



# PARISH *Newsletter*

APRIL 2026

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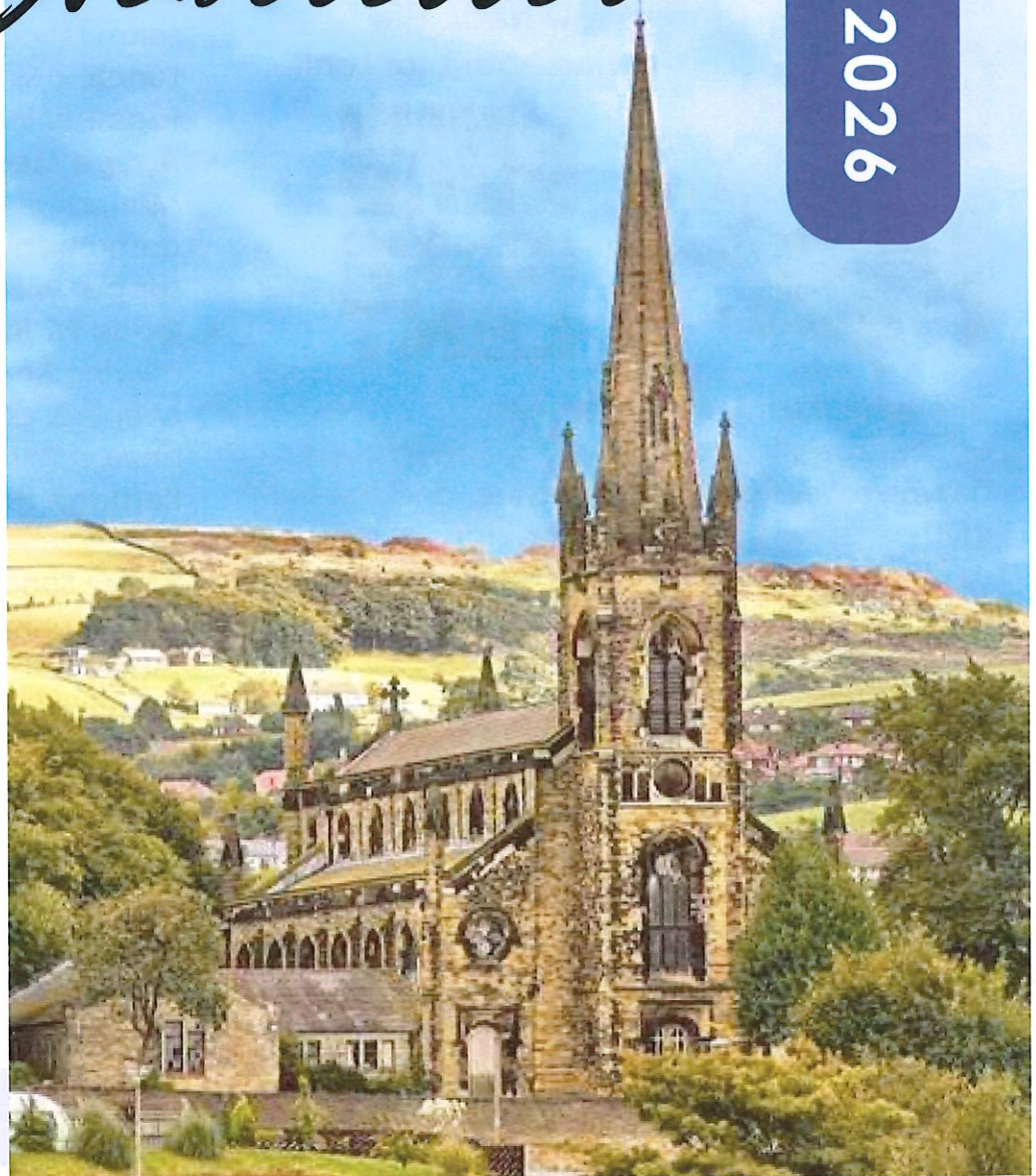
Roof Appeal &  
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People Events

Community Pages

... and much more

Issue 50p  
(£5 per year)



 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

**DRAW  
NEAR** **LIFE-GIVING  
HABITS FOR  
LENT**

**HOLY WEEK** 31 MARCH, 1 APRIL

Tuesday, 11.30am | Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, 7pm | Compline

