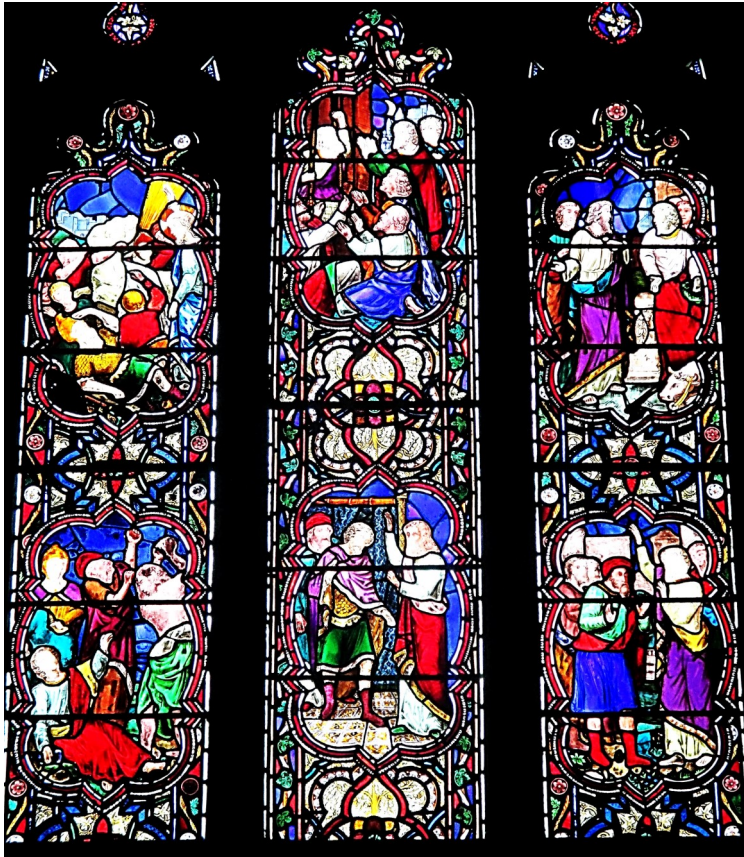




# ST PAUL'S CHURCH

## WINCHMORE HILL



WE WILL CELEBRATE THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL AT  
**OUR PATRONAL FESTIVAL ON 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

DETAILS OF ON PAGE 10

## Parish Magazine

Price 50p

January 2026

**St Paul's Church, Church Hill, London N21 1JA**

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Dear Friends

There is an increasing tendency in the Church to 'transfer' feast days to the nearest Sunday. It is a topic which divides opinion. I, on the whole, dislike it. It implies that religion is something we only do on a Sunday. In some cases, it makes no sense at all, like the relatively recent practice in the Roman Catholic Church of celebrating the Ascension on the nearest Sunday. The Bible is clear that Jesus ascended into heaven forty days after his Resurrection, not forty-three days!

This year sees the return at St Paul's of the feast of Epiphany celebrated on the day itself: 6 January. It is an important feast. The gifts of the gold, frankincense and myrrh reveal that Jesus is God, Saviour and King. The magi themselves, visitors from a far-off land, show us that Jesus is God's gift to the whole world. The feast concludes the first part of the greater Christmas season – the 'twelve days' of Christmas – and begins the season of Epiphany, a season within a season, when we explore and celebrate other epiphanies in the early stages of Jesus's ministry. We will celebrate Epiphany with a 'Eucharist for all ages' at 6pm. Please do come along as we keep the feast on its proper day!

Despite what I said at the beginning of this letter, I usually make an exception for our Patronal Festival, the Conversion of St Paul. This year, however, I don't need to – 25 January happily falls on a Sunday!

With my love and prayers

Fr Daniel

## Services in January 2026



ST PAUL'S CHURCH  
WINGBOROUGH HILL

Morning Prayer is said publically at 9.10am and Evening Prayer at 5pm Monday-Thursday.

The church is open for visitors and private prayer every day from 9am to 5pm

Day	Date	Observance	Time	Services	Prayer Intention
T	1	The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	12.30pm	Eucharist	God's blessing on this New Year
F	2	St Basil the Great & St Gregory of Nazianzus			Those who teach the faith
S	3				The homeless
S	4	SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Eucharist Sung Eucharist	Our parish and its people
M	5				Carers
T	6	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	6pm	Eucharist for All Ages	That Christ may be revealed to us
W	7		12.30pm	Eucharist	Racial justice
T	8				One-to-One Enfield
F	9				Local businesses
S	10				Our neighbours
S	11	THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Sung Eucharist	Our parish and its people
M	12	St Aelred of Hexham			Children and young people
T	13	St Hilary of Poitiers			Our employees
W	14		12.30pm	Eucharist	Vocations
T	15				The Royal Family
F	16				All who serve the church in a voluntary capacity
S	17	St Antony of Egypt			Sarah, Bishop of London and Archbishop Designate
S	18	SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Eucharist Sung Eucharist	Our parish and its people
M	19	St Wulfstan			Our PCC
T	20				Peace in the world
W	21	St Agnes	12.30pm	Eucharist	The Children's Society
T	22				Our Ministry Team
F	23				Family life
S	24	St Francis de Sales			Our Pastoral Care Group
S	25	THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	8am 10am	Said Eucharist All-Together Eucharist	Our parish and its people
M	26	St Timothy and St Titus			Church hall project
T	27		9am	Whole School Service	St Paul's School
W	28	St Thomas Aquinas	12.30pm	Eucharist	Theologians
T	29				Our churchwardens
F	30	Charles, King and Martyr			Charles, our King
S	31				The Mothers' Union

