



PARISH newsletter



DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026

MONDAY 1 DEC | 2.30PM - 4.30PM
WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 6 DEC | DROP-IN 2.00-3.30PM
FAMILY CHRISTMAS CRAFT TRAIL
Fun for all the family, crafting, decorations, colouring
and lots more. Refreshments available.



SUNDAY 7 DEC
10.30AM | PARISH COMMUNION
3.00PM | CHRISTINGLE SERVICE (Supporting The Children's
Society Charity)

SUNDAY 14 DEC | 10.30AM
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION ALL AGE SERVICE (with St Paul's
Uniformed Groups)

SUNDAY 21 DEC
10.30AM | PARISH COMMUNION
6.30PM | NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
(The story of the birth of Jesus is told in short Bible
readings, interspersed with the singing of Christmas
carols, hymns and choir anthems)

MONDAY 22 DEC | 7.00PM
COMMUNITY CAROLS IN THE CHURCHYARD
(Macc Youth Brass Band, fire pits, mulled wine
& mince pies)

CHRISTMAS EVE
11.30AM | BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
(quiet & reflective, followed by light lunch)
4.00PM | CRIB SERVICE
11.30PM | MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY
10.00AM | SHORT CHRISTMAS
COMMUNION SERVICE



Community
Pages

Remembrance
Service

Services & Events
coming up at St
Paul's and Rainow
Parishes...

Roof Appeal &
Fundraising Update

Children & Young
People Events

Reverend's Reflections
Warden's Warblings
Ramblings from a Reader

Community Pages

... and much more

JOY

Issue 50p
(£5 per year)

FROM ANTICIPATION TO CELEBRATION AND REVELATION



As we head into winter, the Church invites us on a wonderful journey through **Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany** — a journey from anticipation to celebration and revelation.

Advent begins with waiting and preparation — looking for the light that shines in the darkness. That light is already glimmering in our communities, with the **lighting of the Christmas tree and crib in Rainow village** and the **opening of the Christmas Tree Festival** on *Advent Sunday*, 30 November. From there, the weeks that follow are full of activity — from Christmas markets to carol services in **Jenkin Chapel, Rainow, Forest Chapel, and St Paul's** — each with its own special atmosphere.

At **St Paul's**, our **Christingle and Crib services** offer a joyful, family-friendly way to celebrate. In **Rainow**, the children will again make their Christingles during the **Nine Lessons and Carols** service, before parading them into church — always a lovely moment of light and wonder! And of course, our Churchyard Carols at St Paul's on the evening of 22 Dec are now a firm favourite — a chance to sing together under the winter sky.

At the heart of all this is our worship of Christ, born for us. We'll gather for:

- **Midnight Mass (11.30pm, Christmas Eve)** — a joint service for Rainow and St Paul's.
- **Christmas Morning Communions** at Rainow and St Paul's (10.00am)
- And a later **service at Forest Chapel** (12noon).

In this holy season, as we once again prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ Child, we are reminded that his coming brings light into even the darkest corners of our troubled world. Amid war, uncertainty, and the weariness of our age, the message of Bethlehem remains unchanged — that God Himself chose to dwell among us, to share our burdens, and to offer peace that the world cannot give. The birth of Jesus is not merely a story of long ago, but a living promise that love is stronger than fear, hope deeper than despair, and that in every generation, the light still shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.



We know that Christmas isn't always easy. For some, it's a time that brings sadness or memories of loss. To offer a gentle space for reflection, there'll be a **'Blue Christmas' service** in **St Paul's Church Parish Centre** on the **morning of Christmas Eve** (11.30am followed by a light lunch).

After the festivities, Epiphany reminds us that the story doesn't end at the manger — it continues as the light of Christ reaches out to the world. As the poem says, *"when the song of the angels is stilled... the work of Christmas begins."*

There's so much happening — please see the front page for full details of all events and services.

May the hope, peace, and joy of Christ be with you this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

With every blessing,
Simon



Another fabulous Christmas Fair here at St Paul's on Saturday! 🥰 Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to serve and sell and generally spread good cheer (and those who tidied up afterwards!), particularly those two amazing unsung heroes, our Churchwardens, who as always spent hours preparing, moving furniture around, setting up numerous tables and gazebos, beautifully preparing the whole festive scene and organising our brilliant programme, including the very talented and award-winning MYBB and Cantata! (Macc Afternoon Community Choir) 🎄❤️🎅

Thanks to the many happy customers who so willingly spent their hard-earned cash to help us towards our everyday running costs as well as our Reroof, Refurb, Revitalise Appeal! 🙏🌈

"Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope, in Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."



We look forward to sharing pictures from our Advent and Christmas events in the February edition of the magazine.

