JOHN PAUL PARISH MAGAZINE



Harvest Sunday – St. Paul's

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Paul watching over the harvest gifts

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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
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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
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Latest News

Latest news

The churches can be contacted through the wardens/assistant wardens.
The Rev. Jordan Bentliff has been appointed as vicar of our parish. Contact details:
Mobile:07450269010
e-mail; revjordanbentliff@gmail.com

Service Times

Note: these may change

St. Paul's Church

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 Church

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

Letter from Rev. Jordan

Dear friends,

As we move further into autumn, I'm reminded of how quickly the seasons change. The leaves are turning, the evenings are drawing in, and there is a particular beauty in this time of year. It is also a season that invites us to pause, to give thanks, and to reflect on the things that matter most.

There is plenty to look forward to in the life of John Paul Parish, not least our upcoming Autumn Fair in St Paul's Church. These occasions are about so much more than raising money or enjoying a good afternoon together. They are opportunities to strengthen our community, welcome new faces, and celebrate the gifts and talents that God has given us. I hope as many of you as possible will join us, whether you are helping to organise things, running a stall, or simply coming along to enjoy the day. Everyone is welcome!

November also brings us to a time of remembrance, when we gather to honour those who have given their lives in war and conflict, and to pray for peace in our troubled world. On Remembrance Sunday, I will be at Oak Hill Park, joining others as we remember the fallen and give thanks for their sacrifice. At a time when conflict continues to bring suffering to so many, our remembrance must also lead us to pray and work for a world where peace, justice and reconciliation can flourish.

These different moments in the coming weeks remind us that the Church is called to be a community of celebration, remembrance and hope. We celebrate the good things God gives us, remember those who have gone before us, and look forward with confidence to the future he holds in his hands.

And so, as the days grow darker and the nights grow longer, let us hold firmly to the joy we have in Jesus. Our joy does not depend on the weather, on everything going according to plan, or even on life being easy. It rests on the wonderful truth that we are loved by God, that Christ is with us, and that his light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

May that light fill our homes, our churches and our community throughout the coming weeks.

With every blessing,

Rev Jordan



St. John's – a view from the balcony

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

John Betjeman

Last week a friend inquired of me,
'Oh, should I join our P.C.C.?'
I answered, rather priggishly,
'If you communicate, you can,
And want to help your clergyman.
Parochial Parish Councils are
From Parish Councils different far.'
I said, And District Councils too
Have very different things to do.
For District Councils raise the rates
And have political debates.
If one side says "Preserve the Town",
The other side says "Pull it down!"
And Parish Councils try to make
The District Councils keep awake
To local practical affairs –
Like village bus-shelter repairs.
Parish and Parliament and Queen,
A mighty structure thus is seen –
Endless committees in between.
And I suppose that it occurr'd
To someone as not quite absurd
To make our Church of England be
A similar democracy.
The Church Assembly's near to top,
Where people talk until they drop;
Next come Diocesan Committees,
Like Mayor and Aldermen in cities.
The equivalent to R.D.C's
Are ruri-decanal jamborees,
And at the root of all the tree
We find the homely P.C.C.
For P.C.C.'s were really made
To give your local vicar aid,
And I have always understood
That most of them are very good –
Where lay folk do what jobs they can
To help their church and clergyman

Next column

But in small villages I've known
Of ones that make the vicar groan
And wish he could be left alone.
So just come along with me
To a really wicked P.C.C.
'Tis evening in the village school,
And perched upon an infant's stool
The village postmistress is sitting
Glancing at us above her knitting.
Like schoolchildren – but do not laugh-
Farmers in desks too small by half,
Prim ladies, brooding for a storm
Are ranged like infants, on a form.
We read the text that hangs above
In coloured letters "God is Love".
The Vicar takes the teacher's chair,
A dreadful tenseness fills the air.
"We will begin," he says, "with prayer"
We do. It doesn't make thing better.
The Vicar reads the Bishop's letter –
"Diocesan this and quota that" –
He might be talking through his hat;
It is not what they have come about.
And the devil's jumping out
For next we have the church accounts,
And as they're read, the tension mounts.
This Vicar has been forced to be
The treasurer of his P.C.C.,
As no one else will volunteer
To do the hard work needed here.
"Well, Vicar, do I understand
Last year we had six pounds in hand?"
Says Farmer Pinch who's rich and round
And lord of ninety thousand pound,
"And this year you are three pounds ten
in debt – and in the red again.
[*RDC is Rural District Council*]
[*Quota is now Parish Share*]

