

CROSSWAYS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST PAUL'S AND WHITWORTH

Not just about 'turning up' or even 'helping out'!

By Revd Canon Matt Tarling

BEING a part of a church is different to being a member of social club or a volunteer with a local charity. A member of a social club can pay their subs and enjoy all the benefits of access to the club, good rates at the bar and advanced notice of the next turn on the stage. Being a member is about turning up and making the most of it. A volunteer with a local charity will give some of their time generously to help the charity meet its aims. That could be by doing a variety of things but it's always with the desire to help out.

Of course, church is about turning up and it's about helping out. But it's not only about those things. That's because

when you are part of a church you are a member of a body and are included in the family. As a body and as a family, each part is present (they 'turn up') and each member is able to do stuff (they 'help out'). However, we have a very particular reason to do that.

When Saint Paul was writing to the Ephesians about being 'the church' he described life together as God's people like this:

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining



Photo: Unsplash

to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

does its work. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part

You'll notice that Jesus Christ himself has given the church a whole range of gifts – talents, skills, passions – that will build up the whole church in the faith. That is for a purpose. First it fosters unity as people grow together in their trust in and knowledge of Jesus (v13). Secondly it enables everyone to build each other up so as to persevere in that faith (v14-15).

Serving in the church is about love. It's our

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PARISH

CHURCH

SERVICES

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Sundays: 10.30am Holy Communion ('All Together' non-communion on first Sunday)
(*live-streamed at www.facebook.com/stpaulsspennymoor*)

Wednesdays: 9.30am Holy Communion

Fridays: 10am Play Church (term-time only)

WHITWORTH CHURCH

Sundays: 9am Holy Communion

CLERGY**VICAR**

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vicar@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk

CURATE

Revd Lee Trevorrow-Earl
lee@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk

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way of showing that we love one another and want to be united and encouraged together in the faith. There are lots of ways in which we can serve. We can offer to make refreshments on Sunday mornings or help in the crèche. We can give time to children or youth work. We can support Christianity Explored by praying for those attending. We can join the Parochial Church Council when elections

come up in April. We can make flower arrangements, organise a session with Ladies at St Paul's, support baptism families or become a pastoral team member. There are lots of opportunities!

So church isn't just about 'turning up' or even about 'helping out'. It's about serving within our church family, being part of the body of Christ, loving one another as Christ Jesus loves us.

New Archbishop of Canterbury



Photo: Graham Lacdao

SARAH Mullally DBE has become the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, following her Confirmation of Election at St Paul's Cathedral in late January, becoming the first woman to hold the office in its 1,400-year history.

Following the Confirmation of Election, Archbishop Sarah will be installed during a special service at Canterbury Cathedral in March, where she will preach her first sermon as Archbishop of Canterbury.

Speaking ahead of the Confirmation of Election service, Archbishop Sarah said: "I want us to be a Church that always listens to the voices of those who have been ignored or overlooked, among them victims and survivors of church abuse who have often been let down.

"I am committed to equipping the Church to be a kind and safe place that cares for everyone, especially those who are vulnerable, as we rise to the challenge of God's call to justice, equity, peace and the care of creation."

Please hold Archbishop Sarah in your prayers.



Photo: Unsplash

LENT begins on Wednesday 18th February with Ash Wednesday. There will be a service of Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes at 6.30pm at St Paul's.

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Rt Revd Sarah Clark to be next Bishop of Ely

IT has been announced by 10 Downing Street that the Rt Revd Sarah Clark, Bishop of Jarrow and acting Bishop of Durham, is to be the next Bishop of Ely.

Commenting on her appointment, Bishop Sarah said: "There is of course real sadness for me in leaving Durham Diocese. I believe it will have been obvious to you that I have loved being here and have been at home in the North East, in the communities we serve and in the Diocesan family. It is amongst you that I have learned what it means to be a bishop, called to serve and care for the flock of Christ, with the pattern of the Good Shepherd before me. You have shaped me and helped me grow into the bishop that God has called me to be. I know that all I have been and done has only been possible because of the wonderful people I have shared ministry with."

Bishop Sarah joined the diocese as Bishop of Jarrow in 2019, and for the past two years has been acting Bishop of

Durham following the retirement of the Rt Revd Paul Butler.

