



ST PAUL'S CHURCH

WINCHMORE HILL



**THE RT REVD DR JANE STEEN, BISHOP OF LYNN, WAS THE
PREACHER AT OUR PATRONAL FESTIVAL ON 26TH JANUARY
MORE PHOTOS ON PAGES 8 AND 9**

Parish Magazine

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Dear Friends

The first sight of a snowdrop is a horticultural highlight of this time of year. Their dainty, white flowers are the first sign that the earth is waking from its winter slumber and that soon spring will be on its way. The grounds of Walsingham Abbey are famed for their snowdrops, which form vast carpets of white around the monastic ruins.

Many of our wildflowers have earned colloquial names connecting them with our Christian heritage. Snowdrops are also known as Candlemas Bells, as they flower around Candlemas – or, to give it its proper name, the feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple – on 2nd February. This festival marks the end of greater Christmas season, when the infant Jesus was presented in the Temple forty days after his birth, and his mother was purified.

Just as snowdrops denote the turning of winter to spring, so Candlemas turns us from the wood of the crib to the wood of the cross. Mary and Joseph are bound by Jewish law to make an offering in the Temple, prefiguring the offering of the temple of his body which Jesus will make once and for all. The aged Simeon tells Mary of her child's destiny, warning that 'a sword will pierce [her] soul too'.

But we learn of this sorrow through the lens of him who is, in Simeon's words, 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles.' This feast is known as Candlemas because the Eucharist begins with the blessing of candles, which are processed into church. It is the Mass of Candles! For Christians, the darkness of suffering always leads to the light of resurrection.

This year, Candlemas falls on a Sunday, so these Candlemas ceremonies will take place at the beginning of our 10.30am Sung Eucharist. (Even though the symbolism of the candles is slightly lost during the hours of daylight.) May both our celebration of this feast, and the sight of 'Candlemas Bells' poking through the frost, remind us of the light of Jesus Christ shining in our lives and in the life of the world.

With my love and prayers

Fr Daniel

Services in February 2025



Morning Prayer is said publically at **9.10am** and Evening Prayer at **5pm** Monday-Thursday. **ST PAUL'S CHURCH**
WINCHMORE HILL

The church is open for visitors and private prayer every day from 9am to 5pm

Day	Date	Observance	Time	Services	Prayer Intention
S	1				Our committees
S	2	PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (Candlemas)	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Eucharist Candlemas Ceremonies and Sung Eucharist	Our parish and its people
M	3	St Blaise			Those suffering from diseases of the throat
T	4				Kate and Bambos, our MPs
W	5		12.30pm	Eucharist	The bereaved
T	6				Church hall building project
F	7				Our neighbours
S	8				Victims of global warming
S	9	FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	8am 9.15am 10.30am 12pm 6pm	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Sung Eucharist Holy Baptism Choral Evensong	Our parish and its people
M	10				Those new to the church
T	11				Enfield Deanery
W	12		12.30pm	Eucharist	Our Pastoral Team
T	13				The media
F	14	Ss Cyril and Methodius			General Synod
S	15				Lasting peace in the Middle East
S	16	THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Eucharist Sung Eucharist	Our parish and its people
M	17				Farming and agriculture
T	18				Parish clergy
W	19		12.30pm	Eucharist	Racial justice
T	20				Our Ministry Team
F	21				The Mothers' Union
S	22				Local businesses
S	23	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Sung Eucharist	Our parish and its people
M	24				The Diocese of London
T	25				All those who contribute to our Sunday services
W	26		12.30pm	Eucharist	St Michael's, Negage
T	27				The media
F	28				The unemployed

Services times are subject to change. Please contact the Parish Office for details. Contact the clergy if you would like to speak to someone regarding your spiritual life, or to make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession)

FEBRUARY 2025 FLOWER ROTA

1 st February	Sally Shearman
8 th February	Adele Houldsworth
15 th February	Adele Houldsworth
22 nd February	Sharon Saunders

Our Flower Arranging Organizer, Adele Houldsworth, would be pleased to welcome more people onto the flower team. Both experienced flower arrangers and people who would like a chance to develop their skills would be welcome.

To find out more, please contact Adele Houldsworth on 8360 3676. She would be delighted to hear from you.

