



St Matthew with St Paul
Pilgrims on a journey

Easter

at St Matthew's and St Paul's



Magazine of the Parish of St Matthew with St Paul, Winchester
Spring 2024

£1.50

Services

Sunday	9.30 am Holy Communion	St Paul's
Sunday	11.15 am [BCP] Holy Communion on 1st Sunday of month	St Matthew's
Sunday	11.15 am [BCP] Mattins on all other Sundays	St Matthew's
Wednesday	11 am [BCP] Holy Communion	St Matthew's
Any time	9.30 am services available online	https://stmatthewstpaul.org/

Interested in meeting people / getting involved?

- *St Paul's Coffee Pot pop-up café*: meeting 10 am–noon in St Paul's on Wednesday 10 April, Friday 26 April, Wednesday 8 May and Friday 31 May for real coffee, homemade cakes and a chat; all welcome.
- *Zoom coffee morning*: Thursdays, 10.30 am; to check frequency and for link, contact ajcero@btinternet.com
- *Have a meal on us*: Tuesdays, 5–7 pm at St Paul's; to book a space, contact 07724 142624 or hospitality@stmatthewstpaul.org; to volunteer, contact liz@thestannards.co.uk
- *Tuesday homegroup*: meeting first and third weeks of each month, 2.30–4 pm; new members welcome; contact James Clay, 852141
- *Meditation group*: Tuesdays, 7.30 pm; contact Kathleen, klvfreeman@aol.com
- *Thursday homegroup*: meeting 7.30 for 7.45 pm; contact Peter and Irene Casey, 808776
- *Flex & Flow*: Saturdays at St Paul's, 9–9.45 am; contact Stuart Williams, 07738 420053
- *Informal singing group*: first and third Sundays of the month at St Paul's, 7.30–8.30 pm, no ability to read music needed; contact Katie Gilbert, 07540 761852

- *Monday homegroup*: meeting alternating weeks at 18 Lynford Way for eco-themed Bible study and at The Westgate pub, for conversational prayer; all welcome; contact Rhiannon Wilmott rhiannon@stmatthewstpaul.org

Children and young people welcome

- *Sundays*: 9.30 am Holy Communion at St Paul's with children's groups, and all-age family Holy Communion on first Sunday of the month.
- *Bubble Church*: starting 14 April – see back page – on the second Sunday of the month at 4pm at St Paul's Church. A puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, 30-minute kids and families adventure.
- *toddler group*: 0–3 years, term-time Fridays 9.30–11 am in the parish rooms and meadow, with play, crafts and songs
- *youth groups*: 5.30–7 pm one Sunday a month, for children in school years 3–6 and 7–11, with fun, games and a cooked tea
- *confirmation preparation*: for Year 6 upwards
- *baptisms*: for babies, children and adults
- *St Paul's Pre-school*: 2 years 6 months to school age, five days a week 9.15 am–3 pm in St Paul's Hall

Contact Vicki Tibbitts,
youth@stmatthewstpaul.org

Useful phone numbers

Out-of-hours medical help	111	Police non-urgent	101
St Paul's medical practice	01962 853599	To report a BT landline fault	0800 800 151
Friarsgate medical practice	01962 871730	Winchester City Council offices	01962 840222
St Clements medical practice	01962 852211	Samaritans 24-hr helpline	116123
Royal Hampshire County Hospital	01962 863535	Domestic abuse 24-hr helpline	0808 2000 247
Trinity Drop-in Day Centre, Bradbury House, Durngate	01962 842827	In need of a bed? WCC housing office, Colebrook Street	01962 840222

Pilgrimage is an increasingly popular pursuit. It's not confined to those on a religious quest. Plenty of people walk a pilgrimage trail for the health and wellbeing benefits alone. Among recent best-selling accounts of pilgrimage are Raynor Winn's books, *The Salt Path* and *Landlines*. She describes the camaraderie of pilgrims, suggesting they are open to the way of hope.



The magazine in your hands (or on your screen) includes numerous examples of hope from our own journey as pilgrims.

