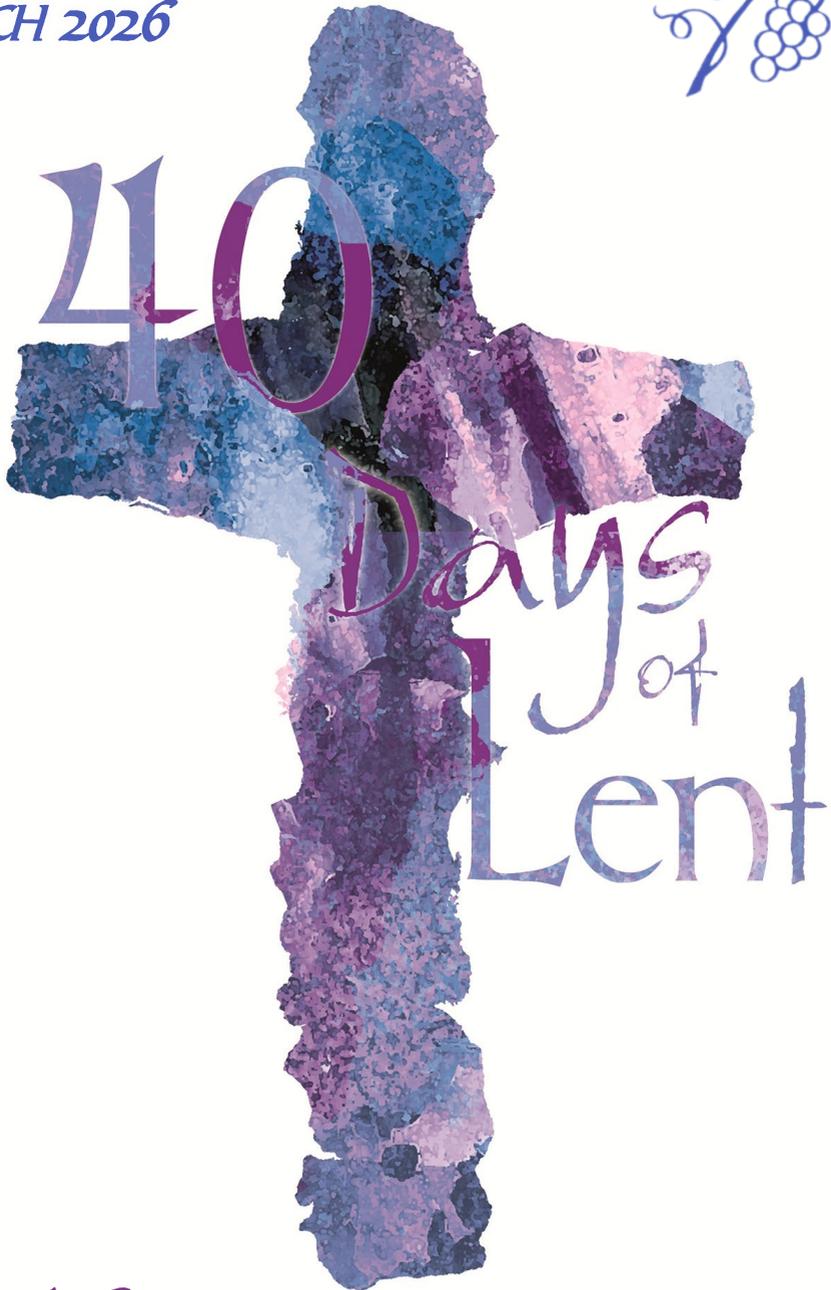


THE GRAPEVINE

Issue - 84



MARCH 2026



ST PAUL'S CHICHESTER

SANCTUARY HOSPITALITY SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER

WWW.STPAULSCHICHESTER.ORG

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St Pauls Church
Churchside
CHICHESTER
PO19 6FT

Office open: Mon-Fri 9.30am-12.30pm
Telephone: 01243 533403
Email: office@stpaulschichester.org
Website: www.stpaulschichester.org