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Now, Vicar, that is not the way. **To make a parson's business pay.** **You're losing cash. It's got to stop** **Or you will have to shut up shop."** **The tactless Vicar answers,** **Then time it were" Says Farmer Pinch.** **And now Miss Right** **Who has been spoiling for a fight –** **Miss Right who thinks she's very Low** **And cannot bring herself to go** **To services where people kneel,** **Miss Right who always makes you feel** **You're in the wrong, and sulks at home** **And says the Vicar is paid by Rome-** **Cries " If the Vicar and his pals** **Spent less on Popish fal-de-lals** **Next column**	**Like altar candles and such frills** **Perhaps we could pay our bills."** **The fight grows furious and thicker,** **And what was meant to help the Vicar-** **This democratic P.C.C. –** **Seems just the opposite to me.** **The meeting soon is charged with hate,** **And turns the Devil's advocate:** **Its members do not come to church.** **Admittedly you'd to search** **A lot of villages to find** **A P.C.C. that's so unkind,** **But everywhere just now and then,** **The Devil tempts the best of men;** **So if you join your P.C.C.** **Be calm and full of charity.**

[Acknowledgment: Estate of J Betjeman]

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EVENTS 1

PARISH ADVENT SUNDAY LUNCH – this will be held on Sunday 29th November from 12noon to 4pm at the Gallery Kitchen, Haworth Art Gallery. The lunch which consists of two courses @ £27. Children's menu available at £7.50. The meal will be served at 1pm. The Bar will be open throughout the afternoon where tea, coffee, soft and alcoholic drinks can be purchased

Places must be booked, paid for and food choices by Monday 9th November. Anyone planning to attend must obtain a menu from Marion Wilkinson or Kath Jones as soon as possible.

BISHOP OF BLACKBURN'S HARVEST APPEAL – Thank to everyone who has contributed to our donation of £230. The money will be used to support refugees from attacks by rebel Ugandan forces on our sister diocese in Southern Sudan.

HARVEST FOOD BANK APPEAL – Both our churches and primary schools in the parish responded magnificently to the appeal for donations for the Food Bank run weekly by Accrington Christians Together in St. James' Church.

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PUDDING EXTRAVAGANZA !!!

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH HALL





Rev. Jordan with Becky and Maisie

An evening of fun and friendship including homemade puddings, wine and fruit juice; competitions and prizes. We welcomed our new vicar Jordan and his family. And thanks to everyone who made the puddings and provided the drinks, set up the room and tidied away; not forgetting the entertainment.



Higher or Lower ?????




Elmlea
DOUBLE



EXPLORING THE CONG0

Bangui 7th Jan. 1974



Dear Ma and Pa,

We had quite a Christmas on the beach at a small fishing village called Batcke near the town of in Western Cameroun. This is at the foot of Mount Cameroun, a 12,000 foot volcano which last erupted 2 years ago and subsequently has a cap of white lava. The beach was empty and quiet, lots of space to slow down and on the travelling ahead.

There was plenty of fresh bananas and pineapples, the fish we bought was still flapping and the palm trees among which we camped came right down to the sea. I learnt o climb coconut trees!

When we are travelling I usually get a pawpaw about midday. Fill it with bananas, grapefruit and lemon juice and eat the lot, but I wont keep writing about food, since I believe that is what prisoners of war used to. We are now camped of the River Ubangui, a tributary of the Congo, hippopotamuses swim about in the mornings on the other and the air is warm and clean. However all is not fruit and hippo since this rotten old truck keeps on having nervous breakdowns, I think to myself but they won't getting rid of it. The latest trouble was the compressor big ends going; nothing unsurmountable but lots of work.





