



ST PAUL'S

LOW MOOR PARISH CHURCH



DECEMBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026
Reaching out and growing together in God's love

Advent and New Beginnings

Somehow each year the days and months seem to go faster - perhaps it's an age thing, but once again we are approaching one of the most exciting times in our Church year as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus.

The phrase that I hear the most is 'Are you ready?' And of course what they really mean is have you bought and wrapped all the presents, written the cards, decorated the house, organised the food. The words 'are you ready?' rarely mean have you prepared for the coming of Jesus?

At St Paul's and Christ Church we give people the opportunity to do this by looking at the Bible through the eyes of our Advent Course, coming to church during the Advent Season when each week we light a candle to reflect all those who have gone before to prepare a way for the coming of Jesus, because that is what Advent is all about - **getting ready for a new beginning.**

This year we have another new beginning through the formation of a smaller group of churches with St Paul's and Christ Church and how we can help God's church to grow.

There will be several events throughout the year to support us in this but the most important thing is prayer.

During our Advent season, we will pray for all in our community, young and old, that they may come to church to learn more about the most amazing new beginning - the birth of God's Son - sent down to earth for you and for me.

Whatever you do and wherever you I hope and pray you will have a blessed Christmas.

God Bless.

Catherine

*Advent comes quietly:
light stealing into the edges of night,
hope warming the coldest waiting.
In every small kindness,
in every opened space of the heart,
the Holy One draws near
with a whisper of new beginnings,
already arriving,
still on the way.*

A new Chapter for St Paul's, Low Moor and Christ Church, Chatburn



ST PAUL'S

LOW MOOR PARISH CHURCH



CHRIST CHURCH

CHATBURN PARISH CHURCH

From December 1st there is a change in the organisation of the Benefice which until this date has been a group of four churches.

- **St Paul's Low Moor and Christ Church Chatburn will form one Benefice with Revd Catherine Hale-Heighway as Vicar.**
- **St Mary's, Clitheroe and St Leonard s Downham will form a new Benefice with Revd Paul Sherwood as their Vicar.**

I am so looking forward to leading our churches in this new chapter where I pray we will flourish and grow.

As part of this new beginning, and also as Blackburn Diocese begins their Centenary Celebrations as a Diocese, we are having a special service on Sunday 4th January at 11.00am when we will welcome our new Archdeacon, Revd Jane Atkinson - please do come along and meet her.

Growing in Faith

In December we begin our Advent Course - 'Near and Hastening Fast' which focuses on twelve prophets. We will be in church on Tuesday December 9th and 16th at 10.50am or if you can't make that then come to the Vicarage on Monday December 1st and 8th. Please do come and join us for the opportunity to reflect and share ideas about this special time in our lives.

**MUSIC
AT
ST PAUL'S**



**Saturday 6th December
at 2.00pm
Tickets: £10
(Including refreshments)**



**CLITHEROE
TOWN BAND**

Vision for the New Benefice

On Saturday January 10th, between 10.00am and 3.30pm ,we will be having a day at the **Turret House in Clitheroe** a part of the next step as we lead our churches into growth.

Members of our congregation are invited us join us to discern the Vision for our church as we move in to 2026 and a new chapter in our church history with our new Benefice with St Pauls' Low Moor. The day will be led by Revd Sarah O'Donoghue who is working with us through this process.

(See message from Sarah below)

Dear friends (If I may),

I am looking forward to spending the day with you on Saturday 10th January at Turret House of Prayer. I have already met some of the PCC and church members when I came to speak in March. However, it will be a lovely to finally meet both congregations.

For those who haven't met me before may I introduce myself. I have been ordained for ten years and until November 2024 I was the Vicar of Christ Church Aughton in the Liverpool Diocese. I joined Blackburn Diocese as the Diocesan Renewal Officer in December last year. I have spent the last eleven months working alongside over 20 churches to support them on their mission to love and share Jesus with their community. I am passionate about the local church and keen to see it grow.

Included in the day will be space to share and encourage one another as together we discern God's vision and plan for your churches.

I hope you will accept the invitation to join me as we spend time in God's presence and enjoy fellowship together.

Blessings

Sarah

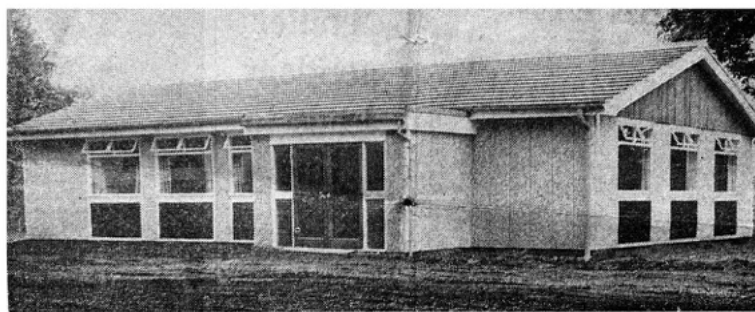
*(Rev'd Sarah O'Donoghue
Diocesan Renewal Officer)*