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

Limited Places

£45
per person

WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

MONDAY, 1 DECEMBER
2.30pm - 4.30pm
@ St Paul's Parish Centre, Glegg Street, SK11 7AJ

Tickets include all materials, a glass of Prosecco or Mulled Wine, tea or coffee and a mince pie.

ROOF & REFURB APPEN St Paul's Macclesfield

with **LEGACY** FUNERAL CARE

Join us for a joyful, festive afternoon and create your very own beautiful Christmas wreath. Enjoy a 2 hour workshop with a local florist who will provide all the materials, including fresh greens, ribbons, and decorations.

TICKETS:

- **RING** the office - 501773
- **EMAIL** - emma@stpaulsmacc.org
- **SPEAK** to a Sidesperson on a Sunday

Funds raised for St Paul's Church.
Charity Number: 1210861

St Paul's Macclesfield

Everyone Welcome!

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CRAFT TRAIL

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER
Drop in from 2pm - 3.30pm
at St Paul's Church, Glegg Street, SK11 7AJ

JOY

About the Craft Trail
After many years of successful Easter Craft Trails, in 2024 we launched the Christmas Craft Trail. Families follow 7 stations starting in the Parish Centre and finishing in the Church. Each station forms the story of the Nativity.

Fun for all the family, crafting, decorations, colouring and lots more. Refreshments available.

The Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme for 2025 revolves round a single word: Joy!

Sign up to The Joy of Christmas

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St Paul's web: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/churches/9984>

St Paul's Macclesfield

Everyone Welcome!

CHRISTINGLE

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER
3pm
at St Paul's Church, Glegg Street, SK11 7AJ

JOY

About the Christingle
Christingle is a candle-lit, festive celebration that is perfect for bringing families and communities together. It was brought to the Church of England by The Children's Society in the 1960s. The celebration is named after the Christingles that are lit during it. Christingles are made from an orange decorated with red tape, sweets, and a candle. They have been part of The Children's Society's history for over 50 years and have helped raise millions of pounds for children and young people.

The Children's Society

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>

PARISH NEWS SUBSCRIPTION

The annual subscriptions for 2026 is due

PRINTED PARISH NEWS
(collected or hand delivered)
£5 PER YEAR

POSTED PARISH NEWS
£15 PER YEAR

Cheques: payable to St. Paul's PCC

Cash: handed to the office in an envelope

Bank Transfer:
Acct name - St Paul's PCC
sort code: 01-05-41
account no: 06293123
Ref: 'PN 2025 [name]'

If you receive an emailed copy but would still like to donate to the church to help with the production, we would be very grateful. Thank you.

Would you like to join our email list?
Please email emma@stpaulsmacc.org to be added to our mailing list.



St Paul's Macclesfield

Everyone Welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE

4pm

at St Paul's Church, Glegg Street, SK11 7AJ

WE INVITE CHILDREN TO DRESS UP AS ANY NATIVITY CHARACTER*
(inc. the donkey!)

About the Crib Service

The crib service is a short, family-friendly Christmas-themed church service, that retells the Nativity story with participation from children.

During the service, children carry figures representing characters from the Christmas story (like Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and animals) and place them in a stable scene.

We have some dress up costumes you can borrow.

St Paul's web: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/churches/9984>



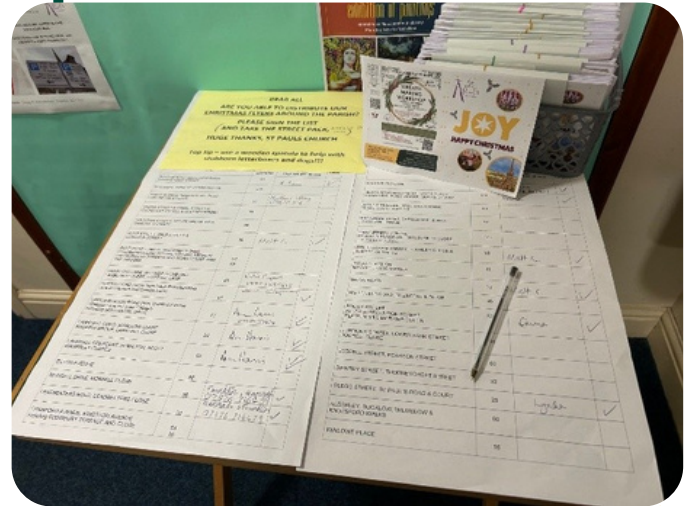
Sign up to
The Joy of
Christmas



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

CHRISTMAS FLYERS

There are still a few sets of flyers to be delivered. Please help us cover every street in the Parish this Christmas. If you can deliver another set then sign up and take the flyers. Thank you.




St Paul's Macclesfield

Everyone Welcome!

BLUE CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE

11.30am

at St Paul's Church, Glegg Street, SK11 7AJ

Please join us afterwards at 12.30pm for a simple buffet lunch, free of charge.

Blue Christmas - what is it?

