

# Parish eNews

JULY & AUGUST 2021



## In this edition:

- Archdeacon Visitation | Covid Update | Interregnum | Flower Sermons | much more!

## Warden's Warblings

Hello everyone.

Hello everyone and it has been so amazing to see many of you returning to church and also looking forward to those who have not managed to return yet and are keeping safe!

It's been quite a whirlwind since the Vacancy began on 1<sup>st</sup> March, but what the Vacancy has done is reignite us and reconnect us and give us a real energy to look to move forward with a future and a hope. Our efforts and revitalisation hasn't gone unnoticed with both the Bishop and Archdeacon taking note of what is going on at St Paul's and at a recent meeting, this was exemplified to several churches to 'take a look at what is going on at St Paul's and maybe learn something from it'. Nick and I have been

overwhelmed by everyone's support in so many ways. We both strive to ensure that you get the perfect balance of spiritual worship and fun, just take the flower Sermons Festival for example. We love seeing you leaving church with a smile on your face. Of course this has all been made possible by the wonderful support of Reverend Canon Veronica Hydon leading our communion services and providing advice and support to both of us.

It's a double warbling from both wardens this month as Mathew asked me to write something as well. I hope he will have kept you all updated on things that have been happening this last month and as we go into the future and I'm sure he has as his behind the scenes work as warden has been outstanding to witness as his fellow warden is learning the ropes.

Matt asked me to write something that has happened personally to myself this last few weeks and now at the 11th hour before publication my thoughts recalled something that only happened a few days ago. Myself, my better half, Charlotte and Ted decided to go for a picnic. We settled on the bank of the River Dane just below Dane Bridge in Wincle. As usual within 2 minutes myself and Ted stripped to our shorts and shot into the river. This part of the river was on a wide bend where the water had chance to slow creating a good size swell just over waist height. After we had both finished shrieking at the temperature of the water, I made my way up the river to where it was fast flowing over the rocks. The current was fairly strong as I waded closer and upon reaching the rocks, I had to learn forward with might against the current as I held my hands against its force and wondered how many gallons of water had passed across these rocks since it was first formed.

Been an avid choir member, I soon began belting out all the hymns I could recite to do with water! Albeit the better half sat on the river bank saying to Charlotte " what on earth is he up to now "

Then strategically turning and lowering myself down to feel and fight the mighty power of the river against my back and shoulders now needing to hold onto the rocks as my whole body floated, I began to imagine the water as the holy spirit pouring over me then without warning I closed my eyes and suddenly let go! As the water carried me down the river I kept my eyes closed, then within about 30 feet as I slowed into the calmer water I opened my eyes to be met by my son Ted.

We both look forward to seeing you over the summer services and we wish you a safe summer break. If any of you are going away, we hope you get chance to enjoy much needed family time or relaxation after a challenging period of all our lives.

Stay safe everyone and God bless.

Matt and Nick x



## Churchyard Tidy

Just before the visit of Archdeacon Ian Bishop and also a wedding service, a team of volunteers rolled up into the churchyard one Friday evening and began tidying up the overgrown grass and bushes that the council hadn't come to do in time. It was a labour of love as the grass down the main pathway was ridiculously tall, but with great efforts from everyone, it was cut back and all main areas of the church had a great tidy up. It looked absolutely beautiful!

Thank you to anyone who helped at all on the evening. We are thinking about perhaps a monthly tidy up around the grounds to really keep on top of everything and making it look beautiful. Watch this space!



## Captured on Camera

Reverend Veronica caught a great shot of our St George's flag flying at the front of the church. It's a shame that it did not bring the luck that we wanted for England, but the team did us proud.

## COVID Update

Following the relaxation and removal of the Covid regulations in England, we feel that to take drastic action and remove all of the safety procedures we have in place in the church would be unjust and irresponsible. The standing committee have agreed that the following practices will stay in place pending further review at a later date.

This is what is in place from this coming Sunday, 25th July.

