

# Parish eNews

JULY/AUGUST 2022



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- Life at St Paul's | Events | Captured on Camera | Jubilee Celebration Photos  
Archdeacon's Visitation | much more!

## First Holy Communion



Many congratulations to Christian as he celebrated his First Holy Communion recently. With our love and blessings from all your friends at St Paul's. xx

\* \* \*

## Puss Bank Visit to Church

It was a pleasure to welcome the Year 1 children from Puss Bank for their visit to explore the church recently.

It really is lovely to be welcoming the children and their teachers back to the church and we look forward to hosting their Harvest celebrations later this year.

\* \* \*

## Corpus Christi

We had the loveliest service of Holy Communion for the Feast of Corpus Christi. Thank you, Canon Veronica, for leading this for us.

Thank you also for the gift from the beautiful display (pictured) to remind us of this special service.



## Archdeacon's Visitation

Nick and Matt were admitted to office for another year at the recent Archdeacon's visitation service at St Michael's Bramhall. St Paul's was once again well represented at the service.

Nick and Matt got an honorary mention in the Archdeacon's charge and recognised in the Diocese as inspirational examples for others taking up duties as Churchwardens. They also made a statement with their choice of dress for the evening which went down a treat with the Archdeacon!



We look forward to another year of the antics of these pair and coupled with the arrival of Canon Vivien, it can only stand us in further good stead!



## Buildings update

The visit from English Heritage was positive and we have been put forward for inclusion on The Heritage at Risk Register. We will be added to the register in the October 2022 revisions and we shall see what the information says then.

The addition to the list will be a further step to help us secure grant funding for our refurbishment project.

## Warden's Warblings

It's a reasonably short warbling from us both this month as we have asked Canon Veronica to write some words for this edition of the newsletter prior to the Vacancy ending in September when Canon Vivien joins us.



It has been a real pleasure to lead the church through the vacancy that began back in March 2021. Things were uncertain as we entered this period. Covid was still around, our numbers were declining and we were worried about the enormity of the task we faced ahead.

It has been a complete whirlwind of an 18 months, but what has come out of this is a church that is happy. A church that is stronger in its faith. A church that is growing. A church that is well and truly living, loving, serving and growing together with God!

We are very much looking forward to Canon Vivien's arrival. We have both met her recently and we took her for dinner at Sutton Hall. (By the time you read this she will have met the PCC too) From the outset, we were very clear that we wanted Canon Vivien to join us to continue the good work we have already begun and help us really connect with our people and community and be closer to God. There no doubt will be some changes which we will all embrace, but we are keen for services to maintain a similar pattern. Canon Veronica is still willing to lead Family Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday and we both will continue to lead All Age Worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. This will give Canon Vivien time to be amongst you all and get to know you and plan and develop further aspects of our worship. We know that she will trust us and guide us and that will build a stronger faith for us and stand us in good stead for the future as we have the vision that St Paul's will be the church that everyone wants to come to and be part of as there is a special love of each other and Christ in this place.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support during the vacancy. You don't know how much this has been valued and kept us going when we have faced different challenges.

As we move towards the future, expect the unexpected!.....

With love,

Nick & Matt.

## Vacancy update / Induction Date

We are pleased to share with you that the induction of Reverend Canon Vivien Gisby is planned for Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 7:00pm in church. Bishop Sam, Bishop of Stockport will lead the service and induction of Canon Vivien.

We would love to see a packed church for this special occasion as we welcome Canon Vivien as our Priest for the next 2 years. We will be starting the planning for the service soon and inviting numerous guests and plan to have a welcome shared buffet after the service too.

Make sure the date is in your diary!

Nick and Matt took Canon Vivien out for a meal a few weeks ago and this went well. We spent several hours chatting about life at St Paul's and plans for the future.

By the time you read this, the PCC will have met with Canon Vivien for drinks and nibbles. The Vacancy Team and PCC.

## **An open letter from The PCC of St Paul, Macclesfield**

Whilst we have been met with great anticipation and delight about the forthcoming arrival of our new priest, it has presented an issue for the Diocese in terms of the vicarage and the current rental agreement in place.

