

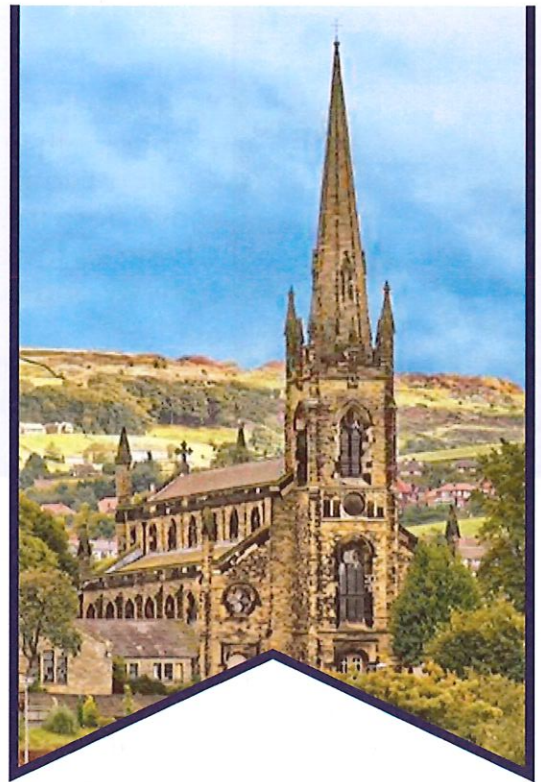


# PARISH newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026

## DRAW NEAR LIFE-GIVING HABITS FOR LENT

SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS OF WHAT'S ON AT ST PAUL'S DURING LENT AND EASTER.



The Church of England's theme for Lent 2026 is **Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent.**

This year's resources have at their heart the theme of a 'rhythm of life' – habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter.

Each week during Lent, reflections identify six activities essential to our calling as disciples:

- worshipping together
- praying
- exploring the Bible
- sharing communion
- offering service
- sharing the good news with others.

"Draw Near is all about teaching us how we can cultivate the habits and practices that will draw us nearer to God. And we will find that, in doing so, God will draw nearer to us, too."

*Archbishop-elect Sarah Mullally & Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*

### A PRAYER FOR LENT

HOLY GOD, OUR LIVES ARE LAID OPEN BEFORE YOU:  
RESCUE US FROM THE CHAOS OF SIN AND THROUGH THE DEATH OF YOUR SON BRING US HEALING AND MAKE US WHOLE IN JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.  
AMEN.

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

Reverend's Reflections

Warden's Warblings

Ramblings from a Reader

Looking back at Christmas 2025

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

Roof Appeal & Fundraising Update

Children & Young People Events

Community Pages

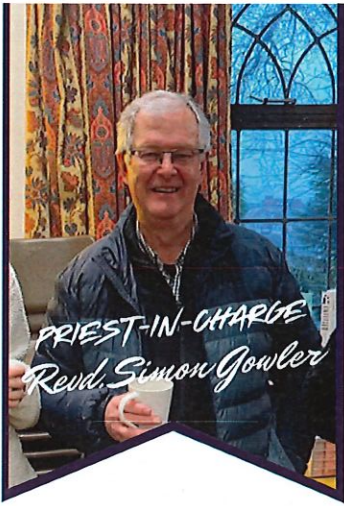
... and much more



The Church of England **Everyday Faith** app will carry reflections every Monday to Saturday throughout Lent. And, of course, the Everyday Faith app will continue to offer content into the season of Easter and beyond throughout 2026.



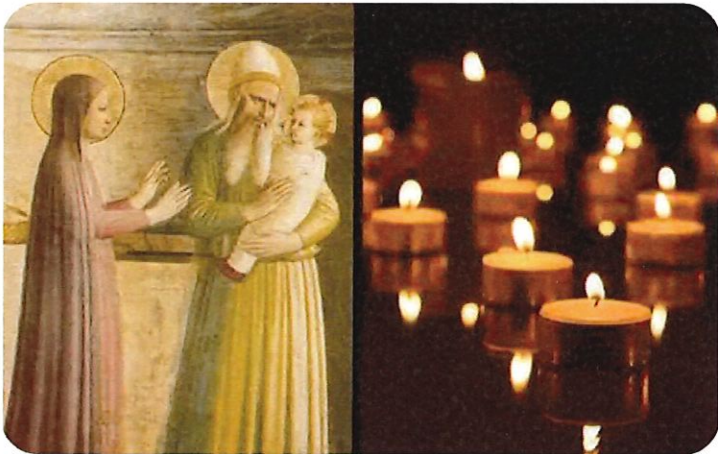
Issue 50p  
(£5 per year)



February is a turning-point month in the Church's year, as we move from the light of Christmas towards the honesty and hope of Lent.

