

The Pauline

St Paul's Church Magazine

June 2025



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ELDERS' MESSAGE

At a recent Homegroup meeting Fran asked us to think individually of something new we had learnt in the last week. My mind went completely blank. Trying to recall what I've actually done every day - and then anything learned worth sharing. It was a tough one! The days fly by, maybe as it's easy not to challenge ourselves and just do the same familiar things day by day.

Some of the exam-burdened teenage Scouts were asking the point of learning stuff they'd never use in future – algebraic geometry, complex organic chemistry, Chaucer's poetry, navigation! We agreed that aside from exam ritual you never know when it'll be useful - the habit of learning and trying new things is beneficial in itself and a brain 'workout'.

“The one who gets wisdom loves life; the one who cherishes understanding will soon prosper.”

Proverbs 19:8 - NIV

At St Paul's we're learning new things all the time. The rich variety of our worship as each preacher shares new perspectives on familiar texts. New ways to plan and promote events, why visitors come and why they stay. We've learnt about mapmaking (or at least Tony has) to avoid copyright fees, about plant names and planting skills, about a-v systems and websites, about filmmaking in the church and numerous topics at Guild.

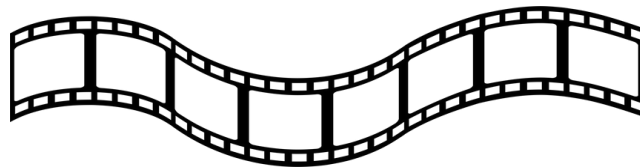
But we've also learned so much recently about encouraging each other. About our preferences in expressing our faith, about how we use social media and what we feel about WhatsApp. About our health and emotional needs, what's shared and what's private. About prayer and where we are comfortable. About which roles we enjoy and which we dread, about leading worship and about using encouraging language as default. About our wonderful diversity of skills as Easter people.

At the Awayday in April we shared what brought us to St Paul's and what keeps us here, with 'homework' to think individually about what our faith means to us and what drives us in it. If we are asked why we are a Christian by a visitor, child or friend – what would we say?

Would we have to scroll back through half remembered services that all seemed the same because we weren't paying attention or learning anything new? Would we stumble over our words? Or would we have an informed answer, ready, waiting, personal, to share our infectious faith. Let's work on that one.

“I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ” Philemon 1:6 NRSV

Sue Eardley



In fact, we were asked to give our parts names – I was ‘Nellie’ and Caroline became ‘Jennifer’ and we did appear in the credits at the end of the film.

The star of this strange show was Michael Redmond, an Irish stand-up comedian, with white hair and a long moustache, who had appeared in the ‘Father Ted’ series on TV. Michael was a pensioner who wakes up, after a dream, to find that he is being measured up with a tape by some local council workers.

It seems that the local council turned him into a coffee shop, called ‘Bett – A – Boulanger’, similar to ‘Pret – a – Manger’, and it shows the tortures and adventures that happened to him subsequently. It has been said that the moving picture tackled themes of the marginalisation of older folk, rampant gentrification and the daily challenges of navigating your life with scaffolding round you.



A WORLD FILM PREMIERE...AND NO RED CARPET!

Caroline, John, Mark, Sue and I, with my plus 1, Tony, were invited to the World Premiere of ‘He Woke Up To Deflating News’, on Tuesday 21st May. It was held at 7pm, at ‘All Is Joy’, a media club, at 75 Dean Street, in Soho, London.

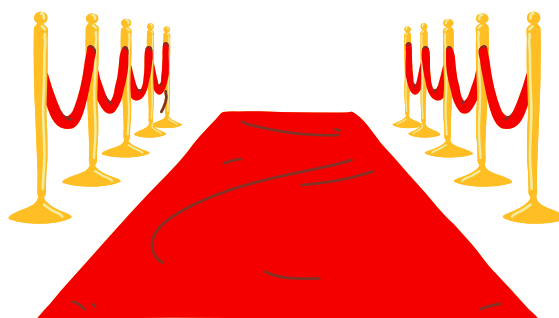
The function was a private viewing of the film, for 140 guests – writers, directors, actors, camera and sound people, plus the financial backers of Butthead Films, in a small but comfortable cinema, with blue velvet sofas. It turned out to be quite a laid-back affair and there was NO red carpet to welcome us!

We were included at this special occasion because we had been ‘extras’ for a day of filming at St. Paul’s Church last year.



The film has been described as a short, absurdist comedy. It also features a new track by folk songwriter Richard Dawson. Even though the whole film only lasts about 15 minutes, the company had to run a crowdfunding campaign to raise £5,000 to get the film through post-production.

At the afterparty, held at The Glassblower pub, where a private room had been booked, we had some drinks and chatted to Laura Spini, one of the directors, and to the parents of Laurence Brook, who was the other director. They both live in Thornton Heath, so are pretty local. The directors intend to enter their movie at film festivals, such as Cannes, Venice and London. Eventually, it will be available on YouTube – so fame for a few moments!



Eleanor Redshaw

Boys' Night Out

A great evening was had at our recent 'Boys' Night Out'. There was plenty of laughter, good company, and a delicious curry to enjoy together. It was a relaxed and fun time to unwind, share stories, and simply enjoy one another's fellowship.

