

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

Summer Magazine 2026



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

At the end of August we bid farewell to Rev Hilary Shedlock who is retiring from her position as Assistant Minister in the parish. As she moves to pastures new, Rev Hilary shares with us a reflection on her years at St Andrew's:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
After 31 years, it's time to say goodbye and thank you. Phil and I have already moved to a bungalow away from the parish and we will be moving to a different church in September. We have been part of St Andrews, an ordinary House of God surrounded by ordinary houses of God's people, for half a lifetime. We were welcomed in by Gladys, Avis and Sarah when we came along to get our eldest son baptised. The welcome was so good, we stayed. We felt called to worship God and do his work in this place, each in our own way.

There have been times of sadness and joy, celebration and commemoration at St Andrews. We have made friends and lost family and friends, and through it all St Andrews has been central to our lives and family. We have done all that we have felt God and our church family have asked of us. Over the years we have looked after the building, cleaned and repaired it, prepared for the services, helped with Sunday School and Messy Church, read the lesson and assisted at communion, supported fairs, harvest suppers, and celebration parties and celebrated Christmas and Easter. But now it is time for us to move on. Phil and I have both been unwell over the last couple of years, we feel our work here is finished and that God is offering us a time of rest before we start a new chapter in a new place. Once we were called to stay: we now feel we're being led away.

For a long time I felt I was called to something new, but despite praying and the support of Lisa, Phil and others, I did not want to follow that call. That was until the Sunday morning in February



2014 when Mike preached at St Andrews on Psalm 104 and I realised that I could no longer ignore God's call, that he had the answer to all my arguments. So started the journey towards ordination, supported by Phil and Andy, who trained alongside me and you all. I was ordained deacon in 2018 and priest in 2019. Being a priest at both St Andrews and St Pauls has been a privilege. Holding the space between you and God at significant times in our lives, at the communion table, taking funerals, baptisms and a wedding and getting to know you all over a brew. The honour to speak the words of Jesus and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit with us as we share bread and wine together, and to share the blessings he has given us, will stay with me. We are in awe of all that you do week by week for the parish and we will continue to draw strength from your love even as time and space separates us, for we are all one in Christ. When we think back to all that has happened over the years, the sadnesses where God has lifted us up and the joys where God has rejoiced with us, our friendships will remain and you will still be part of our church family. We will still pray for you, and one day we will be reunited. We thought we would stay far longer than this. But we know it is the right time to step away, and just as we know God is looking after us and our family, we know he will look after you and your families and that he has plans, both for you and for me, plans to give us all a hope and a future.

So, thank you for your blessings for us and our family. We pray you will know the Lord's presence as you too move on to the new stage of your journey with Christ. Please pray for us too.

With every blessing *Rev Hilary*

O Lord, you bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden our hearts,
Oil to give us a cheerful countenance and bread to strengthen our hearts.
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live. (Psalm 104)

Eileen Booth recently attended the ALM (Authorised Lay Minister) Conference at St Nicholas's Church in Burnage, led by Revd Anne Gilbert, Area Dean of Rochdale. The theme for the day was '**Be still and take time to pray.**' Eileen identified tasks and challenges for us all from what she learned, which she shares with us:

I was challenged when Revd Anne talked about there being two types of



personalities: **radiators** and **drains**. Radiator people radiate positivity, warmth, and inspiration.



They are helpful and enthusiastic. Drains take all they can from others and never give back, they deplete your energy and drag you down. Which one are you? Do you greet people with a cheery 'Hello' OR start a catalogue of complaints... I'm so busy, it's too cold, hot etc. How do you respond to others? When asked 'Did you enjoy the theatre/party/concert/service?' is your response 'Yes it was great' OR 'it could have been better.' Now I'm challenging you: Surround yourself with radiators and follow your dreams! Or drains and be dragged down! Your response to this might indicate which one you are!!

We were told the following story:

There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought that **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realised that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.



We are probably all guilty at some time of saying – somebody should tidy the place, clear the graveyard, see to the heating, take the Sunday School etc. As well as Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody, perhaps there should be a 5th person- '**You**'. If most people attending church were each involved in just one small job or took on one small responsibility,

then the burden would be lightened. Or maybe we have to accept that there are not enough people to cover everything, so some things will not happen, and some events will not take place. Think about how as a church we respond to these challenges. Here's a simple starter: Make a resolution

to **use the Parish Prayer Diary** every day to pray for each other- spare copies in the Parish Office. In the meanwhile, thank God for all those who do volunteer and give so generously of their time and energy. Often this work goes unseen - unlocking the church for different workmen; daily checking the dehumidifiers; ordering everyday things that we take for granted like toilet rolls, duplicating paper, and even biscuits; washing tea towels; gardening and cleaning; dealing with finance; visiting the sick- I could go on. All these have to happen so that the more obvious 'churchy' things - providing services and care - can take place.

And a final positive reminder - sometimes we have to say 'No' when we are just too busy. We all need to take time to rest. Jesus did and encouraged us to do the same. A reminder of what he said:

If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest. Take the yoke I give you. Put it on your shoulders and learn from me. I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest. This yoke is easy to bear, and this burden is light. (Matt.11: 28-30)

Rev Anne read the following poem as a reminder to us all when we feel we don't have time to pray at the start of the day.