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** 2 APRIL

6pm | Agape meal with Holy Communion

**GOOD FRIDAY** 3 APRIL

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

2pm | Music and Reflections on the Crucifixion

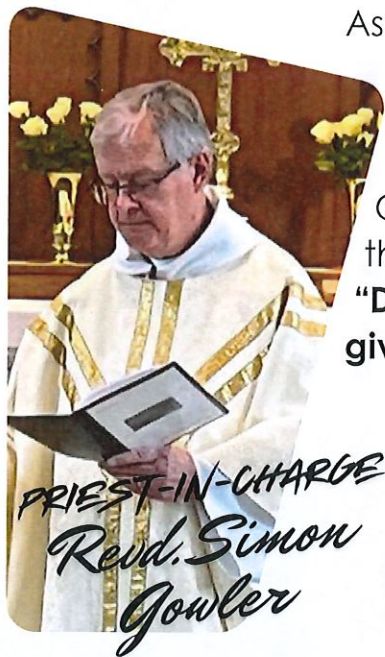
**HOLY SATURDAY** 4 APRIL

8pm | Easter Fire - Service of Light

**EASTER SUNDAY** 5 APRIL

10.30am | Parish Communion

## 2 REVEREND'S REFLECTIONS



As we approach **Easter Sunday, 5th April 2026**, I am reminded of the Church of England's theme this year: **"Draw Near: Life giving habits for Lent."**

**DRAW  
NEAR  
LIFE-GIVING  
HABITS FOR  
LENT**

Throughout Lent, we have been encouraged to draw closer to God through prayer, reflection, acts of service, and the rhythms of worship. I hope that for each of us, this has been a time of spiritual renewal, a season of preparing our hearts to truly celebrate the joy of Easter.

But Easter is not just a single day; it is a season, and the invitation is to **live out our faith in the world throughout the weeks and months to come**. The resurrection of Christ calls us to be people of hope, compassion, and witness every day, sharing God's love in our homes, workplaces, and communities. It is this ongoing journey of faith that gives Lent its meaning and makes the joy of Easter transformative in our lives.

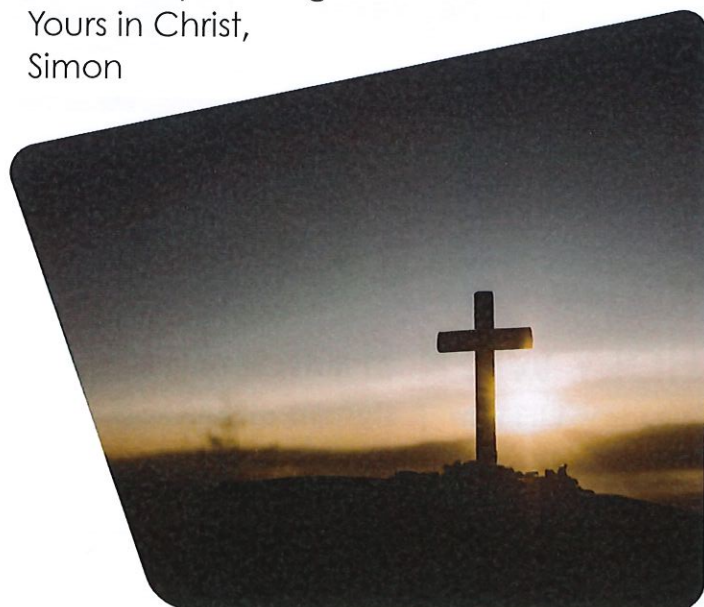
Living our faith is not simply about personal devotion; it is a participation in the risen life of Christ. To live in faith is to embrace a rhythm of love, humility, and service that mirrors the way Christ lived and continues to live among us. Our actions, no matter how small, become signs of God's kingdom breaking into the world—whether through kindness, justice, forgiveness, or hospitality. In this way, our everyday lives become a continuation of the Easter story, reflecting the light of Christ in places that often seem dark.

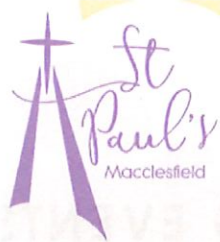
In the build-up to Easter Sunday, there is much going on in our parishes. You can see the full programme on the next page, but I want to highlight a few key moments:

- **Maundy Thursday at Rainow** – The morning will see the **stripping of the altar**, a reflective act marking the solemnity of the day, followed by a **Lent Lunch**, a simple meal bringing us together in fellowship.
- **Agape Meal at St Paul's, Macclesfield** – Maundy Thurs evening, join us for this communal meal, recalling Jesus' last supper with his disciples.
- **Good Friday at Rainow** – A short, moving **Kerridge Cross Service** in the evening, culminating in coming out of church to see the **illuminated cross on Kerridge Hill**, where we will sing "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross".
- **Easter Sunday** – We will celebrate Holy Communion at all four churches, marking the triumphant joy of Christ's resurrection.

