

JOHN PAUL CHURCH MAGAZINE



JULY/AUGUST 2025 £1 or £10/year

ST.PAUL'S & ST. JOHN'S

Church website: www.achurchnearyou.com/11422

Vicar: Rev. Amanda Marshall 07557567751

Churchwardens: St.Paul's

Terry Jones 232367

Heather Pitman 07921237592

Churchwardens: St. John's

Assistant Wardens: St. John's

Paul Brown 07748653762

Austin Cook 07890727924

Marion Wilkinson 07816532086

Treasurer: Richard Marshall 07733010556

Organist: Kathleen Livesey 694720

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Tony Hindle 230977

Dr Patricia Wilkinson

Authorised Lay Minister: Heather Pitman

Safeguarding Officer:

SERVICES

Services St. Paul's: Sunday 9.00am

Communion will include wafer and wine

Choir and Hymn singing

Refreshments after the service.

Families@ Five:5.00pm twice a month (in the Church Hall)

(see church rota for details)

Services St. John's: Sunday 10.30am including Children's Church

First Sunday Communion

Third Tuesday 10am to Noon

Communion followed by a coffee morning

Mission Statement

We worship Jesus, welcome everyone, care for one another as family and serve God with generosity in our community.

Safeguarding

The welfare of any person who is or feels vulnerable-child or adult-is of the greatest importance to us. Safeguarding protects their health, wellbeing and keeps them safe from harm, abuse or neglect. We have church members who will respond to signs of abuse particularly in children and young people and work to prevent this happening. We will also take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others and offer support whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

Church Organisations

Junior Church:

Mothers Union:

Branch Leader:

Guides:	Wednesday in Church Hall	
Mrs Jill Lamont		07800903262

Brownies (age 7-10)	Thursday in Church Hall	
Angie Johnson		07523026031

Rainbows: (age 5-7)	Monday in Church Hall	
Kelly Johnson		07756660090

Knit and Natter	1 st Thursday in the month	381657
	See weekly notices for venue	07527551672

Flowers: Mrs Hilary Davies	301286
-----------------------------------	--------

Keep Fit: Monday in the Church Hall	235791
--	--------

Magazine Editor: Terry Jones	e-mail: mini1108k@outlook.com
-------------------------------------	--

Dear Friends

Things have been hotting up!

What is it about heat and British people? We all seem to either love it or flake out and retire to darkened rooms!

However, the spiritual temperature has also been rising in both our churches as we met for the final time last Tuesday for Alpha and prayed for people to receive the Holy Spirit.

Alpha

A group of twenty people from both churches have been eating together, watching films together and discussing in three groups: 'Who is Jesus?', 'Why did Jesus die?' 'How can I have faith?' 'Why and how do I pray?' etc. This culminated in the Alpha Away Day at Altham St James church where we spent the day learning watching three videos about the Holy Spirit and then had an opportunity to pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

We would love to repeat this experience at St John's next year and hope you will catch up with those who took part and see what they thought.

We had a mix of those who were regular church goers and those just exploring faith.

However, the opportunity to eat, chat and get to know each other developed a sense of community that it hard to beat. I loved it! Thank you to all who took part and especially those who helped me to lead it, it would not have been possible without you.

Experiencing the Alpha community!

We hope Alpha will lead to more people joining our Connect groups which we hope to re-start again in September. We call these groups Connect Groups – connecting first with God, then with each other and finally connecting with our local community.

Connect groups are the best place to really deepen your faith, make friends, have support and accountability and grow in your faith.

Go to our website: www.johnpaulparish.org.uk to find out more

As school holidays loom!

I want to say a big thank you to our Children's teams across both churches – Children's Church, Busy Bees, the new All age team at St John's and Families@5 at St Paul's. We realise so many of you give up so much time to support our children. I just so loved receiving a card at church from one of the children saying 'You are loved' on it! Thank you for your creativity, dedication and the joy you all seem to share. I love twirling with the children at Families@5 and at 10.30am at St John's.