Chris Dean





The Unlock London Walk is an annual sponsored charity walk organised by Unlock Urban to raise money for their work in deprived urban areas. The 2025 walk took place on 12 April, which was also my birthday. I wanted to do something different and when I saw Cathy H's post on Facebook about the walk going through Kennington, Camberwell, Stockwell and Battersea, I thought it would be a good chance to visit places I haven't been before.

We met up at East Croydon station at 8:20am with Fran B, and the three of us took a train to Vauxhall for the 8 mile walk with six churches to visit. We went through Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens where there was a farm, to get to St Peter's Church in Vauxhall. At the entrance there was a welcome desk. They stamped our map and gave us a leaflet about the church as did all the churches we went in. It was 9am by then, so still quite early and we did not come across many people until we got to the next church in Kennington. On the way there we saw the Oval cricket ground and had our picture taken.

We had a coffee and hot cross bun at the Brandon Baptist Church in Camberwell where there was a display about the Unlock work and some activities. We walked through a few parks which made the route quite pleasant especially on a sunny morning. We also came across other groups coming the opposite direction but we did not stop to chat.

We had lunch in Myatt's Fields Park, on a bench and it was getting quite warm by then. St Michael's Church in Stockwell was my favourite, with beautiful stained-glass windows (see back of the Pauline)

We had a coffee at St George's Church in Battersea which was the last church to visit. We then got to Battersea Power Station which was buzzing with people shopping, and it was quite a contrast from the poor housing we had come across. We walked along the River Thames to get back to Vauxhall Station, and saw the US Embassy on the way. I got back home around 4pm, in time for my birthday tea.

Caroline Corfield





Easter Flowers

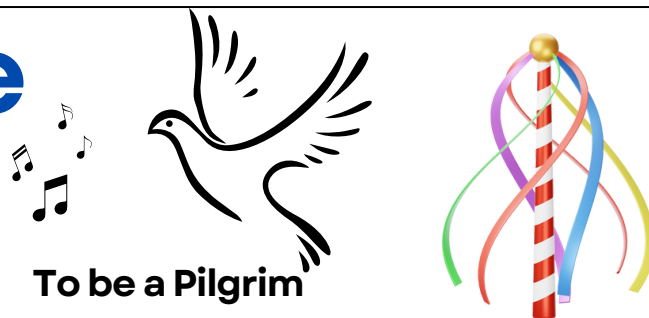


This Easter, our sanctuary was filled with the beauty and joy of the Resurrection, reflected in the stunning floral arrangements that adorned the space. A sincere and warm thank you goes out to Pat, Christine, Eleanor, their families, and all those who contributed their time, creativity, and resources to make the church look so beautiful.

Your efforts—brought life, colour, and reverence to our Easter celebrations. We are deeply grateful for the love, care, and teamwork that helped create such a meaningful and uplifting environment for worship.



Songs of Praise Hymn Choices



Hymns That Shape Our Faith

Recently, we held a special Songs of Praise-style service where members of our church chose hymns that hold deep personal meaning. Each choice came with a heartfelt story—some joyful, some reflective, all inspiring.

For those who couldn't be with us on the day, and for those who'd like to reflect again on the powerful reasons behind the hymn choices, we're sharing a selection of them here. May these stories and songs continue to uplift and remind us of the faith, love, and grace that unite us.

Thank you to everyone who chose hymns and took part in the service. Thank you also, to Elaine Leck for her beautiful piano playing, which brought each hymn to life.



Morning has Broken

Chosen by Edna Ballard, this hymn was lovingly introduced by Charlotte during the service. It was a favorite of Edna's mother – a cheerful and uplifting song that brings back warm memories and joy.



Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Angela was warmly interviewed by Junior Church to reflect on what church life was like during her younger years. She chose two meaningful hymns: Jesus Bids Us Shine and Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah. The latter holds a special place in her heart, having been sung at both her late husband's funeral and her daughter's wedding—moments of deep love and remembrance.

Give Me Joy in my Heart

Junior Church chose this fabulous hymn because they like the tune, it makes them happy and people can learn a lot from the words. We added back in the missing 4th verse, 'give me oil in my lamp'! This was also the choice of Natalie, Stuart & Linda.



Colours of Day

Olivia says when she is feeling frustrated she thinks of this song and it helps keep her calm.



To be a Pilgrim

Dennis & Gill Cubitt both chose this hymn. Dennis says, "From the age of 4, I was brought up in Elstow, Bedfordshire—the birthplace of John Bunyan. I attended the village primary school and each year took part in the schools May Day festival at which we performed country and maypole dances on the village green. The same village green where, as a boy, John had done likewise. Obviously when he became older and developed his Puritan beliefs he despised such acts of frivolity!

At school we regularly sang John's hymn. It has always been a favourite of mine, taking me back to my roots. I love the strength of conviction in the words and feel that the language in its original form adds to that strength."

Gill adds, when she was younger, her older brother used to sing this hymn around the house after he learnt it at school. "I used to love singing it at Sunday school. The upbeat rhythm and poignant lyrics has always given me a sense of inner strength through good and sad times. Recently, my granddaughter told me she is a little pilgrim - how memories flooded back!"

