

diary for April

03	Fourth Sunday of Lent : Mothering Sunday	
05	Weight Watchers	17:30-19:30
	Lent Course: The Power of Small Choices: at St James, Millbrook	19:30
06	Alpha Course	19:30-21:30
07	Holy Communion	10:00
09	Coffee Morning	09:30-13:00
10	Fifth Sunday of Lent	
12	Mothers' Union	19:45-21:15
	Weight Watchers	17:30-19:30
	Lent Course: The Power of Small Choices: at St James, Millbrook	19:30
13	Alpha Course	18:30-21:00
14	Holy Communion	10:00
	Lunch Club	12:30
16	Market Stall, Hyde Market	
17	Palm Sunday	
	Parish Annual General Meeting	11:30
19	Weight Watchers	17:30-19:30
20	Alpha Course	19:30-21:30
21	Maundy Thursday	
	Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday	19:30
22	Good Friday	
	Meditative Service for Good Friday	14:00-15:00
23	Wedding	14:00
24	Easter Day	
26	Weight Watchers	17:30-19:30
28	Holy Communion	10:00
	Lunch Club	12:30

* April 2011

The Magazine



s a i n t p a u l ' s
s t a l y b r i d g e

Mission Statement

at Saint Paul's we seek to

Develop our faith through worship, prayer and learning.

Grow together in love and service

Share God's love with the wider community

Welcome others into the church family.

Sunday Services at Saint Paul's

Sunday	08:00 am	10:30 am	06:30 pm
April 3	Holy Communion: HC2	Parade Service for Mothering Sunday	no service
April 10	Holy Communion: HC2	Holy Communion: HCI	no service
April 17	Holy Communion: HC2	Morning Prayer: MP:CW	no service
April 24	Holy Communion: HC2	Family Communion: HCI	no service

HCI Holy Communion : *Common Worship* Order 1 (contemporary)

HC2 Holy Communion : *Common Worship* Order 2 (traditional)

MP:CW Morning Prayer : *Common Worship*

MP:BCP Morning Prayer : *Book of Common Prayer*

EP:BCP Evening Prayer : *Book of Common Prayer*

10:30 **Sunday School (begins in church)**

from the **vicarage**

Another church year draws to an end, heralded by our **Annual General Church Meeting** after the service on Palm Sunday-17 April. This is a time to both reflect upon the past year and look forward to the coming year. Our restoration is almost 'officially' complete – *Hallelujah!* (upon the return of the organ to its housing), although there is still much work to be done in the church (see my 'Behind The Scenes' article). We will be celebrating the completing of the work later in the year with a special concert given by our organists and the choir – watch this space!

The GAP (Growth Action Plan) initiative, introduced last year by Chester Diocese, officially enters GAP2. This would be an opportune time to share with you all what are priorities are for next year; two of which are carried over, in modified form, from last year.

Firstly completion of the **restoration** was a GAP priority last year. This year we continue this priority with an ongoing maintenance programme. It is hoped everyone who generously paid into our restoration fund will continue to pay into what will now become a maintenance fund. The first major action will be to replace the lounge

carpet.

Secondly, better links with our **church school** continues to be a priority. For instance, only a handful of our Sunday School come from St. Paul's School – this figure should be much more. With this in mind, we are hoping to install Audio Visual facilities when we improve our Public Address system. We are behind the times, and if we want the school to use our church, as *their* church in the future, we must have the same facilities that they can offer at school. Of course, these facilities will also benefit us as a church in many ways.

We are also hoping to encourage the school to become involved with our worship, particularly the Parade service. I have also initiating with Norma a *Christian Union* in the school for the older children.

Our **third** GAP priority is to **improve the quality of our worship and welcome** – hence the new PA system, which the PCC, on their Away Day last October, all agreed was in urgent need of an upgrade. We also acknowledge that we can be a more welcoming church and all of us need to be more aware of newcomers in our services and encourage them to

join us in fellowship after services.

For me and Norma this is also a time to reflect on our first year in Stalybridge. After the Easter services we will have had a chance to experience the entire church year. I have always said that I personally will feel I have finally settled in once that moment arrived.

I would like to thank you all for the way you have welcomed us into St. Paul's, may it be the first of many fruitful years in partnership as servants of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Behind the Scenes

As part of our revamped magazine, I have been asked to write a brief note about our *Parochial Church Council* meetings, which take place every two months. This is so you are all aware of what is going to happen in the church, rather than finding out as it happens!

Of course, as the *Annual General Church Meeting* approaches later this month (17th. April), you may prefer to find out directly by standing for election as a PCC member. The term of office is 3 years, and we are at present looking for 5 new PCC members.

