

# *THE GRAPEVINE*

*OCTOBER 2025*

Issue - 78



*ST PAUL'S CHICHESTER*

SANCTUARY HOSPITALITY SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER

[WWW.STPAULSCHICHESTER.ORG](http://WWW.STPAULSCHICHESTER.ORG)



**ST PAUL'S CHICHESTER**

SANCTUARY HOSPITALITY SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Churchside**

**CHICHESTER**

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**Pastoral Care Helpline 07843 719594**

We aim to respond to requests for help within 48hrs.

## *THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE GRAPEVINE*

**The deadline for November Grapevine is 2pm Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October.**

Copy can be submitted by email to [office@stpaulschichester.org](mailto:office@stpaulschichester.org)

or as hardcopy to the office.

The November edition will be available from Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

The December issue which will be published on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November.



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF  
CHICHESTER  
TO KNOW-LOVE-FOLLOW JESUS



eco  
congregation



# *THE RECTOR'S LETTER:*

## *Protecting God's Creation*

Dear Friends,

At this time of year many churches, and perhaps especially those in the countryside celebrate the Harvest. Whilst the traditions around giving thanks for bringing the Harvest home are probably centuries old, the addition of Harvest in the Church calendar is normally traced back to the Revd R S Hawker, a parish priest in Cornwall. He chose the 1st October 1843 as the first Harvest Thanksgiving. It soon became an annual celebration, and the Church of England officially recognised it as such in 1862.

For me Harvest thanksgiving is always one of the highlights of the year. I simply love seeing the generosity of people as they bring gifts to Church to be passed onto those in need through the Foodbank. In recent years the Church has also begun to encourage this time of year to reflect more widely on creation. Global weather patterns are clearly changing and perhaps more than ever we all need to think about the environment and what we as individuals might do to help protect it.

In 1989 the Orthodox Church introduced a "Time for Creation", stretching from 1st September to the feast of St Francis on 4th October. Since then, it has encouraged other churches to share this season and this was endorsed at the European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu, Romania in 2007. The assembly agreed that Creation Time "be dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change."

Prayer is of course vital, and it's at the heart of what it means to live the Christian life. But it seems to me, as we celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving this year, as we thank God for the gift of creation, and the gift of the harvest, we might think about we might pledge to do, as individuals and as a church, which can help the environment and "reverse our contribution to climate change."

For many years St. Paul's celebrated being an Eco-congregation and much was achieved by the congregation during that initiative. In England and Wales Eco-

congregations have now been superseded by the environmental charity ARocha's programme, known as Eco Church. The Eco Church Scheme is designed to get all parts of our church life working to care for creation. It should help us to engage practically and spiritually, with people in our church and the community beyond. The scheme looks at Worship and teaching, management of church buildings, management of church land, community and global engagement and lifestyle and it's hoped that we can begin to work towards its award scheme soon. Our former work as an Eco-congregation will have given us an excellent start.

In the creation accounts in the book of Genesis, God places the man in the garden of Eden to "till it" and "keep it". This is a reminder to us that God wants us to care for and protect the world that he has created. As we celebrate with thanksgiving the harvest this year, perhaps we might all, as a way of thanking God, find out whether there is something different we can do to continue to help protect and care for the world.

With every blessing

*Canon Paul*

## *SHARING OUR HARVEST*

This year the Diocese of Chichester Harvest Appeal is for the Friends of The Holy Land, the details of which are in the following article. Our mission committee will make a donation on behalf of us all, but if you feel that you would like to make a donation to support families in the Holy land facing deprivation then do please donate via their website here [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Appeal/harvest-appeal2025](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Appeal/harvest-appeal2025)

## *DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER HARVEST APPEAL 2025*

This year the Diocese of Chichester Harvest Appeal is for Friends of the Holy Land. The reason for this charitable focus will be plain to all of us who have been following the news since the October 7th Hamas attacks on Israel and the subsequent war in Gaza and beyond. Friends of the Holy Land is a UK-based, non-political, ecumenical Christian charity with a deep commitment to





sustaining a hopeful future for Palestinian Christians. Rooted in the mission of supporting the Christian presence in the land of Christ's birth, the charity also works with compassion across religious lines, providing humanitarian help to people of all faiths.