Father I Place into your Hands

Caroline introduced this hymn during the service, saying, 'I quite like the melody and it reminds us that we are not alone. It also reminded me of the 'Footprints in the Sand' poem, where a man noticed that there was only one set of footprints when he was at his lowest and saddest times of his life. He questioned the Lord about it: "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times of my life, there is only one set of footprints". And the Lord replied, "During those times when you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."'



Songs of Praise Hymn Choices



The Lord's my Shepherd (Psalm 23)

We sang this to the Brother James Air tune chosen by Eleanor. Eleanor learnt this at her secondary school, Winchester County High School and says it's a delightful tune and she had this at the funerals of her parents - May and Edmund Dobson.



Beauty from Brokenness

We listened to the composer Graham Kendrick sing this during the offertory. Cathy Heath says, 'I chose Beauty for Brokenness, which is a worship song by Graham Kendrick. It was one influence on my own faith journey, together with the lives and witness of the community at Herne Hill URC where I joined the youth group. Graham Kendrick is of course now 75 and I still puzzle over how quickly time flies!

This song for me embodies faith and hope and expresses how we can strive to build God's Kingdom both now and in the future. We can do this by showing empathy and compassion for those on the margins; working for a peaceful and just future for all people everywhere and loving and respecting this beautiful planet which sustains such a diversity of life.



O Jesus I have Promised

Sue chose this hymn as it reminds her of primary school assembly and what a modern hymn it seemed to be - the tune (Hathrops) wasn't the one we regularly sing at St Paul's - but it is very jolly with lots of oompah's! Encouraged me to think that church could be fun - and the words are nice and simple but meaningful too. I just like it!



Amazing Grace

Unfortunately we didn't get to sing but what a great hymn and I hope we get to sing it again soon! Lisa Hessey sent in this suggestion as it is helping her to keep strong whilst she is in hospital.



Now Thank we all Our God

Fran chose this hymn and although we didn't get to sing it this time here is the reason for Fran's choice: My mother used to play this on the piano by ear and sounded like Liberace! This is a real heritage track for me as she did her very best to nurture all of us in her very strong and unassuming faith.

Thine be the Glory

Linda and Stuart Dean love this hymn and had this and Give My Joy in My Heart at their wedding in 2015. With their 10 year anniversary approaching, it brings back lovely memories of their special day.

When a Knight Won his Spurs

(Helen's choice) This is a hymn we often sang when I was in Junior Church. I loved it as a child for its imagery of knights and fairytale creatures, which captured my imagination. Now, as an adult, it speaks to me in a deeper way - reminding me to commit to serving God with faith as my shield and joy as my steed!

Worship and Discipleship Team Meets every 4th Sunday 9-10am

Some of you may wonder what we get up to in our worship and discipleship team meetings. At present, we comprise; Angela Bannerman – who reports to elders, Celia Blackburn, Fran Boto – Convenor, Joyce Brissett, Linda Dean-notes, Sue Eardley – ex officio, Cathy Heath.

We have helpers and supporters from time to time, such as the invaluable help from Pat and Dennis Simmonds and Eleanor and Tony Redshaw with the Christian Aid Planning. Also, it is important to note that ongoing Worship is the responsibility of the Elders meeting, and to this we must often defer.

We start with a prayer asking God to guide all our decision-making and for the Holy Spirit to inspire us and to help us to talk openly but with sensitivity to differing views. We review the schedule of preachers and organists who have agreed to preach or play in the coming weeks, and also preachers who have led our services in the recent past. Is there anything we can do in the future to support these preachers? Have we given them the right steer to help us as a congregation? Who would be the best people to ask back for future key services? In this time of ministerial vacancy, we try to discern who in our own congregation might have the gifts to lead a whole worship service, lead the family talk, or lead prayers of intercession. Some of our regular preachers are only really used to preaching a sermon and would expect members of the congregation to step into these roles?

You may have already experienced a tap on the shoulder in this direction, or maybe you have felt that you have it within you to lead on prayers or short reflections? It is the tradition in the Reformed Church that the Word is not simply read out but always explained and reflected upon with an attempt to give the congregation some steer on its application. This doesn't have to be a long sermon ...it can be done in short reflections, poetry, song, art, drama, or dance! There's a challenge. Please speak to any of us if you feel moved to give something a try. Those of you who attended the Away Day will remember that just giving it a try is all that is needed.

At our meetings, we reflect on how our worship and discipleship outside of the Sunday service may be progressing and if tweaks, take up, or let go may be needed. This includes home groups, Saturday prayer (9 am via Zoom, do join) and the Explore Group.

Our focus at present is on the Christian Aid Walk around 7 churches on June 21st, which is detailed in another article and the Open Day on September 20th, which will include opportunities for Prayer and activities for our community and for our Commitment for Life country.

We have opened the meeting at 09.45 for prayer to any of the congregation who would like to join. No expertise in prayer is needed or expected. You could pray in silence or just blurt out, as many of us do, whatever is on our minds and in our hearts to our very understanding God who is listening and interprets our offerings however fragmented! Do speak to any of us if there is anything you want to know more about or want to clarify.

