

# The Log

*A Season of Gratitude & Praise*

*“Give thanks to  
the Lord, for he is good.  
His love endures for ever.”*

*— Psalm 136:1*

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*Following Jesus On Mission*

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**The Parish Magazine - May 2026**

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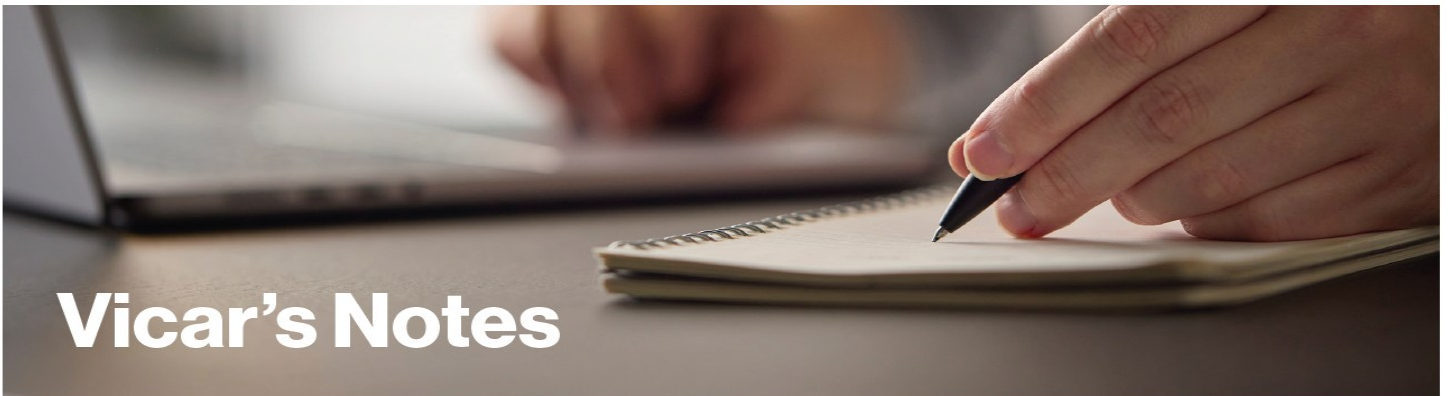
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## Vicar's Notes

I'm sure many of us would appreciate the superpower of being able to be in two places at once because unlike God we are not omnipresent. There are many times I feel like this and one of the most recent occasions was on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April because while I was helping to lead a Christian Men's Weekend at Rydal Hall, a dedicated group of you were kindly spring cleaning St Paul's Church. For this I want to offer my thanks and gratitude.

Indeed, I often wonder if a suitable accompaniment to the vestments a vicar wears during their ordination service should be a large billboard that simply says 'Thank you' on it.

Increasingly I come to realise it is simply not possible to get through life on your own and each passing year I know all of us rely on each other more than we might care to admit. Whether through small acts of kindness or generous commitments of time, it is these shared efforts that sustain our Christian community, strengthen our faith, and remind us that just as the risen and ascended Jesus promised to always be with us, we are never truly alone in our calling.

### **A Hope Filled Easter**

After some deeply poignant services during Lent it was a delight to be able to join in with the hope of Easter through the celebration of adult and child baptisms on Easter Day. I want to say a sincere thankyou to all those who contributed to the services over the period, including members of the School Junior Choir, the Worship Group, the Senior Choir, and our Organist Karen Au.

Special thanks must also go to the Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade for creating the most marvellous tomb, rolling stone and cross. The visual props really brought the drama of Good Friday and the wonder of Easter Day alive to those who were able to join in our services.

Then I'd also like to express my thanks to Donna Rowe-Green and all those on the Flower Team who decorated both churches so beautifully and of course the many others who I know worked so hard behind the scenes to facilitate things like the Good Friday Parish walk and meal. You can see picture of some of the things we got up to on page 6.

### **Spring Fair – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 11am-2pm**

We very much look forward to hosting our Annual Spring Fair at St Paul's which this year has an exciting circus theme. While I can't promise to swing from the rafters like a trapeze artist, there is a good chance you might see me dressed up as a clown – not too much a stretch of the imagination some of you may be thinking... Do come along, you'll have a great time, and I promise not to throw a whipped cream pie in your face!

**Vicar's Notes continued .....****All Together Service of Confirmation with Bishop Philip North – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 10am.**

As our Confirmation Course nears its end we look forward to welcoming Bishop Philip to our 10am All Together Service at St Paul's Church where he will be confirming a number of younger and adult candidates. Then afterwards we'd like to invite those who can stay to join us for a simple cuppa soup and bread social time together as we celebrate all that God is doing among us. Please do join us for this very joy filled occasion.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm at St Paul's Church**

Topping off a busy weekend, on the evening of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May it's our church APCM. Here we conduct some of the official business of the church such as electing Churchwardens and PCC Members but the APCM is also an encouraging time to share some of the highlights of the previous financial year and exciting plans for the future. Everyone is welcome to attend this strategically important evening.

**Ascension and Pentecost Services**

This year's Ascension service (40 days after Jesus' resurrection) takes place at 7.30pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May at St Paul's Church. Then the Churches Together Songs of Praise Pentecost Service (50 days after Jesus' resurrection) is being hosted at St Lawrence Church, on 24<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm.

**Longridge Church Of England Primary School Foundation Governor Required**

We are now urgently seeking to appoint two Foundation Governors for Longridge CofE Primary School who will help to support the safe and healthy education of the children and the wellbeing of school staff. As you can see from the regular articles and pictures in the Log, our linked school on Berry Lane does a brilliant job of educating our children and a key element of this is maintaining a strong Christian core of faith and values. If you have experience or are willing to learn and grow in such areas as strategic oversight, monitoring performance, school ethos, buildings management, community links and other such area of school governance, then please do come and speak to me, I'd be delighted to hear from you.

**Foodbank**

The 'Community Foodbank @ Longridge' have done a brilliant job in setting up their new organisation and continue to serve those in our community who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

Key to their success is the generous support they receive from those in our community who are able to donate such items as pasta sauce, tinned meat, long life milk, sponge puddings, tomato ketchup and toilet rolls etc. Indeed, if you'd like more information about our local Churches Together Foodbank and how you can support their vital work please do pop in and see the team when they're open as usual every Friday between 11:00am and 1:30pm. Finally you can also financially support the Community Foodbank @ Longridge using their Business Account – Account Number: 12833754, Sort Code: 01-00-53.

