



St Nick's, Allestree & St Paul's, Quarndon

March 2024

A Letter from Reverend Sarah Watson

This is my first official newsletter as Priest in Charge! I want to thank everyone for the very warm welcome, and for your patience as I learn names! It is great to finally be here, we have settled well as a family and certainly feel at home. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone more over the coming weeks and months.

I want to express once again my huge thanks to the fantastic and committed teams in the parishes who have supported the churches through the period of vacancy. We are blessed by the ministry exercised by so many in this place, truly representative of the Body of Christ in action, each playing their part.



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www.stnicksallestree.uk

Office Hours: Monday 9.15-4.15, Tuesday 9.15 - 2.45, Wednesday 1.15-3.15 and Friday 9.15 - 2.45.



The licensing service was a great occasion and certainly reflected the wonderful breadth of traditions across the four parishes. During the service and, as Rachael and I have said the legal declarations in each parish, one line strikes me, which is,

‘the church is called upon to proclaim the gospel afresh in each generation’.

Although the gospel is unchanging, how it is proclaimed afresh in this place, for this generation may look differently to what has gone before. We may find that exciting or scary, and often a mixture of the two! If we think of the huge cultural change over recent years, much of which has been sped up by the covid years, we face a new challenge. I am however excited by what God might do. The Holy Spirit is already at work and has gone before us, our call is to look for the signs of the Kingdom and join in on God missions.

As I write this, we have just celebrated Candlemas; we turn from the crib towards the cross. I am currently writing my Ash Wednesday sermon and one of the readings from Joel includes God’s cry to His people to return to Him, with all their heart. To return with fasting, weeping, and mourning, to rend their hearts, not their clothing.

This reminds us that all we are doing through this period of Lent is about the heart and drawing near to God rather than outward appearance.



But it also comes with an invitation.


Joel speaks of returning to the Lord, who is gracious and merciful, slow, anger, abounding, in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.

Although this period of Lent is about our repentance, our turning to the Lord, it is not out of fear but to a God who loves and knows us completely. God longs for us to return to him, so much so that Jesus came to 'pitch his tent among us' (for those of us who heard Phil's recent sermon!).



That is the invitation for us all during Lent to draw near to God and my prayer is that others would draw near too, which may mean that we 'pitch our tents' in unexpected places!





Parishioners of both churches may have abstained from chocolate during Lent. Many more of you may admit to being a chocolate lover. So, if you need any encouragement to enjoy chocolate confectionery over Easter, this poem might help...

The Chocolate Lover's Week by Paul Wiggins

On Monday, I choose one of my favourite caramel bars,
It helps me work, rest and play, so, of course, it's a Mars.

My husband regularly buys me a treat on Tuesday
As he knows his lady loves Cadbury's Milk Tray.

Wednesday, grandparent duties create
stress, as my blood pressure may show
So I have a bubbly chocolate brand known
as Aero.



By contrast on Thursday I have much time
on my own
And I enjoy the triangular prisms of the Toblerone.

I aim on Fridays to do 'as I please'
Which means buying a tube of colour-varied Smarties.

On Saturday, I want to eat this snack with all my meals
Well, who can resist the marshmallow centre of the Wagon Wheels?

And Sundays, I take time to relax and appreciate
The sweet mint chocolate thins known as After Eight.

Men's Breakfast/Day out

A lovely day was had by all during the steam train trip on the Great Central Railway last month. Everyone ate a lovely breakfast whilst also enjoying the wonderful views of the British countryside along the journey and some delightful conversations.

A big thank you to Phil for organising the trip.



Volunteers required for maintaining St Paul's church yard.



If anyone caring for loved ones graves in St Paul's churchyard would have some spare time to help with general maintenance or if the option of donating to churchyard maintenance is a more likely possibility please *contact Emma in the office: stnicksallestree@outlook.com*

Thank you.

T-Time consultation

On the 14th April at 3.30pm in the village hall, Anna will be leading a T-Time with a difference. We will be having a discussion about what future of all age activities @ St Paul's could look like. All are welcome.

Advanced notice @ St Paul's

21st April - Bishop Libby will be leading the 10am Holy Communion service at St Paul's as part of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of St Paul's.

Notices:

150th Anniversary

In April we will be celebrating St Paul's 150th Anniversary.

Please get in touch with Mike or Jan if you have ideas or want to get involved in organising

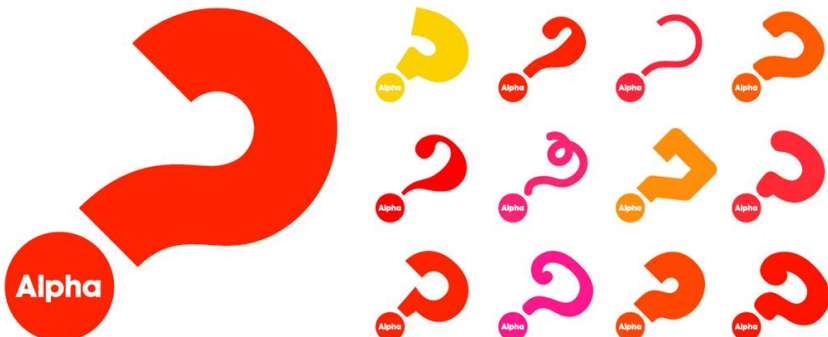


ALPHA

The new Alpha course has begun.

Every Tuesday 7.30pm in the church room. All welcome to join.