At our March meeting we looked at our Growth Action Plan which is now in its second year. I have made this the focus of my *From The Vicarage* for this month. Needless to say, what we hope to do in the church will be largely controlled by our financial situation. Although our general fund, for the everyday running of the church, is struggling to hold up at present – it costs £1700 per week just to keep things ‘ticking over,’ i.e. bills, insurance, parish share - we have been very fortunate in that our restoration fund has about £10,000 in excess of the monies needed to complete the recent South Transept and Organ restoration.

through the week at St Paul's

Weekdays	Funtasia Kids' Group	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Teddies Playgroup	9:00-11:30 *
Monday	Choir	19:30
Tuesday	No. 2 Brownies	18:30-20:00 *
Wednesday	Prayer Group - 4 Early Bank	
Thursday	Mums and Tots	13:00 –15:00 *
Thursday	Rainbows	18:15-19:15 *
Thursday	Brownies	18:30-20:00 *
Thursday	Guides	19:30-21:00 *
Thursday	Bell Ringers	19:30-21:00
Friday	Flower team	11:30-14:30
Friday	Church cleaning	18:00-18:45
Friday	Youth Club - every other week	19:00-21:00 *
Saturday	Prayer Group	09:30-10:00
	* Term time only	

flowers in April

3 April	Lent-no flowers
10 April	Lent-no flowers
17 April	Lent-no flowers
24 April	F.H. & M. Ashton; W Nelson; <u>for</u> M. Howard

from the Registers

Weddings

Paul Michael Travis and Zoe Louise Beeley	19 February 2011
Daryl Andrew Jones and Rachel Victoria Evans	12 March 2011

Funerals

Margaret Bennett, aged 93	11 February 2011
Valerie Parks, aged 72	15 February 2011
Len Birch, aged 67	25 February 2011
Margaret Christian, aged 81	28 February 2011
Peter Johnson, aged 42	02 March 2011

Baptisms

Evie Lilly Prescott	13 February 2011
Esme May Williams	13 March 2011
Lewis Stephen Williams	13 March 2011
Demmi Draper	13 March 2011
Samuel George Siddall	13 March 2011
Lauren Rowley (adult)	13 March 2011
Lea-Ann Swift (adult)	13 March 2011

Holy Week and Easter at St Paul's

April 17 Palm Sunday

08:00 Holy Communion

10:30 Morning Prayer

11:30 Church Annual General Meeting

April 21 Maundy Thursday

19:30 Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday

April 22 Good Friday

14:00 Meditative Service for Good Friday

April 24 Easter Day

08:00 Holy Communion

10:30 Family Communion for Easter

With this excess money, in addition to re-carpeting the downstairs lounge (and carry out a bit of decorating), we will replace our Public Address system and introduce Audio Visual facilities into both the main church and the downstairs lounge. This will take a while as we will need to apply for a Faculty from the Diocese (to allow us to make changes). General maintenance will continue with any remaining excess money, and as a 'rolling' programme.

Advertisements have been placed for a replacement organist upon Stuart's retirement - one should appear in the next *Diocese News*, which appears as an insert in our *Magazine*. Stuart has served us faithfully, assigning his fees back to the church. We may need to accept that in future fees will have to be paid.

Coffee mornings continue on a Saturday. We are grateful for your support of the last one, which raised over £250, despite the fact that we have lost the Ballet Classes, which met at this time, and supported us well.

We have advertised our facilities in the *Staly Mag*.

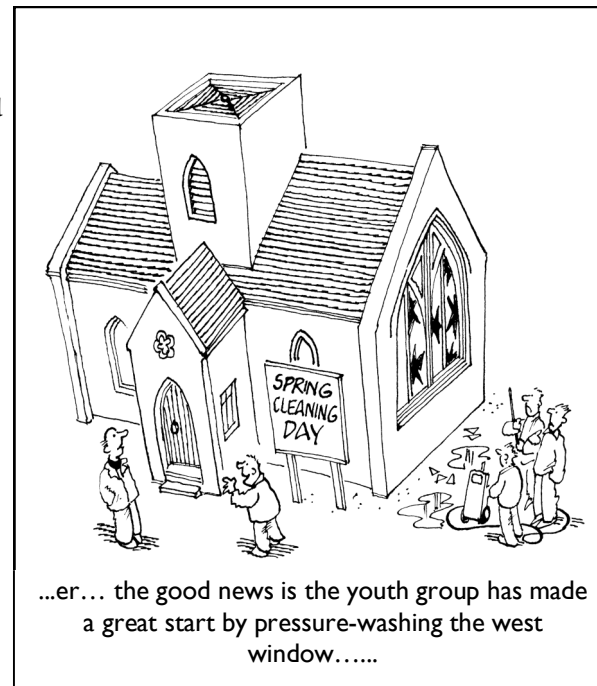
The *Social Committee* is planning a concert next

year given by *The Three Crows*, who are very popular in the Stalybridge area.

