

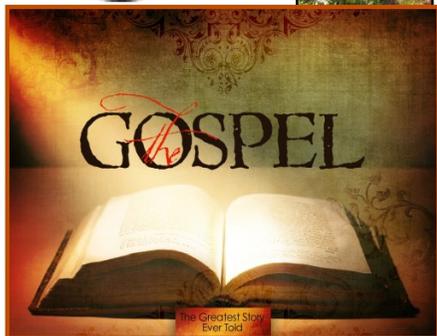
Good News!

in this issue

THE Messenger



or



What's on this Easter?

**from YOUR ST PAUL'S
Spring 2019**



**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!

Mothers' Union

First Tuesday of each month at 19:30

Seniors' Coffee

First Thursday of each month at 10:00

Special events -

Lent Lunches, Lent Study Course,
Praise Services, All-age Services,
Mothering Sunday, Easter,
and Children's Holiday Club



www.stpaulswb.com

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



Will the Easter programmes be different and refreshing this Holy Week?



Each year when I flick through my copy of Radio Times for the week leading up to Easter, I always want to see whether the people responsible for programme schedules have remembered Holy Week (14th-20th April this year). Have they put on some good religious programmes and films, or will it be ignored and forgotten? Will there be the usual Ben Hur or King of Kings, or will they find something different and refreshing for a change?

Far more valuable than watching a film about Jesus would, of course, be to read the book. A striking fact about the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) is that all four accounts give a larger proportion of space to the events which took place during the last week of Jesus' life, than they do to the rest of his life and teaching. The last week of Jesus' life before the crucifixion begins with his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, which we commemorate each year on Palm Sunday.

Like the road to Jerusalem with its high and low points, so Jesus had to face the highs and lows of people's different responses to him. There were the highs of the welcome and the praises of his disciples and the people. But Jesus also faced the lows of rejection and death on the cross. Only after the cross came the victory of the resurrection and the true honour and praise which belong to him.

Jerusalem would have been full of people from far and near – so there would have been some folk who had never met Jesus and didn't know anything about him. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." If you have time during the season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter, why not have a go at reading one of the Gospels from start to finish? You'll find them full of refreshing surprises as each author explains in their own way who Jesus is.

Ola.

Baptisms this Spring.....

On Sundays, usually at 12:00



14th April (12:00) **Teddy Scott-Sare**
5th May (12:30) **Henry Watts**
19th May (12:00) **Valentine Whitton**



Weddings this Spring.....

23rd March (14:00) **Edmund Otoo**
and **Fola Oyegoke**

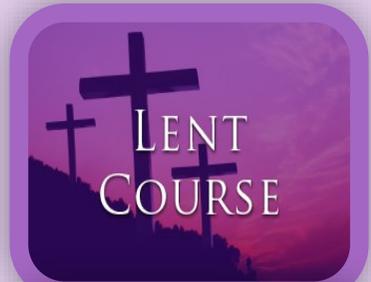
**Please don't park on
the Church Drive at these times**

Special for You in Lent

On Thursdays,

14th, 21st, 28th March, and
4th and 11th April at 19:45

- find out more about the
Christian Faith



On Fridays,

8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March
and 5th and 12th April
at 12:30

- come and share a simple
lunch with us - no charge.



Join us to praise God in
music and word ...
Sundays 10th March,
14th April and 12th May
at 17:00



MOTHERING SUNDAY
Sunday 31st March
at 10:00
All-Age Service



CHRISTIAN AID ALL-AGE WORSHIP SERVICE



Sunday 12th May at 10:00

HOLIDAY CLUB
Tuesday 28th May
from 10:00 - 12:00 for
all Primary School
children



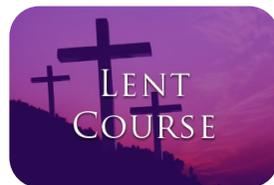
So what is this?

You'll see from the next page that we make quite a bit about Easter at St. Paul's - some people might say we live in church! And before you think we have nothing to do with eggs or bunnies we enjoy that part too. Indeed many of the 'things' we associate with Easter have a Christian meaning. I remember complaining to my Dad that my egg had no chocolates in it - he told me the egg was empty because that's what Jesus' tomb was like!



So just why do we make so much of 'Easter'? Why do we celebrate something named after 'Eostre' the pre-Christian goddess of Spring? Why might it come as a shock that it's more important to us than Christmas? Yes - it really is! And why do we spend forty days and nights preparing for it?

