

THE SPIRE

July/Aug. 2024 £1.50

MAGAZINE OF ST PAUL'S CHURCH BEDFORD

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Front cover:

Taken in May, a summer sunset over St Paul’s spire for the final issue. Image courtesy of local photographer John Walsh.

The Vicar writes

Making the Cross count

Dear Friends,



While some of us may be suffering from EFS (Election Fatigue Syndrome), as Christians we have a duty under God to be involved in the world and that includes politics. Why? Because, in the signs of Jesus' Incarnation and Crucifixion, God has wholly committed himself to the world. In short, God made *his* Cross count. So we need to get involved, by asking the right questions and most of all by voting.

It is not my job or that of any other priest to tell people which party to vote for. But I do believe that Christians have a responsibility to question politicians and their policies and vote, not purely out of self motives, but informed by the special insights of our faith; Kingdom priorities which take the care of creation and the dignity and worth of all men and women seriously. So, here are some questions to our politicians, simply for starters:

- how are you going to enable the economy to thrive and at the same time, protect and provide for the most vulnerable in our society?
- How will you ensure adequate policing that at the same time respects the rights, freedoms and dignity of the individual?
- how will your policies best support children and family life and, at the same time, support those who struggle in living alone?

- how will your government address the plight of the poor in other parts of the world, and help those fleeing war and danger?
- how will your policies promote social stability and cohesion, and community life?
- how will you address the shortage of affordable housing?
- how will you care for the environment?

Let us be committed to each other and creation, even as God is committed, but making *our* cross count.

With warmest wishes and prayers.

Fr. Kevin

+++++



*For all the alterations
you'll ever need.*

76 The High Street, Bedford
01234 217771
www.thezipyard.co.uk/bedford



Notes for July/August

Pastoral Care

We are fortunate at St Paul's to have a dedicated team of lay pastoral visitors who share in the work of pastoral care with the clergy. Linda Byer has joined the group, which includes Robin Bartlett, Wendy Jones and Cliff Harris as well as Fr Anthony and myself. We will be commissioning the group during a Sunday service shortly. Please do contact us via the office (01234 340163) if you or someone you know would appreciate a visit. We are also able to take Holy Communion to the housebound to those who request it. We will not know of a need unless someone tells us. In emergency the clergy should always be contacted.

River Festival

My thanks in advance to all who have offered to help with hospitality, both in church and at the front of the vicarage during the River Festival. This is an important opportunity for engagement with those who might not normally attend church.

Fr Kevin.

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Announcement from the Wardens

Following a recent decision of the PCC, from September, the Spire magazine will be replaced by a new, monthly bulletin, to contain much of the same information as before, but in a form which will enable this to be disseminated more widely. This will be sent principally by email. A hard copy will be available for collection in church. It is hoped that this change will enable us to reach a larger number of people than hitherto and to greater benefit. We thank Robin Bartlett, the Editor of the Spire, all contributors and the office most warmly for their hard work over the years.

Florence Bignell and Malcolm Smith

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will be taking a short summer break. When it resumes it will have a new leader and a different venue. So far it has mainly concentrated on praying for those on the sick list and other needs known to the group. At present it is a very small group, but it is hoped that as the church enters a new phase of its life on the retirement of Fr Kevin, a vacancy and the appointment of a new Incumbent, more members of the congregation will join them.



Prayer should be at the heart of church life and every decision, based on what we believe to be God's will for his people. Therefore, those whom we require to make decisions on our behalf should be given the prayer support they need. If you feel drawn to be part of this group, who have been meeting for an hour once a month, please speak to Fr Kevin or Fr Anthony.

Margaret Blake



More Bells & whistles

Last call to buy a stone resin coaster featuring either a tenor (left in photo) or treble (right) bell @£7.50 or 4 for £25. These attractive coasters are in aid of the ongoing Tower, Clock & Bells Appeal.

Designed by bell ringer Ann Steward, the coasters can be viewed in church. Enquiries to Ann Collett-White (07989 837819) . To date the appeal fund stands at £340k which includes grant offers and donations. A further £160K is required to reach the £500K target. There are plenty of opportunities to sponsor elements of the appeal.

Ann Collett-White

St Paul's Church Bedford

SATURDAY 20th July

CHURCH & TOWER TOUR 11.00am

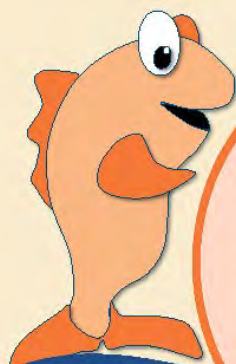
SUNDAY 21st July

CHURCH & TOWER TOUR 2.00pm

£7.50 ~ Pay on the day

BOOKING ESSENTIAL:

Email: admin@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk



**BEDFORD
RIVER
FESTIVAL
20th & 21st
JULY 2024**



St Paul's Square, Bedford MK40 1SQ

www.stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk Tel: 01234 340163



A (final?) word from the Editor

I would be fibbing if I said there was no sadness in writing these words in this the final issue of *The Spire*, at least as we currently know it. In front of me I have a bound annual, a hardback collection of the magazines from 1915. However records show a magazine has been produced at St Paul's since the 1880's.