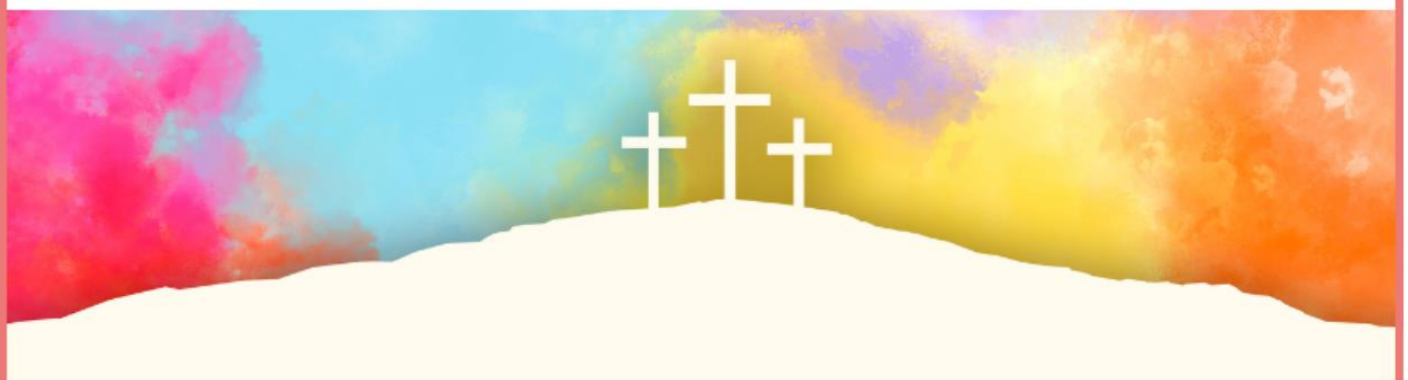
You will read about exciting developments in our youth and children's work, including the start of 'Bubble Church' in April. Looking further ahead, to May, we anticipate Community Day, an annual invitation to the residents of Fulflood and the wider city to enjoy themselves at St Paul's. Juliane Tilney describes what will be offered. Visitors will find out about the life of both our churches, not least our support of charities 'beyond ourselves'. One of these is the Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group, supporting refugees; Barbara and Stuart Dorward describe their work. And another article describes why St Matthew's and St Paul's recently linked its lavatories with much poorer parts of the world through the 'Toilet Twinning' scheme.

Small initiatives like these can make a world of difference. So, it's wonderful to celebrate the Arocha Silver Award for environmental care to St Paul's, a sign of both churches' intention to tread lightly in God's earth. Speaking of awards, The Reverend Canon Professor Liz Stuart's services to Higher Education were recognised in the New Year's Honours List with an MBE – look out for the wonderful picture of Liz with a couple of hounds!

Canon Peter Seal, my predecessor as Rector, served the parish for 20 years. His moving memorial service was 'standing room only', attended by the very many who were blessed by his ministry.

The magazine contains a summary the service, a reminder that tragedy is not the last word but that goodness and faith triumph. During the service, The Reverend Mary Copping blessed a memorial stone, whose legend describes Peter as a 'Joyful Pilgrim'. I pray that we might all know both joy and hope of Easter, wherever we journey.

Jonathan Rowe, Rector



Easter

at St Matthew and St Paul



Easter at St Matthew's

Palm Sunday

24 March

11.15 am Mattins

25, 26, 27 March

(Mon-Weds)

4.30 pm Said Evensong

Good Friday 29 March

2 pm Service of reflection

Easter Day 31 March

8 am Holy Communion

11.15 am Holy Communion

Easter at St Paul's

Palm Sunday 24 March

9.30 am Holy Communion, with children's groups

Maundy Thursday 28 March

7.30 pm Holy Communion with foot washing and Taizé music. Followed by the Watch until 9 pm (a time of quiet contemplation).



Good Friday 29 March

10 am All age family service, followed by hot cross buns. (Family friendly)



12 noon Reflection on the cross

Holy Saturday 30 March

10.30 am - 12.30 pm Children's Easter craft workshop (Family friendly)



Easter Day 31 March

9.30 am Family Holy Communion, with Easter egg hunt (Family friendly)



Family feedback

We welcome those who have worshipped with us for the first time in recent weeks and hope that you may feel comfortable and encouraged to come again. If you haven't already, please fill out a welcome card either in person at church, or online (scan the QR code).



We pray for the unwell: Bob and Elizabeth Harland, Amy Hanson, Julia Jones, John Williams and David Wilson.

We offer our love, sympathy and prayers to family and friends of those who have died recently, including Donald Sherriff, Roger Lee Malyn, Sheila Durman, Mary Drury, Dorothy Eyre and Simon Pratt.

Notices

Saturday morning Flex and Flow

Saturdays 9–9.45 am, St Paul's Church

A friendly, informal exercise group—come and give it a try! All ages and abilities very welcome. Do bring a friend too! Further details on the parish website and from Stuart Williams (stuartwilliams125@btinternet.com or 07738 420053).