Rector

The Rev'd Canon Paul Doick
01243 306043
rector@stpaulschichester.org

Safeguarding Officer

Mark Holl
07934 667 804
safeguarding@stpaulschichester.org

Caretaker

Chris Griffiths
01243 533403
caretaker@stpaulschichester.org

Director of Music

Christopher Larley
07815 801 054
choir@stpaulschichester.org

Schools and Families Worker

Zena Matthews
07749 419475
families@stpaulschichester.org

Churchwardens

Jeannie Taylor and David Foster
jeannietaylor@stpaulschichester.org
davidfoster@stpaulschichester.org

Pastoral Care Helpline 07843 719594

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

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE GRAPEVINE

The deadline for April's edition is 2pm Tuesday 31st March.

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

The April edition will be available from Sunday 5th April

The May issue which will be published on Sunday 3rd May.

THE RECTOR'S LETTER:

Lead us not into temptation. . . .

Dear Friends,

As I sat at my desk to begin writing this letter I recalled with sadness that it was the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. It was a moment of sorrow and reflection, and indeed a time of continued prayer for peace. For the Church the season of Lent began the day before that anniversary and continues through the whole of March. It too is a time for reflection and for prayer. One of the outwards signs that the liturgical season has changed is that our church buildings are changed. Flowers are removed and everything becomes a bit simpler as we spend the next few weeks preparing for Easter. Lent has a long and varied history. In the early church Easter day became the main occasion for baptism and so Lent was a time to be instructed in the Christian faith. But it was also a time not just to remember the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness following his own baptism: but also, of preparation for Easter through studying the bible and giving to charity, especially to the poor, and of examining one's own life, and in penitence, seeking forgiveness. And in recognition of the temptations that Jesus faced in the wilderness, Lent was also a period of self-denial and fasting.

Today some people find Lent a bit miserable, and it's certainly true that fewer churchgoers attend an Ash Wednesday service to be marked with a cross of ash. There could of course be lots of reasons for that. One of them is probably habit. And another is our lifestyle. Many of us lead incredibly busy lives, and if our work means that we simply can't get to a church for an Ash Wednesday Service, then we very easily get out of the habit. Of course, for many Christians marking the beginning of Lent with a special service is not something they have ever done because for so many reasons mid-week services have not been part of their life of faith.

One of the key questions for us all during Lent is how we deal with temptation. For many people that means the practice of giving up something they enjoy. From coffee purchased in a local café to chocolate, there is something quite

special about the self-discipline that giving something up can do for us, especially when we don't give into the temptation to lapse. And that's because giving something up, or the often much harder practice of fasting, is a spiritual and prayerful reminder that we can't always achieve things by ourselves.

In the wilderness Jesus reflected on who he was and what he came to do, and he relied heavily on his close relationship with his Heavenly Father. Whether we seek encouragement to give up chocolate by relying on prayer, or whether we realise that to achieve our goals we often need the help of others, Lent is perhaps a good time to respond to the deep temptation we all face in the busyness and distractions of life. And that is the temptation that convinces us that we don't need God. Perhaps during the season of Lent this year, we might all reflect on how we see God in our lives. And as we do to think about how our relationship with him needs to change. Do we need to overcome the temptation which says we don't need his help? Each time we say the Lord's Prayer, as we say the familiar words, 'lead us not into temptation' it's certainly something for us to ponder.

With every blessing,
Canon Paul

Good Friday Worship and Activities for Families



3rd April 2026 10.30am - 12.30pm in the Parish Centre
Family Craft Activities and lunch
(suitable for Year R upwards)

Please book and pay by Tuesday 31st March - booking essential
Contact Zena to book - 07749419475
£8.50 per child; £5 per adult (includes fish and chips)
Minimum of one adult per booking please