This year that journey is shaped especially by two significant moments: **Candlemas** and **Ash Wednesday**.

On **Sunday 1st February**, we will celebrate **Candlemas**, the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. In that moment, the infant Jesus is welcomed with joy and recognition. Simeon and Anna see in him God's salvation and a *light to enlighten the nations*. Yet Simeon's words are not only comforting; they are also challenging. He speaks of a sword, of hearts being revealed, and of the cost of following this child who is both light and truth.



At Candlemas we meet Christ as welcoming, challenging, and hopeful all at once. We welcome him with gladness. We hear the challenge that God's light exposes as well as comforts. And we hold fast to the hope that this light will never be overcome.

We will be celebrating **Holy Communion for Candlemas on Sunday 1st February** at St Paul's (10.30am) and at Rainow Church (10am) and you would be very welcome to join us as we mark this gentle but important turning of the season.

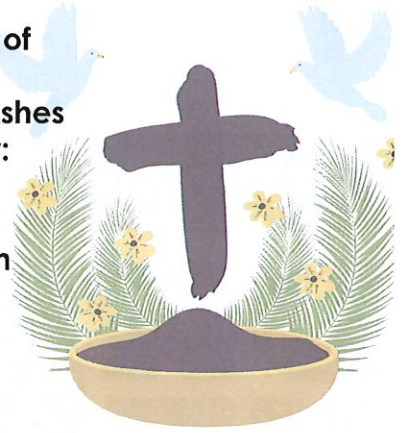
Just over two weeks later, on **Ash Wednesday, (18th February)**, we meet the same Christ again, but this time marked by ashes rather than candles.

Ash Wednesday invites us to be honest about ourselves, our lives, and our need of God's mercy. It is not a day of gloom, but of truth — and therefore of hope.

There will be services of **Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday:**

**St Paul's at 11.00am & 7.00pm**

**Holy Trinity, Rainow at 6.00pm**



The light we celebrate at Candlemas is the light by which we can face the ashes. We can acknowledge our frailty because we already know ourselves to be loved.

During Lent, we will also be offering a **Lent Course**, giving space to reflect, pray, and grow together:

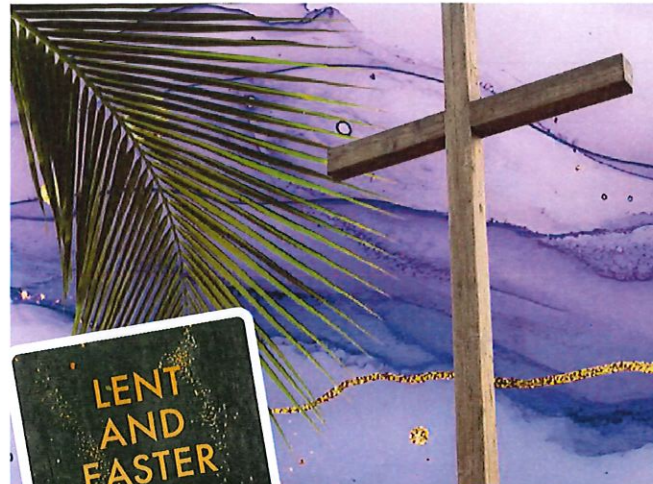
- St Paul's – Tuesday mornings at 10.00am, before Stations of the Cross and Lent lunches
- Rainow – Thursday evenings at 7.00pm

I hope many will feel able to join in, whether you are a long-standing church member or simply curious about this season. For more details see the advert on page...

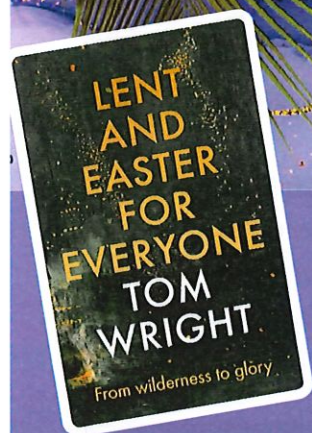
As we move through February, my prayer is that we may carry the light of Candlemas consciously into Lent — allowing Christ to welcome us, to challenge us, and to renew us with hope. Lent is not about leaving the light behind, but learning to walk by it, even when the path is honest and demanding.