When Michael Fox joined us back in 2016, the vicarage was surplus to requirements as he has had his own dwelling that he wished to remain living in. Rather than the Vicarage sit empty, the Diocese felt that the house could be well utilised by a refugee family looking to settle in the area. This was endorsed by the Diocese along with the PCC approving this. An agreement was put in place with the Diocese (not St Paul's as we do not own the Vicarage) and Cheshire East Council for the property to be leased to them. This was for an initial period of 2 years on a 6 month rolling contract. The family have now resided in the Vicarage for just over 5 years and have been good tenants and developed relationships in Macclesfield. It has been very positive up to now to know that at least one family locally have been offered a new start in rebuilding their lives in the relative safety of this country and have been helped to put behind them the devastations of war, a fearful experience most of us can only have nightmares about. Here at St Paul's in very recent months we have of course been very active in supporting the collection of essential provisions for dispatch to those now fleeing the equally distressing war unfolding in Ukraine, raising the equivalent of about £7,000 in aid donations.

The tenancy was always going to come an end as the Vicarage would undoubtedly be required at some point. In March this year, when we appointed Canon Vivien Gisby as our new Priest, the Diocese served the appropriate notice to Cheshire East Council to request the property back as it was required for the arrival of our new Priest (This was always the agreement). Unfortunately, the Council appear not to have not located anywhere else for the family to live at this moment and have requested delays in the arrival of Vivien. There is a whole host of legalities involved with this to which we have had no dealings at all as the issue is between the Diocese and Cheshire East Council.

Nick and Matt have put forward various solutions to the Diocese to ensure that the needs of this family are met whilst the needs of incoming Priest are also met as there is also a locality move for her to consider. We want to ensure that the Diocese achieve the best outcome with Cheshire East Council for this family in finding them a suitable place to live, preferably in the locality, so that they can continue to feel welcome and a part of the community in this area of Macclesfield. We will support the Diocese and Council to achieve this in anyway which we are able to. We are aware of a group of local people who are attempting to assist the family by raising funds towards the deposit for a privately rented property. We will find out more about this and share this with you in case of you are willing to offer any support financially or any other way. We will update you where we can with any further information. Please do ask us any questions if you have them.

Nick & Matt,  
Churchwardens & The PCC Of St Paul Macclesfield

## Canon Veronica writes...

I used to be a very shy teenager, to the extent that when I attended any Holy Week or Good Friday services in my local church, I would dread the preacher or worship leader referring people to focus on the Sixth Station of the Cross which depicts Veronica wiping the face of Jesus! Somehow it seemed that the spotlight was then shining directly on me (even though of course it wasn't at all!) and I would want to vanish into the shadows again as soon as possible! My parents chose to



name me after St Veronica, who isn't actually mentioned in the Bible, but tradition has it that she boldly stepped forward out of the crowd, trying to offer whatever small comfort she could to Jesus on his way to crucifixion, by wiping away some of the blood, sweat and tears from his face. Legend has it that the imprint of his face was left on the piece of cloth this woman used in that momentary act of defiance and solace, and her name was created out of the Latin words "vera icon" or "true image". The difficulty of trying to live up to this woman's example in my own life has led me to be quite drawn to that version of the prayer of confession in our liturgy, which includes the sorrowful admission to God that very often "we have wounded your love and marred your image in us." Having been born on a Wednesday, I also tend to be more of a "glass half empty" person, as the nursery rhyme says: "Wednesday's child is full of woe!" However, my priestly calling has led me over the years to be brave enough to step out of the crowd on more than one occasion, whether or not my actions or career paths have faced opposition or incomprehension!

For many people today, the world seems to be an increasingly dangerous and precarious place. In our personal lives, for example, we can face sadness, disappointment, bereavement, displacement, illness or injury. In our working lives, we can face discrimination, unfair circumstances, unsafe environments, lack of promotion, poor pay deals and sometimes redundancy. In our leisure time, we may face the fact that we have few spare resources to use for recreation or replenishment of our flagging energy levels, or perhaps we may be fearful of venturing out of our established routines at all. In contemplating the national or international news, we may be faced with an overwhelming sense of our apparent powerlessness to reverse the trends of widespread negativity and reported injustice for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, at home or abroad...