The Mission Committee has now been formed and will look into aspects of our church giving in the coming months.

Apologises that I have not been able to include every detail of the PCC meeting, but no doubt I will be reporting on other issues in the future.

Tim



Mothering Sunday

the Fourth Sunday in Lent

goes by a number of names including **Refreshment Sunday**, **Laetare Sunday** (from a Latin text which is used in the liturgy for the day) as well as **Mothers' Day**.

There are a number of theories about the origin of "Mothering Sunday". At one time, people - especially those working away from home - would worship at their nearest parish church, but it was thought important to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, they would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or Cathedral of the area.

Returning to the 'mother' church also saw family reunions when children who were working away returned home. It was the return to the 'mother' church which led to the tradition of children, especially those working as domestic servants or as apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family.

Refreshment Sunday marked the half-way point of Lent and some relaxation of the Lenten fast was permitted, the

tone was also lightened by the priest exchanging purple, penitential vestments for pink or rose coloured ones to reflect the note of joy in the exclamation: **Laetare Jerusalem** - *Rejoice, O Jerusalem* which formed part of the service.

Simnel cake which is associated with Mothering Sunday is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste, one on top and one in the middle. The cake is made with 11 balls of marzipan icing on top representing the 11 disciples - *Judas* is not included.

Mothers' Day is really an American festival which has been combined with the traditional Mothering Sunday celebration. In fact, in the USA and many other countries, *Mothers' Day* is held much later in the year, on the second Sunday in May.

The religious challenge is to find God's image in someone who is not in our image.

The Chief Rabbi: Jonathan Sacks

well even in really warm weather.

Another technique that aids moisture retention in the soil is keeping the top cm. of soil loose by using a Dutch hoe very lightly indeed. At the same time any germinating weed seedlings are destroyed, thus preventing them taking water and nutrients from the soil. This loose surface layer is known as a 'dry' mulch because it helps to prevent moisture evaporating from the soil below.

Where a garden is purely ornamental, say with herbaceous perennials and shrubs, mulching in spring with part-rotted stable manure, garden compost, straw etc. will help retain moisture by preventing evaporation. As these materials are organic, they will enrich the soil as they decompose, and if applied each spring will improve the fertility on soil which can't be dug because of permanent planting. Always apply them after decent rainfall between late March and the end of April. All the permanent plants on the allotment — fruit trees, fruit canes and bushes, rhubarb and asparagus all get this annual treatment.

That wonderful family of climbing plants, clematis, have a tradition of liking their roots in the shade and their heads in the sun. The simplest form of mulching for these could be a piece of slate slightly raised off the ground but shading the root area. Generally however I would prefer to

use the organic mulches referred to earlier. Either way they will benefit, especially if planted against a wall facing any southerly point of the compass.

The move against peat-based compost continues and over the last few years many peat-free composts have proved problematical and inconsistent to say the least. However, I note that the March issue of *Gardening Which* in its review of container composts, picks out *Arthur Bowers New Horizon Organic and Peat Free Multi-Purpose Compost* and *Westland Multi-Purpose Compost with added John Innes* as the two best buys, the latter having 60% peat content.

Enjoy your April garden as spring unfolds.

Frank

Coffee Morning



If you can cast your minds back to last year, you may remember that the months of April, May and June were very dry with only 127mm (5 inches) of rain falling during the whole thirteen weeks of this quarter. Inevitably this led to a hosepipe ban in July, by which time the rains returned averaging nearly 127mm (5") per month for the remainder of the year. It is fairly obvious that plants need water in the growing season and to keep them reasonably happy they need around 25mm (1 inch per week) throughout the period from April to September. Thus the shortfall from April to June last year was just over 200mm (8 inches).

in the garden

With Frank Ashton

How can we ensure that plants won't suffer from such dry conditions? Here are some tips to avoid having to waste water at this time. On the allotment I go a long way to avoid watering (probably my least favourite garden job anyway) by careful and thorough soil preparation in autumn and winter. This involves digging in large quantities of manure at an absolute minimum rate of one barrowload to 2 square yards. One section each year also gets the benefit of around 3 cubic metres of compost from the three compost heaps I have accumulated by autumn, and this is in addition to the manure. As a result the soil depth has in-

creased by about 30cms (1 foot) over the last 35 years. Indeed, in the mid 70s, I put concrete paths either side of our allotment which were 2 inches higher than the soil level. Now these paths are 10 inches below it! This annual treatment has created (from the original heavy clay) a rich, loamy soil which holds lots of moisture, yet at the same time is well-drained.