Dates for after Easter

Sunday 7 April 9.30am Informal Family Communion

Wednesday 10 April 10am to 12 noon Coffee Pot with drinks and homemade cakes

Sunday 14 April 4pm Bubble Church for young families (see back page)

Sunday 21 April 5.30pm to 7pm Youth Group

Friday 26 April 10am to 12 noon Coffee Pot with drinks and homemade cakes

Saturday 27 April 10am to 11am Curious about Baptism. Find out more about this important step of faith and ask any questions about adult or infant baptism that you'd like to discuss.

*** Notice to subscribers ***

The way we all communicate has changed, and the PCC is investing in new ways of keeping everyone in touch.

For many years the magazine has been an enjoyable read and a useful way of communicating. As you know, lots of our news is now communicated via other means, and so the publication of the magazine has now moved to a quarterly publication.

We are looking for someone (or a team) to work alongside Claire, our communications officer, encouraging people to write for it and ensuring that it continues to be an interesting publication. If you are interested, please get in touch with the Rector (jonathan@stmatthewstpaul.org).

Liz awarded MBE

By Christopher Atkinson

Reprinted with kind permission from
the *Hampshire Chronicle*

THE former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Winchester has been appointed MBE in the King's New Year Honours.

Reverend Professor Elizabeth Stuart received the award for her services to higher education.

The award of MBE, Member of the Order of the British Empire, is awarded for an outstanding achievement or service to the community which has had a long-term, significant impact.

Revd Stuart served in various roles at the University for over 25 years, including leading the university as Vice-Chancellor in 2021.

She said: "I am humbled and honoured to be recognised in this way. It has been a joy and privilege to serve the University of Winchester for over 25 years, seeing students over that time go on to make a real difference in the world.

"Universities play such an important role in building a stronger society and enriching the local community, and I have loved playing a small part in that over the course of my career".

As well as serving as Vice-Chancellor, and deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, Revd Stuart was involved in various national initiatives relating to internationalisation



and higher education, equality and diversity, the Research Excellence Framework, and degree classification.

Professor Sarah Greer, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Winchester, said: "We are all delighted to see Liz honoured in this way.

"She has been a huge part of the success of the University of Winchester and has served the wider community here in Winchester with compassion and purpose for over 25 years. We are so grateful for what she has built here for generations past, present and future."

Revd Stuart, who retired from the University in July 2023, is now a non-executive member of the Chapter of Winchester Cathedral, associate priest at the Parish of St Matthew and St Paul, Winchester, and is also a bank chaplain for Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust.

Join us for Community 2024!

By Juliane Tilney

Are you up for a day of fun, delicious food, and exciting activities for the whole family? Look no further! Our fantastic annual event is taking place on Saturday, 18th May from 10 am - 4 pm at St Paul's Church and everyone is invited.

Whether you're a foodie, a music lover, a creative soul, or a parent looking for a day of family fun, this event is for you.

From mouthwatering homemade cakes at the cafe to a sizzling barbecue, there will be something to satisfy every craving. Live music from local groups and bands of all ages will fill the air to get your toes tapping and your spirits soaring. For the creative minds, there will be a range of activities to spark your imagination. From arts and crafts to interactive games, you'll have the opportunity to unleash your creativity and take part in creating this year's Community Day masterpiece. Families with kids of all ages will find plenty to keep the little ones entertained. Games, bouncy castle, farm animals, face painting, and other exciting activities will ensure that the children have a blast. And if you have a friendly four-legged friend, then we'd love them to take part in our dog show.

Come along and create lasting connections in the heart of Fulflood. Please mark your calendar and spread the word.

We can't wait to see you there!

For more information, search 'Community Day Winchester' on Google or scan the QR code.



St Matthew with St Paul
Pilgrims on a journey

ST PAUL'S COMMUNITY DAY

AT
ST PAUL'S
CHURCH
SO22 5AB

SATURDAY
18 MAY 2024
10 am-4 pm

Tarrying with the Lord in Lent

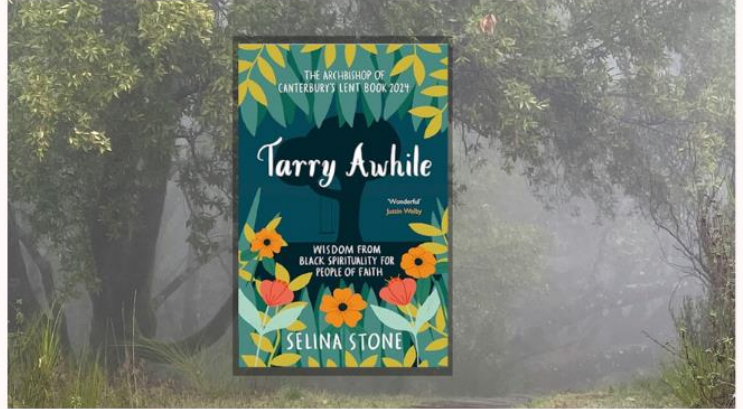
By Revd Liz Stuart



What happens when groups who have traditionally not had a voice in theological reflection claim that voice? A wonderful kaleidoscope of voices creates a new Pentecost experience, which teaches us that all theological reflection is contextual and reflects who we are.

