



March Newsletter

Our Clergy, LLMs and Administrator

Revd Steve McKay	revstevemckay@gmail.com	0118 981 6252
Revd Karen West	revkarenw24@gmail.com	07525 494025
Revd Chris Knight	revdchrisknight@outlook.com	07443 726962
Revd Cathy Pynn	c.pynn@btinternet.com	
Charles Lewis LLM	c.m.lewis@btinternet.com	

March is characterised by Lent – the 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday and Easter. Lent is a shortened form of the Old English word ‘lencten’, meaning “spring season”. For centuries it has been observed as a period of spiritual renewal, sometimes characterised by fasting or doing something to deepen our engagement with God. Lent doesn’t have to be exhausting but it must be intentional. Too often we vow to give up something trivial and our lives become miserable without things like chocolate and wine, and we see little spiritual growth. Then at the end of it we pat ourselves on the back for being miserable or berate ourselves for only lasting a week and it’s got us nowhere!

I commend to you this year the practice of taking something on, rather than giving something up! Do something practical like taking part in our benefice Eco challenge to reduce carbon emissions. You could volunteer for one of our church rotas – we particularly need sides people. You could do something spiritual such as reading a chapter of your bible each day. Maybe resolve to read a good Christian book by Easter. Visit those in need or try to pray every morning and evening for someone you know. I guarantee the practice of putting aside time in order to grow your faith will bring you closer to Christ than any amount of chocolate you give up!

This month we also continue to celebrate the 60th birthday of St Paul’s Church. I hope you will be able to join us as we celebrate on Saturday 7th March with a free afternoon tea at our birthday party, where you can see photos of St Paul’s from over the years as we kick off an exciting 60th anniversary project! We start the month with a party and we end the month with a visit from our Diocesan Bishop. Bishop Philip will be joining us for our Palm Sunday Walk and service on Sunday 29th March and you are all invited! More details in this newsletter.

Lent courses

Every Wednesday in March at 7.30pm – Alpha continues throughout this month in St Paul's. If you haven't been before it's not too late to sign up. Please contact Revd Steve if you would like to know more.

Every Monday at 7.15pm – the CTAT Lent course continues at the URC, Immanuel Centre.

St Paul's is 60!

We're planning some great events to celebrate St Paul's Diamond anniversary and you can help! Do you have memories or photos of St Paul's from over the years that you can share with us? Maybe a wedding, baptism, service or event.

Do you have a photo of you in 1966 if you are old enough? If not, maybe a baby photo of you in 1976, 1986 or 1996 and we can play a fantastic game of guess the baby! We'd love to make a display of these for our 'Big 0' party which is happening on 7th March when we'll be serving a delicious cream tea.

There's no charge for coming to the tea but please let us know if you'll be there so we can make sure we have enough scones and cream! Booking can be done either through the link below or on one of the sign-up sheets at the back of church. So we can order food for the event, the deadline for replies is 1st March.

<https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/MzA3MS00/t>

(Please send anything to display to Steve – either by email or as photos with a name on the back, so we can return them to you.)

Upcoming events this month

Sunday 1st – First Sunday Services take place across our benefice churches.

This is a chance to experience something a bit different. Café Worship takes place as usual at St Paul's. Join us from 9.45am for breakfast followed by the service at 10.15am. Meanwhile at St Mary-the-Virgin, the new Holy Communion for All Ages continues.

Wednesday 4th at 7.30pm – Alpha session at St. Paul's. Open to all.

Friday 6th from 10am to 11.30am – Oaks and Acorns meets in St Luke's, Pamber Heath. This is a great way to spend a Friday morning. Each session has activities suitable for everyone, with toys for the little ones and books to read. There will be refreshments in the middle of the morning which will be followed by singing, storytelling, sharing, and ending with a short prayer and 'goodbye song'. Every Friday throughout March.

Friday 6th at 2pm – CTAT World Day of Prayer Service in St. Luke's Church.

This year the theme 'I will give you rest' is being led by the women of Nigeria. Everyone is welcome to come along as we celebrate our unity as world-wide Christians.

Friday 6th from 6.30pm to 8pm – Youth Group meets at St Paul's. Join us for pizza, snacks, chat, games, and films. Everyone in school years 5 to 13 is welcome.

Saturday 7th from 2pm to 5pm – St Paul’s Big 60 Party! Sign up for an afternoon of music, displays from over the years and free cream tea!

Sunday 8th from 10am – Messy Church at St Paul’s. As always there will be crafts, stories and lots of breakfast! As we head towards Mothering Sunday, we will be celebrating our parents and all those who look after us. Arrive and leave when you are ready, take part in as much or as little as you like! Why not come along and see why 150 people join us each month.

Monday 9th from 10.30am to midday – St Paul’s Morning Get-Together. Everyone is welcome to this get-together so why not bring a friend or neighbour along for fellowship, food, and friendship? As well as lots of chat, there are games and an opportunity to meet new people. The next Morning Get-Together this month will be on Monday 23rd March.