Yet there are people who seem to face impossible challenges and yet still go on to make a huge difference for good by the way they approach life. One such person was the late Dame Deborah James, a young mother who clearly was an inspiration to many other people coming to terms with life-changing situations, through her campaigning for greater awareness and fundraising research towards prevention, early diagnosis and treatment particularly of bowel cancer. She is quoted as saying: "Find a life worth enjoying; take risks; love deeply; have no regrets; and always have rebellious hope. And finally, check your poo – it could just save your life."

## 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.*



Whatever we are faced with, both Jews and Christians persist in praying that God may nevertheless *“lift up the light of his countenance (his face) upon us and give us peace.”* (Numbers 6: 24 - 26) For some, this may sound like an empty prayer and a vain hope. But here in the community of St Paul's Macclesfield, we have stubbornly maintained as our motto during these uncertain times, the words of the ancient (and reputedly often rather gloomy) prophet Jeremiah who declared, to anyone who would listen, God's faithful promise: *“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future!”* (Jeremiah 29:11)

For the past eighteen months or so, since my own retirement began (roughly coinciding with the departure of St Paul's former parish priest) it has been my privilege to have been asked by Archdeacon Ian Bishop and by Revd Dr John Harries, the Rural Dean of Macclesfield, to step in and offer some extra support for the continuing ministry of St Paul's Church congregation, particularly having the joy of celebrating Holy Communion with you on certain Sundays and other Holy Days. There is a particular kind of bereavement experienced by parish priests entering into retirement and having to leave a treasured community in whose thriving we have previously invested our energies for so many years. Therefore, I want to thank you for easing this transition for us through the kind hospitality and warm welcome you have offered to Dave and myself, and to our family and friends, and we are delighted now to consider ourselves as regular members of the amazing St Paul's congregation, hopefully for many years to come!

Alongside all of you, I look forward very much to welcoming our next incumbent, Canon Vivien Gisby, who is returning to our deanery in this new role hopefully this September. May St Paul's continue to thrive under her skilled leadership and guidance, and I personally shall be pleased to support her ministry in this parish, alongside that of our excellent Churchwardens and Ministry Team, in any way I can. Here at St Paul's, we face major challenges with funding our planned building repairs and re-ordering, but if the foundation of all that we do is based firmly on Christ our Cornerstone, then together we will look to the future with joyful pragmatism, prayerful optimism, and something of Dame Deborah's inspiring brand of “rebellious hope”!

Every blessing,  
Reverend Canon Veronica Hydon

## Life Events at St Paul's

We welcomed young Freddie, along with his Godfather Gary, to the church Family recently as they were baptised.

“God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side and guide you in truth and peace”



## Services at St Paul's

 Here's a reminder of our service pattern:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – **Family Communion**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – **All Age Worship**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – **Parish Communion**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – **Morning Prayer**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – **Parish Communion**

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday | **Morning Prayer**

every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday | **Holy Communion in the Parish Centre**

ALL MORNING  
SERVICES START  
AT 10.30am

# Jubilee 2022

After days of lovely weather leading up to the Jubilee weekend, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June was a cold wet day! This did not deter us as we had the best wet weather plan in place according to Macclesfield Town Council who funded the hosting of the event at St Paul's for the East Ward of Macclesfield.

Party in the pews commenced at 12 noon and what a wonderful time we had celebrating with our community. We had lots of positive comments about the events and many comments about the church building. It was wonderful to welcome many people who had never set foot inside St Paul's before and we hope that they return soon as a warm welcome always awaits. Here are some of the best shots of a super celebration. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way!





## Treasurers Tidings

We are moving into the 21st century with two methods of giving at church services—so it doesn't matter if you don't carry cash around any more.



There will be a contactless card reader at the back of church to use for your offertory on the way in or out. As well as debit & credit cards, you can use your phone with Google Pay, Apple Pay or other contactless payment apps. You can put your card into the reader and use your PIN if you prefer that to contactless.



Also, there will be QR codes in your pew for you to scan with your phone's camera and key in your card details to make your offering.

Don't worry if you are not into technology and the internet. We are still delighted to accept cash or whatever else suits you best to support God's work at St Paul's!

Both these new facilities will let you Gift Aid your donation, if you wish, allowing us to claim an extra 25% back from HMRC.

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.