A long history of publication doesn't mean of course that nothing should ever change, if change is to reflect developing patterns of behaviour and, in this instance, the way we all receive information, whatever one thinks about the timing of a decision. I have personally championed the newer, digital forms of communication at St Paul's, but any changes to how we "reach out" must be made with careful consideration of the whole picture: what is its purpose, who are we talking to and how best should we reach them? One size does not fit all.

I have been editing *The Spire* for the majority of my time at St Paul's and it has been a responsibility I have found stimulating, occasionally challenging, often cathartic. Meaningful too, as over the years *The Spire* has reached out and connected people both to the church and to each other within the community and beyond, whether they regularly attend church in person or not. It has informed but also given people a voice, should they wish to use it. Outreach takes many forms and I am pleased to have played my own (very minor) part in its long history of serving this church.

So, thank you to the readers and subscribers for supporting the current magazine in recent years; thank you if you have ever contributed; and thank you especially to Sharon my colleague, for the poems, the counsel and the other valuable contributions, including in this issue.

Robin Bartlett

**Note: on page 6, a short announcement is made of a bulletin which is to replace the magazine with "much of the same information". However there is no further detail to share at this stage.*

Sounding The Seasons

Tangled in time, we live with hints and guesses
Turning the wheel of each returning year,
But in between our failures and successes
We sometimes glimpse the Love that casts out
fear.

Sometimes the heart remembers its own reasons
And breathes a *Sanctus* as we tell our story,
Tracing the tracks of grace, sounding the seasons
That lead at last through time to timeless glory.

From the first yearnings for a Saviours birth
To the full joy of knowing sins forgiven
We gather as His church on God's good earth
To share an echo of the choirs of heaven
I share these hints, returning what was lent,
Turning to praise each 'moment's monument'.

Malcolm Guite
Sounding the Seasons
(2012)

The Spire - Sounding the Seasons

Little did I know that when I joined St Paul's as a temporary administrator in February 2020, that six weeks later we would be in the grip of a world pandemic. Late that year, I was invited to take up the Administrator role permanently and am so glad that I did. My work is satisfying and there is joy in having Robin as a great office colleague, and friendships at St Paul's; I feel at home. Another constant—apart from the weekly pew sheet(!)—has been assisting Robin with *The Spire* magazine.

There is pleasure in reading and choosing a poem to share each month, sometimes with a few words about what each has meant to me. So the poem *Sounding the Seasons*, by Malcolm Guite (left) seemed apposite for the last edition of a magazine that has faithfully done exactly that, for nearly 150 years...

As the church has turned the wheel of each liturgical year, *The Spire* has told the unique story of St Paul's and its people: through world wars, offering words of love in hardship and as it came together to rebuild after each. The magazine noted coronations and deaths of monarchs; diarized thousands of town and church events; informed its congregation of liturgy and music; marked Festival Days and sacred times, APCMs and appeals for Christmas Tree Festivals; advertised concerts and music recitals. It gave thanks for the service of clergy and wardens, choirs and our musical tradition. *The Spire* has been a valued forum for people to write in and it also told of outreach and mission both near and far. Let's not forget more recently, *The Spire* helped us through 'that' pandemic and announced our pledges to be Inclusive to all and pay a 'Real Living Wage'.

Now we are poised at this 'moment's monument', ready to find new ways of sounding the seasons on 'God's good earth'. Whatever replaces *The Spire*, may we remember its reasons and how its story traced the threads of our history. Looking forward, may our hearts and words continue to be a welcome to all, and our gathered church be led with joy to the One whose Love casts out fear.

Sharon Evans

St Paul's is alive with the sound of music

It certainly is! As the Summer Term 2024 comes to a close on 13th July, it is heartening to reflect on how much music has been enjoyed at St Paul's over the past year since September 2023 and on the rich variety of it all. This article focus's on music outside of worship but we are grateful also for the music provided during services by visiting organists and the St Paul's Singers.



Some facts first. Since September 2023 we have hosted 41 Tuesday Lunchtime concerts, 5 Saturday organ recitals, over 1200 school and community choir performers at the Christmas Tree Festival in December 2023, as well as the 10 evening concerts managed by Robin and Sharon from the office in that period.

We have welcomed such a range of talented musicians over the past year: students/graduates from the Royal College of Music in London; organ scholars from Cambridge and London, musicians from Bedford, Cambridge and further afield. It may seem invidious to single out one recitalist but our youngest performer this year was 17-year-old Leo Little from Sharnbrook Academy who gave a stunning performance at a Lunchtime Concert on 5th March of piano music by Bach, Liszt, Schumann, Chopin, Faure and Barber. He has just completed his A Levels at Sharnbrook and has secured a scholarship to the Royal College of Music from September 2024.

We have hosted: pianists, violin players, flautists, singers, lutenists, organists, cellists, bassoon and clarinet players – and a return visit from a saxophone quartet. We are very grateful also to our loyal audiences who return every week during the concert seasons, whatever the weather (and St Paul’s can feel pretty “arctic” in the winter months!)



While the enthusiasm of the recitalists and the warm reception from the audiences are key to us, it is also worth mentioning that the musical events have raised nearly £9500 of much needed income for St Paul’s.