This year's Archbishop of Canterbury Lent Book, *Tarry Awhile: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for People of Faith* by Selina Stone, introduces us to some of the insights of black theology and spirituality.

Three groups of people in the parish have been studying this book throughout Lent. It is not always a comfortable experience. Those of us who are white have been confronted with our privilege and the way that our culture and faith has constructed darkness and blackness in negative terms. We have been introduced to different ways of thinking, worshipping and engaging with God. We have been confronted



with texts of terror for black people and examples of prejudice within our scriptures.

The central theme of the book is the need to 'tarry', to wait on God, and the various ways in which black spirituality encourages us to do that.

Often our problem is that we think that we can control God, directing him only to bits of us we want him to see. But when we tarry and allow God to come to us in an undefended state he gazes into every aspect of our lives. This is a book about struggle, fortitude, faith, resurrection and hopeful waiting upon God to make all things new. It has been the perfect book to study for Lent.

Annual revision of electoral roll 2024

By Alison Collins (ajcero@btinternet.com)

Each year, we as a parish are required to revise or renew the electoral roll. We carried out the renewal in 2019 so, this year, it is just a revision of the electoral roll that is necessary. The electoral roll is officially a list of people who are entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to take part in its proceedings. Unofficially, it is a list of people who consider themselves to be members of our church family.

Those who are already on the electoral roll need do nothing. If you are not on the electoral roll and are new to the church or the parish, you can obtain a form online or in person. You can download and print it (scan the first QR code), e-mail me for a copy (address above), complete the form online (second QR code) or pick up a form from either St Paul's or St Matthew's. Once your form has been completed, please email it to me directly or take it to the parish office.

The revision has to be completed by 29 April, after which the electoral roll (names only) will be on display at both St Matthew's and St Paul's. They will be available for inspection at the parish office for the two weeks before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.



Download the form to print



Complete the form online

Services at other churches

By Revd Mary Copping

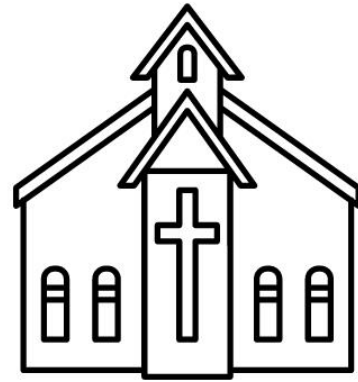


Over a year ago I asked if I could be put on the Diocesan Clerical Registry. This is a register of mainly retired clergy who are happy to take services at other churches which are either in an interregnum (a time without a priest) or which share one priest between three or four churches.

During this time, I have taken services at many different churches, including St Mark's in Oliver's Battery, where I go once a month, St Barnabas Church in Weeke, St Catherine's Church in Littleton and many others.

I enjoy the experience of leading different services and meeting lots of different people. Someone said that doing this is a bit like being a bishop – everything is ready for you when you arrive, people are so grateful and they clear up after you!!

This also feels a very good way of sharing the abundant resources we have at St Matthew and St Paul. We have four active clergy and we have very involved and lively congregations. We are hugely blessed and this is a great way of sharing our blessings with other churches.



Now that Liz is a Canon at the Cathedral she is called on to lead services, preach, attend lots of meetings and be very involved in the life of the Cathedral. This is another way that we are sharing our resources.

A third way is in our contribution to the Diocesan Common Mission Fund. This fund not only contributes towards some of our own clergy but also enables us to support those churches which are not so fortunate.

So, when I'm not at our churches on Sunday mornings, I may be at one of many churches around the Diocese.

'Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,'
1 Timothy 6:18

'And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.'
Hebrews 13:16

New president's chair

Have you noticed the new addition in St Paul's? With huge thanks to a very kind anonymous donor, we now have a splendid new president's chair (the president being the person leading a service).

The chair has been designed and created beautifully to match the altar, echoing the outline of the glass windows behind. And it complements the modern renovation inside the church. Thank you, kind donor.



