



The Church of Saint Paul Burton upon Trent



March 2026 Newsletter



CLERGY DETAILS

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OFFICERS

Churchwardens	Colin Dawson	Tel: 01283 516714
	John Woolley	Tel: 01283 532748
PCC Secretary	Maureen Woolley	Tel: 01284 532748
Treasurer	Mike Mear	Tel: 01283 544652
Electoral Roll Officer	Rose Jefferies	Tel: 07958 019284
Safeguarding Officer	Sue Ganley	Tel: 07852 473250
Hall Booking enquiries	John Woolley	Tel: 01283 532748
	Colin Dawson	Tel: 01283 516714

SERVICES

<u>St Paul's</u>	Sundays	10.45am	Sung Mass
	Thursdays	12 noon	Holy Communion
<u>St John</u> <u>the Divine</u>	Sundays	9.15am	Sung Mass
	Wednesdays	9.30am	Holy Communion

ST PAUL'S CHURCH IS OPEN 10.30am – 4.00pm MOST DAYS

For Baptisms and Weddings please contact the clergy

Fr Simon's day off is Friday

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4195/>

Donations for St Paul's Church will be gratefully accepted

Lloyds Bank

P C C St Paul's Burton Sort code 30-91-47 Account number 01542702

Contactless card reader situated near the south door

LENT & EASTER 2026

LENT GROUP

Topic : The book of Jonah
Wednesdays 10th, 17th, & 25th March,
at St Paul's Church Hall at 7.30pm



HOLY WEEK

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Monday 30th March at 12 noon

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Mass of the Last Supper, foot-washing, stripping of the altars and
vigil at St John's at 7.00pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday Liturgy at St Paul's at 2.00pm

EASTER EVE

Easter Ceremonies at St Paul's at 8.30pm

EASTER DAY

Easter Ceremonies at 10.45am



March 2026 for St Paul's Newsletter

When time allowed, it was excellent during the recent Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina in Italy to be able to settle down and watch the curling. Like a great number of people, I was 'swept' up (get it?) with this event - cheering on the Great Britain men's, women's and mixed doubles curling teams, as well as enjoying a couple of matches involving other nations'.

Curling provided an absorbing tactical contest – someone referred to it as 'like chess on ice' - great feel and dexterity by whoever was delivering the stone, the occasional lift in action when stones were more forcefully removed or realigned, and the deceptively hard work of the sweepers to guide the path of a stone.

The GB men came away with silver, when they'd had high hopes of taking the gold medal - it was hard to watch the disappointment on their faces at the medal ceremony. The women's team narrowly missed out on the top four, and the medal matches, while the mixed doubles lost in the bronze medal match, to end up in the fourth place so unwanted in sport, so near and yet so far.

What the vast majority of us watching would not have seen was the many hours of practice, travelling and other competitive action that the curlers would have gone through to get to this stage. Their quality play didn't happen out of nowhere or overnight. It was the result of a great deal of effort and sacrifice to develop the skills and mental resilience to compete as they did. Armchair curlers like me only see the fruition of all that formative work between one Olympic Games and the next.

Thinking about this chimed in with what I read in an online post by the Anglican priest, theologian and retreat leader Mark Clavier in his blog called 'Well-Tempered' (found at markclavier.substack.com).

In the first of a series of posts on being 'Formed for Faithfulness', Mark reflects on the situation of spiritual apathy that comes when a community no longer knows

what it's for and he considers the institutional fatigue being experienced by many Anglicans.

I'm one of them. I am not the biggest fan of the Church of England at present, with its internal rancour and polarisation. I'm tired. I'm feeling the weight of what seems like continuously turning the handle simply to 'keep church going'.

But I was encouraged by Mark's theme of recovering an Anglican way of life. He reminded me that I am still energised by the Anglican way of proceeding. One that doesn't rely on megabucks investment in the spectacular, the 'hot', or the high-profile.

He offers five 'guiding principles' – not a strategic blueprint or checklist. They struck a chord with me. I wonder what you make of them?