Services times are subject to change. Please contact the Parish Office for details. Contact the clergy if you would like to speak to someone regarding your spiritual life, or to make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession)

## FROM THE REGISTERS NOVEMBER 2025



### BAPTISMS

- 2<sup>nd</sup> November Lucy and Olivia Hughes  
 Arabella McGory  
 16<sup>th</sup> November Maggie and Martha Stylianou  
 23<sup>rd</sup> November Lucia Godfrey

### FUNERAL

- 28<sup>th</sup> November Marva Brown

### JANUARY 2026 FLOWER ROTA

- 3<sup>rd</sup> January Adele Houldsworth  
 17<sup>th</sup> January Sally Shearman  
 31<sup>st</sup> January Adele Houldsworth

We would like to thank all those who helped to decorate the church so beautifully for Christmas.

The flower arrangers would welcome new members to the group - both those who are experienced flower arrangers and those who would like to develop their skills. To find out more, please contact Adele Houldsworth on 020 8360 3676.

### HALL HIRE

The main Church Hall can be hired for weekend birthday parties. £52.50 per hour. 3 hour minimum for a party booking  
 Discounts available for regular use. For more information contact our Facilities Manager, Ayse Eris, at [facilities@spwh.org](mailto:facilities@spwh.org) or 07946 852 110

**PAUL – A BIOGRAPHY BY TOM WRIGHT****CHAPTER 9**

First century Corinth was a bustling port city, on the isthmus dividing the most famous cities of Athens in the North and Sparta in the South. Paul arrived there about AD51 and he stayed for around 18 months. Here he had the opportunity to recover from the dangers of the previous weeks and months when he had been badly beaten in Phillipi and then chased out of Thessalonica and Berea. Not long after his arrival he met Aquila and Priscilla, a Jewish couple from Rome who had also recently arrived in the city. They were tentmakers like Paul and so he lived and worked with them, and doubtless had the opportunity to recover his strength and also earn his keep.

Every Sabbath would find him in the synagogue preaching the good news about Jesus and reasoning with the Jews and proselyte Greeks about the gospel. When they were resistant to this new teaching, Paul, never one to shy away from controversy, set up across the street in the house of Titius Justus, a recent convert to faith, and he continued to preach the gospel to the Greeks from there. Corinthians, it seemed, were receptive to the message and so Paul was able to remain in Corinth for some time. He was also strengthened by a vision he received from Jesus telling him not to be afraid but to “keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city” (Acts 18:9-10). This message was fulfilled as when the synagogue members finally tire of Paul and his message and try to bring a suit against him to the Proconsul to complain that Paul is encouraging people to worship God in illegal ways, the Proconsul dismisses the charges and sends them away – it causes such fury that it is the synagogue leader who is set upon and beaten rather than Paul and his friends!

Silas and Timothy joined Paul in Corinth having parted in Athens and travelled back to Thessalonica before returning to Athens and then on to Corinth. They bring with them the joyful news that the church is thriving. Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica at this time, and it is a letter full of affection. Paul is thrilled that the church is doing so well even in the face of persecution. His affection is all the greater as

he had not spent much time with the church there to really see it settle down and develop in faith. This is a real sign to him that God really was working through the word of the gospel. However, there are some matters that Paul wishes to speak about in order to help the church to navigate the difficult times they are experiencing. Paul writes to encourage them to live holy lives in terms of their attitudes to both sex and to money, and he also gives them deeper theological teaching about his understanding of the coming of Christ, as it appears that some confusion has arisen. Paul had taught that Jesus would return again to bring the kingdom in its fullness but some had understood that this would happen before any of their number died, and now some people were dying they were upset and wondering if there had been a mistake. Paul reassures the Thessalonians that those who have died will be raised in Christ when he returns, and that we will all be with the Lord forever (1 Thess 5:16-17). Paul concludes his letter with simple instructions for living together in love as the family of God.

