

JOHN PAUL PARISH MAGAZINE



[St. Bartholomew's Church- Primary Visitation]

JULY 2026

Vicar's Letter



Dear friends,

It is a great joy and privilege to be writing to you as I prepare to become your new vicar at St John's Baxenden and St Paul's Accrington. My family and I are very much looking forward to joining you and becoming part of the life of these two parishes.

For the past four years, I have been serving at Chorley All Saints and St George as a Church Planting Curate. During that time, I have had the privilege of partnering with God in seeing the church grow, both in numbers and in depth of faith. Prior to that, my family and I lived in Doncaster, where I ministered as a youth worker across several economically deprived parishes—an experience that shaped my heart for community and the transforming love of Christ.

As I come to Baxenden and Accrington, I do so with a deep hope for what God will continue to do among us. I am especially excited about the possibilities for mission and outreach within our communities as well as deeper discipleship and worship within our parish. My prayer is that our churches will continue to grow as places of warm welcome, where all can encounter the love of Jesus Christ, and that we will be outward-looking—serving our neighbours with compassion, creativity, and courage. Together

with the Holy Spirit, I trust we will discern how best to share the good news in ways that are meaningful and life-giving for those around us, and that we will grow deeper in our own love of Christ.

Outside of church life, I enjoy music and spending time with my family. My wife, Becky, works in publishing, and we have a lively six-year-old daughter, Maisie, who loves cats (of which we have three) and who keeps us, happily, very active. We are all looking forward to getting to know you and sharing life together.

As we begin this new chapter, I would like to offer this prayer for the years ahead

Gracious God

We thank you for the life of your Church in this place.

As we begin a new season together, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us.

Guide us in your truth, unite us in your love,

and send us out in your power to serve our community and proclaim your good news.

May we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, and may your kingdom come among us.

Amen.

And I leave you with these words of Scripture:

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

(Ephesians 3:20–21)

With every blessing,

Rev Jordan Bentliff

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

Treasurer Roger Longworth 07801143168

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Tony Hindle

Dr Patricia Wilkinson 07966424951

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 1st Thursday in the month

See weekly notices for the venue or contact
01254381 / 07527551672

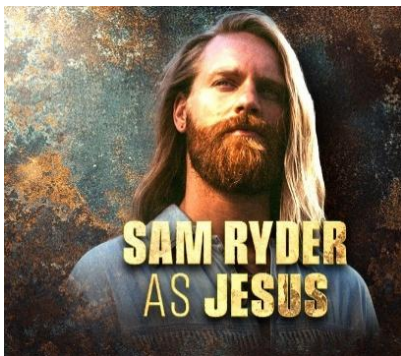
Magazine editor: Terry Jones 01254232367

e-mail for articles and photographs

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Latest News

Jesus Christ Super Star the musical is coming to Manchester in Feb. 2027.



If you are interested please put your name and number of tickets required on the list in church. More

details of cost and transport later.

Latest news

The churches can be contacted through the wardens/assistant wardens.

The Rev. Jordan Bentliff has been appointed as vicar of our parish. His installation will be in early September. Jordan and his family will be living in the Baxenden vicarage.

Mission Weekend

11th to 13th September see back cover for latest details.

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 Sunday 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

Primary Visitation with Archdeacon Jane

St. Bartholomew's Church Colne



Archdeacon
Rev. Jane Atkinson

Archdeacons are responsible for the smooth running of each church in a diocese; worship, finance, building, safeguarding. Our Archdeacon Jane is very approachable and willing to help and guide our wardens managing St. John's and St. Paul's churches.

Acts of the Apostles Chapter 6- **The twelve gathered all the disciples together to choose seven from among you to distribute foodThose chosen were Stephen, Phillip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Pacrienos and Nicolas.** These seven members were all 'diakonos'- ministers of the early church who had been chosen to give their practical support to the twelve disciples.

Deacon is derived from the ancient Greek Diakonos. The office of Archdeacon is still one of offering a wide range support to local churches – including foodbanks.

Welcome to a foreign land

This has been a recurring question across the ages. Just as it was for Ruth two thousand years ago for the refugees from Eastern Europe in the 19th century and more recently the 'Boat People' crossing the English Channel in their thousands

History: a written copy the book of Ruth and the rest of the books of the Old Testament were discovered in the 1950's in the Dead Sea Scrolls. [analysis of the scrolls dated them between 300BC and 200AD]

Here is the book of Ruth written as a play

The players

Mahlon's family: Elimelech his father, Naomi his mother and his brother Chilion. Chilion married Orpah.

Ruth's family: Mahlon was the father, Ruth the mother and Obed her baby boy. Boaz was one of her husband's relatives.

The Lady: shopping in the market.

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Scene: [*A market in Bethlehem. Ruth is carrying her baby boy, Obed. A lady approaches.*]

Lady: *'Isn't he adorable!'*

Ruth: *'Isn't He!'*

Lady: *'I haven't seen you around here before. You are not from Bethlehem, are you?'*

Ruth: *'No. I'm from Moab'*

Lady: *'Moab! You're a long way from home!'*

Ruth: *'Yes, my first husband was Jewish*

and from here - Bethlehem. He moved to Moab with his family to escape the famine here. His name was Mahlon and his parents were called Elimelech and Naomi, and he had a brother, Chilion

Ruth: *'Even though my husband and I were from different countries and religions we fell in love and married.*

Lady : *What are you doing back here in Judea? Why didn't you stay in Moab?'*

Scene: [Naomi arrives]

Naomi: *'That's what I said! To Ruth, I mean'.*

Ruth *' This is my mother-in-law, Naomi - the mother of Mahlon'*

Naomi *:' We lost everything you see. Both my boys, Mahlon and Chilion died, and their father passed away ten years before.'*