Let's start with that one - the forty days and nights of **Lent** - a shortening of another old English word which identified the 'lengthening' of the days in Spring. When we think of 'Lent' it's usually to do with giving up something like chocolate. Traditionally the season is closely linked with 'fasting' - eating simply and only as much as necessary, and living simply without other 'luxuries'. But it's not so we feel good about ourselves - it's to remind us more to the 'spiritual' aspect of life - to encourage us to spend more time thinking about our relationship with God. Our **Lent Course** on Thursday evenings will be helping us to think more about this and everyone is welcome - no 'Christian experience necessary!' And on Friday lunchtimes we'll be holding simple **Lenten Lunches** - no charge - again, all welcome.



So why is 'Easter' more important to us than Christmas?

The simple answer is that without Easter Christmas would be nothing more than the celebration of the birth of a baby some two thousand years ago. It's Easter which makes sense of everything which has gone before. Easter is when everything comes together - all the other events in the life of Jesus - and God's purpose since the beginning.

Easter all about?

On the Sunday before Easter we'll be remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. People were expecting a King who would drive out the Romans - he would be 'the Messiah'. So when this Jesus who had been causing such a stir came to Jerusalem for the Passover they all turned out to welcome him in the hope he would be that Messiah. They broke out the palm tree branches because they stood for goodness and victory. True to form Jesus caused questions because he rode on a young donkey rather than a warhorse!



The week progressed. Jesus went to the Temple and upset 'the system' by overturning the currency-exchange tables and setting the animal sacrifices free. That didn't do his popularity with the authorities much good! As the week went on the Jewish authorities had enough and began to plan his downfall. Jesus knew this and on the Thursday evening before Passover he and they got together to eat the symbolic meal we call 'The Lord's Supper' or 'Holy Communion'. We'll meet to remember this on what we know as '**Maundy Thursday**' evening.



'**Good Friday**' followed and Jesus was crucified. For us this is the second most important event in the history of the world. We believe Jesus died so that our sins can be forgiven - so we can be with God again.



And then comes '**Easter Sunday**' - the most important day in the history of the world! Jesus rose from the dead and proved he was indeed God. We will celebrate with great joy - and probably chocolate Easter Eggs! Join us - or email us - to find out more!

Mac.

celebrate

EASTER

with us at St. Paul's

PALM SUNDAY

**Sunday 14th April
at 10:00 Parish Communion
and at 17:30 Praise Service**



MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Thursday 18th April
at 20:00 Holy Communion
and Vigil**



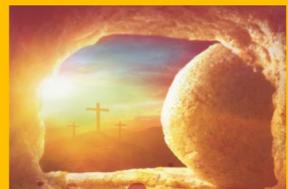
GOOD FRIDAY

**Friday 19th April at 10:00
Morning Worship**



EASTER DAY

**Sunday 21st April at 10:00
Easter Day Communion**





in for a penny,
in for a pound



St Paul's Toilet Fund

We need your help

At the moment we have no toilets in the church building - the nearest are at the bottom of the churchyard in the church hall. This is very inconvenient for baptisms, weddings, funerals, our other church Services and social activities beneficial to the local community.

So we're planning to have two toilet cubicles, one fully accessible for mobility impaired users, installed in church at a cost of around £80,000 - costing this much largely because the church building hasn't got a sewer pipe outlet and the nearest connection for one to be laid is at the church hall.

How you can help us

1. make a Bank Transfer donation to Barclays, Woodford Broadway Branch sort code 20-52-74 account no. 10775215
2. put your donation in a blue gift-aid envelope available in church and mark it 'Toilet' (cheques payable to ST. PAUL'S PCC)
3. contact St. Paul's Treasurer Len Stevens Lenstevens9@aol.com for further information.

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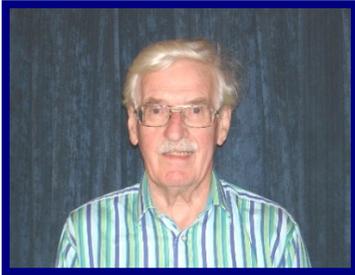
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St Paul's Mothers' Union



Hello, I am Len and I'm the new leader of the Mothers' Union! I know - thirty years ago it was women priests and now it's men leading the MU!
What is the church about?