With every blessing for the weeks ahead,  
Yours In Christ,  
Simon





# JOURNEY THROUGH LENT AND EASTER



with Tom Wright's **Lent and Easter for Everyone**  
**reflective and discussion-based course**  
exploring the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

**Holy Trinity, Rainow**  
**Thursdays at 7pm**  
**(starting 19th February)**

**St Paul's, Macclesfield**  
**Tuesdays at 10am**  
**(starting 24th February)**

*both courses run for 6 weeks and are open to all*

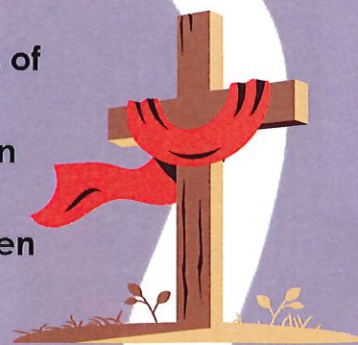
For further information, book a place or order a copy of the book please phone the Parish Office on 01625 501773 or email [emma@stpaulsmacc.org](mailto:emma@stpaulsmacc.org).

## 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](mailto:emma@stpaulsmacc.org).**



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS 2025



fundraising fellowship fun



**The Christmas Fair** was held on 29 Nov and was a superb couple of hours. We raised over £1,500!





Christingle, led by Fran

Puss Bank School Christmas Service



Lunch Club Christmas Lunch



Toddler Group Party



Nine Lessons and Carols, led by our Wonderful Choir



Community Churchyard Carols



Blue Christmas Reflections



Christmas Eve Crib Service

**Mornings**

**Afternoons**

**Evenings**

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

**FEBRUARY**

<b>1 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b> with Canon Veronica	<b>CANDLEMAS</b>
4 Wed	11.00am	Mid-week <b>Morning Prayer</b> with Lay Minister Robert (Parish Centre)	
<b>8 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>All Age Service</b> with Churchwardens	
<b>15 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b> with Revd Simon	
18 Wed	11.00am 7.00pm	Morning and Evening <b>Holy Communion Services with Ashing</b>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>
<b>22 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Communion</b> with Canon Veronica & Bev	<b>1st SUN OF LENT</b>

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

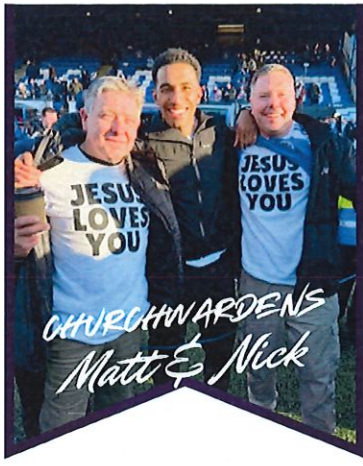
FOLLOWING IN THE STEPS OF JESUS ON THE WAY TO THE CROSS  
**11.30am | Tuesdays 24 February, 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 March**  
 FOLLOWED BY LENT LUNCH IN THE PARISH CENTRE

*Further info on page 3*

**MARCH**

<b>1 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b> with Revd Simon	<b>2nd SUN OF LENT</b>
4 Wed	11.00am	Mid-week <b>Morning Prayer</b> with Lay Minister Robert (Parish Centre)	
<b>8 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b> with Revd Simon	<b>3rd SUN OF LENT</b>
<b>15 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>All Age Service</b> with Uniformed Groups and Churchwardens	<b>MOTHERING SUNDAY</b>
18 Wed	11.00am	Mid-week <b>Holy Communion Service</b> with Revd Simon	
<b>22 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Communion</b> with Canon Veronica & Bev	<b>4th SUN OF LENT</b>
<b>29 SUN</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Service with Gospel of the Palms &amp; Passion</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>





Happy New Year!  
It was an exceptionally busy Christmas at St Paul's and throw in a house move a week or so before Christmas for Matt as well, it certainly was a busy run up to Christmas Day!

Leading up to the Christmas period we have welcomed in excess of well over 1,000 people into the church and grounds for services and events, the main number being at Carols in the Churchyard. This was the most wonderful occasion to see the local community together to celebrate Christmas. The event has grown year upon year to be our most popular Christmas event and many people were overheard saying Christmas had started for them now once they had attended churchyard Carols. There were people from Stockport and Leek who had travelled over for the event. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Christmas events and services in anyway at all and helped make it a very positive and reflective time.

