



**Parish Magazine** 



May 2023

#### St Paul's Church, Church Hill, London N21 IJA

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# **Dear Friends**

This month is the month of the coronation!

There's a lot about kings in the Bible, particularly in the Old Testament. Saul, David and Solomon are significant figures in the history of Israel. These kings, and their successors, were anointed: a sacred ceremony denoting that the king was chosen and appointed by God.

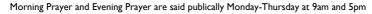
The anointing of the monarch is part of the liturgy of the coronation for us too. This short letter is not the place to explore properly the theology of kingship, but there is, of course, a clear role for our king in the religious life of our nation. He is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, a title first used by Elizabeth I, and, as our coinage reminds us, *fidei defensor* – defender of the faith.

Recent polls suggest that not everyone is excited about the coronation, particularly the younger generations. Perhaps this is a shift in our culture which mirrors a gradual wandering away from organised religion too. My sense is that some of this will change as the great day approaches, and coronation fever grips the nation. And my hope and prayer is that, in this sacred ceremony watched by millions, people will glimpse something of the glory of Jesus Christ, the king of the universe, who our earthly king serves.

With love and prayers

Fr Daniel

# Services in May 2023



The church is open for private prayer Monday-Thursday from 9am to 5.15pm

Day	Date	Observance	Time	Services	Prayer Intention
Μ	1	St Philip and St James			Sarah, our Bishop
Т	2	St Athanasius			Theologians
W	3		12.30pm	Eucharist	The homeless
Т	4	English Saints and Martyrs	9am	Whole School Service	The faith of our nation
F	5				The Royal Family
S	6	Coronation Day		Live-stream of	HM The King
		-		Coronation	_
S	7	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8am	Said Eucharist	Our parish and its people
			9.15am	Joyful Noise Eucharist	
			10.30am	Sung Eucharist	
			6pm	Choral Evensong	
Μ	8	Julian of Norwich			The spiritual life
Т	9				The Mothers' Union
W	10		12.30pm	Eucharist	St Paul's School
			2.30pm	Infant Annual Service	
Т	11				Peace in Ukraine
F	12				Refugees
S	13				Commerce and industry
S	14	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8am	Said Eucharist	Our parish and its people
			9.15am	Joyful Noise	
			10.30am	Sung Eucharist	
			I2pm	Junior Annual Service	
Μ	15	St Matthias the Apostle	9am	Eucharist	Vocations to the priesthood
Т	16				Children and young people
W	17		12.30pm	Eucharist	Farming and agriculture
Т	18	ASCENSION DAY	8pm	Sung Eucharist	The glory of heaven
F	19	St Dunstan			London Borough of Enfield
S	20	St Alcuin of York		Pilgrimage from	Pilgrims
				Redbourn to St Albans	
S	21	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF	8am	Said Eucharist	Our parish and its people
		EASTER	9.15am	Joyful Noise Eucharist	
			10.30am	Sung Eucharist	
			12pm	Annual Meetings	
М	22				Our churchwardens
Т	23				Our link parish in Negage
W	24		12.30pm	Eucharist	The terminally ill
Т	25	The Venerable Bede			Historians
F	26	St Augustine of Canterbury			Missionaries
S	27				The outpouring of the Holy
					Spirit
S	28	PENTECOST	8am	Said Eucharist	Our parish and its people
			9.15am	Joyful Noise	
			10.30am	Sung Eucharist	
М	29				Our volunteers
Т	30				Victims of global warming
W	31	The Visit of the BVM	12.30pm	Eucharist	Grace to magnify the Lord

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)



# **RAINBOW LEADERS WANTED**

After more than 30 years of committed service, Sarah and Lindsey will be retiring

at the end of the summer term. So we are on the lookout for some new dedicated volunteer leaders for Rainbows (part of the Girl Guiding movement, for girls aged 4-7). This is an exciting and rewarding opportunity. If you are interested to know more, please contact us by email at

linbows

lindseyr@blueyonder.co.uk





FROM THE REGISTERS MARCH 2023

BAPTISM

26<sup>th</sup> March **Elodie Daley** 

FUNERAL

I<sup>st</sup> March Julie Warren



# **PRAYER BOARD**

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles,

and all who are in authority under him;

that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# MINISTRY TEAM ARTICLES ANY QUESTIONS?

