



ST PAUL'S

LOW MOOR PARISH CHURCH



MARCH 2026

Reaching out and growing together in God's love

The Way of Truth

I must be getting older because the years seem to be passing by faster than I ever remember as a child and here we are once again in the season of Lent, traditionally a time of fasting and repentance for the wrongs we have done.

During this time, we continue to wrestle with sin, such as small word, but a word that indicates the all is not well with the world, all is not well with our soul.

When we're tempted to steal, to cheat, to lie, we tell ourselves a false story to justify what we have said: everyone does it, it's not so bad, people have done worse to me, no one will find out, no one's seriously hurt by it, the person I'm hurting deserved it, if I do it quickly I can pretend it didn't happen. But the result is in doing that we put poison in the way of truth and set in motion a sequence by which one lie leads to another.

The devil told Jesus false stories in the desert. Everything will be sorted if everyone has enough food. Everyone will follow you if you do eye-catching things. Everything will be set right if you take over the world. these are all basically good things – and they're exactly what the people expected a Messiah to do.

But it turned out Jesus hadn't come to fix everything. He'd come to be with us, come what may, in our imperfect lives. Lent is a season when we face up to our sins, our false stories, and welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives with Christ present as the one who walks with us in life's difficulties and inspires us with his truth until we come to our lives end, when God will be with us forever, where all our falsehoods are swept up into God's truth.

God bless

Catherine

In the Wilderness

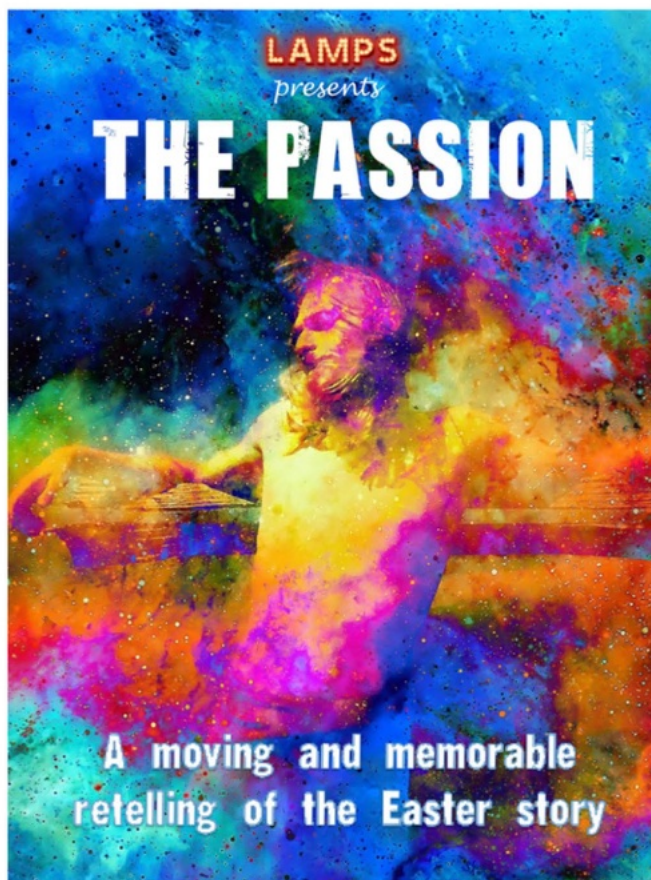
The years move softly, swift as breath,
And bring us once again
To this bare road of searching truth
Through desert dust and pain.

We dress our wounds in careful words,
Excuse what we have done;
Yet lies, once whispered to the heart,
Outrun us one by one.

Christ walks where falsehood fades to light,
Where quiet mercies start;
Not come to fix the broken world,
But dwell within the heart.

And in that love we learn at last
What Lent is leading toward:
That every shadow we confess
Is gathered by the Lord.

The Passion.



On Friday 20th March at 7.30pm the LAMPS drama group will be staging a performance of The Passion.

In this drama, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus are recreated in a moving, memorable and ultimately joyful retelling of the Easter events.

Told from the perspectives of Peter, Mary Magdalene and a Roman centurion named Marcus, The Passion leads us up to and through the events of Holy Week, the cross and beyond.

This event is completely free, so come along with your friends to hear this extraordinary story."



CHOIR PRACTICE DATES:

Thursdays
5th and 19th
February
commencing at 7.00pm

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, LOW MOOR CLITHEROE ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

SUNDAY JULY 2nd

1967

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion (said).

9-00 a.m. Parish Communion (sung).

10-30 a.m. Morning Service.

Preacher: Rev. F. Bennett (Read).

1-45 p.m. Procession of Witness Assemblies.

2-00 p.m. Procession.

2-30 p.m. Family Service

Preacher: Rev. Highway (Sabden).

6-00 p.m. Evening Service — Preacher: Rev. Hulse
(St. John's, Bury).

OFFICIAL VISIT OF HIS WORSHIP THE
MAYOR, ALDERMAN T. ROBINSON
All Parishioners and Friends welcome

Fruit from the Sea of Galilee

St Paul's - a church where we welcome everyone into the family.