Lastly, a huge thank you to other members of the Concerts and Recitals team who make it all happen on the day. To Sharon and Robin for all their work on promoting events on social media and for ensuring regular contact with our audiences; to Claire and David Price, and Pat and David Whittome for being there on the day to greet audience members and for organising teas and coffees. We have a full programme of music already booked for the Autumn Term 2024. Do be there and/or tell your friends!

Alison Phillipson

Safeguarding

As we are now preparing articles for the final edition of *The Spire* I want to update our arrangements for Safeguarding and to thank Robin and Sharon for all their hard work over the years to ensure that, despite our limited contributions, they have always ensured that the magazine appeared on time.

First Safeguarding. At the recent APCM a few changes have occurred in our Safeguarding. Sadly, our PSO (Parish Safeguarding Officer) Sue Gray decided to stand down from the role. Our very grateful thanks go out to her for all of her hard work in ensuring that we were kept safe over the years and that as a parish we complied with the necessary parish requirements for safeguarding. We also wish Sue good luck and good health for the future.

I had been Sue's Deputy Safeguarding Officer for some years, doing very little as Sue was so efficient! So I decided that I should take on the role as PSO, calling on my previous years' of experience in social work. I am fortunate to have the support of Pat Whittome as my Deputy Safeguarding Officer (DSO). Should you have any Safeguarding issues or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me either on 07946489063, or by email at wpjones87@gmail.com or of course in person at St Paul's. Please don't be afraid to bring either of us any questions or issues that are puzzling or concerning you: nothing is inappropriate in Safeguarding.

And secondly, thank you Robin and Sharon for all of your hard work over the years preparing *The Spire*, we are very grateful to you both and I for one will miss it.

Wendy Jones



The biennial Bedford River Festival takes place over the weekend of July 20 & 21st and is an opportunity for the church to not only raise some additional funds, but to also encourage some of the increased footfall into the church.

A number of activities will be taking place. On Saturday July 20th, teas, coffees and soft drinks will be sold from the vicarage driveway on the Embankment to capitalise on high footfall in the area; promotional material about the church will also be handed out. At the church, a 90 minute Church & Tower Tour, priced at £7.50 a head and led by the official Bedford Tour Guides and Steve Stanford from the tower team has been confirmed for both Saturday and Sunday. We are also planning on running a café from the Narthex while the tours are running.

It would be helpful to have a few extra volunteers around when both of the tours are running to assist in directing people and to cater for the anticipated rise in visitors over the weekend. Please come and see me in the office or email me if you are able to lend some support. Thank you.

RB

Services in July

Wednesday 3 July 12 noon Parish Eucharist (*Nave*)

Friday 5 July 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)

Saturday 6 July 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)

Sunday 7 July The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 9

10.15 am Parish Eucharist

Preacher: The Revd Canon Michael Bradley, Honorary Assistant Priest

Hymns: CP 546 O worship the King *Hanover*
CP 520 May the grace of Christ our Saviour *Waltham*
CP 606 Thy hand O God, has guided *Thornbury*
CP 416 Father, hear the prayer we offer *Sussex*
CP 494 King of Glory, King of Peace *Gwalchmai*

Motet: A Grateful Heart (*Plumstead*)

Anthem: The Lord is my Shepherd (*Schubert*)

5.30pm Reflection and Compline

Wednesday 10 July 12 noon Parish Eucharist (*Nave*)

Friday 12 July 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)

Saturday 13 July 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)

Sunday 14 July The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Proper 10

10.15 am Parish Eucharist

Preacher: Fr Anthony Davis, Assistant Curate

Hymns: CP 386 Be thou my vision *Slane*
CP 320 Praise we now the word of grace *Savannah*
CP 444 God is working his purpose out *Benson*
CP 536 O God of Bethel *Martyrdom*
CP 609 To God be the glory *To God be the glory*

Motet: Here, O my Lord (*Rose*)

Anthem: I will Sing with the Spirit (*Rutter*)

Wednesday 17 July 12 noon Parish Eucharist (*Nave*)

Friday 19 July 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)

Saturday 20 July 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)

Sunday 21 July The Eighth Sunday after Trinity
10.15 am Parish Eucharist with Holy Baptism

Choir Holiday begins
Proper 11

Preacher: The Vicar

Hymns: CP 628 Ye that know the Lord is gracious *tCP418 Abbots Leigh*
CP 594 The Lord's my shepherd *Crimond*
CP 585 The church's one foundation *Aurelia*
CP517 Loving Shepherd of thy sheep *Buckland*
Church of God elect and glorious (on pewsheet) *t. 137*

Wednesday 21 July 12 noon Parish Eucharist (*Nave*)

Friday 26 July 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)

Saturday 27 July 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)

Sunday 28 July The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10.15 am Parish Eucharist with Prayer Ministry in the Trinity Chapel *Proper 12*

Preacher: Tom Otley, Reader

Hymns: CP 250 All creatures of our God and King *vv1-3, 7 Lasst un erfreuen*
CP 182 Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost *Charity*
CP 133 Great God, your love has called us here *t CP 413 Melita*
CP 285 Bread of the world in mercy broken *Rendez a Dieu*
CP 455 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer *Cwm Rhondda*

