

The Magazine
of
St Paul's Church, Warton
~Serving Christ ~ Serving the Community~



'...Behold, all things are become new...'
11 Corinthians 5.17

January 2024



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Church Contacts

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Link Parish - Timmerlah
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Lower Saxony, Germany



Wednesday	3 rd	09.30	Holy Communion
		12.00-	Foodbank
		15.00	

<u>Sunday 7th</u> EPIPHANY 09.45 Parish Eucharist
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Tuesday	9 th	13.30	WI Meal at Coach & Horses
Wednesday	10 th	09.30	Holy Communion
		12.00-	Foodbank
		15.00	

Saturday	13 th	10.00	St. Paul's Little Cafe
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<u>Sunday 14th</u> Baptism of Christ 09.45 All Aboard
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Tuesday	16 th	19.30	History Society in Village Hall
Wednesday	17 th	09.30	Holy Communion
		12.00-	Foodbank
		15.00	
Saturday	20 th	10.00	Holy Trinity Coffee Morning

Sunday 21st

Conversion of St. Paul PATRONAL FESTIVAL

09.45 Parish Eucharist

Monday	22 nd	19.00	Service for Christian Unity Holy Family Church, Warton
Tuesday	23 rd	19.00	MU in Village Hall
Wednesday	24 th	09.30	Holy Communion
		12.00-	Foodbank
		15.00	
Thursday	25 th	19.30	Men's Pint Night

Sunday 28th

Presentation of Christ

09.45 Parish Eucharist

Wednesday	31 st	09.30	Holy Communion
		12.00-	Foodbank
		15.00	

The **DEADLINE**
for articles for the
FEBRUARY magazine is
FRIDAY,
JANUARY 19th

Dear Friends,

I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed all the different services that have taken place over Christmas.



It seems very strange to be writing for January at the beginning of the busy season. The tree lighting service in Freckleton was last night and it was wonderful to see so many people at the service and staying for the market. A dry but cold evening. And Yurch (young peoples church) were seeming busy on the tombola stall for cancer research.

In this time of January things calm down a little thank goodness. And yet we still have the Magi to arrive and the service of Jesus being taken to the temple by Mary and Joseph. Simeon and then Anna both. when seeing the baby Jesus, realised he was the special king promised to the world. Both Simeon and Anna had prayed and waited for the special king to be sent by God for many years and had not lost faith in Gods promises.

Sometimes we may say our prayers when faced with difficult situations in our own lives and maybe feel we are not getting answers. If we look how long both Simeon and Anna waited in the temple for their answers, we may realise that we are not guaranteed to receive answers the day after. Sometimes it's years later that we may look back and find an answer has taken time to come to fruition. What can be noticed later, and often at the time of troubles or trials, is that God is always with us.

He keeps us all in the palm of His hand or under his wing caring for us in many different ways. God mightn't shout out "Yoo Hoo - I'm here taking care of you".

But maybe friends or church family may be praying for us. Or a stranger may just say something to us that may feel special. There are many different ways God let's us know he's caring for us.

Our time is not Gods time, and problems or situations are worked out not when we feel they should be, but when God feels the time is right.

In the Old Testament in Ecclesiasticus it says there's a time for every purpose under heaven.

So at the start of this New Year I will hope and pray for all of you that it is a good New Year; that we can all listen to God to feel when friends need our help, from prayers to a visit.

Also feel, as Simeon and Anna did, that patience can help us attain that special help and care when we need it.

It just goes for me to wish and hope for you all a good and healthy New Year

With love and prayers.