**For more information you can contact the Foodbank team on Tel. 07977 415030**

## Book Review by Naomi Pinder.

### The Greatest Story Ever Told, by Bear Grylls

I highly recommend this best-selling book which tells the life of Jesus through the eye witness accounts of five people closest to Jesus. It is written as a living, breathing account, and brings to life the sounds, smells and sights of Gospel times and enables the reader to live through the events as a participant.



The Hebrew names for people and places are used, Jesus is Yeshua, and the witnesses are his mother Myriam, the sceptic Ta'om, the fisherman Shimon, His friend Yohanan and Myriam of Magdala. Jerusalem is called Yerushalayim and the book moves through from Gabriel's unexpected visit to the young Myriam, through the main Gospel events to the Resurrection.

I think that it brings to life the characters and how they must have felt- the excitement of the early days when Yeshua and His disciples travelled easy and comfortable in each other's company, and people listened and followed Him. Yeshua's sense of fun and humour and His love of dancing are brought to life. The miracles are brought to life, and the reader can really imagine being present and watching the body healed, heart made clean and dead brought back to life.

As the story continues and the forces of earthly darkness take hold, the mood changes and I was crying as I read about Yeshua's betrayal, trial and crucifixion. Turning to resurrection joy, the description of Myriam's tomb visit and her meeting Yeshua on Easter Sunday is exquisite and uplifting.

This is an extremely readable and emotion-invoking book, good for newcomers to Yeshua and all those who love the Gospel.

## Log Deliveries

Thank you to Helen Eccles for offering to take on the round of deliveries that had become vacant. It's a vital role for getting the magazine through your letter box and I think thanks are due to all the people who do this for our readers. If you haven't paid your subscription yet please contact me on 785114, 07769 663 156 or [judithkaye@sky.com](mailto:judithkaye@sky.com) and I will arrange collection.



Thanks everyone.

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# Easter 2026



## Clergy & Church Officers

<b>Vicar</b>	<b>Rev. Mike Barton</b>	The Vicarage, Church Street	01772 389837	revmik Barton@gmail.com
<b>Curate</b>	<b>Rev Jesse Adesina</b>		07776 750695	revjesseadesina@gmail.com
<b>Retired Clergy:</b>	<b>Rev. John Ball</b>		07754 771220	
	<b>Rev. Adrian Mairs</b>	8 Hacking Drive	01772 356015	adrian.s.mairs@gmail.com
			07899 905768	
<b>Licensed Reader</b>	<b>Janet Mortimer</b>	8 Tootle Road	07734 475762	jan.mortimer1958@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Churchwardens</b>	<b>Dot Little</b>	26 Hoghton Road	01772 783998	dotlittle003@gmail.com
	<b>Dorothy Laver</b>	19 The Pastures, Grimsargh	07719 389529	dorothy.laver@gmail.com
<b>Deputy Wardens</b>	<b>Graham Kelsall</b>			graham@oaktreehouse.net
	<b>Mae Heys</b>	29 Fell Brow	07740 068099	
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	<b>Barbara Burton</b>	7 Chaigley Road		brbrbrtn6@gmail.com
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	<b>Graham Kelsall</b>			graham@oaktreehouse.net
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	<b>Elizabeth Hemingway</b>			psostlandplongridge@gmail.com
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	<b>Michael Dawson</b>	See hours below	01772 783281	secretarystandplongridge@gmail.com
<b>Health &amp; Safety Officer</b>	<b>Vacant</b>			
<b>Electoral Role Officer</b>	<b>Michael Dawson</b>			
<b>Ignite-Children &amp; Youth Leader—Becky Filder</b>				becky.ignitelongridge@gmail.com

## Parochial Church Council

<b>Chairman</b>	<i>Rev. Mike Barton</i>
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	<i>Barbara Burton</i>
<b>Hon. Treasurer &amp; Stewardship Recorder</b>	<i>Graham Kelsall</i>
<b>Members:</b>	Clergy and Churchwardens Amii Bateson, Karen Boardman, Helen Clements, Ellen Dawson, Andrew Filder, David Hartley, Mae Heys, Philip Jones, Vernon Kinrade, Terry Lewis, Rosemary Lyons, Barbara McCormick, Annamarie Rogers-Waterman, Val Wardley, Stephanie Willan.

## Organisations

<b>Parish Administrator</b>	<i>Michael Dawson</i>
Parish Office Monday and Wednesday	9:30—12:30
Friday	9.30—15.30
	01772 783281
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	
Hon. Sec. St. Lawrence	Dot Little 01772 783998
	Judith Kaye 01772 785114
Hon. Sec. St. Paul	Ellen Dawson 07487 741745
	<a href="mailto:ellendawson7@gmail.com">ellendawson7@gmail.com</a>
<b>Choir</b>	
Organist and Choir Director	Karen Au
	karen.au1990@gmail.com
<b>Church Lads &amp; Church Girls Brigade</b>	
Wednesday Nights	Berry Lane School Term Times
Martins and Y-Team (Reception-Year 5	6.15-7>30pm
JTC and Seniors (Year 6 and Above)	7-9pm
	<a href="mailto:Oliviastewart@clcgb.org.uk">Oliviastewart@clcgb.org.uk</a>
	<a href="mailto:AmiiBateson@clcgb.org.uk">AmiiBateson@clcgb.org.uk</a>
<b>Crafty Café</b>	
Last Monday each month, Centenary Room	1.30 - 3.30pm also:
Contacts	Helen Bailey 07891 075023
	Bev Keating
	Jean Saunders 01772640146
<b>Handbell Ringers</b>	
Leader	Judith Kaye Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED
	<a href="mailto:judithkaye@sky.com">judithkaye@sky.com</a> 01772 785114

<b>Children's Church</b>	<i>Carolyn Barton</i>	<a href="mailto:carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk">carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Mothers Union</b>	7.30pm on 1st Tuesday	
Enrolling Member	Judith Kaye Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED	
	<a href="mailto:judithkaye@sky.com">judithkaye@sky.com</a>	01772 785114
<b>Prayerline</b>	If you would like our prayer team to pray for you e-mail	
<i>Muriel Anderson</i>	12 Plessington Court, Brewery Street, Longridge	
	<a href="mailto:Murielanderson33@gmail.com">Murielanderson33@gmail.com</a>	07823 762089
<b>Tuesday Club</b>	7.30pm on 2nd Tuesday	
Chairman	Fred Little 26 Hoghton Road	01772 783998
Hon. Sec.	<i>vacant</i>	
<b>Walkie Talks</b>	<i>Hannah Green</i> 20 Darwen Close	01772 783558
<b>Bereavement Group</b>	meets on 1st Monday of the month including Bank Holidays	
	<i>Karen Burdett</i>	07712 440135
	<a href="mailto:karenburdett@hotmail.com">karenburdett@hotmail.com</a>	