*I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't take time to pray.*

*I wanted to see joy and beauty,
But the day toiled on grey and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me;
He said, "But you didn't seek."*

*I woke up early this morning,
And paused before entering the day;*

*Problems just tumbled about me,
And heavier came each task.
Why doesn't God help me? I wondered
He answered: "You didn't ask."*

*I tried to come into God's presence:
I used all my keys at the lock;
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."*

*I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray.*



If you find praying in the evening easier and more appropriate for you, have you thought about joining our **Night Prayer group**? Night Prayer comes out around 7pm every day on both Spotify and WhatsApp. It now regularly reaches over 350 people and there are over 1100 episodes. It is intended to be a gentle time of prayer before bed, although quite a number of people listen the next day. There are no rules - we are a family and we are not all the same!

If you would like to join the WhatsApp group you would be made very welcome. Just let Rev Simon Mars, our Mission Community curate, know and he will add you to our group.



A **prayer** for holiday time: *Lord Jesus, help me to set aside any stress or distractions that try to steal my peace. Let me embrace this time of rest and relaxation with a heart full of gratitude, knowing that every good thing comes from You. If I'm surrounded by loved ones, help me appreciate each moment. If I find myself alone, remind me that You are near and that I'm never truly by myself. Let my words bring kindness and encouragement. Let my actions reflect Your love and grace. Help me create joyful memories that glorify You. Amen.*

Pray for those who need our prayers at this time, in our parish community and beyond:

- The people of Sudan, Nigeria, Lebanon, Gaza, Israel and the whole Middle East, that peace and reconciliation may come to these places
- The farmers in Africa who we support through Ripple Effect; the work of Christian Aid for which we raise funds annually
- Those known to us who are frail or ill at this time, and for the bereaved, both recent and whose anniversaries are remembered
- St James' food pantry and lunch club, who we support with food donations on a regular basis, and those who use it
- Our schools of St Paul's and Butterstile, that staff and pupils may have a restful break and return refreshed in September
- Our Mission Community, welcoming Fr Simon Sayer to St Hilda's and congratulating Rev Helen Tyler from St Margaret's as she moves to her new parish, Rev Paula Holmes-Patel at St Mary's as she is priested and Rev Dr Simon Mars as he is deaconed
- Our friends, our neighbours and ourselves, that we may know the love of God in our lives



Readings for the Summer

Sunday 2 August: Gen 1: 1-12; Matt 14:13-21

Wednesday 5 August: Ps 121; Matt 15: 21-28

Sunday 9 August: Numbers 11: 16-17, 24-30; Matt 14: 22-33

Wednesday 12 August: Psalm 113; Matt 18:15-20

Sunday 16 August: Acts 2: 14-18; Matt 15: 21-28

Wednesday 19 August: Psalm 23; Matt 20: 1-16

Sunday 23 August: Acts 10: 44-48; Matt 16: 13-20

Wednesday 26 August: Psalm 128; Matt 23: 27-32

Sunday 30 August: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Matt 16: 21-end

Summer Services and Events

Sunday 2 August the Holy Spirit as part of the Trinity in Creation

St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion: preside and preach Rev Andy Smith

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



Wednesday 5 August

St Paul's: 10am Morning Prayers led by Rev Dr Simon Mars

Sunday 9 August the Holy Spirit among the early Israelites

St Paul's: 10am Morning Praise led by Anthea Darlington

St Andrew's: 11am Holy Communion: preside Rev Andy Smith, preach Anthea Darlington

Wednesday 12 August

St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion led by Rev Avis Gordon

Sunday 16 August the Holy Spirit given to the Jews according to Old Testament prophecy

St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion: preside and preach Rev Hilary Shedlock (farewell service at St Paul's)

St Andrew's: Holy Communion: preside and preach Rev Avis Gordon

Wednesday 19 August

St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion led by Revd Mike Dyson

Sunday 23 August the Holy Spirit is also for us- are we ready to receive Him?

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

St Andrew's: 11am Morning Praise: lead Anthea Darlington; preach Rev Mike Dyson

Wednesday 26 August

St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion led by Rev Mike Dyson

Saturday 29 August

St Paul's: 2pm Flower arranging session with afternoon tea, stalls and raffle

Sunday 30 August

St Paul's: 10 am Morning Praise led by David Martin; preacher Heather Martin

St Andrew's: 11am Holy Communion: preside and preach Rev Hilary Shedlock (farewell service and presentation at St Andrew's)

Advance notice:

Sunday 20 September

St Paul's: 10am **Presentation Sunday** with special guest Mrs Katie Lavin from St Paul's School





Summer Notices

- No Sunday School at St Paul's until Sunday 6 September. Activities will be provided for children in the Worship Area during August.
- Enjoy our Summer series of sermons on aspects of the Holy Spirit: 2,9,16,23 August
- 'Time Out' is taking a break during August but will be back on 8 September for a Summer recap and much more!
- Don't miss August's special event: 'Say it with flowers' 2pm Saturday 29 August in St Paul's Social Area: flower arranging demonstration, afternoon tea, raffle and stalls £10
- Eileen's Tuesday Bible study homegroup will begin again on 15 September, and Avis' Thursday homegroup on 1 October.
- This year we are celebrating Heritage Open Days at St Paul's. The church will be open on Saturday and Sunday 12 and 13 September with talks, tours, displays and churchyard walks. Look out for the posters!



