



ST PAUL'S CHURCH

WINCHMORE HILL



Parish Magazine

Price 50p

November 2025

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Dear Friends

One of my happy memories of university was attending weekday Choral Evensong in Durham Cathedral, particularly in the winter. My college was across the road from the Cathedral, and there was something both evocative and comforting about donning my coat, stepping out into whatever weather the North-East had served up that evening, and then hiding myself in the semi-darkness of Durham's seventeenth century stalls. It felt like I was eavesdropping on centuries of near-timeless worship.

I always think of this in November, as the days shorten and evenings lengthen, partly because I have a very vivid memory of a year when, like this year, the consecutive feast days of St Hugh of Lincoln, St Elizabeth of Hungary, St Hilda of Whitby and St Edmund the King all fell in midweek. That week the Canon in Residence was a canon who was well-known for his slightly eccentric prayers. If it was a saint's day, he would reference a characteristic of the saint's life, and then – in his unhurried, upper-class Scottish accent – 'pray for all those who [insert characteristic] in our own day'.

I think it was St Hilda who, I discovered on that cold, November evening, had problems with haemorrhoids. This resulted in the learned canon praying for 'all those who suffer from piles in our own day'. I made the mistake of catching the eye of another undergraduate sitting opposite me, which meant that I spent the rest of Evensong having to control my giggles. (Happily, I've grown up since then. At least, a bit.)

Why am I telling you all this? Well, it always makes me smile when I prepare the list of services for November. It reminds me too, in this month in which we celebrate the Church Triumphant, that the saints were human too. We thank God for their victories and virtues, but we also rejoice in their humanness: warts and all. And piles.

May the saints of God inspire us by their example, urge us on with their prayers, and may God give us grace to walk in their steps towards the attainment of everlasting life.

With my love and prayers

Fr Daniel

Services in November 2025



Morning Prayer is said publicly at 9.10am and Evening Prayer at 5pm Monday-Thursday. ST PAUL'S CHURCH

BIRCHDALE HILL

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

Day	Date	Observance	Time	Services	Prayer Intention
S	1	ALL SAINTS	12.30pm	Eucharist	The communion of saints
S	2	FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	8am 9.15am 10.30am 12pm 6pm	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Sung Eucharist Holy Baptism Sung Requiem Eucharist	Our parish and its people
M	3				Racial justice
T	4				Our building projects
W	5		12.30pm	Eucharist	Peace in the world
T	6				Our ministry team
F	7	St Willibrord of York			Missionaries
S	8	Saints and Martyrs of England			The faith of our land
S	9	THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT Remembrance Sunday	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Sung Eucharist with Act of Remembrance	Our parish and its people
M	10	St Leo the Great			Pope Leo
T	11	St Martin of Tours Armistice Day	9am	Whole School Service	The fallen
W	12		12.30pm	Eucharist	Carers
T	13				Our families and friends
F	14				The environment
S	15				The elderly
S	16	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT Safeguarding Sunday	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Eucharist Sung Eucharist	Our parish and its people
M	17	St Hugh of Lincoln			Our PCC
T	18	St Elizabeth of Hungary			Safeguarding in the church
W	19	St Hilda of Whitby	12.30pm	Eucharist	Religious
T	20	St Edmund, King of the East Angles			World leaders
F	21				Children and young people
S	22	St Cecilia			Musicians
S	23	CHRIST THE KING	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Sung Eucharist	Our parish and its people
M	24				Those suffering with dementia
T	25		9am	School Eucharist	St Paul's School
W	26		12.30pm	Eucharist	Victims of slavery
T	27				Local businesses
F	28				Our fundraising efforts
S	29				Victims of poverty
S	30	ADVENT SUNDAY	8am 10am	Said Eucharist All-Together Eucharist Advent Carol Service	Our parish and its people

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 2025



BAPTISM

3rd August Thomas Graham

FUNERAL

5th August John Childs

OCTOBER 2025 FLOWER ROTA



1 st November	Adele Houldsworth
8 th November	Remembrance Wreaths. All welcome to help.
15 th November	Sharon Saunders
22 nd November	Sally Shearman
29 th November	Christmas wreath and clear church for advent

Our Flower Arranging Organiser, Adele Houldsworth, would like to thank MU members Sue Laurie, Chris Hey, Anne Croxford and Cheryl Humphreys for helping with the Harvest flowers. She would welcome anyone else who would like to help with the flowers occasionally. You can contact Adele on 020 8360 3676.

Adele would also like to say a huge thank you to Sharon Saunders who is stepping down from the group at the end of November after supporting the flower group for several years. She will be greatly missed.