<b>Longridge C of E Primary School</b>	<a href="http://www.longridge-ce.lancsngfl.ac.uk">www.longridge-ce.lancsngfl.ac.uk</a>
<b>Headteacher</b>	<i>Mrs Catherine Parkin</i>
	<a href="mailto:head@longridge-cofe.lancs.sch.uk">head@longridge-cofe.lancs.sch.uk</a>
<b>Clerk to the Governors</b>	
Val Morris	01524 581136 c/o the School Office
School Office	01772 782378
	<a href="mailto:bursar@longridge-cofe.lancs.sch.uk">bursar@longridge-cofe.lancs.sch.uk</a>
<b>Pre-School</b>	01772-780078
<b>PTFA Hon. Sec.</b>	<i>Katie Keighley</i>

## Sidesmen and Sideswomen

Karen Boardman, Bev Keating, Janet Heap, Peter Turver, Lib Turver, Graham Kelsall, Val Wardley, Dianne Sanderson, Muriel Anderson, Marilyn Kinrade, Barbara Burton, Ian Cookson, Ruth Buckley, Jennifer Sturzaker, Kai Ng, Helen Eccles, Keith Thompson, Judith Singleton.

## Duty Wardens

Ali Ng, Dot Little, Dorothy Laver, Mae Heys, Vernon Kinrade, Barbara McCormick, Kathleen Sturzaker, Nick Grogan, Kelly Grogan.

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU – Caroline Wilson.

Hello and thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself. I should first as a way of introduction explain how Longridge became home. Both my husband and I worked for the same company and in our roles travelled to many different locations. A spell in Bristol, the South Coast, time in Paris and many more destinations. My original home is Preston and my husband's Milnthorpe we had a close connection to my parents so consequently when we retired we decided to settle in the area as both my parents lived in Preston.



Growing up in Preston I attended St Stephen's Primary School and Church and if any of you know the location of the church you won't be surprised to know Avenham and Miller parks became my playground. At this time the parks were very different - Miller Park was the ornamental park and had a bird aviary. When my budgerigar escaped my father dutifully took me to the aviary to point out that Peter had moved in with his friends. Of course he had because I recognised him. The aviary is now gone and the parks have gone through many changes. It is good to see how well used they are - Saturday Park Run and much more. Recently the Old Tram Bridge (as we called it) is now to reopen following a complete rebuild.

Our move to Longridge was in 2023 and even in a short space of time we realised that Longridge is a real gem hidden in plain sight. It has a sense of community, everyone is really friendly plus access to everything you need is only a short walk away. There is a real welcome and I have joined various groups and made many new friends.

More recently I have joined the bowling club which is a hobby I had many years ago and another group of friendly welcoming girls. Hopefully I won't let the side down but I have been told it is about enjoying yourself - the fear on my face must have shown!

What else can I tell you by way of introduction, one of my great loves was my four legged companions the girls Ellie and Rubie sadly both are no longer here Some of you will have been introduced to Ellie as when we lost Rubie, Ellie couldn't be left alone. With permission last year she attended the Blue Christmas Service and the Christingle Service she was a very old lady who loved treats and shopping in Berry Lane.

My hobbies include building models, jigsaws and sewing. So you would not be surprised to hear that being involved with the Jigsaw Festival was a real treat. Together with crochet and knitting I have also been building a dolls house for the past 20 years.

In the Summer of 2024 my life changed course far earlier than expected and in November 2024 I felt drawn to St Lawrence with St Paul's. My first attendance in church was a big step as for many years I had only spoken direct to Him through prayer. I was struck by how the congregation was so connected to each other a genuine fellowship. I continued to attend and have completed the Alpha course followed by the Bible course finding them both enlightening and bringing faith into focus, I am now looking forward to the Foundation course.

Of the many activities and groups I have joined over the last year my latest has been the Tuesday Club which I will make sure to attend in September when it starts again, the Church is a real hub of activity.

After living in various places I am settled here and it is with great thanks to all the people who have welcomed me so wonderfully into their community. I hope this introduction provides a small insight into who I am. My next challenge, I am now officially on the Brew Time rota so will see you there and of course all comments gratefully received.



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# COME TO THE CIRCUS

## SPRING FAIR

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May - 11am - 2pm  
in St. Paul's Church

★ To be opened by the Longridge C of E School Choir ★



- ★ Grand Spring Fair Raffle
- ★ Cakes, biscuits produce etc.
- ★ Chance to buy your Summer bedding plants
- ★ Jigsaws, books etc.
- ★ Win a Bottle
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.....  
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and ice cream.



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## OUR SPRING FAIR

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 11am – 2pm in St. Paul's Church  
'Come to the Circus'**

We are now counting down to this year's Spring Fair – always an important date in the calendar and an event which has evolved from the Sales of Work of the past. Those of us now in our 70's can't remember a time when there wasn't a Spring Fair but that's where the link with the past ends because these days the fair is very much planned around Food, Fellowship and Fun. How fortunate we are to have people like Rie Rogers Waterman, Barbara McCormick, Karen Boardman and others who work with a theme and help make this such a fun event for the children as well as the adults. This year will certainly be colourful as we are going 'To the Circus' – so look out for the big top at the front of St. Paul's and lots of circus linked crafts and sideshows. There will be popcorn, candy floss and ice cream and no doubt one or two clowns to watch out for.

We are so pleased that Berry Lane School Choir are opening the event – do make sure you are in St. Paul's by 11.00am to hear them before making your way round the various stalls and sideshows. We will once again have a wonderful display of bedding plants which we purchase each year direct from the Nursery at Whitestake and we do thank Robert Wilkinson for transporting these for us.

The Grand Spring Fair raffle tickets are now circulating with first prize a wonderful hamper – please do sell some raffle tickets in advance of the fair for us if you can. The choir are in charge of the cake stall and would welcome cakes being brought on the morning of the event. Donations of raffle prizes, bottles, anything goes tombola prizes, chocolate for a chocolate tombola, paperback books and good quality animal soft toys would be really appreciated.