For those who many not know, the phrase 'Sea of Galilee' comes from the course '**Leading your Church into Growth**' which we have been following now for well over a year. This particular aspect focuses on Church as Community and family with an emphasis on the welcome we extend to everyone.

Many growing churches are those which actively engage with their local community, creating an atmosphere of belonging and caring. The course encouraged us to think about our Parish as the Sea of Galilee where Jesus did so much of his teaching and preaching.

Around our 'sea' there are many 'villages' who touch on our church in different ways but perhaps don't worship with us - these include Baptism, wedding and funeral families, Line Dancing and Pilates, Band concerts, Craft Fairs, Cream Teas, Soup Lunches, Pancake and Quiz nights and so much more.

You may want to fill in the diagram on page 8 and think of some more.

One of the biggest opportunities we have in engaging with our community is through Soup Lunch and that's why last year we invited Revd Sarah O'Donoghue and Bishop Philip to talk to us about their stories, to make a link with our church perhaps in a different way.

We asked people afterwards what we could do to make a difference to them and one lady said - I would come to church if there was a service during the week that started later than 9.30 to give me chance to get there.

WELL..... as a result of that conversation with Sue, our new service began on Thursday February 5th at 10.00am where we joined by seven people to a quiet, reflective Eucharist in our beautiful Royal Engineers and Lady Chapel.

We do hope you can join us next time on Thursday March 5th at 10.00 to worship together and share tea or coffee and toasted teacakes after the service.

'Eating and drinking together is about meeting a need for hungry people. It is also about a place at the table, place that nurtures as sense of enjoyment and deepening relationships.'

God Bless

Catherine

See diagram on Page 8.....

Pilgrimage, Pain and the Gift of Love

On our recent visit to London Catherine and I saw two very different theatre productions; 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry') and 'Shadowlands' - both offering surprisingly similar reflections and parallels on Christian belief and the meaning of life.

At first glance, Harold Fry's story is simple. An ordinary man sets out to walk across England to visit a dying friend, believing that as long as he keeps walking, she will live. Yet what begins as a physical journey becomes something deeper - a pilgrimage of repentance, healing and rediscovery. Along the way, Harold confronts past regrets, broken relationships and his own emotional distance. His steady, faithful walking mirrors the Christian understanding that transformation often comes step by step. Redemption is not dramatic - it is patient, humble and persistent.

In Shadowlands, based on the life of C. S. Lewis (of 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' fame), the journey is not across countryside but through grief. Lewis, known for defending the Christian faith and writing 'A Grief Observed' finds his intellectual certainty shaken when his wife Joy becomes terminally ill. The play explores a profound question: what happens when our beliefs theology meet real suffering? As the play progresses he slowly discovers that pain is not a puzzle to be

solved, but an experience to be lived through - and that love, even when it leads to loss, is worth the cost.

Both stories remind us of central Christian truths. Life is fragile. Love is costly. Faith is tested. Yet suffering is not meaningless. In different ways, Harold Fry and CS Lewis learn that to avoid pain is to avoid love - and to avoid love is to miss life itself.



For a church community, these dramas gently affirm that faith is not about having all the answers. It is about continuing the journey, trusting that God works within our weakness, regret and grief. Whether through a long walk or a time of sorrow, transformation is possible. Grace will meet us on the road and in the shadowed places.

And perhaps that is the heart of the Christian story: life itself is a pilgrimage - one where love makes the journey worthwhile.



Above: Our Pancake and last minute Beetle Drive proved to be extremely popular as we welcomed over 50 people to mark the beginning of Lent . Thank you so much to everyone who helped in any way . As you can see from the above photo Imogen and



With some trepidation our new **Soup Lunch** team prepared for their first Soup Lunch which fell close to Valentines' Day. But they needn't have worried as so many continued to donate soup and cakes and help on the day.
Photo left: Edith says, 'He got the job!'

Artists given a chance to shine

THE fifth annual summer festival at St Paul's Church, Low Moor, gets underway next month with a competition for local artists.

They are being invited to enter paintings, drawings and sculptures on the theme "My Town." There are five classes for all age groups and entries will go on exhibition during the 10-day festival.

The festival runs between June 27th and July 5th. Contest entry forms can be obtained from the Ribble Valley Tourist Information Office, local schools and Low Moor Vicarage.

Other activities planned for the festival include an outdoor market and a special service for senior citizens led by Clitheroe Evening Townswomen's Guild Choir, with guest preacher Canon Francis Heighway, of Blackburn.

A concert by the Lancashire Evening Post Brass Band will be held on July 1st and other events will include a family games night, a sponsored run and a "summer fling" at a local hotel.

The opening church service for the festival will be held on June 28th, when the new rose queen, Catherine Kirk, will be crowned, before taking part in the procession of witness.

The festival ends on July 5th with a thanksgiving Eucharist.

Below: James was our Quizmaster at our Quiz Night in February which was well attended by all age groups. As you will see from the accompanying photo it was also Edith's birthday!



Right: A interesting newspaper cutting from the Lancashire Evening Post, possibly between the dates of 27th June to July 5th in 1989 about the fifth Annual Summer Festival at St Paul's.