When it comes sowing and planting out in warm dry conditions a simple and very economical use of water is possible. Seed drills of the required depth are watered carefully so that the base of the drill is thoroughly soaked. Once the water has soaked in, the seeds are sown and covered with the dry surface soil. Germination is rapid because the seeds are in contact with the moist soil below. Many people get poor germination by only watering after covering the seeds. This water may not penetrate down to the seeds, and, in combination with the sun's heat, results in a crust forming on the soil surface which some seedlings find hard to break through.

With any plants which have been grown in trays or, better still, in pots always make sure they are thoroughly watered a couple of hours before planting. Then dig out the planting holes to the required depth and width enough to take the roots and fill each hole with water, twice if necessary. Once it has drained away get the plants in and pull a little dry soil around them. Particularly when planting out from pots, this works very



Cursillo

(pronounced 'kur-see-yo') is a Spanish word meaning 'short course.' In the Chester Diocese, this course on being a Christian is held twice

a year, each course runs for three days from Thursday evening to Sunday afternoon.

Fancy a Spiritual Facelift?

Who is it for?

Clergy (I have attended it as a participant as well as a staff member) and *laity* (mainly the latter, so don't be frightened off!) who are...

- Curious
- Searching
- Discovering
- Growing
- Wanting to be glad and confident in their faith

What does the course offer?

An opportunity to grow in faith! It is hoped that over the duration of the course the participants will experience the love and grace of God and the joy of being in Christian fellowship, encouraging one another in a spiritual

journey.

Over the course there will be 15 short talks (each approx. 10 minutes duration), by both laity and ordained, on a number of topics – ideals, grace, obstacles to grace, the life of prayer, study, action, lay people and the church, Sacraments and Christian community. The talks lead on to discussions in small groups. Of course, there will also be other activities, including acts of worship.

What is expected of the participants?

Just be open to what happens! Simply take a fresh look at the Good News of Jesus Christ.

This is a time of being in a Christian Community. There is laughter and there are sometimes tears. There are quite times and there are noisy times. Above all, this is a time to encounter God's grace, and His love embodied in those around you – and a time truly to experience the movement of the Spirit.

The cost of the course is paid for by previous participants, who simply want others to have the **Cursillo** experience. If you attend the course, and have the same sentiments, and want to support a participant on the next course, the full cost is £150 per participant (but you could pay part of this amount).

So what happens next?

If you would like to know more about **Cursillo** please have a chat with me and I will fill you in on the details. I know personally that the course can be a deeply moving spiritual experience, one during which you can feel the love of God through others.

The next course (on which I will be one of the Spiritual Directors) runs from *Thursday 19th. May to Sunday 22nd. May.*

So, do you, or a loved one, need a Spiritual facelift? **Tim**



The *Traidcraft* stall, selling **Fairtrade** produce is usually held in the Lounge after the morning service on the **second and fourth Sunday** in the month.

Traidcraft, a charity founded in 1979, aims to ensure that producers in developing countries can earn a decent living, develop new skills and provide for their families without being exploited or having to rely on child labour to supplement their incomes.

As well as selling *Fairtrade* goods, *Traidcraft* invests in skills development programmes to allow workers to develop new skills ranging from bee keeping and crop growing to block printing and jewellery design as well as learning how to run a business. Producers are enabled to earn a decent wage, send their children to school and pay for healthcare, housing and adequate food.

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Please see
the sponsorship form in
the church lounge.

The hymn is sung to a Swedish tune which had been used to set the original poem by *Boberg* in 1891.

In 2005, according to a **BBC Songs of Praise** poll, this had become Britain's favourite hymn. The English version of the hymn, and especially *Elvis Presley's* recording of it have been credited by Swedish gospel singer, *Per-Eric Hallin* as a major factor in the revival of **O Store Gud** in Sweden.

£ 1 0 Challenge Carols at the Vicarage

Now, those of you who sit near to me in church any Sunday know that I do not have a gift for singing – but nevertheless I love to! This evening at the Vicarage was lovely. A gathering in the lounge with carol sheets and an opportunity to sing lots of our favourite carols.

Norma was the Master of Ceremonies and had a fun way of choosing different groups of people to sing. So, for example there was the chance for boys only, girls only, those who were wearing jumpers, those sitting on the floor, those in the choir and so on.