We haven't yet mentioned food but with the fair taking place over lunchtime we do hope you will enjoy lunch with us. Ann Golding and her team will have both traditional and cheese & onion hotpot on the menu, together with open teacake sandwiches and some yummy desserts. Vernon and Marilyn Kinrade will again be in charge of the BBQ outside on the grassed area.

So lots to look forward to and importantly an opportunity to be together and to enjoy each other's company. We look forward to seeing you.



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**INSPIRATIONAL WORDS – brought to us this month  
by Kathleen Sturzaker.**



**‘Underneath are the Everlasting Arms’**

Deuteronomy Chapter 34 verse 27 reads “The eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms”. These are words that Moses spoke about 1260 BC on Mount Nebo to the Israelites whom he had led out of captivity in Egypt many years before. This verse is part of his final blessing just before his death as he hands over to Joshua who will take over from him and will lead the people into the Promised Land.

They are words of comfort and reassurance in a time of uncertainty and a reminder to God’s people that God will always protect them. As we, like the Israelites, journey on into sometimes unsettling and challenging times, these few words inspire us and help us to know that God is journeying with us.

God’s arms being UNDERNEATH us assure us of a firm and a constant supporting foundation to our lives; we can be sure that, whatever happens, God will never let us fall. We’re also assured of a firm platform from which we can set out to take God’s message out into the world.

God’s arms being EVERLASTING reminds us that we will always be in His safekeeping and that those who have inspired our journeys of faith in the past and who are now with God will be kept safe and secure with Him.

We know that God’s ARMS will hold us and comfort us when we need it, as a parent comforts a child. If we start to fall, to doubt, to feel uncertain or afraid, those arms will catch us. His arms will also carry us when we’re weary and feel too tired to go on alone, and, when we feel we can’t even stand on our own, maybe due to illness or bereavement, those strong arms will hold us up.

Just a few words, but they encapsulate God’s unfailing love for us and give us the confidence, faith and inspiration to go forward following Jesus on mission this year.

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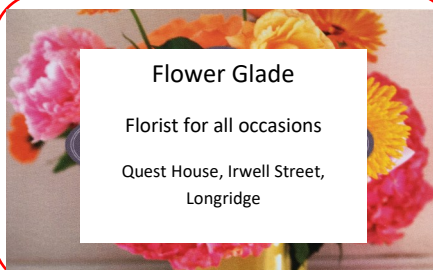
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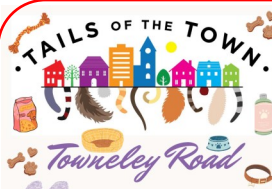
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## OUR FAVOURITE HYMN – VERNON KINRADE

It's been a while since I was last asked to identify my favourite hymn - probably about twenty three years ago and for an Ecumenical Service held at St Wilfrid's. Yet my response, now in a different chapter of my life, remains the same.

Such is the enduring appeal of "Lord of All Hopefulness"- and the way in which it expresses the intimate presence of God and his fatherly relationship with mankind at every life stage - that makes it so special to me.

I confess that I sometimes find the word "hope" a bit of a vague word in the context of something that we have been promised. In the same way, as people of faith, perhaps we feel we can take God's grace for granted. But on the other hand, it's always polite to ask (for that matter to ask repeatedly) and I especially like the suppliant conversational aspect of this hymn. "Be there at our waking"; "Be there at our labours... our homing" and finally, "Be there at our sleeping"; in short, at every part of the day which is our time here on earth.

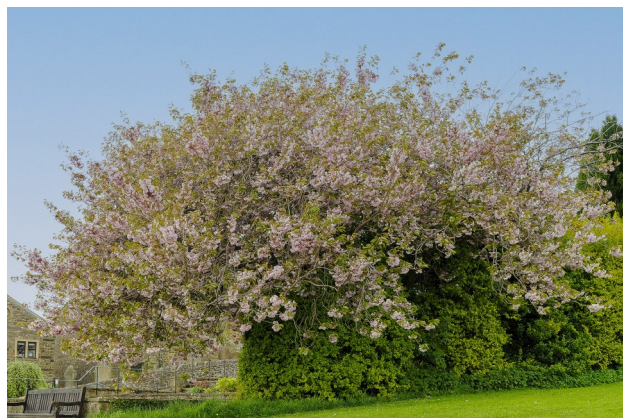
### Lord of All Hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labours and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day

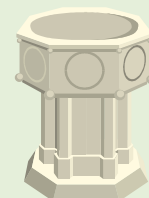


## BAPTISMS

**We congratulate and pray for those who have been recently Baptised  
into our Church family:**

Ezra Steven Fahey, Sean Frank Anderson, Sasan Washang, Mahamed Hkimi

All were Baptised on Easter Day 5th April 2026 during the 10:00am service at St. Paul's Church

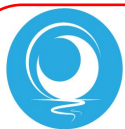


**SCHOOL NEWS – from Headteacher Catherine Parkin****Year 5 go back in time**

Our school was founded in 1848 and this picture looks like it could be from those early days of the school. If you look more closely, you'll see that it is actually Mrs Ingram and Mrs RW with our Year 5 children. There is no better way to find out what life was like in a Victorian school than to live it for a day! The children had lessons in the 3Rs, drill, needlecraft and woodwork. Thank you to parents for providing the fabulous costumes and to Mr Little who made a photographic record of the day.

**PSHE – Health Education**

As part of our PSHE work, Mrs Ingram's class learn about emergency first aid including CPR. It was great to have Panda Paramedic in school recently to give Class 5 some specialist tuition. Arthur's auntie ran this training for us so that our children know how to stay calm and deal with a range of emergency medical situations.



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## SCHOOL NEWS continued .....



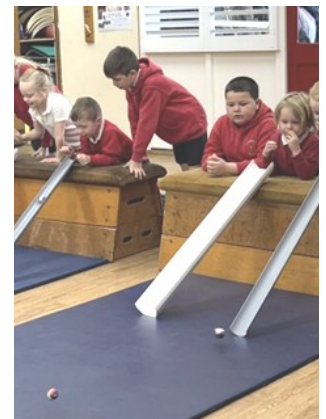
**PTFA Easter Competition**



Here are the lucky winners of our PTFA Easter Art Competition. KS1 took part in a colouring competition in the run up to the Easter break while KS2 designed their own posters. Many thanks to Mrs Porter and Mrs McCormick in the school office who had the difficult job of judging and many thanks to our PTFA who organise events for the children to enjoy as well as raising money for the school.

