JOHN PAUL CHURCH MAGAZINE



PARISH AFTERNOON TEA

SEPTEMBER 2025 £1

PARISH INFORMATION

Church website: www.achurchnearyou.com/11422

Vicar: Rev. Amanda Marshall 07557567751

Churchwardens: St. Paul's

Kathleen 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 as announced:

Morning Worship, All Age Service, Communion Service

Communion will include wafer and wine

Choir and Hymns

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: Currently closed but children are welcome at all services.

Mothers Union:

Branch Closed

Branch Leader:

Guides: Wednesday in Church Hall

Mrs Jill Lamont 07800903262

Brownies (age 7-10) Thursday in Church Hall

Angie **J**ohnson 07523026031

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

Kelly Johnson 07756660090

Knit and Natter 1st 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 <u>e-mail: mini1108k@outlook.com</u>

Letter from the Rev. Amanda

September feels like the start of the New Year!

For those of us who have children or, like me, work with children a lot, September feels like the start of a new year!

For me, personally, after returning from four week's sick leave and two weeks holiday, it feels like I have been away far too long and it's time to do some planning for the new year. Not just for Christmas, but we have also been asked to start thinking about having a mission in September next year to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our diocese.

What has been going on over the summer?

Behind the scenes a number of people have kept things ticking over for me at church — a big thank you to my church wardens, various retired vicars who have kindly taken communion services for me and, of course, the Ministry team. Anna Walker from Whalley also stepped in at short notice to take Talia's baptism.

The Fundraising team were also busy working with a grant fundraiser from Milton Keynes and have sent in another bid for further work on the St John's building. We also employed a new architect and are in the process of starting repairs near the chancel.

The Pastoral teams in both churches have also been busy with funerals, home communions, organising a lovely afternoon tea and visits to hospital. Again, a big thank you!

What's happening over the next few months?

Our children – please give encouragement and support to new families who will be attending church at St John's for the first time. Do also encourage any families you know, who struggle with church in the morning, to attend Families@5 on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at St Paul's. Our toddler group at St John's (Busy Bees) also returns on Friday mornings and our Children's church every week at St John's.

Our Connect groups – For those who have recently done ALPHA or want to 'do church' on a smaller scale, we have several 'Connect groups' starting again this month. These meet in homes and are places where you can connect with God, with each other and with your wider community. Connect groups are the best place to make friends, get prayer support and learn more about your faith. See PS for details.

This term we are doing a series called **'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'** where we learn about how our faith impacts our daily life, the places where we spend most of our time like our workplaces, our homes and our communities. Our 'frontlines' are the places where we meet with people who do not know Jesus. As the former Archbishop of Canterbury once said: 'the Church is the only organisation that exists for the benefit of its non-members'! **Events for our community** – start with Harvest services at the beginning of October, then Remembrance services in November, culminating in a feast of events for all ages over the Christmas period.

How can you help?

We are always in need of more people in our tech team, in our choir, in our worship team, to make coffees after the service, to help with the children in both churches and especially to help with events around Christmas.

We also need people with creative skills to help with our advertising and those with admin and project management skills to join our fundraising and fabric teams.

You don't need to take on a huge job, but just start small and see how it goes, maybe just helping out once a month, it would really help us. Every one of these teams would love to welcome new faces.

Talk to any of our leaders to find out more.

Keeping in touch

If you are new to the church; don't forget we have two what's app groups, the parish magazine, the website and a weekly pew sheet where most of what happens in the church will be communicated. But we do need your permission if you want to join our mailing list of whats app groups. So do grab one of our little forms and hand it to any of the leaders in both churches and they will make sure you are added.

And finally...a word about money!

It takes around £2,000 a week to heat, light and run our two churches. We don't get any financial support from the diocese. All our income comes from our regular members of the congregation. At the moment we are running on a 10% deficit, which means the last two years we have had to plunder our dwindling reserves.

Would you consider speaking to our treasurer, Richard, or one of the Finance team about joining the Parish Giving Scheme? This enables us to gift aid any money you give us. A monthly gift makes all the difference since most of our bills come in each month. When I first came to faith, I was challenged to give a 10% of what I earned to God's work and this is a discipline I have maintained throughout my life and passed on to my children. 10% was a guideline from the Old Testament, it is not a mandate. Many people give more than 10% and some give less. But as it says in the good book; 'where your treasure is, there will your heart be also'. Do think and pray about it, but please do give to support your church!

A final prayer from Augustine of Hippo!

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may be holy.

Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work may be holy.

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I may love what is holy!

May God bless you and keep you this Autumn!

Amanda and the team at JohnPaul

PS. Want to join a Connect group?

Contact: Amanda about a Connect group for young Mums (07557567751)

Contact: Richard (07733010556) or Roger (07801143168) Men's Connect group on Wednesday evenings.

Contact: Tony (07942 888231) and Ann about the monthly Bible Book Club on the third Monday of the month.