Reverend Christine

“

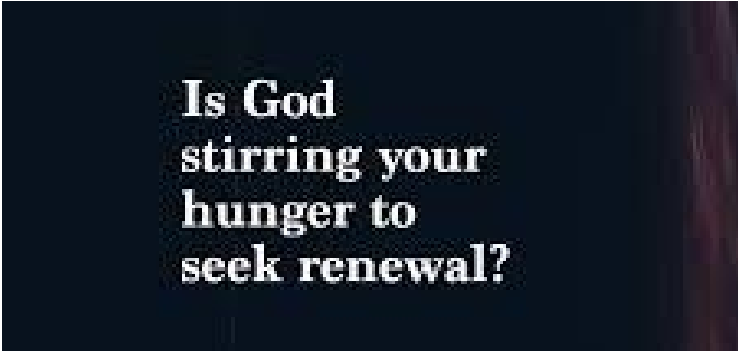
Approach the new year
with resolve to find the
opportunities hidden
in each new day.”

WARDEN'S NOTES

I would imagine that the main celebrations of Christmas 2023 will be over by the time you read these jottings, but as I write, it is good to look back on some significant events of the first half of December. I was reassured when we had a very satisfactory attendance at the lovely Advent Service of Light. Led by Rev. Tracy, Anne-Marie and Grace it was made up of poetry and prose after which the symbols of the Advent candles were lit. Only one remained unlit, signifying the Light which came into the world on that first Christmas.

Christingle on the following Sunday evening was a joyous occasion and I am certain even more children would have come along if they had known what fun we had. Whilst the orange is the traditional Christingle, we had a very welcome change and used decorated cupcakes. The children entranced us singing a verse of *Away in a manger* and it was a truly moving moment captured in some lovely photographs as the candles twinkled.

In a totally different vein, our two Parochial Church Councils met at St Paul's for the first of a series of sessions on the new (to us) initiative entitled Parish Renewal or "Leading the church into growth". As 2024 goes on you will learn more about how the four P's - Prayer, Presence, Proclamation, and Persuasion will make a difference.



**Is God
stirring your
hunger to
seek renewal?**

I was delighted to see the re-introduction of a list of events and lists of those we remember on the back of the “Sunday Sheet” as we call it. It is good to have this information to keep close at hand in our home and I really welcome it.

Just before I close for this month, I would like to thank the wonderful team who decorated the church and installed the lovely Christmas tree once again.

Finally, a very Happy New Year!

Audrey

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

It's that time again, when the annual subscription for St. Paul's magazine becomes due.

We are pleased to say that we are maintaining costs for 2024 at £8 per year.

Please could we ask you to have your money ready when your magazine distributor calls with your February magazine.

Thank you very much indeed for your continued subscription.



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Part of my wider role within the diocese is as a vocations adviser, helping people to discern their calling from God, most notably to Licensed Lay Ministry or ordination but also to other roles within the Church. I encourage everyone to think about who God is calling them to be and what God is calling them to do.

Having St Paul as the patronal saint of one of our two churches we are very familiar with the account of Saul's conversion. He was an extremely zealous Jew who believed that those who followed Jesus were going against God. He hunted for followers of Jesus so he could arrest and kill them for what they believed. But Saul had to face the fact that he had been wrong all of his life when Jesus came to him on the road to Damascus and blinded him with a bright light. Saul changed from hating Jesus to loving Jesus and became known as Paul the Apostle who had a gift for encouraging others. We see this running through his letters. He affirmed, encouraged and enabled. He responded to who God was calling him to be and then helped others to do the same. Vocational discernment and recognition of people's gifts and God's calling isn't an individual activity, but part of the whole Church's journey

I want to share a poem called The Summer Day by Mary Oliver to help us to reflect on our calling:

*Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean -
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down -
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.*

*Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?*

The heart of the poem are the lines - Tell me, what else should I have done? Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?

Our lives are wild and precious precisely because they're given and chosen by God. In the light of this truth, the question is one we turn to God to for an answer. Because, finding and following our calling doesn't start with ourselves, but with God. God has a plan for each of our lives. Of course, because God designed them. It's not an obligatory plan – God will be there even if we don't follow it. God's plan for us is one for our flourishing and fruitfulness. We don't fail if we err or stray from it. Rather it's a rolling plan that meets us where we are and evolves as our wild and precious lives unfolds, just as we saw with the example of Saul.