# THIS MONTH'S QUESTION - DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?

Yes! As we exclaim at Easter: *Christ is risen*! The joy we feel is ultimately the best evidence there is. But there is more, there is evidence which I am confident would stand up in a court of law.

First, the securely sealed tomb in which Christ was laid was empty. It had been sealed precisely to stop anyone stealing the body and claiming that Jesus had risen. This is a first step for our answer: if Christ really did rise from the dead then his tomb had to be empty.

And the body was never found – that would have been the surest way for the authorities to put an end to the teaching of the troublesome Christian sect. And if the disciples had hidden the body, this would surely have been tortured out of them by the authorities. Rather than confessing to a conspiracy, the disciples who were martyred went to their deaths proclaiming not Christ's body stolen, but Christ's body risen.

And then we have numerous eye-witness accounts that lesus did indeed rise from the dead. Each Gospel contains its share, and some of the Gospels share accounts from the same source. The panel below summarises the accounts. Like most eye-witness accounts of an event, there are differences, and some of these reflect the fact that we are hearing about different occasions when lesus appeared to his followers. But there is a common core to the accounts: Female disciples set out to the tomb on the first day of the week (i.e. Sunday). The tomb was open and empty. Jesus appeared to numerous disciples later that day, and on following days. Some initially did not recognise him, or refused to believe. All end up believing that they encountered the risen Jesus. Jesus commissions his disciples to go out into the world and share the good news. They do just that. Take any of the detailed accounts and ponder them. There is something about each which goes beyond any fiction deep into facts which are so compelling, so unlike anything else we have ever heard that the only sensible conclusion is that they really happened. You literally could not have made it up. People often make up ghost stories, but these accounts of a resurrection rather than a haunting stand on their own in the whole of history. And anyone making up the stories would not have started with the evidence of women, because the evidence of women was treated as much less compelling than the evidence of men. And the stories are full of details which I can't imagine being made up, like the rolled up cloth which had

covered Jesus's head "not lying with the linen wrappings but in a place by itself". Why are the details so painfully beautiful?

And in his ministry Jesus had taught that he would rise again after death. If we believe in Jesus from our own experience of his presence in our lives, we should surely believe him when he told his disciples that he would be killed and then rise again.

Jesus's rising again was not some kind of optional extra or special effect. It was central to his mission. It demonstrated once and for all that he had overcome death and destruction, and it is reason for us to trust that our death shall not be our destruction.

St Paul explained the importance and significance of Christ's resurrection in his first letter to the Corinthians: "Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain... If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile..." (1 Corinthians 15:12-17). Without the resurrection there are only endings: the ending of Jesus and the ending of our existence.

The centrality of the resurrection is reflected by these words about our belief in Jesus which we say in the creed each week, and which keep us focussed on the central facts of our faith:

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again

Further reason to believe in the resurrection is found in the dramatic effect which something had on the disciples immediately after the crucifixion. The disciples were transformed from timid frightened followers into fearless evangelists. I can only think that it was the personal experience of the risen Christ which can have had such an effect. Anything else would not have been enough, and would surely have worn off. The risen Jesus was the ultimate proof that the disciples had been the companions of the Son of God, and only such a concrete proof putting any doubt to death could have had such a transformative effect.

So, Yes! We can and we should believe that Jesus really was raised from the dead.

Going back to the court room, I would conclude that we can confidently believe on the balance of probabilities that Jesus was raised from the dead. Christ's resurrection is established as an event in history. And not just *an* event, it is for us *the* event in history.

