

# Church Magazine

## Parish of St. John and St. Paul



The church has celebrated Mothering Sunday since the Middle Ages (500 to 1500 AD) as the Sunday when families and friends who through work and family circumstances returned to their mother church; the one they attended, where they were baptised, confirmed or married. Families often walked in long processions to their Mother Church with flags and banners waving. Times have changed – it is now the day the church celebrates and give thanks to every mother.

Simnel Cake – its origins are unknown but over the years various churches and dioceses have chosen the Simnel Cake for their refreshments on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent. Cake in Lent! It was/is widely accepted or by default that Mothering Sunday is not one of the 40 days of Lent

**April 2026 Magazine £1 or £10/year**

## PARISH INFORMATION

### Contacts: St. Paul's wardens

Kathleen Jones 01254 232367

Heather Pitman 07921237592

### St. John's: Assistant wardens

Austin Cook 07890727924

Marion Wilkinson 07816532086

Paul Brown

Barrie Grime

Treasurer Roger Longworth\*07801143168

Organist St. Paul's K. Livesey 01254694720

### Licensed Lay Ministers:

Tony Hindle

Dr Patricia Wilkinson

Safeguarding Officer: Michael Ledwith

### Groups using St. Paul's Church Hall

Brownies (age 7-10) Thursdays

Angie Johnson 07523026031

Rainbows (age 5-7) Mondays

Kelly Johnson 07756660090

Flowers St. Paul's

Mrs Hilary Davis 01254301286

Flowers St. John's

Pam Stewart 01254382051

Keep Fit

Monday afternoon 01254235791

Knit & Natter 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in the month 675

See weekly notices for the venue or contact

01254381 / 07527551672

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e-mail for articles and photographs

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\*Roger Longworth is the acting treasurer

### Latest news

Our vicar Rev. Amanda Marshall is on a sabbatical to 31/03/2026. The churches can be contacted through the wardens and assistant wardens.

### Service Times

St. Paul's Sunday services 9.00am

Morning worship/All Age Service/ Holy Communion. The Communion will include wafer & wine

All services will include singing. The traditional services include hymns, organ and choir. Refreshments after the services

### Families @Five

Twice a month at 5.00pm in the Church Hall  
See church notice boards for dates.

St. John's Sunay services 10.30 am-including  
Children's Church

Third Tuesday 10am to Noon in the lounge

Communion followed by a coffee morning

### Joint Services

There are also joint services for the two congregations. See notices

### Mission Statement

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

# Blackburn Diocese Centenary **BIG DAY OUT**

Family Fun || Hog Roast || Open Air Worship

Celebrating 100 years of  
Blackburn Diocese with a  
party in Blackpool!

Saturday 16 May

All welcome - free of charge!



Full details see church notice boards/ weekly notice sheet/ Marion Wilkinson.

**BIG DAY OUT**  
**DIOCESE of BLACKBURN**  
**BLACKPOOL SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

11am to 1pm

Family Zone for pre school and primary children aged up to 7 years + their families: St. John's Church Blackpool

Youth Zone for primary children aged 7-11 years: St. John's CofE School Blackpool activities+ food

Events in St. John's Square:

The main stage live music and entertainment.

1-2pm

Hog Roast lunch + hot and cold drinks. Many nearby cafes and restaurants

2pm to 3.15pm

Open air worship with Bishop Phillip and music by the Salvation Army Band and St. John's worship team.

[see diocesan web site for more details]

## RENEW

A group of ladies from our parish went St. Mary's Church Rawtenstall for a day celebrating RENEW. This was a great full day experience of praise and worship with speaker Sue Eldridge. The theme was 'Who do you think you are?'

Sue shared her experiences of leading a church with her husband before covid and then moving to the north of England being out of work and then being directed by God to speak to others.

She explained how God puts good thoughts in our minds and the devil knocks them out fills them bad thoughts and ideas. Like us Jesus was also tempted during his 40 days in the wilderness. We must keep our minds focussed on Jesus and share him with our families and friends.

Altogether we had a fun day with a quiz and bingo and sang great hymns accompanied by Christian with worship.

Next RENEW: An evening event Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June at St. Mary's, transport can be arranged See Marion Wilkinson.

Matthew 4 v1-11 after his Baptism Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit to fast for 40 days and 40 nights and was tempted by the devil. He faced a challenge to his faith and obedience. Temptations included turning stones to bread, test God's protection and worship Satan in exchange for worldly power.

Jesus was very hungry after fasting for 40 days and nights the devil saw his chance and said *"If you were the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."* Jesus replied *"It is written: man shall not live on bread alone, but on the words from the mouth of God."*

The devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. *"If you are the Son of God throw yourself down. For it is written 'He will command his angels, concerning you and they will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'*

Jesus answered *"It is written 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'*

Again the devil took Jesus up a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour *"All this I give you if you come and worship me."*

Jesus replied *"Away from me Satan, for it is written 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only!!'*

The Christian calendar -The 40 days of Lent-is the time set out for our own reflection and renewal. Traditionally it was a time for giving-up – no sweets no chocolates no flowers no anything you enjoyed doing.