## WARDEN'S WARBLINGS

We now focus on 2026. A big year ahead as we really push forward with the refurb and roof appeal. We know that this has not been as high profile as it should have been and I (Matt) take responsibility for this, but I could just not give it the focus it deserved during the last 12-18 months. We are now in a position to drive this forward and are due to meet the architects soon to formulate a plan of action and steps of what we need to work on to make this dream become a reality.

2026 holds exciting things for St Paul's, we are confident of that and we are excited as always to be your wardens and be a part of this wonderful journey with you all, serving you all and serving God.

With our love for a prosperous and happy 2026.

Love, Matt & Nick x

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS OF CHURCHYARD CAROLS



**Co-op Buxton Road** for the supply of over 300 mince pies!

**Chrome Motors** for the supply of mulled wine.

Thank you for helping our community event to be a fantastic success.



## 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.

## CHRISTMAS WREATHS

We ask that any Christmas wreaths and any other decorations on plots in the Garden of Remembrance are removed by 15th February. Please can we ask that you take them home and put them in your own bins as we are currently struggling to remove the volume of waste in the churchyard bins. Your help in taking flower waste home would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

## RAMBLINGS OF A READER

*The Mole had been working very hard all the morning, spring cleaning his little house'.*

*'It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.'*

*'The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edge sword. It cuts all the way through to where joints and marrow come together. It judges the desires and thoughts of man's heart.'"*

*'During a snowy week in January when some of us who live high above the town were snowed in, I spent quite a bit of time reading.'*

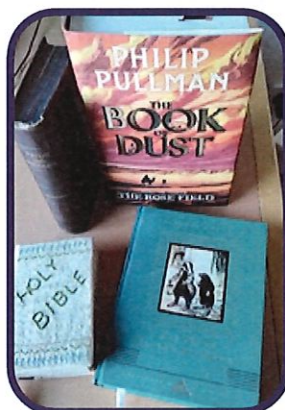


This sentence started last years Ramblings of a Reader for February, but it's so apt for this year also, because January did see the first snow of 2026 and again we were snowed in, Ok just for a day, but it was a good excuse to spend the day reading my latest book which I got for Christmas.

It was the final book in a series of six, and I had waited three years to get this last one. Not because nobody would buy it for me, or I couldn't afford it, but because it had only just been published. The book is called The Rose Field. Now you may not know that title, but if I say the first book of the six is called Northern Lights you may recognise it, for it has been made into a film along with two television series. Phillip Pullman's epic story of Lyra Silvertongue and her daemon Pantalaimon or Pan for short has taken thirty years to write, has many followers, and I can't wait to see how it ends, and how Philip Pulman has pulled all the fascinating threads of this epic story to a conclusion. The first two quotes at the beginning of this article are the first lines of my two all-time favourite books.

The third quote is from the bible, but which book? I'll let you ponder that. Clue, it is my favourite of the Testament it's from! If you know me you'll know!!

Hopefully some of you will recognise them,



but if not, the first is from Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Graham which was read by my teacher when I was in infant school, and I have loved it ever since and re read it quite often. The second quote is very well known and shouldn't need any

introduction, but just in case it's from Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austin. First read when I was at Grammar School, even though I had the book for a number of years, it belongs to a series left to me by my Great Grandad. The third quote is the first verse of the Bible that I ever underlined, it speaks to me so much, and it comes from the book of Hebrews, and my favourite book of the New Testament. And no surprise with my love of Judaism! Books, especially fiction, can transport us to another time and world, a world of wonder, of horror, of adventure, of happiness of sadness and so much more. You may read the same book as I do, but you will see it and feel it differently, but my hero and heroine will be different from the one you see, because we have the wonderful gift of imagination, so we each see things in our minds eye differently. That is why I am not a great fan of going to see films that are adaptations of books. There was one book, The Horse Whisperer by Nicholas Evans, which I really enjoyed, they made it into a film which a friend of mine who had also read the book went to see. I asked her, 'was it the same as the book'



LAY MINISTER  
Fran Hiles

"O yes" she said, "they kept very much to the book", so off I went to see it. NOOOOO they didn't, they changed the ending completely, and totally spoilt it for me.

And don't get me started on the Harry Potter films, I had to hold my God daughter down in her seat, when we both realised at the same time they had totally changed the character in one scene.

