



# The Church of Saint Paul Burton upon Trent



## April 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

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

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# HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 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





## **April 2026 for St Paul's Newsletter**

I'm starting to think I'd love to be able to withdraw from online social media.

Having watched the Installation of the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mullally, I held my breath before venturing online to see what some of the early opinions might be of the service and of the arrival of the first woman Archbishop of Canterbury. I held my breath because I suspected there would be a fair amount of vitriol being thrown about. There was some, but not as much as I'd expected. Perhaps some opponents of having a woman in the role had worn themselves out venting their spleen online in the previous six months since Dame Sarah was announced as Archbishop.

I respect that people hold differing opinions on the matter, and many such opinions, on differing sides, have been voiced calmly and reasonably. It also has been fairly easy to scroll past the unreasonable, furious, kneejerk responses. As it is easy to scroll past a lot on certain social media channels – and therein perhaps is the issue.

Later on, while doing some important study reading, I was finding it hard to concentrate for a sustained spell. I was already aware of the evidence that our attention spans have been shortening in the accelerating online age. It has been written that the average attention span now is just five minutes; ten years previously it was 12 minutes. Life has 'speeded up', we are increasingly impatient.

In one study, students asked to give up social media and the internet for 24 hours reported symptoms including 'phantom vibrations' (reaching for a phone that wasn't there), fidgeting and restlessness.

More than once when I was studying, I started to reach for my phone without realising. Which made me wonder how much my own changing mental processes are being affected by engagement with social media – reading, scrolling, ‘liking’, commenting.

This was in the week that a jury in Los Angeles handed down an unprecedented win for a young woman who sued Meta (who run Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp) and YouTube over her childhood addiction to social media.

Jurors found that Meta and Google (the owner of YouTube) intentionally built addictive social media platforms that harmed the mental health of the woman, now 20 years old. She was awarded \$6 million (£4.5 million) in damages. This result is expected to have implications for hundreds of similar cases currently in American courts.

Meta and Google, who disagreed with the verdict, intend to appeal.

Ensuring engagement is the big target for big tech. The global platforms want to keep huge numbers of people online for as long as possible, and coming back as often as possible, so that they can be targeted with vast amounts of advertising, which is how the mega-corporations make money.

It was also announced in the same week that the UK government is leading on a trial that will include social media bans, digital curfews and time limits on apps in the homes of hundreds of British teenagers. According to the BBC, 300 teens will have their social apps disabled entirely, blocked overnight or capped to one hour's use - with some young people also seeing no such changes at all - to compare their experiences.

The trial will run alongside the government's consultation on whether the UK should follow Australia by making it illegal for under-16s to have access to many social media sites.

I withdrew from X, formerly Twitter, in August 2024 because I felt the sheer volume of poisonous comment and misinformation encountered there was not good for my mental well-being.

But I have maintained use of a few other channels. One because it is the primary place for communication for a community of Anglo-Catholic priests of

which I am part; another because it is a good way to keep in touch with friends and with groups related to ministry.

As clergy and churches, we have been encouraged strongly by dioceses and the national church for years now to make sure we have an online presence - sharing details of our activities (from saying Morning Prayer to coffee mornings), encouraging dialogue and sharing faith. Recently there has been lots of coverage about the 'TikTok vicars' who regularly post on that platform about their activities, even enabling the distribution of many hundreds of Bibles.

And there is a strong case to be made that the Christian gospel of love, mercy and compassion needs to be shared wherever people 'gather', so much of which is online now; for goodness to be highlighted right where it's needed – right in the midst of conflict and hostility.

Yet... I do wonder whether my capacity for attention to what really matters is being lessened. And, as well as the hundreds of teenagers in the government study, whether I too need to think more about a better application of a digital curfew and a limit to time spent on various apps.

Time for a digital detox, perhaps. Because I sense this might not only improve my own mental well-being, it might also be a way of engaging with the world better.

