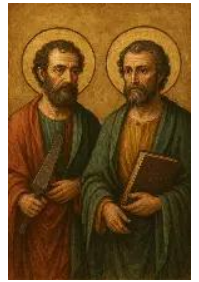


St Luke the Evangelist 18 October



St Simon and St Jude, apostles 28 October

Newsletter

18 and 25 October 2026

Services for Sunday 18 October 2026 Trinity 20

St Paul's 10am **Morning Praise** lead Anthea Darlington; talk David Martin

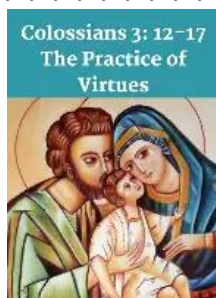
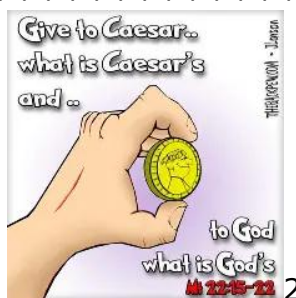
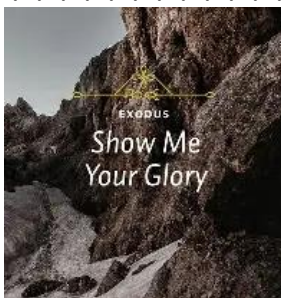
Stewardship campaign 2

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

Services for Sunday 25 October 2026 Bible Sunday

St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion** preside Rev Mike Dyson; preach Eileen Booth

St Andrew's 11am **Morning Praise** lead Anthea Darlington; preach Eileen Booth



Readings for Sun 18 October (P)Exodus 33: 12-end

Matthew 22: 15-22

Readings for Sun 25 October Colossians 3: 12-17

Matt 24: 30-35

(1) *Show me your glory*

(2) *Render unto Caesar*

(3) *Rules by which to live*

(4) *The coming of the Son of Man*

Wed 21 Oct: Ps 98; Luke 12: 39-48 Wed 28 Oct: Ps 119: 89-96; John 15: 17-end

25 October is Bible Sunday. It's a day when we thank God for the gift of His word in the Bible, and remember all those in our world who still don't have access to a bible.



Mary Jones was born in 1784 in a village called Llanfihangel-y-Pennant, Wales. Her family were poor but they went to church every Sunday. She heard the bible read and longed both to have one of her own and to be able to read it herself. The bible had been translated into Welsh in 1588. She didn't go to school because there wasn't one at that time, but something called a circulating school came to her village. These schools set up in Wales moved from place to place staying for three months and taught both children and adults one thing only- how to read, so that they could read the bible. Mary's local one was run by the minister in Bala, Thomas Charles. We believe that hundreds of thousands of ordinary Welsh people learned to read because of these schools: in English, not their native Welsh.. As a result, working people in Wales were literate long before working people in England. People came from all over the world to see these schools. Once she started to learn to read, Mary began to save up for a bible. She did odd jobs round the village and by the time she was 15 she had saved enough money to buy one- it took her 6 years. She knew that Thomas Charles was the only person selling bibles and so she walked the 26 miles to Bala to buy one. She made the journey barefoot along rocky roads. It wasn't that she didn't have shoes: she wanted to keep them nice and clean for when she got there so she carried them! When she arrived she found that all the bibles had been sold. Imagine her disappointment! However new stock was on its way and she waited 2 days for them to be delivered. She bought two copies- one for her, one for her parents, plus a Book of Common Prayer. The two copies of her bible are still in existence, in Cambridge University Library and the National Library of Wales.

This wasn't the end of Mary's story. Thomas Charles was so inspired by her determination that he set up a society to ensure that anyone in Wales who wanted one could have a bible. This eventually became the British and Foreign Bible Society which still, as the Bible Society,

provides bibles to people throughout the world. Not a bad legacy for a little girl from the middle of nowhere who had the determination to fulfil her dream. Mary lived to a ripe old age and her story became famous all over Wales.

The next time you pick up a bible, think of Mary Jones and her determination to read it for herself, and think also of people throughout the world who don't have bibles of their own and long to have one. The SPCK is still going after 300 years, publishing bibles and religious books in all languages. King Charles is its patron. Thankyou, Mary Jones.

Our Prayers We pray for those who are in need of prayer at this time: Maureen, Tracy, Sandra, Rick, Pat, Antje, Ruth and others known to us. A prayer for Bible Sunday: *Dear Heavenly Father, we come before You with open hearts and a thirst for spiritual enlightenment. May Your Word illuminate our minds and lead us to a deeper understanding of Your truth. Amen.*



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Our Stewardship Campaign The second presentation is today, 18 October. Letters and pledge forms to complete will be distributed today with follow-up sessions at both churches on 15 November. Please be aware that currently we are not covering our costs, with a shortfall of £11,500 in 2025. Let us work together to remain as a Christian presence and beacon of hope in our two communities.

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Harvest at our churches: between our two churches we sent 3 carloads of food goods to St James' Pantry and **£285** to Christian Aid. A magnificent effort- well done! 🍌 🍌 🍌 🍌 🍌 🍌

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Parish weekend away A wonderful time was had by all as we enjoyed Anne Rockley's inspirational sessions on 'The Names of God,' with good food, fellowship and worship together. Even the sun shone on us (well, some of the time!). Thanks go to Anne for her teaching and to Alan for organising it all. We came back refreshed and renewed in body, mind and spirit.



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Monthly fundraising and social event programme update 2026

Oct: Stewardship campaign **Nov: Christmas wreath-making** Sun 29 Nov 2pm -max 25. Tickets £22 including materials and refreshments. **Dec: Christmas Afternoon tea** 20 Dec 3pm

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Details of Other Services and Events for the next 2 weeks

Tue 20 Oct: St Paul's Time Out 1.30pm Armchair Pilates, Shoebox film and quiz

Wed 21 Oct: St P 10am **Holy Communion** with Rev Canon Marcia Wall

Sat 24 Oct: St P 5-9pm **Flatpack Theatre production**

Sun 25 Oct: St P 5pm **Salford Symphony Orchestra Autumn concert**

Mon 26 Oct: Leadership Team meeting 5 Moorside Road

Tue 27 Oct: Bible Study 7pm 5 Moorside Road

Wed 28 Oct: St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion** with Rev Mike Dyson

Sat 31 Oct: St P 6-10pm **Flatpack Theatre production**

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

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