The funds raised through this year's appeal will go directly to support families facing severe deprivation. Access to food, healthcare, housing, and education is increasingly limited, as Palestinian communities suffer from the ongoing impact of war, political instability and economic breakdown. Friends of the Holy Land partners with trusted local churches and organisations to provide emergency aid, food, medical care, schooling, and job opportunities. Their work is not only a lifeline to individuals and families; it is a powerful witness to Christ's love in action—bridging divides, building peace, and sustaining hope.

In Gaza City and the surrounding areas, where conditions have become desperate, £25 can provide a hygiene kit for a displaced family, and £50 can deliver food to last a week. This emergency care is being given in addition to the long-term work of providing education, supporting employment, and advocating for the region's Christian community.

Thank you so much for being part of this effort to see over £10,000 raised to help people in severe need.

To read more about current updates in Gaza, [click here](#).

To see more about our work, [click here](#) to read our recent edition of Giving Hope.



## *MONEY MATTERS*

Firstly may I introduce myself as the new church Treasurer, having taken over from Rod Smith who skilfully and faithfully guided the church finances over many years including the Pandemic shutdown and then a major building project. You will usually find me most Sundays in the back row of the choir, so if you do wish to talk money matters just give me a few minutes to disrobe afterwards!

Money matters now just as it mattered for people of olden times, who also had bills to pay and other 'modern' pleasures such as food and drink and gym membership (yes, gym is derived from an ancient Greek word). So it is not surprising that money topics feature frequently in both the Old and New Testaments and so will crop up in sermons from time to time. St Paul's too has bills to pay, gas/electric etc , contribution to the Diocese for our Rector, plus the occasional special project, and although we are blessed with former members having left money in their wills, we still rely on current members for our finances.

Church funding has moved on from the days of passing a collection plate round during the service while the congregation fumble in their pockets for change. Today many give to God's work at St Paul's and elsewhere, through regular bank standing orders, or cashless by using the card readers at the back of church or in the Parish Centre. If you are one of them, then I thank you very much for your contributions and I would also encourage you both to review your giving if you have not changed it for a while, and also to Gift Aid it if you do not already (so the church can reclaim tax). If you are new to the church, or have just not got round to it, and would like to start giving, or have any other questions then do get in touch with me in church or via [Treasurer@stpaulschichester.org](mailto:Treasurer@stpaulschichester.org).

This all can sound rather transactional, and yes we do have bills to pay but of course what we are really doing is offering something back to God in gratitude for our redemption through the saving work of Jesus on the cross. Whether we give our time, skills, expertise, or money, what really matters to God is a grateful thankful heart.

Ian Creswick

## *BIBLE STUDY: WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP GROUP*

Do you find it difficult to read the bible, and would you find it helpful to have insights and encouragement from others ? St Paul's has an on-going house group that has been meeting fortnightly on Tuesday evenings for fellowship, bible study, and discussion of topical issues. This term we are going to meet on alternate Wednesday evenings instead, starting on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Why not get to know a few other people in the church better and grow together in faith and understanding of the bible - no experience or special knowledge needed ! For further information please contact Ian Creswick (Tel.01243 780248) or email [creswick13@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:creswick13@tiscali.co.uk).

## *LADIES' GROUP*

St Paul's Ladies' Group usually meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome at all of our meetings, including men. Here is our programme for October:

8<sup>th</sup> Oct We will have an afternoon playing board games. There will be a Bring and Buy at this meeting.

22<sup>nd</sup> Oct Chris Merrien will tell us about his cycle ride to Paris. There will be a raffle at this meeting

Don't forget your donations for the Foodbank. Thank you.

## *F3A*

F3A meets on the third Tuesday of the month (21<sup>st</sup> October) at 2pm in the Parish Centre. Following Lois's reflection on her time in Chichester the Group have decided they would like to share their own reflections on their life as part of St. Paul's Christian family. We would welcome anyone over 60 to join us in this exercise.

