

PARISH MAGAZINE



March Magazine

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PARISH INFORMATION

<p>Contacts: St. Paul's wardens</p> <p>Kathleen Jones 01254 232367</p> <p>Heather Pitman 07921237592</p> <p>St. John's: Assistant wardens</p> <p>Austin Cook 07890727924</p> <p>Marion Wilkinson 07816532086</p> <p>Treasurer Roger Longworth*07801143168</p> <p>Organist St. Paul's K. Livesey 01254694720</p> <p>Licensed Lay Ministers:</p> <p>Tony Hindle</p> <p>Dr Patricia Wilkinson</p> <p>Safeguarding Officer: Michael Ledwith</p> <p>St. Paul's Church Hall</p> <p>Brownies (age 7-10) Thursdays</p> <p>Angie Johnson 07523026031</p> <p>Rainbows (age 5-7) Mondays</p> <p>Kelly Johnson 07756660090</p> <p>Keep Fit</p> <p>Monday afternoon 01254235791</p> <p>St. Paul's Church</p> <p>Mrs Hilary Davis (flowers) 01254301286</p> <p>St. John's Church</p> <p>Pam Stewart (flowers) 01254382051</p> <p>Knit & Natter 1st Thursday in the month</p> <p>See weekly notices for the venue or contact 01254381 / 07527551672</p> <p>Magazine editor: Terry Jones 01254232367</p> <p>e-mail for articles and photographs mini1108k@outlook.com</p> <p>Mr R Longworth is our acting treasurer</p>	<p>Latest news</p> <p>Our vicar, Rev. Amanda Marshall is leaving on 31/03/2026 and is presently on a sabbatical</p> <p>The churches can be contacted through the wardens and assistant wardens</p> <p>St. Paul's Church</p> <p>Service Times</p> <p>St. Paul's Sunday services 9.00am</p> <p>Morning worship/All Age Service/ Holy Communion. The Communion will include wafer & wine</p> <p>All services will include singing. The traditional services include hymns, organ and choir. Refreshments after the services</p> <p>Families @Five</p> <p>Twice a month at 5.00pm in the Church Hall</p> <p>See church notice boards for dates.</p> <p>St. John's Church</p> <p>Sunday services 10.30 am-including Children's Church</p> <p>Third Tuesday 10am to Noon in the lounge</p> <p>Communion followed by a coffee morning</p> <p>Joint Services</p> <p>There are also joint services for the two congregations. See notices</p> <p>Mission Statement</p> <p>We worship Jesus, welcome everyone, care for one another as family and serve God with generosity in our community</p>
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PENTECOST

When the day of Pentecost came
The disciples were all together in one place.

Suddenly a sound like the blowing
of a violent blowing wind came from heaven
and filled the whole house where they were sitting.
They saw what seemed like tongues of fire separated
and came to rest on each of them.

All were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues.
When they heard the sound a crowd came together in bewilderment,
Because each one heard their own language being spoken.

Pentecost celebrates the Jewish Festival of '**God giving the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai'** and the birthday of the Christian faith '**Resurrection and ascent of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit.**' By New Testament times it had become a major Jewish pilgrimage festival drawing people to Jerusalem from all over the Middle East. This explains why the disciples and many other people had come to.

These included Parthians, Medes and Elamites. Pilgrims from Mesopotamia/part of Babylonia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontos, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Rome

Star marked on the second map. Note: the first map outlines the empires in 500 BC. Present-day Iran includes most of these empires and its links with Christianity.

Iran's recent official census recorded a population of 92 million of which 125,000 declared themselves Christian and 8,000 Jewish. Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution Christians have been persecuted, thousands left Iran and started Christian congregations in other countries.

