



# Newsletter

(01) Sunday 7 to Saturday 20 January 2018

Our aim is to *KNOW* God through Jesus,  
*GROW* in faith, and *SHOW* God's love in our community



Are you ready for the next stage of the journey?

We have waited through Advent hearing again the ancient prophecies.

We have held our breath as Mary and Joseph searched for somewhere safe and warm and at last Jesus was safely born.

We have marvelled with the shepherds with their tales of angels and heavenly hosts, seeing our saviour as a baby lying in a manger.

Now the Magi are waiting to visit the King, they are ready to travel, have you chosen a gift to give to the King?

Following the star, we travel west to Jerusalem, the ancient capital of Israel, surely this is the place where the king will be?

This isn't the right place at all, but God's word is here: 'Go to Bethlehem' says the prophet, so we travel on.

The star stops over an ordinary home and here, at last, we can pay homage to the King, to Jesus, our Saviour, and we can offer him our gifts.

But we cannot stay forever kneeling before the Christ Child, our gifts are returned to us and, like us, they are changed by this encounter, and so we travel home by another way.

Now we are accompanied by the Spirit. And as we travel, we are encouraged to use our gifts waiting for the next step in God's plan.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in our hearts and fill our lives with his joy and peace this New Year and always.

**Hilary Shedlock**

## REGULAR SERVICES

Sundays: St Paul's 10am (HC 7 Jan) St Andrew's 11am (HC 14 Jan).

Christian Meditation: 7.30-8.30pm (details 792-1098)

Morning Prayers: Mon; Tues (9am); Weds (9.15am)

Night Prayers Tues: 8.45pm (details from 798 6917)

Wednesdays: 10am St Paul's Holy Communion  
11am St Andrew's Prayers

### Bible Readings

**7 Jan** Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matt 2:1-12. (Psalm 72:10-15).

**10 Jan** 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20 & Mark 1:29-39.

**14 Jan** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 & John 1:43 to end. (Psalm 139:1-9).

**17 Jan** Psalm 144: 1-2, 9-10 & Mark 3: 1-6.

**Tues, 9 Jan** TIME OUT meeting.

**Sun 21 Jan** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service 3 pm at St Margaret's. Preacher: Revd George Lane, Manchester Airport Chaplain, on theme of the week: That All May Be Free- highlighting slavery old and new

### HOW OUR PARISH HELPS OTHERS

When Andy preached at St Paul's at the end of November he asked me to say something about how the church helps others financially. Feedback suggested that some of our congregation were not fully aware of this information so I am happy to share it with you now.

Several years ago St Paul's and St Andrew's Committees decided to follow the Biblical principle of tithing and to give away 10% of our church income, and every year we reconsider that decision. PCC will only consider overtly Christian organisations because the money was originally given to church, and we normally give to a mixture of local, national and international charities.

Each year we decide on ten beneficiaries for the following year, but two years ago we donated our entire tithe to the **Borehole project** in the hope that **Nicholas** and his family in Kenya could become self-sufficient as soon as possible. We have contributed over £18500 in the past few years, and it is marvellous that the project is now complete and also that the parish was recently "highly commended" by Bishop David in the "Church for a different world" awards.

Our other long-term personal connection has been with the **AYF Choir** from Uganda whose members stayed in the parish on numerous occasions when they came to the UK, going back to Stephen's time as Rector. Alan Saunders credits them with encouraging his faith journey, and last year they stayed in his new parish at Pennington during their trip to the UK.

Although we don't necessarily have any personal connection with most of our beneficiaries I am confident that our donations do make a difference. Apart from **Nicholas**, these were the beneficiaries in 2017, with a brief explanation of what each charity does:

**The Booth Centre** used to be based at the cathedral in Manchester but moved to larger premises about four years ago. It helps homeless people by providing food, activities and advice.

**Manchester City Mission** is one of the oldest charities in Greater Manchester. Our donation goes specifically to their **Narrowgate** project, which is a night shelter in Salford that has provided emergency accommodation since 2008.

**Salford Foodbank** helps local people in crisis by providing emergency food supplies at three locations in Salford – Lower Broughton, South Langworthy Road and Eccles.

**The Message Trust** is the charity that Alan Saunders used to work for before he was ordained. It works mainly in Greater Manchester with hard-to-reach young people in schools and communities and in local prisons.

**Livability** [formerly **Prospects**] is the leading Christian organisation for people with learning difficulties and their families. It works with local communities and through churches to support 300 adults.

**Church Urban Fund** is a Church of England charity that supports practical action, working in co-operation with local churches in some of our inner cities.

**Mission Aviation Fellowship** is also known as **Flying for Life**. The charity flies light aircraft into remote locations in 25 developing countries, working with church and relief organisations.

**Embrace the Middle East** [formerly **Biblelands**] works with Christian communities to make an impact through healthcare, education and community development projects.

**Open Doors** works in over 50 countries, supporting persecuted Christians. It also distributes Bibles, trains church leaders and raises awareness of global persecution.

In addition to these donations, the parish has an annual **Macmillan** coffee morning and a **Christingle** service [for **The Children's Society**]. sends over 100 shoeboxes to Romania and raises money for **Send a Cow**.

Your generosity helps many people and I thank you.  
**David Martin**

Recently a petition was passed round St. Paul's titled HOPE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST, which many of you signed ( re our persecuted brothers and sisters in Iraq and Syria ) Altogether, 186,930 people in the UK and Ireland, signed this petition, while more 808,000 signed globally. THAT IS HOW MANY PEOPLE WANT TO SEE CHANGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. On 12th December, Noeh, a 12 year old Iraqi boy and his father Hathem, who were invited to New York , thanked everyone who signed the Petition, which he presented to the United Nations. The petition was received in London, by Prime Minister Teresa May, from Father Daniel, from Iraq and Open Doors CEO Lisa Pearce.

**Maureen Roberts**

A very big thankyou to all who either took part in or came to support our Christmas services and events at both churches. I think we managed to sing every familiar carol except Good King Wenceslas! The Worship Planning Group will be meeting soon (date to be arranged) to discuss how the services went: please let me know what you liked (or didn't) and what you thought went well (or didn't). Your views will help us plan for Christmas 2018.  
**Anthea**

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#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Rector (vacancy)**

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