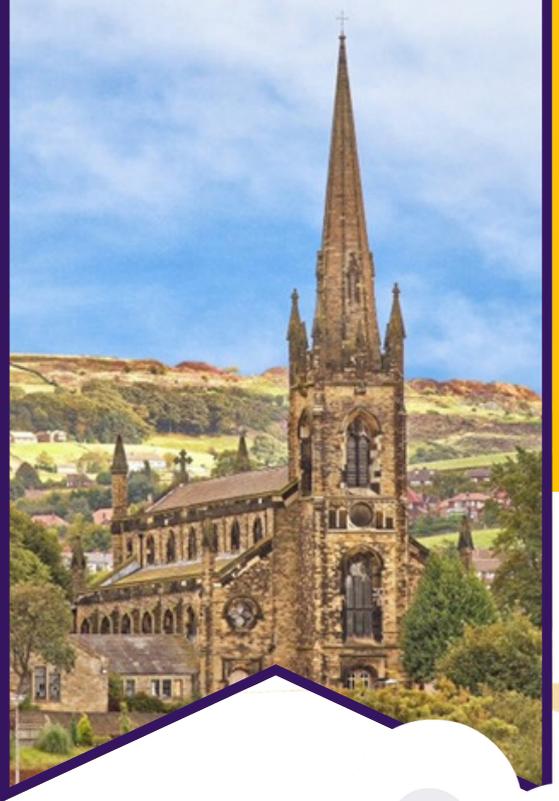


PARISH newsletter



MARCH 2026

**DRAW
NEAR**

**LIFE-GIVING
HABITS FOR
LENT**

MOTHERING SUNDAY 15 MARCH

10.30am | All Age Service with Uniformed Groups

PALM SUNDAY 29 MARCH

10.30am | Morning Service with Palm Procession and
Reading of the Passion

6.30pm | Evensong with the St Christopher Chorale Choir

HOLY WEEK 30-31 MARCH, 1 APRIL

Tuesday, 11.30am | Stations of the Cross WITH LENT LUNCH

Wednesday, 7pm | Compline

MAUNDY THURSDAY 2 APRIL

6pm | Agape meal with Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY 3 APRIL

(drop in between) 10.30am-12.30pm | Easter Craft Trail
(WITH REFRESHMENTS AND HOT CROSS BUNS)

2pm | Music and Reflections on the Crucifixion

HOLY SATURDAY 4 APRIL

8pm | Easter Fire - Service of Light

EASTER SUNDAY 5 APRIL

10.30am | Parish Communion

IN THIS ISSUE:

Reverend's
Reflections

Warden's
Warblings

Ramblings
from a Reader

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

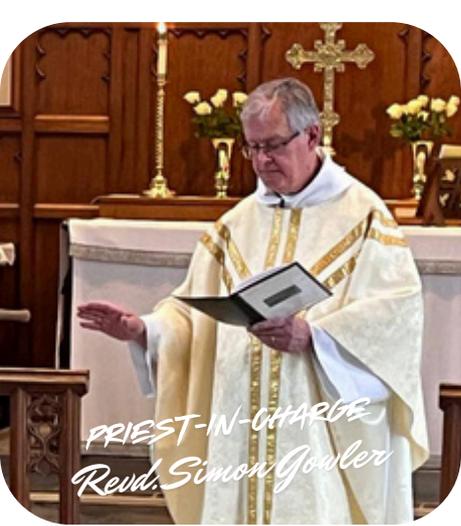
Roof Appeal &
Fundraising Update

Children & Young
People Events

Community Pages
... and much more

Issue 50p
(£5 per year)





As March arrives, we find ourselves in the midst of Lent – that familiar season which, for many of us, carries mixed feelings. Lent is often associated with discipline, self-denial, and the question we may

have already been asked more than once: “What are you giving up?”

Yet perhaps Lent offers us something richer and more hopeful than simply going without. Rather than focusing on what we remove from our lives, this season invites us to consider what we might make space for.

Life in our communities is often full and demanding. Our days are shaped by responsibilities, commitments, noise, and constant movement. Lent gently asks whether there might be room to pause, to notice, and to listen again – to God, to one another, and even to ourselves.

Making space might look different for each of us. For some, it may be as simple as a moment of stillness at the start or end of the day. For others, it may be choosing presence over distraction, kindness over hurry, prayer over habit.

