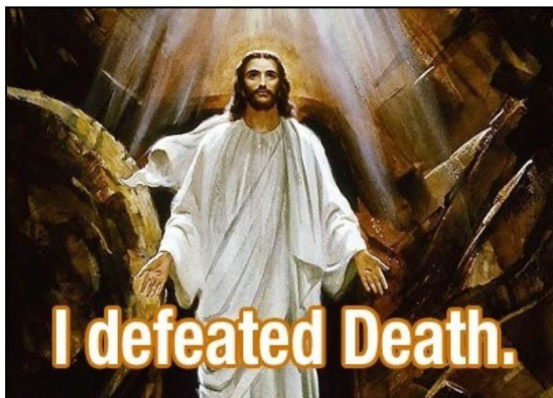


# Good News!

**in this issue**

## THE Messenger



**Misguided?  
Illusion?  
The  
greatest  
event the  
world has  
ever seen?**

**from YOUR ST PAUL'S  
Spring 2017**



## **Sunday Service - every Sunday at 10 a.m.**

and Sunday Church Club for children over 3 years old  
You are Invited to join us—no experience necessary!

**First Tuesday of each month at 19:30**

### **Mothers' Union**

**First Thursday of each month at 10:00**

### **Seniors' Coffee Special events -**

**Quiz nights, Lent Study,  
Mothering Sunday, Easter Day,  
Christian Aid, Holiday Club**

**See page 4, and check out other  
events on the Church website**



[www.stpaulswb.com](http://www.stpaulswb.com)

[www.facebook.com/  
stpaulschurchwoodford](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulschurchwoodford)



# Easter - then and now



I wonder what thoughts were running through the heads of those disciples on that Sunday evening? There they were, huddled together behind locked doors for fear that they may be next on the list for execution. There was grief following the death of their teacher and friend; there may have been doubt and bewilderment – ‘Was he really who we believed he was?’ – and feelings of guilt – ‘If only we’d known what Judas was up to.’ ‘If only we hadn’t run away.’ ‘If only...’ Then suddenly, there is Jesus, visibly standing among them!

The risen Jesus chose to reveal himself to his disciples at that moment and greeted them with *Shalom* – “Peace be with you!” *Shalom* sums up the concepts of peace, well-being, unity between heaven and earth; life and harmony for all creation; wholeness, and God’s blessing. This *shalom* had been truly made possible by Jesus, when he died on the cross. So at his resurrection, Jesus’ greeting was rather like pronouncing that the *shalom* of reconciliation and life from God was now available. Jesus offers that same *shalom* to us, even in the midst of whatever problem, suffering or crisis we happen to be facing.

As he stood there, Jesus showed his disciples the marks of crucifixion on his hands and the wound from the Roman spear in his side. This was no illusion: the flesh and blood Jesus had a real death and real resurrection, and so was able to accomplish salvation for the whole world. We live in a world which is still needy and suffering – and the one who died to bring salvation was recognised by the scars of his own suffering.

The gospel (‘Good News’) is the continuing story of God being involved in the world; often we’re called to be the means by which he brings blessing to others. In a world where people have learned to mistrust words, our example, what we do and what we are, will speak volumes.

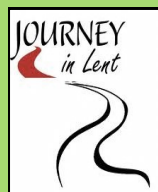
**The resurrection of Jesus marked a new beginning for his followers and a new chapter in the story of the relationship between God and humanity. It’s a story which continues.**

*Ola.*

# Special events

## MARCH

**'Living as Disciples'** - our Lent Study on Wednesdays 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April in church at 19:45 - all are more than welcome



Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 19:30  
Woodford Singers Quiz



Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 19:30  
Bible Society Quiz



Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 19:30  
Redbridge Voluntary Care Quiz

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> **MOTHERING SUNDAY**  
8:15 Holy Communion  
10:00 All Age Worship



## APRIL

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> **EASTER DAY**  
10:00 Festival Communion



## MAY

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> **CHRISTIAN AID SUNDAY**  
10:00 Informal Communion



Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Holiday Club  
10:00-12:00 in the Church Hall

St Paul's Church Hall, Chigwell Road, Woodford Bridge, Essex IG8 8BT

St. Paul's

Christian

Playgroup

Email: [stpauls.playgroup@btconnect.com](mailto:stpauls.playgroup@btconnect.com)

020 8504 5465

St Paul's Christian Playgroup celebrates it's 25th year in 2017 and due to the generosity and support of the church congregation, families of the children attending the Playgroup and the local community it's future remains promising.

The playgroup was originally set up by Valerie Hodges and Pauline Bolding who wanted to provide Christian teaching to the very youngest in the local community. Together with their dedicated team, they provided a range of activities to ensure the 3-5 year olds who attended developed in all areas of their learning, with a special focus on Christian teaching through a bible story, songs and prayers enjoyed each morning.