On a personal note

Having expected to have my half knee replacement in June, it was delayed until this coming Monday. I am not holding my breath to see if it happens. However, if it does go ahead, please bear with us especially in August when we won't be able to offer fully all age services every week – as the Children's team gets a well-deserved break. If you can offer any help to service leaders during that time it would be really appreciated.

May God bless you and keep you this summer,
Amanda and the team at JohnPaul!

A trip up Sandy Lane.

On a sunny day you may like to take a walk starting from Accrington College, past St Anne's and St Joseph's school and heading up Sandy Lane.

Sandy Lane was one of the old routes from Accrington over the tops to Burnley and Loveclough. It has worn down below the level of the fields on either side, owing to the constant use over the centuries. It was also used by the monks from Black Abbey to tend their lands and animals at High Riley.

It is now a cherished access into the countryside on the east and southside of Accrington for many people living in the St Paul's area.

On Sandy Lane, the sun will be dappled and shaded by the high hedges on either side and which also shelter it from the winds.



The first houses you come to on your left are now modernised family homes overlooking grassland with tidy dry-stone walls and hedges (Newhouse cottages). If you fork slightly left, up the hill, you will find the road rough underfoot and almost always wet.

The next houses on your left (Leafield) are also neat family homes. On the right are open fields with woodland at the foot- a survival of the past ice age forest.



Looking out from Leafield

Continue uphill and take the next left where you will see a farm with a square tower, called Spire farm. This farm overlooks Accrington and is a landmark visible from much of Accrington below.

Ahead you will also see the “Coppice ” a wooded area with tall trees, and another Accrington landmark.

Back to Sandy Lane and on your right are High Riley Cottages- the oldest listed buildings in Accrington, with a datestone of 1628 on cottages numbers 5 and 7. Over the years these cottages too have been loved and modernised. In the past, they have been a café, a school and home to lots of children.



Date Stone 1628



If you cross the Accrington by-pass (in a tunnel) you can go as high as the King`s Highway, from where you can see the Ribble estuary, Blackpool Bay and Morecambe Bay, with Pendle and Ingleborough also making their presence felt. Over the last 50 years most buildings and walls on this hillside have been updated going from some dilapidation to being valued and loved. Enjoy your walk. Listen to the birds, and the wind and feel the space around you. [Chris and Tom Jackson]



Spire Farm peeping over the trees
The tower which was originally part of the cottages
was taken down and moved to its present position in the early 19th century. It has always been known as Spire Farm?

Dry-stone walls are still being built and repaired. In the adjoining farm there is newly built dry-stone wall. This length of walling is being used as banking and needed very large and heavy stones. [Editor]

Below: Tom Jackson repairing a gap in one of his walls.

Dry stone walls have a major visual impact upon our northern landscape.

Why are they dry? Why not wet? They are known as dry because they use no lime mortar or sand and cement mortar. This was to save cost.

Dry stone walls, like most walls have two sides, together with a core between them filled with rubble. This rubble allows free drainage of water down through the wall, helping to preserve the wall structure. Crucial to the wall structure are “through stones which span the thickness of the wall, going through the core to

link both sides. Also vital are the big “top” stones, which again span both sides of the wall at the top; their weight help to hold the stones beneath them in place.

They are simple low cost structures, which have stood the test of time.

Stone walls are used to delineate field boundaries. They may be used instead of hedges or in combination with them. Locally, many hedges have a stone core to aid drainage of the hedgerow bushes or to support a “banking” where the land level differs on either side of the hedge.

Field stone walls have shallow foundations which comprise a shallow trench 6 to 9 inches deep and are built mainly from larger stones laid directly onto the subsoil. In this area they were mainly built from the second half of the 19th century, ie from 1850 onwards. They were made from cobbles ploughed out of the fields but principally from the low quality stone from the overburden excavated to get down to the deeper, better quality stone from the local quarries. This overburden stone was a waste product for the quarries and they would probably have been glad to get rid of it.