Choral Evensong

celebrating the 1,700th anniversary
of the Council of Nicaea

Sunday 9 February 2025, 6pm

Preacher: **The Revd Mitzi James**
Parish Priest, St Luke and St John, Clay Hill

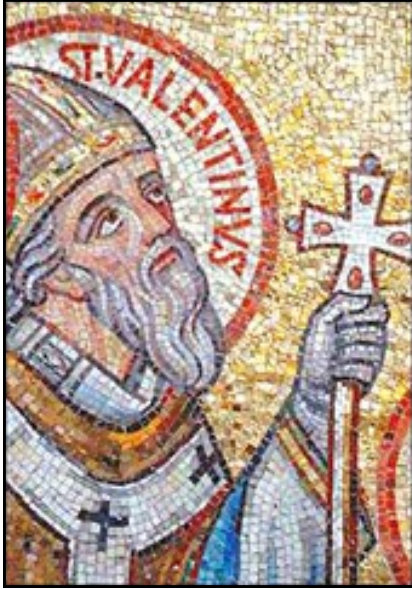


Music by Wood and Stainer

Followed by wine and nibbles



ST PAUL'S CHURCH
WINCHMORE HILL

ST VALENTINE (14TH FEBRUARY)

Love it or loathe it, in the month of February there is no escaping the hearts and flowers that have become synonymous with St Valentine's Day. Every year, millions of people exchange cards and flowers declaring their love and affection for one-another. But beneath the heart shaped boxes of chocolates and red roses lies the mysterious figure of Saint Valentine, a man whose story is steeped in love, compassion, sacrifice and faith.

Historical accounts of St Valentine suggest that there may have been more than one Valentine. The name was common in the Roman Empire. However,

the most widely accepted story is that of a third-century Roman priest who defied Emperor Claudius II.

Claudius banned marriages for young men, believing that single men made better soldiers. Valentine moved by compassion, secretly performed weddings for young couples in love. When his actions were discovered, Valentine was arrested.

When Emperor Claudius discovered that Valentine was performing weddings, he sent Valentine to jail. Valentine used his time in jail to continue to reach out to people with the love that he said Jesus Christ gave him for others.

He befriended his jailer, Asterious, who became so impressed with Valentine's wisdom that he asked Valentine to help his daughter, Julia, with her learning. Julia was blind and needed someone to read material for her to learn it. Valentine became friends with Julia through his work with her when she came to visit him in jail.

Emperor Claudius came to like Valentine. He offered to pardon Valentine and set him free if Valentine would renounce his Christian faith and agree to worship the Roman gods. Not only did Valentine refuse to leave his faith, he also encouraged Emperor Claudius to place his trust

in Christ. Valentine's faithful choices cost him his life. Emperor Claudius was so enraged at Valentine's response that he sentenced Valentine to die.

Before he was killed, Valentine wrote a last note to encourage Julia to stay close to Jesus and to thank her for being his friend. He signed the note: "From your Valentine." That note became the most famous miracle attributed to Saint Valentine. It is said that God miraculously cured Julia of her blindness so that she could personally read Valentine's note, rather than just have someone else read it to her. It also inspired people to begin writing their own loving messages to people on Saint Valentine's Feast Day, February 14th, which is celebrated on the same day on which Valentine was martyred.

The story of Saint Valentine is a mixture of history, faith and legend. Though much about his life remains uncertain, his legacy as a symbol of love, sacrifice and devotion continue to inspire.

However you feel about Valentine's Day, this year perhaps we can all take some time to reflect on the spirit of love, sacrifice and compassion that gave rise to this most popular and cherished day.

Alison Perera

PRAYER BOARD



Lord and heavenly Father,
 through your Son Jesus Christ
 you have called us to be one
 in the family of your Church:
 give us grace to break down the barriers
 which keep us apart;
 that accepting our differences,
 we may grow in love for one another,
 to the glory of your name.

Amen

OUR PATRONAL FESTIVAL



Our Patronal Festival on Sunday 26th January was a joyful occasion and many people came along to celebrate this special day in our church's calendar when we remember the conversion of Saul the Persecutor of Christians into Paul the Apostle.

During the service some members of our Cub Group performed a dramatized reading of the Conversion of Paul from Acts 9 verses 1–22, and they also offered our intercessions.