Do you find all the festivities of the season difficult to navigate? Especially if you are feeling sad or blue for any reason and find it difficult to raise a smile at the moment? Then a warm welcome awaits you at our informal service in the Parish Centre here at St Paul's Church.

We will reflect on the Nativity stories in the Bible, offer optional craft activities, alongside prayers and quiet music to help us all to acknowledge our present sadnesses, and to ask God's blessing on our lives this Christmas and always.

To help us cater for you, please add your name and any dietary needs to the sign-up sheet or leave a message on 01625 501773.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St Paul's web: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/churches/9984>



St Paul's Macclesfield

Everyone Welcome!

DISCOVERY PARTY

SUNDAY 11 JANUARY

3pm-4.30pm

at St Paul's Church, Glegg Street, SK11 7AJ

About the Party

Fun for all the family
Crafts, disco, games
Visit by The 3 Wise Men

FREE ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY

TICKETS FROM HELEN
07979 674572

Refreshments available.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST PAUL'S

EVERY WEEK

Mornings

Afternoons

Evenings

Mondays
10am | Chair Yoga
11.30am | Tiny Talk
Baby Signing

5.30pm | Yoga

Tuesdays

6.30pm | Brownies
7.45pm | Guides

Wednesdays

9.15am | Pilates

1.30pm | Knit and Natter

6.00pm | Beavers
7.30pm | Cubs

Thursdays

2.15pm | Cantata Choir

6.00pm | Rainbows

Fridays

10.00am | Toddler
Group

7.30pm | Scouts

Saturdays

9.30am-12noon |
Breakfast Café

DECEMBER

28 SUN

10.30am

Family Communion

JANUARY

4 SUN

10.30am

Parish Communion with Revd Simon (& Young People Church)

7 Wed

11.00am

Mid-week Morning Prayer with Lay Minister Robert (Parish Centre)

11 SUN

10.30am

All Age Service

18 SUN

10.30am

Parish Communion with Revd Simon (& Young People Church)

21 Wed

11.00am

Mid-week Holy Communion with Revd Simon

25 SUN

10.30am

Family Communion with Canon Veronica

ST PAUL'S
PATRONAL
FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY

1 SUN

10.30am

CANDLEMAS Parish Communion with Revd Simon (& YP Church)

ALL SERVICES ARE FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP

CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Whilst doing some jobs in church one evening, Churchwarden Matt's dog, Dottie, was watching eager eyed over Wardens Matt and Nick to make sure they did not get up to any mischief!

REMEMBERING GAZA

A Silent Vigil outside Macclesfield Town Hall

5.00 – 6.00pm | Friday 5th December

We will remember the suffering people of Gaza,
call for a lasting peace,
and for our government to cease arms sales
and to impose broad sanctions on Israel

NO CHANTS, BANNERS, FLAGS,
Please don't bring placards.
Please do bring candles if possible.

*This event is organised by Global Justice Now
(Macc Group) who will supply placards.
We welcome anyone who shares the aims and
ethos of this vigil.*



Churchwardens Matt & Nick

Well, here we are in Advent and heading very quickly towards Christmas.

It will soon be a year since Simon joined us as Priest in Charge. That year has gone very quickly! We both feel that we have had a much more settled year at St Paul's having someone who has 'steadied the ship' so to speak and who isn't afraid to make the changes necessary in order for us to ensure that St Paul's meets the worship needs of everyone and has ideas to grow the love of God in this area of Macclesfield. We look forward to what 2026 has in store for St Paul's.

It's been a busy year for both of us with our Churchwarden duties alongside holding down full-time jobs but we know the busiest few weeks are about to meet us head on with extra services, fairs, giant Christmas trees to put in place in church and the church grounds, maintenance and of course the organising and running of the showpiece Churchyard Carols.

We are very much looking forward to the Christmas Season at St Paul's and we hope that in the busyness of it all we get the opportunity to reflect on the real and true meaning of Christmas.

You all know we give 110% and more to all we do for St Paul's and we know we don't always get things right, but it's not for the want of trying. For me (matt) it has been a very challenging year as you know, but the love and friendship shown by many people here at St Paul's has helped immensely and for which I am truly grateful.

I would just like at this point to say a big thank you to Nick, not only my fellow Churchwarden, but my best mate, for being there for me and knowing what to say and do at the right time. Our Wardenship and Friendship just works and that's just the way it goes. Now that's a good quality.

As we move through Advent and into Christmas, may you find the time to pause and reflect and give thanks for all that has happened during this year and look forward with a future and a hope. With love and blessings for a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous 2026.

Love, Matt & Nick x



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

A few pictures to reflect on a very moving Remembrance Sunday Service.



Thank you to Canon Veronica and Bev Nixon for a thought-provoking talk for Stir Up Sunday (The Sunday before Advent) making us think about the ingredients of a Christmas Pudding and their representation to the Bible as well as making us think what ingredients are needed in our world right now to make it a better place.