W&D Team

Communion Charities Information

SUNDAY JUNE 1ST:

FRIENDS OF RED GATES SCHOOL



Red Gates School is an outstanding school providing education for children with severe learning difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties and autism, from 2 to 11 years of age. The Friends of Red Gates School raise funds towards purchasing educational resources & equipment, Variety Sunshine Coaches, play items and school trips which benefit all our children at Red Gates, ensuring their school days are indeed the 'best ever!' More information can be found here: www.redgates.croydon.sch.uk

SUNDAY JUNE 8TH – (PENTECOST)

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES



MSF is a global humanitarian organisation providing medical care in more than 70 countries. Since 1971, they have been treating people caught in complex crises and chronic healthcare emergencies around the world and are experts at working in fast-moving and highly-insecure environments. In 2023, MCF admitted more than 1.3 million people to its hospitals and held more than 16.4 million consultations, including at mobile clinics and in refugee camps. More information can be found here: www.msf.org.uk

SUNDAY JULY 6TH

DEC (DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)



DEC was formed in 1963 to help aid agencies and other interested parties co-operate closely when providing relief after disasters overseas. It brings together 15 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and fulfil its mission to save, protect and rebuild lives by working with the communities affected.

The UK public has given an astounding £2.5 billion to 79 national appeals, responding every time we have called upon them to help, showing great empathy and generosity. Recent appeals include the Myanmar earthquake, www.dec.org.uk

SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST

UNLOCK



UNLOCK is a non denominational Christian charity founded in 1972. It supports inner city churches of any denomination in their response to the opportunities and challenges in their areas.

UNLOCK is especially concerned with making the Bible accessible to 'traditional tabloid' ('non-book', 'oral learners' or 'text-shy cultures') Support takes the form of training local churches and the production of resources which are freely available online. St Paul's has supported the annual UNLOCK London walk in recent years. More information can be found here:

www.unlock-urban.co.uk

Easter Sunday – A Joyous Celebration!

What a joyful and lively Easter Sunday we had!

The day began with a tasty Easter breakfast cooked by the Scouts –and yes, they really do make a mean boiled egg! A great way to start the morning together.

Following breakfast, we gathered for a well-attended Easter Sunday service, where it was wonderful to see so many faces—both familiar and new. A special well done to the children, who did a fantastic job answering the questions Revd Nicola Furley-Smith asked during the service!

After worship, we had a fantastic mix of Easter activities on offer: a classic egg hunt, crafts, and a very popular escape room-style challenge run by Sue in the church. The young folk had a brilliant time, and the adults enjoyed the chance to chat and relax over tea and cake.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to a joyful Easter Sunday to remember!





Thank you from Olivia!

Olivia would like to thank everyone that supported her by buying plants or donating to her fundraising page for the Restless Development triathlon. Olivia grew plants from seeds and brought some along to sell at our V E Day afternoon tea that afternoon she raised £65.00.



On Sunday 18th May she took part in the Triathlon along with her team mates, the Fearless Flamingos, together they raised a total of £1,170.



She also had fun at the Cub Fundraiser on Sunday 27th April this event was to raise funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital and the refurbishment fund for the Scout meeting hall

Olivia made some delicious chocolate cupcakes to sell at the cake stall. There were plenty of activities, you could buy tokens and decide what you wanted to do. Face painting, axe throwing, archery, bouncy castle and much more.





7TH/12TH CROYDON REPORT

The summer months with light evenings are the time to put the 'OUT' in Scouting and so our sections have been running weekly meetings outdoors and away from the headquarters. So while the Beavers and Cubs have made visits to the Park Hill walled garden and allotments, the Scouts practised tent pitching at Bears Wood and raft building and paddling on the lake at Pinewood in Shirley.

In the coming weeks the Beavers and Cubs will be attending the District 'Fun' Day at Frylands Wood and their joint Summer Camp at Pinewood while the Scouts will be paddleboarding at Beckenham Place Park, building bivouacs at Bears Wood, and taking part in the Cleveland Hike. A week long summer camp will take place in Herefordshire.

The Scout Troop has been very successful in District and County events in recent years, and in the recent Checkpoint Challenge competition we finished runners-up in a field of 25 teams.



Our second team finished in 8th place. Membership throughout the Group is holding up well and we have a list of more than 40 young people waiting to join. It's a nice problem to have!

Plans are well advanced for our project to improve the facilities at the headquarters and a detailed report will be available at our Annual General Meeting on Monday June 16 (7.45 pm) – do join us to review the accounts and what we have achieved over the past 12 months. The annual Outdoor Parade Service (with BBQ to follow) takes place on Friday July 4 starting at 6.00 pm. The Rev'd Andrew Dovey will officiate. Again, we shall be delighted to see you.

Christopher Dean
(Group Scout Leader)



Tuesday Guild Easter Micellany



VE Day Afternoon Tea

A Heartfelt Thank You for a Memorable VE Day Afternoon Tea

What a truly unforgettable afternoon we shared at St Paul's on Saturday, 10th May for our VE Day Afternoon Tea! With a full house and an atmosphere brimming with warmth, generosity, and community spirit, it was a joyful event from start to finish.