SOME CHANGES TO THE INTERIOR OF ST. PAUL'S

When I arrived at St. Paul's in 2024 one of the things that struck me was how much brighter and modern it looked, in comparison to how I remembered it. So many people have worked incredibly hard to ensure that the church and the parish centre continue to be cared for and are fit for purpose for many years to come and I know that people are delighted with the outcome. There were a couple of areas though where people asked me if we could make some changes. It won't surprise many people if I say that the quality of the sound system, the comfort of the chairs, and whether a more permanent solution for the screen featured highly in people's comments. I have personally also been keen to see whether or not we can inject a little more colour into the church too. The PCC has therefore looked at replacing the sound and AV system, to include the latest technology in speakers, TV screens instead of a portable screen, and a permanent livestream camera system to livestream some services, and to replace the nave chairs. Our chairs are still in good condition, but they are moved a lot, are heavy and don't stack very easily. Having thought about chairs it also seemed to be a good opportunity to see whether the choir could be provided with some form of book rests too. Finally, it seemed that an easy way to inject some colour was to commission an ecclesiastical textile artist to create a modern altar frontal incorporating all the liturgical colours. This will enable the altar to have a renewed focus as the centre of our worship. After receiving some quotes, it was clear that this would be an expensive project; however, the PCC has been delighted that last year we received a legacy, and there is also the promise of further legacies this year. With some of the costs covered by legacies, the Churchwardens and I therefore applied for a faculty and have now received permission to go ahead with this work. This is exciting news and although as with any change it will take a bit of time to get used to things, its such good news when we are able to continue to improve our facilities through God's grace, and the generosity of others. Most of these changes will start to happen over the next few months, except the chairs which aren't affordable as yet. If anyone would like to make a donation towards a chair (each chair will cost about £400) then do let our treasurer Ian Creswick know (treasurer@stpaulschichester.org) We will be most grateful.

'LET US PRAY.....'

One of the things that is at the heart of our faith is prayer. It's something that we sometimes do without thinking about it. Praying for others can simply be bringing our thoughts before God, whether that's when we are watching the news or when we have spoken to a friend or family member who is struggling with an illness or a situation that's hard.

As a Church we bring these concerns before God each week in our intercessions at our 10am Eucharists on Sundays and Thursdays. But there are times in our own prayers when its helpful to have an area of life to focus on. So each month we publish a list of things that people can pray for at home, or wherever they pray. These themes will sometimes be used by those who lead our intercessions on a Sunday too. The particular areas of prayer for January are noted below – do use them in your own prayers.

Prayer Focus for March

- All preparing for Baptism and Confirmation.
- Christians who are persecuted.
- All in leadership.
- The King and Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Royal Family
- The Government, Members of Parliament and those who sit in the House of Lords
- The work of West Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council, Chichester City Council, and Westhampnett Parish Council.

Prayer for the month

Almighty God,

*whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:*

mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,

may find it none other than the way of life and peace;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Common worship provides us with two collects each week. A standard one, often based on the collects found in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, or one of the additional collects composed at the request of General Synod to complement what was existing. Generally, I like to use the additional collects at the Sunday 10am Eucharist as they are often more succinct and straightforward in their imagery. They are occasionally easier to read too. That's not to say that I don't like the standard collects, many are beautifully written, and this one, set for the Third Sunday in Lent, is a particular favourite. The prayer is a reminder, as we approach Easter, that before we share in the joy of the resurrection, we will hear once more the story of the pain and suffering of Holy Week. The prayer invites us to walk with Jesus as he approaches the cross, and that as we do we discover that the life-giving power of the cross. Do use this prayer throughout Lent this year and I pray that it will draw you closer to Jesus, especially we enter Holy week at the end of the month.



