holidays far and near- the beach at Abersoch, a childhood memory for several of us including Val, and for Pam and Pauline their house in France near Saumur, the focus of many relaxing visits over the past few years. Anthea brought a photo she took visiting the painter Monet's garden near the river Seine in France- waterlilies and sunflowers. Pam had happy memories of

visiting Ephesus in Turkey- impressive Roman ruins including its famous library where St Paul himself addressed the citizens. Chris's photo recalled a wonderful day spent by a group of us on a canal boat cruising down the Macclesfield Canal, its slow pace giving us time to relax and enjoy the beauty of the Cheshire countryside. Pam and Paul's photo showed them on the Capilano Suspension Bridge north of Vancouver on a trip to Canada- it sways when you walk across its 140m length high above the river, and Pam was on crutches at the time, making it a doubly terrifying experience! Sheila remembered the new house her family moved to in Eccles, a huge change after several generations living together in a cottage in Birtle. Jean shared her wedding photo, with Mike- tall, dark and handsome- and a photo of the day when they adopted Mary and Phil and became a family together. Angela made us laugh with her story of losing a case full of underwear at Manchester Airport on the way back from a musical tour and having it appear open and spilling its contents on the carousel (she walked away!). It was a lovely afternoon of sharing and reminiscing which brought back happy memories and enabled us to go home feeling strengthened and uplifted by the experience. Our thanks go to Eileen and Christine for facilitating the fortnightly group- if you haven't been yet, come along and enjoy the fellowship and fun: there's something for everyone.

1 Abersoch beach 2 Saumur 3 Monet's garden 4 Ephesus 5 Macclesfield Canal 6 Capilano Bridge



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Holy Week & Easter Services

Palm Sunday 29 March

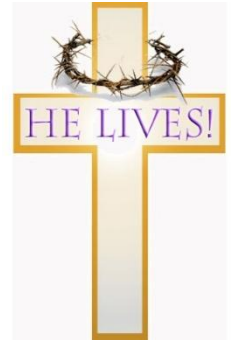
St Paul's: 10am Family Morning Praise for Palm Sunday

St Andrew's: 11am Holy Communion for Palm Sunday



Wednesday 1 April

St Paul's: 10am Way of the Cross



Maundy Thursday 2 April

St Paul's: Re-enactment of Last Supper

6.00pm meal (book in advance)

6.45pm Holy Communion and altar stripping

Good Friday 3 April

10.45 for 11am start: United Walk of Witness from St Mary's Flower Park (Bury New Road entrance) to Tesco for an outdoor service 11.45 – 12.15pm

St Paul's: 6pm Good Friday reflection



Easter Day Sunday 5 April

St Paul's: 10am Family Holy Communion with ACE presentations

St Andrew's: 11am Holy Communion

Wednesday 8 April NO SERVICE am

St Paul's 2pm Celebration of the life of Mark Critchlow followed by afternoon tea in the Social Area

Sunday 12 April (Easter 2)

St Paul's: 10am All-age Easter Worship

St Andrew's: 11am Holy Communion

Sunday 19 April (Easter 3)

St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion

St Andrew's: 11am Holy Communion





On Wednesday 25 March, the Most Reverend Sarah Mullally was installed at Canterbury Cathedral as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, the first woman to hold this office.

Born in Woking in 1962, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE is one of four children. She attended her local comprehensive school and 6th form college and became a Christian at the age of 16. She trained as a nurse in London, a job she described as “an opportunity to reflect the love of God”, becoming cancer nurse, ward sister and eventually Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government’s Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health, the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.

While working as Chief Nursing Officer, she discerned a call to ordination and began training, being ordained in 2001. Because she was still working, she was a self-supporting minister (SSM) like Mike, Hilary and Andy, before leaving her Government post in 2004 for full time ministry, which was a huge decision for her. In 2015 she became Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England. 3 years later she was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul’s Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role. When she took her seat in the House of Lords, she said “I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am.”

Bishop Sarah led the Church of England’s Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023 and is Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues. She draws on both her pastoral experience

and her background in nursing and healthcare and has played a key role in the ongoing debates on assisted dying. She is Chair of Christian Aid. Bishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect and well-known London tourist guide. They have two grown-up children. She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading. In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.

In an historic first for modern times, Archbishop Sarah, along with her husband Eamonn, walked the 140km route along the Becket Camino from St Paul's Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral, reflecting her journey from Bishop of London to Archbishop of Canterbury. She joined Morning and Evening Prayer services at churches, cathedrals and abbeys en route, as well as meeting with other pilgrims and visiting schools and ecumenical organisations. The pilgrim route visits the following places: St Paul's Cathedral, Southwark Cathedral, Lesnes Abbey, Rochester Cathedral, Aylesford Priory, Shrine of St Jude Faversham, Chartham, ending at Canterbury Cathedral. Archbishop Sarah said: 'As I walk this path I will be praying for our Church and our world, and asking God to bless those we meet. Every Christian life is a pilgrimage - a journey with God.'

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for sending Archbishop Sarah as a shepherd to guide your people. Gift her with wisdom and fill her with the Holy Spirit; help her to listen well, bring people together and serve as Jesus served. And we pray for ourselves: strengthen us in faith, and grant us a heart like Christ's, gentle, humble and devoted to the truth, so that we may share the Gospel with joy. **In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**



The Lancashire Madonna

It was my grandmother Mary
She was a Lancashire mill girl
Nearly the youngest of seven
Living in a two up two down
Bread and dripping, a ha'penny of chips
Left school at twelve
To work in the cotton mill
Weaving cloth, warp and weft.