"Stir up O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."



ALL
STIRRED
UP!

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

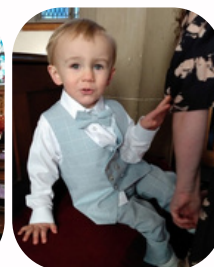
If anyone is interested in being confirmed, young or older please speak to Simon. Bishop Mark Tanner (Bishop of Chester) is coming to St Paul's to conduct a confirmation service at 4pm on the afternoon of 14 June 2026. This will be a service open to Rainow congregation and others from the Deanery. If somebody would like to be confirmed but has not yet been baptised they could be baptised by the Bishop at the same service. Please speak with Revd. Simon if you have any questions.



FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

16 November	Archie John McDonnell
23 November	Jordan Byron Higgins



Archie looking very smart

Baptisms are always joyous occasions, marking the beginning of a spiritual journey and welcoming new members into the faith community. Celebrating the baptisms of Archie and Jordan is not only a significant moment for them and their families but also for the entire church family. These ceremonies symbolize purification, renewal, and the commitment to lead a life guided by faith. They remind all of us of our own spiritual commitments and the importance of community support in nurturing one's faith.

As Archie and Jordan embark on this path, the church community stands ready to support and guide them, fostering an environment of love, understanding, and shared beliefs. It's a privilege to witness such meaningful milestones and to be part of their spiritual journey.

May God bless and guide Archie and Jordan their whole lives through.



Jordan with his daddy and Godmother





The roof appeal
fund total is:
£48,621.43
(end November 2025)

A reminder of what our thoughts for 'first phase' of 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

Matt, Nick and Vicar Simon had a positive meeting recently with Architect Ed Kepzyck and Sheena Wilson (Diocesan Buildings Advisor) about how to really begin to move the project on. Lots of discussion was had around what stages we need to complete to feel ready to move to the next stage. From the meeting we are going to do the following:

- Create a project brief (what do we want and why)
- Gain PCC approval for a Feasibility Study for the project to be completed by the Architect. APPROVED BY PCC IN JULY 2025.
- To aid the above study, the Quinquennial Inspection took place on 25 November.
- Re-meet once completed and look to send the study to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) for first thoughts and then wider sharing to all stakeholders.

The PCC have approved the undertaking of a Feasibility Study by the Architects, Butress of Manchester. This is a costly piece of work (Approx £13,000) but a vitally important part of any project to be completed. The study will look at what we want, consultations completed, a survey of the building (above and beyond the Quinquennial inspection) options of project style including re-ordering. It is looking likely that this is something that we will have to consider extremely seriously to ensure the future of the building, ensuring worship space remains the focus but with a flexible community space to help us become a beacon of light in our community.

If anyone wishes to have a look at an example study then please do ask and we will be happy to show you.

The study will take 2-3 months to complete from start date and we anticipate the start to be happening soon.

This is really an exciting time for St Paul's as we move towards the biggest refurbishment of the building in its 180 year history and look to secure the future of the church and have a legacy to pass on to future generations. We are both genuinely excited by the opportunities that await us.

cont.

Please do raise any questions with us (Matt, Nick, Vicar Simon) as we want to ensure everyone has the opportunity to have their say and share their feelings.

Just to get you thinking, here are some AI generated images of what the church could look like as a big open space.

These are ONLY artificially generated and not final decisions of actions to be taken.

Matt & Nick



Here is the link to donate online for the roof appeal:

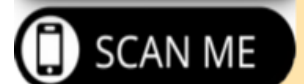
<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/9da68a7a-9297-4ebf-8046-c78a2f4c2331>

ROOF APPEAL GIVING

If you wish to make a cash or cheque donation to the appeal, please put it in an envelope and hand to either the Treasurer (Malcolm Brown) or the Wardens with the envelope clearly marked 'For the roof appeal'. This then means it is placed in a restricted account just for the roof appeal and cannot be used for anything else.

Please also share whether we are able to reclaim gift aid on the donation too as this will make a huge difference for us! We can claim from HMRC 25p for every £1 donated to us at no extra cost to you or us. If you are posting a donation, please pop a note inside to the same effect.

If you wish to donate via bank transfer then please do contact us for the bank details (office telephone number 01625 501773). Thank you for your support.



You can also donate by scanning the QR code



The recent storm certainly tested the building! We were expecting significant rain ins in the building but there were practically none!! All to do with the direction of the wind! We have however had several slates dislodged on the South side upper roof meaning that we need to get repairs done as soon as possible to prevent significant damage to the internal ceiling panels from rain coming in. We are working with the contractors and insurers to get this done as soon as possible. Quite miraculously, only one big branch came off a tree at the side of the Parish Centre. After seeing them literally bending in the wind we feared much more damage!