- Please continue to wear face coverings inside the building if you are able.
- Continue to sanitise your hands on entry and exit.
- Continue to respect social distance between one another where possible. Some people are not yet comfortable with people being close.
- You no longer need to book a pew each Sunday, just turn up.
- The central aisle pews will now be relaxed socially distance wise. Every other pew in these blocks will be open rather than every 3rd pew currently. Please sit in these pews if you comfortable sitting with 2 or 3 others. (The Wardens will monitor this so that pews do not become too full)
- For those not yet comfortable with relaxation of social distancing, the North and South Aisle pews will remain fully distanced. Please only sit in these pews if you want to be fully socially distanced.
- Congregational singing will resume from this Sunday but you must wear your mask if you are singing. Singing is one of the main ways that the virus can be spread through droplets in the air. We appreciate this may be uncomfortable but it's about keeping others safe at this time.

Communion will continue to be shared in one kind (the bread) for the time being until infection rates lower substantially and the procedures for receiving communion will be exactly the same.

We continue to be guided by information from The Church of England and The Government. Things will not go straight back to how they were immediately. Things will take time and I'm afraid you just need to respect that.

The virus has not gone away, we just need to learn to live with it now and be mindful of our actions.

Keep safe and well.

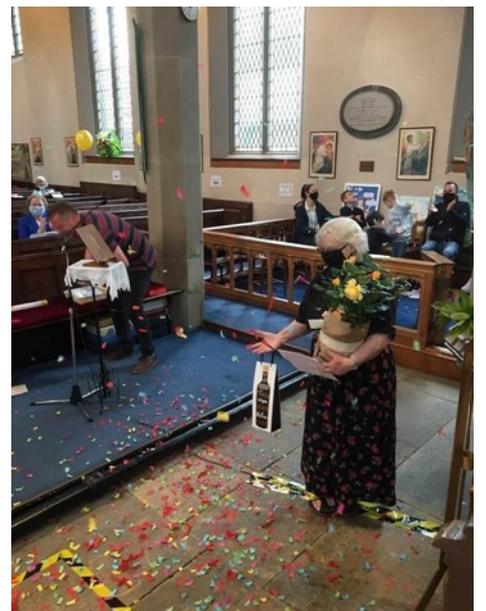
Matthew

## Archdeacon's Visit

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June, we were privileged to have the Venerable Ian Bishop, Archdeacon of Macclesfield lead our Morning Prayer service. It was lovely to see so many of you present and the vision of the the prayer balloons floating up into the church roof was something special!



It was also an honour at the service to celebrate 2 special occasions! Both Archdeacon Ian and Revd Canon Veronica, were celebrating 30 years of ordination! We presented both of them with some special gifts to mark such a wonderful occasion. What a joy to be able to host this celebration in St Pauls!

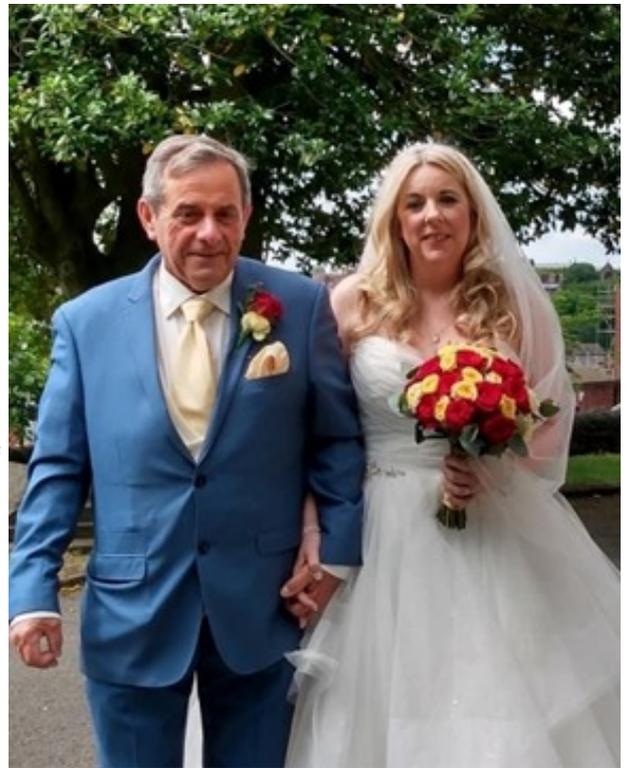


## Life events at St Paul's

It has been lovely to see further life events taking place in the church. Recently, Helen and Paul got married in church in a service led by Reverend Canon Veronica Hydon.



We wish Helen and Paul and abundance of blessings on their life ahead together.