Books are my escapism and I am happy to spend many an hour just reading. As I have got older, my choice of books has changed. I have always loved historical novels, but it worries me slightly that these days I really enjoy a good murder mystery, the gruesomer the better, and one author I really enjoy is really gruesome, not sure what that's saying about me!

You will not be surprised when I say that there is one book that I have more copies than any other, in fact there are nine copies of it in the living room, one copy in our bedroom, three copies in the spare room, and nine copies in what we laughingly call the study. Our loft is also a room, and in there I have given up counting how many. If you haven't already realised which book I am talking about well it's the Bible.

My Grandad bought me my first Bible for my seventh birthday, I have always loved this copy, mainly because of who bought it for me, but I very rarely read it as it is a King James Version, which I find parts incomprehensible to understand because of the language. I believe if we are to understand the word of God then we have to read it in the language we speak today. I know many feel that the King James Version is very poetic, but what's the good of poetic language if we don't understand what God is actually saying.

Now I know language has changed over the years, not always for the better, but if we want people to get to know Jesus and know all about our loving heavenly Father, then we have to use language that makes sense to people.

I have said many times, that as much as I love the bible, I don't always understand it, but there are some cracking good stories in it, especially in the Old Testament, which I feel we often overlook. I also get very annoyed when people say we don't need the Old Testament anymore.

Totally wrong, as far as I am concerned, we need the Old Testament because without it we cannot make sense of the New Testament, but in a way more importantly it is the scripture that Jesus quoted all the time, and if its good enough for him, then its more than good enough for me, and as one of my favourite bible verses says.

'But those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed, they will rise on wings like eagles.'

So after I have spent some time with Phillip Pullman and will spend some time with not sure who but maybe Micah, 'to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God' or Amos 'The Lord has told us what is good, what he requires of us is to let justice flow like a stream and righteousness like a river the never goes dry'.

I'm not a great one for new year resolutions, and we are already in the second month of the year, but it's not a bad thing to perhaps decide to spend a little more time reading the book that tells us all about our loving heavenly Father and his son Jesus who came to show us the way to the Father in the way he lived and breathed and died for us.

Right Lyra, what are you up to now!

Love Fran. x

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

### FUNERALS

9 January      *Joyce Robinson*  
                      *Matthew Craig Robinson*

15 January     *Queenie Slack*  
                      *(at Macclesfield Crematorium)*

### BURIAL OF ASHES IN THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

28 December      *Gerald Bradley*



The roof appeal  
fund total is:  
**£50,814.19**  
(end December 2025)

### '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.

Just to get you thinking, 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



**ROOF & REFURB APPEAL**  
St Paul's

# QUIZ & CURRY night

Have a fun night full of challenges at our Quiz Night!

**SATURDAY, 28 FEBRUARY**  
**ST PAUL'S PARISH CENTRE**  
**DOORS OPEN 6.00PM**  
**START 6.15PM**

**DONATIONS ON THE NIGHT TO THE ROOF APPEAL**  
(children under 16 free with pizza option)

Sign up on the list at church, calling the Parish Office (501773) or email emma@stpaulsmacc.org  
**MAXIMUM 6 PEOPLE PER TEAM**

**BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS**  
**INCLUDES A SMALL RAFFLE**  
REG. CHARITY NUMBER: 1210861

Where we are: Glegg Street, Macclesfield, SK11 7AJ  
01625 501773  
Find us on social media for up-to-date news and videos:  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9984/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9984/)  
Facebook: [stpaulsmacclesfield](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmacclesfield), Instagram: [@stpaulsmacclesfield](https://www.instagram.com/stpaulsmacclesfield)  
Twitter: [@StPaulsMacc](https://twitter.com/StPaulsMacc), YouTube: search St Paul's Macclesfield

## ROOF APPEAL GIVING

Here is the link to donate online for the roof appeal:

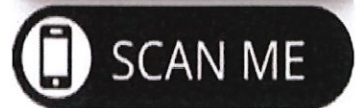
<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/9da68a7a-9297-4ebf-8046-c78a2f4c2331>

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 (office telephone number 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!

**St Christopher Chorale**  
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

## PARISH NEWS SUBSCRIPTION

Just a reminder:  
**2026 Subscriptions**

Cheques: payable to St. Paul's PCC

Cash: handed to the office in an envelope

Bank Transfer:

Acct name - St Paul's PCC  
sort code: 01-05-41  
account no: 06293123  
Ref: 'PN 2025 [name]'

**PRINTED PARISH NEWS**  
(collected or hand delivered)  
**£5 PER YEAR**

**POSTED PARISH NEWS**  
**£15 PER YEAR**

If you receive an emailed copy but would still like to donate to the church to help with the production, we would be very grateful. Thank you.