Following Valerie's retirement I was privileged to take over as the Playgroup Leader and have been running the group ever since. A great deal has changed in that time as a result of statutory requirements, trends, research into child development and early years education, and our struggle to remain sustainable and to meet the needs of the children and their families. We now welcome children from 2 years old, have increased the numbers of children attending each morning

session and our opening times, and have developed a lovely outdoor environment for the children to enjoy. We have increased the number of staff employed and ensured that those staff are appropriately qualified to meet the needs of all children, including those with special



educational needs and disabilities. The popular juice and biscuits offered to the children at snack time has now been replaced by healthier options such as fruit, water and milk, and changing nappies has become part of our morning routine.

However, I am pleased to say the Christian ethos of the group has remained and the children still enjoy a Bible story, the same Bible songs introduced 25 years ago with some new additions and a daily prayer. Although - as the children now lead our end of morning prayer the content I suspect is slightly different ! The Playgroup logo, which I believe was designed by Valerie's husband Peter Hodges, is displayed on all our forms, letter heads and our website which we introduced two years ago, together with our uniform proudly worn by the children and staffing team. The children continue to delight us all with an end of term service in church for their families and Wellgate community farm visit us each year on the green, providing a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about and experience farm animals up close.

Sadly there are only a few Christian playgroups still operating and as a result we do attract families from outside our local community and neighbouring boroughs, who specifically come to us for the Christian teaching we offer. We are also very proud to be an outreach to our Church, with a number of families joining the congregation, choosing to be baptised and confirmed



in their faith following their children's enrolment at the playgroup. Many of our children also join the holiday clubs when they leave us to start school. The playgroup team attend church fundraising events such as the Christmas and Summer Fayres to encourage the families of the playgroup to offer their support to the Kenyan Street children Appeal. We are also delighted to be invited to special church services such as Mothering Sunday and the Shoe Box appeal, where the children proudly perform a song.

Our decision to offer government funded places to ensure that all children whatever their families financial situation can benefit from excellent early years education has been vital in ensuring that we have maintained a healthy number of children attending and a full waiting list. However due to a drop in the birth rate the number of children attending in the 2016 Autumn term significantly declined. This factor along with increased staffing costs due to the introduction of the National Living Wage and Pension contributions, and the fact that government funding does not compare with our actual running costs has caused us to seriously consider our future sustainability.

Over the last few months the Playgroup team, the Treasurer and the Playgroup Management Committee have striven to find a solution to our current financial situation and as a result have slashed expenditure, budgets and staff pay in a bid to secure the Playgroup's future. The implementation of these cuts, together with the generosity of the church congregation and the families of the children attending the Playgroup, means we are now delighted to report that we can see a brighter future and have a plan in place to ensure the playgroup can continue to be a viable business.

On behalf of all the Playgroup team, the children and their families I would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming generosity, support and of course most importantly their prayers.

God Bless

**Delia Ware**

Playgroup Manager



St Paul's Church Hall, Chigwell Road, Woodford Bridge, Essex IG8 8BT



## Places are limited - register your child today!

OFSTED registered to take children from 2-5 year old. Last inspection 2016 rated "Good".

**Open** Term time only Monday-Friday mornings 9.15am-12.15pm.

**Fees** £21 per session (£40 registration fee voluntary for funded children).

2, 3 & 4 year funded places available. Child care vouchers accepted.

### More information

Delia Ware – Manager 0208 504 5465 8.30-1pm term time only.

Email address – [stpauls.playgroup@btconnect.com](mailto:stpauls.playgroup@btconnect.com)

Website - [www.stpaulschristianplaygroup.co.uk/](http://www.stpaulschristianplaygroup.co.uk/)

## Baptisms this Spring.....

On Sundays at 12:00

March 12<sup>th</sup> Frankie Walker

March 19<sup>th</sup> Penny Dickinson

April 16<sup>th</sup> Eva Moore

April 30<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Scott-Sare



## Weddings this Spring.....

March 18th at 14:00

Asher Gordon and Martina Melifonwu



**Please, please, please ....  
don't park on the  
Church Drive at these  
times .....  
leave it clear for the  
Bride and the guests!**



**Thinking about Baptism?  
Wanting a Wedding?  
Need to arrange a Funeral?**

We believe that God's love is there for us 24/7, but St Paul's is available and delighted to help with those 'special love' times in life.



**BAPTISMS (Christenings)**  
usually happen at 12:00 on a Sunday, but may be arranged at other times where appropriate.



**MARRIAGES**  
God has given us a beautiful setting for marriages - already 16 booked for 2017 - and we can offer support before, during and after the 'big day'



**FUNERALS**  
Saying goodbye to a loved one is not easy - but we find that handing them to God's eternal love helps.

We shall be delighted to share God's love and support - in the first instance please .....

contact Vicar Ola Franklin

on 020 8506 0662

or at [ofrank@btinternet.com](mailto:ofrank@btinternet.com)

