



Newsletter

18 & 25 February 2024

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Services for Sunday 18 February 2024 First Sunday of Lent

St Paul's 10am **All-Age Family Worship** with Revd Andy Smith and Anne Rockley

St Andrew's 11am **Morning Praise in Lent** led by Anthea Darlington

Services for Sunday 25 February 2024 Second Sunday of Lent

St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion in Lent** Revd Daniel Mullaney presiding

St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion in Lent** Revd Hilary Shedlock presiding



Readings for 18 February: Genesis 9: 8-17 (St P) (1) God's promise to Noah
Mark 1: 9-15 (both) (2) 40 days in the wilderness
Readings for 25 February: Genesis 17:1-7,15-16 (3) God's promise to Abraham
Mark 8: 31-end (4) Take up your cross and follow me

Wed 21 Feb: Jonah 3: 1-10; Luke 11: 29-32 Wed 28 Feb: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20: 17-28

A reflection for the season of Lent



Each Lenten period is an invitation to take time to stop, consider and bring our hearts before God. Like the call in Joel 2:12, 'return to me with all your heart', Lent offers a call to return to God with our whole lives: body, mind and spirit. Traditionally, it is a time when Christians contemplate the suffering of Jesus and consider their own suffering, as they journey towards Easter Day when a new trajectory of resurrection is assured.

Romans 8 reminds us that the pain and suffering we experience is not just a human experience but one shared by God's wider creation. We live in a moment in history

where we see species and habitat loss at shocking rates; humans - particularly in richer contexts - are too often living disconnected lives from nature and where crucial carbon sinks that naturally capture carbon are disappearing.

In Lent, we enter into a journey of lament, which recognises our fallen humanity and the limitations of such a reality. We are also invited to stop, reflect and consider the broken creation we inhabit, that is subject to the decay and destruction that our own rejection of God's good rule continues to cause upon it. We seek God's forgiveness and call upon God's grace as we return to God and live in anticipation of that day of renewal, Easter Day when resurrection is assured.

With thanks to A Rocha, who sponsor our Diocesan Eco awards

Links between St Paul's Church and St Paul's School

Most of you know that our local primary school has links with the church, but you may not be aware of what those links are. St Paul's school was founded at the same time as the church: the local Victorian worthies who built the church were committed to educating the children whose



families would attend it. The school is Voluntary Controlled, which means it is funded solely by the local authority who also decide on the admission arrangements- it's open to everyone.

The school has strong and inclusive Christian values which enable everyone to flourish. Of its governor team of 15, more than half (8) are associated directly with the church: clergy, PCC and church members. We take our three core functions: ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; holding leaders to account for their performance; overseeing financial performance, very seriously. Our parish treasurer, Tracy Kehoe, is also the school's financial manager and provides a direct day-to-day link between church and school. Anthea Darlington (Reader Emeritus), as well as being the link governor for RE, provides a weekly biblically based religious assembly linked to school values which is delivered personally by her or Revd Daniel every 2-3 weeks. The whole school attends 4 services in church during every year co-ordinated by our Churchwarden David Martin, at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and end of school year. Parental attendance at these services has increased in recent years. The children behave impeccably, sing enthusiastically and tell us they love coming. Y1 visit church each year as part of the RE curriculum to learn about what happens in church and what it is that makes a church sacred. At least one class group visits church each Easter to enjoy the Easter Experience and at Christmas to take part in the Christmas Experience. We encourage them to decorate a Christmas tree for our display. The school choir has sung regularly at our Christmas Fair. Governors from the church attend school and nativity plays and end of year celebrations, and at the end of each school year Heather Martin (Reader Emeritus) presents each school leaver with a special book from church to help with their transition to secondary education. All the school's services in church are advertised in this Newsletter and we warmly welcome you to attend. Speak to Anthea if you want to learn more.

Prayers

We pray for those we know who are not well at this time: Marion Garrod, Brenda Laithwaite after a fall, Les Cope, Maureen Roberts, Alice Searle, Lynn Whittle as she settles in to her new care home, Marjorie Smith; for our broken world, so much in need of our prayers this Lent.

News and Events

You are invited to a special **Holy Spirit Day** at the midpoint of our Alpha course, at St Andrew's Church on **Saturday 24 February** 10.30 for 11am. Lunch provided; finish at 4pm. All welcome.

Community/Warm Space/Place of Welcome/Cost of living event on Thursday

29th February noon to 4pm at St Andrew's Lightbulb Drop-in, with the support of Bury Housing and Bury Adult Education. Everyone welcome for a free lunch and a chance to meet up with agencies and groups that offer support and advice, and to find out what is happening locally.

World Day of Prayer: 1 March 2024. No service in our area this year, but you are welcome to one of our local services (Emmanuel Church Langworthy Road 2pm; Monton Methodist 7pm; Eccles Congregational 1.30pm; Swinton Salvation Army 1pm). More information in notices

Parish weekend away at Thornleigh, Grange-over-Sands **20-22 September 2024**. Bookings and deposits now being taken by Alan Pendry- £216.00 pp. See poster in churches for details.

19 February: Leadership team meeting 7pm 5 Moorside Road.

20 February: Time Out St Paul's 1.30pm

20 & 27 February: Alpha St Paul's 6:30pm

21 February: Wednesday Holy Communion St Paul's at 10am with Revd Daniel Mullaney.

22 & 29 February: Lightbulb Drop in St Andrew's 12 noon

28 February: Wed Holy Communion 10am at St Paul's: Revd Mike Dyson and Anne Rockley.

2 March: Messy Church St Andrew's 2.30pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

Current Clergy Team:

Revd Mike Dyson (Associate Minister)

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Revd Hilary Shedlock (Associate Minister)

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Revd Daniel Mullaney (Interim Minister)

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For more information visit our websites:

St Paul's: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15877

St Andrew's: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15878

All other needs:

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Emergency prayer chain: ring Maureen 07359536140 or email rober382@sky.com