A fond farewell to the much-loved Peter Seal

On 12 February, a thanksgiving Eucharist was held at St Paul's for the life of Peter Seal. Peter served as Rector of the Parish of St Matthew with St Paul for over 20 years. He was a much-loved and respected figure in the city and diocese, and passed away last year after a short illness.



Report by Caroline St Leger-Davey. Reprinted with permission from the parish magazine of St Bartholomew, Hyde and St Lawrence with St Swithun-upon-Kingsgate.

The Revd Dr Jonathan Rowe, present Rector of St Matthew with St Paul, greeted everyone. He told us that Peter had a phrase for the churches in his parish: 'Pilgrims on a journey'. This phrase would become the theme of the thanksgiving service.



There were about 20 robed clergy including the Bishop of Basingstoke and Dean Catherine Ogle, and representatives of local clergy.

Tributes were paid by Peter's son, Dr Philip Seal, and by Professor Bill Lucas, Churchwarden of St Paul's. The sermon was given by The Very Revd Catherine Ogle.

The service included the Reaffirmation of



Baptismal Vows, with Bishop David throwing water from the font over the congregation, and Holy Communion for around 250 people.

During the service a memorial stone to Peter was blessed by the Revd Mary Copping, Asst Priest in the Parish. The words of the memorial were read out:

'Canon Peter Seal
Rector 2001-2021
Joyful Pilgrim'

The prayers of intercession were given by Katie Seal, Peter's daughter, with another member of the parish.

The music was glorious. The talented Churchwarden Bill Lucas sang The Peruvian Gloria; musicians from the Parish (pianist, violinist and flautists) played beautifully, also accompanying one of the hymns. The wonderful choir included our former organist Tom Jesty. It was such a joy to listen to.

I knew Peter Seale as a student, and after the service met up with the two boys he shared a house with. It was lovely to reminisce after so many years. One of them had looked forward to meeting up more frequently with Peter after they had both retired, but Peter tragically died after only having enjoyed retirement for 17 months.

It was a wonderful, uplifting service, and a great tribute to honour Peter's ministry and service.



Scan the QR code for a recording of the service.

Church unity in Winchester

January was a great month for Churches Together in Winchester. On 21 January we had the Winchester pulpit exchange. A wonderful way for us to encourage each other as Christians, and to support the unity of the church family across the Winchester area. Thank you so much to Revd Peter Rayson from Wesley and King's Somborne Methodist Church for coming and sharing the word with us! It was wonderful to worship together and hear you speak. And thank you Winchester Vineyard Church for welcoming Jonathan for your morning service!

This all came hot on the heels of the Winchester Clergy Conference last week where our clergy enjoyed fellowship, rest and teaching together. Thank you Diocese of Winchester. (If you look closely you might spot a few familiar faces in the second picture!)



Epic youth away day

In March the 11-14s group had an away day, heading off to the sunny climes of St Mary's Chapel in King's Worthy! In the morning we enjoyed workshops led by the Wildfire Youth Project team, investigating the question that Jesus posed 'Who do you say I am?' (Matthew 16:15) in three parts:

- When Jesus walked upon water, his disciples thought he was a ghost. But one of them trusted him and stepped out onto the water, too. After watching this scene from the acclaimed series *The Chosen*, we made tin foil boats to float across water and discussed whether and how we can trust Jesus.
- On the cross, with thieves either side of him, Jesus faced false accusations, but one thief asked Jesus to remember him despite the things he'd done wrong. The children were invited to write on paper and nailed to a wooden cross any wrong things they may have done.



- After the resurrection, how did Jesus' disciples recognise him? Mary Magdalene recognised him when he spoke her name; others when he walked with them on the road to Emmaus; others when he broke bread with them. We made bread together while listening to the gospel reading and then went on a walk to discuss how we can recognise Jesus in our own lives.

In the afternoon we let off steam at the Winchester Golf Academy using their Toptracer technology in the driving range to see how far and high we could get our golf balls. It was a really fun day – many thanks to Ellie and Nina from Wildfire and to Vicki, Katie and the various parents who acted as chauffeurs and made the day possible.

Animal Nativity



Coffee Pot





Baptism at St Paul's



Children's drama



Barbara's 90th birthday



Blessing the President's chair

Eco Church Award for St Paul's

By Keith Jones

Have you spotted our Silver Eco Church award yet for St Paul's? It's near the chapel and recognises work done over some years to improve our 'green' stewardship and environmental impact. It applies to the ministry, our buildings, land use and activities.