Contact: Flo (07517 417085) or Dorothy (07527 551672) about the weekly day time Connect Group for ladies – used to be on Tuesday, but trying to find a new date.

Contact: Lorraine (07586 293344) or Alison (07535 628214) about the Wednesday evening Connect group.

The Infinite Universe

In the previous magazine we thought about 'time'; when did it start and does it just keep ticking on for ever? Now let's think about 'seeing'. Ancient civilisations began to question what they could see when looking up into the night sky. The earth was the centre of their universe with the sun, moon and other twinkling stars circling round. In 1584 a Dominican Friar Giordano Bruno wrote in his book 'On the Infinite Universe and Worlds'

'The universe is then one, infinite, immobile... it is not capable of comprehension and is therefore endless and limitless and to that extent infinite and indeterminable...'

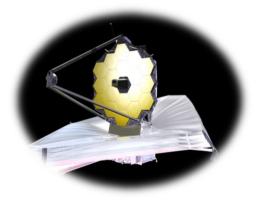
The Catholic church said this did away with the need for the moment of creation and the day of final judgement and was heresy. Bruno was burnt at the stake on 17th February 1600. But this didn't stop scientists continuing to search for answers. They can now pick up light from very distant galaxes which has been travelling for millions of light years from what is thought to be the edge of the universe. But as detection equipment gets more sophisticated even weaker signals are now being recorded from further away. Does this suggest the Universe has no boundary – Is it infinite? We humans have puzzled about this and who we are, why we are here, are there other planets with life, how and when was the Universe created Genesis 1 In the beginning created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty.....God blessed the seventh day and rested from all the work of creating he had done. Thus the heavens and earth were completed in their vast array.

But 441 years later on the Friar's incredible vision of the Universe may still be true. Let's look at the numbers. Our nearest celestial neighbour is the moon 240,000 (Two hundred and forty thousand) miles away. That controls our tides by gravity. But the sun is our life support system and is 93,000,000 (93 million miles away). The sun is nearly 400 times further away than the moon. Light travels at 186,000 (a hundred and eighty-six thousand) miles per second. It takes 8 minutes to travel from the sun and 1 second from the moon. The distances are now so large they are measured in light years **ly**. One light year **ly** is the distance light travels in a year. 6,000,000,000,000,000 (6 trillion) miles.

Up-to-date information: Modern astronomical telescopes like the Hubble have recorded very distant galaxies which are thought to have been formed just after the creation of the universe. How and when was the universe created? Is it infinite? We keep on searching.



A view of a distant galaxy



from the James Webb telescope

JohnPaul Parish

Good as New



Sat. 13th September. 10 a.m.

St. Paul's Church Hall
Plantation Street, Accrington
Tea and coffee



We are now collecting for the following stalls: -

Books Bríc-a-brac Jewellery Toíletríes

Cakes - Donations of baking ingredients

Craft items

Tombola

Toys

Chocolates

and Raffle Prizes.

Have you any ideas for a stall or would you like to run a stall?

Please see Maureen or Kath.





SCHOOL REPORTS

Thinking back, our School Reports were usually sent out just before the summer break. We knew the subjects we enjoyed and those we didn't but anxiously waited for the results and the teachers' comments. Roll on the holidays.

Staff comments:

Eric Morecambe: Lancaster Road Junior School Headmaster: This boy will never get anywhere in life

Gary Morecambe: Eric's son

English A charming boy, who makes no effort whatsoever and whose main aim in life appears to be the disposing of work in the minimum time possible.

Headmaster...if he cannot make the effort him-self we shall have to adopt firmer tactics.

Dame Judi Dench

Matron's Report: Judi would be a very good pupil if she lived in this world

Richard Briers Actor

Headmaster: It would seem that Briers thinks he is running the school and not me. If this attitude persists one of us will have to leave.

Laurie Lee: Writer

English Teacher Off you go and I'm glad to get rid of you

Sir Max Hastings: Newspaper editor

French He plummeted to the bottom of the form in the first fortnight. It is a position with ill becomes a scholar, and we have looked for signs of surfacing; but there he is still, and only the bubbles rise.

Anonymous

Maths: His work like his hair is always unkempt, and, like his face, frequently dirty. Indifference to personal appearance is no doubt a virtue but I cannot think it is good for a boy to be so grubby. It is certainly bad for his mathematics, in which he seems to have no ambition, otherwise a friendly and cheerful individual.

Lord David Owen: Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Head's Report (This is a cracker)

If I had to select an expedition to go to the South Pole he would be the first person I would choose. But I would make sure that he was not on the return journey!

[Acknowledgement: Could Do Better edited by Catherine Hurley Pocket Books 2002]

A Multicultural Conversation

As we walked into a waiting room at Blackburn Royal Hospital we could see that all the seats were taken. Then suddenly everyone looked up, stood up and offered us a seat.