REVEREND’S REFLECTIONS

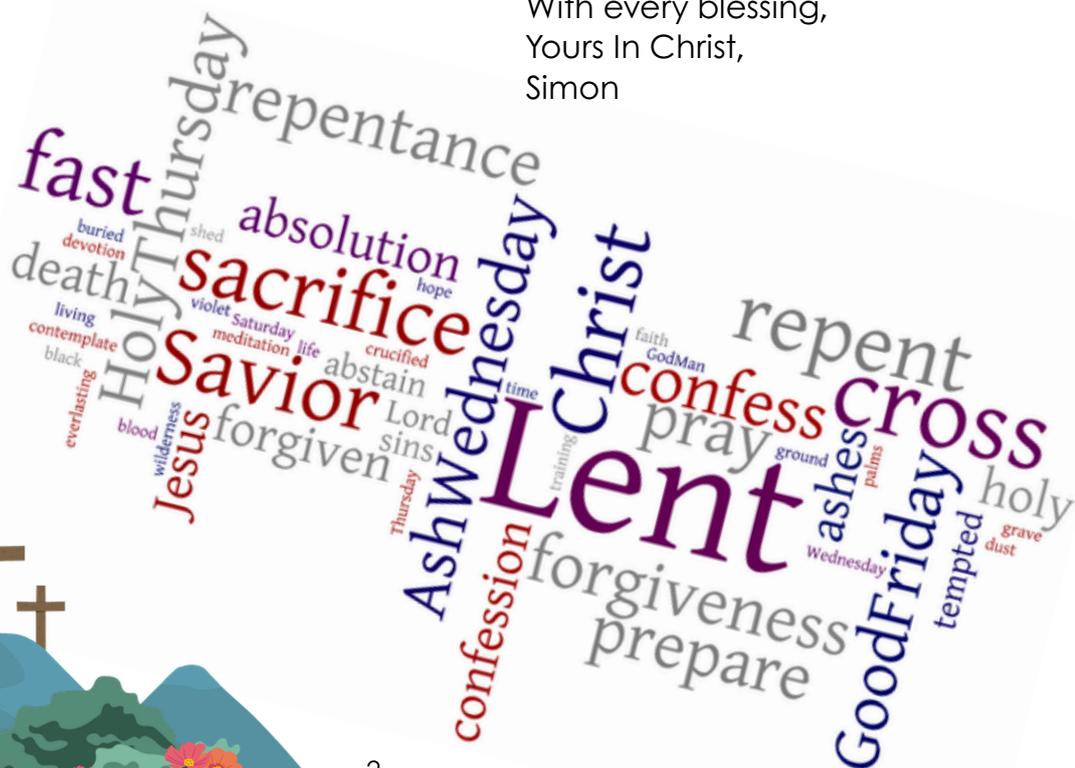
These are not grand gestures, but quiet, faithful ones – and Lent reminds us that God so often meets us in the ordinary and the unnoticed.

As we walk towards Holy Week, the story of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem unfolds slowly before us. It is not a story of haste, but of attentiveness – Jesus noticing people, responding to need, and remaining open to God’s will, even when the way ahead is uncertain. Lent gives us time to walk alongside him, not rushing ahead to Easter, but allowing ourselves to be shaped by the journey.

One way we will mark this together is through our Palm Sunday Evensong, on Sunday 29th March at 6.30pm, at St Paul’s when we are delighted to welcome again the St Christopher Chorale. This service offers a beautiful opportunity to pause at the gateway of Holy Week, to reflect through scripture, prayer, and cathedral quality music, and to make space for worship in a different rhythm from the busyness of daily life. I warmly encourage you to come, and to invite others who may find such a service helpful.

As we continue through Lent, my prayer is that this season will not feel like a burden, but a gift – a chance to create space where God’s grace can be noticed afresh, and where hope quietly takes root.

With every blessing,
Yours In Christ,
Simon



WHILE THE WARDENS ARE AWAY...

Canon Veronica took this photo during a service when the Warden's were having a Sunday off - letting them know that all was well at church!



STATIONS OF THE CROSS THIS LENT

The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion for many centuries because they enable us to engage in a way of following in the steps of Jesus on the way to the Cross.

They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points. Eventually, those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.

Here at St Paul's, we will lead quiet meditations following the Stations of the Cross, which are pictured around the walls of the church.

Afterwards we were treated to a simple charity Lent Lunch together in the Parish Centre. Do join us at 11.30am every Tuesday in Lent (24 February - 31 March) for this very worthwhile and refreshing Lenten exercise. For further information please phone the Parish Office on 01625 501773 or email emma@stpaulsmacc.org.