As you seek God's plan you might want to hold on to three key truths:

First, God calls each and every one of us, no matter where we're at – because God made each of us and God loves each of us, just as we are.

Second, God can and does use just about anything to equip us and point us towards the adventure he has in store for us.

Third, God's plan involves our future flourishing and fulfilment – redeeming the past, not limited by it.

So, I offer thanks and celebrate those people using their gifts and skills in the service of God in both of our churches, affirming them and the things they are doing so well. I pray for those yet to discover how they might use their gifts for God, and how we might help them discover the different ways the Church might enable them to use their gifts.

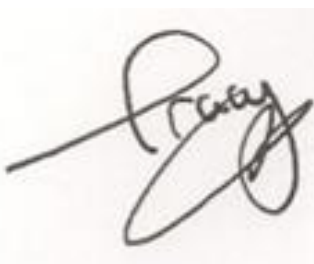
The words of the hymn by Frances Ridley Havergal – go like this

*Take my life, and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

Ask God to open your eyes, ears and heart –so you might begin to imagine all that he longs to do through you.

If you feel called to serve our church in any way please pray about it and speak to me.

Yours, in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Rev Tracy

St Paul's Little Café



Saturday 13th January

2024

10.00 - 12.00

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Update on Secret Santa

St Paul's church and Holy Trinity, Freckleton raised a grand total of 80 parcels for homeless people in this area. 50 parcels went to the Foxtan homeless centre in Preston and 30 to the YMCA home for young people, on Dock Road, Lytham. (At this time I am unsure how many other parcels were raised elsewhere.)

The Foxtan Centre, on Fox Street, Preston, offers free breakfasts, showers, washing machine facilities, changes of clothes and new toiletries as well as advice to people on the streets. They now have a pile of super presents to give out as well.

Each parcel also had a Christmas card and a copy of the Gospel booklet "Outside/In" which tells the nativity story from the point of view of the "outsiders" in the story. (There are free copies to be taken at the back of church.)

BIG thank you to all the kind donors from both churches; to Rev Tracy and Anne-Marie for support & encouragement; to Fred and Paul for the logistics and to my husband Don for patiently going with me round all the pound shops & charity shops.

God bless.

Sue Parkin.





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Mothers' Union November meeting

For our November meeting, we had a Beetle Drive and found it was very frustrating to throw a 6 before we could begin to draw the beetle.

But we had fun trying, and the meeting gave us a chance for a natter.

We also had cheese, biscuits and nibbles.

Our next meeting will be:

23rd January 7pm

Communion Service in the Village Hall

With Canon Brian Mayne

Followed by a talk by Canon Brian

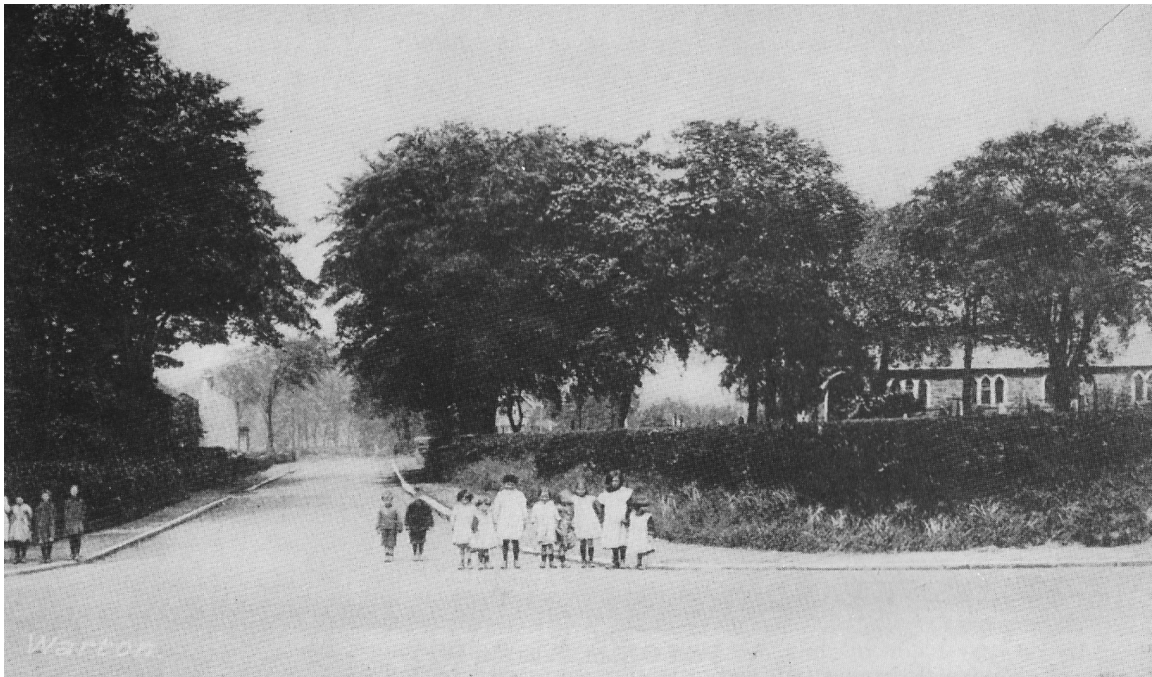
Plus, our **AGM**

Pam

A PEEP AT PAST WARTON

There can be no doubt that there is still likely to be chaos at the centre of Warton as another year begins. Locals and those from afar may well wonder why, what seems a routine highway rearrangement should be such an inconvenience for so long.

Well then, this month we can remind ourselves how that same area used to be. Let's take a step or two step back to the first decade of the 20th century when a passing photographer persuaded some young folk from St Paul's school to stand at the deserted crossroads in the centre of the village.



No ill-mannered and entitled motorists with worrying patience deficiencies on Church Road were around the place then; whizzing by to beat the traffic lights or abusing a designated residential zone as a short-cut. No, these youngsters' world was one of day and Sunday school, Weeton Fair, Lytham Club Day, not forgetting Warton Club Day and inevitably helping dad with minor country tasks in that predominantly farming-centred village of long ago.

There we see the church standing in solitary splendour to remind us that some things never change as it remains, today the warmly- welcoming place of Christian Belief, stability and certainty of life beyond the hurly burly of this present, rather selfish, age.

CPC

+++++



Warton WI Jottings

On Tuesday the 12th it was our pre-Christmas meeting in the Village Hall. The buffet table was laid with Christmas decorations and well-stocked with the nibbles brought along by members.

Instead of a speaker, we were superbly entertained by St Paul's School pupils, who had devised their own programme of songs and poetry. The social chat afterwards, aided by the odd glass of bubbly, made for a very pleasant afternoon.

The competition, for an item of Christmas jewellery, was won by Pam. As well as our usual raffle, won by Rosemary, our 'Secret Santa' was a highlight; with lots of mysterious presents to be unwrapped on Christmas Day.

We hope everyone has a happy and restful Christmas and New Year, our next meeting will be our annual lunch on the **9th January at the Coach & Horses, Freckleton.**

LW

Patronal Festival

The feast of the patron saint or title of a church, school, religious order, or other organization. The custom of having a patron saint can be traced to the practice of building churches over the tombs of martyrs. Patron saints may be chosen for a variety of reasons. For example, a church that was founded on a saint's day might have that saint as patron. Some patron saints are associated with particular countries, regional or ethnic backgrounds, or forms of ministry. St. David is the patron saint of Wales, and St. Luke is the patron saint of physicians. The patronal festival is usually the feast of the church or organization's title, but in some cases the patron is not mentioned in the title of the church or organization. The feast of a church's patron or title may be observed on or transferred to a Sunday, taking precedence over the usual Sunday observance in the calendar of the church year. This substitution may not be made in the seasons of Advent, Lent, or Easter

Our Patronal Festival is on Sunday, January 21st at 9.45am and everyone is cordially invited to share this special occasion with us.