Monday 9th at 7.30pm – Silchester PCC meeting at St Luke’s, Pamber Heath.

Wednesday 11th at 7.30pm – Alpha Course continues at St Paul’s.

Thursday 12th at 7pm for refreshment and a start of 7.30pm – CTAT Forum at Main Road Methodist Church.

Sunday 15th from 9am – RISE family breakfast at St Mary’s. Come with your family to celebrate Mothering Sunday and all those who look after us. Enjoy a cooked breakfast, crafts, challenges, and stories as we gather for RISE. Everyone is welcome.

Thursday 19th at 7pm – Pauline Townshend BPP Licensing Service at St Paul’s Church Winchester. If you are free do come along and congratulate and celebrate Pauline’s licensing to the benefice.

Friday 20th from 8am to 10am – St Mary’s Breakfast. Why not pop in on the way to work or school and enjoy one of St Mary’s famous cooked breakfasts? This month we’ll be raising funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Sunday 22nd at 11.30am – Wedding Sunday at St Mary-the-Virgin. A special planning event for any couples looking to get married in any of our churches in 2026 or 2027. Come and plan your wedding with us! Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to attend as the event includes lunch.

Monday 23rd from 10.30am to midday – St Paul’s Morning Get-Together. The second of our morning get-togethers.

Wednesday 25th at 7.30pm – Alpha Course continues at St Paul’s.

Thursday 26th at 2pm – Let’s Pray! meets at St Mary’s, Tadley. Join us as we pray for our community, our world, our families, and our friends.

Thursday 26th at 7.15pm – Tadley PCC Meeting at St Luke’s, Pamber Heath.

Saturday 28th from midday – pub gathering in the Pelican, Pamber Heath. A great chance for lunch out and opportunity to talk to others. Everyone welcome. Company free and good fun, lunch to be paid for!

[Looking towards Easter: Holy Week](#)

Palm Sunday

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday. Join us for our 5th Sunday Benefice Palm Sunday Walk and service with Bishop Philip at Silchester.

There are lots of exciting parts to this day as we remember the start of Holy Week.

9.30am – walk from the Village Hall to the church through the Roman city of Calleva with Bishop Philip. You will need to be dressed for all weathers – we suggest walking boots or wellies and a waterproof coat. If walking will prove difficult for you, do join us at St Mary-the-Virgin for the service where a menagerie of animals will be waiting for us!

10.30am – hot cross buns, hot and cold drinks at St Mary-the-Virgin.
Everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments

11am – Palm Sunday service led by Bishop Philip and the clergy team at St Mary-the-Virgin, Silchester.

From 9.30am, and throughout the morning, we have a farm based at St Mary-the-Virgin, Silchester. Come and see the animals at this special event!

Monday 30th, Tuesday 31st and Wednesday 1st April at 7pm – Walking the Way of Christ at St Luke's, Pamber Heath. Please join in with reading through the whole of St Luke's gospel from the King James version of the bible over these three evenings. Open to everyone to join in with reading a chapter as you'd like to – just turn up. Each evening we will end with a service of Compline. Any queries, please contact Revd Cathy on 01189701007.

Wednesday 1st April at 10am – Midweek Holy Communion at St Luke's, Pamber Heath and at St Mary's, Tadley.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 2nd April – Maundy Thursday Supper. Join us for a simple meal of vegetarian soup, bread, cheese, and fruit, as we commemorate the Last Supper. If you would like to come, please let Revd Karen know either on 07525 494025 or at revkarenw24@gmail.com (Please also let Revd Karen know of any allergies.)

Good Friday

Friday 3rd April – Good Friday services.

9.30am – Silchester Three Crosses Service

10am – CTAT Good Friday service outside St Mary's, Tadley

12pm – Three Hours around The Cross in St Mary's, Tadley, led by the clergy



Holy Saturday

Saturday 4th April at 2pm – RISE Easter Egg Hunt and Crafts at St Mary's, Tadley

Saturday 4th April at 7pm – Benefice Easter Vigil at St Paul's, Tadley

Easter

Easter Day

Sunday 5th April – Easter Day

6am – CTAT Sunrise Service at Tadley Skatepark. Tadley Common Rd, Silchester Rd, Tadley RG26 3PX

10am – Café Church and Easter Day Family Holy Communion at St Paul's, Tadley

10am – Easter Day Holy Communion at St Mary-the-Virgin, Silchester

10.30am – Easter Day Holy Communion at St Mary's, Tadley

11am – Easter Day Holy Communion at St Luke's, Pamber Heath

Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday 12th April from 10am – Messy Church Easter at St Paul's, Tadley



Big events this year

Saturday 18th April – Big Praise at St Paul's, Tadley. As we continue to celebrate St Paul's 60th anniversary, a special praise event led by the St Paul's worship band. Join us for songs of praise, guest speakers, and the results from the worship song voting. More details to follow.