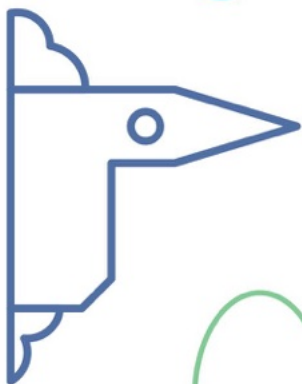
I expect many of you may remember this - and possibly the other summer festivals. This, and the one at the bottom of Page 3 were found recently by my sister whilst going through some of the documents which belonged to my parents.

Amazing what turns up when you are least expecting it but it seems it was a big event! (The 'Summer Fling' at a local hotel sounded good to me!)

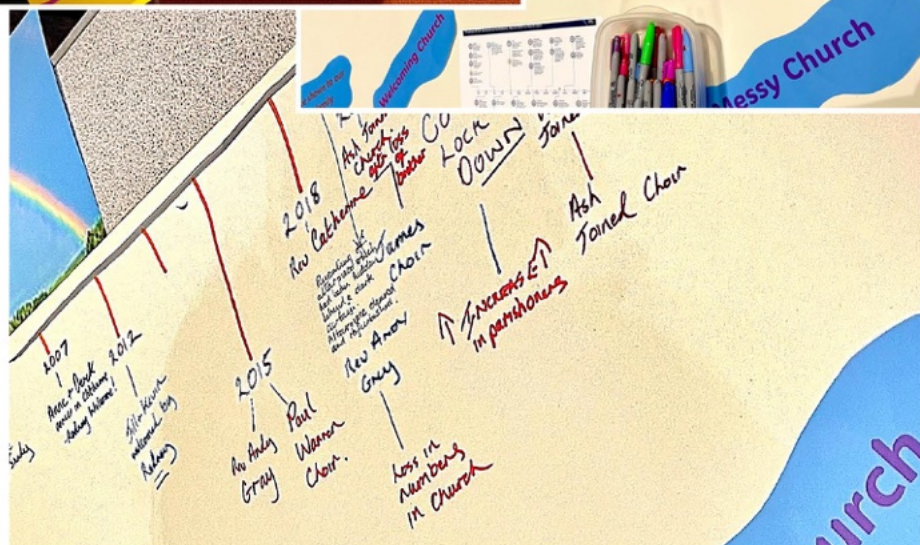
JH



Mapping our Galilee



Have you added to our church timeline yet?



We began our timeline at Turret House last month - mapping out events in living memory to see how our story fits in time with St Paul's Church and with God's Story.

Since then it has been added to by members of our congregation on a Sunday and also by the Mothers' Union at their meeting. The plan is to bring it all together so that others can add to it when we hold our Mission Weekend in September which will incorporate Heritage Weekend.

Many memories have been shared in the process and new things learnt about our church and the people who have worshipped here over so many years.

SOUP LUNCH

- Choice of Soups
- Roll and Butter
- Tea and Coffee
- Choice of Cake



ST PAUL'S
LOW MOOR PARISH CHURCH



A Bowl of Soup.....

EVERYONE'S WELCOME
FOR **SOUP LUNCH**

FRIDAY 13th MARCH

.....A Table of Fellowship



CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 28th March

10.30am - 3.00pm

Refreshments

To book a table please contact 01200 458019
OR revdcahale@gmail.com



ST PAUL'S
LOW MOOR PARISH CHURCH

It's not
too late.....

TO BOOK A STALL
FOR THE
FOR THE MARCH
CRAFT FAIR
only £20!

LOW MOOR READING ROOM AND SOCIAL CLUB
ST. PAULS STREET - TELEPHONE 01200 423496

Baptism, Birthday, Wake, Practice Sessions.
All your Family get together.

If you need a Function Room for anything, contact Bar
Staff or phone the number above.

£20 deposit (cleaner) required.
Will be refunded if not required.

**The March Magazine is kindly sponsored by
Graham and Eileen Hampshire
and
Kath Wheatley in remembrance of Doug**

Diary - MARCH

Sunday 1st	9.30 Holy Communion
Tuesday 2nd	7.00 Bible Course Vicarage
Wednesday 3rd	10.50 Bible Course Christ Church
Thursday 5th	10.00 Holy Communion 12.00 Funeral Richard Irvine Cook 7.00 Choir Practice
March 8th	9.30 Holy Communion 1.00 Funeral - Kathleen Fisher
Friday 13th	12.00 Soup Lunch
Sunday 15th	9.30 Mothering Sunday Family Service
Wednesday 19th	7.00 Deanery Synod St Leonard's, Langho
Thursday 19th	7.00 Choir Practice
Friday 20th	7.30 LAMPS: The Passion
Sunday 22nd	9.30 Holy Communion 2.00 Messy Church
Thursday 26th	4.30 Wedding Rehearsal
Friday 27th	1.00 Wedding
Saturday 28th	10.30 - 3.00 Craft Fair
Sunday 29th	9.30 Palm Sunday

From the Registers

Funerals

Max Carruthers

Baptisms

Oliver Thomas Ashworth

Keimpe Peter Arthur Ball

Oscar Charlie Liam Ball