We're absolutely delighted to share that, thanks to your incredible support, we raised an amazing £500 for Combat Stress, the UK's leading charity for veterans' mental health. Your generosity will make a real difference to those who have served and now need our support.

A special thank you goes to Charlotte Bradford, whose beautiful renditions of Vera Lynn classics brought a heartfelt and nostalgic touch to the day. Her moving and uplifting performances were a fitting tribute and added so much to the occasion.

We are also very proud of Olivia from our Junior Church, who ran the 'Dig for Victory' plant stall and raised an impressive £65 for Restless Development, a charity empowering young leaders across the globe. Well done, Olivia!

Congratulations to our quiz champions, The Codebreakers, who lived up to their name with sharp thinking and great teamwork! And hats off to Liz, our delighted main raffle prize winner.



The afternoon was filled with joy and connection—whether you were taking part in the quiz, exploring the wartime memorabilia display, enjoying the children's crafts, browsing the stalls, or dancing to the music. Thank you for being part of it all.

A very big thank you to the wonderful 7th/12th Croydon Scouts, who served tea and treats with such warmth and enthusiasm—you were brilliant!

Behind every successful event is a team of unsung heroes. We're so grateful to everyone who helped behind the scenes—setting up, clearing away, baking, selling raffle tickets, and preparing food. And a special shout-out to Chris, our fantastic MC, who kept the afternoon running smoothly and with good cheer.

From the shared memories to the laughter around the tables, it was a beautiful way to honour the past, celebrate our community, and support those who've served. We pray that the money raised will bring comfort, healing, and hope to the veterans supported by Combat Stress. Thank you all!

Helen Dean



ST PAUL'S COMMUNITY GARDEN



The St. Paul's Community Garden was decorated with UK flags and bunting for VE Day, on 8th May and our successful VE Tea Party on Saturday 10th May.



We had an excellent Garden Work Party on the morning of Friday 16th May. 12 people turned up and much was achieved, to prepare our community space for the summer season. The first job was to pull the declining forget-me-nots. The bulbs were removed from the pots, to be replanted in the beds soon and others dug up dandelion and yellow catsear weeds from the lawn. The pittosporum tree was cut back and the 2 water butts were refilled.... following the drought.

Then came the fun part – putting in the bedding plants, to give summer colour to our community Garden.

Thus, petunias, French marigolds and busy lizzies have gone into the 3 raised beds. Nicotiana/tobacco and cosmos daisy plants have been settled into the bus stop bed. Red gerberas & scabious have also been added. Joyce brought a rose, a dahlia and some sedums to be planted and Heather gave us a cleome bush. All have been watered in and we hope they flourish.



Once again, Jean provided a lovely lunch for the workers to enjoy.

Now, we plan for our 'London in Bloom – It's Your Neighbourhood' assessment, which will take place on 19th June. So, our next Community Garden Work Party will be on Friday 13th June, 10am – 12 noon. Please make a note of the date, if you are willing to help. Donations of plants and seedlings for the garden and/or the Plant Stall at the Summer Fete on July 5th would be much appreciated too.

Eleanor Redshaw (Community Garden Lead & Elder)

ST. PAUL'S SHOEBOX CAMPAIGN

We're Collecting for the 2025 Shoebox Campaign!

We're excited to once again support the 2025 Shoebox Campaign in partnership with Link to Hope—a trusted charity that delivers shoeboxes filled with essential items and thoughtful gifts to families in need across Eastern Europe, including Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, and Bulgaria.

This campaign ensures your donations go straight into the hands of people who truly need them – every box makes a direct and meaningful impact.



- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Candles & Holders
- Small Games – Draughts/Playing Cards
- Soap & Flannels
- Colouring Pads, Crayons/Pencils, A5 Pads
- Small Toys – Yo-yos, Skipping Ropes, Toy Cars, etc.
- Toiletries – Shampoo, New Makeup, Moisturiser, Hairbrushes
- Reading Glasses, Wooden Cutlery, Sensory Items, Hot Water Bottles
- Wind-Up Radio/Torch, Scissors, Nail Clippers, etc.
- Gifts for Parents – DIY Tools, Tape Measures, Lightweight Head Scarves, Jewellery, work gloves, socks & tights (new)

Please place your donations in the large wicker basket located in the Sanctuary.

Your kindness and continued support are deeply appreciated as we work together to bring hope and help to Eastern Europe.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Helen or Pat GO



FOOD LIST - JUNE 2025



At Purley Food Hub we provide emergency food, toiletries and household essentials to local people going through times of crisis. Please consider donating any of this month's Top 10 priorities:

- Small Bottles of Pasta Sauce
- Tinned Corned Beef, Chicken, Ham
- Tins/Snap Pots of Baked Beans
- Toddler Microwave Meals: 10mths & 12mths+
- Small (500g) Packets of Sugar
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Packets of Custard requiring only hot water
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Small Bottles of Shampoo
- Kitchen Scourers

We are most grateful for everyone's continued kind support. In 12 years your donations have enabled us to provide food for **more than 43,500 people - equivalent to nearly 395,000 meals.**



PURLEY FOOD HUB

Tel: 07546 635295 | Email: purleyfoodhub@gmail.com

Website: www.purleyfoodhub.net

Charity no: 1152807 | Company no: 08557885

Churches
together
"Purley & Kenley"

Moving Stories

Commitment
for Life

Committed to supporting our global partners **ZIMBABWE**

Two opportunities to get involved - passed but still relevant!