I warmly encourage you to participate in as much of this rich journey as you can. Let us not only draw near to God during Lent but also carry that faith forward, living it in every part of our lives, rejoicing in the hope and promise of the Risen Christ all year round.

With every blessing for Easter.  
Yours in Christ,  
Simon





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



## Holy Week Monday 30 MARCH

Rainow 7pm Compline

## Holy Week Tuesday 31 MARCH

St Paul's 11.30am Stations of the Cross *WITH LENT LUNCH*

Rainow 7.30pm Stations of the Cross

## Holy Week Wednesday 1 APRIL

St Paul's 7pm Compline

## MAUNDY THURSDAY 2 APRIL

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

St Paul's 6pm Agape meal with Holy Communion

## GOOD FRIDAY 3 APRIL

Rainow 10am Messy Church with creation of Easter Garden  
*WITH REFRESHMENTS*

St Paul's 10.30am-12.30pm Family Easter Craft Trail  
*WITH REFRESHMENTS/HOT CROSS BUNS*

St Paul's 2pm Music and Reflections on the Crucifixion

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

## EASTER SATURDAY 4 APRIL

St Paul's 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

## 4 WARDEN'S WARBLINGS



March has been and gone and we find ourselves now into April! We have enjoyed a couple of really lovely sunny days where spring certainly had sprung, flowers started to bloom, blossom started to pop out and we all felt relief knowing that the dark mornings and evening are past and it can only get lighter as we head to summer.

We hope that during the recent weeks of Lent you have been able to stop and take some time to think and reflect as we head into Holy week and towards Easter Day. We both look forward to some reflection time at the Agape Meal and Easter Fire Service which are highlights of a busy few days for us.

We enjoyed a bumper Mothering Sunday Service with just over 150 people in attendance. The highest number on Mothering Sunday since 2008! We received positive feedback once again for the format of the service so that everyone was included in some way. As part of the service, we celebrated a unique milestone; Hilda's 100th birthday! It was a real joy to be able to celebrate with Hilda and her family, and to see her on the front row in church was just wonderful. As Nick mentioned in his short speech about the Hymn My song is love unknown, Hilda epitomises what it is like to live a deep Christian faith. With Hilda, when she looks at you in a certain way, you just know everything will be ok with her trust and faith in God shared out amongst others. We give grateful thanks for the 100 years of life Hilda has had and the devotion and dedication to her church, St Paul's. Here's to many more years yet Hilda!

We hope that you can join us during Holy Week for our services as we wait patiently and walk the way of the cross leading once again that glorious Easter Morning.  
With love, Matt & Nick. x



## 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



**Can you spare a couple of hours on Easter Saturday morning (4 Apr) to help with a Spring clean of the church?**

9:30 – 11:30am.

Come along and a job will be found for you! Bacon/Sausage butties provided courtesy of Saturday Café.

Thanks. Matt & Nick.



	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 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 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		

## APRIL

1 Wed	11.00am	Mid-week <b>Morning Prayer Service</b> with Lay Minister Robert	
<b>5 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b> with Revd Simon	<b>EASTER DAY</b>
<b>12 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>All Age Service</b> with Churchwardens	<b>2nd SUN OF EASTER</b>
15 Wed	11.00am	Mid-week <b>Holy Communion Service</b> with Revd Simon	
<b>19 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b> with Revd Simon	<b>3rd SUN OF EASTER</b>
25 Sat	6.00pm	Night at the Dogs with Fish and Chip Supper	
<b>26 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Comm</b> with Canon Veronica & Bev	<b>4th SUN OF EASTER</b>

## MAY

<b>3 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b> with Revd Simon	<b>5th SUN OF EASTER</b>
6 Wed	11.00am	Mid-week <b>Morning Prayer Service</b> with Lay Minister Robert	
<b>10 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>All Age Service</b> with Churchwardens	<b>6th SUN OF EASTER</b>
14 Thurs	7.30pm	<b>Deanery Service</b> at St Peter's, Prestbury	<b>ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b>
<b>17 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b> <b>11.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b> with Revd Simon FOLLOWED BY THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING	<b>7th SUN OF EASTER</b>