Would you like to join our email list? Please email [emma@stpaulsmacc.org](mailto:emma@stpaulsmacc.org) to be added to our mailing list.

## 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.



## THANK YOU



A huge thank you to Kate for the annual decorating of the holly bush on Daintry Street side of the churchyard. It looked fantastic!



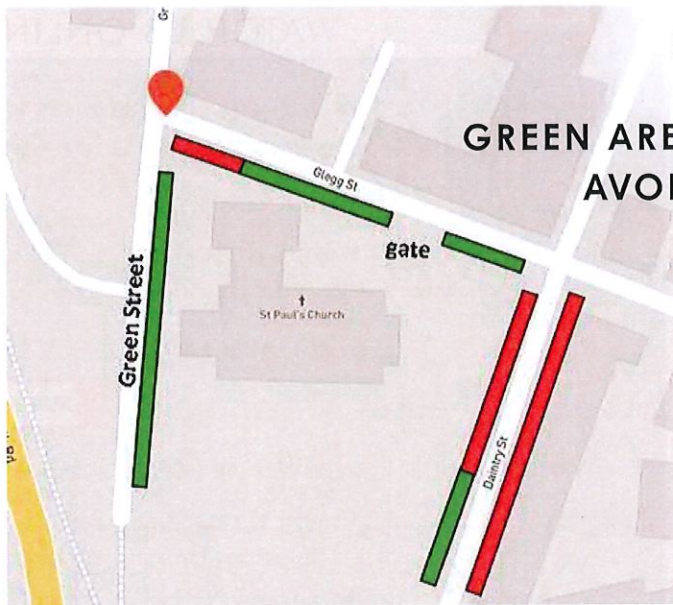
And to Nick (churchwarden) for repairing the damaged tarmac on the Glegg Street entrance, making it safe and less of a trip hazard.

## 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.



**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.



*As you step into the year ahead, may you find moments of stillness, joy, and rest for your soul.*

*Foxhill is here to offer space, peace, and gentle hospitality as you draw close to God.*

*"He restores my soul." – Psalm 23:3*

Foxhill House and Woodlands are delighted to share their new programme for 2026 - a year shaped around rest, renewal, and encounter with God.

Whether you're drawn to the gentle rhythm of our Breathe with the Seasons Encounter Days, the inspiring stories of our Ordinary Saints series, or the stillness of a residential retreat, we hope you'll find something that nurtures your faith and refreshes your soul.

We're also pleased to offer our Early Bird Discount once again - enjoy 10% off all residential retreats when booked at least three months in advance. A Bursary Fund can be available via application to help make your visit possible.



Bookings are now open via their website here:  
[www.foxhillchester.co.uk](http://www.foxhillchester.co.uk)



Highlighting the "Breathe Through the Seasons" Day which our **Canon Veronica** is due to lead on Sat 28 March as a creative reflection on Holy Week:

As we look forward towards the forthcoming last seven days of Christ's earthly life as recounted in the Gospels, this Encounter Day offers a fresh opportunity to inhabit these possibly over-familiar stories. We will suggest a variety of ways that might help us day by day in this coming week to explore more authentically our personal relationships with God as well as examining some of our encounters with other people.

Here in the safe space afforded at Foxhill, we will seek to acknowledge before God some of the joyful as well as challenging experiences that have shaped our journeys so far, and we will pray for one another as spiritual companions travelling the Way of the Cross whilst keeping our focus always on the light and hope of Easter Day.



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 texted on 07887 931574.

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

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.

## CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to Canon Veronica and Dave who celebrating their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 6 January.

We hope you enjoyed your celebration and here's to many more celebrations to come!

## SPOT THE SPIRE!

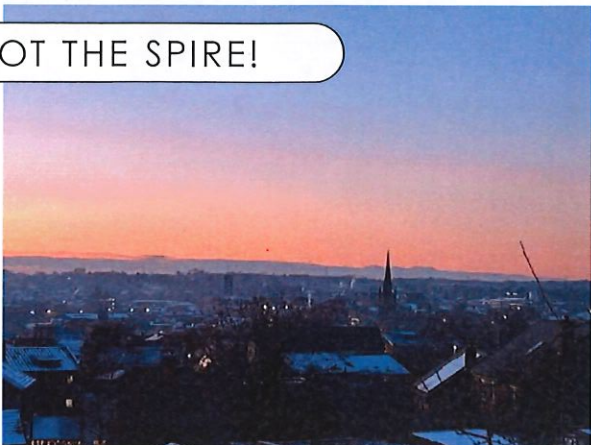


Photo taken from Leadbeaters Road overlooking the allotments and Macclesfield.



