BD18 – CHURCHES TOGETHER

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

1 John 3: 1-3

THEME

200 YEARS AND 200 YEARS MORE!

THIS WEEK'S REFLECTION.

This week St Paul's church is 200 years old! And it is a time to celebrate and rejoice that as a group of Anglicans, we have been able to worship and serve God in this area for 200 years. We can look back and see how Christianity thrived and grew and new churches were built...and then the season changed and perhaps we all look and feel a bit different from the days that we might view as glory days!

But we have an opportunity whilst we live, to think about the coming season. What is God calling us to? How can we shape what will come next? How will the Christians of the future see and consider our heart and passion for God? What might our prayers for them be? What would you like the Christians in the year 2226 to know about? What do you hope for them?

Over the weekend we will celebrate that God has been with us over the years and we will also declare in faith that He will continue to be with us as we walk through the seasons of life. 1 John 3 (above) describes us as His children on whom His love is lavished. What an amazing description of God being with us. To be lavished by love is so extraordinarily excessive and abundant. There is no holding back. Each one of us is given this amazing love. This love that we can share without fear, with others. Our churches look very different from when they were first built, and no doubt they will look very different in 200 years time. But the one thing we know for sure, is God is always the same. That His love was there at the beginning and will be there at the end - world without end.

It feels quite poignant that we celebrate this momentus birthday on All Soul's day - a time when we remember the saints that have gone before us, because together we celebrate their lives, grieving for their passing but also remembering the happiness and love that they gave to us. We pray at these services that God will hold each saint in His arms until the day when we join them and share with our Lord the love, light and life eternal.

So together we remember the past and look to the future with a hope that can only come from God, and so whilst we are here on Earth let us look to ways in which we bring His kingdom here on Earth through prayer and service. I am so grateful to those who have helped with preparing St Paul's to look so beautiful in preparation of the birthday! There has been painting, carpet cleaning and skip filling! There has been gardening and mending of benches. We found a beautiful banner that depicts the Fruit of Spirit and that has been put up at the front of church. For as Christians, this is the identity we strive for. On Sunday at our special All-Together service, Bishop Toby will be encouraging us to think about the next season of St Paul's life as well as the season of Christians from Christchurch and St Peter's in Shipley, so come ready to write your thoughts and prayers to be passed on in a time-capsule that is being buried for 200 years!

Rev Natasha Thomas

Celebrating St Paul's 200th Anniversary

There are a number of events taking place at St Paul's over the anniversary weekend. The church will be open all day on Saturday (31st Oct). The café will be open providing a welcome to anyone who wants a cuppa and cake, and there will be the opportunity to look at St Paul's archived photographs and documents. There will also be bell ringing and a full Evensong service at 5.30pm with over 40 people joining in the choir!

There will **only be one church service on November 1st**, as we join in an All-Together service at St Paul's with Bishop Toby from 10am, who will lead our communion service and celebration of the 200 years of Anglican faith in Shipley. We will then bury our words of hope, blessing and prophecy for the generations to come in a time capsule! Please join us.

Fundraising for Sudan: Steeton Male Voice Choir Concert

The fabulous choir are holding their autumn concert in aid of the church in Sudan. It takes place at St Peter's on 13th November at 7.30pm. For tickets phone 01274 598221.

If you can't make it to the concert, please pray for an end to the war in Sudan which has intensified recently with thousands killed, including three priests.

Diocese of Leeds Week of Prayer

Prayer has been central to the growth and development of our diocese and has been particularly important throughout the vacancy and process of appointing our new bishop. Bishop Toby has asked us to particularly pray during this week, committing ourselves to being open to God's sustained calling and continued transformation. Below are daily links for us to use in our daily prayers, that start this Sunday and end on 7th November.