For more details or to register please contact Emma in the St Nick's office.



Church Prayer @ St Nick's

Pre-church prayer takes place in the chapel from 9.30am to 9.45am on a Sunday morning. We pray for the service to follow and anything else the Holy Spirit prompts us to bring to our Father.

Church prayer will be on Zoom over the winter months.

**The next meeting will be Wednesday 27th March
7.30 - 8.30pm.**

Contact Graham if you are interested in joining us in prayer.



St Nick's Prayer Circle

St Nick's have a prayer circle as part of their pastoral care set up. For those unfamiliar with the practice, it is simply a circle of people who are committed to phone along a chain when people request prayer, or a situation arises that needs communicating and praying for. You can rest assured that you are being covered in prayer when you approach someone who is on the contact list.

***If you would like to be added to the prayer circle,
please get in touch with the church office.***

Pastoral Care Update.

Are you going through a difficult time at the moment and would like some emotional, spiritual or physical help? Then please let Gill Hannah or Clare Stacey know.

For various understandable reasons, many people find it difficult to reach out and ask for help but if you are aware of anyone who is struggling at the moment, please let us know. It could include for example, help with shopping, a home visit or merely a friendly chat on the phone. If we don't know, then it's difficult to help.

We are part of your church family and have been DBS checked and have completed the Diocesan Safe Guarding Training.



Prayer Requests:

Please pray for:-

- For those who are ill, have had operations and are recovering at home.
- For Anna and the Children's and Youth Ministry.
- For Sarah and Rachael as they continue to settle in.

Coffee & Chat @ St Nick's

A reminder that Coffee & Chat takes place every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, in the Church Room, 10:30am -12noon. All are welcome to join in and enjoy this lovely social, which is much appreciated after a time of not being able to gather.



St Nick's Pub Lunches

Join us after church for a pub lunch social once a month. The next one will be on March 17th, 12 noon @ The Markeaton pub.



Knit & Natter @ St Nick's

Meetings are held in the Church Hall on the 1st, 3rd, and where there is a 5th Wednesday of the month, 2-3:30pm.

Membership fee £5 each quarter, then £1 per session.
Contact Sandra on 557114
Come and join us for tea, biscuits, and chat.

Newsletter Information - Deadline!

Please be aware that the deadline for any news you'd like to be included in the next Newsletter is always the 23rd of the month before.

Please get in touch if you'd like to organise a Baptism at St Nick's or St Paul's, or would like to get married or celebrate a special anniversary with the renewal of wedding vows.

Polite notice to St Nick's congregation, hall hirers and visitors.

Please could everyone be mindful when parking on the roads surrounding St Nick's and be considerate to residents. In particular ensure we are not parking across driveways and allow residents space to reverse in and out of their drives.

Thank you all as always for your support and kindness.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

Thank you to all those who continue to contribute to the Children's Society via their home boxes. This year, £819-65 has been sent to the Society to help with their work with vulnerable children and young people. If you would like to help by having a collection box, please contact me at church, by phone 01332 559237 or 07944 178 799, or by email. illinghelen@gmail.com

We have another quilt to raffle! It would be great to have an event later in the year, when the winning ticket can be drawn. Anyone with ideas and willing to be involved with this please let me know.

Thanks Helen Illingworth.

Handy Contacts for both churches:

Church Office Emma Patterson **Contact:** 01332 550431

St Nick's

Church Warden: Paul Taylor **Contact:** 01332 556020

Safeguarding Lead: Miriam Chappell **Contact:** psostnicks@outlook.com

Telephone: 07448607129

Licensed Lay Readers: Sarah Tupling, Phil Moncur and Bruce Innis

St Paul's

Church Wardens: Mike Annable **Contact:** wardenstpauls@outlook.com
Jan Calladine

Safeguarding Lead: Rebecca Hanson **Contact:** psostpauls@outlook.com

Church Hall Bookings: Val Annable **Contact:** hallstpauls@outlook.com



Upcoming Services — March

| Dates/Services | Leaders | Readings |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday 3rd March St Nicks: 10am Informal Worship St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion and Baptism | <i>PM /AO</i> <i>Visiting</i> <i>Clergy /SW</i> | 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22 |
| Sunday 10th March St Nick's: 10am T@TT communion St Paul's: 10am Baptism | <i>SW</i> <i>LM/AO</i> | 1 Samuel 1:20-end St N: John 19:25b-27 St P: Luke 2:33-35 |
| Sunday 17th March St Nick's: 10am Morning Praise St Paul's: 10am Communion | <i>BI</i> <i>SW</i> | St N: Hebrews 5:5-10 St P: Jeremiah 31:31-34 John 12:20-33 |
| Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday St Nick's: 10am Holy Communion St Paul's: 10am Morning Praise | <i>SW/DH</i> <i>PM</i> | Psalm 118:1-2, 19-end St N: John 12:12-16 St P: Mark 14:1-end of 15 |
| Thursday 28th March St Paul's: 7pm Maundy service | <i>SW</i> | 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35 |
| Friday 29th March St Nick's: 7pm Quiet service St Paul's: 2pm Last hour service | <i>SW/GT</i> <i>SW</i> | Isaiah 52:13-end of 53 John 18:1-end of 19 |
| Sunday 31st March Easter Sunday St Nick's: 10am Informal communion St Paul's: 10am Communion | <i>SW/PM</i> <i>DH/AO</i> | Acts 10:34-43 Mark 16:1-8 |

