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WINCHMORE HILL



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SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER**

Parish Magazine

Price 50p

October 2026

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Dear Friends

For all my adult life I have used a page-per-view paper diary. Over the summer I have transitioned to an electronic diary. It has been quite a change. I fear some of my colleagues are a little sick of hearing about it!

It has been a mostly positive experience. The flexibility of choosing to look at a day, a week or a month at a time has helped with my diary management. I have learnt to prioritise certain tasks. For example, I am now ring-fencing time for sermon preparation in weeks when I am down to preach, rather than fitting it round other tasks or leaving it till the last minute. (Only you can be judges of whether it makes any difference to the quality of my preaching!) I am also hopeful that it might help me to strike a better balance between activity and rest, between time spent with God, with family, with friends, and (as an introvert) on my own.

This has made me think about how time is a precious gift from God. Like every precious God-given gift, it is something which we are called to treasure and to steward well. Too often time is taken for granted, or is wished away. It is often only when we lose time, or feel it has been taken away from us, that we realise just how precious it is.

Psalm 90 takes up this theme. It's a psalm which many of you will know in its metrical form in the hymn *O God, our help in ages past*. 'For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday,' the psalmist declares to God. And then, later, there is a petition: 'So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.'

Let us then use our time well, not least in serving God and serving others. And may our time on earth be for us a preparation for the eternity which awaits us in heaven.

With my love and prayers

Fr Daniel

Services in October 2026



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

ST PAUL'S CHURCH
WINCHMORE HILL

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

Day	Date	Observance	Time	Services	Prayer Intention
T	1				<i>Carers</i>
F	2				<i>The media</i>
S	3		10am	Edmonton Area MU Eucharist	<i>The Mothers' Union</i>
S	4	HARVEST FESTIVAL	8am 10am	Said Eucharist All-Together Eucharist	<i>Our parish and its people</i>
M	5				<i>Peace in the Middle East</i>
T	6				<i>The medical profession</i>
W	7		12.30pm	Eucharist	<i>St Michael, Negage</i>
T	8			Pilgrimage to	<i>Our pilgrims</i>
F	9			Canterbury	<i>Those who travel</i>
S	10	St Paulinus			<i>Canterbury Cathedral</i>
S	11	THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Sung Eucharist	<i>Our parish and its people</i>
M	12	St Wilfrid of Ripon			<i>Missionaries</i>
T	13	St Edward the Confessor			<i>HM The King</i>
W	14		12.30pm	Eucharist	<i>The environment</i>
T	15	St Teresa of Avila			<i>Our spiritual lives</i>
F	16				<i>St Paul's School</i>
S	17	St Ignatius of Antioch			<i>Those who teach the faith</i>
S	18	ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST	8am 9.15am 10.30am 6pm	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Eucharist Sung Eucharist Choral Evensong	<i>Our parish and its people</i>
M	19				<i>St Paul's Trust</i>
T	20				<i>HM Government</i>
W	21		12.30pm	Eucharist	<i>Appointment of the next Bishop of London</i>
T	22				<i>Racial justice</i>
F	23				<i>The faithful departed</i>
S	24				<i>Peace in the world</i>
S	25	THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Sung Eucharist	<i>Our parish and its people</i>
M	26				<i>HM Armed Forces</i>
T	27				<i>Licensed Lay Ministers</i>
W	28	St Simon and St Jude	12.30pm	Eucharist	<i>Anderson, Bishop of Edmonton</i>
T	29				<i>Those who mourn</i>
F	30				<i>Emergency services</i>
S	31				<i>Parish clergy</i>

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

AUGUST 2026

BAPTISMS

9th August

Elliot and Olivia Eivers

HARVEST PRAYER

We bless you,
 God of Seed and Harvest and we
 bless each other
 That the beauty of this world
 And the love that created it
 Might be expressed through our lives
 And be a blessing to others
 Now and always,
 Amen

HALL HIRE

The Church and our Halls are available for hire for weekend events.

Main Hall - £54.50 per hour.

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3 hour minimum for a party booking

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Emily Jarosch at facilities@spwh.org or 07579102094

AND NOW, O FATHER, MINDFUL OF THE LOVE

I have lost count of the hymns which, at one time or another, I have counted as 'my favourite'. The current and a recurring favourite is a communion hymn by the nineteenth century Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History, William Bright. It is, in my view, the finest Eucharistic hymn from an Anglican pen

Bright was part of the second generation of the Oxford Movement. John Keble's Assize Sermon, preached in the University Church in July 1833, had begun a movement which called the Church of England to recover its Catholicity. Bright and his contemporaries helped the Church of England to understand again the centrality of the Eucharist, and the idea that the Holy Communion was not simply a memorial meal, but an offering made to God, re-presenting the offering of Our Lord on the cross.

Bright's hymn paraphrases the section of the Canon of the (Catholic) Mass which comes directly after the Words of Institution. He wrote the hymn to be sung during the Distribution of Holy Communion, which, in the Book of Common Prayer rite, comes directly after those Words of Institution. So, like much of the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Anglo-Catholic movement, the hymn was rather subversive. ('The priest isn't allowed to say these words, so we'll sing them instead!') This also explains why it is one of only a handful of hymns which begins with the word 'And'.