### Egg rolling in Reception

Just before Easter Mrs Carr organised some traditional egg rolling for our youngest children in school. The children had watched videos of egg rolling in Preston in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and were keen to have a go themselves. This was a great opportunity for Reception to have some fun alongside their Year 5 buddies.



## BRASS ON SUNDAY

A Concert by Longridge Band—Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2026 at 2.00pm  
In St. Paul's Church—Admission: £12.50 payable on the Door.





The Mothers' Union is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. On the MU website there is a timeline of meaningful events in that time. I had thought it would be good to share this in The Log, but when I looked properly at the detail, I decided it was too much. I have picked out some things that are remarkable or surprising.

So, MU was founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner and in 1885 she gave her first speech at the Portsmouth Church Congress.

Overseas branches were formed starting in Christchurch, New Zealand in 1886, followed by Canada 1888 and India 1889.

Queen Victoria granted royal patronage in 1897 and MU became Britain's largest voluntary organisation for women in 1909.

Skip over a few years to 1918 when MU publicly celebrated women getting the vote. Mary Sumner Day enters the Anglican liturgical calendar on her death in 1921.

In 1926 MU was given independent legal status by Royal Charter.

1929 sees MU campaigning to raise the minimum age for marriage.

1942 working alongside such organisations as National Council for Women & WI, MU contributed to wartime Design of Dwellings Committee and following lobbying from this coalition of organisations, the Family allowances Act was passed.

In 1965 the Away From It All programme was launched, providing holidays for families in need.

In 1996 at least 125 members were ordained as priests.

This century has seen MU gain consultative status at the UN on poverty, gender & HIV/AIDS,

Be invited to nominate a member to join PEGI which advises on age-appropriateness of video games,

Be involved in campaigns against domestic abuse, in support of debt relief in poor countries, flexible working arrangements for parents, support for refugees and contributions to the policy environment informing the Children & Families Act 2014.

MULOA (Mothers' Union Listens, Observes & Acts) was launched in 2017 with 200,000 members in 600 dioceses engaging in the worldwide process.

The first worldwide council to be held outside the UK was in Kigali, Rwanda, a big break through for the countries who weren't keen on being labelled "overseas" members as we are all members of one worldwide organisation.

During COVID members raised over £1million pounds for an emergency appeal.

From small beginnings, with a new Mum feeling overwhelmed at the prospect of guiding her child through the pitfalls of everyday life, a global organisation has developed which is involved in all sorts of decision-making bodies. What a tribute to the work of a remarkable woman and fitting that we celebrate this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

To read the complete timeline go to 'mothersunion.org' and search for "Our History"

## Dates

May 5<sup>th</sup> Tea party for 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary **6.30pm start**

May 6<sup>th</sup> Deanery canal trip to celebrate the anniversary

June 2<sup>nd</sup> Fred & Dot Little - Bowland Villages Revisited

JAK

## FUNERALS

**We commend to God those who have died recently and pray  
for those who mourn their loss**

Peter KilGariff

Doreen Seed

Christine Parker



## FLOWER GROUP – Donna Rowe Green



Is there any other flower that marks late spring than the Lily of the Valley? It is the daintiest little flower, with its tiny bells hanging off the delicately arched stem. Very different to the more blousy Peony that is also dominant this time of year. Don't be fooled by this intricacy though, it is not a frail flower by any means. It is a woodland plant that thrives in the shade or partial shade, can withstand soil of any pH – acid, alkaline or neutral, survives in well drained or poorly drained soil and can flourish in all but a south facing aspect. Not many plants have this type of resilience, especially when looking so fragile. Classic case of not judging a book by its cover.

Lily of the Valley has a list of common names, but my favourite is Lady's Tears. It is said to reflect the tears of Mary as she witnessed the crucifixion of her son. While in all likelihood this symbolic representation was created centuries after the event, it is interesting to hear a visually demure yet internally strong plant compared to a moment in the life of the lady who was Mother to Jesus.

Lily of the Valley is said to represent humility, purity, happiness, devotion and new beginnings. Because of this it is popular in wedding bouquets – Catherine, Princess of Wales had it in hers, Queen Elizabeth had it in her Coronation bouquet in 1953 and it was a favourite of Queen Victoria, who is said to have picked many of them while out walking with her love, Prince Albert, and pressing them. (I must add a word of caution here that every part of the plant can cause skin irritation and is toxic if ingested by humans or pets – while this does not tie in with my pretty prose here, it is important to stay safe!)

In researching Lily of the Valley I found the most wonderful description of the flower by a florist from Bali ([www.trinityartwork.com](http://www.trinityartwork.com)).

"It is not flashy, doesn't scream for attention.



It's like love that shows up quietly, but shows up every day.

It is the kind of flower that whispers, 'I'm here, I'm real I mean this.' "

For me, that is Jesus, and indeed, many Christians that I have met. It is OK to be more Lily of the Valley than Peony.

I would like to finish by saying thank you to the whole flower team who work so hard behind the scenes, creating the most lovely arrangements for our church. I would also like to thank all of you that have been offering to fund the flowers on a week that is special to you, we really hope that we do you and your loved ones proud. Thank you so much.

### St. Lawrence Flower Rota.

May 3rd	Vacant
10th	In memory of William & Ettie Fordham
17th	In memory of Maureen McDonnell
24th	In memory of Michael Swanson
31st	Vacant.

### St. Paul's Flowers (May)

Donna Rowe-Green and Ellen Dawson



### Donation

In memory of Michael Swanson

£200 for Church Funds

### From our Organist & Choir Director – Karen Au

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who has been supportive of the music this year, it seems unbelievable that I've actually been Organist at Longridge for a year now. Being an organist can be an isolating experience at times, especially when it seems like no one is listening, so to those of you who do hang on to my very last note at the end of the service and thank me for the music, I am more grateful than you can ever imagine. I have always said to myself that if only one person gets moved or uplifted by my playing, then it is still worth me playing the organ no matter what else is going on, and I am glad that the day when I feel completely obsolete has yet to come.



Since the BBC reported details of the charity "Pipe-up for Pipe Organs", there has been a lot of interaction on Facebook about the sad fate that many church organs face and I was shocked and dismayed by a comment from a priest who said "I'm sorry, but I don't believe that the organ is more important than mission". It seems that somewhere down the line this belief has emerged in the last 30 or so years and has become widespread amongst certain types of churches.