# What do YOU know about Easter?

1. What Jewish feast was being celebrated the week Christ was crucified?
2. What animal was Jesus riding when He entered Jerusalem during what is known as His Triumphal Entry?
3. Why is the Sunday before the resurrection called Palm Sunday?
4. Which disciple cut off the ear of the high priest's servant in an attempt to protect Jesus from being taken as a prisoner?
5. What was the name of the high priest's servant who had his ear cut off by the disciple and subsequently reattached by Jesus?
6. How many times did Peter deny Christ after he abandoned the Lord?
7. For how many pieces of silver did Judas trade the life of Jesus?
8. How did Judas identify Jesus to the soldiers?
9. In repentance Judas returned the money to the priests he was given as the price of betrayal of the Lord, and then he did what?
10. What did the priests do with the money that Judas returned to them?
11. Who was surprisingly released before Pontius Pilate sentenced Jesus to death?
12. What did Pilate's wife advise him to do concerning Jesus?
13. A man named Simon was compelled to carry Jesus' cross. What were the names of Simon's two sons?
14. What was the inscription above the cross?
15. What were 4 of the 7 statements Christ said from the cross?
16. What was the statement a Roman soldier made concerning Christ?
17. What happened in the Temple as a sign that Jesus' death had made way for the individual believer to approach God?
18. When Jesus died there was darkness in the land. How long did it last?
19. Who were the two men who helped prepare the body of Christ for burial?
20. Who was the first person to see the risen Christ?

**How did you do?**

**Answers available in church!**

# St PAUL'S SPIRELIGHT TESTIMONIALS



## March

- 1st David and Linda Savage  
Andrew Lee
- 3rd Ellis Williams  
Dennis (Tom) Savage
- 4th Oliver Ayres
- 6th Paul Lodge
- 8th Sarah Hodges
- 13th Alfred Ewen (WW1)
- 17th Trish Turner  
Jessie Duncan
- 18th Peter and Valerie  
Hodges
- 19th Andrew Longstaff
- 21st Charles Blunt (WW1)  
John Thurston (WW1)
- 23rd Annabelle King  
William Thompson (WW1)
- 24th Frederick Fenn
- 25th James Simpson (WW1)
- 27th Olive Hall, David  
Michaels, Barnard Clapham  
(WW1), Olivia Cottrell
- 29th John Green
- 30th Marrienne and Len  
Stevens, Thomas Ewens  
(WW1)

## Light up St Paul's Spire!

Anyone and everyone is welcome to join the Spirelight Testimonial Scheme.

Choose a date which is special to you - for example your birthday or that of a loved one, or your marriage anniversary.

Then contact Len on 020 8590 8815 for details - or drop into the Sunday Service at 10:00

## April

- 3rd Harry Yates
- 4th Stephen & Clare Hodges
- 5th Canon Rodney Matthews
- 9th Ivy Lewis
- 14th Mary and Des Wood
- 17th Bessie Howie
- 18th Sydney Bodger (WW1)
- 19th Marrienne Stevens
- 22nd Len Stevens, David Stevens
- 26th Leonard Stone
- 28th John and Constance Gardner, Pat Elgar

## May

- 1st Laddie Savage
- 4th Elizabeth Hodges
- 9th Matthew Lee
- 10th Mary Wooden
- 12th Evangeline Beth Pierce
- 14th Amelia Burke,  
Elizabeth May Allen
- 18th Fay Warrington
- 19th Frank Diamond WW1
- 20th Walter Carter WW1
- 21st Linda and Alex Wilby
- 22nd Harry Saunders  
Nick Nickelson
- 27th Andrew Hall
- 28th Doris Stevens  
Owen Sharpling  
Thomas Talbot (WW1)
- 29th Amanda Sharpling
- 30th Alex Wilby  
Ken Elgar
- 31st Margaret Sanders



# St. Paul's Contacts.....

**Vicar**    **Revd. Ola Franklin**                      020 8506 0662  
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**Curates** **Revd. Ian Monks**                      020 8550 2390  
[irquemonachi@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:irquemonachi@hotmail.co.uk)

**Revd. Alan Bolding**                      020 8550 2070  
[apbolding@onetel.com](mailto:apbolding@onetel.com)

**Licensed Lay Minister  
(Reader)**

**Mr. Mac Leonard**                      07831 744999  
[macleonard@virginmedia.com](mailto:macleonard@virginmedia.com)

**Authorised Local Preacher  
and Pastoral Assistant**

**Canon Jill Leonard**                      07778 013047  
[jillianleonard@virginmedia.com](mailto:jillianleonard@virginmedia.com)

**Churchwardens**

**Mrs. Pauline Bolding**  
[pbolding29@gmail.com](mailto:pbolding29@gmail.com)  
 21 Portman Drive  
 Woodford Green, IG8 8QN                      020 8550 2070

**Mr. John Wooden**  
[john.wooden01@googlemail.com](mailto:john.wooden01@googlemail.com)  
 68 Hornbeam Road  
 Buckhurst Hill IG9 6JX                      020 8505 4802

## Organisations and contacts .....

**Organist**                      **Mac Leonard**                      07831 744999

**Nicola's Dancers**                      **Nicola**                      07956 479334

**Playgroup (Delia Ware)**                      Daily 09:15 –12:15                      020 8504 5465

**Mothers' Union**                      **Marriane Stevens**                      020 8590 8815

**Guides**                      Thursday                      020 8491 6431

**Brownies**                      Thursday                      01708 768496

**Weekly News Sheet:**                      **Pam Varughese**                      020 8550 3406  
[pamvarughese@gmail.com](mailto:pamvarughese@gmail.com)

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