Firstly, the Anglican way is best understood as a '**formed way of life**'. It is a way that shapes us. Habit, ritual and shared practice cultivate in us attention, desire and imagination. Against today's culture of the high-speed, one-click immediacy, it is actually a strength that Anglicans travel at a deliberate pace, which should by no means be branded as being timid.

Secondly, **worship is our centre of gravity**. Common prayer is central. It shapes our devotion and focus over time, instead of through bright flashes of emotion or by the spectacular. Liturgy quietly moulds character and teaches habits of faith, says Mark, who adds: 'When worship is reduced to an experience or a spectacle, it loses the quiet, cumulative power that can shape communities deeply in the faith.'

Third, **story and imagination give coherence to belief and practice**. We're besieged by reports, strategies and statistics. But what about meaning? What about having the imagination that lets us to see our lives as part of a larger whole. He quotes the writer Antoine Saint-Exupéry: 'If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood... but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.'" The Anglican way similarly helps us develop a longing for the horizon toward which worship, prayer, and shared practice stretch us. That's how we find refreshment and renewal.

Fourth, **faith is formed in community**. Increasingly writers are highlighting a yearning for community today, rather than a privatised way of patching together the spiritual practices that we think will suit us as individuals. Instead, Mark says people grow through belonging to a parish, a people, a Body. Anglican life

flourishes when 'faith is shared, practices are held in common, and burdens are borne together'.

Finally, **renewal comes through steady faithfulness**. 'Anglicanism rarely aims to dazzle,' says Mark. Instead the lingering genius of Anglicanism is in 'patience, perseverance, and humane truthfulness', often shown in consistent attention to prayer, care and shared practice. In a noisy, brash, social media age of outrage and speedy judgmentalism, fidelity (that is, faithfulness and commitment) itself becomes a quiet act of resistance.

This article may come over as the groaning of some kind of crusty traditionalist. That's not my intention. I'm absolutely not a *traditionalist* in the 'we used to do it this way so let's just go back that' sense. But I do think *tradition* can be rightly seen as a dynamic way of learning from what has gone before and considering what it may teach us about finding the way forward.

As always, I'd love to hear your responses to this.

Fr Simon

PARISH NOTES

It was lovely to see Pat Dawson at church in February. We have missed her smiley face.	Please see the list of the Lent and Easter services.
The decorating in the church hall is coming on well. Still lots more to do. If you are available on a Thursday morning and would like to help please come along. You will be most welcome.	If you would like a copy of the STATIONS OF THE CROSS booklet, please see Maureen.
Happy 70 th birthday to our churchwardens Colin & John	



PANCAKE DAY

We had a very good turnout for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Coffee Morning. We all enjoyed the pancakes and many thanks to Colin for all his work – he cooked 76 -pancakes!!

Many thanks to Colin for his superb pancakes with a choice of delicious filling. He made 76 pancakes! Our next event is on Tuesday 10th March when we shall serve lunch at 12.00 noon. Not to be missed!



Our Crafts, Knit & Natter group decorated coasters and painted sun catchers. Thanks to Gill Bingham for bringing the materials. John & Maureen brought cake to celebrate their birthdays. Liz collected the many blankets crocheted by Sue S & Olwen to be taken to the wards for the elderly at Queen's Hospital.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 24th March at 10.00am. All are welcome.



FOR SALE....

Lilian Keen has knit these adorable Easter bunnies.

She is taking orders. Suggested donation £5.

PRAYER DIARY MARCH 2026

1	St David, bishop of Menevia and patron of Wales, c 601	The people of Wales
2	LENT 2 St Chad, bishop of Lichfield, 672	St Chad's parish
3	St Winwaloe	The crisis in Gaza
4	St Owen	Our government
5	St Piran	
6	St Fridolin	the deaf
7	St Easterwin	the staff of East Staffordshire Borough Council
8	St Edward, king and bishop of Lincoln	Pray for peace
9	LENT 3 Ss Perpetua, Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage 203	our own humanity
10	St Kessog	The crisis in Ukraine, and Russia
11	St Constantine	Our Lent lunches
12	St Alphege	The Lent Group
13	St Kennocha	Cost of living crisis
14	St Lubin	the people of the Middle East
15	LENT 4 MOTHERING SUNDAY St Magorian	For mothers
16	St Finian	those in the armed services
17	St Patrick, bishop and patron of Ireland, c 640	the people of Ireland
18	St Cyril of Jerusalem 386	