But can we believe to the higher standard of proof which is beyond all reasonable doubt? Sometimes I am not so sure. But that is where our faith comes in, and our trust in Jesus and what he said and in what he means to us, and the joy we feel in our hearts. Our experience of Jesus is what moves us beyond the balance of probabilities. I think that the journey of faith with Jesus, day by day, Eucharist by Eucharist, Easter by Easter is a journey from being satisfied on the balance of probability to being convinced beyond any reasonable doubt. Thanks to Jesus, I am more sure with each Easter.

Alleluia. Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed. Alleluia.

Mark Ashworth Easter 2023

# <u>Summary of the accounts of Jesus's resurrection in the Gospels</u>: St Matthew

Mary Magdalen and the other Mary go to the tomb where an angel tells them that Jesus has been raised and shows them the empty tomb, and says that Jesus has gone to Galilee. They run back to tell the disciples, and meet Jesus on the way saying "Greetings", and they come up to him and take hold of his feet and worship him. Jesus tells them to tell his disciples to go the Galilee where they will see him. The disciples go to Galilee and meet Jesus there on the mountain which Jesus had directed them to. Jesus commissions the disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything which he had commanded. His final recorded words are: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age".

# St Mark

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome go to the tomb, where an angel tells them that Jesus has been raised, and tells them to tell his disciples that Jesus is going ahead to Galilee, where they will see him, just as Jesus had told them.

The Gospel was extended to add that Mary Magdalene went and told his disciples, who would not believe her. Jesus then appeared to two of the disciples as they were walking into the country, who then went back to tell the rest, but they were not believed. Jesus then appeared to the eleven Apostles as they were sitting at the table. Jesus upbraids them for their doubt, and then commissions them to "Go into the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation".

# St Luke

Mary Magdalen, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and other women who had followed Jesus to Jerusalem went to the tomb which they found empty. They meet two angels who ask them "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you ... that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and on the third day rise again". The women tell the apostles but are not believed. Simon Peter runs to the tomb and finds it empty. Later that day Jesus appears to two disciples on the road to Emmaus and they share a meal together. The two disciples then return to Jerusa-lem to tell the Apostles what had happened, and they are met with the news that Jesus had appeared to Simon Peter. While they are talking, Jesus stands among them and greets them with "Peace be with you". Jesus reassures them that he is not a ghost by inviting them to touch him. Jesus then explains that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.

The Acts of the Apostles (the continuation of St Luke's Gospel) adds that after his crucifixion Jesus presented himself alive to his disciples "by many convincing proofs", appearing to them over the course of forty days. Jesus commissions the disciples to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Just after saying this Jesus ascended and a cloud took him out of their sight.

# St John

Mary Magdalen goes to the tomb and finds the stone has been rolled away. She runs and tells Simon Peter and John, who run to the tomb which they find is empty. They return home, but Mary stays. Mary looks into the empty tomb and sees two angels who ask her why she is weeping, and she explains that her Lord has been taken away. She turns and Jesus is standing behind her, but she does not recognise him. Jesus also asks why she is weeping, and she asks him to tell her where he has taken the body if he has removed it. Jesus responds by saying "Mary!" and at that she recognises him. Jesus tells Mary not to cling to him, but to go and tell the disciples that he is ascending to his Father. Mary returns and tells the disciples that she has seen the Lord. Later that day lesus appears to the disciples who were behind locked doors for safety. Jesus greets the disciples with "Peace be with you" and then commissions them with the power to forgive. Thomas was not there and refuses to believe them unless he can see and touch Jesus's wounds. A week later Thomas is with the disciples in the same room and Jesus appears again with the same greeting. Jesus asks Thomas to look at and touch his wounds. Thomas responds "My Lord and my God!". Later lesus appears to seven disciples standing on the shore by the Sea of Tiberius, and has prepared breakfast which they eat with some of the 153 fish they had caught with Jesus's help. Jesus commissions Simon Peter to tend his flock, and in the process reminds Peter of his three denials of knowing him.