EVENSONG AT RAINOW

Some of our choir joined with the Knutsford Deanery choir for Choral Evensong at Rainow recently. A lovely and reflective service led by the choir and sermon by Vicar Simon followed by fabulous tea and cake in the church hall!



ST PAUL'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL SOUP LUNCH

We had a delicious soup lunch at the end of January. Donations from the lunch went towards the roof appeal.



CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Whilst in London recently, Matt, Nick and Ted caught up with Alastair Hale. Many of you will remember Alastair who moved on to pastures new in London a couple of years ago to take up a position at Church House. Matt, Nick and Ted had a sneak peak at the inside of Church House London too!

It was good to see Alastair and enjoy lunch with him and he sends his best regards to everyone at St Paul's. Alastair is now Churchwarden at his local church!



CONGRATULATIONS MARINA

Our wonderful Marina celebrated her 18th birthday recently with a party in the church hall with her friends.

It has been a pleasure to see you grow into the wonderful human being that you are Marina. We wish you all the very best in the next stages of your life's journey.



PUSS BANK CELEBRATE MACCLESFIELD FC

We thought these pictures were worth sharing with you. Puss Bank School celebrated the historic achievement of Macclesfield FC reaching the 4th round of the FA Cup recently with a Blue and White themed day at school.

They also created a fabulous picture of the FA Cup on the playground using the Key Stage 2 children!



FEBRUARY ALL AGE WORSHIP

At our recent all age worship service Wardens Nick and Matt talked to us about the story of creation and living in the image of God.

They also attempted a very quick art lesson in drawing trees as you can tell!

Here's the Poem from Bob Hartman's rhyming bible:

Creation

There was nothing, at first, there was nothing but God.
No planets, no mountains, no chickens, no cod.
Then God said the word, and like that, there was light!
The light he called Day and the dark he called Night.

And then God said, 'Water', and water there was,
The waters below, and the waters above.
And just like a canopy, way up on high,
The bright baby blue and the white cloudy sky.

And when God said, 'Gather', the waters below
Washed into seas with a tumbling flow,
And left behind dry land, the dark fertile earth,
Where flowers and trees and fruit came to birth.

God spoke into being the sun, stars and moon,
For morning and evening and night-time and noon.
Light for the darkness and light for the day
To mark off the seasons as years pass away.

'Now fill up the oceans,' said God, gurgling, 'Fish!'
And fin, tail and tentacle answered his wish.
And when He cried, 'Bird!' a sky full replied,
With a squawk and a swoop and a duck and a dive.

When God roared their names, the wild beasts appeared.
'Now, cattle,' said God. 'Now sheep to be sheared.
Now animals big. Now animals small.
Now creatures who slither and skitter and crawl.'

And then, with a smile, God said, 'Women and men.
Made in my image, made to be friends.
Made to make babies, sweet boys and girls.
Made to take care of my beautiful world.'

And when he had finished, as most artists should,
God looked at his work, and he said, 'It's all good!'
And when he had finished, as most artists do,
He rested. And then blessed that day of rest, too.



Mornings

Afternoons

Evenings

Mondays	10am Chair Yoga 11.30am Baby Signing		5.30pm Yoga
Tuesdays			6.30pm Brownies 7.45pm Guides
Wednesdays	9.15am Pilates 11am Mid-week Service (see dates below)	1.30pm Knit and Natter	6.00pm Beavers 7.30pm Cubs
Thursdays		12.30pm Lunch Club (2 nd & 4 th Thurs of the month) 2.15pm Macc Afternoon Choir	6.00pm Rainbows
Fridays	10.00am Toddler Group		7.30pm Scouts
Saturdays	9.30am-12noon Breakfast Café		



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FOLLOWING IN THE STEPS OF JESUS ON THE WAY TO THE CROSS

11.30am | Tuesdays 10, 17, 24 & 31 March

FOLLOWED BY LENT LUNCH IN THE PARISH CENTRE

Further info on page 3

MARCH

8 SUN	10.30am	Parish Communion with Revd Simon	3rd SUN OF LENT
15 SUN	10.30am	All Age Service with Uniformed Groups and Churchwardens	MOTHERING SUNDAY
18 Wed	11.00am	Mid-week Holy Communion Service with Revd Simon	
22 SUN	10.30am	Family Communion with Canon Veronica & Bev	4th SUN OF LENT
29 SUN	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service with Gospel of the Palms & Passion Evensong with the St Christopher Chorale Choir	PALM SUNDAY