ALL SERVICES ARE FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP



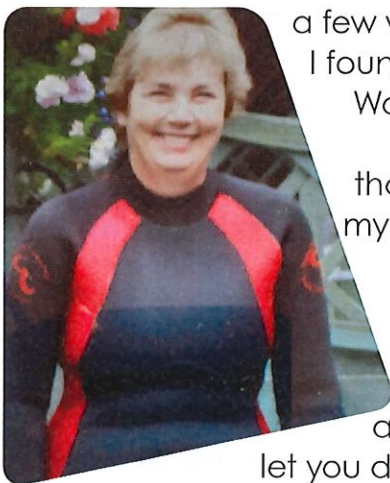
## 6 RAMBLINGS OF A READER



There is a saying, which I am sure you have heard, 'he/she opened their mouth before their brain was in gear'. In the past that has been said about me on many occasions, I like to think it doesn't happen as often these days, but who knows.

Anyway, some years ago this sort of happened when having a conversation with my sister when she commented that a friend of hers has gone on a white water rafting experience. 'Oh I have always fancied doing that' I innocently remarked, and the conversation took a turn in another direction.

That innocent remark came back to haunt me a few months later when I had one of the '0' birthdays. My sister presented me with an envelope and in it, yes you've guessed, a white water rafting experience voucher. I can't put into print what was going through my mind, but I smiled sweetly and thanked my sister.



Well to cut a long story short, a few weeks later Peter and I found ourselves driving to Wales so I could use the said voucher. The thoughts going through my mind were many not least how do you get into a wet suit, and what would I look like in one, well the answer to the latter, I'll let you decide, re the picture,

but they are tight fitting and I thought made me look rather slim, they hold in a lot! (Ladies I'm sure you'll understand what I mean).

As I sat on the mini bus to take us to the start of the run down the river, we were told we would probably have three to four goes down the river. I spent the time on the bus thinking one run would be fine and how could I get out of the others.

Helmets on, we were seated in the rubber dinghy. How I came to be sat near the front I don't know, but we pushed off and, would you believe it I loved every minute of it! It was exhilarating, exciting, and fun, and I was disappointed we were only able to do two more runs. I learnt a valuable lesson that day, first be careful what you say, and don't let fear hold you back from trying things, because you may find you actually enjoy them or are good at them.



This can also be the case in church life, not only opening your mouth before your brain catches up, which can happen, but saying no to things because you're not sure if you can do it or you don't want to be up front or you're not good enough, others are better than you, or because someone has always done it and you don't want to interfere; or a hundred and one more reasons it sometimes feels easier to say no than yes.

*cont.* →

But and it is a big but,

What would have happened if Mary had said no to being the mother of Jesus?

What would have happened if the disciples had said no to following Jesus?

What would have happened if Jesus had said no to the cross?

All of them had a choice and I am really glad they all said yes and Jesus was born. The disciples got to know him and why he came and shared it with others who shared it with others and it finally got to us today, but more importantly I'm glad Jesus said yes

and obeyed his Father and died for each one of us and rose again on that first Easter morning so that we can all have life in all its fullness with him.

So next time you're ready to say no, stop and think, and as the saying from many years ago, WWJD, 'What Would Jesus Do, or what would you do? With His help you can do anything he wants you to do.

Now where's that leaflet on that long zip wire in Wales!!

Fran

*(Editor note – Matt and Nick will hold you to a trip on the zip line Fran! We can vouch for how exhilarating it is!)*

## CARL KIRBY



We were saddened to hear of the death of Carl Kirby recently.

Carl was a real gentle man with a strong faith. Carl will be missed by all of us at St Paul's and our love and prayers are with Lynn and the family.

Carl's funeral will take place in church on: Friday 10th April at 10:15am. Followed by private committal at the Crematorium.

We hope as many of you as are able to come along and give thanks for Carl's life.

## 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.



# 8 MOTHERING SUNDAY



We had a fabulous Mothering Sunday Service with just over 150 in attendance. Our highest Mothering Sunday attendance since 2008!