Wednesday 31 July 12 noon Parish Eucharist (*Nave*)



The poster features the Bedford Foodbank logo at the top left, which includes a green leaf icon. The main title 'COLLECTION POINT' is in large white letters on a blue background. Below this, a green box contains the text 'Emergency Food For Local People in Crisis' and 'Please donate an item or two from the shopping list.' followed by 'Thank You'. To the right, a white box lists a 'SHOPPING LIST' of items: Long Life Fruit Juice, Long Life Milk, Tinned Tuna, Tinned Sweetcorn, Cup A Soup, Jars of Curry Sauce, Tinned Meat, Jars of Coffee, 100g Bars of Chocolate, and Deodorant. At the bottom left, there are four small photos showing people at the foodbank. The bottom left corner contains the Bedford Foodbank contact information: 'Bedford Foodbank info@bedford.foodbank.org.uk Registered Charity in England & Wales (1179538)'. The bottom right corner features the logo for 'the trussell trust' and a handwritten-style message: 'Don't forget... You can help transform more lives with a financial donation too.'

Services in August

Friday 2 August 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)

Saturday 3 August 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)

Sunday 4 August The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 13

10.15 am Parish Eucharist

Preacher: Adrian Goss, Reader, St Swithun, East Grinstead

Hymns: CP 301 God is here, as we his people *Blaenwern*

CP 260 Morning has broken *Bunessan*

CP 311 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour *St Helen*

CP 436 Glory, love and praise and honour *Benifold*

CP 455 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer *Cwm Rhondda*

5.30pm Reflection and Compline

Wednesday 7 August 12 noon Parish Eucharist (*Nave*)

Friday 9 August 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)

Saturday 10 August 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)

Sunday 11 August The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

10.15 am Parish Eucharist

Proper 14

Preacher: Fr Anthony Davis, Assistant Curate

Hymns: CP 175 Come Down, O Love Divine *t. Down Ampney*

CP 520 May the grace of Christ our Saviour *Waltham*

CP 278 Alleluia, sing to Jesus *Hyfrydol*

CP 284 Bread of heaven, on thee we feed (*first tune*) *Bread of heaven*

CP 319 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing *Evangelists*

Wednesday 14 August 12 noon Parish Eucharist (*Nave*)

Friday 16 August 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)

Saturday 17 August 9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)

Sunday 18 August The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10.15 am Parish Eucharist with Holy Baptism

Proper 15

Preacher: Cliff Harris, Reader

Hymns: CP 377 Angel voices, ever singing *Angel voices*

CP 497 Let all the world in every corner sing *Luckington*

CP 318 O Thou who at thy Eucharist didst pray *Song 1*

CP 313 My God and is thy table spread *Rockingham*

CP 430 Forth in thy name O Lord I go *Song 34*

Wednesday 21 August 12 noon Parish Eucharist (Nave)
Friday 23 August 9.30am Parish Eucharist (Trinity Chapel)
Saturday 24 August 9.30am Parish Eucharist (Trinity Chapel)


Sunday 25 August The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
10.15 am Parish Eucharist with Prayer Ministry in the Trinity Chapel Proper 16

Preacher: The Vicar

Hymns: CP 619 When morning gilds the skies *t Laudes Domini omit v2*
CP 233 Jesus calls us! Oe'r the tumult *St Andrew*
CP 505 Lord Jesus Christ *Living Lord*
CP 322 Soul of my saviour *Anima Christi*
Church of God elect and glorious (**on pewsheet**) *t. 137 Lux eoi*

Wednesday 28 August 12 noon Parish Eucharist (Nave)
Friday 30 August 9.30am Parish Eucharist (Trinity Chapel)
Saturday 31 August 9.30am Parish Eucharist (Trinity Chapel)

The Reverend Canon Kevin Goss MA GRSM LRAM LTCL LGSM **Vicar**



Wednesday 7th August 12:45pm | Alexander Room

Fellowship Lunch

Sign up at the back of church
£7.50 pay on the day



St Paul's Church, St Paul's Square, Bedford MK40 1SQ www.stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk

Post Vacant

Below is an edited version of the sermon delivered by the Vicar on Sunday June 22nd.

This is not my farewell sermon; that and the eventual search for a new Vicar is several months down the track. However, some here may be starting to think about it. Now, it not my job to tell you what or who you might need in the future. However, I believe that it is my pastoral responsibility to prepare you now for what is to come.

P -PRAY.

In Today's Gospel passage...Jesus has been travelling around Galilee, preaching and healing, setting people free: all signs of the breaking-in of the Kingdom of God. In that time he has gathered around him a motley crew of followers and disciples. But the moment has come to choose his leaders: his Apostles, who will eventually spearhead his Kingdom work of preaching and healing to the world. Does he call in a recruitment agency, set up a selection process, or hold formal interviews? No. He does the single most important thing. He prays. Luke tells us that Jesus goes up on to mountain alone to pray, to listen to His Heavenly Father, in order to seek his guidance and His will. That should stop some of us dead in our tracks. For isn't it true that too often instead of taking time to listen to God, and to seek His will, we first decide what we want, tell God what to do, and then ask him to bless what we've decided?! And then we wonder why things don't quite work out as they should?! So our first priority must be to pray: to get before God in prayer, to listen to him and seek His will. Such prayer changes us. For, in prayer, God aligns our wills with his.