It was my grandmother Mary
She was a Lancashire mill girl
Wore a shawl pinned at the throat
To keep out the cold.
Wore clogs over bare feet
For the early morning walk
To work in the cotton mill.
Weaving cloth, warp and weft.

It was my grandmother Mary
She was a Lancashire mill girl
Married Tom on Christmas Eve
Gave birth to Jim on a hot summer's day
Worked in the shop on a terraced street
Walked to church on Sundays
Sewing, baking and loving us all
Weaving faith, warp and weft.

It was my grandmother Mary
She was a Lancashire mill girl
She helped me give birth to my faith
Nurtured me, carried me, walked with me
Weekdays in the kitchen, Sundays in church
Brought me to the Communion Table
To share the crumbs and a sip of wine
Weaving faith, warp and weft.

(c) Hilary Shedlock 2026



The Lancashire Madonna at Manchester Cathedral

This gilded statue is set into the east wall, outside Manchester Cathedral. It shows the infant Christ in the arms of the Virgin Mary who is wearing a typical Lancashire mill worker's shawl as a reminder of Manchester's textile heritage.

The sculpture was created by Sir Charles Wheeler; it was installed in 1958



Mission Community update

Our Mission Community in Prestwich and Kersal now has a new leader, Rev David Cooper, Rector of St Mary's Prestwich. Since his arrival we have held two Mission Community services, both at St Paul's- to celebrate the Week of Prayer of Christian Unity with colleagues from other denominations in Churches Together in Prestwich and Kersal, and the World Day of Prayer on 3 March.

Our next joint service will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension on



14 May in the evening at St George's Simister. We will all be walking together at the Annual Walk of Witness on Good Friday 3 April. The Mission Community has its own curate, Dr Simon Mars, based at St Mary's who will be deaconed in June. Here is Simon leading the Wednesday morning service at St Paul's.



Congratulations! To Sheila and Tony Grimshaw who celebrated their Diamond Wedding this March.

Heavenly Father, thank You for blessing this couple with 60 years of love, laughter, and togetherness. May Your grace continue to uphold them in the years ahead, may their union continue to be a testimony of Your enduring love, and may their love be renewed and refreshed this day and every day. Amen

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

Lent course 2026



The last session of our Lent course this year entitled 'Set our hearts on fire' takes place on Tuesday 31 March at 7pm in St Paul's Social Area. This session looks at ways of praying to connect us with the still, small voice we strive to hear. It's not too late to come along

for fellowship, discussion and prayer- plus coffee and biscuits!



Celebrating the Last Supper and institution of Holy Communion Easter 2026



You are invited to a meal at St Paul's on Maundy Thursday 2 April at 6pm in the Social Area to eat together as Jesus did with his disciples at the Last Supper. The meal will be followed by a celebration of Holy Communion at 6.45pm in the Worship Area, after which the altar table will be stripped ready for Good Friday. Tickets £6 from Eileen. Please book in advance. The service is open to all, whether or not you have attended the meal.



Prayers for Eastertide:

Come all the faithful, let us worship God, for through the Cross, joy has come to all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, we sing His Resurrection, for having endured the Cross for us, He has destroyed death by death. (Oxford Prayer Book)

Gracious God, as we reflect on Easter, may we carry Your love and redemption in our hearts. Guide us in living out the Easter message daily and sharing Your light with the world. Amen.

As it's Women's History Month, it's worth mentioning the number of women in prominent roles who were involved in the installation of the Archbishop of Canterbury on 25 March. They included Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, who greeted the Archbishop on her arrival at Canterbury; Cllr Keji Moses, Lord Mayor of Canterbury; Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, former Moderator of the United Reformed Church; Natasha Klukach, General Secretary of the Global Christian Forum; Cllr Steph Jupe, Sheriff of Canterbury. A great demonstration of how far we have come in terms of equality and diversity in leadership in church and state in a relatively short time.



Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin



Cllr Keji Moses



Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson



Fund-raising Walk Brain Tumour Awareness Month

On 22 March a fund-raising walk was held in honour of our Parish Treasurer Tracy Kehoe and her fight against glioblastoma. Organised by her daughter Ellie, more than 50 people undertook a 14 km walk from the Church Inn, Prestwich to Radcliffe through Prestwich Clough and Drinkwater Park. So far the walk has raised more than **£10,000** for the cause. Congratulations to everyone involved! Tracy: our prayers are with you. The code for donations is gofund.me/de52454c7



A Happy Pesach to all our Jewish friends and neighbours! Starts at sunset 1 April



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Events coming up soon

Sunday 29 March Palm Sunday services at both churches

Tuesday 31 March 7pm at St Paul's Lent course 5

Wednesday 1 April 10am at St Paul's The Way of the Cross

Thursday 2 April 6pm at St Paul's: Maundy Thursday meal; 6.45pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

Friday 3 April 10.45am CTiPK Walk of Witness from St Mary's Flower Park to Tesco carpark; outdoor service at 11.45am
6pm at St Paul's: **Good Friday reflection**

Sunday 10 May: Archdeacon Rachel leads service at St Paul's

Thursday 14 May Mission Community Ascension Day service
St George's Simister

Sunday 17 May Annual Parochial Church Meeting (**APCM**) following joint Holy Communion at St Paul's Church + end of Christian Aid week with collection at both churches

Stewardship Campaign begins after Easter!

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Useful parish contacts:

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St Pauls Kersal and St Andrews Carr Clough; Group for St Pauls Kersal and St Andrews Carr Clough

For more information visit our websites:

St Paul's: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15877 St Andrew's: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15878