## 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

30 Nov | Advent Sunday: Parish Communion  
[Click here to watch](#)

7 Dec | 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of Advent: Parish Communion  
[Click here to watch](#)

14 Dec | 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun of Advent: All Age Worship  
[Click here to watch](#)

21 Dec | 4<sup>th</sup> Sun of Advent: Parish Communion  
[Click here to watch](#)

21 Dec | Nine Lessons and Carols  
[Click here to watch](#)

Churchyard Carols 2025  
[Click here to watch](#)

Christmas message from the Churchwardens  
[Click here to watch](#)

Christmas Eve | Midnight Mass  
[Click here to watch](#)

Christmas Morning Communion  
[Click here to watch](#)

28 Dec | 1<sup>st</sup> Sun of Christmas:  
Family Communion  
[Click here to watch](#)

Epiphany: Parish Communion  
[Click here to watch](#)

11 Jan | Baptism of Christ: All Age Worship  
[Click here to watch](#)

18 Jan | 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun of Epiphany: Parish Communion  
[Click here to watch](#)

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

# JOURNEY THROUGH LENT AND EASTER

## ASH WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

6pm | Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

## LENT GROUPS

7pm | Thursdays 19 & 26 February, 5, 12, 19 & 26 March

USING THE BOOK LENT AND EASTER FOR EVERYONE  
BY TOM WRIGHT

**LENT GROUP:**  
Reflective and  
discussion-based  
course exploring the  
life, death and  
resurrection of Jesus

## MOTHERING SUNDAY 15 MARCH

10am | Holy Communion with Clypping the church

## PALM SUNDAY 29 MARCH

10am | Holy Communion

(SERVICE STARTS AT CHURCHGATE WITH LITURGY OF THE PALMS)

## HOLY WEEK

Monday, 7pm | Compline

Tuesday, 7.30pm | Stations of the Cross

Thursday, 11.30am | Holy Communion with stripping of the Altar

FOLLOWED BY LENT LUNCH

## GOOD FRIDAY 3 APRIL

10am | Messy Church with creation of Easter Garden  
(WITH REFRESHMENTS)

8.30pm | Kerridge Cross Service

(FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS/HOT CROSS BUNS IN CHURCH CENTRE)

## EASTER SUNDAY 5 APRIL

10am | Holy Communion

Forest Chapel (St Stephen's)

12.30pm | Prayer Book Communion

Jenkin Chapel (St John's)

3pm | Prayer Book Communion

## 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, which are in good condition.



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

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

## Friday 6 March

*I will give you rest, come*

AT

**MACCLESFIELD UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH**

Park Green, SK11 7NA

REFRESHMENTS FROM 10am

**SERVICE STARTS AT 11am**

EVERYONE IS  
WELCOME

ACCESSIBLE FOR  
HEARING IMPAIRED PEOPLE  
LARGE PRINT AVAILABLE



**Nigeria 2026**



**INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION**  
24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement. Ecumenical International Women-led  
www.dp.org.uk Registered Charity Number 233242

## RAINOW CHURCH

## BRING & BUY SALE!

Find hidden treasures and amazing bargains!

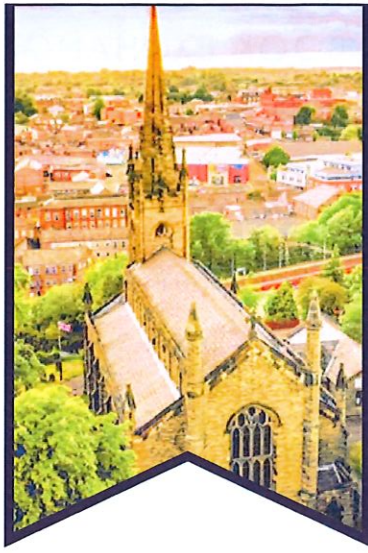
Pottery · Books · Artwork · Jigsaws · +  
and more!