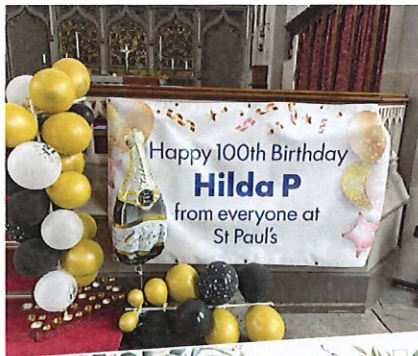
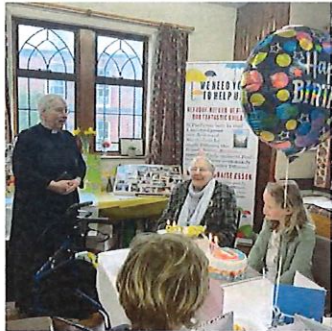
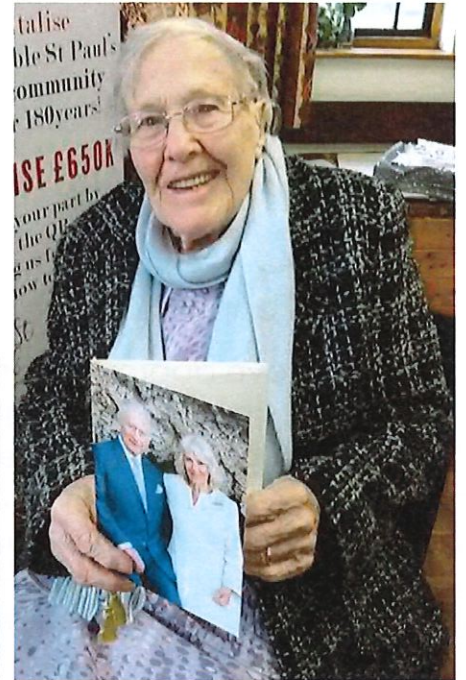
**WE ARE COLLECTING USED STAMPS FOR ONE PROJECT MACCLESFIELD**

PLEASE BRING THEM TO CHURCH. (CUT OUT WITH AN APPROX. 1CM BORDER)  
THERE IS A PLASTIC COLLECTION BOX IN THE CHURCH PORCH. THANK YOU.



# HILDA'S 100<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION 9

We were privileged to share in the wonderful milestone of our amazing Hilda reaching 100 years old! Thanks to Helen and Amy who provided a superb buffet for everyone to help Hilda, her family and her church celebrate.



  
**ST PAUL'S CHURCH**  
**LIFETIME MEMBER RECOGNITION**  
 to  
**Hilda Partington**  
 (née Pilling)  
**BAPTISED: 21 April 1926** by Revd. Francis Thetford  
**ATTENDED: St Paul's Day School**  
**CONFIRMED: 15 December 1940** by Revd. Dr Douglas Crick,  
 Bishop of Chester  
**MARRIED: 26 February 1949** by Revd. Nicholas Roscamp  
 Revd. Simon Gowler  
 Priest-in-Charge  
  
 Matthew Cooper  
 Churchwarden  
 Nick Mollershead  
 Churchwarden  
 Brook Street, Macclesfield, SK11 7AJ

+Bishop Sam presented Hilda with this Lifetime Member Recognition Certificate and the Mayor of Cheshire East Council, Councillor David Edwardes gave Hilda a lovely bouquet of flowers and his best wishes.

At the latest St Paul's Lunch Club the dessert for the day was a huge birthday cake for Hilda! All the clients sang Happy Birthday and then we tucked in!





The roof appeal fund total is:  
**£52,113.75**  
 (end February 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

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.

The first part of the feasibility study will begin towards mid/end April with a full measured digital survey of the building and topography survey of the churchyard. This will feed into the start of pulling more major plans together.

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



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

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.

*cont.* →

## 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.

## ROOF APPEAL GIVING

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

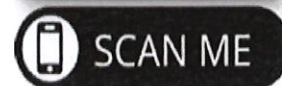
If you wish to make a cash or cheque donation to the appeal, please put it in an envelope and hand to either the Treasurer (Malcolm Brown) or the Wardens with the envelope clearly marked 'For the roof appeal'. This then means it is placed in a restricted account just for the roof appeal and cannot be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



## SAVE THE Dates

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

### APCM

Sunday 17 May | following the 10.30am service

**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

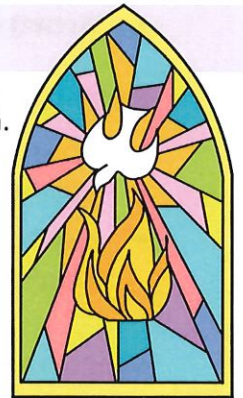
## CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Signs of spring in the churchyard captured by Churchwarden Matt.