We registered St Paul's site some years ago with the Anglican Church's Eco Church programme. This is a graded awards scheme and helps churches improve their environmental record, teaching, ministry and stewardship of God's creation. St Matthew's have also been tending their site and gardens to support more wildlife and diversity.

The scheme is run by the international Christian charity A Rocha (Portuguese for 'The Rock'). It helps church communities worldwide protect and restore God's natural world. Eco Church is just one of its programmes, and has 3 award levels; Bronze (awarded to St Paul's in 2021), Silver (2024) and Gold (our next ambition).

Eco Church awards assess our environmental 'ethos' and practices as stewards of God's creation. This is the commitment to be responsible Christian stewards of creation in ministry and daily life.

Eco Church awards assess across four broad categories

Worship and Teaching

Emphasis on caring for God's Creation in preaching, prayer and services including regular 'green' communions, children's work, broader education eg home groups and courses.

Management of Buildings and Land

Energy efficiency and carbon footprint, cleaning/catering materials, recycling/waste policies (especially community and other events), rewilding, wildlife and planting plans for the site.

Community and Global Engagement

Supporting environmental projects e.g. giving through 'Beyond Ourselves', learning from charities and projects we support, engaging more with planning, development and environmental issues.

Daily Life

Buying renewable energy, recycling, reducing waste and harmful travel (eg flying), buying more local 'Fairtrade' and organic food and goods, investing church and personal funds ethically.

We are all Pilgrims on an environmental journey, one of many others in our faith. So the next steps will be towards becoming a Gold Eco Church, needing more of us to become more involved as the practical nature of each step becomes clearer.

Reaching this level does not automatically mean being 'net zero', when all harmful climate emissions from our activities are reduced or offset to zero. This is still the Anglican Church's, and the world's, eventual target to achieve it. It takes many steps, but we've already achieved many.

Even before St Paul's and St Matthew's refurbishments, our policy was to use recyclable materials,

Silver Eco Church Award Certificate

Fairtrade supplies and cleaning chemicals and compostable or recyclable items for Community Days and lunches (not disposables).

Both church sites only use renewable electricity but still rely on gas for heating and hot water. Although the boilers are maximum efficiency, aiming for Gold will need a plan to measure and gradually reduce our carbon footprint.

And there will slowly be more projects which will need help, so watch for notices or requests over coming months. We hope to outline the practical tasks and changes we need to encourage together in our stewardship of the environment, both at home and on our church sites.

Things that can help:

- if you can, buy more local/seasonal, Fairtrade and organic food, and less meat and packaged/processed foods
- switch to renewable electricity at home, reduce gas use if you can, water consumption, air travel and car journeys when possible
- gardening and planting at home and on our sites to encourage more wildlife, e.g. adding to 'bug hotel' and nesting features
- commenting or engaging more with organisations or representatives about planning and development issues and environmental concerns



Winchester Cathedral silent disco

On 17 February, several of us attended Winchester Cathedral's 'Silent disco under the moon'. This took advantage of the amazing art installation 'Festival of the Moon' that was displayed in the Cathedral through most of January.

Despite some initial apprehensions, we found there was a real mix of ages (not just the youngsters!) And the headphones had a great selection of quality music, from Abba to Tom Jones. We danced the night away (until 9.30pm at least, when it finished) and can't wait for the next one!

A word from Steve Brine MP

Spring is in the air and it's a delight to contribute, as I have for some 14 years, to this special edition of the parish magazine.

As our Member of Parliament, I regularly visit local schools, which remains the most rewarding, and often hilarious, part of the job. Indeed I was once asked, at a local primary school, the best question so far – 'Mr Brine, are your suits itchy?' Not to-date was my answer but there is, I suppose, still time.

Anyway, as I go around I find dedicated teaching (and support) staff who love what they do but there's not enough of them and, in particular, they tell me they just cannot recruit the teaching assistants they need to support an increasingly complex picture. The number of 'lockdown' children coming to the school system with special educational needs – and the growing number with formal education, healthcare plans – is a huge challenge for all state schools.

I am therefore really pleased to see a new teaching apprenticeship that will launch this autumn, revolutionising the way schools recruit teachers.

The 'teacher degree apprenticeship' will offer a high-quality, alternative route for people to become qualified teachers. This includes people who may not be able to take time out to study full-time for a degree, such as teaching assistants or staff already working in schools.

Trainees on the new teacher degree apprenticeship will spend around 40% of their time studying, gain qualified teacher status and all tuition fees are paid for, so trainees won't be saddled with debt. I think it will be a game-changing opportunity for schools to nurture and retain talent from the ground up. Be interested, as always, to hear what you think.