Paul the Apostle was an eventual follower of Jesus (though not one of the Twelve Apostles) who professed the gospel of Christ to the first-century world. He is commonly regarded as one of the most influential figures of the Apostolic Age. He founded several churches in Asia Minor and Europe. He took advantage of his standing as both a Jew and a Roman citizen to counsel to both Jewish and Roman audiences.

According to records in the New Testament and before his conversion, Paul was committed to persecuting the early followers of Jesus in the region of Jerusalem. In the account of the Acts of the Apostles Paul was travelling on the road from Jerusalem to Damascus with the purpose to "arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem" when the resurrected Jesus appeared to him in a great light. He was struck blind, but after three days his sight was renewed by Ananias of Damascus and Paul began to preach that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah and the Son of God. Approximately half of the book of Acts deals with Paul's life and works.

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Warton St Paul's

Church of England Primary Academy



It has been wonderful to welcome the children and families back to school for 2024. In December it was lovely to welcome Bishop Phillip, Rev. Anne Beverley and our very own Rev. Tracy Swindells into school. Bishop Phillip led our Worship and then had a tour of the school. The children asked Bishop Phillip lots of questions about his role and how he serves God.

BISHOP PHILLIP'S VISIT



He taught us how our Christmas tree reminds us of God's love.

This half term our Gospel Value is "Hope".



At St. Paul's we have high hopes and aspirations for our future, our school and community. We also understand that faith gives us hope for both now and for the future, and that this hope brings confidence. Hope for us means that there is always a future whatever situation we are in, because God promised to never leave us, to always love us, and to help us in times of need.

What makes hope a distinctively Christian value?

Christian hope is rooted in God's love for us. Christians believe that: God has our best interests at heart; God will never leave us; God will provide for us when we are in need; God knows us (even the number of hairs on our head!); and God promises us of a better life to come. When we are in our darkest time, God is there, and will help us. Hope is grounded in the character of God; the Bible is full of stories of how God changes situations.

We see hope shown in the Christian narrative in many ways.

The resurrection gives us hope for eternal life. The gospel stories tell of hope, for example, the woman who touched Jesus' robe ("If I just touch his clothes I will be healed."). The rainbow after the flood is a sign that God will never break his covenant of love with us. God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, when slavery seemed their destiny. The lost coin and the lost sheep tell us of the lengths God will go to bring us back.

If you would like to find out ways you can help us as a school community, please do not hesitate to contact the school office wspoffice@cidari.co.ttk

Warton St. Paul's CofE Primary In Action

Please keep checking our website for updates from school and



all the fabulous work and learning our children are involved with.
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God Bless, take care
Mrs Laura Dean
Headteacher

FROM THE REGISTERS St Paul's Warton

Holy Baptism
19th November

Logan Thomas Critchley



Funerals
18th November
25th November
7th December
18th December
19th December

Thomas Kendal (Burial of ashes)
Una Bird (Burial of ashes)
Janet Mapple
Sandra Halliwell
Siobhan Noone



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JANUARY SUNDAY ROTAS

(9.45am services only until further notice)

Date	Sidespeople	Readers
7th January	Sue Parkin June Wilkins	Stewart Hankinson Rachel Taylor Watson
14th January	Simon Eccleston Colin Bent	
21st January	June Wilkins John Leadbeater	Rachel Taylor Watson Sue Parkin
28th January	Amanda Barfoot Paul Barfoot	Stewart Hankinson Lorraine Higginson

Date	Coffee
7th January	Alison Eccleston Simon Eccleston
14th January	Deborah Cherry Lorraine Higginson
21st January	Barbara Fenton Stewart Newall
28th January	Lyn Willetts Mike Willetts