The Dean of Durham, the Very Reverend Dr Philip Plyming said: "Bishop Sarah's ministry has been deeply appreciated across Durham Diocese, and especially over the last two years when she has taken on additional leadership responsibilities as Acting Bishop of Durham. She has connected in special ways with diverse communities across the Diocese and has won both their respect and their affection. As a leader of people she has set the highest standards of accountability, faithfulness and dependence on the Lord in prayer, and we will greatly miss her insightful preaching, pastoral wisdom and godly character. At the same time, we know that her heart for mission and love for all God's people will stand her in the best stead as she responds to this new call of God to serve as Bishop of Ely, and we will be holding her and all the people she is called to serve in our



Photo: Durham Diocese

prayers."

The Vice-Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, Canon Margaret Vaughan, and the Diocesan Secretary, Canon James Morgan said: "We would like to thank Bishop Sarah for her leadership as Acting Diocesan Bishop during the episcopal vacancy and her ministry as Bishop of Jarrow. Her role as sponsoring bishop for our curates, ordinands and lay leaders in training, in championing the diocesan transformation and supporting the continuing development of our safeguarding practices has inspired progress across

our diocese. We wish her well as she prepares to serve as Bishop of Ely and pray for her and the people of the Diocese of Ely as she takes up this new role."

As Bishop Sarah prepares to take up her new role, the diocesan leadership will work with the Archbishop of York to make interim arrangements for the remainder of the Durham episcopal vacancy, and further announcements will be made in due course on that, as well as the timings for Bishop Sarah leaving the diocese.

Report from Durham Diocesan press release.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MOTHERS' Union members met for their Annual General Meeting on Monday 9th February and for anyone yet to pay their subs of £29 are asked to pass on the money to Pauline Storey or Brenda Crooks as soon as possible.

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FOR YOUR PRAYERS

For this season of Lent as we journey towards Holy Week and Easter.

For Bishop Sarah Clark following her appointment as the next Bishop of Ely.

For the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally.



PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY

We meet you, transforming God, in word, fellowship and sacrament.

Fill us with such joy in the encounter, that our joyfulness spills over into the world you love, that others may come to know you and rejoice with us.

Amen.

Source: Redemptorist Publications

Parish Registers

HOLY BAPTISM

Whitworth Church

11th January

Felicity Joyce Spence

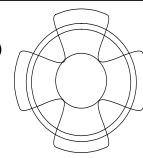
St Paul's

25th January

Freya Stirling-Swainston

25th January

Evie Marie Rocks



CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

St Paul's

7th January

Kenneth Sapsed

21st January

Alice Coulson

28th January

Bryan Robinson

29th January

Edward Unsworth

Wear Valley Crematorium

19th January

Irene Blackburn

LADIES AT ST PAUL'S

Calendar of Events 2026

ALL WELCOME

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

7.30 – 9.30 PM

JAN 14th	Bread Shaping Shaping bread to bake at home.	JUL 8th	Summer Social Drinks, nibbles and mindfulness.
FEB 11th	Nights of Light Making displays for windows to support event.	AUG 12th	Pub Trip A chance for a chinwag around a drink. Location TBC.
MAR 8th	Fused Glass SOLD OUT! <small>Workshop (£)</small>	SEP 9th	Quiz Night Something fun and to suit all.
APR 8th	Bead Crafts Making accessories using beads.	OCT 14th	Church Wreath Let's make a wreath for church but with a difference.
MAY 13th	Spring Clean Serving the church by tackling some of the dust!	NOV 11th	Seasonal Crafts Table arrangement for Christmas.
JUN 10th	Book Exchange Book exchange with a chance to do some creative writing.	DEC 9th	Christmas Fun Bring and share food, crafts, music and quiz.

Location: Watch out for information each month. Most events will take place at **St Paul's Church** or **St Paul's Centre**. Unless stated otherwise, all events are **FREE** to attend.

Contact: ladies@stpaulspennymoor.co.uk



NIGHTS OF LIGHT 2026

Thursday 26th February to Sunday 1st March



When it gets dark!

Wander the streets of town and admire the windows decorated by the people inside! And join in by creating a window of your own!



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