We had refreshments including mulled wine and mince pies and a great social gathering to get us in the festive mood!

St. Paul's £10 Challenge

In last year's *£10 Challenge* we had the chance to 'borrow' £10 from the *Restoration Fund* – provided we used it to fund an event that would return the £10 - and more besides - to boost the Fund.

Jacqui Barker has written some articles on what challenges *St Paulers* set themselves—and these will appear in *The Magazine* over the next few months. You will find the first on this page.

Among the events which held were:

- **Tim Robinson** – Trombone Quiz after a Sunday Morning Service
- **Mavis Grant** – Film Show on Alaska
- **Steve & Judith Willis** – Quiz
- **Helen Hobday & Sheila Pearson** – Party selling jewellery they had made
- **Sheila Crompton** – Sale of homemade biscuits
- **Norma Robinson** – Carols at the Vicarage
- **Judith Davy** – Quilting and craft workshop

These events alone raised £1030 and we'll do an update on the other events and the final figures in a later *Magazine*.

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder....

From Sweden and back again, via German, Russian, English and Elvis

Our hymn book, *Mission Praise* tells us that this hymn was translated from the Russian, but, while this is true, the hymn is actually Swedish in origin.



Carl Boberg

The poem on which the hymn is based was written by Carl Boberg, an evangelist, journalist and member of the Swedish parliament. After experiencing an evangelical conversion when he was 19, he returned to his native town of Monsteras to work as a preacher.

Boberg gave this account of the inspiration behind his poem:

"It was that time of year when everything seemed to be in its richest colouring; the birds were singing.....It was very warm; a thunderstorm appeared on the horizon and soon thunder and lightning. We had to hurry to shelter. But the storm was soon over and the clear sky appeared.

When I came home I opened my window towards the sea. [through the window came the sound of church bells] That

evening, I wrote the song, O Store Gud".

The poem was set to music in 1891 and appeared in a number of Swedish hymn books and an English version was published in 1925 but never caught on.

In 1912 a Russian version by Ivan Prokhanoff appeared, itself probably a translation of a German version of the hymn. Stuart Hine, a missionary in Russia was impressed by the hymn when he heard it sung in the western Ukraine. Eventually Hine translated the first three verses while on evangelistic work on the borders of Russia and Romania – an area which provided some of the imagery used in the second verse, e.g. "...When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur....".

Hine added a fourth verse in 1948 after he had returned to Britain and at a time when refugees from Eastern Europe were arriving in Britain. Hine's verse deals with the longing for home felt by the displaced, but offers the hope that Christ will come "and take me home".

Hine's Russian and English versions of the hymn were published in a gospel magazine in 1949 and its popularity grew in both Britain and the USA when it was used in Billy Graham's evangelical crusades.

PARACHUTE *Jump*

Jan Stone and her brother Jason Littler will make a parachute jump in aid of

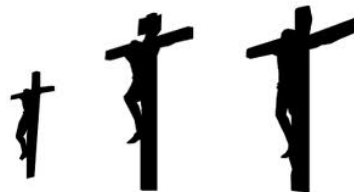
Wigan and Leigh Hospice

On Saturday 16 April 2011

to raise funds for the Hospice for the wonderful way they cared for the family of Jason's wife Victoria Littler who died aged 40 in November 2010 after being diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

The wonderful way the Hospice cared for Vicky was extended to all of our family and they still are a great support to us - particularly to Jason's children: Jack (5) and Katie (12)

We cannot replace their mummy but we can try to ensure that other children in their position can continue to receive the outstanding care they were given.



From the foot of the cross I look up to thee
O Jesus Lord bow down to me
For I stand in the faith of my God today
Put love in my heart and hope always.

Early Scottish

We aim to raise at least £1000 to raise a significant sum for the Hospice and cover the cost of the jump.

Please dig deep!

Personal donations can be Gift Aided. You can download and print a Gift Aid form from here:

http://www.stpaulstaley.co.uk/extras/stone_sponsor.pdf

Please fill the form and return it to Jan Stone with either cash or a cheque (made payable to J Stone) or post to J Stone, 26 Carrbrook Close, Carrbrook, Stalybridge, Cheshire, SK15 3LT

Here is a link to the Hospice if you would like to find out more about the charity: www.wlh.org.uk

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May's

Magazine

Items for the next edition of **The Magazine** should be received by
17 April 2011.

Please post them in the box in the church entrance or give them to George Maddock.

You can also email items to:

stpaulsweb@gmaddock.plus.com

Contributions to **The Magazine** are always welcome. Their use in whole or in part is at the discretion of the Editor.