Despite the fact that most churches once had 20 odd young choristers and the organ and organists really were the backbone of church mission by default; it is often the case that the organ in churches is seen as "the big cumbersome and expensive machine in the corner that costs hundreds every year to maintain". On the contrary, the organ ought to be seen as an asset that can be used to enhance worship as well as a tool for outreach in the community, rather than a drain on financial resources.

The Organ experience on the 19<sup>th</sup> April was rather a case in point, as it brought a number of people from outside our church congregation, some of whom have never been inside St. Paul's. The Organ Experience and recital was an interesting experience for me, in that I got to discover your favourite pieces (you like a lot of loud fast music!!!). I was especially moved by Wendy Smyths kind words of support after the recital and the immense generosity of the people who attended, raising £475, which has paid for our pre-Easter organ tuning session. A huge thank you to all who came and reached into their wallets so generously and special thanks to the events team for helping to advertise and for providing the lovely cream tea after the recital.

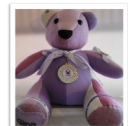


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## Organ Experience and Recital – Barbara Burton

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, our organist, Karen Au, held a second Organ Experience at St. Paul's Church. This gave those of us with an interest in this instrument the chance to see inside and learn a bit about how all those sounds are created. I always loved listening to the organ but was fairly ignorant about how it worked, assuming that it was just the pipes you can see from the front, the keyboards (manuals) and pedals; that is just the tip of the iceberg! We were taken in small groups (there isn't much space around the back) to see the system of sliders, wind chests, valves and pulleys that together give such a range of sounds and dynamics.



Barbara with her mum talking to Karen

The organ recital began at 2:30pm, with Toccata and Fugue in D minor by Bach, which is well-known for its drama and majesty. It was fascinating to hear this piece and to be able to appreciate how some of the sounds were being created. Karen also played some quieter pieces, such as Nimrod from Enigma Variations by Elgar, which showed a completely different side to this instrument. Members of the audience had requested each of the pieces on the programme, and Karen played all of them during the recital, switching seamlessly from the slow and contemplative (Aria from Xerxes by Handel) to the powerful and complex (Toccata from Symphony no.5 by Widor). It was a wonderful event which showcased our instrument and our organist to everyone present.

Wendy Smyth made a short speech of appreciation for Karen and all that she does to bring the organ to a wider audience.

The recital was followed by an excellent cream tea in the Centenary Room.

## TUESDAY CLUB

### 'Party Night'

What a lovely evening we shared on the 14<sup>th</sup> April with a wonderful buffet prepared for us again by Tim Slater followed by entertainment from folk duo Bernadette & Graham Dixon's 'Trouble at Mill'. They brought us a touch of Northern humour and sing-a-long to some Lancashire themed songs interspersed with stories and anecdotes. Everyone really enjoyed both the food and entertainment.

Now sadly our programme for this year is almost at an end which must mean that it is Spring but what a finale we have on 12<sup>th</sup> May when we have our very own Dot and Fed Little giving us a presentation entitled Bowland Villages Re-visited that will hopefully encourage us to explore more that our local area has to offer.

**Important Notice:** Before that we have our church **Spring Fair on 9<sup>th</sup> May** where the Tuesday Club will again be running the tombola and will need as many prizes as possible, please. These can be brought to church or collected if necessary. Do support us if you can; the Spring Fair is an important fund raiser for the church.

The next programme 2026/2027 has been completed which will start in September 2026 and hopefully copies will be available at the May meeting. The first meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September will be an illustrated talk by Brambles Wildlife Rescue.



## Ignite Update Messy Church Launch – A Joyful Beginning From Becky Filder



This month marked a very special milestone for us as we hosted our very first Messy Church on Palm Sunday afternoon—and what a wonderful time it was!

In the lead-up to the event, I'll admit there were some nerves. Like with any new venture, there's always that quiet question in the background: *what if no one comes?* But those worries quickly disappeared as families began arriving through the doors. It was such a joy to welcome so many people—some who are already part of our church community and others who were completely new faces. It was especially encouraging to see families I had previously chatted with on the yard coming along and getting involved.

The room soon filled with energy, laughter, and creativity as families moved between the different activity stations. There was something for everyone to enjoy. Children (and adults!) got stuck into making biscuit tombs, creating beautiful Easter gardens, and taking part in a scavenger hunt to discover different parts of the Easter story. We also had Easter card making, wooden cross decorating, and the chance to make palm branches—helping to bring the story of Palm Sunday to life in a hands-on way.

While the activities were in full swing, there was also plenty of opportunity for conversation and connection. Tea, coffee, and cake were available for the adults, creating a warm and welcoming space to chat, relax, and build relationships. It was lovely to see new friendships beginning to form alongside familiar ones growing stronger.

After our busy activity time, we gathered together for a time of singing and a retelling of the Palm Sunday story. This was a really special moment, drawing everyone together to reflect on the meaning behind the crafts and activities we had been enjoying. It was a simple but powerful way to explore faith together as a community.

To finish the afternoon, we shared food together—enjoying some very tasty pizza followed (of course!) by more cake. There's something so important about sitting down and eating together, and it provided a perfect ending to a joyful and full afternoon.

None of this would have been possible without an incredible team of volunteers. A huge thank you goes to everyone who helped in any way—those who ran activities, welcomed families at the door, served food and drinks, supported with the tech, and those who kindly baked cakes beforehand. It truly was a team effort, and it showed in the warmth and smooth running of the whole event.

Most of all, we give thanks to God for such a special time. It was wonderful to see people of all ages exploring faith together in such a creative and accessible way. Messy Church is all about making space for families to encounter God, and it was so encouraging to see that happening right from our very first session.

We are already looking forward to our next Messy Church, which will take place on **Sunday 17th May from 4:30–6:00pm**. We would love to see even more families join us!

## Ignite Update Messy Church Launch continued .....

If you feel you could help in any way—whether that’s assisting with activities, chatting with families, helping serve food, or baking cakes—please do get in touch with Becky. Your support would be hugely appreciated as we continue to grow this exciting new ministry.



---

### Children’s Church – Growing in Faith—Becky Filder

Since January, the children in Children’s Church have been exploring the life and ministry of Jesus. This series has helped them build a fuller picture of who Jesus is, looking beyond the familiar events of Christmas and Easter to understand what happened in between.

Together, we have explored key moments such as Jesus calling His disciples, the miracles He performed, and the way He showed love and compassion to those around Him. It has been wonderful to see the children begin to connect these stories and grow in their understanding of Jesus’ life as a whole. They have engaged thoughtfully through discussions and activities, asking questions and reflecting on what these stories mean for them today.