Everyone at St Paul's sincerely thanks Adele Houldsworth and Sally Shearman for their continued service to St Paul's providing such beautiful floral decorations week by week.

Advent Sunday

30 November 2025



8am Said Eucharist

10am All-Together Eucharist

Combining our usual 9.15am and 10.30am services

6pm Advent Carol Service

A journey from darkness into light

The Scout Christmas Fair follows the All-Together Eucharist.

PRAYER BOARD

O God of truth and justice,

we hold before you those whose memory we cherish,
and those whose names we will never know.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world,
and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

Amen

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 or 07946 852 110

14 December 2025

10.30am

All Ages Welcome

For unto us
a child is born!



Rehearsal Dates: Sat 22 Nov 4-5pm in Church
7th & 14th of Dec at 10.30 in Church Hall



Join the
**St. Paul's
Community
Choir**

Sign up here



PAUL – A BIOGRAPHY BY TOM WRIGHT**CHAPTER 7 – INTO EUROPE**

As we continue our journey through Tom Wright's Biography of St Paul, this month's chapter traces Paul's missionary path from Antioch through Troas, Philippi, and Macedonia, ultimately arriving in Athens.

The chapter opens with an account of the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas, leading Barnabas and Mark to sail to Cyprus - effectively exiting the narrative of the Book of Acts. Paul, meanwhile, sets out with a new companion, Silas (also known as Silvanus), who was a fellow Roman citizen and member of the Jerusalem church. Their journey proceeds without clear divine direction - guidance appears primarily in the form of prohibitions, such as the Spirit forbidding them from entering the province of Asia. Along the way, Paul is joined by Timothy who is most likely in his late teens or early twenties. Paul was by this time in his late thirties or early forties and so Timothy must have seemed like the son that Paul never had. A strong bond of understanding and mutual trust forms between the two, marking the beginning of a significant partnership.

Timothy was the son of a believing Jewish woman and a Greek father. So, says Luke, Paul circumcised him "because of the Jews in those regions, since they all knew that his father was Greek". Having strongly refused to circumcise Titus, despite intense pressure from the hard-line Jerusalem activists, this has left readers puzzled. We see here the start of a tricky policy that Paul spells out in 1 Corinthians 9. Everything depends on motivation. Paul wanted to bring Timothy with him on the next leg of his mission, and in doing so, he needed to reassure any sceptical Jewish audiences that his team was, in every visible sense, Jewish. His choice to circumcise Timothy was not out of theological obligation but out of pastoral sensitivity. When engaging with Jewish communities, Paul was willing to observe their customs - not because he believed God required it, but for the sake of his ministry.

In the region of Troas, the narrative of Acts shifts. The pronoun changes from 'they'; to 'we'; suggesting that the author - traditionally believed to be Luke - joins the group at this point. It is here that Paul

receives in a dream, a vision of a man from Macedonia pleading for help. Luke writes, “When he had seen the vision, at once we set about finding a way to get to Macedonia”. This moment becomes both a symbolic and historical turning point, signalling the Gospel’s move westward into Europe.

Their first major stop is Philippi, a Roman colony. Here, Paul meets Lydia, a wealthy Gentile and worshiper of God, who becomes his first convert in Europe. Following her conversion, Lydia’s whole family is baptised and she extends hospitality to the party, insisting that they stay at her home.

Paul and Silas soon encounter conflict when, on meeting a demon-possessed slave girl who earns an income from telling fortunes, they free her from the demon thereby depriving her owners of a source of income. The two are arrested and jailed, but during the night, as they pray and sing hymns, an earthquake opens the prison doors. This miraculous event leads to the conversion of the jailer and the release of Paul and Silas.

From Philippi, the mission continues to Thessalonica, the Roman capital of Macedonia. Paul teaches in the synagogue, but rising opposition from local Jews stirs civic unrest, forcing Paul and Silas to flee to Beroea. There, they initially find a more receptive audience, but once news of their activities reaches Thessalonica, agitators arrive to stir up trouble again. Paul becomes the focus of hostility and departs by sea, leaving Silas and Timothy behind. He arrives in Athens, sending word for his companions to join him as soon as possible.

Wright concludes the chapter by reflecting on what truly motivated Paul. Though often portrayed as difficult, confrontational, or hard to get along with, Wright presents a different perspective: Paul was, at his core, someone sustained and driven by love. As we follow his journey through the cities of northern Greece, we catch a glimpse of that love in action - expressed through a deeply personal and pastoral ministry shaped by both suffering and joy.

Alison Perera

Our Harvest Festival was celebrated on Sunday 5th October. The day began with an All-Together Eucharist, during which gifts for the North Enfield Foodbank were taken to the chancel and our Children's Choir sang 'The Harvest Samba'.



After the service, while some of the congregation moved into the Hall for coffee, many younger members enjoyed a snail race in the Vicarage Garden.



Our traditional Harvest Roast followed at 12 noon. Over 80 people, whose ages spanned nine decades, enjoyed roast beef and all the trimmings followed by fruit crumbles. This meal and the snail race raised over £800 for our annual charity, One-To-One, and we were delighted that representatives from the charity were able to join us at the meal.





Christmas Pudding Party

**FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER
FROM 8 PM IN THE CHURCH HALL**

**Ticket includes: Mulled wine, stollen and mince pies on arrival;
make your own Christmas pudding (ingredients provided - just
bring a mixing bowl, wooden spoon and apron)**

Tickets £15

**via mothersunion@spwh.org
or order form at back of church**

Everyone welcome!

**If you cannot get along on the night, Christmas Pudding Kits can be
ordered for £12. All tickets and kits must be booked by 16th November.**



On 23rd October, Mthr Lyanne gave a fascinating talk to the MU about her journey to the Priesthood. She started by telling us that she was brought up in a totally secular family and had no knowledge of God or the church until the 2010s.

After university, Lyanne lectured in fashion and design and graduated with a PhD in Design History. She showed us her beautifully bound PhD thesis which was on the Regent's Palace Hotel, an amazing Art Deco building, formally owned by J. Lyons & Co. She chose to study this building not only because of its design but also because of its egalitarian ethos. This was

possibly a hint of her future life, serving God and the community.

Her partner, Paul was a local politician in Leigh-on-Sea and Lyanne supported him in all the local community work that he undertook. She felt called to serve others, but not yet called by God.

Sadly, Paul was diagnosed with cancer in 2015, and before his treatment began they decided to get married in their local church of St Clement, even though neither of them were church goers. It was while planning the wedding in January 2016, that Lyanne was befriended by members of the congregation and gradually became part of the worshipping community. Very shortly after this, Lyanne went on a day visit to Walsingham with the church and while there, and although very new to the faith, she had a strong sense that God was calling her to be a priest - and at that time she had not even been confirmed.

Mthr Lyanne accepted God's calling and offered herself for ordination training. Despite failing to get through the first selection processes, and getting over the death of her husband Paul, she continued to follow God's call and was accepted for training at St Stephen's House.

Mthr Lyanne came to St Paul's as our curate in March this year, and many of us witnessed her ordination as Priest in September.

The condition of the ceiling in the church has caused concern since a small area of the 200 year old plaster collapsed in July and part of the church had to be cordoned off. Since this occurrence, the condition of the ceiling has been monitored regularly using expert advice. When the ceiling was inspected in October, our church architect advised that the building should be closed as a precautionary measure until after a more detailed inspection of the ceiling. This meant that Sunday services had to take place in the church hall and, at the time of publication, this is still the case.

The cost of the further inspection and temporary ceiling repairs will be in the region of £20,000, and permanent repairs are likely to cost in the region of £70,000. The PCC is appealing for donations towards the cost of this important repair work and other improvements planned for the church building, including redecoration.

Ways to donate towards this appeal:

By bank transfer: to:

Account name: St Paul Winchmore Hill PCC

Account number: 23119504

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Please use reference: Your name + 'CEILING'



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Or by using this link:

<https://givealittle.co/c/2GILcXuDnZqCKTJW0ol1jt>

MOTHERS' UNION DIARY NOVEMBER 2025

Our next meeting will be at 2pm on Thursday 13th November in the Church Hall when Theresa Davis will lead a Christmas Craft Workshop. Come along and make a Christmas decoration.

Christmas Pudding Party 21st November- information on page 11.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ALL OF OUR MU MEETINGS AND EVENTS

ST PAUL'S WINCHMORE HILL TRUST

The St Paul's Trust, a charity that was set up in 1982 to support the Christian mission of our church, has just had a busy few weeks.

The annual, and always popular, Trust Quiz took place on Friday, 26th September. This year it was held in memory of Alan Davis, who was the Chair of the Trust until his death earlier this year.

It was both a very fitting and popular result when the winning team was made up of his family and friends.



The Quiz raised £800 for the Trust funds.

Three weeks later, on Sunday 19th October, the Trust held its AGM.

The afternoon began with a presentation by Fr Daniel and Tim Chilton on the re-development plans for the church hall. This was followed by the AGM.



After the AGM afternoon

tea was enjoyed in the Paulin Room.

As is the custom on these occasions, the afternoon ended with Evensong, which this year took place in the church hall because of the ongoing problems with the church ceiling.

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