



Newsletter

15 & 22 March 2026



St Patrick's Day 17 March

Annunciation 25 March

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Services for Sunday 15 March 2026 Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

St Paul's 10am **Morning Praise for Mother's Day** lead/preach Anthea Darlington

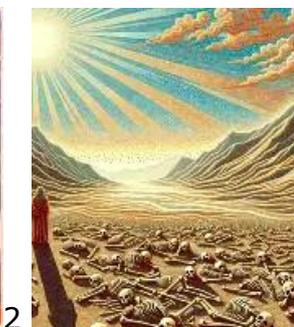
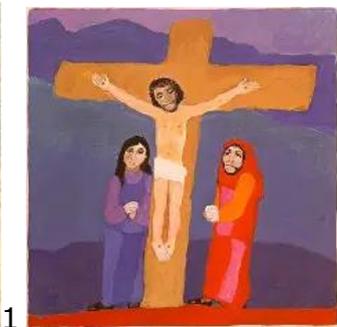
St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Rev Avis Gordon

Services for Sunday 22 March 2026 Passion Sunday

St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion** preach and preside Rev Hilary Shedlock

St Andrew's 11am **Morning Praise** lead and preach Rev Andy Smith

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Readings for Sun 15 March

Exodus 2: 1-10

(1) *Moses in the bulrushes*

John 19: 25b-27

(2) *At the foot of the cross*

Readings for Sun 22 March

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

(3) *Valley of the dry bones*

John 11: 1-45

(4) *Raising of Lazarus*

Wed 18 March: Ps 145: 8-18; John 5: 17-30 Wed 25 March: Isaiah 7: 10-14; Luke 1: 26-38

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Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent, which is known as 'Laetare



Sunday'- 'rejoice.' Because people fasted in Lent- some of you may have given up chocolate or sweets or cake as part of this tradition- they were given a day off on the 4th Sunday. So we rejoice because it's the day when we can eat chocolate and not feel guilty! It's called by other names- Refreshment Sunday in the Church of England, Pudding Pie Sunday, Simnel Sunday. It was considered important for people to visit their 'mother church' once a year, which was the main church or cathedral in the area and where they may have been



baptized- in the past, only the main churches had baptisms so if you lived in Manchester or Salford, that was the Collegiate church which is now the cathedral and St Anne's in St Anne's Square. So, on the fourth Sunday of Lent people would come together at their mother church, often with their mothers. It was a day of celebration, particularly for working children, who were given the day off specially for the occasion. On the journey through the country lanes to the church on this day, the children would pick wildflowers to give to their mothers, which is why we give flowers today, especially the daffodils which grow at this time of year. From the 18th century, if they were domestic servants this was made a special holiday, so they could go home to see their mothers (and go to church, of course!) They might bring a pie they had made- hence Pudding Pie Sunday, or a Simnel cake, which is a bit like a Christmas cake baked for eating at Easter- hence Simnel Sunday. Why do we usually call this day Mother's Day instead of Mothering Sunday? You won't be surprised to hear that it came from America. A woman named Anna M. Jarvis suggested there should be a national day once a year to honour all mothers because she had loved her own mother so dearly. At

a memorial service for her mother, Miss Jarvis had given a carnation (her mother's favourite flower) to each person who attended. The idea of an official day to honour mothers gained popularity, and the second Sunday in May is now Mother's Day in the USA. It's a different date from ours, and it has the same significance as Christmas Day or Martin Luther King Day- a public holiday. Cards, fancy flowers, gifts and meals out became a part of it, and this aspect of it soon spread to this country for our Mothering Sunday celebrations, along with the alternative name.



Our Prayers. We continue to pray for Tracy Kehoe, Maureen Roberts, Michael Teo, and for Anne-Louise Critchlow and family on the death of Mark on Tuesday. We pray for the peace of our world, and for all those affected directly or indirectly by the war in the Middle East.

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Latest events:

World Day of Prayer. Revd Hilary and Jean would like to thank everyone for making the recent World Day of Prayer service enjoyable, for Chris, Pam, Kath and Debbie for reading the different parts so well, for Revd Mike for sorting the music out, Anthea for taking great pictures of the event, the kitchen team coping with extra people needing refreshments, and everyone who attended from across the Mission Community and Churches Together. In addition, £90 has been raised for the different projects that the World Day of Prayer organisation supports.



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Church Library. Jack Goldstone, Davina Heyhoe and Jean Dyson are currently carrying out a stock check on the church library at St Paul's and removing old books to make way for newer ones. These books are now next to the jigsaws, and are available to take away free of charge. Once this work is done the library will be relaunched in a more attractive format.

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.

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

Celebration of the life of Mark Critchlow at St Paul's 2pm 8 April 2026. Please see Facebook or email for more information.

Brain Tumour Awareness Fundraising Walk 22 March 2026 organised by Ellie in honour of her mum Tracy Kehoe's fight against brain cancer: 10km walk starting from the Church Inn Prestwich at 10am. Join us or donate via gofund.me (link on Ellie's Facebook/ Instagram pages)

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Details of Services and Events for the next 2 weeks

Monday 16 March: 7pm **PCC** in St Paul's Social Area

Tuesday 17 March: Lent course 3 in St Paul's Social Area at 7pm led by Andy Smith

Wed 18 March: Morning Praise 10am led by Simon Mars our Mission Community curate

Thursday 19 March: 7pm Homegroup at 47 Agecroft Road

Tuesday 24 March: Time Out St Paul's 1.30pm Easter afternoon tea and quiz- wear yellow!

Wed 25 March: 10am St Paul's Holy Communion led by Rev Mike Dyson: Annunciation

Friday 27 March 9.30am St Paul's School Easter service

Advance notice: **Walk of Witness** Good Friday 3 April 11am meet at St Mary's Flower Park

CONTACT INFORMATION

Current Clergy Team:

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All other needs:

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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