

ST PAUL'S PARISH CHURCH, HOOK



*Our mission is to worship
God, to grow as disciples,
to love and care for all,
and to reach out with the
good news of Jesus Christ.*

Vicar: Rev. Jen Houghton (Day off – Friday)
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Website: <https://www.stpaulschurchhook.org.uk>

The Parish Office is open Tuesday-Thursday 9.00am-12.30pm

Email: parish.office@stpaulschurchhook.org.uk Tel No: 020 8391 2362 **Registered Charity No: 1163071**

Sunday 8th March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Our Church Warden this week is Alison.

Bible readings for 8th March are: Exodus 17: v1-7 & John 4: v5-42

MARCH SERVICES

- Friday 6th Mar** - 10.30am - World Day of Prayer @ Chessington Methodist Church
- Sat 7th Mar** - 9.15am Prayers for approx. 30 mins - All welcome
- Sun 8th Mar** - 10am Holy Communion
- Thurs 12th Mar** - 10am Holy Communion
- Sun 15th Mar** - 10am HC - Mothering Sunday
- Thurs 19th Mar** - 10am Holy Communion
- Sun 22nd Mar** - 10am Holy Communion
- Thurs 26th Mar** - 10am Holy Communion
- Sun 29th Mar** - 10am HC - Palm Sunday

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

14th - Prue, Kathy & Sue C

The posies for **Mothering Sunday** will be prepared on the morning of **Saturday 14th March** in the Mary Wise room from **10.30am**. All are welcome to help. We would be very grateful for the donations of any ribbons to go with the posies.

In 2026, we have a monthly **prayer focus** on a different area of the world (either country or region). This month our prayer focus is on **Nigeria**. Christian Advocacy group 'Open Doors' reported that the vast majority of Christians killed for their faith globally (years 24/25) were murdered in Nigeria. It is a horror unfolding away from the world's gaze, the merciless murder of thousands. The World Day of Prayer (March 6th) is written by the women of Nigeria, who quote "...that even in our struggles, we are not broken. We continue to work, to hope, to pray for the world we know is possible". To find out more, visit www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution We would love to feature overseas areas that are special to members of our congregation as a focus in future months: if you would be willing to lead on a month then please talk to Angie or email the parish office.

Lent course - started Wed 25 Feb and is running on Wednesdays from 7.30-8.45pm in Mary wise room. This Lectio 365 course is based on the experiences of the Desert Fathers and Mothers, the earliest Christian pioneers who sought God in the wilderness. Come to reflect on what 'season' you are currently in, how silence can be helpful, what we can learn from others and how different rhythms can help sustain our lives of faith. Speak to Jen for more info, or just come along! You don't have to come every week (finishes 25th March).

Bible groups/Home groups – If you are interested in being part of an ongoing weekly, fortnightly or monthly Bible study/home group, please could you let Jen know? We do have some groups currently happening and Jen will be reviewing capacity and interest over the next month. Please indicate if you would prefer a daytime or evening group. Thank you.

Easter Flowers – It is the tradition at St Paul's that flowers displayed in Church at Easter are in memory of a loved one. All Donations to be received by Palm Sunday (29/3/26) please. Please label either your envelope (with cash) or your online donations with your loved one's name plus your name too.

PLEASE NOTE: A NEW ANNUAL LIST OF NAMES WILL BE CREATED FOR DISPLAY IN CHURCH, SO PLEASE GET YOUR DONATIONS AND LOVED ONES NAMES IN BY SUNDAY 29th MARCH.

Please also fill out one of our forms for our records (at back of Church) & add into your envelope.

THERE ARE VERY FEW FORMS IN SO FAR

Safeguarding survey

INEQE Safeguarding Group have been commissioned to conduct Independent Safeguarding Audits of the Church of England to make sure dioceses and cathedrals are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected. As part of this, you are encouraged to complete an online anonymous and confidential survey: <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/Southwark/> before Wednesday 8th April 2026.