Secondly, because we Brits can sometimes be our own worst enemy, there's some really good news on the subject I have written about before in this magazine – NHS dentistry.

Back in February, the long-awaited Dental Recovery Plan appeared. Its focus on prevention has to be right, and the roll out of the 'Smile for Life' programme to reduce dental decay in children will see parents-to-be offered advice on baby gums and milk teeth. Babies and toddlers in nurseries will also have tooth brushing as part of the daily routine.

Measures for short-term recovery are also welcome. This includes some 2.5 million additional NHS appointments, as well as additional money for NHS dentists to treat adults and children who have not seen a dentist in over two years. Also incentives for dentists to work in underserved areas, with one-off 'golden hello' payments of up to £20,000. The idea of dental vans to help deliver care in rural and coastal areas is interesting and I will be seeing if we can get a slice of that in parts of my constituency.

The British Dental Association described the Health Select Committee (which I chair) report on NHS dentistry as 'an instruction manual' to save it, but achieving that will require all of this – and more. We have the Minister before my committee very soon so watch this space.

As I know many of you will have seen, I was at the centre of another very high-profile national story recently as I published a long-awaited report on assisted suicide / assisted dying. It follows a 14-month inquiry the select

committee undertook, which remains one of the largest in parliamentary history. We aimed to produce, and I hope we have done so, a comprehensive report to inform MPs as/when/if we are asked to formally consider any proposals to change the law. You can read all about it on my website (scan the QR code).



Finally, I was so pleased to hear from the Arts Minister (Stephen Parkinson) that St Paul's had done rather well out of the 'Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme', which is Government

money we try to spend well in local communities. I take a really close interest in these things and try to argue for our area wherever I can. Sounds as if the grant will be spent wisely on new lighting for the chancel and work on the organ, so good news all round.

You can contact me – as always – with your views on these subjects or any other things on your mind. And you can find me on Facebook at [/SteveBrineMP](https://www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP)



Concerts at St Paul's



We are so blessed to have the ancient and modern, flexible space at St Paul's. Part of the benefit of this is being able to host live music performances.

In February we had a wonderful concert by the Winchester Camerata, led by David Blunt and conducted by Andrew Moore. This was to raise money for the Winchester Bereavement Service – a fantastic charity offering emotional support to the bereaved of Winchester and the surrounding area.

The concert programme had a Parisian theme, with music ranging from Charpentier, Rameau and Bizet to Lili Boulanger. Scan the QR code above to listen via YouTube.

Don't forget to check posters on the St Paul's notice boards, and the weekly welcome sheet for other live performances.

Toilets Twinned!

It's official – our toilets have been twinned through Tearfund's Toilet Twinning scheme!

Toilets aren't just a nice-to-have. Without a proper toilet, waste can enter water systems, and people are likely to get sick through sanitation-related diseases.

Illness keeps people from working, children miss school, parents have to pay for medicines and fall into debt. Such illnesses can even be life threatening.

It's amazing that one in three people in the world still don't have a toilet they can use.

Toilet Twinning funds hygiene education via community-led workshops and sourcing local materials for families and communities to build their own toilets.

Our twinning certificates are proudly displayed in the church loos!

What's going on in children and youth ministry at St Paul's?

Our vision is that young people and families feel St Paul's is their spiritual home, participate in an intergenerational community and enjoy being curious about God.

We have been extraordinarily busy since our last magazine issue. Christmas was an intense hive of activity:

We hosted a new **carol service for Western CE Primary School**, creating a tableau of the nativity scene and listening to the Year 5 & 6 scratch choir.

At a festive **St Paul's @4**, we heard the Christmas story from the perspective of the shepherds and made our own angel prayer decorations!

Our young people enjoyed a Nativity-themed escape room at our **Christmas Youth Group**, along with a Christmassy cooked dinner.

The **St Paul's Pre-School and our Toddler Group** combined forces for an Under 5s Christmas celebration, complete with a visit from Santa!

Despite torrential rain, 200 people came along to the **animal nativity & craft workshop** with Coffee Pot to hear the Christmas story and enjoy great coffee & cake!

The **Nativity service** on Christmas Eve was as packed as ever, as we remembered the events of Jesus's birth and worshipped together.

In 2024 we've continued welcoming many children and youth through the doors at our January Christingle service, monthly St Paul's @4 afternoon services, youth group, toddler group and, of course, at the weekly 9.30am Sunday service. Our 11-14s have been busy with social outings to an escape room (January), a silent disco 'under the moon' at Winchester Cathedral (February) and to the golf course as part of an away day led by the Wildfire Youth Project (March).