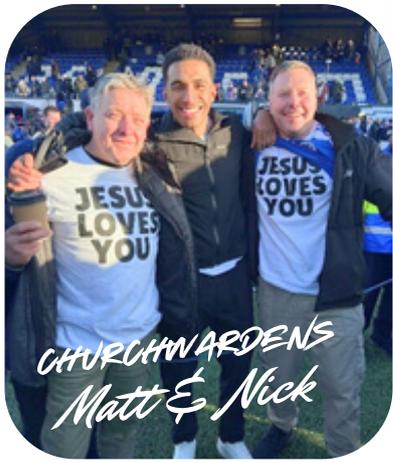
**FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES
AT ST PAUL'S AND RAINOW
SEE THE BACK PAGE**

ALL SERVICES ARE FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP



WARDEN'S WARBLINGS

Well, here we are in Lent. It doesn't seem five minutes since Christmas and Epiphany does it?!



It's been a busy February in differing ways through church business, our own jobs and of course football with Macclesfield FC!

Macclesfield played in the 4th Round of the FA Cup on 16th February and we were both happy as we had our tickets! Macclesfield more than matched their Premier League opponents and were sadly undone by an own goal. The team can hold their heads up high. There had been much media hype (and we both made a tv appearance again!) but one thing we saw in the media was the growing visual acts of faith involving some of the players praying together on the pitch before a game.

What has been interesting is that the group is growing and more players are getting involved. An open faith for all to see.

We have invited one of the Macclesfield FC players involved with this to come to talk to us and share some of their football and faith stories. We look forward to this.

We have both, and of course Ted as well, have just enjoyed a lovely few days in London in what has become an annual trip. We did the usual tourist things but also spent time relaxing and enjoying each other's company and good conversation, one night until 1:30am! In the busyness of life, taking time to step away from the busyness of life is important.

This Lent, we hope you can all take some time out of the busyness of life for yourselves but all to take time to think what God is asking you to do for him.

With love, Matt & Nick x

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY FAMILY COMMUNIONS

With help from our young people, Bev talked to us about to keep God and Church at the centre of our lives and not all the small bits of life that get in our way of being close to Jesus (demonstrated through cups full of irresistible confectionary!)



Then in February (who says you can't still have fun even though it's now the season of Lent?!) Bev helped to illustrate Matthew's Gospel story of Jesus in the wilderness.

Smartie tubes were gratefully distributed, with the promise that the sweets will be gradually replaced over the next 40 days and the emptied tubes will be returned on Easter Day full of 20ps or £1 coins in aid of our Roof Appeal.

Anyone is welcome to join us in this Lenten giving activity.

"Heavenly Father, your son battled with the powers of darkness and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord."



RAMBLINGS OF A READER



*'March wind doth blow
and we will have snow
and what will poor robin
do then poor thing he'll
sit in the barn and keep
himself warm and hide
his head under his wing
poor thing.'*

*'March winds and April
Showers bring forth pretty
May flowers'*

These were a couple of my Nans favourite quotes and as soon as March arrived and we had a windy day she would say the first. When I was little, I use to love the first and often thought about the Robin getting cold. As a teenager it was embarrassing, but at the age I am now I look back to my Nan and her country ways with great affection. She was the female stability in my young life and I loved her very much quotes and all.

As I write this we will soon be in March, I don't know if the March winds will blow but they probably will along with the April showers, as the winds have been blowing since the beginning of the year, and in some areas the rain has been falling continually. Unfortunately, with climate change these quotes aren't as true as when my Nan was a young girl living in the country side at the beginning of the 20th century.



I say this because our garden is full of flowers all year round, I look out of the front window and the two witch-hazels one red, one yellow, have been in flower since before Christmas.

The snowdrops have been flowering for at least a couple of months not to mention the daphne, primroses, hellebore, hyacinths, daffodils and lots of others.