19	St Joseph	School governors
20	St Cuthbert	The lonely
21	St Benedict	The people in Libya
22	PASSION SUNDAY St Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr 1556	the unemployed
23	Walter Hilton of Thurgarton, Augustinian canon and mystic, 1396	USPG
24	St Hildalitha	Our Crafts, Knit & Natter group
25	St William	The church in the Holy Land
26	Harriet Mansell, founder of the community of St John the Baptist, 1883	For peace in the world
27	St Matthew of Beauvais	Our clergy
28	St Guntram	Carers
29	St Gundleus	The Soup Kitchen volunteers
30	St John	Our mothers, guardians, foster parents
31	John Donne, priest and poet, 1631 St Daniel	

**From the anniversary of death book we
remember in March**

Douglas Britton, Edmund Sharratt,
Margaret Sewell, Marj Staley, Harry
Haynes, Francis Jefferies, Daisy Beale, Mary
Calvin, Edith Jackson, Doris Sharpe, Norah
Lloyd Spicer, Paul Rogers, May Morris, Vera
Jefferies, Edith Clarke, Chris Hill

*Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot
be parted, either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your
eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Lord you are a present help in trouble.
Come revive
redeem
restore
In our darkness come as light
In our sadness come as joy
In our troubles come as strength
Come Lord to our aid
revive
redeem
restore us*

*O Lord
Open our eyes to your presence
open our minds to your grace
open our lips to your praise
open our hearts to your love
open our lives to your healing
and be among us

Amen*

A PRAYER FOR OUR DAILY SPIRITUAL NEEDS

O Lord God Almighty,
In your great love to us,
give us a Spirit of love to you and a compassionate heart to all in need.
In every difficulty, be our guide,
In testing times, be our defence.
In weakness, be our rest,
For your love's sake. Amen

PRAYER FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

*Thank you, Lord, for our mothers.
We remember today their loving care,
and their ceaseless love for us.
May we show them by our gifts,
our words and our actions
that we love them and care about them too.*

Taken from The Lion Prayer Collection



SUMMARY OF OUR PCC ON 19TH FEBRUARY

Fr Simon was unable to join us

- 1 Finance – Mike Mear reported that we had a surplus for the year but we still owed approximately £30,000 for the common fund
- 2 Hire of Hall – it was agreed that with the cost of fuel that the charges would increase to £20 per hour
- 3 Fabric – there are leaks in the north and south areas of the roof which have to be investigated
- 4 Safeguarding – we adopted the Domestic Abuse Policy. The congregation are invited to look on line for safeguarding information
- 5 A discussion was held on vulnerable adults
- 6 Two people have signed up on the Electoral Roll making a total of 31
- 7 Quiz Night on 9th May

Forthcoming Events

<p>LUNCHES in the Church Hall Tuesday 10th March 12 noon – 1.00pm</p>	<p>CRAFTS, KNIT & NATTER Tuesday 24th March in the Church Hall 10.00am</p>
<p>QUIZ NIGHT Saturday 9th May 7.30pm plenty of time to get a team together</p>	
<p>Easter Crafting A morning of Easter Crafting will be held from 10am to 12 noon on Tuesday 17th March at Red Lion House, Horninglow. Come along and make various Easter-themed items. Cost is £5, to include materials and refreshments. If you wish to join in, please call Jane Archer on 01283 902157 (Burton Vicarage) and if there is no reply leave a message.</p>	



The Woolleys stayed at Mick's house on Friday 27th February in Stratford to celebrate John and Mick's 70th birthday. The main course was a variety of curries followed by an enormous birthday cake made by Olena [Ukrainian house guest] which was delicious. There was still not enough room though to put all the candles on the cake!

On the Saturday Ali organised a trip to the Gordon Russell Design Museum near Broadway featuring beautifully designed and made arts and craft style furniture. Afterwards we had a delicious lunch at the Seagrave Arms, Chipping Campden.