## Update from the Cubs

On a warm late June Evening, the Cubs all went to Rudyard lake for a session of Bell-boating. What great fun! Matt joined them too. The cubs thoroughly enjoyed their session and loved jumping in afterwards, although Baloo's model jump into the water left a bit to be desired! (hope your foot is now ok!)



**St Paul's Parish Centre, Glegg Street**

**Time: 12.30pm Cost: £4.00**

**JULY 28 | AUGUST 11 & 25**

**SEPTEMBER 8 & 22**

## Garden of Remembrance



Nick, Ted and Matt continue to cut the grass when they are able to ensure that it remains to the high standards of the work of Olive & Dave over recent years and we need your help to do this.

*If you can spare some time to help keep the grass short and around the plots tidy, please see or let Nick or Matt know and we will add you to a rota. The more people who can help us means that it will be kept looking lovely and will mean you won't have to help as frequently.*

We look forward to hearing from you.

**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)**

**We look forward to sharing your news with everyone!**

## Captured on Camera

On a recent late evening visit to church, Matt caught this picture of the Processional Cross glowing in the evening sunlight.



## Meeting with Architects

In terms of the refurbishment project we now have received provisional costs for the project as a whole. We have been advised to expect a cost in the region of £650,000. This an extremely large sum of money but we understand that the project is complex and of course with the size and height of our building, scaffolding is going to be a major expense. We have met with the architects who have given us information on how to move things forward and one of the first things to do is begin to look at what grant funding we could apply for. We will both arrange to meet with the team we have put together to task this to so that we can then start planning the next stages which would more than likely be a community consultation with our stakeholders so that we can gain information about the importance of the building to the community and why our project deserves the grant funding. Grant funding is highly competitive and could take us 18 months to 2 years to gain sufficient funds to go ahead with the work!

The Core Team for the project have met and begun to prepare the statement of need and significance for submission to the Diocese for approval for the project and for faculty purposes. The Core Team will meet again soon to put their plan into action as we bring on board people to help us move the project forward. We will also look to begin to formally launch an appeal fund. A reminder of what our plans for the project are:

- Re-roof the upper and lower rooves of the church, including modifications to the guttering to prevent water getting into the building in the future.
- Replace and re-plaster all internal ceilings panels
- Re-plaster internal walls where needed
- Redecorate the building internally.
- Re-light the building with energy efficient lighting
- Modernise the sound and media system.
- Reheat the building in an energy efficient way.
- Repair the spire where issues are arising

You may have also noticed on Daintry Street that a portion of the churchyard wall has been cordoned off by the council. A member of the public reported concerns of the wall bulging. We have checked this out and also all of the walls and there are areas that have bulged during recent heavy rains earlier in the year. Joan M has been working hard contacting the Diocese and the Council about who's responsibility the walls are and as the churchyard is a closed and maintained churchyard, the council are responsible for its maintenance (apart from Garden of Remembrance). Joan has contacted the council about them completing an inspection and advising of how they are going to ensure the wall remains in a maintained order.

We will keep you updated.

Matt & Nick

## Online worship

Please do **SHARE** the links to the online services with friends and family. We would love to grow the number of subscribers and the number of people watching our services online.

We will continue to upload a link to the services in church via our YouTube channel where possible.

If you enjoyed watching the service please **LIKE**  the video.

The aim is to have the service 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.



# 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 01625 424957
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Gill Emptage	gillempage@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, Joan Chadwick, Emma Dennehy, Anne Furphy, David Furphy, Ann Harris, Alistair Hale, Simon Adams (Cub Leader)
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Ann Harris	07759 557834
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	Matthew Cooper	07515 167469
<b>Mission Group Leaders</b>	Community Group David Furphy	07887 931574
	Maintenance Group Malcolm Brown	01625 424957
	Worship Group Ann Harris	07759 557834
<b>Fellowship Group Leaders</b>	Joan Mottershead Marjorie Kearns Jean Bennett Ann Harris David & Anne Furphy Emma Dennehy Jo Turner Nick Mottershead (Uniform)	joanmottershead@ntlworld.com marjkearns@yahoo.co.uk jean.bennett63@ntlworld.com annant2009@live.co.uk annefurphy@hotmail.co.uk emmadennehy@ntlworld.com joanna.c.turner@ntlworld.com mancheeny@yahoo.co.uk

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

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