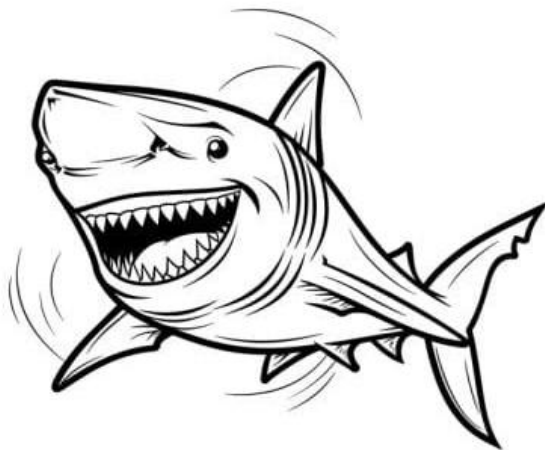
Most dry stone walls have now been in place for 150 to 200 years and are in increasingly poor repair. The foundations are collapsing and the poor quality stone from which they were built is rotting. They have always been subject to weather damage and damage from livestock. Once they start to be neglected, lengths of wall deteriorate quickly and collapse, to be replaced by cheaper, quicker wire fencing. Dry stone walls have become part of our landscape, just as the trees and hills have. They seem to belong here and should be cherished. [Chris and Tom Jackson]



ABOUT THE TEETH OF SHARKS

[John Ciardi]

*The thing about a shark is - that
One row above, one row below.
Now take a closer look, do you find*



*it has another row behind?
Still closer- here, I'll hold your hat:
Has it a third row behind that?
Now look in and ----
Look out! Oh my,
I'll never know now!
Well goodbye*

ANOTHER WORLD 1974

[May,1974 Mark and Delia Owens were the first people to explore and record Deception Valley in the Kalahari Desert. They stayed there seven years]

Highlights from their daily log: *'Eighteen...nineteen...nineteen point six... and just as we were about to give up hope, we crested the top of a large dune. Below us lay the gentle slopes and open plain of Deception Valley; the ancient fossilised riverbed meandering through forested sand dunes. A blue sky was stacked high with white puffs of clouds. We had found our place in Africa'*



'A few miles further on the river bed narrowed then opened out into a wide open plain where hundreds of gemsbok and hartebeest and thousands of springbok grazed on the lush grasses. Other antelope sipped at shallow waterholes a few feet across. White storks, migrants from Europe and North Africa strolled along picking up grasshoppers.'



'Black-shouldered and yellow-billed kites, tawny eagles and kestrels hovered and turned through the sky, while jackals and bat-eared foxes trotted over the savanna looking for mice. We drove slowly through the herds and across the pan. Giraffes

craned their necks curiously from low, shrub-covered dunes. Never had we seen so many antelope – herd after herd cantered aside as we passed.'

'Here was our Eden; a place where creatures did not know and were not afraid of man. If we were careful and considerate of their freedom, we could just live alongside them and protect one of the last untouched corners of earth. 'Deception Valley was a perfect place to carry out our research on animal behaviour. To record how the herds of grazing animals and their predators lived together.'



Notes: A large herd of buffalo being chased by two lionesses. Buffalo are a large, powerful animal but the herd instinct is always to run when attacked.

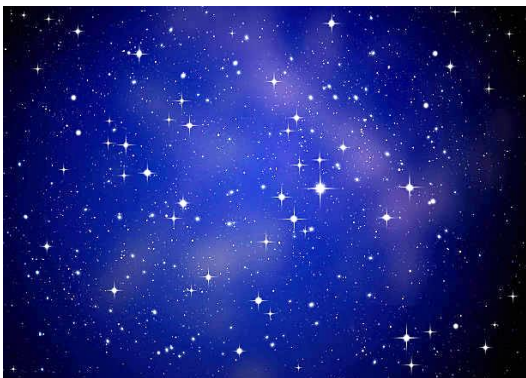
Below: An African Wild Dog. This is a member of the canine family with specially adapted teeth for hunting. It is the most successful of all the African predators. They hunt in family groups.