Three members of our congregation are celebrating their 70th birthday this year, so here is a fun quiz of news and cost of living in 1956.

- Which actress legally married Rainier III, Prince of Monaco?**
A. Bette Davis B. Grace Kelly C. Lauren Bacall
- The first Eurovision Song Contest was broadcast in which country?**
A. Switzerland B. Austria C. Sweden
- Which country hosted the Winter Olympics?**
A. France B. Germany C. Italy
- Which country became a member of the United Nations in December?**
A. Jordan B. Japan C. Ceylon
- Deborah Kerr & Yul Brynner starred in which film?**
A. Carousel B. The King & I C. Kiss me Kate
- Who was the Prime Minister?**
A. Winston Churchill B. Harold Macmillan C. Anthony Eden
- What was the average cost of a pint of milk?**
A.. 5½d B. 6 ½ d C. 7 ½d

THE UNSHADED AREAS WILL SPELL OUT A LENT THEME

	E	N	I	V	I	D	Y	L	H	T	R	A	E
G	N	I	T	S	A	F	A	I	N	T	F	O	R
S	H	E	D	T	U	N	C	E	A	S	I	N	G
P	W	O	R	R	O	S	Q	P	I	L	L	O	W
I	R	A	E	P	P	A	R	U	O	I	V	A	S
R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	S	D
I	Y	D	A	G	L	A	D	N	E	S	S	O	N
T	E	M	P	T	E	D	E	D	I	S	H	R	U
B	E	A	S	T	S	R	E	F	F	U	S	E	O
	Y	S	D	E	R	E	T	S	I	N	I	M	R

- | | | | | |
|---------|--------------|---------|-----------|------------|
| APPEAR | FASTING | ROUND | SORROW | VANQUISHER |
| BEASTS | GLADNESS | SAVIOUR | SPIRIT | |
| DIVINE | MINISTERED | SHED | SUFFER | |
| EARTHLY | PILLOW | SIDE | TEMPTED | |
| FAINT | RESURRECTION | SORE | UNCEASING | |

Mike Mear has just done this jigsaw
of a stained glass window in Lichfield
Cathedral.
It is challenging!



Answers to quiz about Shrove Tuesday:

1. Absolution of sins
2. To use up fat and eggs before Lent begins
3. Fat Tuesday
4. 15 metres
5. Ash Wednesday
6. 140
7. Mob Football
8. When an aeroplane lands without its wheels
9. 1445
10. Rope skipping

The answer to the wordsearch was **CANDLEMAS**

**Thanks to all who have contributed to the
newsletter**

READERS ETC FOR MARCH 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayers</u>	<u>Offertory</u>
1st March Lent 2	Genesis 12.1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4.1-5,13-17 John 3.1-17	Valerie Cammack	Mike Mear	Olwen & Alan Sharpe
8th March Lent 3	Exodus 17.1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5.1-11 John 4.5-42	Mike Mear	John Woolley	Rose Jefferies
15th March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2.1-10 <i>or</i> 1 Samuel 1.20-28 Psalm 34.11-20 <i>or</i> Psalm 127.1-4 2 Corinthians 1.3-7 <i>or</i> Colossians 3.12-17 Luke 2.33-35 <i>or</i> John 19.25-27	Susan Monkhouse	Maureen Woolley	Svetlana
22nd March Lent 5 Passion Sunday	Ezekiel 37.1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8.6-11 John 11.1-45	Tom Foster	Colin Dawson	Lilian Keen
29th March Lent 6 Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50.4-9a Matthew 21.1-11 The Passion according to St Matthew	Sue Ganley	--	Alfredo
3rd April Good Friday	Isaiah 52.13-53.12 Psalm 22.1-21 Hebrews 10.16-75 The Passion according to St John	John Woolley	--	--
4th April Easter Eve		To be asked	--	To be asked
5th April Easter Day	Acts 10.34-43 Psalm 118.1-2,14-24 Colossians 3.1-4 John 20.1-18	Alison Woolley	Clergy	Sue Sweeney Valerie Cammack