Jesus takes a whole night out to pray. He goes without sleep, or fasts. As we heard in our epistle reading the church only sent missionaries out after fasting and prayer. When was the last time you or I fasted; went without sleep in order to pray? So, why not have a half night of prayer, or a day of prayer, for the parish, before God?

What should we pray for? Don't pray for the Vicar you want. Pray for the Vicar you need. So, pray for discernment. Pray for vision. Before even thinking about praying for a new Vicar, pray first, asking what God might be calling you as the people of St Paul's to be, for him. Be aspirational. Dream. What do you hope will be different about St Paul's and yourselves in 10 years' time? More importantly, seek God's vision: what he wants St Paul's to be, to be doing and to look like then. The Mission Action Plan that the PCC have laboured over will be a good place to start. Then, and only then, having received God's vision: pray for the man or woman whom God is calling to St Paul's. Don't pray for the Vicar you want. Pray for the Vicar you need.

R - BE REALISTIC

First, please don't underestimate the challenge for a new vicar here. Shortly after I arrived in this parish, I remarked to dear Alan Dickinson on the overwhelming task that lay ahead of me. Seeing my face, Alan kindly smiled and said, "We all know this is an impossible job!" There will as many agendas as there are people here. But only one agenda matters: God's! This is an impossible job, but with God all things are possible.

Quite rightly, up to a point, huge expectations are placed upon clergy. But in the end, clergy are ordinary, fallible human beings. You've only got to cast your mind back over the last ten years to know that! Nearly all parish ministry is overwhelming at times these days. But being Vicar at St Paul's is a more demanding role than many. We are recognised nationally as a Major Church – what some term a 'mini-cathedral', in recognition of the sized of the fabric and the church's Civic role to the Borough and County. We also exercise an extensive ministry to visitors and to the many vulnerable and marginalised people in Bedford. So the Vicar of St Paul's has three roles: Pastor to our gathered congregation; Priest for the parish and beyond, and Host to the Civic community. Each of those is a job in itself, each requiring multiple skills and abilities. And no-one has them all.

cont. overleaf

If you ever want a good laugh, try reading the job ads in the Church Times! Many of them give the impression that no one below the rank of archangel need apply. However, on interview day, it can come as a shock to discover that the Archangel Gabriel was not available on this particular occasion.

So what is actually needed in your new Vicar? A heart and love for God. In today's Gospel, Jesus chose ordinary men as his Apostles. We may well carve them in stone, but in reality, they had feet of clay.

They were a rum lot !...But, when, after his Resurrection, Jesus restored Peter, He asked him one question, three times. "Peter ... do you love me?" "Yes Lord, you know that I love you." It was on Peter's faith, Peter's love for Jesus, that Jesus built his church. Your new vicar will not have every gifts needed. But pray for the most important thing: a woman or man who truly knows and loves Jesus. For if they truly know and love Jesus, then they will listen to him, and truly know, love, listen to and care for his people, His sheep. The rest will follow. You will not need a manager to hit the ground running, but a priest to hit the ground kneeling. So PRAY, be REALISTIC, then thirdly:

A- ACCEPT CHANGE.

Things will be different. Whoever comes here, it won't be me. I can hear some of you saying, "Thank goodness for that!" But please accept them for who and what they are: a human being. Please give them time. They will not be good at everything; even as I have not been good at everything. If you get a good priest they will do the very best they can, according to their particular skills and abilities, their health and strength, and the demands of their family. If they have a spouse and children they will need family time; if they are single, they may need to travel find their support from friends and family elsewhere. They will need their rest day, retreats and holidays.

Thank you to all of you who have understood all this and cared for me as a single man. Please also remember that the Vicarage is a private home, not an extension of the parish: while I have been pleased to host meetings and offer hospitality there, this may or may not be possible for the new vicar.

Y- YIELD yourselves to God.

The eventual vacancy and new appointment is an opportunity for all of you to be affirmed in your present ministries and to rediscover new ones. Everyone, both lay and ordained has a ministry of some sort; and leadership in the church is also plural which is why I have been pleased to share mine with our curates...our retired clergy....our readers, and lay leaders of worship. What might God calling you to do for him? Yield yourself to the church: offer your help, for vacancies can be hard work for the churchwardens. When my successor arrives, He or she will need your support, yield yourselves to him or her: please don't crawl back in to the woodwork! But most of all: give yourselves to Jesus, yield to him. For in the end it is not about church, but about Jesus. God bless you.

Fr Kevin



Just Computers have been helping us with our computers and network recently, and have kindly extended their support to all of our congregation and Spire readers

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A letter from the Isle of Wight

Dear Friends,

I feel very sad as I write this email and I hope I have not missed the final date for inclusion in the last *Spire*, which has been a lifeline in the past 15 years since we left Bedford for the lovely Isle of Wight. We were members at St Paul's for many years and sang in the choir there, as well as holding various offices during those years.