DIARY

All events at St Paul's unless stated otherwise

MORNING PRAYER - WEEKDAYS AT 9AM

Su 1 Mar	Lent 2	Genesis 12.1-4a; John 3.1-17
	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	All-age Eucharist (crèche toys available) followed by refreshments
	3pm	Afternoon Tea Party, concluding with Evening Prayer
	4pm	Come & Sing Evensong singers' rehearsal
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
M 2 Mar		
Tu 3 Mar	10am	Praying for St Paul's Renewed
	2pm	Lent Group - session 2
	7.30pm	PCC meeting (open to PCC members only).
W 4 Mar	5.30pm	Evensong at St Olav's, North Street
	7.30pm	Lent Group - session 2
Th 5 Mar	10am	Eucharist followed by refreshments
	11am	Lent Group - session 2
	6pm	Choir Practice (Children's Choir)
	7.15pm	Choir Practice (Full Choir)
F 6 Mar	12.30pm	World Day of Prayer lunch and Service at Christ Church
Sa 7 Mar		
Su 8 Mar	Lent 3	Exodus 17.1-7; John 4.5-42
	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche followed by refreshments
M 9 Mar		
Tu 10 Mar	10am	Praying for St Paul's Renewed
	2pm	Lent Group - session 3
W 11 Mar		Ladies' Group—out to lunch—pre-booking essential
	7.30pm	Lent Group - session 3
Th 12 Mar	10am	Eucharist followed by refreshments
	11am	Lent Group - session 3
	6pm	Choir Practice (Children's Choir)
	7.15pm	Choir Practice (Full Choir)
F 13 Mar		
Sa 14 Mar		

Su 15 Mar Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2.1-10; Luke 2.33-35

8am Holy Communion

10am All-age Eucharist (crèche toys available)
followed by refreshments

M 16 Mar 2.30pm Chess Group

Tu 17 Mar 10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed

2pm Lent Group - session 4

W 18 Mar 7.30pm Lent Group - session 4

Th 19 Mar 10am Eucharist followed by refreshments

11am Lent Group - session 4

6pm Choir Practice (Children's Choir)

7.15pm Choir Practice (Full Choir)

Fr 20 Mar

Sa 21 Mar 7.30pm Chichester Symphony Orchestra concert

Su 22 Mar Lent 5

Ezekiel 37.1-14; John 11.1-45

8am Holy Communion

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

M 23 Mar

Tu 24 Mar 10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed

2pm Lent Group - session 5

W 25 Mar 2.30pm Ladies' Group

7.30pm Lent Group - session 5

Th 26 Mar 10am Eucharist followed by refreshments

11am Lent Group - session 5

6pm Choir Practice (Children's Choir)

7.15pm Choir Practice (Full Choir)

F 27 Mar

Sa 28 Mar

Su 29 Mar Palm Sunday

Philippians 2.5-11; Matthew 26.14-end of 27

8am Holy Communion

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

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, CHICHESTER.
Holy Week and Easter 2026

Sunday 29th March

**10am | Sung Eucharist for Palm Sunday
(service begins in the Parish Centre)**

Monday 30th March to Wednesday 1st April

6.30pm | Eucharist with Hymns and Reflection

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

**6.30pm | Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper
followed by Vigil until 11pm.**

Good Friday 3rd April

**10am | Worship and activities for families
1.30pm | Liturgy of the Passion**

Easter Day 5th April

**5.30am | Dawn Vigil & First Eucharist of Easter
8am | Holy Communion
10am | All Age Eucharist for Easter Day**

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. Our meetings in March are as follows:

11th Mar "Out to Lunch" at Joanna's Boutique at 12 noon. Pre booking essential.

25th Mar "Tax, Care and the New Guy" A talk by Richard Benjamin from Silvertime Legal, Estate Planning Services.

Don't forget your contributions to the Foodbank. Thank you

MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers' Union usually meets on the third Thursday of the month at 11am in St Paul's Church after the 10am Eucharist. There will be no meeting in March however, to avoid conflicting with the Parish Lent Group. Our April meeting will be on 16th April.

Heather Hyde 07949 799 415

F3A

F3A meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Parish Centre. Everybody 60 and over will be very welcome. However our March meeting will be set aside in favour of the parish Lent Course. Our April meeting will be on 22nd April.

Mary Ashwin 786501

AFTERNOON TEA 3-5PM, SUNDAY 1st MARCH AND EVERY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Everyone is warmly invited to join us for afternoon tea at St. Paul's parish centre on the first Sunday of every month. No cost or pre-booking required. Come and enjoy tea and cakes with friendly company. We conclude our afternoon with a short service of Evening Prayer using the traditional language of the Book of Common Prayer.

