



St Swithun c.862 15 July

Newsletter

12 and 19 July 2026



Mary Magdalene 22 July

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Services for Sunday 12 July 2026 Trinity 6

St Paul's 10am **All Age Worship** **Fairy tales, Bible stories and parables-the deeper meaning** Lead and preach Anthea Darlington

St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion** lead and preach Rev Hilary Shedlock

Services for Sunday 19 July 2026 Trinity 7

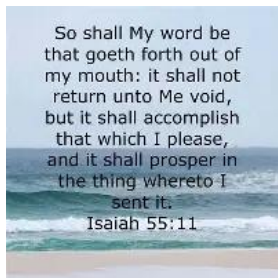
St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Rev Mike Dyson

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



Trinity

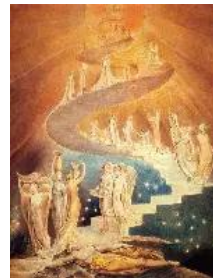
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Readings for Sun 12 July

Isaiah 55: 10-13 (1) *Invitation to abundant life*

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23 (2) *Parable of the sower* (1)

Readings for Sun 19 July

Genesis 28: 10-19 (3) *Jacob's ladder*

Matt 13: 24-30, 36-43 (4) *Parable of the sower* (2)

Wed 15 July: Ps 93:1-5; Matt 11: 25-27 Wed 22 July: Ps 42: 1-10; John 20: 1-2, 11-18

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Our gospel readings for 12 and 19 July are the two versions of the parable of the sower from Matthew's gospel. Let's take a look at the stories Jesus told, which we call **parables**, from the Latin for 'comparison'. These are short, illustrative stories that Jesus used to communicate moral and spiritual lessons. They often draw from everyday life, making them relatable and easy to understand. Jesus employed parables to reveal truths about God's Kingdom and to challenge listeners to reflect on their lives and beliefs. There are **38**



parables recorded in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). Here are some key parables and their meanings. **The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37):**

This parable teaches the importance of loving one's neighbour, regardless of social or ethnic boundaries. It emphasizes compassion and mercy over religious law. **The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32):**

This story illustrates God's unconditional love and forgiveness. It shows that no matter how far one strays, they can always return to God and be welcomed back with open arms. **The Sower (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23):**

This parable explains how different people respond to God's Word. The varying types of soil represent the hearts of individuals and how receptive they are to spiritual teachings. **The Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7):** This parable highlights God's love for each individual, illustrating that He will go to great lengths to bring back those who have strayed from Him. **The Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32):** This parable symbolizes the Kingdom of God, which starts small but grows into something significant, demonstrating the power of faith.



Jesus used parables to engage His audience and provoke thought. They often contained layers of meaning, requiring listeners to reflect deeply to uncover the spiritual truths within. The parables remain relevant today, offering guidance on how to live a life based on Christian values and principles. They challenge individuals to examine their own lives, relationships, and faith.



Our Prayers. We continue to pray for Tracy Kehoe, Maureen Roberts and Annie Thomas. We pray for our neighbour Anne Baker (Brook Court) and her family at this difficult time. This week's prayer for our Diocesan vision is for **Net Zero Carbon**: *God of wonder, we praise you for the rich diversity of creation that reflects your glory. Help us cherish all you have made. As we work towards Net Zero, give us wisdom to make sustainable choices, courage to advocate for justice, and boldness to act with the urgency required. May our words and actions bear witness to our faith in you, demonstrate our commitment to care for your world, and express love for our neighbours near and far. We pray through Jesus Christ, in whom all creation holds together. Amen.*

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St Paul's School's OFSTED report has now been published (available on the OFSTED website ref 1044589). Mr Elswood and the staff are pleased with their findings. Everyone is welcome to the school's end of year service in St Paul's Church at 9.30am on Friday 17 July. Advance notice: school will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the building's opening at a garden party on 18 September.

The **church library** has recently been tidied, old books removed (out in the social area to be taken as wished free of charge) and new books added to the existing stock. The bibles have a dedicated shelf and the children's books are now located in the children's corner in the Worship Area. Please feel free to borrow the books: simply remember to record what has been borrowed in the dark grey notebook and sign the book(s) in again upon return. Any questions, please ask



Jean Dyson or Jack Goldstone.

Congratulations to Rev Simon Mars who was ordained Deacon to the Mission Community on 28 June at the Cathedral. We look forward to working with him.

Congratulations also to Robert Hambelton who has been awarded The Silver Acorn for more than 20 years distinguished and outstanding service to the Scouts.

Time Out's seaside holiday event on 7 July was a huge success: 38 people enjoyed games, refreshments including

burgers and ice-cream, a singsong and fellowship together. Our thanks go to Eileen, Chris, Pam, Paul and everyone who helped for a wonderful occasion. **Please note:** Homegroups and Time Out are taking a break for the summer and will be back in September. There is **no Sunday School** from now until 6 September when the children return to school.



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Monthly fundraising and social event programme update



July: Presentation Sunday has had to be postponed to 20 September **August: 'Say it with flowers'** flower arranging demo and afternoon tea **Saturday 29 August-** tickets at £10 now on sale. **September: Heritage Open Days** 12-13 Sept at St Paul's- talks and churchyard tours. **October: Stewardship campaign** begins.

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Details of Other Services and Events for the next 2 weeks

Wed 15 July: St Paul's **Holy Communion** 10am led by Rev Mike Dyson

Friday 17 July: **St Paul's School End of Year service** St Paul's Church 9.30am

Tuesday 21 July: **Worship Planning Group** 7pm 32 Moor Lane

Wed 22 July: 10am St Paul's **Morning Praise** led by David Martin

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

All other needs:

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