I know that John and I are not the only ex-members of St Paul's that feel the way we do. I cannot understand why the decision to stop *The Spire* has been made. We would be willing to pay more to keep it going as I'm sure others particularly for those ex members that take it would, as well as for the present congregation. I wonder why it cannot be sent by email if postage is an issue? We are always pleased to read what others have contributed and now we are getting older and so much has, and is, changing in the Anglican church, it's good to keep in touch. Anyway, we expect that there will be no 'change of mind' and therefore we shall sadly lose touch.

It remains for me to tell you that we are both keeping very well and are busy doing things both for church and other organisations on the island. John is chief booking clerk at the Isle of Wight steam railway and has a good team of volunteers working with him to ensure a good experience for our customers. They are very faithful. I work as a volunteer in the shop, so meet many folk who visit, some of whom arrive via the South Western Railway Island Line.

I am now a Licenced Lay Preacher (having been a Lay Worship Leader for some 6 years) and am kept very busy. I never thought I would be called to do that, but the Lord moves in mysterious ways. God bless you all and our fond wishes and happy memories,

Frances & John Yunnie

**St Paul's Church Bedford
CAKE BAKERS INVITATION**



St Paul's Church, St Paul's Square, Bedford MK40 1SQ
Tel: 01234 340163

admin@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1134614



YOU'RE INVITED TO MAKE...

We will be selling refreshments and slices of traybakes and cakes during Bedford River Festival this year to raise vital funds for the church.

Can YOU help by baking a cake or traybake that we can sell on Saturday 20th or Sunday 21st July?

Cake ideas: Lemon Drizzle, Chocolate Brownies, Ginger Cake, Flapjacks. If you need a recipe, please let us know!

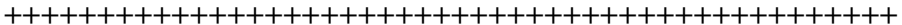
If you aren't able to bake, why not sponsor a cake or traybake? Make a donation towards ingredients and we will do the rest!

To sign up, or if you have any questions, please contact Sharon Evans in the church office:
admin@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk

The freezer will be switched on, so you can deliver your cakes to church in advance. Cakes should be clearly labelled with ingredients.

ALL CAKES GRATEFULLY RECEIVED!

Cakes will be sold with refreshments outside the Vicarage on Saturday 20th and in the church Narthex café on Sunday 21st July



Memories: O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come

I attended Harpur Central school which is now the Harpur Centre. This hymn was sung at the end of term services at St Paul's. Happy days!

My mother who lived in Mill St, was a Sunday school teacher at St Paul's and also carried out fire and bomb watch during the war from the church spire. My parents were married at St Paul's in 1941 and above is their picture, taken at the north porch door!



Val Parrin



A churchyard working Party

Thank you to all the ten volunteers* who made up the Churchyard Working Party on Saturday June 15th and to Sharon for the posters advertising the event, during the Great Big Green Week, so that passers by could know

what we were up to and even engage in conversation! After five hours, the rosemary at the west end had been heavily trimmed and much dead wood removed, the Barnard Cross was free of moss, several paths and gravel alongside the church had been weeded, the old sand from a split builders bag behind a headstone near the bins had finally been cleared, much other dead branches had been clipped and two full car loads had been emptied into the recycling bins at Barkers Lane. Coffee, cake and flapjacks were also supplied. We hope the results will ensure that regular working parties, about three times a year, can help keep the churchyard more in order. A new volunteer Kate who is French said: "this work is all part of serving the Lord". That's a good line to keep in mind.



Ann Collett-White

** Pat & David Whittome, Malcolm Smith, Fr Anthony, Rachel Brown, Anu George, Dulcie Stanhope, Kate Ather-ton, Ann & James Collett-White.*

A last Beatitude

And blessèd are the ones we overlook;
The faithful servers on the coffee rota,
The ones who hold no candle, bell or book
But keep the books and tally up the quota,
The gentle souls who come to 'do the flowers',
The quiet ones who organise the fete,
Church sitters who give up their weekday hours,
Doorkeepers who may open heaven's gate.
God knows the depths that often go unspoken
Amongst the shy, the quiet, and the kind,
Or the slow healing of a heart long broken
Placing each flower so for a year's mind.
Invisible on earth, without a voice,
In heaven their angels glory and rejoice.

Malcolm Guite

Sounding the Seasons

(2012)



Calendar for July

Morning Prayer at 9.00am Monday to Saturday, via Zoom. After clicking through to Zoom Input the meeting ID (98213650148) and the password (3GQ8s7)