A New Chapter for The Benefice of
St Paul's Low Moor and Christ Church Chatburn
Saturday 10th January 2026 at Turret House
Rev'd Sarah O'Donoghue- Diocesan Renewal Officer

Programme for the day:

10.00-10.15	Arrival and refreshments
10.15am:	Session One
	Parable telling stories
	Your story,
	The story of Christ Church
	Chatburn & St Paul's, Low Moor
11.15	Comfort break
11.20	Session Two
	Purpose for the Future
12.10	Comfort break
12:15	Session Three
	Principles & Prayer for the Future
1.00	Lunch
2.00- 3.30	Session Four
	Prayer continued
	Plan for the future

Please have a word with one of our Churchwardens if you would like to come.



At the recent Heritage Days it was discovered that we had no photos of the old church hall. However, thanks to Jean Dean who unearthed this newspaper cutting we now have one. Thank you, Jean!

***Opening of hall marks
new era at St Paul's***

Remembrance Day at Barnard Castle



I always enjoy Remembrance Day. I think that it gives us space in our busy lives, to remember all that has been done for us by those brave men and women, who gave of themselves, often making the ultimate sacrifice, so that we can enjoy our freedom today. This year I spent Remembrance Day in Barnard Castle. I was away on holiday staying with friends, two of whom live in that beautiful market town.

We attended St. Mary's Parish Church first built in 1130, a Grade 1 listed building, which is the home of war memorials and the colours of Durham Militia from 1759. The service was led by the Reverend Canon Alec Harding. The church was packed to the brim with all sorts of people including civic dignitaries, members of the armed services and representatives of the emergency services. There were also cadets, scouts, guides, cubs, brownies and

members of the public. The service was peppered with rousing hymns including 'I vow to thee my country' and 'Eternal Father strong to save'.

My favourite part of the service was the sermon preached by the curate Ana Moskvina who was born and raised in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). She told us of the tragic history during the Second World War, when the city was besieged by the German army. The siege lasted just under 900 days and included a fiercely cold winter of 1942. With no water, no electricity and no food, 1.5 million of the 3.2 million population perished – almost half. All the cats and dogs had already been eaten and people struggled to live on just 125 grams of bread per day.

Ana spoke movingly about her great grandmother experiencing these atrocious conditions and how she lived long enough to relate these stories to her family. Every year on 9th May, the

Victory Day in the Soviet Union, they went to the local memorial cemetery to lay flowers on the mass graves of those unnamed people who had died in the siege. Referring to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Ana went on to explain that chillingly over the last 20 years, the words of sorrow have been replaced by jingoism celebrating war. The parade of 9th May turning from a commemorative act into a demonstration of military might and how 'never again' became



'let us repeat'. She explained that this is a sobering reminder that peace is a very fragile thing and that we must never forget the price that has been paid for that peace.

Following the service, we all processed to the war memorial situated outside the Bowes Museum founded by Josephine and John Bowes and built in the style of a French chateau. This is the ancestral home of the Bowes-Lyon family including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

It was a poignant Remembrance Day, which I will remember for some time. Hopefully my description, enhanced by the photographs, will give you a flavour of my experience.

Wendy



All Change at Soup Lunch - and many thanks!

It's over ten years since "Team Soup" took over the running and organisation of Soup Lunch, begun by Rodney, and what an amazing job they have done, led by Geraldine.

It would be hard to work out how many bowls of soup they have provided but they have organised approaching 100 lunches and provided countless hours of pleasure as well as raising around £30,000 for church funds over that time.

It's hard to thank them enough and all who have supported them by making cakes, soups and as part of the back ground organisation which goes to making any event a success.

So as you hang up your aprons and take a well deserved rest - a huge thank you from each and every one of us for all that you have done.

Catherine



As usual there has been much going on at St Paul's during November.

Our photos show two major events we've had - Remembrance Day, and our world famous Soup Lunch with a visit from Bishop Philip



Christmas at St Pauls

We would love to welcome you to any or all of our special services this Christmas as we remember the birth of Jesus, God's Son:



★ **Sunday 30th November:** ★

6.30pm ADVENT CAROLS

★ **Sunday 14th December:** ★

9.30am ALL AGE NATIVITY

6.30pm CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

★ **Christmas Eve:** ★

6.30pm CHRISTINGLE

7.45pm HOLY COMMUNION

★ **Christmas Day:** ★

10.00am CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

January Diary

Friday 2nd	11.00 Beech Grove Home Communion
Sunday 4th	9.30 am Holy Communion with our new Archdeacon, Revd Jane Atkinson
Saturday 10th	10.00 - 3.30 A new Chapter for St Paul's and Christ Church led by Revd Sarah O'Donoghue as part of Leading our church into Growth. Open to everyone - lunch included See programme on page 5
Sunday 11th	9.30 All Age Worship - The Baptism of Christ
Sunday 18th	9.30 am Holy Communion
Friday 23rd	Quiz Night - led by James , Supper included time to be confirmed
Sunday 25th	9.30 Holy Communion

Advance Notice: Valentine Soup Lunch

Friday February 13th 12.00

Free Money! We would all like some, wouldn't we?