This is the time to plan and commit to something positive you have planned to do– time to make your decision.

## 5.34am Radio 4

The BBC has broadcast Shipping Forecast every day since the 4th July 1925

Announcer Introduction: The Shipping Forecast issued by the Met. Office, on behalf of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency at 11.30 (UCT) on Mon 9 March for the period 12.00 (UCT) on Mon 9 Mar 20 26 to 12.00 (UCT) on Tues 10 Mar 2026



### Shipping Forecast

Genre Maritime weather forecast

Origin United Kingdom

Language English

Home station BBC Radio 4

Created by Robert FitzRoy

Original release 24 August 1869 (telegraph)

1 Jan 1924 (Radio, Morse Code)

4 July 1925 (radio, spoken word)

WiFi Before forecasting began none could predict the gales and storms which drove ships ashore, capsized or sunk them and drowned and injured hundreds of people.

Why do the BBC still broadcast the shipping forecast when every ship has WiFi and GPS?

Answer below

Acknowledgements; Claire Jowitt and Benjamin Redding (University of East Anglia)

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### Why the BBC's Shipping Forecast still entrances people after 100 years

Like afternoon tea, red pillar boxes and bracing walks on crisp autumn days, there is something reassuringly British about the Shipping Forecast, broadcast twice a day on Radio 4, and three times at weekends.

Dogger; Rockall, Malin; Irish Sea: with its distinctive poetic rhythm, the bulletin consists of a gale warning summary, a synopsis of general conditions at sea and forecasts for each of the weather areas including wind direction and force, sea state, weather and visibility. All are essential to ensure safe metres for ships and fishing vessels.

2025 marked a century since the BBC first broadcast on radio a dedicated shipping from its station 5XX at Daventry on a wavelength of 1,600 metres. Now one of the longest-running radio programmes in the world, for many in the UK it has achieved national treasure status, not least due to its soothing theme tune Sailing By, composed by Ronald Binge in 1963 and added to the broadcast in 1973.

The forecast is produced by the Met Office on behalf of the Maritime & Coastguard Agency and covers sea conditions around the British Isles for the following 24 hours. The waters around the UK and Ireland are divided into 31 weather areas, each with a quixotic-sounding name which often refers to a local geographical feature. Starting with Viking (Viking Bank), the forecast proceeds on a clockwise route around the map of the British Isles to finish at Southeast Iceland (Iceland).

Each broadcast comprises a maximum of 380 words, depending on whether Trafalgar (Cape Trafalgar) is included. This is the weather station furthest from The United Kingdom and is usually only mentioned on the 00.48 forecast. It takes precisely nine minutes for practised announcers to read the bulletin.

With its rhythmic nature and formulaic repeated phrases has even been adapted into a fortnightly BBC podcast, The Sleeping Forecast. Advertised as “a soothing blend of classical and ambient music” interspersed with bulletin excerpts, the podcast recognises the forecasts calming qualities and hypnotic ability to lull the nation to sleep.

Seamus Heaney in his 1979 collection Field Work included the sonnet The Shipping

Dogger Rockall Malin Irish Sea  
Green, swift upsurges, North Atlantic flux  
Conjured by that strong gale-warning voice.  
Collapse into a sibilant penumbra.  
Midnight and close down Sirens of the  
tundra  
Of eel road, seal road, keel road, whale road  
raise  
Their wind – compounded keen behind the  
baize  
and drive the trawlers to the lee of Wicklow.  
L’Etoile, le Guillemot, La Belle Helene

Nurse their bright names this morning in  
the bay  
that toiled like mortar. It was marvellous  
anecdotal I said aloud, ‘A haven’  
The word deepening, clearing, like the sky  
elsewhere on the Minches, Cromarty, The  
Faroes



Forecast. King Charles, then the Prince of Wales read it out on Radio 4’s Today Programme for National Poetry Day. If you can’t get to sleep its 0048 Radio 4

# QUIZ!

## John-Paul Quiz Night 6<sup>th</sup> March

Our popular Quiz Night was attended by 35 and between they ate 45 hot Dogs! Each team was asked to give themselves a name. The winners were 'We might have a chance.' well they did.



There are 30 heads on this picture The other heads are not in the picture: Kath, Terry, Jill, Sandra and Elaine.

Thankyou to all those who cooked, shopped, set up the church hall, sold the tickets and set the questions.





# Families@5: Supporting Families in Our Church Community

## Background

Families@5 was created to support children and young families who often find it challenging to attend our morning church services. This difficulty is largely due to the growing number of sport and leisure activities taking place on Sundays, making it harder for families to participate in traditional service times.

## Helping Families Prepare for the Week Ahead

We discussed various ways in which we could assist our families in bringing their weekends to a positive close and help them get ready for the upcoming school week.