Christian Aid Week 11 to 17 May, 2025

This year the focus is on Guatemala. Please go to www.bit.ly/4co1Apj



The Great Big Green Week – ‘Together for good’ 7 and 15 June, 2025

Do you have a passion to tackle climate change and protect nature?

Commitment for Life is a member of The Climate Coalition that brings people together to demand action on the climate. The Great Big Green Week will take place between 7 and 15 June. Get your resource pack here

www.bit.ly/42qxg8R

When Commitment for Life went to Zimbabwe recently, we met up with Sostina Takure, who coordinates the Zimbabwe ACT Alliance Forum.

Sostina told us about just how much she loves working with the ACT Alliance. ACT Alliance is faith based and, as a pastor's wife, Sostina feels right at home. She coordinates the efforts to assist people who are most at risk in Zimbabwe.

When Hurricane Idai struck Zimbabwe several years ago, Christian Aid, in collaboration with ACT Alliance, was one of the first to have “boots on the ground”. They helped people to safety, rescued personal property and livestock, and helped people re-build over 500 houses.

Sostina told us that she is passionate about empowering women, whether this is in relation to economics or to family life. She helps women set up markets that empower them to get good prices for their



Photo credit: Sostina Takure: ACT Alliance, Zimbabwe, by Kevin Snyman

produce. Sometimes, women need assistance to get out of abusive situations. Sostina is there to help, with the assistance of the church. You can watch our interview with Sostina in this video. As a bonus, you get to see Wilbert throw a drone into the African sky! www.bit.ly/C4LSostina

With your continued support for Commitment for Life, Incredible people like Sostina can function and do what they do best – care for people. Please continue in your prayers for Zimbabwe, especially given how attention is being diverted by local and global crises.

commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk

Walking. Praying. Discovering. Fundraising



Join us on 21 June!! 10-4pm

Churches in South Croydon are open for discovery on a walking route that takes in local attractions and history...

Visit East Croydon URC, St Matthew's C of E, St Paul's URC, St Peter's C of E, St George's Waddon, St Andrew's Croydon, South Croydon United Church

MORE INFO

- 7 mile route (with optional short cuts and bus rides)
- Maps & instructions provided
- Start where you like!
- Refreshments and toilets in all churches
- Learn about Christian Aid's work



Contact Fran Boto, Elder at St. Paul's URC, franboto@aol.com or visit www.stpaulsurc.org.uk for more info



We need walkers of course and we don't think they will be disappointed! Apart from the welcome and refreshments in every church there will be lots to discover about each church's history, architecture and particular focus and field of mission. Then out and about in Croydon there will be several things to discover which will be news and maybe the odd shortcut which will be a revelation. We have included some green space too.

If you can't do the whole walk, consider doing just a little. Pat Simmonds has offered to take people by car to some churches and Cathy Heath will accompany people who want to do it largely on the bus. Boniface from Christian Aid will be at St Paul's from around 10-11.30 and St George's Waddon from 2.45 for a talk/presentation.

I will set out at 10.15 from St Paul's if you wish to come in a group of walkers with me.

You can however, start from any church or at any juncture on the route.

To download maps, instructions sponsor forms and picture/info sheets go to our website stpaulsurc.org.uk and click on the Christian Aid logo on the don't miss out tab or ask me for copies.

But if you don't want to walk around you can still be part of this event. Come to St Paul's, chat to walkers, make them welcome, find out about them and talk to them about what we get up to here. There is a role for everyone! Fran 07969173457



St Paul's Tuesday Guild Programme

Coffee mornings:

8 July Croquet Club/Fran Boto
 22 July Church Garden/Sue Eardley
 5 August: Jean Gundlach
 19 August: Eleanor Redshaw
 2 September: Maureen Stagg
 16 September: Caroline Corfield

Autumn Programme

30th September: Welcome programme and Treasurer Report
 7th October: Rev Geoff Dumbreck: Canal Boat
 14th October: Guild outing tbc
 21st October: John Halligan: Spitalfields through the Ages
 28th October: Craft and Natter
 4th November: Eleanor Redshaw: Cape Horn & Chilean fjords
 11th November: Ben Clifford: Listed Buildings in Croydon
 18th November: CWGC: Commonwealth Grave Commission
 26th November: Craft & Natter
 2nd December: Vicky Bruce: Parkinson UK
 9th December: Alison Cousins: River Wandle in Art and Literature
 16th December: Christmas Miscellany
 Break for Christmas

A red banner with white text that says "FREE ENTRY!".

FREE ENTRY!



FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

ST PAUL'S SUMMER FETE

Saturday 5th July 2025

1pm - 4pm

**ST PAUL'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CROHAM PARK AVE, CR2 7HF**

- Tombola
- Large Bouncy Castle
- Traditional Fete Games
- Children's Crafts & Face Painting
- Fresh Pizza – served by the Scouts
- Refreshments including Ice Cream!
- Fancy Dress Competition – with prizes!
- Stalls – plants, cakes, bric-a-brac & more!

**Scan to find
our more!**



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: WWW.STPAULSURC.ORG.UK

Roll Up, Roll Up – Help Needed for St Paul's Summer Fête! Saturday 5th July

We're getting ready for our 4th St Paul's Summer Fête, and we'd love your help to make it another joyful and welcoming day for all!

The team planning the event are: Gill C, Chris, Sue, Pat, Helen, Jeannette, and Sharon. But we still need more hands to bring it all together!

There are lots of ways to get involved:

- **Helping out on a stall**
- **Supporting with refreshments or activities**
- **Donating tombola items, cakes bric-a-brac, or plants**

The Scouts will once again be running fun games and activities, and there'll be plenty going on for all ages to enjoy—something for everyone.

So please:

- ✓ Volunteer your time — speak to Pat if you can help on the day
- ✓ Donate what you can (Eleanor - plants, Gill C - Bric-a-brac, Sharon - Cakes)
- ✓ Spread the word
- ✓ And most importantly—come along and enjoy a fantastic day of community, fun, and fellowship!

Let's make this summer's fête another one to remember!

2025 Dates for the Diary...

June

12th - Book Club @ 7.30pm
21st - Christian Aid Walk 10am - 4pm

July

5th - St Paul's Summer Fete 1pm - 4pm
10th - Book Club @ 12 noon

August

15th - Ladies Night Out
Date TBC - Kids Church Sleepover

September

13th - Model Railway Show
20th - St Paul's Open Church

October

4th - Indoor Boot Sale
12th - Harvest Festival & Harvest Lunch
18th - Shoebox Packing at 10am

November

9th - Remembrance Sunday Service
15th - Charity Christmas Card & Gift Fair 10am - 1pm
15th - Wine Tasting Evening at 7pm
29th - Decorating the Church for Christmas!

December

6th - Charity Christmas Concert
St Paul's Favourite Carol - launching in the August Pauline!!

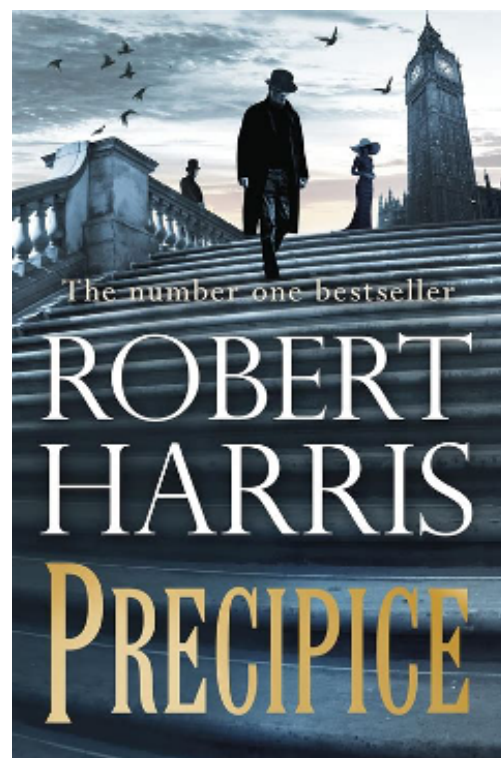
St Paul's Book Group

Thursday June 12th – 7:30pm at St Paul's

We meet to discuss Robert Harris's *Precipice* chosen by Wendy. Here's a taster...

In London, twenty-six-year-old Venetia Stanley –aristocratic, clever, bored, and reckless—is part of a fast group of upper-crust bohemians and socialites known as “The Coterie.” She’s also engaged in a clandestine love affair with the Prime Minister, H. H. Asquith, a man more than twice her age. He writes to her obsessively, sharing the most sensitive matters of state.

An unrivalled master of seamlessly weaving fact and fiction, *Precipice* is another electrifying thriller from the brilliant imagination of Robert Harris.



Thursday July 10th 12 noon South Croydon Bowling Club

Shy Creatures by Clare Chambers, chosen by Maureen is July's book. This one is set in Croydon.

In all failed relationships there is a point that passes unnoticed at the time, which can later be identified as the beginning of the decline. For Helen it was the weekend that the Hidden Man came to Westbury Park.

Shy Creatures is a life-affirming novel about all the different ways we can be confined, how ordinary lives are built of delicate layers of experience, the joy of freedom and the transformative power of kindness



ORGANISED BY THE
7TH/12TH CROYDON
SCOUT GROUP

PROCEEDS
TO LOCAL
CHARITIES

SOUTH CROYDON MODEL RAILWAY SHOW!

All aboard for a day of miniature marvels! Explore an exciting range of model railway layouts in 'N', 'HO', 'OO', 'EM', 'On30' and 'O' gauges, browse the second-hand stall, and check out our trade support. There's plenty to keep the kids entertained with fun activities, plus tasty refreshments to purchase!