We continue to monitor the plaster work in some parts and you may have noticed a few pews roped off. This is due to damaged dried out plaster that keeps falling. We have remedied this to a degree and have opened up some of the pews again.

We are still awaiting Bailey Steeplejacks to come along with their big ladders to replace some of the upper level lightbulbs for us. We are hopeful that they will complete this when they come to do some remedial work on the lightning conductor that failed a recent inspection. The necessary work to repair the conductors is booked in.

Remedial work following the electrical inspection has been completed as well as remedial work on the lightning conductors which failed a recent test.

We have replaced two exterior lights with more focussed 'down light' floodlights to light the paths rather than the whole neighbourhood on Daintry Street!

Services of the church boiler and centre boiler have been completed. You are probably more than aware that the boiler in church had failed. It was not firing and we were very worried that we could not get the required part as the boiler is circa 30 plus years old! Luckily a part was located and fitted and all is well! Thank you for bearing with us. We have been lucky that it has not been too cold.

The visit from Ecclesiastical Insurance took place and all went very well and they were happy with what the evidenced. There is a small piece of remedial work to take place outside to fill in some holes in the tarmac. We will complete this when the weather is dry.

We need to look into doing some work on the Louvres of the south side of the church as these have become incredibly dislodged and will almost certainly be letting rain water in. We have been in contact with a contractor who could help and they are fully booked up until early 2026! We are going to ask for a quotation so we can have an idea of cost.

The Quinquennial inspection of the church was completed on 25 Nov and we await the full final report of this which we will share when we are able to. This will feed into the planned feasibility study and refurb project.

For a further update on the refurb project, please read the information in the roof appeal section of the newsletter.

Thanks to everyone who helps in anyway with the upkeep of the church and Parish Centre.

Matt & Nick.



RAMBLINGS OF A READER

At this time of year when we are looking forward to the Christmas season and the New Year yet to come, it always makes me think of years gone by when my sons were young, but also when I and my sister were young and Christmases seemed simpler.

My parents divorced when my sister and I were aged four and three and our Dad took us to live in his childhood home with his parents, our Nan and Diddid as we called our Grandad – don't ask why no one seems to remember, but we think it was a name my sister called him. We had a very happy if unusual childhood for the 50's with lots of happy memories, especially of Christmas.

The one memory that always comes to mind is about my 'big doll' Heidi. Heidi is still with me along with Teddy who both sit on the bed box in our bedroom.



Heidi and my sisters doll Lucinda came

into our lives when I was nearly 4 and my sister was 5, and until we were about 16, every year about November time they would vanish. The first year it happened we were very upset. They sat on a chair in our bedroom and when we woke up they weren't there, but an envelope was, now although my sister was at school, reading skills were limited, so Dad had to read the letter to us, and it was from the 'Fairy & Elf'. It told us that our dolls had gone back to the North Pole to Father Christmas so they could be measured for new outfits, but they would return, if we were good, on Christmas Day.

We were very, very good, and they both returned with new outfits and this ritual happened every year, till our Nan's [aka the fairy] eyesight and arthritic fingers could no

longer sew the outfits, and Dad [aka the Elf] found it harder to sneak into the room of two teenagers who went to sleep with radio Caroline playing under the covers.

As a mother myself I tried to make Christmas as magical for my sons as it had been for me, but it didn't quite work as at the young age of four, our youngest son told us there was no such person as Father Christmas, when we asked him why he thought that he replied, 'You wouldn't let a strange man come into my bedroom in the middle of the night.' Out of the mouths of babes!

For many Christmas can be a time of wonder, happiness and great joy, but for others it can be a time of anger, upset and fear. That first Christmas was no different. It was also a time of wonder, happiness and great joy, as well as a time of anger, upset and fear as a family had to escape the anger of a King to protect their child, and many families lived in great fear as their sons were slaughtered.

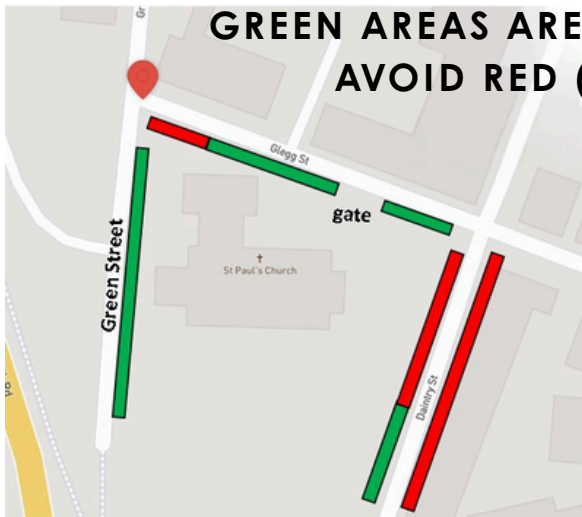
As we look forward to a new year none of us know what it will bring. We hope for joy, happiness and prosperity. But it could bring us anger upset and fear. Our world is on the brink of who knows what, but the baby in the manger who became the man on the Cross still walks our streets today. He is found in a smile from a friend, in a food bank, in a homeless shelter, in a Saturday Café. He is the light that shines in the darkness; a light that will never go out as long as we continue to share and follow him, Jesus the light of the world.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Christ filled Christmas and that you will walk hand in hand into the New year with Jesus.