For information contact Margaret Phillips 527961 or Phyllis Nicholls 780454.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

Nigeria 2026

Ecumenical Service

at St George's Whyke

Cleveland Road, PO19 7AD

Service at 2pm

Soup Lunch

served 12.30 - 1.30pm

All Welcome



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

LENT GIVING

Envelopes for Lenten donations to support our Mission Partners will be available throughout Lent from Chris Merrien after Sunday services, or pick one up from the back of church. Please give generously.

CHRISTIAN AID LENT LUNCHES

On Wednesdays in Lent churches across the town will be providing simple bread and soup lunches to raise money for Christian Aid. These will take place from 12noon-1.30pm at Christ Church in Old Market Avenue on 4th 11th, 18th, 25th March. St Paul's is responsible for the lunch on 18th March and your support would be much appreciated (and on others days too).



HEART CHICHESTER: looking for more volunteer cooks

HEART is facing a critical shortage of volunteer cooks. Without more help soon, they may have to reduce their daily breakfast service which is something they have never had to do. Every day, 20–30 of Chichester's most vulnerable people rely on them for a hot breakfast, and they don't want to reduce the service without exhausting every option first. They are looking for people willing to cook breakfast and who can commit to a regular slot — weekly, fortnightly, or monthly — for just 2–3 hours. Full training is provided. If you are interested in helping please contact the HEART administrator Becky Haddow on info@heartchichester.co.uk. Thank you.

MOTHERING SUNDAY AND EASTER CARDS

These are now on sale after the Parish Eucharist each Sunday, along with the usual recycled cards for other occasions. Still at the price of 50p each with envelope. Proceeds to St Paul's PCC.

If you would like a selection of cards brought to your home to choose from, please phone Jacqueline on 01243 783136.

Thank you to everyone who supports us by buying these cards.

Carolyn Berriman & Jacqueline Combes.

LOVE

SUPPORT

HOPE

CARE



ANNUAL

CHARITY WALK

SUNDAY 10TH MAY

ARUNDEL CASTLE PARK, BN18 9AU

**CHOOSE A 1 OR 5KM WALK
START BETWEEN 1PM AND 3PM**

£7.50 Adults/£3 Children (under 5's free)/£3 Dog

Download your Sponsor Form from our website

Dog Sponsor Forms also available this year!



BOOK IN ADVANCE HERE
OR PAY ON THE DAY

**TEAS
REFRESHMENTS
STALLS**

Pushchairs & children
with scooters can go up to
2km on a tarmac path

Dogs on leads welcome
Car parking on site

THESESSEXSNOWDROPTRUST.COM



**Chichester
Symphony Orchestra**



*The Barry Goodchild Memorial
Concert*

**Saturday, March 21st, 2026 7:30pm
St. Paul's, Churchside, Chichester
PO19 6FT**

Conductor: Simon Wilkins

Soloist: Simon Wilkins

Leader: Alex Hu

Verdi: Nabucco Overture

Bruch: Kol Nidrei

Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5

Coleridge-Taylor: Ballade

Tickets from ticketsource.co.uk or the door

Adults £17, Students £5, Under 5 Free

chichesterso.co.uk
W3W fresh.shave.bridge



Reg. Charity No.
1037051

ST·PETER'S·CHURCH



WESTHAMPNETT

Registered Charity No: 1191476



SOCIAL BINGO NIGHT

**CLICKETY CLICK - 66 - HELP RAISE MONEY
TO FIX THE CHURCH BRICKS!**

Join us for a fun filled evening with food and drink to help raise funds
for St. Peter's Church!

Jacket Potato's available with choice of filling and salad alongside a
limited bar offering beer, wine and soft drinks!

SATURDAY 11th APRIL 2026

7-9PM

**WESTHAMPNETT COMMUNITY HALL
HADRIAN DRIVE PO18 0FP**

Tickets available in advance from
Hazel Bate - 07962811990 or Jane Stone
07906603373



TICKETS

£10

UNDER 16'S £5