Saturday
13 September, 2025



10:00AM - 4:00PM

St Paul's URC, Croham Park Ave, South Croydon, CR2 7HF

£6

Adults

£3

Children (U16)

£15

Family (2+2)

Buses (64 & 433) stop right outside the venue, and Lloyd Park tram stop is a 7-min walk. Free parking is available nearby, with South Croydon station a 12-min walk away.



www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

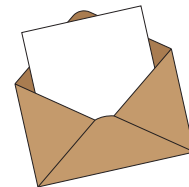


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Letters to the Editor



Jean and David Gundlach shared the uplifting poem "Smiling is Infectious", a piece often attributed to Spike Milligan. However, it's also important to note that author Jez Alborough claims to have written it, publishing the poem in his 1991 collection 'Shake Before Opening'.

Thank you, Jean and David, for reminding us of the simple but powerful gift of a smile!

**"Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.**

**I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realized
I'd passed it on to him.**

**I thought about that smile,
then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
could travel round the earth.**

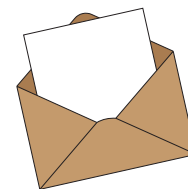
**So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!"**

Musings - Chris Dean

- Old Bankers never die They just lose interest!
- You probably didn't know that there is a patron saint of block email addresses, it's St Francis of a CC."
- It seems a bit unfair that only one company can produce Monopoly.
- It's been months since I bought the book, 'How To Scam People On-Line'. It still hasn't arrived yet.
- I now know how it will all end for me, one of my kids will unplug my life support to charge their phone.
- One good thing about being wrong is the joy it brings to others!



Letters to the Editor



A Right Royal Day Out!

I was honoured to be Dad's (Chris Dean's) guest for a very special visit to the May Buckingham Palace Garden Party—an experience neither of us will forget! The day was full of memorable moments, from walking through the beautifully kept gardens (a peaceful oasis right in the heart of a busy London) to enjoying the wonderful hospitality on offer.

We were thrilled to catch a glimpse of the Duchess of Edinburgh during the event, adding a real sense of occasion. The food was absolutely fantastic (the smoked salmon was particularly good!) and the music from the band provided a perfect soundtrack to the afternoon.

It was also a real pleasure to meet so many inspiring people and hear about some of the charity work being done across the country.

All in all, a truly lovely, traditional British day out—complete with fine weather, elegant surroundings, and a strong sense of community. A privilege to be invited, and an experience we'll both treasure for a long time.

Helen Dean



BLESSED BITES

RECIPES FROM ST. PAUL'S

White Chocolate Raspberry Traybake

Ingredients

Cake

325 g unsalted butter/baking spread
325 g caster sugar
6 medium eggs
325 g self raising flour
200 g raspberries
150 g white chocolate chips/chunks

Icing

150 g unsalted butter
300 g icing sugar
150 g white chocolate (melted)

Decoration (optional)

Fresh raspberries
White chocolate
Freeze dried raspberries



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 160°C fan and line a 9x13" traybake tin
2. Beat together the butter and sugar until fluffy (about 2-3 minutes)
3. Add the eggs, sifted flour and mix until smooth
4. Fold through most of the raspberries and white chocolate chips
5. Top tip - coat the raspberries in flour to stop them sinking
6. Pour the cake mix into the tin
7. Sprinkle over the last few raspberries and white chocolate chips
8. Bake in the oven for 40-45 minutes and then cool fully
9. Beat the butter on its own until smooth (about 2-3 minutes)
10. Add the sifted icing sugar and mix, and then add the white chocolate and mix again
11. Spread over the sponge and then decorate with the raspberries, chocolate and freeze dried raspberries

Our Letters to the Editor section is a space for you—our wonderful community—to share your thoughts and experiences. One popular feature is our collection of favourite recipes, which we love including in The Pauline. But it's not just about food! If you have something non-church-related you'd like to share—a reflection, a funny story, a travel tip, a community event, or anything else close to your heart—please send it along.

You can send your contributions to The Pauline Editor, Pat GO : patgo123@aol.com

BLESSED BITES

RECIPES FROM ST. PAUL'S

HELEN'S SHORTBREAD SPITFIRES!

Ingredients

100g caster sugar
200g unsalted butter (room temperature)
300g plain flour

Method

1. Cream the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
2. Sift in the flour and mix until it forms a soft dough. Make sure its combined well
3. Roll out the dough to a 1 cm thickness on a lightly floured surface.
4. Cut out shapes using your choice of cutters—I used a Spitfire cutter and a 5cm round cutter.
5. Transfer the biscuits to a lined baking tray, then chill in the fridge for 30 minutes.
6. Whilst they are chilling, preheat the oven to Gas Mark 4 (180C/160C Fan)
7. Bake for 15 minutes, or until they start to turn lightly golden.
8. Leave to cool fully

Decoration

You can decorate your biscuits however you like—try icing tubes, fondant icing, or keep them simple with a light sprinkle of sugar. Feel free to get creative with extras! I added some edible flowers for a sprinkle of colour!





St Michael's Church in Stockwell - taken by Caroline Corfield on the recent Unlock walk in April

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