

# THE GRAPEVINE

MAY 2026

Issue - 86



ST PAUL'S CHICHESTER

SANCTUARY HOSPITALITY SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER

[WWW.STPAULSCHICHESTER.ORG](http://WWW.STPAULSCHICHESTER.ORG)



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SANCTUARY HOSPITALITY SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER

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**CHICHESTER**

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## *THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE GRAPEVINE*

**The deadline for June's edition is 2pm Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May.**

Copy can be submitted by email to [office@stpaulschichester.org](mailto:office@stpaulschichester.org)  
or as hardcopy to the office.

The June edition will be available from Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May  
The July/August issue which will be published on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June.



## *THE RECTOR'S LETTER:*

### *Ascension Day – an invitation to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come ....'*

Dear Friends,

Once we get to the month of May spring is at its most glorious and with longer days and sunnier weather we very much look forward to spending more time outside. It's a time when our routines can change. And when that happens, we can often miss things without realising it. The festival of the Ascension is I think one of the things we can easily forget. Like most years it sort of creeps up on us. One minute it seems to be Easter Day, and the next minute 39 days have passed, and Ascension Day arrives. It's one of those festivals in the church calendar that, because it's always exactly 39 days after Easter, is on a Thursday and so these days fewer people seem to have time to come to church to celebrate it. It's also a celebration that many Christians find difficult. And that's because the biblical references talk of Jesus being lifted up into a cloud or physically carried up into heaven. Whatever we personally believe happened, (I always love stained glass windows which feature an image of Jesus' feet disappearing into a cloud) the day still has an important message. It's a day when the church remembers the final moments that Jesus spends with his disciples after the resurrection, and a moment to also remember his promise that he will send the Holy Spirit to guide them and to give them the courage to take his message into the world. It's a reminder of the kingly rule of Jesus in the hearts of those who have faith in him. On the Sunday after Ascension Day, we hear a reading from the Acts of the Apostles which reminds us that all of the disciples 'constantly devoted themselves to prayer' and since 2016 the office of The Archbishop of Canterbury has encouraged the Church to take part in an initiative called 'Thy Kingdom come'. It's a time of prayer between the feasts of Ascension Day and Pentecost, or Whitsun, when we are invited to pray for friends, family members or neighbours. Prayer is something that I am sometimes asked about – often when people are dealing with difficult news or they are frustrated with or upset with what is going on in the world. How do we know that God has heard us, or that prayers will be answered? Of course, the most

straightforward answer is that we don't, but in faith we trust. That's not easy when we want a particular answer to something. But I wonder whether during the next month we might all simply try to make space to pray. That might be as straightforward as saying prayers each day that we remember from church, or we find in a book. Or we might just want to sit quietly and simply offer the concerns that we have on our hearts to God. We might also just want to sit in silence listening for God's voice. However we pray – and there is no right or wrong way to do that – why not end with the Lord's prayer knowing that as we all long for the peace, joy and love that the world is clearly lacking at this time, we are sharing with millions of Christians across the world in praying 'Thy Kingdom come'

With every blessing,

*Canon Paul*

## *CHORAL EVENSONG FOR CHRISTIAN AID WEEK*

*12<sup>th</sup> MAY, 5.30<sub>pm</sub>*

Chichester Cathedral will hold a special service of Choral Evensong to mark Christian Aid Week on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 5.30pm, with guest speaker Elizabeth Walker, Finance and Corporate Governance Director for Christian Aid.

All are welcome to attend the service, which will be followed by a drinks reception.

## *THE SEARCH FOR A NEW BISHOP OF CHICHESTER.*

Bishop Martin retires at the end of this month (May), and as a diocesan family we are beginning the search for his successor. Have your say in the appointment at [tinyurl.com/next-bishop](https://tinyurl.com/next-bishop) It will take only a few minutes to complete, and it is open until 26<sup>th</sup> May. We welcome responses from everyone. Find out more about the process for appointing our next bishop at [www.chichester.anglican.org/vacancy-in-see/](http://www.chichester.anglican.org/vacancy-in-see/) Hard copy questionnaires are available in the office.



# *JOURNEY OF GENEROSITY*

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April we started our Journey of Generosity in response to the Easter message and what God has done for us in Christ.

## ***Why have we started this journey ?***

St Paul's is a community of Christians who share in worship together and grow in discipleship together. We have a busy Parish Centre that supports many of the most vulnerable in our society, including Four Streets which provides hot meals for the homeless and vulnerable, and services for refugees. At present, the Church pays for a priest (Canon Paul Doick), youth work staff, musicians, caretaking and cleaning staff.

## ***How is this paid for ?***

St Paul's doesn't receive any central funding from the Church of England, so we can only do this through the generosity of our congregation, both through the support of many volunteers and through regular, planned financial giving which helps us to budget.

## ***How much should I give?***

This varies for everyone and depends on what you can afford. For financial giving, the Diocese of Chichester suggests that donations of about 5% of your net income after tax is a good average amount of regular giving. At St Paul's, an average monthly donation to the church would be around £80 a month.

## ***How can I give?***

If you can afford to make a regular payment, you can set up a direct debit through the Parish Giving Scheme, please either contact the Church Office or visit <https://www.paritygiving.org.uk>. Click on the 'giver' tab, then click on 'find your parish', and quote code 100610056, and follow the instructions. You can also call 0333 002 1271 and PGS staff will talk you through the process (you will also require the code above). If you require a gift form, please contact [giving@stpaulschichester.org](mailto:giving@stpaulschichester.org). There are options to include Gift Aid and to build in annual inflationary uplifts.

## ***What is the Parish Giving Scheme?***

This is a new way to give that will help St Paul's to be as efficient as possible. If you currently give to St Paul's regularly through a Standing Order, you can

change to the Parish Giving Scheme. Further information is set out in a leaflet entitled Journey of Generosity, and a separate sheet about the Parish Giving Scheme, available from the Parish Office, or from our Treasurer Ian Creswick, email him at [treasurer@stpaulschichester.org](mailto:treasurer@stpaulschichester.org)

## *'LET US PRAY.....'*

One of the things that is at the heart of our faith is prayer. It's something that we sometimes do without thinking about it. Praying for others can simply be bringing our thoughts before God, whether that's when we are watching the news or when we have spoken to a friend or family member who is struggling with an illness or a situation that's hard.

As a Church we bring these concerns before God each week in our intercessions at our 10am Eucharists on Sundays and Thursdays. But there are times in our own prayers when its helpful to have an area of life to focus on. So each month we publish a list of things that people can pray for at home, or wherever they pray. These themes will sometimes be used by those who lead our intercessions on a Sunday too. The particular areas of prayer for May are noted below – do use them in your own prayers.

## *Prayer Focus for May*

- All who are struggling with broken relationships.
- Those in the midst of famine or disaster.
- The work of Aid Agencies, especially Christian Aid, and for the work of the United Nations and the World health organisation.
- All who are involved with the media or who work in the arts or in historical societies, including the work of
  - Pallant House Gallery,
  - The Novium,
  - Chichester Festival Theatre and the Minerva Theatre,
  - Chichester Youth Theatre,
  - The Oxmarket centre of the arts
  - The Chichester City Arts Centre.
  - The Chichester Local History society.

## *Prayer for the month*

*Risen Christ,*

*you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:*

*help us to seek and serve you,*

*that we may join you at the Father's side,*

*where you reign with the Spirit in glory,*

*now and for ever. Amen*

If we aren't careful the feast of the Ascension can easily pass us by. Whilst the collect from the Book of Common Prayer wonderfully invites us to ascend with Jesus in our hearts and minds, this alternative collect provides a different invitation. It asks Jesus to help us to seek and serve him. One of the themes of the Ascension is that Jesus promises once more the gift of the Holy Spirit. And it's that gift that gave them the power to continue his work of telling others about God and, as the great commission at the end of Matthew's Gospel reminds us, making disciples and baptising them. Today it is a reminder that we are all called to serve God. A calling received at our own baptisms. Perhaps this month as we remember the Ascension ask Jesus in your own prayers to encourage you to serve. There are many ways to do that, both in church and in various ways within our city. Sometimes we are cautious about committing ourselves, but when we take the risk of serving others we aren't just shining God's light and love, we are also ensuring that he is honoured.

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5.16*

## *APCM*

St Paul's Church will have its Annual Parochial Church Meeting on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025** at around 11.30am, after the 10am Service. All are welcome to attend and those on the Electoral Roll are also entitled to vote, if needed, during the meeting. Come along if you can, to hear about the work of St Paul's Church and future plans. Papers for the meeting will soon be available on the website or in hardcopy from the office.

# DIARY

*All events at St Paul's unless stated otherwise*

*MORNING PRAYER - WEEKDAYS AT 9AM*

<b>Su 3 May</b>	<b>Easter 5</b>	Acts 7:55-end; John 14: 1-14
	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	All-age Eucharist (crèche toys available) followed by refreshments
	12.15pm	Baptism
	3pm	Afternoon Tea Party, concluding with Evening Prayer
<b>M 4</b>	<b>May</b>	
<b>Tu 5</b>	<b>May</b>	10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed
<b>W 6</b>	<b>May</b>	
<b>Th 7</b>	<b>May</b>	10am Eucharist followed by refreshments 6pm Choir Practice (Children's Choir) 7.15pm Choir Practice (Full Choir)
<b>F 8</b>	<b>May</b>	
<b>Sa 9</b>	<b>May</b>	7pm Bognor Regis Concert Band concert
<b>Su 10 May</b>	<b>Easter 6</b>	Acts 17:22-31; John 14: 15-21
	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche followed by refreshments
	11.30am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
	4pm	Come & Sing Evensong singers' rehearsal
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
<b>M 11</b>	<b>May</b>	
<b>Tu 12</b>	<b>May</b>	10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed 5.30pm Choral Evensong for Christian Aid Week at The Cathedral
<b>W 13</b>	<b>May</b>	2.30pm Ladies' Group
<b>Th 14</b>	<b>May</b>	10am Eucharist followed by refreshments 6pm Eucharist for Ascension Day at St Peter's Westhampnett 6pm Choir Practice (Children's Choir) 7.15pm Choir Practice (Full Choir)
<b>F 15</b>	<b>May</b>	
<b>Sa 16</b>	<b>May</b>	

**Su 17 May Easter 7**

Acts 1:6-14; John 17:1-11

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche followed by refreshments

M 18 May 2.30pm Chess Group

Tu 19 May 10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed  
2pm f3a

W 20 May

Th 21 May 10am Eucharist followed by refreshments  
11am Mothers' Union  
6pm Choir Practice (Children's Choir)  
7.15pm Choir Practice (Full Choir)

Fr 22 May

Sa 23 May

**Su 24 May Pentecost**

Acts 2:1-21; John 20: 19

-23

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche followed by refreshments

M 25 May

Tu 26 May 10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed

W 27 May 2.30pm Ladies' Group

Th 28 May 10am Eucharist followed by refreshments

F 29 May

Sa 30 May

**Su 31 May Trinity Sunday**

2 Corinthians 13. 11-end; Matthew 28:16-20

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with Holy Baptism, Junior Church and crèche followed by refreshments

## *LADIES' GROUP*

St Paul's Ladies' Group usually meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome at all of our meetings, including men. Our meetings in May are as follows:

- 13<sup>th</sup> May **AGM** Please come and support us, home made biscuits will be available!
- 27<sup>th</sup> May **Volya Art Community Group.** A talk by Svetlana Herchnova. A Bring and Buy at this meeting.

Don't forget your very welcome donations to the Foodbank.

## *MOTHERS' UNION*

Mothers' Union meets on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 11am in St Paul's church after the 10am Eucharist. We invite you to come and hear Fr John-Henry Bowden talk about his time as Anglican Chaplain in Venice. Everyone is most welcome. Heather Hyde 07949 799 415

## *F3A*

F3A meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Parish Centre. Everybody 60 and over will be very welcome. Our meeting this month will be on 19<sup>th</sup> May. Do join us for a cuppa and friendly discussion on a seasonal topic. Mary Ashwin 786501

## *AFTERNOON TEA 3-5PM, SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY AND EVERY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH*

Everyone is warmly invited to join us for afternoon tea at St. Paul's parish centre on the first Sunday of every month. No cost or pre-booking required. Come and enjoy tea and cakes with friendly company. We conclude our afternoon with a short service of Evening Prayer using the traditional language of the Book of Common Prayer.

For information contact Margaret Phillips 527961 or Phyllis Nicholls 780454.

# *AN EDWARDIAN WEDDING AT ST PAUL'S*

*by Alan Green*



Once a week I go onto eBay to seek out any Chichester items that may be of interest, and recently there came up a fascinating postcard of a wedding at St Pauls. Postcards of St Paul's are very unusual, so I had to make bid - and got it.

The postcard is unused, so carries no postmark or message, and there is no clue given by the publisher as to the occasion, but to have justified having postcards printed it must have been significant. Presumably it was a local dignitary but possibly who was not quite grand enough to be married at the cathedral

The view shows a horse-drawn carriage waiting outside the south door with a large, assembled guests lining the nuptial route. The carriage, driven by a top-hatted coachman, is standing on what was then the private road through the churchyard from St Paul's Road to Broyle Road, but which is now part of our car park. Once aboard the bridal party will be setting off for St Paul's Road and the reception.

The only inscription on the postcard is on the front namely MOREY PHOTO LYNDHURST RD. Arthur Henry Morey was a professional photographer and postcard publisher who moved to Chichester in 1911 from Southsea and worked from his Lyndhurst Road home to around 1918 when he opened a studio at 5 St Pancras. The postcard thus dates from between 1911 and 1918, but as to who the happy couple were or where the reception was held we can only guess.

If you have any ideas, then answers on a postcard please...

## *CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 MAY 2026*

Christian Aid has been going for just over 80 years. It was set up by churches in Britain in response to the needs of the vast numbers of people in Europe who had been displaced by the Second World War. Over the decades the work has expanded to 29 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean where needs of vulnerable people are addressed through local partner organisations. Aid is given to anyone irrespective of their faith or none. More details are given on the website at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk).

Christian Aid Week always focuses on a particular example of need and this year it relates to urban poverty. Christian Aid supports women like Firah by providing equipment to help her to grow vegetables in a small area of Nairobi in Kenya so that she can sell them to provide money to pay school and medical fees for her grandchildren. Donations to Christian Aid's work can be made through the website or the envelopes that will be available in church on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

The Week will be marked by a special Evensong in the cathedral at 5.30pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May that will be attended by Christian Aid's finance director who will talk about the work of the charity.

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May members of some of the churches across the city will be collecting at the Cross from 10am-3pm. Please do say Hello if you are passing.

Finally, thanks are due to the people who so generously supported the soup lunches in Lent at Christ Church and gave just over £1197.

## *LENT GIVING ENVELOPES*

Many thanks to all those who contributed towards our Lent Giving. An amount of £1610 was raised. This will be used to support our following Mission Partners: Christian Aid, CMS Bishop Martin Gordon, USPG Anti-trafficking of humans, IDWAL Training of a priest and BEATS. More details to follow of what each of them are doing with the funds.

[chrismerrien@hotmail.com](mailto:chrismerrien@hotmail.com)

# WE'RE HIRING



## PART TIME ADMINISTRATOR 14 HOURS PER WEEK

Chichester HEART for Homeless is recruiting a part-time Administrator to join us to support our work with the city's Homeless Community.

Applicants should have strong administrative skills, and be comfortable working independently in a small, faith-based organisation.



Email: [chair@heartchichester.co.uk](mailto:chair@heartchichester.co.uk)

for a job application pack

Closing date is **5pm, Mon 11<sup>th</sup> May**



**SATURDAY MAY 9TH**

**10:00 - 1:30**

# ST GEORGE'S PLANT FAIR

*Now in a larger space!*

Veg, flower and house plants

Local crafts

Preloved books and gardening items

Sweet and savoury refreshments

St Georges Church, Cleveland Rd, PO19 7AD

For more info contact [office@stgeorgeschichester.org](mailto:office@stgeorgeschichester.org)

*Free entry  
All welcome!*



Charity No 1133301

# ST PAULS CHICHESTER SUMMER FAMILY BBQ

SUNDAY  
28TH  
JUNE 2026



12PM  
TO  
3PM



- EVERYONE IS WELCOME -

BBQ FOOD - SALAD BAR - SOFT DRINKS - GARDEN GAMES  
BOUNCY CASTLE - RAFFLE - TOMBOLA

£10 - ADULT  
£5 - UNDER 12

ALL PROFITS DONATED TO CHARITY



# Bognor Regis Concert Band Presents



## A Charity Concert on behalf of The Regis School of Music

**Saturday 9th May**

ST PAULS CHURCH

CHURCHSIDE, CHICHESTER, PO19 6FT

**Doors Open 6pm - Music Starts 7pm**

**Tickets: £12 Adult £10 Concessions**

**Tickets available at:**

<https://bognorregisconcertband.co.uk>

[brconcertband@gmail.com](mailto:brconcertband@gmail.com)

or on the door



Join Bognor Regis Concert Band for a family friendly evening of popular and traditional music in support of The Regis School of Music. Raffle and refreshments available throughout the evening.

Regis School of Music is a registered charity, number 1158199

<http://regisschoolofmusic.org.uk>

[brconcertband@gmail.com](mailto:brconcertband@gmail.com)



Bognor Regis Concert Band