Lady: *How terrible! I am so sorry for you'*

Ruth: *' No! Naomi Not everything, wherever you go, I will go and your God will be my God!'*

Scene [The market]

Naomi; *'Even so though dear Ruth isn't from Judea, she left Moab and travelled with me to make sure I was alright! Not only that. When we arrived here we had nothing. But Ruth went out and worked out in the fields all day long to make sure we had a little to eat. She was in a foreign land and did not know anyone but set to work anyway and helped with the barley harvest.'*

Ruth: *'I just picked up the left-over grain and I was thankful they let me.'*

Naomi *:'She worked so hard, she caught the eye of Boaz, one of my late husband's relatives.'*

Scene [Boaz suddenly recalls seeing Ruth before]

Boaz *:' I have been told of all that you did for Naomi after the death of your husband - how you left your father and mother and the land of your birth and came here to Judea, to a people you didn't know.'*

Scene [The market]

Naomi *;'Well one thing led to another and they got married.'*

Lady *;' and we're blessed with a little boy.'*

Ruth *:' Yes, little Obed!'*

Lady *:' Well if he's as generous and determined as you are Ruth, he'll grow up to be a very fine young man.'*

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USA: The Statue of Liberty welcoming Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe



She cries with silent lips "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" [This was written by Emma Lazurus]

Emma Lazurus was a Jewish - American poet of Portuguese descent. She was most concerned about the Jewish refugees fleeing from persecution in Eastern Europe. The statue was built in France and transported to New York as a symbol of hope to all who were coming in search of a new home.

SUDAN



The Bishop's Harvest
Appeal 2026

The Diocese of Liwolo
South Sudan

South Sudan	United Kingdom
Land area	
644,000 Sq km	243,000 Sq km
Population	
24 million	71 million
Population Density	
20 /sq. km	285/sq. km
Church of England Sarah Mullally Archbishop of the worldwide Anglican church	
Number of Dioceses	
68	42
Liwolo	Blackburn
Joseph Abe Nicanor	Phillip North

South Sudan is slowly recovering from civil war which lasted 22 years. An estimated 22 million people died from the armed conflicts, malnutrition and disease. The country had to be re-built again with international aid. From 1896 to 1956 the whole of Sudan was ruled jointly by France and Great Britain with the British Monarch head of State. From 1952-1956 Queen Elizabeth was head of state.



A wartime picture of a town with armed troops and bombed-out buildings. The local population had fled the fighting and become refugees.

Refugees in their own country



Drought

Displaced people





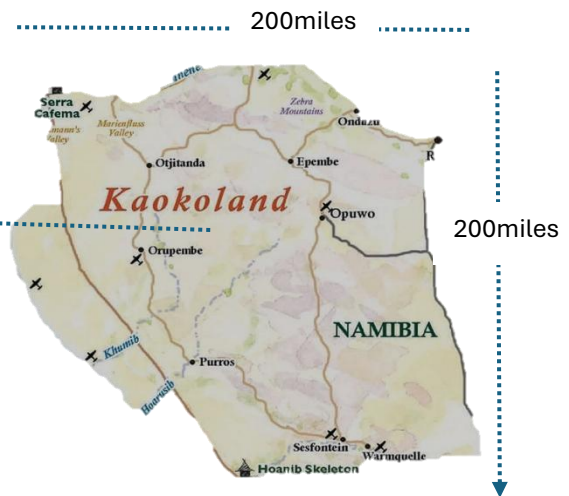
International aid has been used to build new schools, including this primary school.



Another donkey

Jan Shirumbu and his pilgrimage is across Kaokoland.

[The following includes some passages from Kunene Land by Jan Behr]



200 miles is the distance from Glasgow to Manchester!

Kaokoland is a vast parched land and home of the Himba people.



Place: Kaokoland

Pilgrim: Jan Shirumbu

Lativa : a Himba child

SWAPO: South West Africa Peoples' Organisation – fighting the South African army.

'With every measured step, the red dust of Kaokoland rose round Shirumbu's feet. He had entered Kaokoland without fanfare, just a rucksack, without a map. There were no

welcoming committees, no signs of arrival, just the vast, indifferent expanse of the wilderness.'

Pictures of Namibia



Oryx looking at lion



Local people collecting firewood.



Footsteps in the sand



A Rondavel

Why do the Himba prefer their traditional houses? Well, they have the skills to build the walls and thatching using mud, which acts as insulation, and straw for deflecting the sun.



Sitting in silence as the sun sets and the shadows get longer.



JohnPaul Parish

Autumn Fair

2026

*We are NOW collecting the following items
for the Autumn Fair:-*

Jewellery ~ Books

Bric-a-brac ~ Craft items

Toys ~ Jigsaws

*Items suitable for a Tombola Stall
and Raffle Prizes.*

*Donations can be left at the back of Church or
given to any member of the social committee.*

(If just leaving them please label clearly 'For the Autumn Fair.')

*Have you any suggestions for a stall or would
you like to have a stall?*

Please see Maureen, Kath or Marion



Parish Mission weekend 11th to 13th September

Light the Flame



1.

Friday 11th at St. John's church.

Remember the Flame: Stories and Praise through the decades.

2. Saturday 12th at Benjamin Hargreaves school field

Share the Flame: Fun, games, activities, refreshments and prayer tent.

3. Sunday 13th 10.30am St. John's normal service

Receive the Flame with Rev. Sweetline Burnell as our speaker

4. Sunday 13th 4 – 5.30pm St. Paul's Church

Share the Flame: Brass Band and cake

Help needed: Refreshments, games, cake making, setting things up, taking things down.

We aim to create a loooong paper prayer chain, with help from the schools and all the above events.