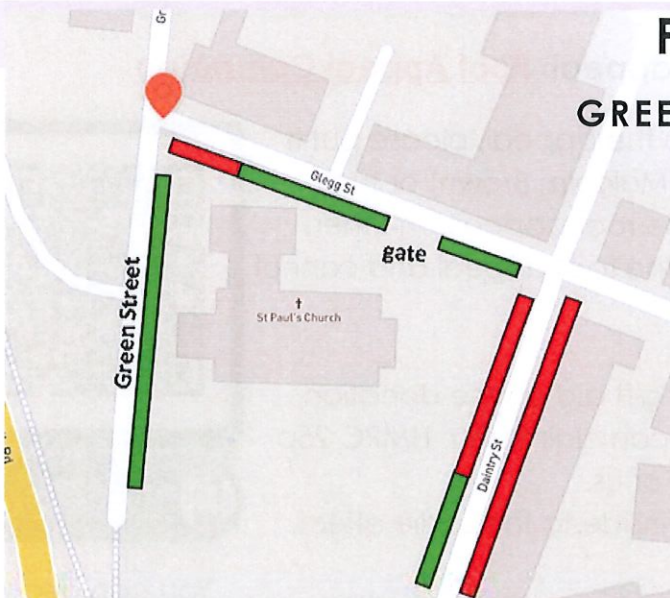
## CONFIRMATION SERVICE

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.

We have had the Archdeacon's inspection completed recently by The Reverend Lesley Currie. She was pleased with what she saw and the plans for the future and also the good work that goes on.

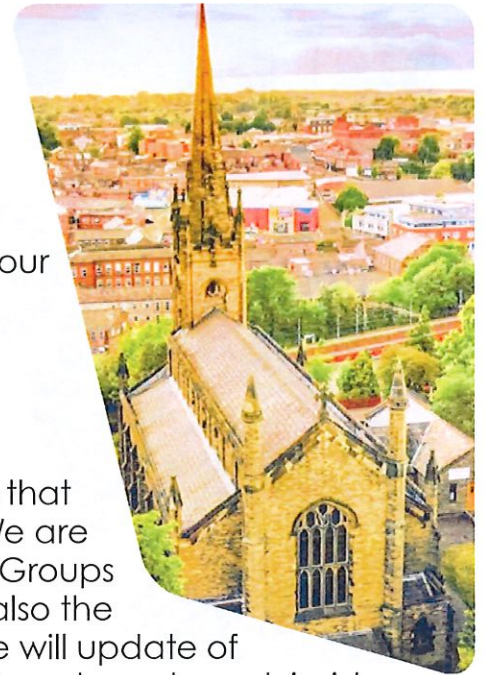
We need to replace some lightbulbs in the church but are struggling to get hold of them at the moment. We will endeavour to source some and get them replaced where we can.

We will have a spring clean of the church on Easter Saturday morning. See notice further in the newsletter.

As a PCC we are looking for ways to resolve the parking issues that sometimes occur and in particular the parking on the grass. We are conscious that this grass gets used regularly by our Uniformed Groups and with the wet weather it is getting damaged by cars and also the spring flowers planted by the groups are getting squashed. We will update of how we endeavour to resolve this. Please do be considerate if you have to park inside the grounds at any time.

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](http://stpaulsmacc.org) and scroll down to the 'DONATE' button there.

THANK YOU!!

## 14 LENT GROUPS



Lent groups and stations of the cross with Lent lunches have ran throughout Lent.

Thank you to everyone who has led Stations and prepared and provided lunch.



## CHURCHYARD BINS

We have asked the council for a bin in the churchyard that they are responsible for emptying regularly, but they have refused.

Please can you help keep waste in the bins by the Garden of Remembrance to a minimum by taking home any waste or dead flowers that you have removed from the graves.

We rely on the churchwardens taking home the waste bags to put in their own bins and this is not always possible if their own bins are full. If you could help by taking a bag of rubbish at some point please do let Matt or Nick know



## GRANT FUNDING



We have been successful in securing a £6,000 grant from Cheshire East Council for upgrading our digital offering in the Parish Centre.

We are going to invest in the wifi, add a digital screen, projector and multi media system as well as one or two more pieces of equipment.

We look forward to these being ordered and installed making our Parish Centre a great space for the church and whole community.



# FAMILY NIGHT AT THE DOGS

## WITH FISH & CHIP SUPPER

**25 APRIL 2026**

**DONATIONS ON THE NIGHT TO THE ROOF APPEAL**

**5.45pm for a 6pm START**

**BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS**

**INCLUDES A SMALL RAFFLE**

After the success of the Day at the Races we are now hosting a Night at the Dogs. An exciting and engaging event that combines the thrill of dog racing with the spirit of charitable giving.