Paul eventually leaves Corinth, accompanied by Priscilla & Aquila, and travels to Ephesus. We are told he had his hair cut before he left, due to a vow he had taken. This is an obscure detail that we don't know the meaning of, but it draws our attention to the worshipping Paul. The key message that struck me as I read this chapter was how easy it is to only consider Paul as a courageous and talented public speaker, theologian and church leader, but this is all underpinned by his deep faith. He encouraged everyone to pray continually, and this must be what he himself did. We can see in his letters that he adapts Jewish prayers and liturgies into a new form to include Jesus; he prays the Psalms, focusing them on Jesus – the promised King. He even adapts the *Shema*, the central monotheistic prayer – There is but one God, the Father... and one Lord, Jesus the Messiah (1 Cor 8:6). We are encouraged to imagine Paul praying as he travels, waiting for the next ship, breaking bread with his friends, praying for sick friends and newly founded churches. Paul encourages us, as he encouraged the Thessalonians to 'Rejoice always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'

Sarah Elkins

Many members of the our church stayed behind after the Parish Eucharist on 7<sup>th</sup> December preparing for Advent. Some were in the church setting up the Crib and the Christmas trees, while others were putting together 350 booklets ready for Carols on The Green.



'Carols On The Green' took place on 17<sup>th</sup> December and was, as usual, a wonderful community event attended by well over 300 people from local churches and also the wider community.

As well as singing Carols together, there was mulled wine and a wonderful array of refreshments that were donated by both members of our church and local businesses.

This event is organised annually to raise funds for homeless charities.



This year we raised over £3000 for the national charity **CRISIS** and £900 for a local charity **All People All Places**

There was a special addition to the Sunday School Nativity this year. The performance was accompanied by Carols sung by the St Paul's Community Choir. Our thanks go to Elouise Nell and Sue Jeffreys for producing this poignant reminder of the Christmas story.



The church was packed for the candlelit service of Nine Lesson and Carols on 21<sup>st</sup> December, which was followed with refreshments in the hall, and also for the Crib services and Eucharists on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



Sunday 25 January 2026



ST PAUL'S CHURCH  
WINCHMORE HILL

# PATRONAL FESTIVAL

10am All-Together Eucharist  
celebrating the Conversion of St Paul

Followed by Church Hall Refurbishment  
Appeal with coffee and croissants

8am Said Eucharist as normal

10am All-Together Eucharist replaces the usual 9.15am and 10.30am



Churches Together  
in Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill  
and Grange Park



# Songs of Praise

for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Sunday 18 January 2026 - 6pm**

**Palmers Green United Reformed Church**

**Fox Lane N13 4AL**

Parking available. Close to W9 and 329 bus routes, and  
Palmers Green Station

Followed by refreshments



December was a very busy month for our branch of the Mothers' Union.



On 1st December, 4 of our members went to HMP Wormwood Scrubs to join other members from across London to sign Christmas Cards for prisoners. While there, the Chaplain was presented with 52 bibles purchased by the London MU for prisoners who wished to study scripture.

Over 50 guests enjoyed a traditional turkey dinner followed by chocolate and rum trifle at the MU Christmas fellowship lunch on 11<sup>th</sup> December. During the meal some children



from Leapfrog Nursery entertained us with Christmas songs and Father Christmas dropped in to give each guest a small gift. The meal ended with some Carol singing.

Our monthly meeting took place in church on 18<sup>th</sup> December. Members shared Christmas readings and we watched the 'Grumpy Owl' story from the C of E website before adjourning to the hall for refreshments.

2026 will be a very special year for the Worldwide Mothers' Union as we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of its founding.

## MOTHERS' UNION DIARY JANUARY 2026

**THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AT 2 PM IN THE CHURCH HALL  
NEW YEAR CELEBRATION**

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO COME ALONG  
AND ENJOY AFTERNOON TEA AND SOME GAMES.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ALL OUR MOTHERS' UNION MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

## A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

May this New Year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,

A time of welcoming

Your graces and gifts,

A time for forgiving  
freely and unconditionally.

A time for growing  
in virtue and goodness.

Come, Holy Spirit,

Be with us today and always.

Amen



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Many congratulations to Sam Hine, Alison Perera and their team for transforming our church hall into an unbelievably gorgeous venue for 'Elevation', the black tie event held on 28<sup>th</sup> November and our appreciation for all the work that went into organising the event.

'Elevation' raised an amazing £5,270 to kick-start our major fundraising appeal to refurbish our Church Hall.

We would like to thank @thewhsupperclub and @georinahayden for catering at this event and the many local businesses that supported it.

Finally, a huge thank you to Alison Perera and Alison Atkins who donated 200 wine glasses that were used on the night and will be very useful at future events at St Paul's.



You can learn more about the plans for refurbishing the hall and the fund-raising appeal at our Patronal Festival on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

There are many reusable decorations resulting from the 'Elevation' evening ready for future events, so watch this space . . . .



# CURRY NIGHT



**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**  
**St Paul's Church Hall**  
**7.30 pm**

Two course meal with vegetarian option

Bring your own drinks

Tickets: Adults: £15 Children (under 12): £10

Family: (2 adults + 2 children) £40

**To book tickets use order form at back of church or email [charity@spwh.org](mailto:charity@spwh.org)**

**Tickets must be ordered by Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

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