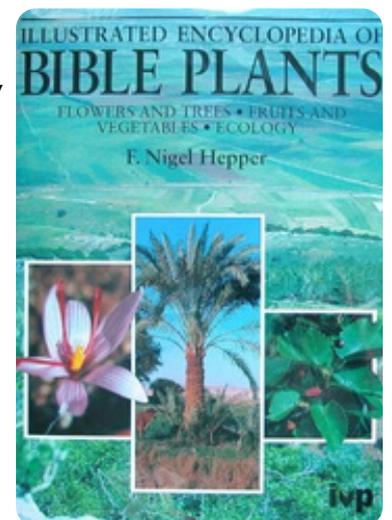
When we moved to Macclesfield in the late 70's, and house hunting, Peter was more interested in the size of the garden than what the house was like, and a couple of nice houses were rejected because the garden wasn't big enough. Having said that our garden has provided us with much fruit and veg over the years, as well as countless flowers, especially sweet peas.

I often say we live in a lovely part of Macclesfield, within a few minutes you can feel you are miles away from anywhere surrounded by trees the canal and hills.

When God created the world, he made it beautiful. Sadly we haven't always looked after it as we should have, but I wonder if I asked you to name a tree or flower or plant in the bible how many would you come up with?

I wouldn't be surprised if the first one was 'lily'. As in both Matthew and Luke, Jesus talks about the Lilies of the field. Lilies are also mentioned in the Old Testament Song of Songs. But there are many more trees and plants mentioned in the bible. What about the sycamore tree that Zacchaeus climbed? Ok it wasn't the sycamore trees we have in this country but the sycomore fig tree (no I haven't spelt it wrong, it's a different one to the one grown in this country) which is still grown in the Holy Land.

Now I could blind you with science about lots of bible plants because we have a book called 'Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Bible Plants', and I could bore you to death with lots of botanically named plants from the bible land, but i don't want you falling asleep, so I'll leave it to you for the next wet weekend to see how many you can find in your bible.



cont. →

One plant Peter did grow in the greenhouse was a passion flower. It was really beautiful and was supposedly named by monks in the 15/16th century. The reason for the name they gave was that it represented Christ's passion because it has:

- 3 stigmas which represents the 3 nails that Jesus bore
- 5 anther's which represents the 5 wounds that Jesus bore
- 5 petals and 5 sepals represent the 10 Faithfull apostles (excluding Judas and Peter who denied Jesus)
- The tendrils represent the whip used on Jesus
- The chalice shaped Ovary is seen as the Holy Grail
- The blue and white the colours of the flower symbolize purity and heaven.



Don't know how you feel about all that, but as I said before it is a beautiful flower. Unfortunately in our garden even in the greenhouse, the cold got to it and it didn't survive long.

Adam and Eve started life in a beautiful garden, so don't ignore what is around you.

You may have a massive garden. You may have a window box, a patch of wild flowers, or weeds as Peter calls them!, but God created them for our enjoyment and our wellbeing, so take time to stop and smell the roses and give thanks to our 'wonderful world', hum that's a good title for a song!!

Fran

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

FUNERALS

20 February *Merfyn Williams*
(Macclesfield Crematorium)

27 February *Carol Davies*

BURIAL OF ASHES IN THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

13 February *Philip Englehard*



BRITISH SUMMER TIME CLOCKS CHANGE

Don't forget the clocks go forward by one hour at 1am on Sunday 29 March



BOOK EXCHANGE STALL

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

We appreciate donations of books for all ages - including children's books. Please can we ask that books are in good condition.

Also could we ask that if you bring books and the two baskets are full on the table, 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.





The roof appeal
fund total is:
£51,539.99
(end January 2026)

'First phase' of the project:

- 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

Vicar Simon, Matt and Nick 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.*
- Arrange for Quinquennial Inspection to take place to aid the study. *This took place on 25th November 2025.*
- 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 an example study then please do ask and we will ne 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 it's 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.

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.

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

cont. →



To be transparent as we always want to be, here is an updated timeline of activity for the roof appeal project.

It is important, that as stakeholders in the project, you know what is being done and when so that you can see the project is moving behind the scenes.

We are a long way off seeing physical progress at this point.

St Paul's Macclesfield — Reroof, refurb, revitalize project.

February – March 2026

- Feasibility study to be completed – including measured survey – additional £1,100. 2-3 weeks on site then 3 weeks writing up.
- Completion of a project brief – Wardens & Vicar with PCC approval. – Mid Feb 25.
- PCC members to complete an exercise of what is important from the refurb project – extend this to wider congregation and users? Wish list exercise.
- External users to be contacted to see what types of spaces they would like to see in the refurb project.

April 2026

- Feasibility study outcomes and project design options to be made available to PCC for discussion and wider discussion.

May 2026

- Proposal of work and project options to be discussed and development of these ideas and final project plans to be agreed.