Having recently taken on the role of Treasurer for St Paul's I have the privilege of seeing the details of the costs of running the parish and also the generosity of those whose donations help to keep it running.

\I have also seen the massive benefit of the Gift Aid payments made to St Paul's by the government. These arrive twice a year and put thousands of pounds of Free Money into the church's account. If you pay tax and are not already 'gift aiding' your donations, please do fill in a Gift Aid declaration.

If you do and donate using a yellow envelope with your name on it or by bank transfer, then St Paul's can claim £2,50 from the government for every £10 that you donate.

Whenever or whatever you donate, Gift Aid costs you absolutely nothing extra and is a huge boost to parish finances. Forms are available at the back of the church, from Catherine or from me. The only information requested is your Name and Address. All information regarding donations is held in strict confidence.

Thank you.

Kevin Downes.

December Diary

Monday 1st	The new Benefice of St Paul's Low Moor and Christ Church, Chatburn comes into being. 7.00pm Reflecting on the Advent Booklet <i>Repeated Tuesday 10.50am at Christ Church</i>
Tuesday 2nd	7.30 Mothers' Union Christmas get together <i>at the Vicarage</i>
Wednesday 3rd	7.00 Whalley Deanery Synod at St Peter's Rishton
Friday 5th	12.00 Christmas Soup Lunch
Saturday 6th	2.00 Band Concert
Sunday 7th	9.30 Holy Communion 3.00 Joy to the World <i>at Trinity Methodist Church</i>
Monday 8th	7.00pm Reflecting on the Advent Booklet <i>Repeated Tuesday 10.50am at Christ Church</i>
Friday 12th	7.00 Church Christmas Party <i>at Low Moor Club</i>
Sunday 14th	9.30 All Age Nativity 6.30 Carol Service followed by refreshments
Sunday 21st	9.30 Holy Communion
Tuesday 23rd	Carol Singing - Edisford Estate
Wednesday 24th	Christmas Eve 6.30 Christingle 7.45 Holy Communion
Thursday 25th	Christmas Day 10.00 Holy Communion
Sunday 28th	9.30 Holy Communion followed by bacon butties

From the Registers

Funerals

Marjorie Booth

Weddings

Emma Kay and Shaun Taylor

Baptisms

Morgan Rose McBride

Quinn Emelia Sheree Tootle

Violet Autumn Astley



Next Soup Lunch

at St Paul's -

will be on

Friday

12th December

LOW MOOR READING ROOM AND SOCIAL CLUB

ST. PAULS STREET – TELEPHONE 01200 423496

Baptism Birthday, Wake, Practice Sessions.

All your Family get togethers.

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.

Mothers' Union

On 11th November we opened our meeting to everyone as we had invited Simon Entwistle to speak to us. Thank you to everyone who supported us and heard Simon tell us about Heroes and Villains. There were stories dating back several centuries right up to the present date, local stories and some from further afield, and some from Simon's personal life.

The historical ones came alive as Simon recounted them with action and different voices. I said that I wished he was my history teacher at school. History would certainly have come alive. When he was telling us about his home in the Lake District as a child and then revisiting it many years later, I had shivers going down my spine. He ended by asking us if we knew Roland Hailwood and telling us about the history of his Town Criers' outfit and saying that Roland was one of the modern day heroes of Clitheroe. After his talk we enjoyed refreshments and Simon stayed with us and chatted with everyone. Simon has the art of story telling and everyone agreed it was well worth turning out on a cold and wintry evening to hear him recount the tales of heroes and villains.

In December we are sharing our own choice of stories and poetry that we enjoy after a short business meeting. In January we usually go out for a meal. I will give out details nearer the time and then you are very welcome to join us. In February I hope to invite you to another open meeting with a speaker. In April we have our AGM and look back over the year.

Advent is here and preparations for Christmas begin. The MU's theme for December is "Invitations and Gifts". As we give out and accept invitations, messages, gifts and cards, it reminds us that for some people it is just the opposite. It can be a time of worrying about money, of having frustrating hopes and dreams, of loneliness, hunger and fear.

So, Gracious God we gladly accept and give thanks for your invitation to venture with you through Advent. As we wait in anticipation foretold by the prophets, may we be ready at his birth, to recognise the gift of your Son and be well prepared to love and serve Him. Help us to bring the gift of Christmas and give invitations to join us to those who cannot see hope, joy, or love at this time. Amen

As I write this there are 38 days to go. As we enjoy the preparations. Let us find time to prepare ourselves. When the 25th arrives let us enjoy the celebrations and share all the seasonal blessings that come with the birth of Jesus and the love that He brings.

Seasonal greetings from myself and all the MU members.

Lynda

The December/January Magazine is kindly sponsored by
Christine and Eric Wallace



**Lots
more
to see**



Please have a walk round church and enjoy our Advent Window Displays