There were 7 people in the room. One was a lady from the Punjab (Pakistan) who had also lived in Zambia, Malawi and South Africa (Port Elizabeth). She was a teacher in Bolton and was here as an interpretor and had two friends with her. Another was a lady from the Copper Belt in Zambia¹. "Have you ever been to the Victoria Falls" she asked. All spoke very good english and we had a very interesting conversation. Two others were of Pakistani heritage. They were listening and smiling but didn't join in.

The lady wore a niqab.



They were all very interested to hear about our visits to Zambia and that we stayed in Zimbabwe and walked round Victoria Falls. That we had been to Port Elizabeth (South Africa) and had connections with Malawi and the Punjab through Munawar whose family live in the Punjab. See Magazine February 2025.

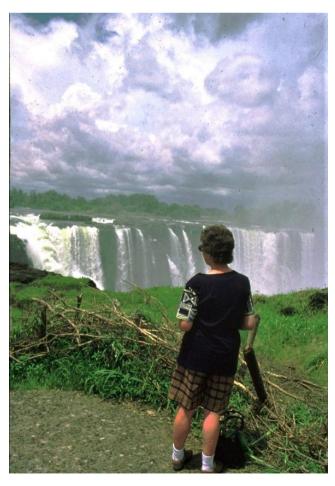
We went to Vic Falls in 1999 and stayed in the Victoria Falls Hotel in Zimbabwe. When we booked in the

receptionist apologised and said our room was no longer available! There was going to be a great celebration for the arrival of the new Blue Train from Cape Town. The heads of state of the surrounding countries and other dignitaries had booked out most of the hotel. Would we mind if they upgraded us to the Margaret Thatcher room! "That was quite acceptable" we said. Afternoon Tea on the terrace was an extra 5/6d per/person. Current price (August 2025) for this executive room is £1500 / night.

We attended the celebrations which included a firework display over the falls. Rows and rows of seats were set up on a terrace overlooking the falls. Just by chance our seats were just behind the President of Zimbabwe, the infamous Robert Mugabe. There was no security.

Afternoon Tea on the Terrace November 1999





Clouds gathering over the falls. Summer time in the southern Africa and can be very hot and sticky. Then the rain came down in buckets full and we got absolutely soaking wet but felt really refreshed.

Just one casual conversation brought all

Just one casual conversation brought all these memories flooding back.

Zambia¹

Originally Northern Rhodesia it became the independent republic of Zambia in 1964. There are enormous deposits of copper which account for 70+% of all exports. In the last 10 years the world price has doubled but there is so much corruption in Zambia that the country doesn't benefit from this higher price. A lot of income from the sale of copper is illegally sent to Asian investors.

Zambia is the 6th poorest country in the world. Propped up by the World Bank

AFTERNOON TEA ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

A very pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by about 40 grown-ups and two babies. We had delicious cakes and buns and cup-cakes; all home made by members of both St. Paul's and St. John's. Endless cups of tea and coffee were consumed in China cups, as everyone chatted and enjoyed each other's company. This event was one of many planned by our joint social and outreach group, with the Pastoral Team also helping.









Anniversaries & Events

Baptismal Anniversaries

15 September 2024 Constance Elizabeth Eastwood

15th September

2024 Harrison Robert Langford

News from the Social & Outreach Committee

Our first event of the month is our monthly Coffee Morning on Tuesday, 9th September from 10 a.m. in Church

Saturday, 13th September Good As New & jumble sale from 10 a.m. in the Church Hall for which we have acquired an amazing array of items including children, ladies and men's clothes, bric-a-brac, kitchen items, crockery, shoes and toys which will be sold at bargain prices. Refreshments will be available

Wednesday, 17th September from 1.30 p.m. Warm Welcome Space in the Church Hall - an afternoon of friendship, relaxation, activities and light refreshments of members of our Church family and our local community. Do come and bring a friend.

Wednesday, 24th September Cheese & Wine in the Church Hall from 7-9 p.m. The evening will include a display and demonstration of Tropic products and skincare and raffles, quizzes etc. Tickets are £3 available from members of the Social Committee or by phoning Kath Jones (01254 232367)

The Committee have also planned a Family Games Evening in the Church Hall on **Friday**, **17**th **October** with hot supper from 6.30 p.m. and will include games of bingo and beetle. For catering purposes it is essential we know how many are coming. Tickets will be available from Sunday, 21st September from both churches or Marion and Kath and a family ticket will cost £9 - more details later.

Saturday, 1st **November from 10.30 a.m. Autumn Fair in St. Paul's Church** – As you will see from the information elsewhere in the Magazine plans are well underway and we are hopeful that we shall obtain the support we need both before the fair and on the day itself.

Harvest Celebrations 2025

St. John's Primary School Harvest Service – details to be announced Friday, 3rd October at 9.a.m. Benjamin Hargreaves School Harvest Service in Church at 9 a.m.

Sunday, 5th **October Harvest services in both churches -** all gifts of food will be donated to the Food Bank run by Accrington Christians Together.

Tuesday, 14th October Harvest Coffee Morning in St. Paul's Church from 10am income from the raffle and other donations will be our contribution to Bishop Philip's harvest appeal..