Celebrate Mother's Day We will be remembering and celebrating Mums and all those who act as mothers to us on Sun 15th March, in a special service at 10am. Posies of flowers will be given out in Church and there will also be a time of reflection as we remember those whom we love but no longer see, along with any other losses surrounding this day. We would love to see you to give thanks for all Mums.

Remembering Eric Heather We have had a plaque commissioned to remember with love and thanks our dear friend Rev. Eric Heather, who served faithfully as Reader and Priest at St Paul's for over 50 years. We will be blessing the plaque and giving thanks for Eric's faithful ministry during our 10am service on Sunday 22nd Mar.

Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Angela Yule A service will be held at 11am on Tues 24th March in Church, to remember and give thanks for Angela Yule, much loved member of St Paul's and the Mothers' Union, who died at the beginning of January. All are welcome to attend and join us for refreshments following the service.

Palm Sunday Team Service On Sun 29th March at 6pm, there will be a Team service at St Matthew's Church Surbiton, which will be led by the Team Clergy. There will be readings and reflection with Taize music and a chance to prepare ourselves for Holy Week. Please do put the date in your diary, as this is a good chance to worship with our Team Churches, St Matthews and St George's. Please note our 10am service at St Paul's will still take place as usual in the morning.

Confirmation Service There will be a Confirmation service for our Deanery (our local area) held at All Saints Church in Kingston at 6pm on Sunday 26th April. Candidates will be prepared for this next step in faith in four sessions ahead of the service. If you are interested in being confirmed, or finding out more, please let Jen know.

Future Dates for your diary

Church parades are back: As part of our All-Age service, we will be joined by local Scouting & Guiding units during 2026. **Sun 1st March** was a great success and we look forward to: **Sun 7th June and Sunday 4th Oct.**

Sat 18th April – 43rd UNLOCK London Walk – North London, 9am-5pm. More details to follow soon.

Sunday 17th May – 10am service, coffee, then APCM followed by Bring & Share Lunch.

Saturday 20th June: *Music@St Paul's:* Freddie Pirotta & Band. More details to follow in due course.

Saturday 11th July and Sunday 12th July: Anniversary Celebration Weekend – celebrating **135 years** of Mothers' Union at St Paul's. **Join us for a cream tea in the Parish Hall on Saturday afternoon and Mothers' Union members will lead the 10am service on Sunday.**

Sunday 11th October – Harvest Festival.

Archive Anecdotes – March 1976

A Prayer for our Church

O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged enough to turn back the tempter's power. O God, make the door of this house the gateway to Your eternal kingdom. Amen.

Our next music event is on Sat 21st March @ 8pm (doors open at 7.15pm). Simon Rowe (who plays guitar in our Sunday worship band) will be performing with his band Gambling Hearts, an indie 3-piece band, their influences include The Beatles, Oasis & Nirvana. This will be a fundraiser with profits being split between the Church and local charity KCAH. Tickets cost £15 / concessions £7.50 (Children, Full time students and anyone on benefits). Online booking is available on our website, or you can reserve tickets with the Parish Office, via phone or email (at top of first page).

Consultation on next Bishop of Southwark – Our Diocesan Bishop – The Rt Revd Bishop Christopher Chessun – will be retiring this summer, after many years of faithful leadership in our Diocese. The search for the next Bishop of Southwark begins and our Diocese want to ensure that your views are heard. Please contribute to this short and simple [anonymous online survey](#) by 1st April 2026.

WE HAVE THREE WAYS OF 'GIVING' TO ST PAUL'S CHURCH:

- Directly through our bank account. *Sort Code: 60-21-05 Account No: 96897856 Account Name: PCC of St Paul's Hook.*
- Through 'Paypal' via our website www.stpaulschurchhook.org.uk and click on the
- 'donate to St Paul's link' or using the QR Code
- Through contactless card payments using the machine by the main church doors.

Please also complete a Gift Aid form, available at the back of church or from the Parish Office, if you are a taxpayer. YOUR SUPPORT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