We also hosted a pancake party on Shrove Tuesday and a separate children's service on Ash Wednesday. Thank you to all of the fantastic volunteers who have helped make all this happen!

What's coming up?

There's no let up as we march forth towards Easter. Do join us at any of the family-friendly events (see page 5 for details). As you'll see on the back page, we are also transforming our monthly afternoon service into a new liturgy, known as Bubble Church! This new format was designed by a church in south London. Our team have been fully trained to deliver Bubble Church and we are hoping and praying that through it we can engage with more people in our parish and local community.

Also coming up are two mornings of exploration for anyone with questions: Saturday 27 April, 10-11.30am – Curious about Baptism? Saturday 22 June 10-11.30am – Curious about Confirmation?

Join in the fun!

How can you get involved?

Pray! Firstly, please pray. We have a regular time of intentional prayer for this ministry at St Paul's at 9.20am on Wednesday mornings for about 20 minutes. Please join us.

Help! We have roles in welcoming, hospitality, sound & visual, as well as engaging directly with children and parents. No previous experience required, just a heart to share the love of Jesus.

Give! Lastly, might you be able to contribute financially to the running of our children & youth activities? Either by making one-off donation or signing up to regular giving.

Beyond Ourselves



Southampton & Winchester Visitors Group
Working with asylum seekers and refugees



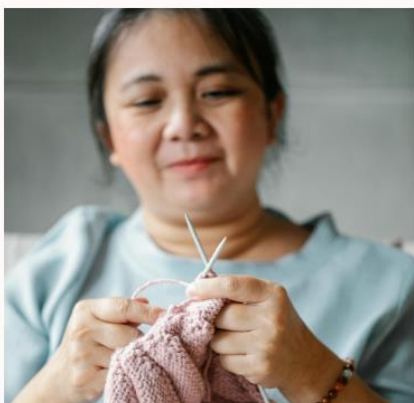
By Barbara and Stuart Dorward

As one of our supported charities, SWVG was the focus of many activities in the Parish last June and December.

We recently received a message from the group thanking us for the generous donations they received from our fundraising efforts last year and our continuing support this year. They were also delighted with the toiletries collection organised by our young people in December. These items are really appreciated by people seeking asylum and refugees. As our contact with the group said – “Your support means a lot to us and especially to those with whom we work.” The group also welcomes donations of bikes, phones, suitcases and other useful items.

Late last year we went to the Avenue Multicultural Centre in Southampton to see what our donations are helping to support. We met several of the group’s volunteers and learned about various aspects of their work including help with legal, financial and housing issues, their “befriending” scheme and one to one English language tuition. The Centre provides a lively social environment where people can chat, play games, make music and enjoy light meals and refreshments. We were really impressed by the warm supportive atmosphere and not surprised to learn that many people seeking asylum end up volunteering with the charity once they receive refugee status.

We will be in contact with the group throughout this year and look forward to finding out more about their activities. Please do have a chat with one of us (Barbara and Stuart Dorward) if you would like to know more about the group and its work or wish to donate any of the items mentioned above.



Knitting for Mission to Seafarers

Thank you to all the knitters! Please bring your knitted hats, balaclavas, mufflers and fingerless mittens to the parish office by Sun 31 March. This is so Jeanette Batt can get a package in the post at the end of the month. Another parcel will be sent in November, so do keep knitting throughout the year!

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*For further details contact Stuart on
07738420053 or stuartwilliams125@btinternet.com*

We are a friendly and informal group -
we look forward to welcoming you!

Disclaimer: Advertisements in the parish magazine are accepted in good faith from local organisations, businesses and individuals. The publication of these advertisements should not be taken as a recommendation or endorsement of the products or services offered.

We're grateful to all who supply photographs. This month they are Mary Copping, Ursula Payne, Vicki Tibbitts, Martin West



Starting 14 April 2024

Bubble Church is a Sunday afternoon church service especially for babies, toddlers, and young families. It's a puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, 30-minute kids and families adventure.

Bubble Church is on the second Sunday of the month at 4pm at St Paul's Church.

Families arrive 10 mins before it starts for cake and coffee, squash and snacks. They'll then be guided to a 'bubble', and share in 30 mins of song, story, puppets, and prayer.



Please share the news about Bubble Church with any local families you know. They can book their place at a service at www.bubblechurch.org (or scan the QR code).

And please consider whether you could help us make Bubble Church fun and effective. There are so many ways for you to help: hospitality, welcoming, puppeteering, audio-visual and more. Please email youth@stmatthewstpaul.org



St Matthew with St Paul
Pilgrims on a journey