June – July 2026

- Arrange DAC visit to church and present project ideas and gain feedback.

August 2026 – December 2026

- Scope out grant funding available.
- Possible further refinement on project final outcome and DAC conversation.
- Expression of interest for project funding to be submitted to National Lottery by December 2026.

Meeting with architect every 6 weeks to maintain project momentum.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS COMING UP

Night at the Dogs with Fish and Chip Supper | 25 April | 6pm

Hymns & Pimms | 4 July | 4-6pm

Beetle Drive with Spearing's pie, peas, mash | 17 October | 6pm

Christmas Fair | 28 November | 10.30am-12.30pm



ROOF APPEAL GIVING

Here is the link to donate online for the roof appeal: [Roof Appeal Campaign](#)

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 (email: emma@stpaulsmacc.org or tel: 01625 501773).

Thank you for your support.



You can also donate by scanning the QR code



Here are a few important dates for your diary. Get them written in and the dates saved!

St Christopher Choral
back at St Paul's
Sunday 29 March | 6:30pm
Choral Evensong

Confirmation with Bishop Mark
(Bishop of Chester)
Sunday 14 June | 4pm

Flower Sermons
Sunday 21 June | 9:30am Parade
followed by outdoor service at
10:30am

MESSAGE RECEIVED!

Thank you very much for the warm welcome in Church this morning. It was a beautiful service, and I look forward to coming back to St Paul's soon.

(banns of marriage couple)

Well done,

Your Parish News is absolutely brilliant!

(local funeral director)

It's a wonderful 'newsy' newsletter and I don't know who edits it but congratulations to whoever does so. I wish we had someone who could produce something like that in my church here in Swansea!

(postal newsletter reader)

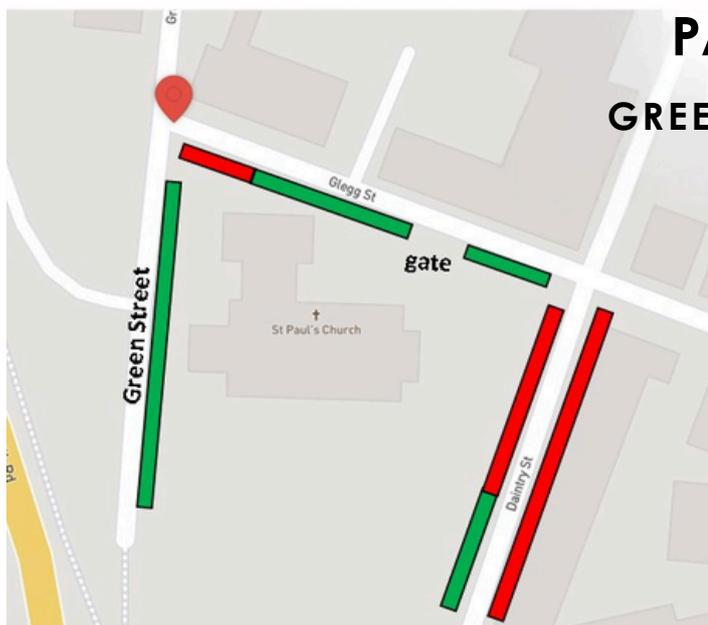
CONFIRMATION SERVICE

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.



PARKING AROUND CHURCH

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.

Wholehearted is a brand-new digital magazine created to inspire generosity across the Diocese of Chester. It launched on Valentine's Day 2026, a few days before Lent ... the perfect time to start talking about what it means to live and give with love.

[WHOLEHEARTED | PDF ISSUE 1](#) click on this link if you'd like to read the full first issue.
If you would like the office to print a copy for you, please ask.

TO TITHE OR NOT TO TITHE? That's the question! WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF BIBLICAL TEACHING ON GIVING 10% OF OUR EARNINGS?

THREE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES - WHAT'S YOURS?

Matthew Swires-Hennesey, St George's Church, Poynton

In response to the generosity of God, we are called to be generous people... not to get God's attention, not to earn a place in heaven, but to live out our faith.

There is no set amount each Christian is called to give – like a monthly subscription to Netflix or a membership fee! Paul in Corinthians (2 Cor 9:7) speaks of each person deciding in their heart. However, the widow's small coins episode from Luke 21 suggests it should be generous enough for us to notice.