Where we are: Glegg Street, Macclesfield, Sk11 7AJ

📞 01625 501773

🌐 [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9984/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9984/)

✉️ [emma@stpaulsmacc.org](mailto:emma@stpaulsmacc.org)

Reg. charity number: 1210861

There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of church or please contact us by phone or email.

## FUN@4 IS COMING BACK!

At a recent PCC (church council) meeting, a discussion was had about the Messy Church sessions we used to host in the Parish Centre and church which St Paul's called Fun@4.

It was held once a month and had a theme for the month (e.g. Creation, Jonah, Jesus loves you).

Families regularly attended and enjoyed crafts, game, story and a small meal at the end (affectionately known as fishfingers @ 5!!)

The PCC wish to re-instate it starting on 2nd Sunday of the month, 10 May. If you have a couple of hours to spare every couple of months on the Sunday to join a rota of helpers or lead one or two a year, please let Emma know.

Can't wait - it's going to be fun!!!





If you would like to donate towards the cost of the Easter Flowers, please speak with Janet Burrow and pass your donations to Janet, Matt or Nick.



If you are reading this online, you can click on the above button or if you prefer you can use your internet browser to go to [stpaulsmacc.org](http://stpaulsmacc.org) and scroll down to the 'DONATE' button there. Thank you.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST



Vivien found this photo. It was taken over 35 years ago when the church was raising money to build the Parish Centre.

She said "we had to run round the wall enclosing the church and grounds and toss the pancake to each other! We did some silly and fun things in those days

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

Special thanks to Anne and David Furphy for co-ordinating it all.



Here are few picture highlights from our wonderful weekly Saturday Café.

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.





Thank you to our lovely Flower Fairies who lovingly put together the bunches of daffodils to hand out on Mothering Sunday.

**THANK YOU**

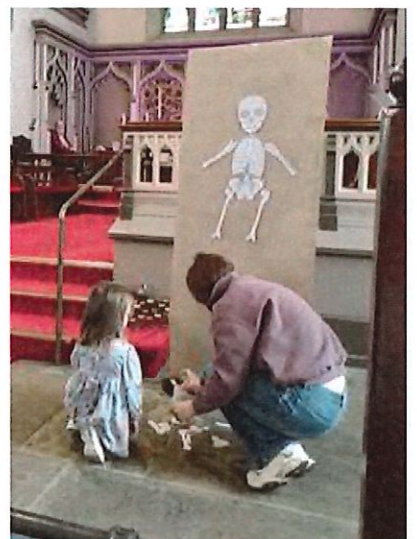


At our March monthly Family Communion service this morning two teams tried very hard to reassemble a whole host of scattered bones into two complete skeletons, having just heard about the divine vision described by Ezekiel the prophet in the Valley of Dry Bones! Encouraged by our choir enthusiastically singing that well known song

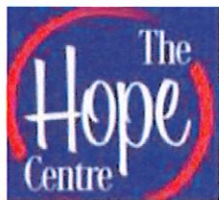
featuring "dem dry bones", the children made a very commendable attempt to complete this very difficult task!

They helped us realise afresh how challenging it can be to make sense of life and how much we all still rely on the Holy Spirit to breathe God's creative energy and deep compassion into those many seemingly hopeless and complicated situations that we stumble across in our world today!

"Breathe on us, breath of God, fill us with life anew, that we may love as thou dost love and do what thou wouldst do..."



**WHAT'S ON**



**TUES**

**CREATIVE CARD MAKING**

10:00AM - 12:00PM

**DEMENTIA MUSIC CAFE**

2:00PM - 3:30PM

**TUES**

**WED**

**COLOURING AND CRAFT**

11:00am - 12:30pm

**GAMES GROUP**

10:30am - 12:00pm

**FRI**

**FRI**

**KNITTING FOR CHARITY**




10:00AM - 12:00PM

**CHATTY CAFE**

2:00pm - 3:30pm

**FRI**

For more details and updates, please visit our website or follow us on social media.

 [www.hopecentremacclesfield.co.uk](http://www.hopecentremacclesfield.co.uk)  
 The Hope Centre  
 thehopecentre\_macclesfield



### An international, women-led, ecumenical movement

Informed Prayer; Prayerful Action: The World Day of Prayer encourage women to plan ecumenically for the World Day of Prayer, promoting prayerful living and worship for men, women and young people and helping raise awareness of the lives and concerns of others throughout the world, especially those who write the service. Each year a different country writes the service. This year was written by women of Nigeria focusing on the daily reality of rural Nigerian women whose lives are marked by endless labour from sunrise to sunset. These women traverse treacherous paths to their farms, often carrying both their harvest and their children – a toddler strapped to their back, a heavy load balanced on their head while guiding other children along unmaintained roads through thick bush. Yet there is hope for the many burdens these people are carrying.