Have a question about what we do in church, or an aspect of the Christian faith? Email <u>questions@spwh.org</u> or use the box at the back of church.

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#### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY AT ST PAUL'S







Lighting the Paschal Candle at the Easter Vigil







# Curry Night on Friday 19th May

to raise funds for St Paul's annual charity



# The Nightingale Cancer Support Centre 7.30 pm in the Church Hall (Doors open 7.15 pm)

Three course meal with vegetarian options

Bring your own drinks

Tickets: Adults: £15 Children (under 12): £10 Family: £40 (2 adults + 2 children)

To book tickets either

email <u>magazine@spwh.org</u> or



 complete one of the booking forms that will be on the table at the back of church and post it in Parish Post Box (outside the hall) enclosing either cash or a cheque payable to 'St Paul's PCC'. Please order tickets by 14<sup>th</sup> May.

# HALL HIRE

The main Church Hall can be hired for weekend birthday parties. £50 per hour. Discounts available for regular use. Contact our Facilities Manager, James Wilson for more information 07354 714043 or <u>facilities@spwh.org</u>

# Join us to celebrate the Coronation



#### Saturday 6 May

#### Live-Stream of the Coronation

All the build-up and the Coronation service on the big screen in church

Come dressed up for the occasion, or just as you are

Followed by celebratory drinks

#### Sunday 7 May

6pm Coronation Evensong

With special hymns, prayers and music to celebrate the Coronation

Guest preacher: The Revd Richard Bastable

8am, 9.15am & 10.30am services as usual, with prayers for His Majesty The King



# ST AMPHIBALUS WAY



a walking pilgrimage from Redbourn to St Albans Saturday 20 May, 2023



A gentle  $5\frac{1}{2}$  mile walk tracing St Amphibalus' journey from his resting place to the shrine built in his honour.

More details at www.spwh.org/pilgrimage Book at pilgrimage@spwh.org or phone 020 8886 3545 by 7 May

Non-walkers: Those wishing to join the Eucharist and talk at Redbourn and Evensong at St Albans, but without walking between, are welcome to do so. Please book using <u>pilgrimage@spwh.org</u>.

The charge of £7 applies to non-walkers as well as walkers.

# ST PAUL'S TRUST QUIZ NIGHT

The ever-popular St Paul's Trust Quiz took place on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Concentration was high during each of the rounds, with occasional bursts





of laughter from the nine teams as they struggled to remember answers or to sculpt a balloon animal (this year's practical round).

As well as being a very enjoyable evening, the Quiz raised around  $\pounds450$  for the Trust.

The Trust was set up as a charity in 1982 to provide money to develop and maintain the fabric and amenities of St Paul's Church,

the Garden of Rest and other Church buildings.

To find out more about the work of the Trust and how to become a member and supports its valuable work, either search the church website <u>www.spwh.org</u> or pick up a leaflet from the back of Church.

# MAY 2023 FLOWER ROTA

5 <sup>th</sup> May	Group meeting to decorate the church for the		
-	Coronation		
13 <sup>th</sup> May	Adele Houldsworth		
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Sally Shearman		
a ath a d			

29<sup>th</sup> May Elaine Bunce

We would like to thank our wonderful flower arrangers for creating such beautiful floral displays over Easter.

Our Flower Arranging Organizer, Adele Houldsworth, would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join the team, both experienced flower arrangers and people who would like to develop their skills. To contact Adele ring 020 8360 3676. **MOTHERS**'



On 20th April, we welcomed our curate, Pete Hopkins, who told us about his journey to ordination.