Love Fran. X

Lay Minister Fran Hiles





**GREEN AREAS ARE PARKING FOR 2 HOURS
AVOID RED (RESIDENT) AREAS**



If you have a disabled parking badge (blue badge) you can park without any time limit in any of the bays and also park in the residents only bays too! You must display the badge.



As you step into the year ahead, may you find moments of stillness, joy, and rest for your soul.

Foxhill is here to offer space, peace, and gentle hospitality as you draw close to God.

"He restores my soul." – Psalm 23:3

Foxhill House and Woodlands are delighted to share their new programme for 2026 - a year shaped around rest, renewal, and encounter with God.

Whether you're drawn to the gentle rhythm of our Breathe with the Seasons Encounter Days, the inspiring stories of our Ordinary Saints series, or the stillness of a residential retreat, we hope you'll find something that nurtures your faith and refreshes your soul.

We're also pleased to offer our Early Bird Discount once again - enjoy 10% off all residential retreats when booked at least three months in advance (excluding Icon Painting).

And if cost might be a barrier, please remember our Bursary Fund is available to help make your visit possible.

Bookings are now open via our website:



We would like to highlight the "Breathe Through the Seasons" Day which Canon Veronica is due to lead on Sat 28 March as a creative reflection on Holy Week:

As we look forward towards the forthcoming last seven days of Christ's earthly life as recounted in the Gospels, this Encounter Day offers a fresh opportunity to inhabit these possibly over-familiar stories. We will suggest a variety of ways that might help us day by day in this coming week to explore more authentically our personal relationships with God as well as examining some of our encounters with other people.

Here in the safe space afforded at Foxhill, we will seek to acknowledge before God some of the joyful as well as challenging experiences that have shaped our journeys so far, and we will pray for one another as spiritual companions travelling the Way of the Cross whilst keeping our focus always on the light and hope of Easter Day.



Could you spare a few hours on a Saturday morning to make tea and coffee, cook breakfasts, make toast or just chat to the people attending?

If so, please contact David Furphy who is co-ordinating the volunteer list. David can be phoned or texted on 07887 931574.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who give their time and talents to this wonderful outreach.

Our Saturday Café is a designated 'Warm Space' and registered with Cheshire East Council for the Winter of 2024/2025.

Everyone is welcome to attend this vital and well established community asset.



WATCH US ONLINE

Please **SHARE the weekly email and links** to the online services with friends and family.

WE ARE GROWING the number of online subscribers and the number of people watching our services online is really encouraging.

DON'T FORGET - please hit the



LIKE and SUBSCRIBE



buttons, this gives us great feedback.

JUST SEARCH FOR ST PAUL'S CHURCH IN YOUTUBE AND YOU'LL SEE THIS MONTH'S SERVICES IN THE 'VIDEOS' SECTION

9 November | Remembrance Service:

[Click here to watch](#)

23 November: Christ the King Family Communion

[Click here to watch](#)

If you are reading a digital version - click on the red links to go straight to the video



**One Project
Ukraine**

Christmas Ukrainian Shoebox Appeal 2025



Boy

Girl

Age 2 - 4

Age 5-9

Age 10-14

What to do...

- Tick Boy or Girl and age category on this leaflet
- Fill a shoebox with Christmas gifts
- Wrap the shoebox in Christmas wrapping, with the lid wrapped separately.
- Remove all packaging from the gifts
- Attach this leaflet on top of the box
- We'll be sending the boxes over to Ukraine from October to December.
- Contact Val or Ray to arrange your shoebox collection.

Gift suggestions

- Cuddly toys
- Small toys/cars
- Socks/Gloves
- Sweets/Chocolates
- Skipping rope
- Hair Accessories
- Craft Items
- Slippers
- Small Games/Lego
- Toiletries/make-up
- School stationery
- Puzzles, card games

