

THE GRAPEVINE

SEPTEMBER 2025

Issue - 78



ST PAUL'S CHICHESTER

SANCTUARY HOSPITALITY SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER

WWW.STPAULSCHICHESTER.ORG



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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 October Grapevine is 2pm Tuesday 23rd September.

Copy can be submitted by email to office@stpaulschichester.org
or as hardcopy to the office.

The October edition will be available from Sunday 28th September.

The November issue which will be published on Sunday 2nd November.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
CHICHESTER
TO KNOW-LOVE-FOLLOW JESUS



eco
congregation



THE RECTOR'S LETTER:

Dear Friends,

There are moments in all our lives when something so significant happens we remember exactly when and where we were, and what we were doing. The older children in our community will probably tell stories to their children about what life was like during a global pandemic. Most days we probably no longer think about it, but it was a significant and difficult time for us all. There have been others, but the terrorist attacks in the USA that we all now know as 9/11 is perhaps the other most significant event that I can clearly remember so far this century. It seems almost impossible to think that it happened Twenty-Four years ago this month. At that time, I was working as a Senior Auditor for HSBC and I was in London conducting an audit. Like all these things I remember who I was with, where I was and exactly how I watched the events unfold on TV. There was a moment when I almost thought I was watching a prank, some kind of disaster movie rather than the news. But it was something that changed things whether we realised that or not. Four years later I visited ground zero, the site of the Twin towers in New York. Surrounded by fencing I was aware that as people approached to see, and to remember those who lost their lives, it was incredibly quiet. And in the middle of the site stood what became known as the ground zero cross, formed from beams found among the debris. This became for many in New York a symbol of hope, faith, and indeed healing. More recently the cross has been moved to the 9/11 museum and memorial.

As we approach the anniversary of 9/11 each year, one of the things that I am reminded of was that I was able to listen to the stories of those who were there on the day. Staying in New York just 4 years later meant I heard several people, who witnessed the tragedy unfold, tell their stories. And that was a privilege that I hadn't been expecting. Listening to others and hearing their stories is something I have very much learnt to appreciate since that time. It's something that I do when I meet with a family to organise the funeral of a loved one, or when I talk to parents about the hopes and dreams, they have for their children as we prepare for their christening. And indeed, it's something I love about helping couples plan for their wedding day. As someone who can easily

be impatient, learning to listen to peoples' stories is perhaps the most wonderful thing about being a priest. And I think that's one of the reasons why I enjoy working with St Joseph's infants and junior schools too. Because schools are also places full of stories. Places where our young people explore not just their own hope and dreams, and of course learn about English, or Maths or science. They also learn about the stories of others too and in doing so be encouraged about what the future holds.

The 14th September, Holy Cross Day this year, is also education Sunday, a day to pray for all those in education, and to particularly pray for our school, the staff, the governors and all the children. And pray that each day, whether its though Zena and Fr Paul's or my assemblies, the children will have an opportunity to hear stories and to share different experiences as they learn what it means to have faith in God. I hope and pray that this month we might take the opportunities, where we can, to listen to others, no matter how old or indeed young they are, and to thank God for the privilege of hearing their stories and learning from them.

Canon Paul

SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 3PM

ORGAN CONCERT

AT ST PETER'S WESTHAMPNETT



Concert by Charles Gauntlett, using the Hill Victorian Pipe Organ at St Peter's Church, Westhampnett. Tea and cake will be served after the concert and the event is likely to finish at 4.30pm. Free entry with retiring collection in aid of St Peter's Church, Westhampnett's reordering project.

NEW ICON OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL



One of the things that I loved about St. Paul's when I looked around the church was the icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary and child. The icon was written by the Rev'd Philip Meader, a retired priest living in Chichester, who has been an iconographer for many years. During the recent redecoration work on St. Paul's, he offered the icon to us as a gift and a stand in which to display it was made by the contractor who was undertaking the work.

After I became Rural Dean, I was introduced to Philip and after thanking him for sharing his talents with us I asked whether he would consider writing another one, for the other side of the sanctuary arch so as to balance things out. He quickly agreed, asking that we just cover his costs. We discussed which icon would be the most appropriate and it quickly became apparent that he should write an icon of SS. Peter and Paul together. An image of the two parishes of St Peter the Great and St Paul's coming together in 1980.

The icon of Peter and Paul embracing is well-known in the orthodox church. Some Christians though, have found it an uncomfortable image, because, as Paul's letter to the Galatians reminds us, although he acknowledges Peter to be one of the pillars of the church, they fall out. Paul rebukes Peter at Antioch, accusing him of hypocrisy.

But there is some wisdom from our orthodox brothers and sisters. The Karakallou monastery on Mount Athos tells us that the icon symbolizes the meeting of the foremost apostles in Rome, representing ecumenical peace and brotherhood.

It is then an image which relates to the vision of St Paul's as a place of sanctuary, hospitality and spiritual encounter. It is an image that reminds us how we are

meant as faithful Christians, to live together before God. Even if we sometimes disagree, we can still live and work together, and through the grace and the love of God, work towards reconciliation with one another in obedience to Jesus's command to love one another.

