



Newsletter



17 & 24 May 2026

Helena protector of the Holy Places AD 330 21 May

Augustine 1st Archbishop of Canterbury AD 605 26 May

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Services for Sunday 17 May 2026 Easter 7

St Paul's 10am **Joint Morning Praise** followed by **APCM** 10.45am
lead and preach Anthea Darlington

St Andrew's **NO SERVICE**

Services for Sunday 24 May 2026 Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

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



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Readings for Sun 17 May

Acts 1: 6-14
John 17: 1-11

(1) *Ascension of Jesus*

Readings for Sun 24 May

Acts 2: 1-21
John 20: 19-23

(2) *Jesus prays for his disciples*

(3) *The coming of the Holy Spirit*

(4) *Jesus appears to his disciples*

Wed 20 May: Ps 68:9-10,18-19; John 17:11-19 Wed 27 May: Ps 147:13-end; Mark 10:32-45

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Next in our series of women of the Church of England. The Manchester banking family of Heywoods who lived at Claremont, Light Oaks and Chaseley in Salford and Pendlebury, were renowned church builders, building two of the finest churches of the Victorian era in Greater Manchester- St Peter's Swinton and St Augustine's Pendlebury. One family member was not a builder of churches but of a great church institution- **Mary Sumner**, who founded the **Mothers' Union**, celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. She was the daughter of Thomas Heywood and though born in Swinton in 1828 she moved to Herefordshire soon after when her father gave up being part of the banking empire. She married the son of the Bishop of Winchester who eventually became Bishop of Guildford- they met on holiday in Italy. Having watched her own daughter struggling as a new mother, she had the radical idea that mothers who lived in the same parish could provide each other with mutual support. In 1876 she set this



up successfully in her own parish in Hampshire and was asked to speak at a local religious conference about it. She was very diffident about doing this- it wasn't her thing- but she ended up giving a passionate speech which inspired other women to go home and found their own support groups within the diocese of Winchester. The Bishop of Winchester decided to make it an official organisation and named it the Mothers' Union. It spread rapidly throughout the UK from diocese to diocese until by 1899 there were 169,000 members.



By 1893 they were holding AGMs and a central council was set up, chaired by Mary herself into her 90's. Queen Victoria became its patron in 1897 and it spread throughout the Empire. Mary lived on until 1921, working in her 90's to support her members as they helped to rebuild domestic life after the First World War. Today the Mothers' Union is an international organisation

with 4 million members across 84 countries. At the core of all they do is a belief that faith and compassion can transform lives. Members spoke at a recent Deanery Synod meeting with the aim of promoting interest in our Deanery. You may not be aware that today the MU campaigns across the world against domestic violence and reaches out to prisoners and the homeless in many areas in this country. To find out more, go to their website at www.mothersunion.org



Our Prayers. We continue to pray for Tracy Kehoe, Maureen Roberts, Annie Thomas, Barbara Plumb, Doreen Minshull after a fall, John Battye after surgery and Mike awaiting surgery. The Diocese has asked us to pray for the key areas of our shared vision. We begin with the **prayer for Parish Renewal** on this the day of our APCM: *God of grace, we hold before you the people and places entrusted to our care. By your Holy Spirit, renew our parishes in mission. Give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness. May we grow daily in love for you and for one another, that the whole world might know your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



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Whit Walk on Bank Holiday Monday 25th May: meeting from 9.30 am behind the cathedral to depart at 10am. Join with the parish group walking with St Paul's banner and the many churches attending, plus the Lord Mayor of Manchester and Mayor of Salford. Join en route if easier down Deansgate, or at St Peter's Square for the service, after which we proceed back to

the Cathedral. See Alan Pendry for more details.

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Future Events:

Our new monthly fundraising and social event programme begins in May.

May: in order to raise funds for church, there will be a special **£1 bag sale** at Time Out on Tue 26 May and services on Wed 27 and Sun 31 May. Donations for bags gratefully received.

June: special service at St Paul's for **Midsummer and John the Baptist- preparing the way** 21 June followed by lunch. £5 – tickets on sale soon.

Annual Parish Weekend Away 9-12 October 2026 at Thornleigh, Grange-over-Sands. £316.00 all-inclusive. Book your place now- highly recommended. See Alan Pendry for details.

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St Paul's School pupils are having their school photos taken this week (see Time Out below!) before breaking up for half term on 22 May. We hope pupils and staff have a good break.

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The **Annual Parish Meeting (APCM)** takes place today **Sunday 17 May**, starting with a joint service of Morning Praise at 10am followed by drinks break and then the two meetings- the Vestry meeting to elect Churchwardens and the APCM proper. Please stay for this important parish meeting as we await the advertising of the Rector's post on 18 June.

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Details of Services and Events for the next 2 weeks

Tuesday 19 May: Homegroup 7pm at 5 Moorside Road: bible study on Esther led by Eileen

Wed 20 May: Holy Communion 10am led by Rev Mike Dyson

Monday 25 May: Whit Walk 9.30am onwards - meet behind Cathedral

Tuesday 26 May: Time Out St Paul's 1.30pm Our school photos and reminiscences; quiz

Wed 27 May: 10am St Paul's **Morning Praise** led by Anthea Darlington

Thur 28 May: Homegroup 7pm at 47 Agecroft Road W led by Rev Avis Gordon

CONTACT INFORMATION

Current Clergy Team:
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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