



ST PAUL'S

LOW MOOR PARISH CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2026

Reaching out and growing together in God's love

A thought from Catherine

August is usually one of the quieter months in the church calendar but this year has been an exception with much going on , especially in relation to the 100th Centenary Celebrations in the Diocese and with the Mothers' Union 150th anniversary, both of which you can read about in the magazine.

One of the most special things for me this month was the request from an aunty who asked if she could be baptised prior to her niece's Baptism so that she could be a Godparent. It's one of the strange anomalies in the Church of England - and there are a few- that Godparents have to be baptised but the parents of a baby being baptised don't!

Adult Baptism is relatively unusual for us as a parish but it's wonderful to think that an adult wants to make that commitment and those promises which say I believe in God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and that I want to turn to Christ and turn away from evil.

Yet really we shouldn't be surprised . Jesus was about 30 when he was Baptised in the River Jordan - hardly a babe in arms, something we remember as all come to Baptism. Just to make things even better her twin brother, Charlie - the father of the baby decided to make the same commitment. So last Sunday was a very special time in our church's life as two people came forward to be baptised. Charlie was especially delighted when he saw the regimental flag of the royal Engineers in our chapel, the regiment to which he belongs! Throughout the Bible we read about how God surprised people, Abraham, Mary, , Saul on the way to Damascus to name but a few, he has never stopped. The God of surprises still takes us unawares, but when he does how amazing it is -so be prepared - he could take you by surprise too.

God bless

Catherine

**The September Magazine is kindly sponsored by
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Cover photo overleaf: A view over part of the parish of St Paul's



We had a superb Messy Church on a beautiful summer day on the theme of 'holidays'. We re-enacted the story of Jesus going to the Temple, had many other activities and ice lollies. **A huge thank you to Faith and all the team.**



Mothers' Union

I am writing this the day after witnessing the partial eclipse of the sun, and on what they predict will be the hottest day of the year so far. The first reminds us of God's wonderful world and the organised way the universe has been created. The second reminds us of the chaos that we are causing by disrupting and disturbing the pattern. The wild fires this summer are a worrying example of what we are facing this year.

I wonder what Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers' Union, experienced 150 years



ago as she looked around the area where she lived. Last Saturday members of the MU from all over the diocese gathered at the cathedral for a service to celebrate those 150 years. The cathedral was filled with colour as the banners from all the branches lined the walls. Around the nave each deanery also displayed some of the work that they are involved with at the moment. Cheryl, the Presiding Member of Whalley Deanery, set up our display around the Rise Up campaign that we have had as a priority recently. There was also a write up from each branch telling about their group and their church.

People started arriving during the morning to look around the exhibition and admire the many banners: new and old, big and small, modern and traditional. Catherine, Anne and Derek, Christine, myself and Miles all settled down ready for the Holy Communion service at 2.00pm. The seats were all set up in the central part of the nave but it soon became clear that there were more people than seats – a good problem – and more seats, about 150, were set up in both side aisles. The service went ahead and the hymn singing was good. Candles were lit from each deanery. Bishop Philip preached and stressed the importance of family, fellowship and faith in our everyday life. He also thought of Mary Sumner and how from that first meeting of 10 mothers an international organisation of four million members in eighty-four countries exists today. These members still look after families but get involved with modern day issues and campaigns. They look to the future giving thanks for all the members over 150 years. Bishop Philip reminded us that great things can be achieved from small beginnings.

Our next celebration is a deanery one on Wednesday 23rd September in Salesbury Memorial Hall, entitled "Join us and join in". This will include a tribute show to Joyce Grenfell, and music by Community Ukes. There will also be refreshments and loads of fellowship.

OUR NEXT BRANCH MEETING IS ON TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER. It will begin with Holy Communion, followed by refreshments and a meeting to discuss the programme and events. Do come along and find out more about our plans. Speak to myself, Catherine, Anne, or any of the members if you are thinking of joining us for the evening. You will all be made welcome and witness our joy in enrolling a new member. I recently read this about the MU, "Our vision is a future where everyone can thrive". Love to all, Lynda

Future dates: 13th October, 10th November



Cream Teas:

Our last Cream Teas afternoon of the year was well attended by many new people. A total of £400 was raised for church funds.

Thank you to our events team for such a great job!





Above, left: Geoff celebrated his 80th birthday in August, pictured here with Johanna and grandson Callum.



Above, centre: Our All Age Service focussed on using our gifts with Rachel asking Ashley and a group of parishioners about their talents, how they use them and how we might pray for them.



Above, far right: Admission of Sidespersons also at All Age Service

Below, left to right: There's always a job to do, whether it's changing the notice board (Ashley) or repairing the church wall (David)



Left: The recent partial solar eclipse as it passed west of St Paul's.