I am grateful to Philip for prayerfully writing another beautiful icon, and I'm grateful too to James Thatcher, a carpenter who worships at our 8am Sunday service, for making an identical stand for the new icon to be displayed on.

Over the coming months the PCC will be looking at other ways to further enhance our worship space and continue the legacy begun with the vision for St Paul's renewed. That will include considering the addition of a specially commissioned altar frontal to help us focus on God in worship, and also improvements to both audio visual and sound systems. Music desks (known as readers) for members of the choir are also on the wish list, and, if possible, the replacement of the existing chairs with ones that are more easily moved and stackable, including some with arms for those for whom that would help. Watch this space!

(RE) DISCOVER THE HIDDEN GEM IN THE HEART OF CHICHESTER: ST OLAV CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP

Tucked away in the historic centre of Chichester, just a stone's throw from the cathedral, **St Olav Christian Bookshop** is a quiet haven for readers, seekers, and lovers of all things Christian. Named after St Olav, the patron saint of Norway, this independent bookshop offers far more than shelves of books—it offers hospitality, insight, and a true sense of community.

Whether you're looking for a thoughtful gift, a theological classic, a Bible in a modern translation, or simply a place to pause and browse in peace, St Olav's is a treasure. The shop is well stocked with titles spanning spirituality, theology, biblical studies, prayer, devotionals, and contemporary Christian living, and if you can't find what you're looking for, just ask and the team will be happy to order it for you, and post it on if necessary. You'll also find beautiful cards, gifts, icons, and other faith-inspired items, for every occasion and every season.



However, what makes St Olav's especially unique is its atmosphere. Warm, welcoming, and refreshingly unhurried, it's a place where conversations are encouraged and questions are welcomed. Many visitors speak of finding something they didn't know they needed—whether it's a book, a word of encouragement, or a moment of calm in the busyness of life.

Managed and staffed by a dedicated Christian team, the bookshop supplies and supports local churches and communities while remaining open to people of faith and of none. It also regularly hosts events, author talks, and seasonal displays that reflect the rhythms of the liturgical year.

If you're visiting Chichester, or are lucky enough to live nearby, make sure to drop in. St Olav Christian Bookshop is more than a shop—it's a ministry of presence, a quiet light in the city, and a reminder that sometimes, the best discoveries happen when and where you least expect them.

We look forward to meeting you, or seeing you again,

Bradley, Sarah and Sam

📍 North Street, Chichester (opposite Boots), PO19 1LQ

☎ 01243 782790

🕒 Open Mon–Sat, 9:30am–5pm

🌐 www.stolavchristianbookshop.uk

DIARY

All events at St Paul's unless stated otherwise

MORNING PRAYER - WEEKDAYS AT 9AM

Su 31 Aug Trinity I I Hebrews 13.1-8,15-16; Ps 112; Luke 14.1,7-14

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

M 1 Sep

Tu 2 Sep 10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed

W 3 Sep

Th 4 Sep 10am Eucharist followed by refreshments

F 5 Sep

Sa 6 Sep 3pm Wedding

Su 7 Sep Trinity I 2 Philemon 1.1-21; Ps 1; Luke 14.25-33

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche
followed by refreshments
3pm Afternoon Tea party at St Michael's Hall, concluding with
Evening Prayer

M 8 Sep

Tu 9 Sep 10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed

W 10 Sep 2.30pm Ladies' Group

Th 11 Sep 10am Eucharist followed by refreshments
7.15pm Choir Practice (Full Choir)

F 12 Sep 4.30pm Ignite

Sa 13 Sep 7.30pm Flamenco Concert

Su 14 Sep Holy Cross Day Philippians 2.6-11; Ps 22.23-28; John 3.13-17

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche
 followed by refreshments
12.15pm Baptism

M 15 Sep 2.30pm Chess Group

Tu 16 Sep 10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed
 2pm f3a

W 17 Sep

Th 18 Sep 10am Eucharist followed by refreshments
 11am Mothers' Union
 6pm Choir Practice (Children's Choir)
 7.15pm Choir Practice (Full Choir)

Fr 19 Sep 4.30pm Ignite

Sa 20 Sep

Su 21 Sep St Matthew 2 Corinthians 4.1-6; Ps 119.65-72; Matthew 9.9-13

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche
 followed by refreshments
12.15pm Baptism
3pm Organ Concert at St Peter's Westhampnett

M 22 Sep

Tu 23 Sep 10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed

W 24 Sep 2.30pm Ladies' Group

Th 25 Sep 10am Eucharist followed by refreshments

F 26 Sep 4.30pm Ignite

Sa 27 Sep

Su 28 Sep Trinity 15 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

LADIES' GROUP

St Paul's Ladies' Group usually meet on the 2nd and 4th 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 September:

- 10th Sept WSCC Waste Prevention Talk by Hayley Campbell. There will be a raffle at this meeting.
- 24th Sept Our Annual Service. This year the service will be taken by the Rev'd Anthony Freeman

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

F3A

F3A meets on the third Tuesday of the month (16th September) at 2pm in the Parish Centre. This month Lois Moor will share **"Reflections on my time in Chichester"**. Everyone over 60 will be very welcome to join us for tea and friendly discussion..