Seriously 'though, many of you will know that Marianne, my wife, died last October from a brain tumour and she was our MU leader for over twenty years. She loved her role in MU and introduced, amongst other things, our commitment to the Kenyan Feeding Programme which has, since the year 2000, provided **over HALF A MILLION meals to street children**.

We have 23 members of MU in our church branch and we are committed to keeping Marianne's legacy, and the MU, going in our parish. We do it because we believe in the aims of the Mothers' Union which is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life.

Mothers' Union is an ungainly name but members in developing countries (and there are 450,000 in Kenya alone!) asked for it to remain since it empowers women within their own countries and cultures – one does not have to be a woman, a mother, a parent, or married to belong to MU – it is open to anyone who is baptised and believes in our aim – see above.

Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month, except August, usually in the evening and **you** are most welcome to come as our guest to hear interesting speakers, share in social time over tea and biscuits and enjoy our times of quiet reflection and worship.

You may eventually be invited to consider membership but it may be well for us to wait for God to speak to you about that!

We want to see our branch thrive and grow. Please take time to read the items on the Mothers' Union board just inside the church door, (where the welcomers usually stand) or for more encouragement and information please talk to myself or any of our committee members or members – all of whom will be pleased to chat MU!

Len Stevens, BRANCH LEADER.

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)
- 26th Irene Thorpe
- 27th Olive Hall
David Michaels
Barnard Clapham (WW1)
Olivia Cottrell
- 29th John Green
James Mahoney
- 30th Marrianne and
Len Stevens
Albert Perfect,
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 a
Dedication
Form - or
drop into
the Sunday
Service at
10:00

April

- 3rd Harry Yates
- 4th Stephen
and Clare Hodges
- 5th Canon
Rodney Matthews
- 9th Ivy Lewis
- 14th Mary and Des Wood
- 17th Bessie Howie
- 18th Sydney Bodger (WW1)
- 19th Marrianne 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



Our Church has enabled me to take a lot of non-perishable food and toiletries to the Foodbank in Ilford together with a cheque for £200 to help those Families in need. They have also been helping the Night Shelter with food.

Redbridge Voluntary Care

We continue to help people within Redbridge regularly by visiting the housebound, getting shopping and/ or prescriptions, transporting People to appointments i.e. hospitals, help in the home, help filling out forms. In other words just being a good neighbour to those in need!

Vera Hunt

Good News!

THE Messenger



Is your business 'Good News'? You can spread it here!

Advertise in the next edition -
£40 for a full page or £20 for a half page per each edition.
Cheques to be made payable to St Paul's PCC.

Contact Mac macleonard@virginmedia.com
by 1st May to advertise in the Winter edition.

**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 - we are already taking bookings for 2020 - and we can offer support before, during and after the 'big day'.



FUNERALS

Saying goodbye to a loved one is never 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**



St. Paul's Contacts.....

Vicar	Rev. Ola Franklin ofrank@btinternet.com	020 8506 0662
Curates	Rev. Ian Monks irquemonachi@hotmail.co.uk	020 8550 2390
	Rev. Alan Bolding apbolding@onetel.com	020 8550 2070
Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)	Mr. Mac Leonard macleonard@virginmedia.com	07831 744999
Authorised Local Preacher and Pastoral Assistant	Canon Jill Leonard jillianleonard@virginmedia.com	07778 013047
Churchwardens	Mr. Paul Malam paul.malam@gmail.com 45 St Mary's Way Chigwell IG7 5BX	07803 278365
	Mr. John Wooden john.wooden01@googlemail.com 68 Hornbeam Road Buckhurst Hill IG9 6JX	020 8505 4802

Organisations and contacts

Organist	Mac Leonard	07831 744999
Treasurer	Len Stevens	020 8590 8815
Nicola's Dancers	Nicola	07956 479334
Playgroup (Delia Ware)	Daily 09:15 -12:00	020 8504 5465
Mothers' Union	1 st Tuesday in month 19:30	020 8590 8815
Guides	Thursday	020 8491 6431
Brownies	Thursday	01708 768496
Weekly News Sheet:	Pam Varughese pamvarughese@gmail.com	020 8550 3406
'Good News' Editor	Mac Leonard macleonard@virginmedia.com	07831 744999
Church Halls Hire	Pauline Bolding pbolding29@gmail.com	020 8550 2070

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