**SAT 28 FEB  
10AM - 2PM**

Holy Trinity  
Church, Rainow

Refreshments available! Raffle!





## 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 get the work done.

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

The lightning conductors have been repaired and retested and are functioning as they should.

The church boiler had a new part fitted and initially it was still not firing. With increased usage and daily firing ( for 10-15 mins) we seem to be back on track with the boiler functioning properly.

The Quinquennial inspection of the church was completed on 25th November and we await the full final report of this which we will share when we are able to. This will feed into the planned feasibility study and refurb project.

For a further update on the refurb project, please read the information in the roof appeal section of the newsletter.

As always, thank you 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!!

Please let us have any info or news for our **March issue by 8th Feb.**  
To the Parish Office or [emma@stpaulsmacc.org](mailto:emma@stpaulsmacc.org)

## DISCOVERY PARTY (EPIPHANY)



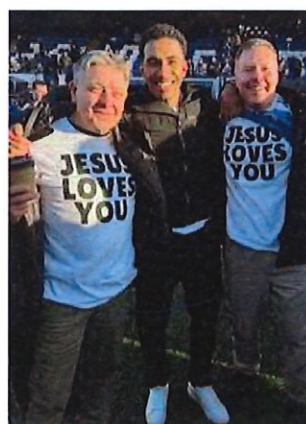
A fantastic celebration for Epiphany was held recently in the Parish Centre and three wise men (!?) also paid the party a visit!

## MACCLESFIELD FC

We also celebrated the success by coming to All Age Worship in our Silkmen colours!



## CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Here are our Churchwardens Matt & Nick with Danny Elliott, Macclesfield FC player, sporting their 'Jesus loves you' t-shirts, which Danny has under his team shirt and unveils when he scores a goal! We are working on inviting Danny to an upcoming All Age Worship service to talk about football and faith.

What a victory for Macclesfield FC in their recent FA Cup 3rd round game against Crystal Palace which they won 2-1. Crystal Palace are the current holders of the FA Cup after beating Manchester City in the 2025 final. What an achievement for Macclesfield. Matt, Nick and Rosie even made it on tv! Here are a couple of photos capturing the amazing result with some familiar faces.



## 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.



## KING'S POLAR MEDAL

Our Lay Minister, Robert shared some family news which might be of interest - my brother John and I attended King's school in Macclesfield, John has gone on to be a professor of Geology at Southampton University and travels on field trips - 30+ years of them! mostly to the Arctic in the summers, doing research into early fossils. This has involved sleeping in the open in very cold conditions, close encounters with polar bears(!) in Greenland and Spitzbergen. He has discovered reasons for early mass extinction of species - for these trips and the research he has been awarded a Polar Medal by His Majesty King Charles III in the 2026 New Year's Honours.

*Previous recipients have included famed explorers Sir Ernest Shackleton and Sir Edmund Hillary.*



*Wild camping on an expedition to Spitzbergen in 2023.  
Credit: Mike Newman*



*Collecting samples on the End Devonian mass extinction in East Greenland.  
Credit: Chris Berry*

The Polar Medal is awarded to individuals who have made outstanding achievements in polar research, and particularly those who have worked over extended periods in harsh climates. It was instituted in 1857 as the Arctic Medal and renamed the Polar Medal in 1904.



# 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.

**8 March - Calvery**

**7 June - HTH**

**20 September - Silklife**

**22 November - HTH**

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



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



## 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.

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>

**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.

# JOURNEY THROUGH LENT AND EASTER

**ASH WEDNESDAY** 18 FEBRUARY

11am and 7pm | Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

## LENT GROUPS

10am | Tuesdays 24 February, 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 March

USING THE BOOK LENT AND EASTER FOR EVERYONE  
BY TOM WRIGHT

**LENT GROUP:**  
Reflective and  
discussion-based  
course exploring the  
life, death and  
resurrection of Jesus

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

11.30am | Tuesdays 24 February, 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 March

FOLLOWED BY LENT LUNCH IN THE PARISH CENTRE

**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 FOLLOWED BY 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

Where we are: Glegg Street, Macclesfield | Sk11 7AJ. 01625 501773

Find us on social media for up-to-date news and videos:

Website: [www.stpaulsmacc.org](http://www.stpaulsmacc.org), Twitter: @StPaulsMacc

Facebook: [stpaulsmacclesfield](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmacclesfield), Instagram: @stpaulsmacclesfield

YouTube: search St Paul's Macclesfield