The first verse therefore gives an understated but very clear presentation of Eucharistic sacrifice:

*And now, O Father, mindful of the love
that bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree,
and having with us him that pleads above,
we here present, we here spread forth to thee
that only offering perfect in thine eyes,
the one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.*

I love this hymn not only for its sound Eucharistic theology, but also because it seems to me to put into words everything I want

to pray during Holy Communion. The next verse is, in a way, a confession, asking God to have mercy on our shortcomings. I know that too often my prayer is 'so languid' and my 'faith so dim', so this verse helps me to seek God's mercy:

*Look, Father, look on his anointed face,
and only look on us as found in him;
look not on our misusings of thy grace,
our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim:
for lo, between our sins and their reward
we set the Passion of thy Son our Lord.*

When we are about to receive, or have just received, Holy Communion, we have some precious time to pray before our Eucharistic Lord. The next verse again helps me to put into words more beautiful than I could craft prayers for those for whom I am bound to pray: my family, my friends, and the people as a priest I am called to serve:

*And then for those, our dearest and our best,
by this prevailing presence we appeal:
O fold them closer to thy mercy's breast,
O do thine utmost for their souls' true weal;
from tainting mischief keep them white and clear,
and crown thy gifts with strength to persevere.*

In the final verse there is both the sense of adoration which is proper during Holy Communion, but also the call to be sent out to live in our lives what we have proclaimed in the Eucharist. It is a prayer which all of us who have received the Sacrament can make, but for me it takes on an added dimension, as it echoes a private prayer the celebrant prays shortly before receiving the Sacrament, which ends:

*... free me by this, your most holy Body and Blood,
from all my sins and from every evil;
keep me always faithful to your commandments,
and never let me be parted from you.*

(Continued overleaf)

Bright's hymn ends:

*And so we come: O draw us to thy feet,
most patient Saviour, who canst love us still;
and by this food, so awful and so sweet,
deliver us from every touch of ill:
in thine own service make us glad and free,
and grant us never more to part with thee.*

The hymn was published in the 1875 edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, and set to a tune by the prolific hymn tune composer, W H Monk, *Unde et Memores* (the first words of the prayer Bright paraphrases). The only other of Bright's hymns to come into common use was another Communion hymn which focussed on the theme of Eucharistic sacrifice: *Once, only once, and once for all*. The most recent edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, which we use at St Paul's, has inexplicably excluded it. So, at least for us, for now, *And now, O Father* is the only William Bright hymn we sing. But, given that I choose the hymns, we sing it quite a lot!

Fr Daniel

MU SEPTEMBER PRAYER HOUR

Mthr Lyanne was the speaker at the Mothers' Union Prayer Hour in St Paul's Cathedral on 10th September. She spoke about The Bromsgrove Guild of Applied Art which, from 1898 to 1966, was renowned for its plaster work, metal work, stained glass and woodwork. As well as showing examples of their ecclesiastical work, Mthr Lyanne talked of other well-known commissions, including war memorials, the iron gates of Buckingham Palace and Liverpool's Liver Birds.

She ended her talk by opening our eyes to the beauty of the God-given craftsmanship that surrounded us in the Cathedral.



Prisons Week 2026 runs from 11th to 17th October this year.

The charity 'Prisons Week' wants to see an end to human suffering caused by crime and imprisonment - for ALL those affected.

It believes that faith moves mountains, and that prayer moves God. It also believes that when we pray with faith God often moves us to be the answer to those prayers.

The Church of England actively supports and participates in Prisons Week and, together with other churches and organizations from across the Christian Community, issues a call to prayer for change where change is needed.

There is a Prayer Diary for this week-long campaign which this year falls between 11th and 17th October. This year the daily meditations and prayers are based on the Parable of the Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22 v 1 – 14). Each day a prayer focuses on different aspects of the parable in relation to those affected by crime – victims, prisoners, prisoners' families, prison staff and the judicial system. In addition to the daily prayers, there is an overall prayer for the whole week (see below).

The Prison Week Prayer

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison.
Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends,
prison staff and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others,
especially the victims of crime.

Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk
humbly together with Christ in his strength and his spirit,
now and every day.

Amen

To access the complete prayer diary go to
<https://www.prisonsw.org/>.

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ST PAUL'S TRUST

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 18 October

4.30 pm

Talk by James Thomson
Former Head Server
Church

5.00 pm

Afternoon Tea & AGM
Church Hall

6.00 pm

Evensong

Please stay for Evensong

All are warmly welcome



This term's first Mothers' Union meeting on 17th September was entitled - An object with a story, a topic chosen in October 2024, back by popular demand. Members were invited to bring an object with an interesting story to share with the group.

All items had a family thread, from a 1950's writing case given to a daughter leaving home to train as a nurse in London, it's original contents soon used, it now contains nursing memorabilia, providing memories of a long happy nursing career. We admired an imposing large gold cross, made from items of gold jewellery left by our member's mother. It was bigger than that worn by the Bishop of Ely when its owner was introduced to her at a service there. Fortunately she chose not to wear it on that occasion!



We were then introduced to a trio of cute monks, a much loved but never used curette set, bought on honeymoon by a member's mother. Treasured for many years, one monk was broken at a similar event to ours at the Women's Institute. Happily, some years later a replica was found in a Cornish bric-à-brac shop, which restored the trio and delighted its owner. Our final item was a 19th century silver family heirloom, a Christening cup, going back several generations. It was a beautiful cup with embossed Chinese scenes depicting good and evil, presented by a grandfather to his granddaughter. Members took the opportunity to look closely at these items, and thankfully nothing was broken, which just goes to show Mothers' Union members are more careful than those of the Women's Institute!

An interesting afternoon enjoyed by us all, accompanied by delicious cake and tea.

Cheryl Humphreys



If you cannot get along on the night, Christmas Pudding Kits can be ordered for £12. All tickets and kits must be booked by 15th November.

MOTHERS' UNION DIARY OCTOBER 2026

THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER AT 2 PM IN CHURCH

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