Our life is high-tech – and there are many upsides to this. But it is also low-contact and low-touch – social media has become the primary forum for interaction, rather than being face-to-face, literally within touching distance of one another.

And we are people of the Incarnation. We walk the way of Jesus Christ - God dwelling in the world in flesh and blood, and so very present in our sacramental life – in baptism, Eucharist, anointing for healing, marriage – which affirms our embodied-ness and face-to-face interaction.

*Fr Simon*

## PARISH NOTES

<p>Standing Committee meeting on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 12.45pm</p>	<p>If you would like an offertory envelope please see Mike Mear</p>
<p>The church hall kitchen is undergoing a refurbishment which will restrict some activities. The small team of workers are working hard to decorate the kitchen and empty cupboards etc in readiness of fitting replacement units.</p>	
<p>There will be a team of visiting bellringers ringing the bells on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April in the afternoon.</p>	<p>If you would like to contribute towards Easter flowers please see Sue Ganley. Thanks.</p>
<p><b>Preliminary notice</b> : The Annual General Meeting is fixed for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May. We shall have an earlier Mass that day {9.30am} followed by the meeting. Please come to the meeting – it is your chance to elect churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives and PCC. Also the treasurer will present the accounts.</p>	<p>Fr Simon has kindly offered to organise a <b>QUIZ NIGHT</b> on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. More details later</p> <p>There is plenty of time to get your team organised. Please support this if you can. Should be fun!</p>

## MOTHERING SUNDAY



Fr Phillip blessed these beautiful posies at the offertory and were given to members of the congregation. Thanks to Sue G for making the posies.

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## CRAFTS, KNIT & NATTER



Decorating these beautiful eggs were the topic of the last crafts session. Many thanks to Gill Bingham for providing the materials.

We were really disappointed to see Gill Bingham at Dawson at the session after not attending for a while due to her being “under the weather”.

We were a few members down this time due to illness. Unfortunately Davina has been in hospital having had her lower leg amputated and Janet Brearley has had a fall and broken her fibula. We wish them both a speedy recovery and hope that they will be able to join us soon.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00am. Come for a chat, crafts, crocheting, knitting or whatever. All are welcome.

## **LUNCH –**

Lunch was served – jacket potatoes and the “works” by Colin. Grateful thanks to him for his hard work and thanks to Sue & Pat for washing up. Thanks to all who supported the event, we had a good turnout.

## **“TAKE & BREAK”!**

This is a new initiative whilst the kitchen is being refurbished. We are having tea, coffee, biscuits, toast and preserves. This is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00am. Please support this if you can.

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## **TUTBURY DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FROM FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING**

St Modwen's Church in the market place played host to the first deanery synod meeting of 2026 and we were warmly welcomed by the Rural Dean of Tutbury, Rev Dr Robin Trotter who led us in an opening prayer asking for God's guidance on our deliberations.

We were unfortunately rather thin on the ground this evening with many synod members unable to attend including the Lay Co-chair of Tutbury Deanery, Dr Doug Brown who was unwell.

Apologies were notified and the minutes of the last 2 deanery synod meetings were read and accepted; there were no matters arising.

We have a House of Clergy vacancy on the deanery standing committee and volunteers are being sought !

### **Main agenda item: Church Commissioners investments in armaments.**

This was presented by Cathy Lee (our synod secretary) and concerned discussions around the recent proposed moves by the Church Commissioners (Church of England's national governance body) to review the current arrangements for investments in the armaments industry and the ever-changing global security issues associated with it. A brief explanation was given as to the extent of the current investments and how our ability to meet Common Fund requirements was directly affected by the effect of any financial gains accruing.

The armaments industry currently represents 10% of Church Commissioners investments with stringent ethical requirements and stipulations that exclude any interactions with oppressive regimes globally and with an emphasis on NATO operations and UK defence needs including equipment and personnel.

It was noted that some of the proposed alterations to the current Church Commissioners' applications may 'blur the lines' and make some ethical thinking less distinguishable.