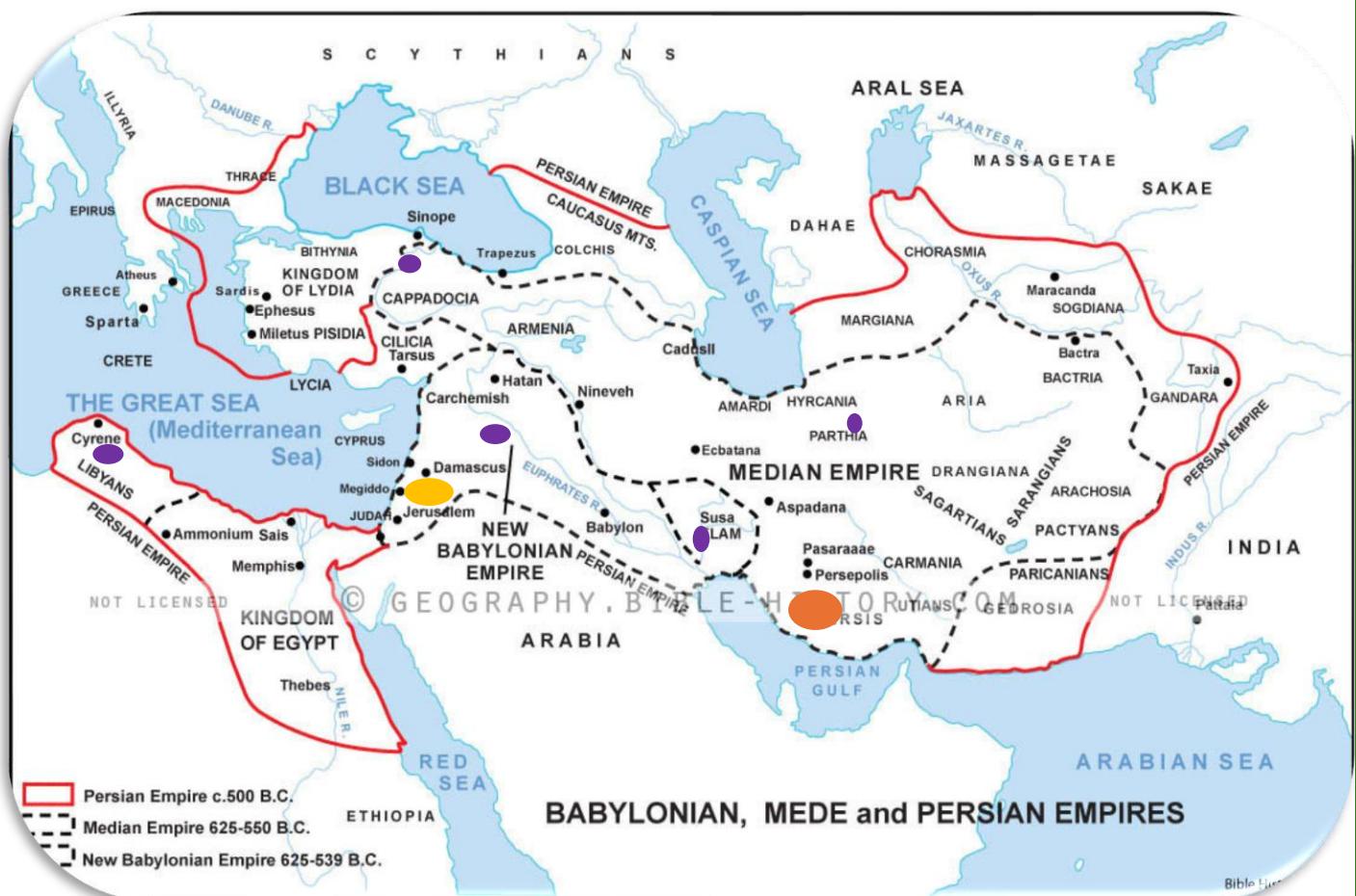
Persia has a great history- Persepolis whose earliest remains date from the fifth century BC, was built as the ceremonial capital of the rapidly expanding Persian Empire. It is now classed as a World Heritage site and rivals the achievements of the Egyptian Pharaohs.