These burdens become bearable when we respond to Jesus' invitation in Matthew 11:28, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest'. When we bring our weariness to Christ and support one another in community, we find rest and strength to continue our journey.

The Macclesfield service is led by women from St Paul's (Emma, Ann, Anne, Lynda and Joan), St Michael's, URC, St Alban's, St Barnabas and All Saints. We were also blessed when on the day 2 lovely women from Nigeria came and took part in the service.

The World Day of the Prayer is always celebrated on the first Friday in March (which coincides around the same time as International Women's Day). The theme of the service each year is set by the country writing it. In 2027 as it is the Centennial year, the theme is United in Prayer for Justice and Peace and will be a collection of past and current themes.

The 2027 service will be on Friday 5 March at 11am (refreshments beforehand), venue to be confirmed. Hopefully our leaders from St Paul's will be strongly represented again. Please do look out for the adverts in the new year and we hope to see you at next years' service.



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

8 March | 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent:  
Parish Communion  
[\*\*Click here to watch\*\*](#)

15 March | Mothering Sunday:  
All Age Service with Celebration of  
Hilda Partington  
[\*\*Click here to watch\*\*](#)

15 March | 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent:  
Family Communion  
[\*\*Click here to watch\*\*](#)

22 March | Palm Sunday:  
Morning Service with Reading of the Passion  
[\*\*Click here to watch\*\*](#)

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



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Search for:  
**St Paul's Church - Macclesfield**



You can download the app to your phone:



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.



## MACCLESFIELD

**"NOBODY NEEDS TO STOP LEARNING JUST BECAUSE THEY HAVE FINISHED WORKING."**

Retired from work but not from Life. Keep Active: Keep engaged: Keep Informed & Be Creative:-

The u3a is for people who want to keep active in mind and body, enjoy socialising, and are no longer in full time employment.

We provide around 45 popular interest groups. You will find arts and crafts, languages, literature, walking, music, card and board games, social activities, discussions, and more.

Groups meet in various venues ranging from member's homes to local halls/rooms and are informal and friendly.

Members may join any group, provided that the group has places available.

Non members may enjoy a total of two taster sessions for free. To continue, they must then join the Macclesfield U3A.

Macclesfield u3a can also be contacted by phone - 0300 102 4507

[www.maccu3a.uk](http://www.maccu3a.uk)

## THE HOPE CENTRE

16-18 Park Green, Macclesfield, SK11 7NA

## CALL TO PRAYER

*"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." — 2 Chronicles 7:14*

**If you are concerned about our world, our country, or our community, please join us for an open time of sharing and prayer.**

**Thursday Gatherings: April 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd**

**Time: 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon**

**Sunday Gatherings: April 12th, 19th & 26th**

**Time: 4:00 – 5:30 PM**

*"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." — Hebrews 10:25*

# THANK YOU FOR READING!

## KEY CONTACTS AT ST PAULS

<b>Priest in Charge</b>	Revd Simon Gowler	vicar@stpaulsmacc.org 01625 572013 (day off Mondays)
<b>Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers)</b>	Fran Hiles Robert Marshall	fhiles49@btinternet.com robert@capuchin.co.uk
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Matthew Cooper Nick Mottershead	churchwarden1@stpaulsmacc.org 07515 167469 / 07514 588012
<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	Anne Furphy Joan Mottershead Jean Bennett	annefurphy@hotmail.co.uk pastoral@stpaulsmacc.org jean.bennett63@ntlworld.com
<b>Pastoral Assistant</b>	Joan Mottershead	pastoral@stpaulsmacc.org
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Emma Dennehy	emma@stpaulsmacc.org
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	Malcolm Brown	treasurer@stpaulsmacc.org 01625 424957
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Gill Emptage	gilleemptage@hotmail.co.uk
<b>PCC Members</b>	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)
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Ann Harris	07759 557834
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	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](http://www.stpaulsmacc.org)

**You Tube Channel:** search St Paul's Macclesfield in YouTube or click  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQMeK5BCanr78m6\\_FuA0yFQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQMeK5BCanr78m6_FuA0yFQ)

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

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