

THE GRAPEVINE

SEPTEMBER 2026

Issue 89



ST PAUL'S CHICHESTER
SANCTUARY HOSPITALITY SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER

WWW.STPAULSCHICHESTER.ORG

CONTACT INFORMATION



ST PAUL'S CHICHESTER

SANCTUARY HOSPITALITY SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER

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THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE GRAPEVINE

The deadline for October Grapevine is 2pm Tuesday 22nd September.

Copy can be submitted by email to office@stpaulschichester.org
or as hardcopy to the office.

The October edition will be available from Sunday 27th September.
The November issue which will be published on Sunday 1st November.



ST PAUL'S CHICHESTER
SANCTUARY HOSPITALITY SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER

DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER
TO KNOW-LOVE-FOLLOW JESUS



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

THE RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

'And he showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, on the palm of my hand, round like a ball. I looked at it thoughtfully and wondered, 'What is this?' And the answer came, 'It is all that is made.' I marvelled that it continued to exist and did not suddenly disintegrate; it was so small. And again, my mind supplied the answer, 'It exists, both now and for ever, because God loves it.' In short, everything owes its existence to the love of God. In this 'little thing' I saw three truths. The first is that God made it; the second is that God loves it; and the third is that God sustains it.'

Those wonderful words from the medieval English mystic, St Julian of Norwich, are from one of her most famous passages in 'Revelations of Divine Love'. And they remind us that God didn't just create the world, he also sustains it, and he loves it. But as Christians we also believe that he has entrusted its care to us. (Genesis 1.26-30) That's a rather scary thought. And it's a particularly scary thought after the summer we have just had. Images in the news of parched landscapes across both town and countryside, together with devastating wildfires, have revealed to us homes and businesses destroyed, many farmers with incredibly low harvests, and water levels perilously low. In the last few years British summers are feeling more Mediterranean than at anytime in living memory (apart from 1976 – but that was actually cooler!) and our gardens, and to be honest most of us, have found it somewhat difficult to cope.

In recent years people are no longer just talking about global warming – scientists, politicians, academics and many others are now referring to a climate crisis, or climate emergency. So as Christians and as a Church, how do we respond.

We all know I think that we need to consider how we care for creation ourselves. That we should think about energy use, what we eat and where it comes from, and to not be wasteful. If we aren't careful, it can feel somewhat overwhelming. But often it's less overwhelming if we reflect on these things together. Which is why General Synod has recently agreed to a new festival in the church year. 'The Festival of Creation in Christ,' can be celebrated on the first Sunday in September,

or the following day. It brings us in line with Christians of other denominations, especially our sisters and brothers in the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches. God's world is beautiful and full of abundant life, but it seems a more fragile and vulnerable place. It is only together that we can make the change that the world needs, and it is in the uniting of our prayers with Christians across the world that we are reminded all things were created through Christ and that it is in Christ that God makes all things new.

One of the things we will be doing as a church is to work towards the Eco Church awards from the charity A Rocha. The programme helps us to think about our impact on the environment as a church, and as individuals. Martin Cooke has asked a small group of people to help him feedback recommendations to the PCC. If you would like to be part of that group do let me know. As we think about creation in September do give thanks to God in your prayers for the wonder and gift of the beautiful planet we call home. And pray too for its healing.

Canon Paul

Cake Sale

Raising funds to help support our children attending the

Walsingham Children's Pilgrimage

26th to 28th February 2027

Sunday 4th October 2026



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2026

Thank you to everyone who donated money to Christian Aid. Churches across the city and district collected over £2000 in cash. No doubt more was given online. The next local fundraising event will be the soup lunches at Christ Church in Advent.

Margaret Heald

NEWS FROM OUR CMS MISSION PARTNER

Bishop Martin Gordon is our CMS (Church Mission Society) partner working in the DR of Congo. In his diocese of Goma there has been civil war together with another outbreak of Ebola disease. This is the 17th outbreak in 50 years. There is no vaccine available to prevent the disease and the fatality rate is around 30%. To date, there have been several thousands of deaths from the disease. The WHO (World Health Organisation) estimates that it will take 18 -24 months for the epidemic to disappear again. Congolese people largely see the disease as one of compassion, owing to how the sick and dying are cared for by relatives who use human touch to demonstrate their love and concern. However, this is contrary to government guidelines, recognizing that the disease is spread by handling those infected without using protective equipment. Indeed, some Congolese people question as to whether the disease is something introduced by other governments to control the population and thus are sceptical regarding information surrounding the epidemic.

Fortunately, the church is trusted by many people in the area and Bishop Martin, together with other clergy, help to dispel false rumours. They work towards educating people as to how the disease spreads and as to how to prevent further infections among the population. As part of this role, clergy will distribute hand washing kits, temperature guns and usage information.

Thanks to fundraising and the generosity of our congregation, we have been able to send another £500 to CMS, as well as the same amount to our other four Mission Partners, recently.

We can make a real difference to the lives of others around the world as well as supporting those nearer to home.

CLOSURE OF MILK BOTTLE TOPS COLLECTION POINT.

As from the end of September the GHS Recycling firm that has been collecting plastic milk bottle tops is ceasing this project. This is due to financial pressures.

Thank you to all who have brought their tops to the bins outside the church

Please do not leave any more there; milk bottle tops can be recycled by screwing them back onto the empty milk bottle and putting the lidded bottle into your domestic burgundy recycling bin.

Since I started collections in Priscilla Gerrans' garage over 63 tonnes have been recycled and not only saved from going to waste but enabling GHS recycling to donate £3800 to our local Children's Hospice-Chestnut Tree House.

These ecological and charitable results could not have happened without the voluntary work of 4 members of St Paul's and members of TOC in "bagging up" the tops donated into clear sacks and stacking them ready for collection. Many thanks you dedicated volunteers!

Martin Cooke.

'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 it's 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 September are noted below – do use them in your own prayers.

Prayer Focus for September

- God's creation that all people would meet their responsibility to care for it.
- The earth, good productivity and for fruitful harvests.
- For the farming community across Sussex and with our district.
- For all who produce and manufacture food and for local shops and supermarkets.
- For our flower arranging team.
- The work of
 - Sussex Wildlife Trust,
 - Chichester Harbour conservancy,
 - Chichester Wildfowl association,
 - Chichester natural history society,
 - Brent Lodge wildlife hospital.

Prayer for the month

*Glorious God, the whole creation proclaims your marvellous work:
increase in us a capacity to wonder and delight in it,
that heaven's praise may echo in our hearts
and our lives be spent as good stewards of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

The new Festival of Creation in Christ may be celebrated on the first Sunday in September or transferred to the day afterwards. Unlike Harvest – which gives thanks to God for the changing seasons and for our food, the Festival of Creation focusses on the whole miracle of creation. It asks us to reflect on God as the creator of all. In their introduction to the resources for this new Festival, Bishops Robert Atwell and Michael Ipgrave write that 'The Father is maker of heaven and earth; the eternal Word is the one through whom all things were made; the Holy Spirit is the giver of life. When the Church celebrates creation in Christ, it is drawn into the praise of the Holy Trinity. The festival then is about acknowledging our beautiful world and the stunning and mysterious universe that God has created, as much as it is about praying for the healing of our fragile planet. This new collect invites us then to praise God, to wonder at all he has done in creation, whilst also inviting us to be mindful that we should be good stewards our whole lives. I commend it to you for your own prayers, this month and beyond.

DIARY

All events at St Paul's unless stated otherwise

MORNING PRAYER - WEEKDAYS AT 9AM

Su 30 Aug Trinity 13

Romans 12.9-end; Matthew 16.21-end

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche
followed by refreshments

M 31 Aug

Tu 1 Sept 10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed

W 2 Sept 5.30pm Evensong at St Olav's

Th 3 Sept 10am Eucharist followed by refreshments
6.30pm Talk at St Olav's

F 4 Sept

Sa 5 Sept

Su 6 Sept Trinity 14

Romans 13.8-end; Matthew 18.15-20

8am Holy Communion
10am All-age Eucharist (crèche toys available)
followed by refreshments.
12.15pm Holy Baptism
3pm Afternoon Tea Party, concluding with Evening Prayer

M 7 Sept

Tu 8 Sept 10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed

W 9 Sept 2.30pm Ladies' Group

Th 10 Sept 10am Eucharist followed by refreshments
6pm Choir Practice (Children's Choir)
7.15pm Choir Practice (Full Choir)

F 11 Sept 4.30pm Ignite
6pm Blaze

Sa 12 Sept

Su 13 Sep Trinity 15		Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35
	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche followed by refreshments
	6pm	Concert: Flamenco from Spain
M 14 Sept		
Tu 15 Sept	10am	Praying for St Paul's Renewed
	2.15pm	f3a
W 16 Sept		
Th 17 Sept	10am	Eucharist followed by refreshments
	11am	Mothers' Union
	6pm	Choir Practice (Children's Choir)
	7.15pm	Choir Practice (Full Choir)
Fr 18 Sept	4.30pm	Ignite
	6pm	Blaze
Sa 19 Sept	11am	Pilgrimage Walk from Selsey to Church Norton
Su 20 Sep Trinity 16		Philippians 1.21-end; Matthew 20.1-16
	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche followed by refreshments
M 21 Sept	2.30pm	Chess Group
Tu 22 Sept	10am	Praying for St Paul's Renewed
W 23 Sept	2.30pm	Ladies' Group
Th 24 Sept	10am	Eucharist followed by refreshments
	6pm	Choir Practice (Children's Choir)
	7.15pm	Choir Practice (Full Choir)
F 25 Sept	4.30pm	Ignite
	6pm	Blaze
Sa 26 Sept		
Su 27 Sep Trinity 17		Philippians 2.1-13; Matthew 21.23-32
	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche followed by refreshments
	12.15pm	Holy Baptism
	4pm	Singers' Rehearsal for Come & Sing Choral Evensong
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong

LADIES' GROUP

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

9th Sept **The Final Straw Foundation.** A small but mighty charity that works to highlight and combat the impact of pollution on our fragile marine environment and wildlife. A presentation by Helen Littlejohn. There will be a raffle at this meeting.

23rd Sept **Annual Service in St Peter's chapel.** The Rev'd Pippa Ford will be presiding.

Don't forget your contributions to the Foodbank. Much appreciated.

F3A

F3A meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the Parish Centre. Our meetings will commence at 2.30pm, with tea and coffee served from 2.15pm. We will finish by 3.30pm. Everybody 60 and over will be very welcome. Our meeting this month will be on 15th September when we will be reflecting on prayer. Do join us for a cuppa and friendly discussion.

Mary Ashwin 786501

MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers' Union meets on Thursday 17th September at 11am in St Paul's church after the 10am Eucharist. Everyone is most welcome. This month we will be talking about prayer.

Heather Hyde 07949 799 415

AFTERNOON TEA 3-5PM, SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 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.

FREE TO JOIN

OPEN TO ALL

Pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Wilfrid

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

11AM - 4PM



ALL WELCOME FOR A REFLECTIVE PILGRIMAGE WALK FROM SELSEY TO CHURCH NORTON



ENJOY TIME TO REFLECT, AND MEET LIKE-MINDED PILGRIMS



WALK AND PRAY THROUGH THE BEAUTIFUL SHORELINE ROUTE

Start and finish at:

Our Lady and St Wilfrid Church
12 Church Road,
Selsey, PO20 0LS



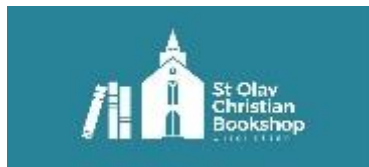
- The walk is about 6 miles over uneven country and shoreline footpaths.
- Please wear suitable shoes and clothing.
- The day concludes with tea, refreshments and discussion at Our Lady and St Wilfrids' Hall.

See sussexpilgrimage.com for further details

ALL WELCOME



Email Maria & Roger at
info@sussexpilgrimage.com to book



Dear Friends,

Over the past few months, we've all seen the news about the challenges facing Britain's high streets. Rising costs and changing shopping habits continue to make life difficult for many independent retailers, and Christian bookshops like St Olav's are no exception.

Yet every day reminds us that St Olav's Christian Bookshop is about so much more than selling books. It is a place where faith is nurtured and where people come looking for encouragement, guidance and hope. That is something truly special, and it is only possible because of your continued support.

Every time you choose to buy a book, a Bible, a card, some communion wafers, or a gift, from us, you are helping to keep this ministry alive. Whether you visit us in the shop for a chat and a browse, or place an order through our online shop, or by phone, from the comfort of your home, your custom makes a genuine difference.

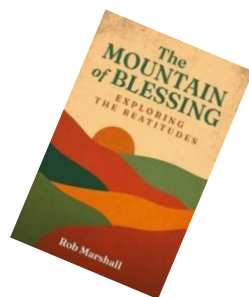
If there is something you need and you can't see it on our shelves or online, please do ask. We can order thousands of titles and are always happy to help you find the right resource.

Thank you for standing with us, praying for us, and choosing to support an independent Christian bookshop. Your encouragement means more than you may realise. Together, we can ensure that St Olav's continues to be a place of welcome, witness and service for many years to come.

We look forward to serving you soon—whether in the bookshop or through an online order.

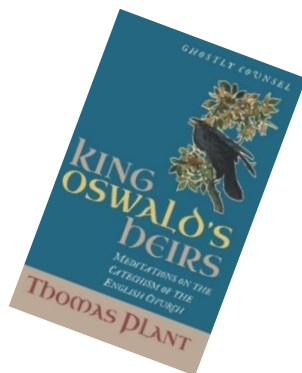
The Mountain of Blessings Rob Marshall £10.99

In the author's characteristic friendly and assuring voice, *The Mountain of Blessings* brings ancient biblical wisdom into lively conversation with today's prevailing concerns. A week's worth of short reflections on each of the beatitudes are offered to help readers better understand the upside down world of the kingdom God expressed in them.



King Oswald's Heirs Thomas Plant £12.99

King Oswald's Heirs is a retelling of the Catechism of the treasured 1662 Book of Common Prayer. More than a primer of dry doctrine, this book dresses the faith of the ancient and undivided Church in the tales of Britain's saints and martyrs, revealing a spiritual inheritance richer and stranger than we think. The mission of the Angles is one with the mission of the angels. So come, take your inheritance. For all English-speaking Christians number among King Oswald's heirs.



Called Through Cancer Lisa Barnett £11.99

In this deeply personal and spiritually grounded account, Anglican priest Lisa Barnett reflects on her own journey through cancer treatment and discovers a profound truth: that even in suffering, we are called. Called Through Cancer is for anyone navigating serious illness and for all who seek to understand calling in the shadow of pain.

Join us at St Olav's this month when the author will be visiting for an evening in conversation with the Dean of Chichester (see overleaf for details)



Hope for all Creation The Church of England £12.99

Hope for all Creation presents a theological vision by which members of the Church of England might think, reflect and act in response to the current environmental crises. This teaching document from the House of Bishops features a Foreword by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. But Care for Creation is not just for members of the Church of England, it is for everyone who cares about God's earth, and our stewardship of it.



EVENTS THIS MONTH AT ST OLAV'S BOOKSHOP

Evensong @ Olav's: Wednesday 2nd September

*Lisa Barnett in conversation with the Dean of
Chichester: Thursday 3rd September*

We just wanted to remind you that after the August break, Evensong @ Olav's returns next week, Wednesday 2nd September @ 5.30pm. After the service, and a short refreshment break, there will be a talk by The Revd Sandra Haggan.

On Thursday 3rd September, we are delighted to welcome the Revd Lisa Barnett in conversation with the Dean of Chichester about her book, 'Called through Cancer' (see previous page). Tickets are £10, including a glass of wine, and you will also receive £5 off the price of the book. The event starts with refreshments in the shop from 6.30pm, with the main event running from 7pm - 8.30pm. All welcome: to reserve a place, please contact us mail@stolavchristianbookshop.uk or 01243 782790 Please note that space is limited.

Best wishes

Bradley, Sarah and Sam

St Olav's Christian Bookshop

01243 782790

mail@stolavchristianbookshop.uk

THANK YOU FROM ALEXANDER SOLLY

In July I had the opportunity to travel to Mbeya in Tanzania with the charity *The Grassroots Trust* and a group from Bishop Luffa School. It was an amazing and rewarding experience. We made beds and delivered them; I saw people who had no possessions but were very happy and grateful. As a group we also handed out chickens and painted a community centre. We visited a secondary school and joined in dancing and drumming. We also attended a 3-hour church service, which we all found very moving. The people I met were very positive and friendly and it made me more aware of what I have and grateful for my own bed at home.

Thank you to those who helped me to go on this trip and support this charity.

Alexander Solly

APPLYING TO BISHOP LUFFA SCHOOL AUTUMN 2026

Canon Paul will be available to complete Church Support Forms on Wednesday 4th November (late-afternoon/evening) and on the morning of Saturday 7th November. Parents should email the office to book an appointment: office@stpaulschichester.org

STUDIO SALE

**12–5pm | 5th & 6th September and
10th & 11th October 2026**

As many of you know I've been selected for **Agora**, a mentoring programme run by Newlyn Art School — an incredibly exciting new chapter in my art career.

To help fund this next stage, and to make space in my studio for new work, I'm opening my studio for a special two-part sale. Perhaps you came to my Open Studio in May and have been thinking about a piece you saw then — well, now is your chance to snap it up!



This is a genuine sale, with every piece specially priced. Every artwork is a one-of-a-kind original, whether painting, print or glasswork. There are no duplicate prints.

I've specially priced the work into four accessible tiers: **£25 | £50 | £100 | £200**

This is a rare opportunity to own an original piece from this stage of my artistic journey, while supporting me as I take the next exciting step in my practice.

WHERE: 41 The Broadway, Chichester PO19 6QR

Thank you so much for your ongoing support — it genuinely means a great deal and helps me to keep creating.

Revd Pippa Ford.

Website: www.pippathepainter.com (not all my work is displayed on the website)

Instagram: [pippa_the_painter](https://www.instagram.com/pippa_the_painter)

ST·PETER'S·CHURCH



WESTHAMPNETT

Registered Charity No: 1191476



SOCIAL BINGO NIGHT

**CLICKETY CLICK - 66 - HELP RAISE MONEY
TO FIX THE CHURCH BRICKS!**

Join us for a fun filled evening with food and drink to help raise funds
for St. Peter's Church!

Jacket Potato's available with choice of filling and salad alongside a
limited bar offering beer, wine and soft drinks!

SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER 2026

7-9PM

**WESTHAMPNETT COMMUNITY HALL
HADRIAN DRIVE PO18 0FP**

Tickets available in advance from
Hazel Bate - 07962811990 or Jane Stone
07906603373



TICKETS

£10

UNDER 16'S £5