Iran and its people are on our minds during their great troubles. We pray for them and those we know have sought asylum in the UK

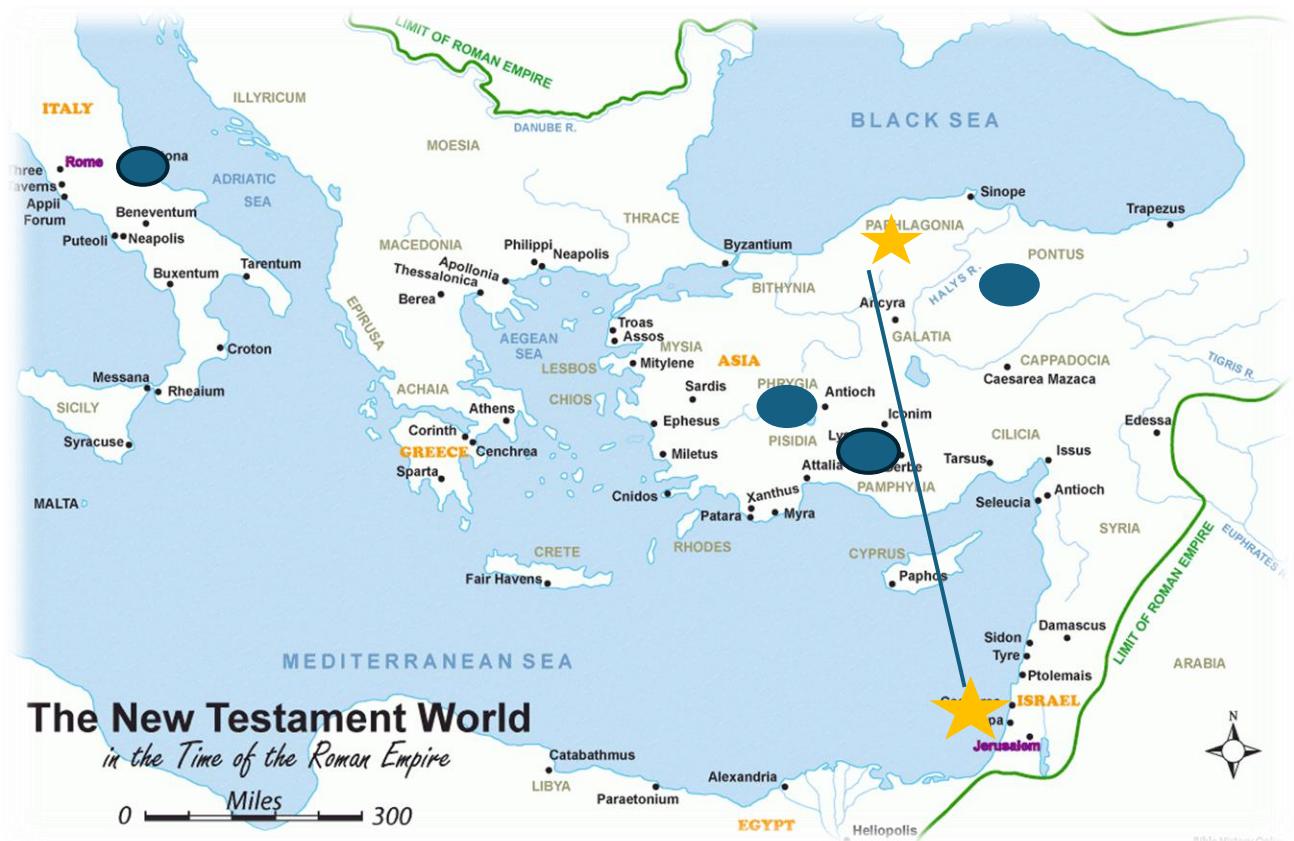


A fantastic stone carving – more than 2000 years old.

It was built in hold all the treasures and archives of the empire. In 330BC Alexander the Great burnt it down and carried off all the treasures.



Above: Cyrene (Libya), Elam, Parthia, Cappadocia, are marked  and Persepolis 



Distance from Pamphylia to Jerusalem 600 miles yellow stars. Those who were citizens of the Roman Empire could travel freely to Jerusalem. The journey from Rome would take quite a few days including sailing across the Mediterranean.