## Structure of Families@5

The Families@5 gathering begins with a meal, including pizza, cake, and drinks. This is followed by an informal, contemporary worship session. Children's activities are designed around the scripture theme for the day, ensuring that the content is engaging and relevant. Lively worship songs are a key part of the event, and they are sung with great enthusiasm by all participants.

## Growth and Participation

Since Christmas, we have seen a steady increase in attendance, with more families choosing to join us each week.



We warmly invite you to join us for Families@5 on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month in St. Paul's Church Hall. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with other families, enjoy good food, and experience uplifting worship together.



A Poem by Harry Salt

This is the original page which was Harry Salt typed 38 years ago  
and has just been uncovered

A TRIBUTE TO BETTY HINDLE  
by HARRY SALT (cousin)

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BROTHER'S AND SISTER'S, HAVE I NONE,  
COUSIN'S I HAVE MANY,  
TO ME MY COUSIN BETTY WAS,  
THE PERFECT SINCERE ONE OF THE MANY,  
HER PROFFESION WAS ONE OF CALLING,  
FOR FAMILY AND HER FRIENDS,  
NEVER CEASING WORK FOR HER CHURCH,  
AND HELPING PEOPLE ALL ENDS,  
RICH OR POOR, COLOUR OR CREED,  
BETTY HELPED THEM IN THEIR NEEDS,  
CHRISTIAN LADY AS SHE WAS,  
NOW SHE IS RESTING WITH HER GOD,  
TIME WILL HEAL, SO THEY SAY,  
UNTIL WE ALL MEET ON JUDGEMENT DAY,  
MAYBE GOD CALLED HER TOO SOON,  
BUT WE ALL HAVE TO FACE "HIGH NOON".  
TOGETHER WE WILL BE ALL FREE OF HATE,  
AND TO SAY "HELLO MY OLD MATE".  
GOD BLESS BETTY. R.I.P.

## New Vicar?

The views expressed by our congregations in response to a request to give their views about the type of vicar we should endeavour to appoint

These views overall were very similar to views expressed by PCC members to Bishop Joe at an informal meeting.

- Someone experienced in running a parish who will live full-time in the parish and will be a visible presence, recognised by the wider community and enthusiastic about opportunities to strengthen the links with non-Church families and groups.
- Has good organisational skills and can cope with many different situations and people
- A good communicator who can adapt and manage change by explaining thoroughly what is proposed and moving at an acceptable pace.
- Committed to spreading the Gospel
- By example show what it means to follow Christ
- Will listen, consider and respect views held or expressed by others
- A leader who is a team player working with committed members of the two churches who will use their skills and experiences to bring growth to both churches.
- A pastor who genuinely cares for the church family; kind and approachable and makes the different age groups feel welcome, needed and wanted.
- Will respect the different traditions of the two churches and not insist on uniformity.
- Endeavour to strengthen the links with our two primary schools and also try to link with Hollins and St. Christopher's
- Encourage church members to use their skills and abilities to help the churches to grow.

# Mothering Sunday



## **JohnPaul Parish Film Evening**

**Showing for One night only in  
St. John's Church Lounge**

**FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

**6.30 pm for 7.00 pm Start**

**"DOWNTON ABBEY  
THE GRAND FINALE"**

**Tickets £5.00**

## April Notices

### ***Baptismal anniversaries***

**16<sup>th</sup> April 2023 Nellie Kathleen Kelly Parker**

### **Holy Week and Easter Services**

**Palm Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March at 9 a.m. Joint Service at St. Paul's** and distribution of Palm crosses

**Maundy Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7 p.m. Celebration of Holy Communion and Agape Meal in St. Paul's Church Hall** The Archdeacon Rev Jane Atkinson will be our Celebrant.

**Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 9.30 a.m. Reflection** in St. Paul's Church led by Archdeacon Jane followed by hot cross buns in the Church Hall and the pilgrimage to the top of the Coppice.

**At 3 p.m. Reflection in St. John's Church**

**Easter Day, 5<sup>th</sup> April Celebrations of Holy Communion** at St. Paul's at 9 a.m. and St. John's at 10.30 Archdeacon Jane will celebrate Holy Communion in both churches.

### **Church Magazine**

Annual payments for the Magazine are now due - £10 covering the whole year for a minimum of 10 issues. Please pay Kath or Marion or whoever delivers your Magazine.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon in St. John's Parish Lounge following the morning service**

The APCM follows the annual Vestry Meeting when we elect 2 Church Wardens for each of our parish churches. Anyone on the Electoral Roll or living in the parish is allowed to vote. At the APCM in addition to accepting the new Electoral Roll, and reports on the finances of the joint parish, the work of the PCC over the previous year and details about the fabric of the two churches and elect members from each Church to serve as PCC members for a 3 year period. This year also there are elections for the Deanery Synod. Nomination forms for these positions and for Church Wardens will be available from Patricia Wilkinson and Kath Jones from 26<sup>th</sup> April and should be returned before the APCM.

Do think carefully if you can serve God and His Church by offering to take on any of the above responsibilities.

**Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> April Film Night in St. John's Lounge from 6.30 p.m.** [ see previous page]