UNION

Although he was born in the UK, Pete spent his early childhood in Nepal, where his parents were Baptist missionaries. The family returned to the UK and settled in Bognor Regis, where Pete attended Bishop Luffa C of E school. It was through the school, which had strong links with Chichester Cathedral, that Pete first encountered the Church of England. However, he remained firmly committed to the

Baptist Church, with its international missionary network. Pete travelled widely visiting Baptist missions in Brazil and Europe. He also returned to Nepal, spending six months in Kathmandu.

He studied Philosophy and Spanish at King's College, London and became President of the Christian Union there, frequently using the College chapel for events. The college chaplains ran a discernment group for students who felt drawn to a life of ministry, which Pete attended. During this time, Pete also began to attend St Luke's Church in Kentish Town, where Pete said that the curate encouraged his interest and "nurtured me in my faith."

Pete spent a year in Medellin, Colombia, as part of his degree course, living in a community and working in a home for displaced children, before returning to London. After completing his studies and marrying Ingridi, Pete spent time back at St Luke's, working as a Parish Assistant. He then took up a place at St Mellitus College, where he was inspired by Rowan Williams, who was doing some lecturing there, and has had placements at churches in Hampstead and Tufnell Park, before coming to Winchmore Hill.

Of his decision to train to be a priest, Pete says that he didn't have a "Eureka!" moment. As a teenager, he had always felt called to work in a ministry role and having "discovered" the Anglican Church during his time at university, it seemed like a natural step in his faith journey.

Theresa Davis





# ST PAUL'S CORONATION FAIR SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023 11 AM TO 2PM

You will see from our advert on the opposite page that we are holding our annual Fair on 13<sup>th</sup> May from 11.00 to 2.00 and this year's theme is to celebrate King Charles 111 coronation. We ask 3 things:

- \* Product to sell bottles, toys, plants, cakes, puzzles, books and bric-a-brac. Please leave at the back of church.
- Alternatively, donations can be brought to the Hall on the evening of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May or before 10.30 on the day of the Fair;
- \* Volunteers to help set up the night before and more importantly on the day of the fair. Contact either Susie Mansfield or Martyn Caswell who will co-ordinate volunteers.
- \* Please put in your diary so that we can get the support we need to make the Fair a success.



# SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MAY

MU CAKE STALL AT THE CORONATION FAIR

WE WIL NEED CAKE DONATIONS FOR THE STALL AND MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER TO SELL THE CAKES AT THE FAIR.

# THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY AT 2 PM IN THE HALL

Theresa Davis will give a talk on Patchworking and Quilting

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ALL OUR MOTHERS' UNION MEETINGS AND

# SUNDAY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AT ST PAUL'S

As well as our weekly 9.15 'Joyful Noise' service for pre-school children, during term time we have three groups that meet each week during the 10.30 Sung Eucharist service.

የ	Sparks	for children from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to Year 2
ዮ	Ignite	for children from Year 3 to Year 5, and

Please use this link to book a place for your child at any of the three 10.30 groups: <u>https://forms.gle/RsiaZ2FLnS3EwsVx6</u>

# APPEAL FOR FOOD DONATIONS



For the first time ever, foodbanks organised by local churches and the North Enfield Foodbank, are finding themselves giving out more food than is being donated to them. As a result, their stocks are continually running critically low!

Thank you for all of the donations of non-

perishable foodstuffs that are left in the church porch each week. Please keep the donations coming as this problem is not going to go away any time soon.

# MOTHERS UNION WORSHIP AND OUTREACH

As well as holding monthly meetings, our MU members occasionally meet up with other Mothers' Union branches for worship and outreach work.

One recent example was the Deanery Lady Day Service at St Peter with St Martin in Edmonton on 24<sup>th</sup> March. During the final procession, banners from local MU branches were paraded, including our banner, which was carried by Theresa Davis.

A few days later, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, three of our members joined members of other MU



branches from across London at Wormwood Scrubs to sign Easter cards for Christian prisoners, the majority of whom were on remand awaiting trial.



The Parish of St. Paul's thanks these local advertisers for their continuing help and hopes that whenever possible you will support them.



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