Whilst the Old Testament principle of tithing, is not explicitly picked up as teaching in the New Testament, it is probable that those from a Jewish background continued tithing. Jesus, in his rebuke of the Pharisees for missing the important big themes of the law, does encourage the keeping of the principle (Mt 23:23).

So, should we tithe? It is certainly not a bad idea to work out what we spend our money on – perhaps you could make a pie chart?

Giving generously means looking towards a tithe and asking if we can be more generous! But this is not a hard and inflexible rule – perhaps you are just starting out in life, perhaps you are just starting out in the Christian life.

When can we be generous – with our time, our talents, our money? Might we be a people who are shaped by generosity, who bless those around us as we have known God's blessing and provision.

John Hellewell, St. James, Thornton-le-Moors with Ince and Elton

As a follower of Jesus, my goal is to be with him, become more like him and do the things that he did. That goes for every part of life, including how I use my time and financial resources.

Tithing is an Old Testament requirement, one that Jesus no doubt practiced as a good Jew. However, in his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warned us not to give in order to show others how 'good' we are (Matthew 6.1 – 4). He also said how hard it was for rich people to enter the Kingdom (Matthew 19.23 – 24), warning that we cannot serve both God and money – we have to choose (Matthew 6.24). And that choice highlights where we put our trust – in this world (money) or in God. We are told that God provides for our needs (Matthew 6.25ff.). Do we believe that?

Worrying about whether we give 10% seems to miss the mark. We should be concerned about how we use all our money. Some of it we clearly need to live. The rest? How we decide to use it perhaps shows where our allegiance lies. Do we use it to bless others, or for ourselves?

A regular review of how I use my money (and other resources) hopefully means I keep better in step with Jesus. Sometimes I give more, and sometimes less.

John Wesley said Gain all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can. I suspect I am better at the first two and rather less successful at the third!

Name Withheld



Tithing is a thorny topic – giving 10% of one's income to the church. I tithe now but admit that I've not always done so. With a regular income it is easier to make that commitment, whereas historically for a period I had a very low income with a lot of responsibility, and at another time a variable income being self-employed.

I am aware of God's generosity in my life. When I became self-employed, I was starting out on a precarious financial journey. I trusted God to provide, regularly seeking inspiration from the painting in the Sistine Chapel painted by Michelangelo of God reaching out to Adam. Some years later, when finding a lump and being diagnosed with breast cancer it was my faith that carried me through.

What held me back from tithing in the past? Was it about trusting God - if I gave 10% of my income to church would I still be able to have a reasonable lifestyle? I don't regret my decision to tithe – I have all that I need and don't feel I go without because I have reduced my resources. I wish I had had more courage in the past to make the decision to tithe.

Each of us has a different journey through life with its various ups and downs, and I acknowledge tithing is not always possible. I thank God for walking alongside me and supporting me on my journey, and in gratitude I give back to a generous God.



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

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 the Lead Volunteer and Co-ordinator. David can be phoned or text on 07887 931574.

Our Saturday Café is a designated 'Warm Space' and registered with Cheshire East Council.

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 ONLINE TOO! The number of subscribers and 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 THE LATEST SERVICES IN THE 'VIDEOS' SECTION

25 Jan | St Paul's Patronal Festival
Family Communion
Click here to watch

1 Feb | Candlemas: Parish Communion
Click here to watch

8 Feb | 2nd Sun before Lent: All Age Worship
Click here to watch

15 Feb | Sunday before Lent:
Parish Communion
Click here to watch

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

Creative Card Making

Weekly Craft Session



The Hope Centre, 16-18 Park Green, SK11 7NA
Venue is upstairs, chairlift available for accessibility



Get creative together whilst making new friends and having fun



Free to attend, includes one free mug of tea or coffee



TUESDAYS 10:30AM - 12NOON

Starting 17th Feb

Donations for materials welcome.

ANYONE IN SCHOOL YEARS 6 TO 13. WE HAVE YOUNG PEOPLE JOIN US FROM MACCLESFIELD AND BEYOND!

JUST SHOW UP ON THE NIGHT OR EMAIL JARED, HTH YOUTH MINISTER, AT JARED@HTHMACC.COM

AMPLIFIED

AMPLIFIED is a gathering of young people from churches in and around Macclesfield.

We meet together 5 times a year, to worship, to pray with each other and to learn more about Jesus as we grow in our faith together.

We love to empower young leaders and to see young people sharing their stories of God at work in their lives.

7 June - HTH
20 September - Silklife
22 November - HTH

To find out more, check out our instagram: @maccamplified.