Sunday: https://www.leeds.anglican.org/diocesan-week-of-prayer-november-2026/sunday-1-november.php
Monday: https://www.leeds.anglican.org/diocesan-week-of-prayer-november-2026/monday-2-november.php
Tuesday: https://www.leeds.anglican.org/diocesan-week-of-prayer-november-2026/tuesday-3-november.php
Wednesday: https://www.leeds.anglican.org/diocesan-week-of-prayer-november-2026/wednesday-4-november.php
Thursday: https://www.leeds.anglican.org/diocesan-week-of-prayer-november-2026/thursday-5-november.php
Friday: https://www.leeds.anglican.org/diocesan-week-of-prayer-november-2026/friday-6-november.php
Saturday: https://www.leeds.anglican.org/diocesan-week-of-prayer-november-2026/saturday-7-november.php

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Look out for this month's Prayer Diary, which aims to help us pray for the amazing different activities that each church runs. As there is so much that happens across our three churches, please be aware that all the activities will not be mentioned every month!

Special Memorial Services

Sunday 1st November, 3pm at St Paul's.

Sunday 1st November, 4pm at St Peter's.

Christmas Services & Events

The office team are creating a special webpage detailing the Christmas services, but some initial dates for your diary:

St Paul's Christmas Tree Festival - 28th Nov, 5pm
St Paul's Angel Service - 29th Nov, 3pm
SCT Carols at Avondale Club - 3rd Dec, 7.30pm
Blue Christmas - St Peter's, 8th Dec, 6.30pm
Beer & Carols - The Pride of Shipley, 9th Dec, 7pm
Christingle & Carol Service - Christchurch, 17th Dec, 5.30pm
Christingle & Messy Church - St Peter's 18th Dec, 3pm
Carol Service - St Peter's and St Paul's, both 20th Dec, 6.30pm

Men's Curry Night

The next curry night is taking place on Friday 13th November from 7pm at Shimla Spice. If you'd like to attend, please let Martin Forbes know by 8th November on martinrforbes@gmail.com or add your name to the sign up sheet on the welcome desk at St Peter's.

Tearfund Big Quiz Night

Please join us on Friday 27th November from 7.30pm in the church lounge at St Peter's for our big quiz night! Come along to find out more about what Tearfund are doing to help people caught up in times of war, famine and flood in places like Gaza, Nepal, and Sudan. It'll be an evening of good fellowship, with coffee and cakes provided. And if you can help supply some of the cake that would be very welcome! Please let Kathy know at kathy@joyworld.org.uk.
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Coming Up...

Saturday Prayers - 31st Oct, 7th Nov, 10am. Click here to join the Zoom call. Passcode: hello

St Paul's 200th Anniversary: 31st October
10-12noon, Special Saturday Cafe
5.30pm Choral Evensong

1st November - All Saints' Day
10am Shipley Holy Communion with Bp. Toby at St Paul's.
3pm Memorial Service at St Paul's.
4pm All Souls' Service at St Peter's.

RSPB Local Group Meeting - St Peter's Lounge, 5th Nov, 7pm.

Welcome Space is back! - 6th November, 11am, St Peter's.

Saturday Cafe - 7th & 21st Nov 10am - 12noon, St Paul's.

Remembrance Sunday Services - 8th Nov, Christchurch & St Paul's at 10am, St Peter's at 10.30am.

Men's Curry Night - 13th Nov, Shimla Spice, 7pm.

Steeton Male Voice Choir Concert - 13th Nov, St Peters, 7.30 pm.

Prayer Vigil - St Peter's, 15th Nov, 2pm.

St Paul's Book Club - 26th Nov, 2pm.

Tearfund Quiz Night - St Peter's, 27th Nov, 7.30pm.

Prayer For Peace Vigil

Join us at St Peter's on 15th November, 2pm - 3pm, for a prayer vigil for peace at home where hate is spread and for countries at war.

Welcome Space

Back at St Peter's on 6th November following completion of the kitchen! 11am - 2pm in The Lounge.

Saturday Cafe

7th & 21st Nov at St Paul's 10am - 12noon.

St Paul's Book Club

26th Nov, 2pm at Sandra Quigley's home. Please email Sandra at sanden.no1@gmail.com to attend.

More Angels Needed!

Thank you to all the lovely crafters who've been busy making angels. We're almost there! Please can we have more by 15th November? They will be tagged and distributed around Shipley, inviting people to the Angel service and other Christmas events. You can access the pattern for the angels via the QR code.

Remembrance Sunday Services

Join us as we remember those who gave their lives so we can be free.