Mary Ashwin 786501

MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers' Union meets on Thursday 18th September at 11am after the 10am Eucharist at St Paul's Church. We will be discussing the slogan "Join up, join in". All are welcome.

Heather Hyde 07949799415

AFTERNOON TEA 7th SEPTEMBER

AND EVERY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

We will be very pleased to see you at St Michael's Hall to enjoy afternoon tea between 3pm-5pm, ending with Evening Prayer. No pre-booking or cost involved, just friendly company and plenty of tea and cake. For further information contact Margaret Phillips or Phyllis Nicholls.



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.*

IGNITE YOUTH GROUP

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, CHICHESTER.

For School Years 3-6 cost £1 per week.

Autumn Term 2025

- 12 Sept | Getting to know you**
- 19 Sept | Outdoor Games**
- 26 Sept | Bingo**
- 3 Oct | What's it all about? - exploring creation**
- 10 Oct | Indoor Games night**
- 17 Oct | Quiz Night**
- 24 Oct | Ready, steady, Cook off!**

- 31 Oct | NO IGNITE (Half term)**
- 7 Nov | What's it all about?**
- exploring remembrance.
- 14 Nov | Children in need fun**
- 21 Nov | Board Games**
- 28 Nov | Indoor Games night**
- 5 Dec | Popcorn and Disney**
- 12 Dec | What's it all about— exploring Christmas**
- 19 Dec | Christmas party**

For more details contact Canon Paul

Email | rector@stpaulschichester.org.

CONFIDE COUNSELLING

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Confide Counselling. For 40 years, Confide has been seeking to offer affordable professional counselling support to people.

Confide is now based at St Paul's. When the Parish Centre was recently refurbished, a small room was included, suitable for one-to-one meetings, and this is well used by Confide.



Confide was initially established by the Chichester and Bognor Methodist Church circuit. They had become very aware of their need for training to enable them to be more effective in their pastoral work. Confide grew as other churches joined us. Confide is now an independent charity and involves people from a number of different churches in Chichester and Bognor. We are a member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy

At present, we have 21 counsellors and meet with clients at the Friends Meeting House in Bognor as well as at St Paul's. We also work closely with Stonepillow.

St Paul's has been involved with Confide for many years, offering financial support. As well as the use of rooms in the Parish Centre, several members of the congregation serve as trained counsellors, and several as trustees. At present, I chair the trustees- a role which I took over from Canon Simon Holland.

To mark this significant anniversary and to celebrate the work of Confide, there will be a special focus on Confide at the 10 am Parish Eucharist on Sunday, 28th September. We will be giving thanks and praying for the work of Confide, and it will be an opportunity to learn more about this ministry.

We are very aware that there is now as great a need for this work as there was when we were first established 40 years ago.

Richard More

APPLYING TO BISHOP LUFFA SCHOOL

AUTUMN 2025

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

GARDENING WORK PARTY

Advance notice of a session to tidy the garden at St. Paul's on 18th October, and invitation to participate. More details in the next Grapevine.

BARN DANCE

Our next Mission fund raising event will be a Barn Dance on Friday 10th October. This will be open to all ages and promises to be a great evening. More details to follow with ticket prices and details of food provided. Please keep the date free.

Chris Merrien

chrismerrien@hotmail.com 07913 353 018

FLAMENCO SHOW - 'Flamenco from Spain'

AT ST PAUL'S SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

Performing artists include Rebeca Ortega, an elegant and accomplished dancer based in Seville, maestro gutarrista Ramon Ruiz from Granada who trained in Seville, and Carlos Lobo, renowned puro flamenco singer from Jerez de la Frontera now based in Seville.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage of Andalusia, with traditional and modern flamenco artistry. Meet the artists after the performance. CDs and prints will be available for sale.

Doors open: 7pm Performance starts: 7.30pm Tickets on EventBrite

FLAMENCO FROM SPAIN

REBECA ORTEGA

RAMON RUIZ

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS OPPORTUNITY TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE OF ANDALUSIA, WITH TRADITIONAL AND MODERN FLAMENCO ARTISTRY.

PRIZE WINNER

Dancer - Choreographer

★★★★★
UK Leading Flamenco Guitarist
Featured in the London West End
"Zorro The Musical"



SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER
ST PAULS CHICHESTER



**TICKETS ON
EVENTBRITE**

From 7:30pm to 8:50pm
(doors open at 7:10pm)
Disability access



St Pauls Churchside
Chichester PO19 6FT

ST-PETER'S-CHURCH



WESTHAMPNETT

Registered Charity No: 1191476

Organ Concert

By Charles Gauntlett

**Sunday 21st
September**

15:00-16:30

Including tea and cake

At St Peter's Church

Westhampnett

PO18 0NT

**Retiring collection
in aid of St Peter's
reordering project**



**Featuring works by Redford, Tallis,
Sweelinck, Howells, Coleman and
Higgins performed using the
William Hill Victorian pipe organ.**



Enquiries & Reservations via Hazel Bate
hazelbate2@gmail.com / 07962811990