Persepolis (Persian City)



Persepolis was destroyed by Alexander the Great and because it was in a remote part of Persia it lay undiscovered until the 17th century. It is recorded once in the Apocrypha :.....

.. 2 Maccabees 9 v 1-2 '*It so happened that, about this time, Antiochus had returned in disorder from Persia. He entered the city of Persepolis and attempted to plunder its temples and assume control. But the populace rose and rushed to arms in their defence, with the result that Antiochus was routed by the civilians and was forced to beat a humiliating retreat.*

[Maccabees reads like a wild-west story not Cowboys & Indians but Antiochus & Jews]



An example of the craftsmanship in this ancient Persian Empire

HYNBURN SINGERS are RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS



Do you like music, do you like singing?

If you are interested in making friends having fun and learning a new skill,
please join us any Tuesday at 7.15 pm at
The Church, St. John, Baxenden.

Come along to our mixed choir and attend a few no obligation rehearsal before
deciding if this the choir for you.

There are no auditions!

Hyndburn Singers builds an excellent team spirit and it is good to belong to a
lively group of people with a common aim - **enjoyment!**

Kath Ingham: Membership Secretary 01254 381767

Maureen Mullen: Secretary 07960 080385

NICENE CREED

20 -May-2025 was the 1700th anniversary of the acceptance of the Creed in the gathering of Christian bishops in Nicaea; the Council of Nicaea 325 AD. A second council, the Council Constantinople 381 AD agreed to some amendments. The Nicene Creed is accepted by the Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Augustinian and Lutheran Churches. We believe, as millions of people before us over 1700 years that the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit are part of the same eternal God. Some thing to hold onto in rapidly changing world. How did this come about?

In 380 AD Edict of Thessalonica: *We desire that all peoples shall believe that form of religion which the divine Apostle Peter delivered to the Romans. We command that those who embrace this will be known as Catholic Christians – the rest shall be branded as heretics and may face divine or earthly punishments.*

The emperor made Christianity the state religion. Previous to this Romans worshiped a whole range of gods – Jupiter/Juno/Minerva/Mars/Neptune/Venus . These are a few of their less well known gods.

Hecate- protecting journeys/crossroads and unseen perils

Favonius – god of the west wind which brought good weather for growing crops.

The Lares – spirits which protected households.

Romans had shrines where they laid offerings to these gods.



The Romans were ordered to accept the Christian faith and the Creed!

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

A Lares spirit

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

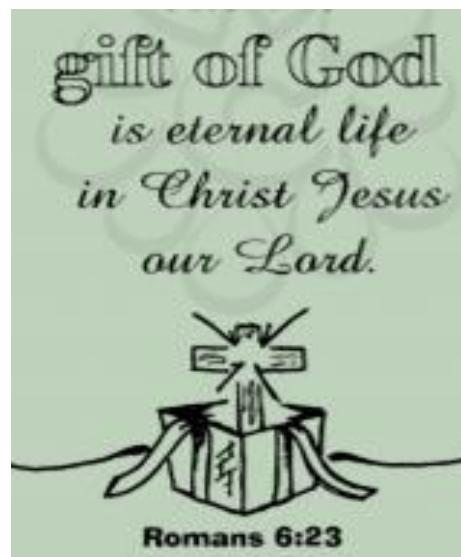
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The Edict must have been a great shock to the Roman citizens their whole way of life had been turned up-side-down. How many stayed with their own Gods and how many accepted the Creed we don't know but it was a great boost to the Christian Church. Christianity was supported by one of the most powerful ancient empires.



CHRISTMAS at St. JOHNS



St. John's School choir singing carols

The Christmas coffee morning and Holy Communion service was enjoyed by all who attended. This was Amanda's last Holy Communion Service at Baxenden before she left the parish. Later we were joined by the school choir to sing Christmas Carols.



The church was trimmed up beautifully, as usual, by Pam who arranges our flowers. She also arranged the Crib with the figures of the Holy Family, the shepherds and the three wise men. This was all lit up for all to see.