- 1 Monday** *Henry John, Henry Venn the Younger, Priests, Evangelical Divines, 1797, 1813, 1873*
12.30pm **AA Women's Meeting** (Anderson Room)
- 2 Tuesday**
1.00pm **Lunchtime Recital** - Tiffany Lau, Vocal Performance Academy
2.30pm **Mothers' Union** (Anderson Room)
- 3 Wednesday** **THOMAS THE APOSTLE**
11.00am Coffee and Chat (Nave)
11.00am **Tales of Tower & Steeple, Tour of St Paul's** with Stephen Barratt
12.00 **Eucharist** (Nave)
- 5 Friday**
9.30am **Eucharist** (Trinity Chapel)
- 6 Saturday** *Thomas More, Scholar, John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, Reformation Martyrs, 1535*
9.30am **Eucharist** (Trinity Chapel)
1.00pm **Wedding of Claire Hampton & Mario Libertucci**
- 7 Sunday** **THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** *Proper 9*
10.15am **Parish Eucharist** (Nave)
11.45am *Serbian Orthodox Service*
5.30pm **Reflection and Compline** (Nave)
- 8 Monday**
12.30pm **AA Women's Meeting** (Anderson Room)
- 9 Tuesday**
1.00pm **Lunchtime Recital** - Connor Heraghty, piano
2.30pm **Prayer Group - Christie House**
- 10 Wednesday**
11.00am Coffee and Chat (Nave)
12.00 **Eucharist** (Nave)
- 11 Thursday**
3.00pm **Service of Thanksgiving** for the life of Marilyn Southgate (Nave)
- 12 Friday**
9.30am **Eucharist** (Trinity Chapel)
- 13 Saturday**
9.30am **Eucharist** (Trinity Chapel)
12 noon **Organ Recital** - Adrian Goss, St Swithun's, East Grinstead
- 14 Sunday** **THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** *Proper 10*
10.15am **Parish Eucharist** (Nave)

Calendar for July

- 15 Monday** **Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, c. 862**
12.30pm **AA Women's Meeting** (*Anderson Room*)
- 16 Tuesday** *Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, 1099*
Lunchtime Recitals resume Tuesday September 10th at 1.00pm
- 17 Wednesday**
11.00am Christie House Communion
11.00am Coffee and Chat (*Nave*)
12.00 **Eucharist** (*Nave*)
- 19 Friday** **Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, Macrina, Deaconess, Teachers, c.394, c.379**
9.30am **Eucharist** (*Trinity Chapel*)
- 20 Saturday** *Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 4thC; Bartolomé de las Casas, Apostle to the Indies, 1566*
9.30am Eucharist (*Trinity Chapel*)
11.00am **RIVER FESTIVAL Church & Tower Tour** Stephen Barratt,
Steve Stanford - sign up with the church office £7.50 pp
- 21 Sunday** **THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** *Proper 11*
10.15am **Parish Eucharist** (*Nave*)
2.00pm **RIVER FESTIVAL Church & Tower Tour** Stephen Barratt,
Steve Stanford - sign up with the church office £7.50 pp
- 22 Monday** **MARY MAGDALENE**
12 noon **AA Women's Meeting** (*Anderson Room*)
- 24 Wednesday**
11.00am **Christie House Holy Communion**
11.00am Coffee and Chat (*Nave*)
12.00 **Eucharist** (*Nave*)
- 26 Friday**
9.30am **Eucharist** (*Trinity Chapel*)
- 27 Saturday** *Brooke Fosse Westcott, Bishop of Durham, Teacher, 1901*
9.30am **Eucharist** (*Trinity Chapel*)
4.00pm **LGBT Tea Party + Hymnalong**
- 28 Sunday** **CHRISTIE HOUSE SUNDAY**
THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY *Proper 12*
10.15am **Parish Eucharist** (*Nave*) with Prayer Ministry in Trinity Chapel
3.00pm Bell Ringing
- 29 Monday** **Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of our Lord**
12.30pm **AA Women's Meeting** (*Anderson Room*)
- 31 Wednesday** *Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556*
11.00am Coffee and Chat (*Nave*)
12.00 **Eucharist** (*Nave*)

Calendar for August

- 2 Friday**
9.30am **Eucharist** (*Trinity Chapel*)
- 3 Saturday**
9.30am **Eucharist** (*Trinity Chapel*)
- 4 Sunday** **THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** *Proper 13*
10.15am **Parish Eucharist** (Nave)
NO Serbian Orthodox Service
- 5 Monday** **Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642**
12.30pm **AA Women's Meeting** (*Anderson Room*)
- 6 Tuesday** **THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**
2.30pm **Mothers' Union** (*Anderson Room*)
- 7 Wednesday** *John Mason Neale, Priest, Hymn Writer, 1866*
11.00am **Tales of Tower & Steeple, Tour of St Paul's** with Stephen Barratt
11.00am Coffee and Chat (*Nave*)
12.00 **Eucharist** (*Nave*)
12.45pm **Fellowship Lunch** (*Alexander Room*) *sign-up & £7.50 payable on the day*
- 9 Friday** **Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921**
9.30am **Eucharist** (*Trinity Chapel*)
- 10 Saturday** **Laurence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258**
9.30am **Eucharist** (*Trinity Chapel*)
12 noon **Organ Recital** - Adrian Goss, St Swithun's, East Grinstead
- 11 Sunday** **THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** *Proper 14*
10.15am **Parish Eucharist** (Nave)
- 12 Monday**
12.30pm **AA Women's Meeting** (*Anderson Room*)
- 14 Wednesday** *Maximillian Kolbe, Friar, Martyr, 1941*
11.00am Coffee and Chat (*Nave*)
12.00 **Eucharist** (*Nave*)
- 16 Friday**
9.30am **Eucharist** (*Trinity Chapel*)