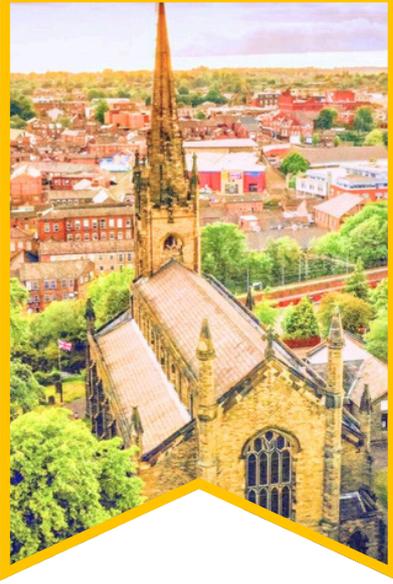
BUILDINGS UPDATE

We are still awaiting repair work to be done on the slates following the storm in November. We have been chasing the scaffold company for a price and have struggled to get commitment so far. We will continue to chase this and look to get the work done

We continue to monitor the plaster work across the church on a weekly basis.

The Quinquennial inspection of the church was completed on 25th November and we have the full report to digest. On a brief glance, there are no surprises with what was found!

Repairs to the worn away tarmac have been completed on the Glegg Street gate (Thank you Nick!).



We have the Archdeacon's visitation coming up this month and various aspects of the church and church life will be discussed, including looking at the log book for maintenance. We will both be working as this is taking place during the day but we are sure that Vicar Simon and others will be able to answer any questions.

One of the trees in the churchyard came down in a recent storm and unfortunately fell onto a local residents car damaging the windscreen and front of the car. This is the council's responsibility and Joan has liaised with the council to get all the trees checked.

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.

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 (like this one) 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!!



Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

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easyfundraising

Help us make a difference when you shop. Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



1 Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk

2 Sign up and search for us

3 Your favourite brands donate to us whenever you shop with them

Shop with 8,000+ brands including:



UKRAINE AID

Do you have any old bandages, pads, wipes, old medical equipment, which can't be returned etc, lying about?



If so, please bring them to church and pass on to David Furphy who will arrange for these to go to One Project Macclesfield, the charity supporting Ukraine. Thank you.

QUIZ AND CURRY NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Quiz & Curry night such a brilliant success, especially Lou Mottershead who set fiendishly tricky questions, Malcolm, Barbara and Ann who prepared such delicious food, Nick who expertly compered the whole evening and Ted who graciously oversaw the excellent raffle draw, not forgetting the willing team of other volunteers who set up and cleared away the tables and did the washing up!

Some of us realised how little general knowledge we actually knew and (shamefully) how many simple facts about the town where we live seemed to have escaped our memories!?!

Yet another fantastic night of fun as well as fundraising was enjoyed by friends old and new from across our two church communities!



Please let us have any info or news for our **APRIL ISSUE** by **15th March**. To the Parish Office or emma@stpaulsmacc.org

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 9am-1pm

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](https://twitter.com/StPaulsMacc)

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



Holy Trinity, Rainow with Saltersford and Forest
St Paul's, Macclesfield



EASTER

ST PAUL'S

RAINOW

Holy Week Monday 30 MARCH

7pm

Compline

Holy Week Tuesday 31 MARCH

11.30am Stations of the Cross
WITH LENT LUNCH

7.30pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Week Wednesday 1 APRIL

7pm Compline

MAUNDY THURSDAY 2 APRIL

6pm Agape meal with Holy Communion

11.30am Holy Communion with stripping of the Altar
WITH LENT LUNCH

GOOD FRIDAY 3 APRIL

10.30am-12.30pm Family Easter Craft Trail
WITH REFRESHMENTS/HOT CROSS BUNS

10am Messy Church with creation of Easter Garden
WITH REFRESHMENTS

2pm Music and Reflections on the Crucifixion

8.30pm Kerridge Cross Service
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS/HOT CROSS BUNS IN THE CENTRE

EASTER SATURDAY 4 APRIL

8pm Service of Light *EASTER FIRE*

EASTER SUNDAY 5 APRIL

RAINOW	10am	Holy Communion
ST PAUL'S	10.30am	Parish Communion
FOREST CHAPEL (St Stephen's)	12.30pm	Prayer Book Communion
JENKIN CHAPEL (St John's)	3pm	Prayer Book Communion

LIFE-GIVING HABITS FOR LENT