The financial challenge we face at both churches

As we look forward to a Stewardship campaign in October, now is a good time to think about our giving. We are very grateful for the contributions you all make to the life and fellowship of St Paul's and St Andrew's churches. Your time, talents and your energy, as well as your giving of money, play an important part in seeing lives changed through the ministry of the parish. Churches rely on the generosity of their members. Last year between our two churches we paid our Parish Share of £40,000 - the equivalent of nearly £800 a week (which goes to the Diocese, mainly to pay for clergy, their training, housing and pensions). Our giving also needs to cover our two church buildings - heating, lighting, water and insurance on top of routine maintenance, repairs and improvements. You will remember that in the past as a parish we were able to make generous donations each year to Christian charities because our annual income was more than our outgoings. Unfortunately, in recent years our income has not kept pace with our necessary expenditure- major donors are no longer

with us; economic renters such as Kumon and Cherry Trees ceased with Covid and have not returned. This year it looks like **we will again not break even**. If we are to keep our buildings open for worship and the many other meetings and events which take place in them, we must **raise our income as soon as possible** and this is why we need to run a Stewardship campaign. In the meantime, please can I ask each of you to review the amount you give weekly or monthly to church. I would particularly encourage you to pay by **standing order** - I'd be happy to let you have the details you need to set one up. We all like value for money so if you are a taxpayer I also urge you to **Gift Aid** your giving, which benefits the church by another £2.50 for every £10 you give. If this doesn't sound much, you might be interested to learn that for the current year we expect to receive around £10,000 from HM Revenue and Customs in reclaimed tax from those who have already signed up for Gift Aid.

These are the words of a notice that I saw in Bredon Church in Worcestershire:

**If ought thou hast to give or lend
This ancient parish church befriend.
If poor, but still in spirit willing,
Out with thy purse and give a shilling.
But if its depths should be profound
Think of God and give a pound.**

The notice had been up in the church for many years. Two more lines have recently been added:

**And if, perchance, tax thou hast paid
Please complete the form Gift Aid!**

We appreciate your ongoing generosity for which we thank you. Please take time to consider your giving of money and give thankfully. Remember that 'God loves a cheerful giver.' (2 Corinthians 9:7).
David Martin

There are many Old Testament figures we don't know enough about. **Daniel** is probably best known to most of us as the man in the lions' den, or the friend of the men in the burning fiery



furnace. There's a Bible reference for each part of his story so you can look them up! Daniel, whose name means "God is my judge", was a young Jewish nobleman from Jerusalem taken captive by King

Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon around 605 BC as part of what is known as the 'Babylonian captivity' (Daniel 1:1-6). Selected for his intelligence, appearance, and ability to learn quickly, Daniel and three of his companions were trained in Babylonian culture and given new names: Daniel became Belteshazzar, while his friends became Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Despite the pressure to assimilate into Babylonian society, Daniel remained faithful to God, refusing the king's rich food and wine and choosing a diet of vegetables and water, through which God blessed him by keeping him healthy (a lesson for us all there?). Daniel was given the ability to interpret dreams and visions. He famously interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a statue representing successive kingdoms, revealing God's ultimate sovereignty and the establishment of an eternal kingdom (Daniel 2:28-45). When Daniel's friends were thrown into a fiery furnace for refusing to worship an idol, God protected them.

Later, Daniel himself was thrown into a lion's den for praying to God rather than the Persian king Darius, yet he emerged unharmed, demonstrating God's protection over the faithful (Daniel 3, 6). Afterwards Daniel began to have dreams and visions himself concerning future empires, the coming of God's eternal kingdom, and the end times, emphasizing God's control over history and the ultimate triumph of righteousness (Daniel 7-12).

Daniel is considered a prophet in Christianity and a model of faithfulness and wisdom. In Judaism, he is not formally a prophet but is revered for his piety, adherence to the Law, and exemplary conduct during the Babylonian exile. His life illustrates steadfast faith, moral courage, and the importance of trusting God in hostile environments. Daniel's story also parallels that of Joseph, as both prospered in foreign lands through divine guidance and interpretation of dreams. His story continues to inspire us to show integrity, keep on praying, and rely on God amid the trials and tribulations of human life- for the best is yet to come.



Ordination of Rev Dr Simon Mars 28th June 2026- our Mission Community curate

Dear St Paul's,

I want to thank you all so much for the help, advice, and amazing support you have all given me both as I went through my discernment and training, and then on the day of my ordination. I have been truly humbled and feel blessed beyond belief. The words 'thank you' are simple and short, but there is nothing else to say. Even if the words seem short, I hope you will know the feelings are deep. I love you all. 😊 Simon

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