Mary Ashwin 786501

# DIARY

*All events at St Paul's unless stated otherwise*

*MORNING PRAYER - WEEKDAYS AT 9AM*

<b>Su 28 Sep Trinity 15</b>		Romans 12.9-18; Ps 139-1-11; Luke 4.16-21
	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche followed by refreshments
	4pm	Come & Sing Evensong singers' rehearsal
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
M 29 Sep		
Tu 30 Sep	10am	Praying for St Paul's Renewed
W 1 Oct	8pm	Wednesday Evening Fellowship Group at the home of Ian & Valerie Creswick
Th 2 Oct	10am	Eucharist followed by refreshments
	6pm	Choir Practice (Children's Choir)
	7.15pm	Choir Practice (Full Choir)
F 3 Oct	4.30pm	Ignite
Sa 4 Oct		
<b>Su 5 Oct Harvest Thanksgiving</b>		Deut 26:1-11, John 6:25-35
	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	All Age Parish Eucharist with crèche followed by refreshments
	3pm	Afternoon Tea party, concluding with Evening Prayer
M 6 Oct		
Tu 7 Oct	10am	Praying for St Paul's Renewed
W 8 Oct	2.30pm	Ladies' Group
Th 9 Oct	10am	Eucharist followed by refreshments
	6pm	Choir Practice (Children's Choir)
	7.15pm	Choir Practice (Full Choir)
F 10 Oct	4.30pm	Ignite
	6.30pm	Barn Dance
Sa 11 Oct		



**Su 12 Oct Trinity 17**

2 Timothy 2.8-15, Luke 17: 11-19

8am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche followed by refreshments
4pm	Pet Service

**M 13 Oct****Tu 14 Oct 10am** Praying for St Paul's Renewed**W 15 Oct 8pm** Wednesday Evening Fellowship Group at the home of Ian & Valerie Creswick**Th 16 Oct 10am** Eucharist followed by refreshments  
**11am** Mothers' Union  
**6pm** Choir Practice (Children's Choir)  
**7.15pm** Choir Practice (Full Choir)**Fr 17 Oct 4.30pm** Ignite**Sa 18 Oct 9am** Gardening Working Party  
**7pm** Portsmouth Baroque Choir Concert**Su 19 Oct Trinity 18**

2 Timothy 3: 14-4:5, Luke 18: 1-8

8am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche followed by refreshments

**M 20 Oct 2.30pm** Chess Group**Tu 21 Oct 10am** Praying for St Paul's Renewed  
**2pm** f3a**W 22 Oct 2.30pm** Ladies' Group**Th 23 Oct 10am** Eucharist followed by refreshments  
**6pm** Choir Practice (Children's Choir)  
**7.15pm** Choir Practice (Full Choir)**F 24 Oct 4.30pm** Ignite**Sa 25 Oct**

**Su 26 Oct Bible Sunday** Romans 15.1-6; Psalm 119.129-136; Luke 4.16-24

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche  
followed by refreshments

M 27 Oct

Tu 28 Oct 10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed

W 29 Oct 8pm Wednesday Evening Fellowship Group at the home of Ian  
& Valerie Creswick

Th 30 Oct 10am Eucharist followed by refreshments

Fr 31 Oct

Sa 1 Nov

**Su 2 Nov All Saints Sunday**

Ephesian 1: 11-end; Luke 6: 20-31

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche  
followed by refreshments

3pm Afternoon Tea party, concluding with Evening Prayer

5.30pm All Souls Service

## *APPLYING TO BISHOP LUFFA SCHOOL AUTUMN 2025*

Canon Paul will be available to complete Church Support Forms on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November (late afternoon/evening) and on the morning of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November. Parents should email the office to book an appointment: [office@stpaulschichester.org](mailto:office@stpaulschichester.org)

## *GARDENING WORK PARTY*

St. Paul's is fortunate to be surrounded by a large garden which is maintained for us by the City Council and a number of parish volunteers. Every once in a while it needs a little extra attention – trimming, tidying, pruning, sweeping, raking, weeding – and the next occasion will be on Saturday 18th October, from 9am. If you could spare an hour or two to help with these tasks, you would be most welcome. Please bring gloves and any basic tools you may have (e.g. rake, fork, secateurs, loppers) - and we'll see you there! Refreshments will be provided.