As we move into the next part of the year, we are beginning a new series focused on the parables of Jesus. These stories are rich with meaning, and we hope that by exploring them together, the children will not only understand Jesus’ teachings more deeply but also be encouraged to live them out in their everyday lives. Our prayer is that they will grow in confidence to walk in Jesus’ footsteps, showing His love to others.

This year is especially significant as we celebrate the Blackburn Diocese Centenary. In Children’s Church, we are linking all we do to the theme **“All for Jesus,”** helping the children to keep Jesus at the centre of their faith and daily lives.

It is a joy to see the children growing in faith, and we look forward to all that this next series will bring.

### Martins and Y-Team

We've had an action-packed few weeks leading up to the Easter holidays, filled with fun, laughter and creativity. Our members embraced the seasonal spirit with a series of Easter-themed evenings, making the most of the brighter weather and longer days. Whenever the sunshine appeared, everyone eagerly headed outdoors, where one of the firm favourites continued to be the ever-popular game of "Sharky Sharky,".



Our members have also spent time thoughtfully decorating crosses, producing colourful and meaningful designs that reflected the Easter season. There was also great excitement during a fast-paced Easter egg hunt, where enthusiasm and teamwork were in full display as everyone raced to find hidden treats. The fun didn't stop there—lively rounds of "Chicken or Hero" kept everyone entertained, while a hands-on craft activity saw the children making their own hens to hold chocolate eggs. This proved to be a real highlight, with many proudly showing off their creations. Other much-loved games included "Rainbow Rainbow," "Scarecrow Tig," and the always suspenseful "Wink Murder," each bringing its own kind of fun and helping build confidence and friendships within the group.

Another creative session involved designing and making colourful monsters, each with its own funny face and unique character. We also made excellent use of the fine weather by bringing out a wide variety of outdoor toys, encouraging active play and teamwork. Later, the group came together indoors to create bright and cheerful bunting for the church Spring Fair.

### JTC and Seniors

Our older groups have also had a busy and engaging few weeks, taking part in a wide range of team-focused activities. One challenge involved working together to move a ball from one side of the room to the other without touching it directly. This task required plenty of communication and it was great to see how each team approached the challenge in different ways. Sporting activities have also been a big hit, with games of handball, hockey, and dodgeball keeping everyone active.

A surprisingly competitive round of bingo brought a different kind of excitement, with lots of anticipation and celebration as numbers were called. Also a creative engineering-style challenge saw the group building towers out of marshmallows and spaghetti. This activity tested both patience and structural design skills, resulting in some impressive (and occasionally wobbly!) constructions.

### Afternoon Tea Fundraiser

On Saturday 25th April, we were delighted to host our annual Afternoon Tea fundraiser, which once again proved to be a fantastic success. We welcomed around 60 guests, who enjoyed a relaxed and friendly afternoon filled with delicious food, warm conversation, and a strong sense of community spirit.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone who attended, donated, and helped organise the event, we raised over £1,200 for our general funds. This support makes a significant difference and allows us to continue providing activities and opportunities for our members. We are incredibly grateful to all who contributed their time, effort, and resources—this much-loved event has truly become a cherished tradition in our calendar.

Following the event, we held a sleepover at the church with over 20 of our members taking part. This is always a highlight for many, and we feel it is incredibly important for our members to feel comfortable in the church environment—seeing it as a welcoming space and a second home. Experiences like this help strengthen friendships, build confidence, and play a key role in retaining members by showing that church is not only a place of worship, but also one of fun, belonging, and community.

Although we didn't get much sleep, the evening was filled with laughter and activity. The group enjoyed a range of games including hide and seek in the dark, scavenger hunts, and capture the flag, making full use of the church space in a safe and exciting way. There was also some time to wind down with a film before settling (briefly!) for the night.

Looking ahead, we would like to let everyone know that next year's Afternoon Tea will be held in the Autumn instead of Spring, as one of our leaders will be celebrating their wedding during April. We look forward to welcoming you all again later in the year for another special and enjoyable event.

## Brigade News continued .....



## National Band Concert

We are incredibly excited to share that the National Band Concert, taking place on Sunday 3rd May at Longridge Civic Hall, has officially sold out—marking the first time that this event has reached full capacity. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are very grateful to everyone who has purchased a ticket and shown their support.

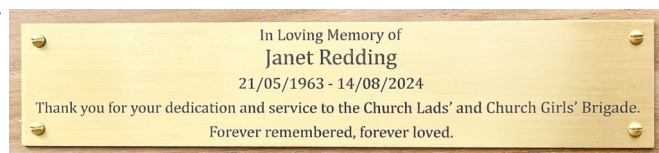
We are especially proud that 7 members from Longridge Company will be performing as part of the band. Over the past 12 months, they have shown realdedication and commitment, attending regular practices and working hard to prepare for this special occasion.

Our members will be showcasing their musical talents across a range of instruments, including drums, brass, glockenspiel, and percussion, contributing to what promises to be a memorable and uplifting performance.

For those who are unable to attend in person, there will still be an opportunity to share in the experience. A public Facebook page—“The National Band of The Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade”—will feature a variety of photos and videos from the event, allowing everyone to celebrate and enjoy the occasion from afar.

## In Memory of Janet

Over the past couple of years, we have been touched by the generosity of those who have made donations in memory of Janet. Thanks to this support, we have now been able to purchase and install a bench at St Lawrence’s Church in her honour. The bench is thoughtfully positioned to overlook the beautiful views from the graveyard—views that Janet loved so much. It provides a peaceful place for visitors to sit, reflect, and remember. We warmly invite anyone visiting the churchyard to take a moment to pause there, enjoy the surroundings, and perhaps think of Janet and the lasting impact she has had on our brigade and church family.



## THE PERSECUTED CHURCH – Naomi Pinder



Jesus says, “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,” (Matthew 5:10).

We are the body of Christ; we are His Church here on earth. Surely this means that when the church in a far off land is persecuted, it means that our brothers and sisters are persecuted and that we should stand with them in love and in prayer.

I am thankful that we live in a country where we are free to worship and speak of our faith, but one of Reverend Adrian’s Thursday sermons brought it home to me when he mentioned Barnabas Aid. Since then, I went onto their website at <https://www.barnabasaid.org/gb/about/> and I downloaded the ‘App’ and pray the daily prayer for our Christian family facing harm, violence, injustice and death.