The log continues:



'The difficulties and dangers of operating in such an isolated area were obvious. There was no nearby place to get food and water, no dwellings, no contact with other people, and no one to rescue us in an emergency. In fact, if we died, it might be months before any one realised. We had to be self sufficient and take everything with us; water, food, fuel, tools and medical supplies.....'

One night we drove into camp and a leopard stepped out of the shadows in front of the headlights. Mark jammed on the brakes just as the cat gracefully sidestepped the truck. Totally unperturbed, he sauntered to the middle of the camp, and with a single silent motion, jumped onto the water drums..... It was 2.45am and we needed to get to bed and waited another 50 minutes before he yawned, stretched, climbed down, and padded out of camp. Stiff and tired we began brushing our teeth next to the tent. "Look whose back," Mark whispered a few minutes later. I whirled round to see the leopard standing at the back of the Land Rover, his muzzle raised and his amber eyes staring. He apparently meant us no harm, so we finished brushing our teeth while he sat fifteen feet away, his head cocked on one side. We went into the tent, closed the flap as well as we could, and crawled into our bed on the floor. A few minutes later we could hear the soft tap-tap-tap of leopard pads on the plastic ground sheet, and a sigh as he settled down for a cat nap, just outside the door.'



'Purple-black and darker than the night, the supple dunes slept beside the ancient river. The moon rose and the sky sparkled with points of starlight and meteors streaked through the atmosphere. Below, the grasses, dry and tan before the dry season, reflected the celestial light, as if the river moved again.'

[Acknowledgment: The Cry of the Kalahari by Mark and Delia Owens published 1984 and updated 2021 Corsair]

WALKING THE PARISH BOUNDARY

An idea has been brewing for some time -a photography project. Over the next six months, hopefully once a week, I'm going to walk the parish boundary and photograph it. I've to shoot in Black & White because, beyond it being my personal style, I want the images to carry a sense of timelessness. Black and White photography creates a deliberate absence of colour, inviting the viewer's imagination to fill in the blanks. It connects shade of grey and white in a way that evokes nostalgia and a deeper emotional response. I want to understand the space our church sits within, and the range of homes and landscapes it encompasses. Slowly, I hope this becomes a form of outreach – a gentle reminder of our church and Christ's unwavering invitation to his embrace.



My plan is to write a few articles as this journey unfolds. For today we begin in concrete and end in the speckled light of trees.

It was warm when I reached the bottom of Bold Street. I hadn't changed my clothes from the morning service – a mistake. Those who know me will know I don't do well in the heat. Bold Street meets Park Street in the shadow of Eastgate Retail Park. This is where I start – where God is extending his fingers. Accrington and its surrounding towns aren't the most affluent of places, and now more than ever, people need something deeper than the constant pressure of modern life.

I started walking uphill, snapping as I went – a door here, barbed wire there. Cars drifted from side streets, and the trees of the Coppice loomed ever closer. To the right of

Bold St. sits a small alley. Entering leads up to Waddington Rd – a quiet road of small bungalows and a gravelly surface that give a rural, almost timeless feel. I crossed the road, and directly opposite, a much smaller alley brought me onto Elmwood Close – an estate of new builds or more modern housing, somewhere between ten and thirty years old.



Looking down Bold Street



Elmwood Close and the Coppice



Walking up and to the left, I enter Pinewood Drive: a road packed with cars, houses, and lush garden fronts. I knew if I continued, I would eventually wind back down onto my home street, Avenue Parade, and reach the entrance to Peel Park. But that lay outside the parish boundary, so instead, I turned right, up a slightly hidden public footpath.

Then, cutting onto the path, I was swallowed up by trees.