PLEASE RETURN THE BOXES ON A SUNDAY, OR TO OUR SATURDAY CAFE BY 6 DECEMBER



If you would like to help with transport costs, please tape £1 to the box

Please ring the office (501773) for other available drop off dates/times

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAINOW

Every Tues	10.00am	Cosy Cuppa	
Every Wed	12.30pm	Light in the Forest (Forest Chapel)	
4 Thurs	11.30am 1.30pm	Holy Communion followed by a Bring and Share lunch in the centre Jolly Tots in the centre	
6 Sat	11.00am - 3.00pm	Christmas Market	
7 SUN	10.00am 3.00pm	Toy Service & Nativity Parish Evensong (Forest Chapel)	2 nd Sunday of Advent
14 SUN	10.00am 2.30pm	Parish Communion Carol Service (Jenkin Chapel)	3 rd Sunday of Advent
18 Thurs	1.30pm	Jolly Tots in the centre	
21 SUN	10.00am 2.30pm	Parish Communion & Junior Church Carol Service & Christingle making	4 th Sunday of Advent
24 Wed	3.00pm	Carol Service (Forest Chapel)	CHRISTMAS EVE
25 Thurs	10.00am 12noon	Parish Communion Holy Communion (Forest Chapel)	CHRISTMAS DAY
27 Sat	10.00am	Saturday Cafe	
28 SUN	10.00am	Parish Communion	
JANUARY			
4 SUN	10.00am 3.00pm	Parish Communion & Junior Church Parish Evensong (Forest Chapel)	EPIPHANY
11 SUN	10.00am	Parish Communion & Junior Church	
15 Thurs	1.30pm	Jolly Tots in the centre	
18 SUN	10.00am	All Age Worship	
25 SUN	10.00am	Parish Communion & Junior Church	
FEBRUARY			
1 SUN	10.00am 3.00pm	Parish Communion & Junior Church Parish Evensong (Forest Chapel)	CANDLEMAS

BANDAGES FOR UKRAINE



Do you have any old bandages lying about?
If so, please bring them to church and pass on to David Furphy who will arrange for these to go to the charity supporting Ukraine.
Thank you.



GIVING TO ST PAULS

We have 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!

All these facilities will let you Gift Aid your donation, if you wish, allowing us to claim an extra 25% back from HMRC at no cost to you.

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.

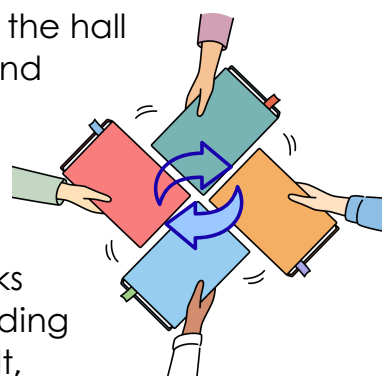
DONATE ❤️

Or if you prefer you can use your internet browser to go to stpaulsmacc.org and scroll down to the 'DONATE' button there. **THANK YOU!!**

BOOK EXCHANGE STALL

Our book table in the hall is really popular and is a good income generator for our funds.

We appreciate donations of books for all ages - including children and adult, which are in good condition.



Please could we ask that if you bring books and the two baskets are full on the table, to please take them back home with you for another time or drop them at a charity shop rather than pile them on the baskets or leave them underneath.

Thank you for your help and support.



RNIB

See differently



**WE ARE COLLECTING
USED STAMPS FOR RNIB**

PLEASE BRING THEM TO CHURCH.
(CUT OUT WITH AN
APPROX. 1CM BORDER)

THERE IS A PLASTIC COLLECTION
BOX IN THE CHURCH PORCH.

THANK YOU.

Please let us have any info or news for our
February issue by 11th Jan.

To the Parish Office or
emma@stpaulsmacc.org

LIGHT PARTY



A fabulous time was had at the **Light Party** on **All Hallow's Eve** with lots of families attending this alternative celebration to Halloween.

Thank you to the Team for putting on such a great community event, it was a delightful occasion, offering a vibrant and family-friendly alternative to traditional Halloween festivities. The event was brimming with laughter and joy, as families from the community gathered to enjoy a variety of engaging activities. From creative crafts to exciting games, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The beautifully decorated venue added an extra layer of enchantment, making it a memorable evening for all ages. Not only did this event provided a safe and welcoming environment for families but also highlighted the Light of Christ and the spirit of unity and joy that such events can bring.

Finding Jesus



**Sessions for curious 10-16's
up stairs at**

Living. Loving.
Serving. Sharing



Sat December 13th 1.30-2.45pm
with refreshments.

Christmas Crafts Make & Do Session

For more info call Helen: 07979674572

ROAD SAFETY WEEK



Toddler Group recently took part in a road safety session as part of National road safety week, lead by Bev (thank you!) The children all learnt to hold hands near the road, wait for a safe space to cross and to look and listen whilst crossing. Each child was awarded a certificate and sticker at the end. Well done Toddlers for learning to keep safe!

27 DECEMBER

Register from 10am, 11am start

+ Christmas Fun Run



Run or walk with family and friends at:

Middlewood Way (viaduct next to St Gregory's Church), Bollington, Macclesfield, SK10 5JR

A better world needs all of us — let's run for hope.