## Buildings update.....

There has been no real further update on progressing issues. The building has been tested with some torrential downpours in recent weeks and the troublesome area remains upon the gallery where it seems a section of roofing requires urgent attention to keep it waterproof. The church architect has been in touch and is ready to support us with putting plans, costings and grant applications together when we agree what action needs taking and how soon. We do know that that the task to re-roof will be a big and expensive one!

We will keep you up to date with progress.

Matthew & Nick

In next month's issue we would love to share any news, notices or birthdays that you may have.

If you have something to send please email Emma on:

[emma@stpaulsmacc.org](mailto:emma@stpaulsmacc.org) or Matthew on [churchwarden@stpaulsmacc.org](mailto:churchwarden@stpaulsmacc.org)

We look forward to sharing your news with everyone!

## Happy Birthday!

If you have celebrated your birthday recently or are due to celebrate soon, here is the St Paul's birthday song just for you:

*Happy birthday to you.*

*Happy Birthday to you.*

*God bless you and keep you,*

*Happy birthday to you.*



# St Paul's Community Mission Meeting

8 July 2021

The CMG met on 8<sup>th</sup> July in the Church Hall, our second meeting replacing our Zoom meetings. The group continues to interact between meetings using the social media platform WhatsApp.

In discussion within the CMG meeting, Matthew and a number of the PCC having attended a Churches of Macclesfield meeting the previous week wanted to emphasise and quote the Archdeacon and asked the CMG to keep the following in mind over the next few months: *What can we do now and well (not what we would like to do)*. In this context we were asked to continue to think particularly of the elderly in our churches and to support and nurture them.

The group has continued with the help of church members to prepare Welcome Boxes for the residents of the rehabilitation centres in Glegg Street and Great King Street. Four of these were delivered to the Glegg Street hostel on Monday morning. The boxes contain various toiletries, coffee, towels and a St Mark's Gospel.

Members of the CMG were appointed as contact links from St Pauls to each of the individual uniformed groups. It was envisioned that the contact might visit a group once a half term from September. There is a vacancy for someone to be a contact to the Guides. Jean is to start looking into the possibility of restarting the luncheon group.

I have been asked to prepare something on paper for the standing committee to consider regarding the possible creation of Friends of St Pauls. I have sourced a guidance document for that.

Afternoon tea for the congregation has been postponed to September or October.

Discussion relating to Macclesfield Community Kitchen took place. Jim Hebb, a Salvation Army soldier, who attends CMG meetings and acts as a contact between the MCK group, he is one of their three trustees, and has requested a meeting between the trustees and the church body in order to plan a way forward to their restart. Matthew has agreed to liaise with Nick in order to ascertain when both can be at such a meeting.

MCK, as you might remember, was supplying a successful social environment and meals on Saturday evening for those in need. Prior to closing they were serving twenty meals in a convivial, social atmosphere, and assistance was given in the way of form filling and empathetic discussion.

Defibrillators at St Paul's were mentioned and Matthew was to ask the PCC to discuss.

Support for congregation members in need was discussed and the Fellowship Group Members present said their group would be meeting to organise a more formal arrangement of a support team.

Emma is to source in the office records a list of Covid 19 volunteers created early in the Covid outbreak, with a view to providing that list to the Fellowship Group, as this might be of use in constructing the aforementioned support team.

David Furphy  
(Chair of Community Mission Group)

# COMMUNITY MISSION GROUP

## Vacancy update

We are looking forward to Joan M and Jean B leading our worship on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

The Vacancy Team are soon going to be challenged with beginning work on the Parish Profile to create a draft to take back to the PCC to ratify and create a final draft. We want to show off just what we have here at St Paul's and what we want from a Vicar to help us grow our faith and grow our church.

The PCC met on 21<sup>st</sup> July to discuss some questions asked by the Archdeacon of all church in Macclesfield and further work for the PCC and reaching out into the Vacancy Team will take place in the coming weeks.

The core team has been put together to manage the day to day interregnum comprising of both churchwardens (Nick and Matthew), Joan Mottershead, Ann Harris, Malcolm Brown, Jean Bennett, Emma Dennehy and Anne Furphy. The core team are made up of people already on the PCC so it makes it easier for reporting back to and liaising with the PCC on interregnum progress and processes so everyone knows where we are up to. We will also keep regular communication through the newsletter with you all.