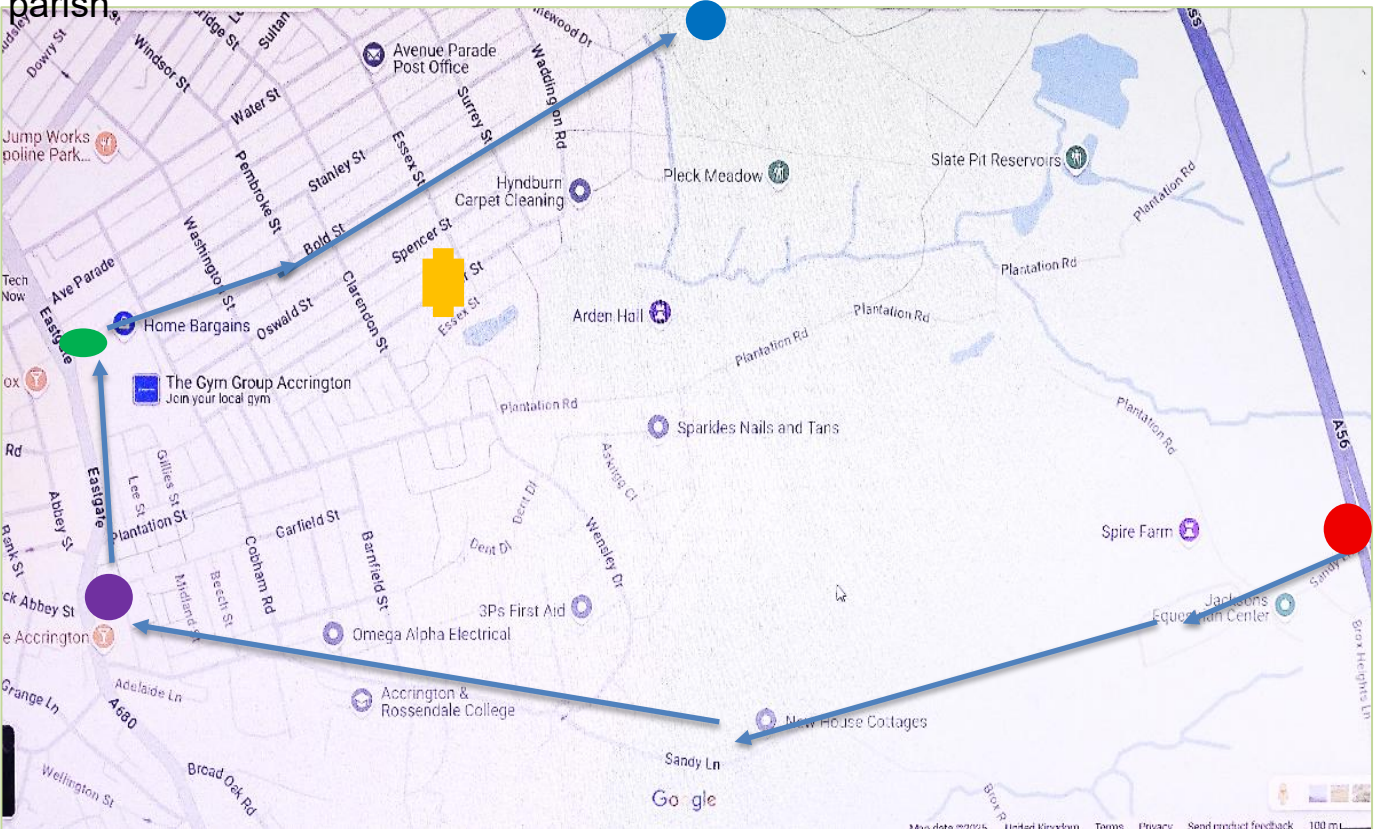
The sounds of Accrington fell away, replaced by bird song and the rustling of leaves.

My goal was the steps: stone and steep, like a Jacob's Ladder, drawing me higher into creation, peace and quiet.

Parish Map

Bold Street: the green spot is the start of the boundary walk. Blue spot: the parish boundary continues through the new estate and over the Coppice, under the by-pass to meet with the Kings' Highway. It goes back under the bypass Red spot; past High Riley Cottages and down Sandy Lane past New House Cottages. Purple spot: turn right at the Swan Inn and back to Bold St.

Please note: the route is down the centre line of each road which means when walking clockwise it's the houses on your right. E.g. High Riley cottages (Jackson's) are on your left- so not in the parish- but New House Cottages – are on your right in the parish.