Adult £10 | Child £5 | Family £20

CAFOD A better world needs all of us

cafod.org.uk/bollington

Hosted by



Sign up now and get sponsored!

Scan here



CAF7159

Treacle Market Shoppers' Carol Service



Readings and Songs to celebrate the birth of Jesus

*Sunday 21st December 2025
St Michaels' Church Grounds
1pm & 2pm (20 mins)*

Organised by St Michael's Church / Hope in NE Cheshire
on behalf of the Christian Churches in Macclesfield
www.hinec.org.uk
www.christianity.org.uk



HOPE IN NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

tinytalk
Baby Signing
Toddler Talking
East Cheshire

A new class in our church hall on a Monday during term time.

Monday

St Paul's Church,
Macclesfield

BABIES
11:30-12:30

Wednesday

St Mary's Church,
Handforth

BABIES
9:45-10:45



Suitable for babies from birth - 24 months

Join in the fun - book now!

melaniefairbrother@tinytalk.co.uk 07500068702

Why TinyTalk Baby Signing?

Do you want a calmer, less frustrated baby, whilst also learning BSL signs?

- Support Early Communication - Make signing a natural part of life, whilst encouraging verbal communication as early as possible
- Social Skills - Encourage Independence, Sharing, & Turn-Taking
- Early Learning - Colours, Numbers, Shapes & More!



East Cheshire Hospice
Where people come to live

#ECHTrees

Christmas Tree Collection

10 and 11 January

2026



REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

www.echtrees.org.uk

**We collect from these areas:
CW12, SK9, SK10, SK11, SK12 & WA16**

REGISTER YOUR TREE HERE

Winners of the Social Value Award at the MRW National Recycling Awards 2025!



A Christmas Welcome

Come and join in the festive fun with M.A.C.C. as they bring you a selection of folk carols from around the UK and abroad

THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2025

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, GLEGG STREET

REFRESHMENTS: 2.00PM CONCERT: 2.30PM

TICKETS: £10 (Under 18s £5)

Contact Cantata Music Education on:

☎ 01625 269721

✉ cantata16@gmail.com



Tickets available from choir members or contacting Cantata Music Education by phone or email



Christmas Carols around the Crib

Saturday 6th December, 1:15pm

Market Place, Macclesfield



**All are very welcome – come and join us -
singing or listening.**

Organised by St Alban's Catholic Church, Chester Road, Macclesfield



Just Drop-In's Christmas Carol Service

Friday 12th December, 6pm-7:30pm

St Peter's Church, Windmill St, Macclesfield, SK11 7HS



Join us for a heart-warming evening, looking back on the year and reflecting together. Carols and readings from the team, young people and volunteers make the evening very special. Please come along and embrace the joy of Christmas.

A very happy and
peaceful Christmas
to you all.
Love from St Paul's



Thank you for reading!



KEY CONTACTS AT ST PAULS

Priest in Charge	Revd Simon Gowler	vicar@stpaulsmacc.org 01625 572013 (day off Mondays)
Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers)	Fran Hiles Robert Marshall	fhiles49@btinternet.com robert@capuchin.co.uk
Churchwardens	Matthew Cooper Nick Mottershead	churchwarden1@stpaulsmacc.org 07515 167469 / 07514 588012
Deanery Synod Reps	Anne Furphy Joan Mottershead Jean Bennett	annefurphy@hotmail.co.uk pastoral@stpaulsmacc.org jean.bennett63@ntlworld.com
Pastoral Assistant	Joan Mottershead	pastoral@stpaulsmacc.org
Parish Administrator	Emma Dennehy	emma@stpaulsmacc.org
PCC Treasurer	Malcolm Brown	treasurer@stpaulsmacc.org 01625 424957
PCC Secretary	Gill Emptage	gilleemptage@hotmail.co.uk
PCC Members	Matt Cooper, Nick Mott, Joan Mottershead, Jean Bennett, Rosie Brennan, Tony Buckley, Janet Burrow	Julie Brunt, Emma Dennehy, Anne Furphy, David Furphy, Ann Harris Simon Adams (Uniform rep)
Safeguarding Officer	Ann Harris	07759 557834
Health & Safety	Matthew Cooper	07515 167469

St Paul's Parish Office: Glegg St, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 7AJ

01625 501773 | email: emma@stpaulsmacc.org

Charity Reg. Number: 1210861

Usual opening times: Mon, Tues & Thurs 9.30am-2.30pm, Fri 9.30am-1.30pm

WEBSITES - **A Church Near You:** <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9984/>
or www.stpaulsmacc.org

You Tube Channel: search St Paul's Macclesfield in YouTube or click

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQMeK5BCanr78m6_FuA0yFQ

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

Instagram: [/stpaulsmacclesfield](https://www.instagram.com/stpaulsmacclesfield) **Twitter:** @StPaulsMacc

To link direct to the above pages, just click on the red links or press control and click.