The Crib



John Paul Church
FAMILY QUIZ EVENING



& SUPPER

FRIDAY, 6TH MARCH 2026 6.30pm



IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH HALL

Adults £3.50 Children £2

Family Ticket £10



Baptismal Anniversary

15th February 2023 Harper Hayley Hodgkinson

Toy Service 30th November 2025

The service began our preparations for Christmas and our St. Paul's Church had been decorated beautifully by a dedicated team of volunteers. Benjamin Hargreaves School Choir delighted the congregation with their enthusiasm and lovely singing. Again this year we had a wonderful response to our appeal for toys or gifts from our Church families. After receiving and displaying the array in Church they were distributed to local families by Accrington Rotary Club whose Secretary wrote in great appreciation of everyone's generosity.

Social and Outreach Committee news and planned events

The **Autumn Fair raised almost £2200**, an amazing amount and a result of the hard work of so many members of our two churches and the support we received from our local community.

Our next **Coffee Morning** will be held on **Tuesday, 10th February** from 10 a.m. in St. Paul's Church with a Valentine quiz as a feature.

Sunday, 15th February It's Pancake time and fresh pancakes will be available after our morning service in the Church Hall thanks to Jill and Sandra. Tea and coffee will be also be served in the Church Hall after the service.

Our next **Games afternoon including games of dominoes** will be held on **Wednesday, 18th February from 1.30 p.m.** in the Church Hall. Do encourage anyone who would enjoy some company and fun to join us. They and you will receive a warm welcome.

Friday, 6th March from 6.30 p.m. Family Quiz Evening and Supper in the Church Hall. The cost of a Family ticket is £10, Adult tickets £3.50 and children £2. The cost includes soft drinks and supper. Entry forms are available from Marion Wilkinson or Kath Jones and should be returned by Monday, 2nd March.

Book this date: Maundy Thursday, 2nd April Our Agape Celebration will be held in the Church Hall from 7 p.m. This will be based on the Last Supper and for us will include a celebration of Holy Communion where the celebrant will be the recently installed Archdeacon of Blackburn, Rev. Jane Atkinson and a three course meal. Numbers are strictly limited and the cost of the meal, £5 must be paid at the time of booking. Tickets will be available from the 1st March from Marion Wilkinson or Kath Jones.

Archdeacon Jane, who was previously Area Dean of Poulton and Vicar of St. John's, Little Thornton, will be spending the weekend in the Parish which will include officiating at our Easter Day Holy Communion Services in both churches.

St. PAUL'S CHURCH
Plantation St. Accrington



Coffee Morning

Tuesday, 10th February

10 - 11.30 am

Admission £1.50

Raffle/Books



St.Paul's Church, Accrington.

Invite YOU to our

Monthly

Games Afternoon

in the Church Hall

(including Dominoes)

Wednesday, 18th February

1.30 pm - 3.00 pm

Charge: £2.00 per person inc.

Tea/Coffee

ALL WELCOME.

Come along, enjoy a chat and perhaps make new friends in a WARM & Welcoming atmosphere.



Appointment of a new Vicar

We have been assured by Arch Deacon Jane that we shall receive every support from the Diocese in our search for a new vicar and there no plans to close either church or reorganise the Deanery in the immediate future.

Although Amanda's resignation does not take effect until 31st March, we have been advised to have ready all the information relevant to the post prepared and agreed for an immediate advertisement for the post which will be advertised across the country, not simply in Blackburn Diocese.

Our most immediate and important responsibility is to complete The Parish Profile, using the Diocesan template. The document has eight sections covering all aspects of our churches and communities but, we believe the most important section for us is entitled '*Who is God calling*'. In this section we must state what type of person we are looking for and their essential/ preferable qualities.

We are seeking the views of our Church family and in order to do this for the Sundays until the end of February paper and pens will be provided in each church for people's views, in note form (perhaps even one-word suggestions) anonymously, if this is preferable. It is essential we receive the views of as many people as possible, including children, our school communities and church groups.

We do hope you will take advantage of this opportunity and give us your help so that we can make the right appointment for the JohnPaul Parish.