Saturday 13th June from 11am to 3pm – Big 60 Fete on the Green. Following on from last year's successful fete, which attracted over 2,000 people, we will be holding another event this year. There will be a bouncy castle, live music, food, arts and crafts, games, and lots more! If you would like a stall, or know someone that might, please get in contact with Virge at enquiries@stpaulstadley.org.uk



Sidespeople

We need more sides people (particularly in Tadley Parish).

Sidespeople, have an important role, since they are normally the first person anyone entering the church meets. They need to be well versed in the way each of our churches are run, welcoming, generous and hospitable. They need to be able to follow up and care for newcomers and to be trustworthy as they deal with important service administration.

If this is something your feel called to, please speak with Revd Steve.

Electoral Roll

It's time to update our Electoral Roll as we prepare for our annual meetings.

If you have joined one of our churches over the last year do ask for a form and sign onto the electoral roll. Being on the electoral roll means you have a say in how our churches are run and you are able to elect trustees. Even if you don't live in the parish, if you come at least once a month, please join. If you contribute time, money or care to any of our parishes, please do join. If you feel attached in any way to our churches please join. If you are not sure do speak to one of the clergy team.

Forms and return boxes will be in each church. We will also send the forms out by email later this month.

Regular events every week and Home Groups

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Mondays | Christian Meditation Group in Silchester
St Paul's Morning get together (9 th and 23 rd March) |
| Tuesdays | St Paul's Gardeners meet but taking a break until spring
Prayer Group meets at St Paul's, Tadley |
| Wednesdays | Worship at either St Luke's or St Mary's, Tadley at 10am
St Mary's café is open from 8.30am
The Wednesday Weeders meet outside St Mary's from 10am
Living Word the online homegroup meets |
| Thursdays | St Luke's Coffee Morning from 10am
Let's Pray! monthly prayer group (next date 26 th March)
Home Group meets at 7.30pm in Tadley |
| Fridays | Breakfast at St Mary's (next date 20 th March)
Oaks and Acorns meets at 10am in St Luke's
Tadley Men's Shed meets at St Mary's
Home Group meets at 4pm in Pamber Heath |

Worship this Month in our churches:

Date:	Services at St Paul's, Tadley – RG26 3PB
Sun 1 st	9am Holy Communion in Side Chapel (Steve) 10am Church on the Green Café Worship (Steve)
Sun 8 th	10am Messy Church (Steve & the Messy Church Team)
Sun 15 th	9am Holy Communion in the Side Chapel (Rob) 10am Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday (Rob)
Sun 22 nd	9am LEGO Church (Steve and the LEGO Church Team) 10am Church on the Green All Age Communion (Steve and Simon)

Date:	Services at St Luke's, Pamber Heath – RG26 3DX
Wed 4 th	10am Midweek Holy Communion (Cathy)
Wed 11 th	10am Midweek Morning Prayer (Myles)
Sun 15 th	11am Mothering Sunday Worship Together (Cathy and Linda)
Wed 18 th	10am Midweek Holy Communion (Linda)
Wed 25 th	10am Midweek Holy Communion (Cathy)

Date:	Services at St. Marys, Tadley – RG26 4HQ
Sun 1 st	10.30am Morning Worship (Chris and Lay Team)
Wed 4 th	10am Midweek Holy Communion (Steve)
Sun 8 th	10.30am Holy Communion (Karen)
Wed 11 th	10am Midweek Holy Communion (Chris)
Sun 15 th	9am RISE (Steve and the RISE Team) 10.30am Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday (Steve)
Wed 18 th	10am Midweek Holy Communion (Steve and Paddy)
Sun 22 nd	10.30am Holy Communion (TBC)
Wed 25 th	10am Midweek Holy Communion – the Annunciation (Chris and Rhoda)

Date:	Services at St Mary the Virgin, Silchester – RG7 2HH
Sun 1 st	8am BCP Holy Communion (Karen) 10am Holy Communion for All Ages (Karen)
Sun 8 th	10am Holy Communion (Cathy)
Sun 15 th	10am Thanksgiving for Mothering Sunday (Karen)
Sun 22 nd	10am Holy Communion (Karen) 11.30am Wedding Sunday Event (Karen)
Sun 29 th	9.30am Benefice Palm Sunday Walk (Karen, Steve, Chris, +Philip) 11am Benefice Palm Sunday (Karen, Steve, Chris, +Philip)



Benefice of Tadley, with Pamber Heath and Silchester

Please keep this booklet for reference and check for updates via email.

Like our Facebook pages:

@St.Marys.Tadley

@stpaulstadley

@silchesterchurch

or go to our websites:

<https://st-marys-church-tadley.org.uk/>

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

<https://www.silchesterchurch.co.uk/>