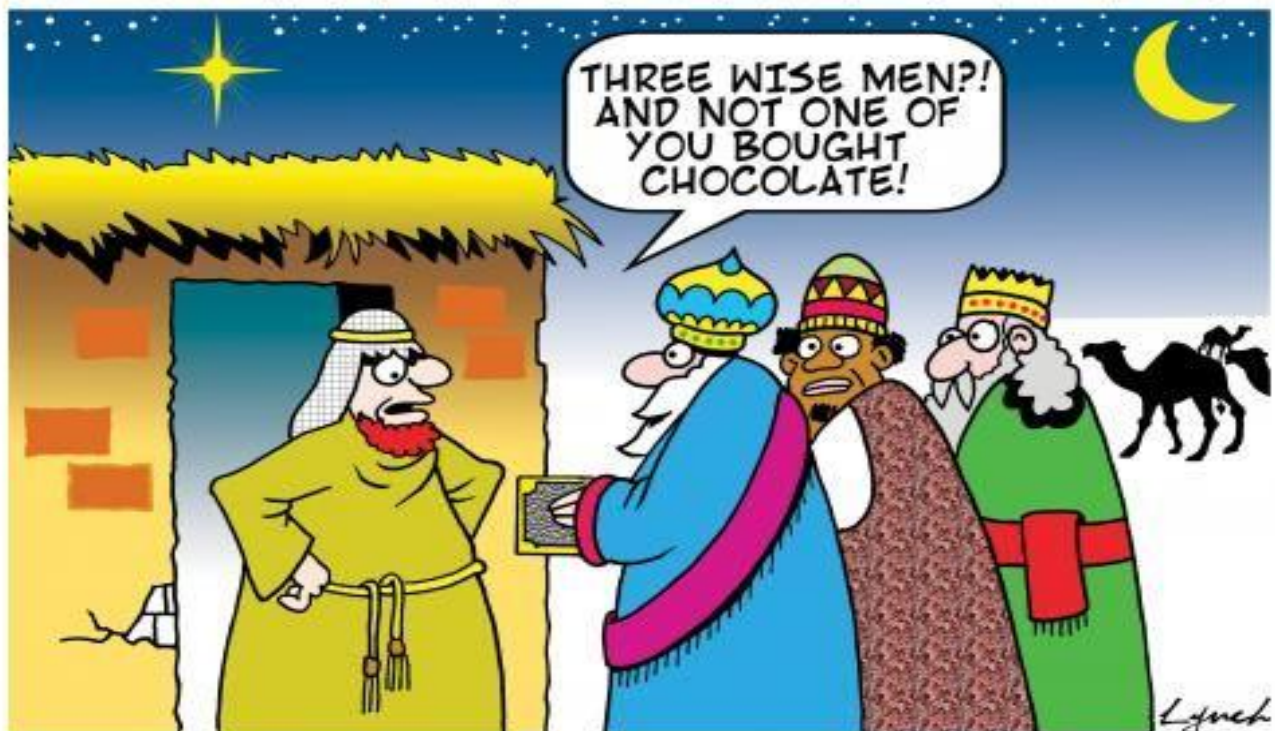


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The Magi

It might have been just someone else's story;
Some chosen people get a special king,
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.
They did not know his name but still they sought him
They came from other where but still they found;
In palaces they found those who sold and bought him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

The Baptism of Christ

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;
The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,
The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son
Reveal to us the single loving heart
That beats behind the being of all things
And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.
The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings
'You are beloved, you are my delight!'
In that swift light and life, as water spills
And streams around the Man like quickening rain,
The voice that made the universe reveals
The God in Man who makes it new again.
He calls us too, to step into that river,
To die and rise and live and love forever.



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Organisations

Day	Section Leader	Contact Number
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<u>Tuesday</u> Cubs (8-10½yrs) 6 pm- 7.30pm	Kate Parker	01772 635514 07788 551100
<u>Wednesday</u> Rainbows (5-7yrs) 5.45-6.45pm Brownies (7-10yrs) 6.30-8pm	Catherine Potter	01772 493475
<u>Thursday</u> Beavers (6-8yrs) 5.45pm -7pm Scouts (10½ -14yrs) 7.15pm - 8.45pm	Amber Chauhan Darren Clayton	07468 616692 07876 445919
Group Scout Leader All Boys Sections	Darren Clayton	07876 445919

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