Christchurch - 8th Nov, 10am
St Paul's - 8th Nov, 10am
St Peter's - 8th Nov, 10.30am

SCT Christmas Lunch

The SCT Christmas Lunch will be held at Shipley Baptist Church on Christmas Day. Arrival for 12.15pm with a two course meal served from 12.30pm. Volunteers needed to help with a range of tasks. Donations welcome. Contact Julie Wright on 07703 518768. Spread the word to make sure no one is alone this Christmas.

Airedale & Bradford RSPB Local Group

Having recently relocated their meetings to St Peter's, the group would be very happy to welcome new members and visitors. Admission is £4 and meetings take place in The Lounge on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. The next meeting is an illustrated talk called Birds of the Gambia on 5th November.

Prayers for Others

Please pray for the family and loved ones of Rowena Hodgson, who passed away on 26th October. Rowena and her husband, Keith, who died earlier this year, were members of St Peter's, before moving to Basingstoke some years ago to be near family.
Please let the pastoral team in your church know if there is someone who would like a visit or a phone call (details of how to contact on the last page).

Prayers for the three churches

Please pray for the anniversary celebrations on 31st Oct and 1st Nov. That the Holy Spirit will pour out upon all of us gathered to get the insight, the prophecies and vision for what God wants for our future as Christians in Shipley. Pray that people who come to the church find a place and space of welcome, joy and peace.

Prayers for our world

Please pray for Sudan as the war grinds on with serious fighting, particularly in the South, which has killed thousands. Pray for the thousands more who are displaced, often to refugee camps. Pray for the families and loved ones of the three priests recently killed, for the safety of the priest in Katcha who remains in post, and for his family who have fled to Uganda. Please pray for Bishop Hassan who has had a serious bout of malaria. The Sudanese church and Archbishop Ezekiel are sending aid to the South. Please pray for an end to the war, for nations supplying arms to cease to do so, and for the humanitarian aid to reach those in desperate need.

Morning & Evening Prayer at St Peter's

Morning prayer is **9:15am Monday-Thursday** and evening prayer is at **5pm Monday-Friday** in the Hope Chapel.

Upcoming Opportunities for Worship

Christchurch

Sunday 1st November
NO SERVICE AT CHRISTCHURCH
All-In Celebration Service at St Paul's at 10.00am.

Sunday 8th November

10.00am Remembrance Sunday Service

Sunday 15th November

10.00am Morning Worship

St Paul's

Saturday 31st October

5.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 1st November

10.00am All-In Celebration Service with Bp. Toby

3.00pm Memorial Service

Sunday 8th November

10.00am Remembrance Sunday Service

~ Every Wednesday ~

10.00am Holy Communion

St Peter's

Sunday 1st November
NO MORNING SERVICE AT ST PETER'S
All-In Celebration Service at St Paul's at 10.00am.

4:00pm All Souls' Service

Sunday 8th November

10.30am Remembrance Sunday Service

6.30pm Holy Communion

Joint Services and Activities

The leaders of the three churches continue to meet and to work through the various similarities and distinctive natures of each of the three churches. If you have any concerns or thoughts about anything, please let Anne/Sue/Viv/Jackie/Euan/Malcolm know so they can feed your thoughts into the regular meetings.

Please note that there will be no BREATHE services in October or November due to Christchurch's Loved and Lost service and the SCT AGM.

Get in Touch

Church Office

emails: office@stpetes.org.uk, stpaulsshipley@gmail.com

For all three churches phone: 01274 400381

Open: Mon, Tues & Thurs 10am - 2pm, Weds & Fri 10am - 4pm

Interim Priest-in-charge

Rev. Natasha Thomas

natasha.thomas@stpetes.org.uk
Tel: 07887 707221

Safeguarding

For safeguarding concerns please email the appropriate safeguarding officer:

Christchurch: Joyce Mason
jmasonwh@hotmail.com

St Paul's - Alison Hague:
safeguarding.stpaulsshipley@gmail.com

St Peter's - Frances Vose
safeguarding@stpetes.org.uk

Pastoral Support

St Paul's -
Susan Lawrence: 07958 242258

St Peter's
Keith & Carol Brown: 01274 585242 or pastoralsupport@stpetes.org.uk

Room Hire

We have a number of rooms that are available for hire. Please contact the office for more details.