I'm going to give up being anything to do with mechanics after this. Don't even let me see an open bonnet or a spanner if want me to stay! We are now about a month behind schedule because of extra stops, and now we have the worst jungle and rocks ahead of us through the Congo basin via Kisinganu, Lusaka and up into Rwanda. That's about a month or six weeks to Nairobi taking account of the stops for Ngorongoro Game Park and things, so who knows when I will get to Nairobi; before mid- February I hope because I can leave the lorry and spend a few weeks on the beach at Mombasa on my own. There is so much to see and do.

I hope you have a happy birthday mother. Affection Tony

Second letter

Kisingani 24th January 1974

Hello Mum, Dad and anyone looking over shoulders.

Arriving in Kisingani as we have the means, the back of the journey has been broken since we have only 500 miles of rough roads to travel now, and along these roads we have the Stanley Falls, the Mountains of the Moon and some animal parks to see. After that there are good tarmac roads of Tanzania and Kenya, so little trouble there I should think.

The roads here in the Congo Basin are little more than two tyre tracks with grass in between and dense jungle on either side. The Congo River or Zaire as it is now known, is a tremendous river up to [12k] wide here,1000miles from the sea. I took an old fashioned paddle steamer from Lisala to Kisingani, it had had Victorian brass fittings, wood fired and cheap beer. There is a cheaper river boat, that has to be seen to be believed, consisting of about 6 units lashed together, making a floating town about 200ft long and 20ft Wide. Kisingani, formerly Stanleyville , has evidence of the war that went on here in '46 with blown out shops and houses. However there is plenty to see here. Today I went up to see the fisheries on the river where the locals have constructed big frames across the rapids with nets



Nothing has changed in the last 50 year – the rain turns the roads to quagmires

hanging from them to catch the fish. After returning from there by canoe, I went to the outskirts of the town to buy some souvenirs because things are a bit expensive in the city. I went to some ivory factory/shops, tiny shack affairs, where I got a bit of ivory carved into a head, but the prices were still prohibitive and I got some good wood carvings. In the market there is plenty of cheap fruit and peanut butter, home made and hundreds of different types, yum. Yesterday I got a big pineapple as big as your head for 10 makata which was about 5p.

The jungle we have been through has been really good with bamboo groves and we found a crashed D.C. 3 from the war, complete with engines and fittings but completely overgrown. There are plenty of monkeys, snakes and screechy things that go 'squawk' in the night.

One grotty thing that happened was I got a hole in my mosquito net on a night we stopped in a swampy area and these big stripy mozzies got in and bit me and they all had rusty needles

[**This is a personal letter from deepest Africa**]

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EVENTS 2

THE GREAT AFTERNOON TEA PARTY – members of St. Paul's and St. John's churches were again invited by the LET Education Trust to an afternoon tea at the Dunkenhalgh. The Hollins and Rhyddings High Schools send out invitations to older people in the area. This is to reconnect young people with earlier generations and that this will continue throughout their lives. The stated aim of the Afternoon Tea Party to enjoy some amazing entertainment, great conversation and excellent food. The young people certainly achieved all they set out to do.

TOY SERVICE – This will be held on Advent Sunday, 29th November in our joint Parish Celebration of .Communion. Again, this year we will be collecting new toys, games etc for distribution to underprivileged children in our area. This is being organised by Accrington Rotary Club. A representative of the Rotary Club will attend the service to receive donations.

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JOHN-PAUL-CHURCH

FAMILY QUIZ EVENING



& SUPPER

FRIDAY, 20TH NOV 2026 6.30pm







IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH HALL
Adults £3.50 Children £2.50
Family Ticket £10

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5: 1-12

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God
2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted
3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy
6. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God
8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven