

THE GRAPEVINE

OCTOBER 2026

Issue 90



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 November Grapevine is 2pm Tuesday 27th October.

Copy can be submitted by email to office@stpaulschichester.org

or as hardcopy to the office.

The November edition will be available from Sunday 1st November.

The December issue which will be published on Sunday 29th 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

“Come ye thankful people come,” reflecting on giving thanks to God at Harvest

Dear Friends,

One of the joys of the church calendar is the familiarity of the seasons. And for me harvest is no different. Just as the approach of Christmas reminds me of childhood presents and carol singing, harvest reminds me of kicking the fallen leaves and feasting on my mother's famous sausage sandwiches.

But if we are not careful, Harvest, like so many of the other festivals in the Church's year can become too familiar. And that's probably because one of the most familiar things about Harvest Festival are the hymns.

For most of us Harvest hymns, a bit like Christmas Carols, are so familiar that we know many of them almost by heart. What would harvest be without “We plough the fields and scatter” or “Come ye thankful people come”? The trouble is that sometimes when the words to a hymn or a prayer become very familiar, we sing or say them without a thought.

In many ways familiarity in worship and prayer can be a good thing. We know what we are doing. And we think we know what is expected of us. But I wonder if that can mean that we might overlook the possibilities that our worship can give us for learning or seeing something new in our relationship with God.

So perhaps this autumn we might want to reflect on the harvest theme in a way which might help us to do just that. And one way we can do this is to think about what the words of a familiar hymn could mean.

I am often drawn to the words of “Come ye thankful people, come,” because for me it expresses much of what harvest is about; giving thanks. But as a hymn that essentially describes us as God's harvest, it asks me to reflect on how thankful I am. Do I take for granted all that I have, my food, my health, my material possessions. Am I truly grateful for all that God has done for me? And if I am truly grateful to God then how should I respond to him?

The words in our hymns and our worship might challenge us to respond to God in new and different ways no matter how familiar they are. They might challenge us to reflect on our prayer life and our relationship with God. They might also challenge us to ask how we respond to the love of Jesus and the many blessings we receive from him. How do we use our time, or our gifts, or our money to give thanks to God for example.

In this harvest season, the season for thanking God for all that he provides to sustain and nourish us; I am often reminded that in giving thanks I need to remember all that I need to give thanks for. And I also need to respond to God too.

Perhaps the next time you pray a familiar prayer or sing a familiar hymn you could also stop and reflect, just for a few moments, on the words. And then wonder how you should respond in thanks and praise to God in whatever way he calls you to do.

With every blessing

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



SERMONS

The Church website will now have 4 weeks of sermons available for people to read. They are accessed via the services menu, and are then the 5th tab down. We hope you find them helpful.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Our new Bible Study group will meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm in the Parish Centre. Our first meeting is on Tuesday 6th October. Our first three meetings will look at Paul's letter to the Philippians and then the Old Testament Prophet Micah.

PREPARATION FOR FIRST COMMUNION

The admission to receive communion will happen at Candlemas, Sunday 7th February 2027 at the 10am service.

Preparation sessions will be starting soon. If your child is in school year 3 to 6 and interested in joining the group, please contact us or fill in the sign-up form at the back of the church.

Fr Paul and Zena

CLOSURE OF MILK BOTTLE TOPS COLLECTION POINT.

As we reported last month, sadly we have had to close our Milk Bottle Top collection point. From now on, instead of bringing your tops to St Paul's they should be recycled by screwing them back onto the empty milk bottle and putting the lidded bottle into your domestic burgundy recycling bin.

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

'LET US PRAY.....'

Prayer Focus for October

- Children and youth organisations.
 - Ignite and Blaze Youth Groups,
 - St Paul's Junior Church and Sparks Creche
 - and those who help run them.
 - Uniformed organisations,
 - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers,
 - Rainbows, Brownies and Guides,
 - Chichester Boy's Club.
 - The Bell Tower Drop in.
- For musicians and for professional and amateur choirs,
 - for St Paul's Church Choir and Director of Music
 - the organist team at both St Paul's and St Peter's,
 - the work of Chichester cathedral choir and music team.
- Our own homes, family and friends.

Prayer for the month

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer became familiar to me when, as a chorister, I attended and sang Choral Evensong, week by week. It was prayed almost without exception by whichever member of clergy, or lay reader, was officiating at the service. It isn't the shortest of prayers, and not one that I learnt by heart. But it was a prayer that I persevered with, probably because it took me a while to pronounce 'inestimable' properly! Over the years it has become a favourite go to prayer because its sense of gratitude is profound. It's a prayer that gives thanks to God for all that he does to bless our lives and for the love he continues to give us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The invitation to praise God, not only in worship but also in our lives and in service was particularly important as I wondered whether God was calling me to ordained ministry. As we give thanks for the Harvest, in what has been a very challenging year for farmers, and in many other areas of life across the world, it is a helpful prayer in that it reminds us of God's mercy, grace and love in all things. I commend it to you for your own prayers throughout October and beyond.

MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers' Union meets on Thursday 15th October at 11am after the 10am Eucharist. As the 15th is in Anti-Slavery Awareness week, we will be discussing modern slavery.

October is the month when we collect socks for men detained at Gatwick's Brook House Immigration Removal Centre. If you would like to donate socks they should be new, black or navy, size 8-11. They can be left in the Parish Office up to 15th October.

The Mothers' Union Diocesan Autumn Gathering is on Saturday 17th October at St John the Evangelist, Preston Park, Brighton from 10.30am-3pm. All are welcome and it is a great opportunity to learn about the fantastic work of Mothers' Union both at home, particularly in Sussex, and abroad.

Heather Hyde 07949 799 415

DIARY

All events at St Paul's unless stated otherwise

MORNING PRAYER - WEEKDAYS AT 9AM

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

M 28 Sep

Tu 29 Sept 10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed

W 30 Sept

Th 1 Oct 10am Eucharist followed by refreshments
6pm Choir Practice (*Senior choristers: 6.30pm; adults: 7.15pm*)

F 2 Oct 4.30pm Ignite
6pm Blaze

Sa 3 Oct

Su 4 Oct Harvest Thanksgiving

I Timothy 2.1-7; Matthew 6.25-33

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

M 5 Oct

Tu 6 Oct 10am Praying for St Paul's Renewed
2pm Bible Study

W 7 Oct

Th 8 Oct 10am Eucharist followed by refreshments
6pm Choir Practice (*Senior choristers: 6.30pm; adults: 7.15pm*)

F 9 Oct 4.30pm Ignite
6pm Blaze

Sa 10 Oct 7pm St Peter's Bingo Night at Westhampnett Community Hall

Su 11 Oct Trinity 19

Philippians 4.1-9; Matthew 22.1-14

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

M	12 Oct		
Tu	13 Oct	10am	Praying for St Paul's Renewed
W	14 Oct	2.30pm	Ladies' Group
Th	15 Oct	10am	Eucharist followed by refreshments
		11am	Mothers' Union
		6pm	Choir Practice (<i>Senior choristers: 6.30pm; adults: 7.15pm</i>)
Fr	16 Oct	4.30pm	Ignite
		6pm	Blaze
Sa	17 Oct		
Su	18 Oct		St Luke the Evangelist 2 Timothy 4.5-17; Luke 10.1-9
		8am	Holy Communion
		10am	Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche followed by refreshments
		3pm	Autumn Concert at St Peter's Westhampnett
M	19 Oct	2.30pm	Chess Group
Tu	20 Oct	10am	Praying for St Paul's Renewed
		2.15pm	f3a
W	21 Oct		
Th	22 Oct	10am	Eucharist followed by refreshments
		6pm	Choir Practice (<i>Senior choristers: 6.30pm; adults: 7.15pm</i>)
F	23 Oct	4.30pm	Ignite
		6pm	Blaze
Sa	24 Oct		
Su	25 Oct		Bible Sunday Colossians 3.12-17; Matthew 24.30-35
		8am	Holy Communion
		10am	Parish Eucharist with Junior Church and crèche followed by refreshments
M	26 Oct		
Tu	27 Oct	10am	Praying for St Paul's Renewed
W	28 Oct	2.30pm	Ladies' Group
Th	29 Oct	10am	Eucharist
F	30 Oct		
Sa	31 Oct		
Su	1 Nov		All Saints I John 3.1-3; Matthew 5.1-12
		8am	Holy Communion
		10am	All-age Eucharist (crèche toys available) followed by refreshments.
		3pm	Afternoon Tea Party, concluding with Evening Prayer

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 October are as follows:

- 14th Oct **My favourite handbag.** A lighthearted afternoon where we can show or describe a handbag. There will be a raffle at this meeting.
- 28th Oct **Sage.** A talk by Ms Jacquie Pond on the important work being done by this group to help people with dementia. There will be a Bring and Buy at this meeting. Everyone welcome.

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. The topic for October will be **Challenges in our journey of Faith**. An opportunity to share our experiences together. Do join us for a cuppa and friendly discussion.

Mary Ashwin 786501

AFTERNOON TEA 3-5PM, SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER also Sundays 1st November and 6th December

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.

Please note there will be changes to the Tea Party in the New Year – further details will be in the next editions of The Grapevine

gnite Youth Club

St Paul's IGNITE youth group is for children in **school years 2 to 6**.

We meet on a **Friday evening 4.30pm till 5.30pm**

in The Parish Centre.

Ignite offers a range of

GAMES, GROUP CHALLENGES, CRAFTS & BIBLE STORIES.

An opportunity to build and strengthen friendships, play and work with others and most importantly have some end of week fun.

Blaze Youth Club

St Paul's BLAZE youth group for children in **school years 7 to 11**.

We meet on a **Friday evening 6.00pm till 7.00pm**

in The Parish Centre.

A time to meet together to play games, chat, discuss, plan future events. Come along and play a part in developing this new group.

We very much want your input and ideas.

For both youth clubs we ask for a £1 a week contribution towards expenses. Please feel free to pay by term if more convenient.

To register an interest or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at youth@stpaulschichester.org or text to 07905072807.

Thanks Steve Palmer – Youth & Children's worker.

ChristianAid

BREAD and SOUP LUNCHES

ALL AT CHRIST CHURCH

Old Market Avenue



12.00 PM -1.00PM

5 Advent Wednesdays

Arranged by members of the following churches

25th November

St. Paul's

2nd December

Quakers

9th December

The Cathedral

16th December

St. George's

23rd December

Christ Church and St. Wilfrid's

Eat, chat and give what you can

ST·PETER'S·CHURCH



WESTHAMNETT

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

WESTHAMNETT COMMUNITY HALL

HADRIAN DRIVE PO18 0FP

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



TICKETS

£10

UNDER 16'S £5

Our Lady of Walsingham Festival

Saturday 17th October 2026

11:00am - 4:00pm

St Paul's Church, Brighton, BN1 2RE

Solemn Mass

Celebrant: The Bishop of Lewes

Preacher: Father Ben Eadon

Lunch

The Holy Rosary

Healing Ministries

Benediction

**'Mary, bearer of
Christ our joy!'**



For more information

and/or to book your free place,
scan the QR code or visit:



www.trybooking.com/uk/GVGB

or call Fr Thomas Cotterill on: 01273 064877

frthomascotterill@gmail.com

 The Society



Black History in Church Spaces

"Celebrating the stories, faith, witness and history of Black people within the Church and Anglican Communion."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH OPENING EXHIBITION Featured Stories & Exhibits

📍 St Luke's Church, Prestonville, Brighton 🕒 Saturday 3 October 2026 🕒 2:00 PM

The SS Mendi

Commemorated at St John the Evangelist Church, Newtimber

Roque Ferdinand

Commemorated at St Mary Magdalene Church, Madehurst

Project Spire

The Church of England's fund for healing, justice, and repair

Olaudah Equiano

Abolitionist, writer, & prominent voice in the struggle against the transatlantic slave trade

The Uganda Martyrs

Remembering their faith, courage, witness, and enduring legacy

Keynote Speaker

kwesi Ochosi

Project Coordinator
& Archivist Lambeth
Palace Library

Special Guest Poet

Marie-Paul Duwai-Sowa

Poet & Artist

Programme Speakers

Vitalis Manjong Ngwambi

Diocesan Racial Justice
Co-ordinator

Flo Sparham

Anti-Racist Education Strategy
Co-Lead Brighton & Hove City
Council

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CLOSING SERVICE

📍 St Mary's Church, Slindon 🕒 Sunday 25 October 2026 🕒 11:00 AM

Worship • Remembrance • Celebration

Commemorating Roque Ferdinand, one of the few surviving 18th-century memorials to a Black man in a Sussex parish church.

Speakers

Professor Alan Lester

University of Sussex

Vitalis Ngwambi

Diocesan Racial Justice
Co-ordinator

Marie-Paul Duwai-Sowa

Poet & Artist

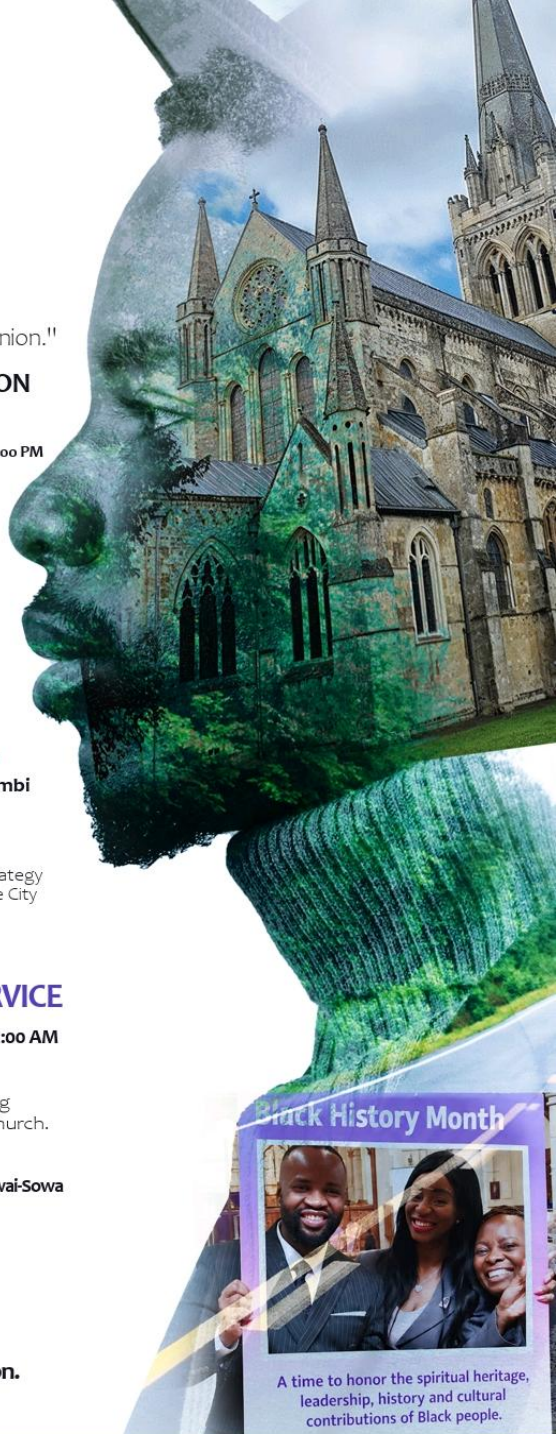
Alysia-Lara

Interim Deputy Director
for Racial Justice Church
of England

3:00PM

Roque Ferdinand Memorial Interpretation Installation.

St Mary Magdalene Church, Madehurst.



ST-PETER'S-CHURCH



WESTHAMPNETT

Registered Charity No: 1191476

St Peter's Autumn Concert

**Sunday 18th
October**

15:00-16:30

Including tea and cake

At St Peter's Church
Westhampnett
PO18 0NT

**Retiring collection
in aid of St Peter's**



**Performances by Mayha Mahroomi and
Geetanjali Biswas, featuring works by
Bach, Boccherini, Schubert, Elgar, and
Saint-Saëns, performed on the William
Hill Victorian pipe organ and cello.**



Enquiries & Reservations via Hazel Bate
hazelbate2@gmail.com / 07962811990