## *MOTHERS' UNION*

Mothers' Union meets on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 11am after the 10am Eucharist at St Paul's Church. As it is in Prisons Week, we will be talking about prisons. Do come and add your knowledge/ views.

The Diocesan Autumn Gathering will be at St. John's Church, Preston Park, Brighton, BN1 6RB on Sat. October 18<sup>th</sup> from 9.45am to 3pm. There will be news of the Anti Slavery Movement during the morning. Also a collection of socks for men held over Christmas in Brook House, the Immigration Removal Centre at Gatwick. Everyone is most welcome at St. John's, but if you cannot get there on the 18<sup>th</sup>, I am going, so can take any donations, which should be plain dark colours, size 8 to 11. Please leave them at the back of St. Paul's by Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup>

Heather Hyde 07949 799 415

## *AFTERNOON TEA 3-5PM, SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER AND EVERY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH*

★★ *NOW AT ST PAUL'S* ★★

From Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October afternoon tea will be held at St. Paul's parish centre. No cost or pre-booking required. All are welcome: come and enjoy tea and cakes with friendly company. We conclude our afternoon with Evening Prayer. For information contact Margaret Phillips 527961 or Phyllis Nicholls 780454.

## *OUTWARD GIVING*

At the end of each year, St Paul's makes donations to our Mission Partners and to other charities nominated by the congregation. If you would like to be involved in the prayerful consideration of which charities should receive our donations, then please contact Chris Merrien

Many thanks

Chris

chrismerrien@hotmail.com 07913 353 018



*Come and celebrate*  
***HARVEST THANKSGIVING at***

*St. Paul's Chichester | 10 am | Sunday 5th October .*

*A service for All Ages*

*Donations of non-perishable food in aid of  
Chichester Foodbank are welcome.*



## **COME AND JOIN US at St Paul's Church for an autumn BARN DANCE**



Live Band and caller.



Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025, 6:30pm to approx. 9:00pm



Tickets: Adults £10 Children £5.



Includes baked potato, filling, salad & a pud.



Buy your tickets after the 10am Sunday service or pick them up at the Parish office.

Or contact Chris Merrien:

[chrismerrien@hotmail.com](mailto:chrismerrien@hotmail.com)/ 07913353018



A Tombola will be running on the night.







**All Pets (with their humans)  
are very welcome  
at our special**

***PET BLESSING SERVICE***

**Sunday 12th October**

**4pm**

***ST PAUL'S CHURCH, CHICHESTER.***





# Bishop Luffa School

'I have come that you may have life—life in all its fullness'

John 10:10

Students and staff are delighted to welcome you to their

## OPEN EVENING

Thursday 9th October 5.30pm—8.00pm

Open to all parents, carers and children. Booking is not required to look around the school (classrooms are open from 5.30pm until 7.45pm). We are asking that families book to attend one of the Head Teacher's talks (taking place at 6.00pm, 7.00pm and 8.00pm) - please visit the school website for booking information <https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk>



*"I feel as if I've always been here—the teachers and students have made me feel so welcome."*

**Ofsted**  
**Outstanding**  
Dec 2022

## OPEN MORNINGS

9.30am—11.00am

Monday 13th October—Friday 17th October  
and Monday 20th October

Open Mornings are aimed at Year 6 pupils and their families.  
Please visit the school website for booking instructions.  
<https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk>



For more information about the school please visit our website

[www.bishopluffa.org.uk](https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk)

Bishop Luffa School, Westgate, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 3HP  
Telephone: 01243 787741



# PORTSMOUTH BAROQUE CHOIR & The Consort of Twelve



## HANDEL

### DIXIT DOMINUS

## A. SCARLATTI

### ST CECILIA MASS

MUSICAL DIRECTOR MALCOLM KEELER

Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> 2025  
7.00pm

St Paul's Church, Churchside  
Chichester PO19 6FT

TICKETS: £18 (or £20 on the door) £5 student/U16

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/baroquechoir](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/baroquechoir)

[www.portsmouthbaroquechoir.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthbaroquechoir.co.uk)