As a synod we were asked to consider that as Christians, are we comfortable with this present state of affairs?

Questions were taken from the floor with one particular reference to funding United Nations 'Blue Helmet' peace keeping operations and synod agreed to seek further clarification from the diocesan bishop and assistants before the matter proceeds through the diocesan and general synods.

### **Treasurers' Report**

Problems are being experienced with the Nat West Bank and the treasurer is working to resolve the various issues occurring.

Deanery Standing Committee: nothing to report.

Diocesan Synod: Report available soon.

General Synod: Viewings of February 2026 gathering are available on U Tube.

### **Pastoral Matters**

Current vacancies:-

Hanbury, Draycott, Rangemore, Newborough

Anslow, Rolleston, Tutbury

St Chad's/St Mary's, Stretton.(St Chad's has a new churchwarden).

Newly retired clergy moving into our area: Rev Paul Lackham (Stretton), Rev Trevor Smith (Shobnall), Rev Stuart Jones (Rangemore).

### **Archdeacon's Parish Visitation**

The archdeacon (Rev Megan Smith) has asked rural deans to undertake visits where an incumbent is in situ; rural dean and the lay co-chair will arrange.

### **Common Fund update**

Overall giving good but some parishes are struggling to meet commitments and are currently in special measures.

## **Lichfield Diocesan Strategy Report**

Phil Coleman (St Michael and All Angels, Tatenhill) gave synod an update and insight as to the latest moves across the diocese to broaden the appeal of the Church of England in the parishes they serve and several interesting initiatives are being worked on.

The Strategic Board of the Church Commissioners are expected to invite applications for a share of a £940k fund available to parishes with specific needs.

Under the auspices of the Lichfield Diocesan Seeking the Kingdom strategy there will be a drive to increase congregations and build up the level of ministry and this will have 3 broad strands:-

- Feeding Faith: Engaging with communities
- Support for the ministry
- Building up our parishes and communities

Much work has to be undertaken to achieve the above and we will need to assess how best we can use our buildings and resources to this end; there are many issues regarding approaches to the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Shaping for Mission: Emphasis on civil and ecclesiastical parishes working together.

Midweek worship: several Tutbury Deanery churches are experimenting with a reasonable degree of success in reaching people.

The rural dean thanked Cathy and Phil for their contributions and all synod members for their attendance and the meeting closed with The Grace (2 Corinthians 13 v 14).

Next meeting: June at St Mary's, Dunstall.

Tom Foster

## PRAYER DIARY – APRIL 2026

1	St Cellach	The Middle East crisis
2	MAUNDY THURSDAY St Appua	Thanksgiving for the Eucharist
3	GOOD FRIDAY St Irene	The mystery of the Cross
4	EASTER EVE St Ethelburga	
5	EASTER DAY Martin Luther King 1968	For new life
6	Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran pastor and martyr 1945	Our Armed Forces
7	St Goran	The unemployed
8	St Perpetuus	USPG
9	St Hedda	For peace in the world
10	St Malchus	music to the glory of God
11	William Law writer 1761	Staff at Queens Hospital Burton
12	EASTER 2 George Augustus Selwyn first bishop of New Zealand 1878	Carers
13	St Antipas	Those in despair
14	St Damian	People recovering from natural disasters
15	St Maximus	those at war
16	St Bernadette 1879	Those who are dependent on drugs
17	St Elias	The people of Ukraine
18		The mystery of the cross
19	EASTER 3 St Alphege archbishop of Canterbury and martyr 1012	
20		Our government
21	St Anselm	those in grief
22	St Alexander	translators of scripture

23	St George martyr and patron of England c 304	Our Standing Committee
24	St Egbert	Our churchwardens
25	St Mellitus first bishop London 624	Our organists
26	EASTER 4 St Mark evangelist	Those who risk their lives providing supplies to war torn countries
27	Christina Rossetti 1874	Poets
28	Peter Chanel missionary and martyr 1841	The Salvation Army
29	St Catherine of Siena 1380	The homeless
30	Pandita Mary Ramabai 1922	residents in Amber House & Charlotte James Nursing Home