The guest preacher was The Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen, Bishop of Lynn. She gave an illustrated sermon that reflected on the Conversion of St Paul and the dynamic love of Jesus.

The service ended with a colourful procession of banners.

After the service coffee and croissants were served in the Hall.





As the congregation enjoyed their coffee and croissants, the Bishop was invited to make the draw for the winning tickets from the 200 Prize Draw. This raffle raised £500 for church funds. Our thanks to Scott's Travel for donating the first prize, which was £300 of travel vouchers

ST PAUL'S CHURCH
WINCHMORE HILL

CURRY NIGHT



Friday 28th February
St Paul's Church Hall
7.30 pm

Two course meal with vegetarian option

Bring your own drinks

Tickets: Adults: £15 Children (under 12): £10

Family: (2 adults + 2 children) £40

To book tickets use order form at back of church or email charity@spwh.org

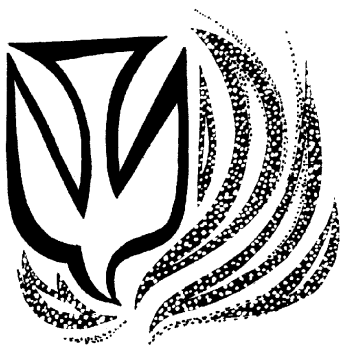
Tickets must be ordered by Sunday 23rd February

ALL PROCEED WILL GO TO OUR ANNUAL CHARITY

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BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Each year a number of adults and young people from our church are confirmed, baptised and confirmed, or received into the communion of the Church of England by the Bishop of Edmonton. This year, Bishop Anderson Jeremiah will be presiding at a confirmation service here at St Paul's at 10.30 am on Sunday, 15th June

In preparation for this, a series of Thursday evening classes will begin in March.

The adults' classes will be on Thursdays evenings at 8pm during term-time, starting on Thursday 6th March.

The children's classes (Year 5 and above) will be starting at 6.30pm on Thursday 27th March.

There are more details on our website www.spwh.org or talk to Fr Daniel or Fr Pete. Please email the office@spwh.org to register your interest before 23rd February..

MAY FAIR 2025

This year's May Fair will take place on Saturday 10th May and we want it to be the best ones yet!

The way this can be achieved is if everyone can think about how they can play a part in the overall organisation of the Fair or whether they could run or help on a stall. To help to make the May Fair a fantastic fund-raiser for the church scan this QR code or contact the Parish Office (office@spwh.org / 020 8886 4290) today!





The guests, whose ages spanned nine decades, enjoyed solving a number of quizzes and puzzles together before enjoying a delicious afternoon tea provided by members of the MU committee.

In spite of it being a very rainy and cold afternoon, the bad weather could not dampen the spirits of the Mothers' Union and there was a good turnout for their New Year celebration on the afternoon of 23rd January.



MOTHERS' UNION DIARY FEBRUARY 2025

THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY AT 2 PM IN THE CHURCH

Our Curate Pete Hopkins will be giving talk entitled 'The global dynamics of the church and its multicultural future'.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ALL OUR MOTHERS' UNION MEETINGS AND EVENTS SO DO COME ALONG AND JOIN US.

HALL HIRE

The main Church Hall can be hired for weekend birthday parties.
£52.50 per hour. 3 hour minimum for a party booking
Discounts available for regular use.

For more information contact our Facilities Manager, Ayse Eris,
at facilities@spwh.org or 07946 852 110

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity took place between 18th and 25th January this year.

The Churches Together in Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and Grange Park celebrated this event with a 'Songs of Praise' on Sunday 19th January at St Paul's Church. It was wonderful to see the church filled with members of the local churches worshipping together.



The hymns were introduced by a representative from local churches and the selection included many favourites, with words that were written between the 6th and the 20th Centuries. The enthusiasm of the singing was wonderful and raised everyone's spirits.

Following the service, refreshments were served at the back of church and this gave members of our local Christian Community the chance to meet and talk together.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and our thanks go to Fr Daniel for organising it.



DOUBLE CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FORMER CURATE!

In December 2024 it was announced that Calum Zuckert has been appointed as the new Team Rector of St Mary's Barnes and will move there in March.

Shortly afterwards, Calum announced his engagement to Anna Chambers.

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