The Team will be as transparent as we are able to (obviously keeping confidentiality where necessary) with aspects of church life so you know what is happening and when. We feel this is important as we are a community together so that we can all live, love, serve and grow together with God.

If you have anything you need to discuss then please do contact any of the Vacancy Team and they will do their best to help you.

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose” Romans 8:28

The Vacancy Team and PCC.

## Treasurers Tidings

We have missed many things over the last 16 months but things are slowly beginning to start up again. For the first time in all those months, the other Sunday I was able to put something in the Fund Raising column of the accounts – about £146 from the raffle at our outdoor Flower Sermons service. Sadly, our biggest annual fund raising event – the Summer Fair – is still missing from the calendar, and it remains to be seen whether we shall be able to hold the usual Christmas Fair and Band Concert this year.

Other green shoots can be seen from the gradual re-starting of activities in the Parish Centre. The Livewell dance sessions and yoga classes recommenced in June after their long break, and some of the uniformed groups have started outdoor meetings. We are hoping that more of the Parish Centre users will be back with us in September, reopening one of our main income streams and breathing fresh life into our once-bustling hall.

If you are reading this online and would like to make a contribution towards our work in the Parish and the maintenance of the church building, you can do so by clicking on the 'DONATE' button. Or if you prefer you can use your browser to go to [stpaulsmacc.org](http://stpaulsmacc.org) and scroll down to the 'DONATE' button there.

Or you could use your phone to scan this QR code, which also takes you to our donation page.

[Donate](#)



## Flower Sermons Festival

Well, what can we say about our first ever outdoor service in the format of the flower sermons festival! For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row we were unable to process around the Parish as usual, so Nick and Matt had the vision to hold an outdoor service to reconnect everyone with the joyous occasion of Flower Sermons. We think it worked. Don't you? Here are some pictures from the event:



## Online worship

We will continue to upload a link to the services in church via our YouTube channel where possible. You will have seen us filming recently and then aim is to have the service in a format uploaded as soon as possible. This will hopefully be by the end of the Sunday, but with other commitments it may fall over into the Monday before it is available. There may be some Sunday's when this does not happen for varying occasions.

We are also updating the website and we are very grateful to Robert Marshall for his time to help us do this.

### Services at St Paul's:

Here's a reminder of our service pattern:

1st Sunday – Family Communion 10:30am

2nd Sunday – All Age Worship 10:30am

3rd Sunday – Parish Communion 10:30am

4th Sunday – Morning Prayer 10:30am

5th Sunday – Parish Communion 10:30am

Wednesday Communion

every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. 10.30am

*Please ensure you continue to follow all guidance to make yours, and others, visit to church as safe as possible.*



# KEY CONTACTS AT ST PAULS

<b>Your Churchwardens</b>	Matthew Cooper	churchwarden@stpaulsmacc.org 07515 167469
	Nick Mottershead	07809 274565
<b>Pastoral Assistant</b>	Joan Mottershead	pastoral@stpaulsmacc.org 07758 098240
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Emma Dennehy	emma@stpaulsmacc.org 07966 973804
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	Malcolm Brown	treasurer@stpaulsmacc.org 424957
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Gill Emptage	gilleemptage@hotmail.co.uk
<b>PCC Members</b>	Gill Emptage – PCC Secretary, Malcolm Brown – Treasurer, Matt Cooper, Nick Mottershead, Joan Mottershead, Jean Bennett	Tony Buckley, Janet Burrow, Anne Furphy, Lynda Lomas, Joan Chadwick, Ann Harris, David Furphy, Simon Adams
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Ann Harris	07759 557834
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	Matthew Cooper	07515 167469
<b>Mission Group Leaders</b>	Community Group	07887 931574
	David Furphy	
	Maintenance Group	424957
	Malcolm Brown	
	Worship Group	07759 557834
	Ann Harris	
<b>Fellowship Group Leaders</b>	Joan Mottershead	joanmottershead@ntlworld.com
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Website: <https://stpaulsmacc.org/>

You Tube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQMeK5BCanr78m6\\_FuA0yFQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQMeK5BCanr78m6_FuA0yFQ)  
(or search St Paul's Macclesfield in YouTube)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmacclesfield>

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