Calendar for August

- 17 Saturday** *Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 4thC; Bartolomé de las Casas, Apostle to the Indies, 1566*
9.30am **Eucharist** (Trinity Chapel)
- 18 Sunday** **THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** *Proper 15*
10.15am **Parish Eucharist** (Nave)
- 19 Monday**
12 noon **AA Women's Meeting** (Anderson Room)
- 21 Wednesday**
11.00am **Christie House Holy Communion**
11.00am Coffee and Chat (Nave)
12.00 **Eucharist** (Nave)
- 23 Friday**
9.30am **Eucharist** (Trinity Chapel)
- 24 Saturday** **BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE**
9.30am **Eucharist** (Trinity Chapel)
4.00pm **LGBT Tea Party + Hymnalong**
- 25 Sunday** **THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** *Proper 16*
10.15am **Parish Eucharist** (Nave) with Prayer Ministry in Trinity Chapel
3.00pm Bell Ringing
- 26 Monday**
12.30pm **Summer Bank Holiday**
The Church will be closed and opens tomorrow at 11.00am
- 28 Wednesday** **Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher, 430**
11.00am Christie House Communion
11.00am Coffee and Chat (Nave)
12.00 **Eucharist** (Nave)
- 30 Friday** **John Bunyan, Spiritual Writer, 1688**
9.30am **Eucharist** (Trinity Chapel)
- 31 Saturday** **Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651**
9.30am **Eucharist** (Trinity Chapel)

2024

JULY

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS

1	Monday	Henry, John & Henry Venn the Younger Evangelical Divines 1797, 1813 and 1873	We pray for pastors and missionaries
2	Tuesday		Spiritual directors and guides
3	Wednesday	THOMAS THE APOSTLE	We pray for those who doubt
4	Thursday		<u>Residents of Christie and John Crosse</u>
5	Friday		Charity workers, at home and abroad
6	Saturday	Thomas Moore, Scholar & John Fisher Bishop of Rochester, Reformation Mar- tyrs, 1535	Robin, Sharon and Miriam All martyrs and saints
7	Sunday	THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	A joyful worship, every Sunday
8	Monday		We pray for the residents of our parish
9	Tuesday		Nurses and doctors in the NHS
10	Wednesday		All those in Bedford prison
11	Thursday	Benedict of Nursia Father of Western Monasticism, c550	Pray for self-discipline
12	Friday		We pray for Fr Kevin
13	Saturday		We pray for Fr Anthony
14	Sunday	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	Those in church, those unable to attend
15	Monday	Swithin, Bishop of Winchester, c 862	For those suffering from drought or heat
16	Tuesday	Osmond, Bishop of Salisbury, 1099	Pray for the Deanery churches The homeless and those in temporary ac- commodation
17	Wednesday		
18	Thursday	Elizabeth Ferard 1 st deaconess CofE <u>Founder of the Community of St Andrew,</u>	Pray for the diaconate
19	Friday	Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa c394	May we be enchanted by Christ
20	Saturday	Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 4th century	Pray for those caring for children
21	Sunday	THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	Pray for fathers and father-figures
22	Monday	MARY MAGDALENE Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of	For those who support our ministry
23	Tuesday	Vadstena, 1373	Christianity throughout Europe
24	Wednesday		<u>We pray for our Ministerial team</u>
25	Thursday	JAMES THE APOSTLE Anne & Joachim, Parents of the Blessed	For zeal and dedication for Christ
26	Friday	Virgin Mary Brooke Foss Westcott, Bp of	Pray for parents and those in parental roles
27	Saturday	Durham, Teacher, 1901	We pray for all teachers of the faith
28	Sunday	THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	<u>For silence, so we can hear our Lord</u>
29	Monday	Mary, Martha and Lazarus	We pray for families and their devotion We pray we may make a difference through our actions
30	Tuesday	William Wilberforce, Social Reformer 1833 Ignatius Loyola, Founder of the Society of	
31	Wednesday	Jesus 1556	Thankful for the ability to pray constantly

CHAPTER AND VERSE

Readings for principal Sunday services in July

DATE	July 7th Trinity 6	July 14th Trinity 7	July 21st Trinity 8	July 28th Trinity 9
READING	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Eph. 1:2-14	Eph. 2:11 - end	Eph. 3:14-end
READER	Brian Taylor	Ade Ajibola	Linda Colton	Anu George
PRAYERS	Sheila Smith	Tom Otley	Alison Phillipson	Linda Colton
GOSPEL	Mark 6, 1-13	Mark 6, 14-29	Mark 6, 30-34, 53-end	John 6, 1-21

CHAPTER AND VERSE

Readings for principal Sunday services in August

DATE	August 4th Trinity 10	August 11th Trinity 11	August 18th Trinity 12	August 25th Trinity 13
READING	Eph. 4, 1-16	Eph. 4.25 - 5.2	Eph. 5, 15-20	Eph. 6, 10-20
READER	Sheila Smith	Andrew Gray	Alison Phillipson	Dean Price
PRAYERS	Cliff Harris	Malcolm Smith	Wendy Jones	Kaye McLelland
GOSPEL	John 6, 24-35	John 6, 35, 41-51	John 6, 51-58	John 6, 56-69



**St Paul's Church, St Paul's Square, Bedford MK40 1SQ
01234 340163**

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Registered Charity: 1134614**