Please note: the blue arrows give the directions of the border below the easterly bypass.

St. Paul's Church was opened in 1913 on the corner of Plantation and Barnfield Streets. There are another two places of worship in our parish – St. Anne's R.C. on Cobham Rd. and the New Church of Emmanuel Swedenborg on Hargreaves St.





Knit and Natter News

Knit and natter has expanded recently sadly not in numbers but in our repertoire. On Thursday 3rd July in St. Pauls church hall, we held our first crochet class which I'm pleased to say went very well. So well in fact that future classes in Macrame and Tatting were suggested!

- Would you like to learn a new craft?
- Do you need help with an existing project?
- Want to share your work with others?
- Would just like a morning chat with cake and coffee.

Why not join us.....

We meet on the first Thursday of the month alternating between St. Johns lounge and St. Pauls Church Hall. Very often there is more nattering than knitting (although this was not the case during the crochet class, too much concentration needed). Our next meeting will be in the lounge on August 10.00 - 12 noon. £2 per meeting.

See you there!

Even if it's only for the cake and coffee.

Thursday 7th



Baptismal anniversaries

21st August 2022 Brea Cadie Lloyd

Social Committee News

Our popular **Coffee Mornings at St. Paul's** will continue throughout the Summer on the second Tuesday in each month, 8th July, 12th August and 9th September from 10 a.m.

The monthly Coffee Mornings at St. John's on the third Tuesday of each month take a different form and begin with a celebration of Holy Communion. Again they will be held throughout the Summer on 15th July, 19th August and 16th September.

Wednesday, 27th August from 2- 4 p.m. Tea and Cakes in the Lounge

A warm invitation is extended to all members of our Church family to this event which will provide an opportunity to chat with old and new friends. Transport can be arranged, if needed.

Saturday, 13th September Good as New & Jumble Sale from 10 a.m. in the Church Hall

We need good quality men's, ladies and children's clothes and shoes, bedding, together with items of bric-a-brac and children's toys: all should be in good condition. Refreshments will be available and free admission.

Please bring contributions to Church from the end of August or ring Kath (01254 232367) should you need the items to be collected.

Volunteers to help at the sale would be much appreciated

Wednesday, 24th September Wine and Cheese Evening from 7-9 p.m. in the Church Hall

This will feature a demonstration of Tropic Skincare Products. Raffle, games Admission £3 and tickets available from members of the Social & Outreach Committee

Save the date: Saturday, 1st November Autumn Fair in St. Paul's Church from 10.30 a.m. stalls, raffle, light refreshments, lunches and free admission.

Begin your Christmas shopping early.

Hire of Church Hall

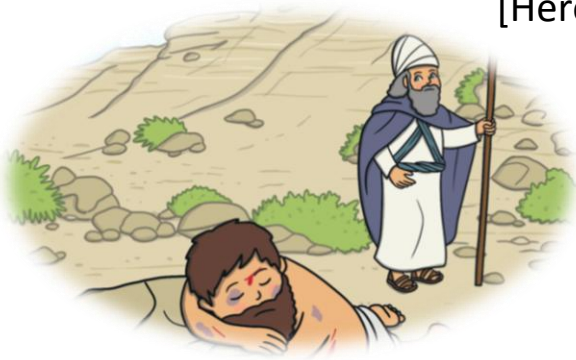
Recently a number of organisations have hired the Church Hall for meetings and there have been a number of children's parties. These have brought in very useful revenue and it would be helpful if people would publicise its availability.

The basic rate of hire is £20 per hour which includes lighting and heating. The Hall is available for single or long term hire during the day and some evenings.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

[Here it is written as a lyric with a rhythm]

Once a man was travelling the road
When he was beaten and left all alone.
Along came a priest, but he walked by.



Then a Levite passed by
Not a single sigh



But here comes a Samaritan,
What a surprise!
He stopped to help with
Compassionate eyes

Bandaged his wounds, took him to stay
The Good Samaritan showed love that day.
Helping our neighbours in all that we do
When we see somebody who's hurt
or in need
we'll plant a love seed in their hands