<p><b>From the anniversary of death book we remember during April</b></p> <p>Peter Smith, Phyl Griffin, Margaret Wright, Billy Fitzgerald, Bill Welch, Joan Phillips, Phyllis Riley, Kenneth Margerrison, Thomas Gulliver, Gweneth Leeson, Mildred Ward, Doris Fitzjohn, Leslie Sewell, Olive Evanson</p>	<p><i>Heavenly Father, into whose hands your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, commended his Spirit at his last hour, into those same hands we commend all those in our hearts today. May they find eternal fellowship with you.</i></p>
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## MEDITATION ON THE CROSS

Lord Jesus,  
 who stretched out your arms of love  
 on the hard wood of the cross,  
 that all might come within the reach  
 of your saving embrace,  
 clothe us in your spirit,  
 that we, stretching out our hands  
 in loving labour for others,  
 may bring those who know you not,  
 to knowledge and love of you,  
 who with the Father and the Holy Spirit

## THANKSGIVING FOR CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

Blessed be the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
By his great mercy,  
we have been born anew to a living hope  
through the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ from the dead.  
We have an inheritance  
which is imperishable,  
undefiled, unfading and  
kept in heaven for us.

*Taken from A Tapestry of Daily Prayer*

*Lord, when I have nothing;  
Help me to give even what I do not have.  
Lord, when I feel nothing;  
Help me not to be jealous, that You may use me to touch others' hearts.  
Lord, when I am weary;  
Help me to remember that You have been weary, too.  
Lord, when I need refreshing,  
Help me to refresh others and to forget about my own needs.  
Lord, when I can't see the way ahead,  
Help me not to get in the way of those who can.  
Lord, when I am disappointed,  
Help me not to bring disappointment to others.  
Lord, when I have no one to help me,  
Help me to trust in You.  
Lord, when I can't see You, yet You see me –  
Help me to remember that.  
Lord, though I am not worthy to receive You,  
Only say the word and I shall be healed.*

Hugh Barney. Celtic Monk.  
**Taken from Prayers for Today**

## Forthcoming Events

<p><b>"TAKE A BREAK!" in the Church Hall Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am - 12.00 noon</b></p>	<p><b>CRAFTS, KNIT &amp; NATTER Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April in the Church Hall 10.00am</b></p>
<p><b>QUIZ NIGHT Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm plenty of time to get a team together  more details later in the month</b></p>	
<p><b>LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITALS at St Modwen's Church Wednesdays in June &amp; July more details later</b></p>	

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## ANSWER TO WORDSEARCH : FORTY DAYS

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### Answers to quiz about flowers of Lent:

1. Daffodil
2. Hellebore
3. Snowdrop
4. Flowers
5. Mothering Sunday (4th Sunday)
6. Hyacinth
7. Violet



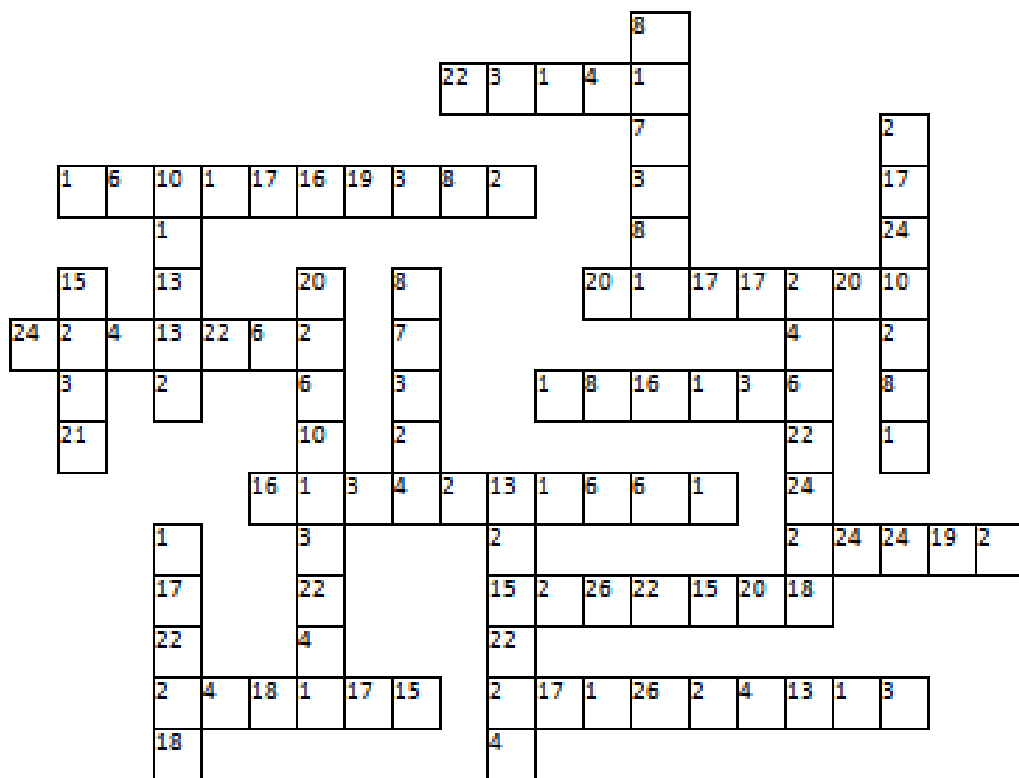
**Thanks to all who have  
contributed to the newsletter**

### Easter Trivia Quiz – answers will be given next month:

1. How many Easter eggs are bought and consumed in the Uk each year?
2. When was the first Easter egg created?

3. Which country does Easter Island belong to?
4. How many eggs have gone into the world's largest omelette?
5. What goes on top of a simnel cake?
6. Who is always late in Alice in Wonderland?
7. Judy Garland and Fred Astaire starred in which 1948 springtime film?
8. "It's not Terry's, it's mine" is the advertising slogan for which chocolate treat?
9. Who owns the factory in Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the chocolate factory'?
10. 'How do you eat yours?' was the famous advertising slogan for what?
11. Which egg-shaped candy treat is banned in the United States?
12. Bournville is home to which famous chocolate factory?
13. What type of chocolate contains cocoa butter and not cocoa beans?
14. Finish this famous saying: 'Don't put all your eggs in one ....'
15. What is the name of the jeweller who decorated eggs for royalty?
16. What flower is considered an Easter symbol?

## **CODEWORD - SAINTS IN APRIL**



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
E	A	R										

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

## READERS ETC FOR APRIL 2026

		Reader	Prayers	Offertory
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April Good Friday</b>	Isaiah 52.13-53.12 Psalm 22.1-21 Hebrews 10.16-75 The Passion according to St John	John Woolley	--	--
<b>4<sup>th</sup> April Easter Eve</b>		To be asked	--	To be asked
<b>5<sup>th</sup> April Easter Day</b>	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
<b>12<sup>th</sup> April Easter 2</b>	Acts 2.14a,22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1.3-9 John 20.19-31	Valerie Cammack	Mike Mear	Olwen & Alan Sharpe
<b>19<sup>th</sup> April Easter 3</b>	Acts 2.14a,36-41 Psalm 116.1-3,10-17 1 Peter 1.17-23 Luke 24.13-35	Mike Mear	John Woolley	Svetlana
<b>26<sup>th</sup> April Easter 4</b>	Acts 2.42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2.19-25 John 10.1-10	Susan Monkhouse	Maureen Woolley	Lilian Keen
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May Easter 5</b>	Acts 7.55-60 Psalm 31.1-5,15-16 1 Peter 2.2-10 John 14.1-14	Tom Foster	Colin Dawson	Alfredo