Right: Charlie and Madeline at their baptism service recently.
(See Catherine's letter on Page 2)



Blackburn Cathedral Flower Festival



We had great fun as Geraldine, Wendy and Catherine set up the Benefice flower display at the Centenary of Blackburn Diocese at the Cathedral. **Thank you, Geraldine, for preparing and arranging the stunning displays.** The Cream Teas and Messy Church themes reflected the essence of our parishes.



As you will see from the accompanying photographs the theme for St Paul's was **'Cream Teas'** with a quote from 1 Corinthians 10:31:

'So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the Glory of GOD.'



When Music Becomes a Ministry



Dolly Parton may not be the first person we think of when we talk about Christian ministry, but perhaps she has something rather important to say about it.

Dolly grew up singing in church in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, where gospel music was part of everyday life. She has often spoken about the influence of those early years and the way she learned not simply to sing, but to sing with feeling and emotion.

Reflecting on her own music, she once said:

"I think in a way, my music has been almost like my ministry."

She went on to say that she hoped her music could be healing, lift people up and give them songs to which they could relate.

There is something rather profound in that. We tend perhaps to think of ministry as preaching, teaching or pastoral care. Yet music can minister too. A hymn can express something we cannot find words for. A piece of music can bring comfort, joy or even healing. Sometimes a familiar tune can take us back many years, bringing people and places vividly to mind.

Dolly has also spoken of her belief that God gave her musical gift, and of wanting to use that gift to share the love that had been poured into her own life.

Perhaps that is something for all of us to consider. We are not all singers or musicians, but we each have gifts which can be used to encourage, comfort and bring joy to others. Music simply happens to be one of the most beautiful ways in which those gifts can be shared.

So, as we celebrate Music Sunday, perhaps we can remember that music is more than sound and more than entertainment. It can be a gift, a prayer, a memory, a comfort - and, in its own quiet way, a ministry.

And perhaps Dolly Parton summed it up rather well. Thank you, Dolly.

JH

2026 Centenary Parish Mission Weekends

As part of the celebration of our Diocesan Centenary in 2026, Bishop Philip has called for a Diocesan-wide weekend of parish mission and outreach, between 11 and 13 September 2026.

ST PAUL'S LOW MOOR

12TH & 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Mission Weekend

COME AND SEE!

ALL FREE OF CHARGE!

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 11AM - 4PM

- REFRESHMENTS
- CHILDREN'S TEA PARTY AND GAMES / ACTIVITIES
- LINE DANCING
- ST PAUL'S IN THE COMMUNITY
- DISPLAY OF WEDDING DRESSES

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

- ALL AGE FAMILY SERVICE** 9:30AM
- HYMNS & PIMMS** 4PM ONWARDS

ALL WELCOME!

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

EVERYONE IS INVITED - BRING FAMILY & FRIENDS!

ST PAUL'S CHURCH
Edisford Road, Low Moor,
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enquiries@stpauls-lowmoor.org.uk

more info
SCAN ME

The invitation is for every parish across the Diocese to put on a weekend in which simple, often fun events are held, to which both Christians and non-Christians can be invited, to enjoy themselves and to engage together - and at which there will be an accessible presentation of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

These Centenary weekends also offer us an opportunity to do something special with Sunday morning services, and to invite along those who perhaps haven't yet experienced the worship of the Church. We are in the process of producing invitations for our Parishioners to give to neighbour and friends.

At St Paul's we will share our Heritage with displays, photographs, historical documents,

a scrolling video presentation, wedding dresses, baptism gowns and Rose Queen dresses. There will be children's activities, refreshments and much more.

On Sunday we celebrate Education in our Benefice and finish with a joint Benefice Service at 4.00 with Hymns and Pimms.

The events team are working hard to ensure that we have enough volunteers on the day - if you would like to be involved and help in any way there will be lists at the back of church to sign up to.

Catherine

Thanks to those who supplied photos for this issue. Messy Church photos by Wendy with permission

Diary SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1st	7.00 Events Group meet at Low Moor Club
Sunday 6th	9.30 Holy Communion
Tuesday 8th	7.30 MU Holy Communion
Thursday 10th	10.00 Holy Communion 3.00 Home Communion Abbeyfield
Friday 11th	11.00 Home Communion Beech Grove
Saturday 12th	11.00 - 4.00 Mission Weekend
Sunday 13th	9.30 All Age Education Sunday 4.00 Hymns & Pimms
Friday 18th	Quiz Night at Christ Church
Sunday 20th	9.30 Holy Communion
Wednesday 23rd	1.30 MU 150th Deanery Celebration Salisbury
Sunday 27th	9.30 Holy Communion



Edith, our official wedding photographer, took these beautiful photos of Matthew and Grace on their recent wedding day.

Weddings

Matthew Charles Barraclough & Grace Ashworth
Patricia Greenwood & Michael Moss- Blundell

Baptisms

Madeline Newsham
Charlie Newsham
Darla - Mae Newsham

Funerals

Jacqueline May Hudson