The prayer for Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April highlighted the situation in Nicaragua which has the third biggest population in Central America and it is the largest by area. It is a very poor country and its history involves colonisation by Spain, the major language is Spanish, and the main religion is Christianity. However, there has been political instability and corruption for many decades, including under its current president, Daniel Ortega. There have been many demonstrations against the authoritarian regime, and Christians have been targeted for persecution, living in constant fear of surveillance, intimidation, imprisonment and even exile.

For example, through joining in with the Barnabas Aid prayers I have discovered the authorities in Nicaragua have added the Bible to a list of items that visitors are prohibited from bringing into the country and in March 2024, 11 pastors were arbitrarily arrested, tried, sentenced to 12-15 years’ imprisonment and then exiled.

Before discovering Barnabas Aid I was unaware of this and we are asked to pray for the Lord’s continued help and guidance for His people in Nicaragua.

Further information can be found at <https://www.barnabasaid.org/gb/pray/daily-prayer/>

Another faithful Christian charity supporting the persecuted church are Open Doors and they also have information about Nicaragua and many other countries where spreading the good news of Jesus is particularly challenging or dangerous.

<https://www.opendoorsus.org/en-US/persecution/countries/nicaragua/>

I am now including the Barnabas prayer as part of my daily prayer and perhaps you might like to do something similar as part of your routine?



## BREWTIME

Wednesday's from 8.50am-11am  
In St Paul's Centenary Room.

We serve tea, coffee, toast, crumpets and cakes!  
And there's always a warm and friendly welcome.  
Do join us we would love to see you.  
*Kath, Jacqui, Bev and John. and Judith*

## OUR WORSHIP AND READINGS

*Following Jesus on Mission*

**Our regular Sunday 'in church' services are as below.**

St Paul's Holy Communion Service with Children's Church at 10:00am (arrival from 9:30am)

St. Paul's 'All together' Service 10:00am on 2nd Sunday of the Month

St Lawrence's at 6:30pm (arrival from 6:00pm)

**The readings that will feature in these services are listed below.**

**Our regular mid-week Holy Communion Service takes place on Thursday at St Paul's at 10am**

### 3rd May - Easter 5 (Sharing the Gospel 2 About Us)

**10am St Paul's Holy communion with Children's Church**

Acts 7 : 55-60

Mark 7: 20-23

**6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong**

Psalm 147 v 1-12

Acts 7 : 55-60

Mark 7: 20-23

### 10th May - Easter 6 (Sharing the Gospel 3 About Jesus)

**10am St Paul's All Age Worship with Baptisms, Confirmation**

**And Holy communion with Bishop Philip**

Acts 17 : 22-31

Matthew 20 : 20-28

**6.30pm St Lawrence's Holy Communion**

Acts 17 : 22-31

Matthew 20 : 20-28

### 14th May —Ascension Day Service (Thursday)

**7:30pm St Paul's**

Acts 1 : 1-11

Luke 24 : 44-53



### 17th May - Easter 7 (Sharing the Gospel 4 About Response)

**10am St Paul's Holy communion with Children's Church**

Acts 2 : 36-41

Mark 1: 14 - 20

**6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong**

Psalm 47

Acts 2 : 36-41

Mark 1: 14 - 20

### 24th May — Pentecost Sunday

**10am St Paul's Holy communion with Children's Church**

Numbers 11 : 24-30

John 7 : 37-39

**6.30pm St Lawrence's Church**

**CTLD Songs of Praise**

Numbers 11 : 24-30

John 7 : 37-39

### 31st May — Trinity Sunday

**10am St Paul's Holy communion with Children's Church**

Isaiah 40 : 12-17, 27-31

Matthew 28 : 16-20

**6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong**

Psalm 93 & 150

Isaiah 40 : 12-17, 27-31

Matthew 28 : 16-20

### 7th June — Trinity 1

**10am St Paul's Holy communion with Children's Church**

Genesis 12:1-9

Matthew 9 : 9-13, 18-26

**6.30pm St Lawrence's Evensong**

Psalm 41

Genesis 12:1-9

Matthew 9 : 9-13, 18-26

### Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptisms, Marriages

Arrangements for these should be made with Rev. Mike or via the Church website

Do you know anybody who is in hospital or ill at home?

If so, please let Rev. Mike or Rev. Jesse know so that they may be visited.

# The Last Word

From the Curate Rev. Jesse Adesina



## Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God

Romans 8:35, 38–39

I once heard about a mother who travelled through a war zone to reach her child. Roads were blocked. Borders were closed. Everyone told her to turn back. But she kept going through danger, through checkpoints, through fear, because nothing was going to keep her from her child. When she finally arrived, exhausted and shaking, she simply said: "I was always coming. Nothing was going to stop me."

That story is not really about a mother and a child. It is about God and you.

Romans 8:35, 38–39 (NIV) says:

*"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

This is not poetic exaggeration. This is settled truth.

Paul lists the very things that make us feel distant from God - trouble, hardship, fear, uncertainty, even death itself. These are the war zones of human experience. Moments when life feels blocked. When prayers seem unanswered. When hope feels fragile. When everything in us whispers: maybe God has stopped coming.

But the gospel tells us otherwise. God's love is not fragile. It is not seasonal. It is not dependent on how your life looks right now. It is relentless.

Like that mother, God does not turn back because the road is hard. He does not abandon the journey because of danger. The Christian story tells us that God entered the war zone Himself. In Jesus Christ, He stepped into our broken world — through suffering, rejection, the cross, and death — not to prove His strength, but to reveal His love. He came all the way in, so that nothing could ever use your pain, your shame, or your past to keep you from the Father.

And here is the beauty of it: Paul does not say we avoid trouble. He says in all these things we are more than conquerors. Not because life becomes easy, but because God's love remains unbreakable.

There are moments when you may feel separated by your past, your struggles, your doubts, your pain. But feelings are not facts. Circumstances are not conclusions. The truth remains:

Nothing can separate you from the love of God.

Not your worst mistake. Not your deepest fear. Not your present situation. Not even the uncertainty of your future. Because long before you started searching for God, He was already coming for you.

Spring reminds us of this. After months of bare trees and cold ground, life returns — not because it was forced, but because it was always there, waiting. God's love is like that. It did not leave in your hardest season. It was present in the silence, in the struggle, in the waiting. And it is here now, full and unhurried, ready for you to receive it.

Say it out loud **"I am loved, and nothing can separate me from the love of God"**

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