



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)
07933 004460 / vicar@stpaulschurchhook.org.uk

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 19th July 2026 – 7th Sunday after Trinity

Our Church Warden for 19th July is Simon.

Bible readings for 19th July are: Romans 8: v26-end & Matthew 13: v31-33, 44-52.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

23rd – Susan Hodgson

Sunday 19th July - 10am Communion Service with Jen.
Thursday 23rd July - 10am Communion Service.
Sunday 26th July - 10am Communion Service with Jen & Neil.
Thursday 30th July - 10am Service of the Word - TBC

Grass cutting. We're looking for a volunteer to join our churchyard grass cutting team. It would involve an hour's work every couple of weeks. The powered mower is supplied. Please speak to Graham for further details.

Our Next Church Working Morning 09:30–12:30 is on Saturday 12th September. Due to the last one being cancelled due to the extreme weather, we still need to keep our Church and garden areas looked after and looking lovely. Please come along and help....many hands make light work!



Our dear friend Christina Willett has now gone home to be with her Lord. She died on 5th July. Her funeral is at 12.30pm at Randalls Park on 7th August. All our thoughts and prayers are with her sons, Alex & Christopher.

In 2026, we have a monthly **prayer focus** on a different area of the world (either country or region). In July, our prayer focus is on China, one of the world's superpowers economically and politically, and a country where Christianity is growing rapidly despite official sanction. Give thanks that, from the efforts of European missionaries a century or more ago, the church planted in China is now believed by external sources to number over 100 million believers and is predicted, by 2030, to represent the highest global population of Christians in the world. Pray for leaders, that they might be impacted by the Gospel message, and for a relaxation of the rigid rules around registering to practice religion. Pray for the many house churches who operate away from official oversight. Pray particularly for youth: under 18's are legally prohibited from attending church.

Mission Action Planning

Over the next six months, we will be planning where we as a Church community should be focusing our time, gifts and energy for the future of St Paul's. We want everyone to be involved in this and in developing what's called a 'Mission Action Plan' (MAP). A MAP is a tool to help us to listen to the needs within our local community and reflect on the opportunities we have to engage with more people and to share God's love and hope. We will be gathering feedback from our congregation and the wider local community during July, August and September.

On Saturday 3 October, the whole Church is invited to a Mission Action Planning day from **9.30am-2pm** to look at all we have discovered and seek to discern together what God is calling us to do. The MAP day will be held in the Church building and refreshments will be provided. This is a really exciting piece of work, and we hope you will be involved. If you have any questions, please do ask Jen or one of the Churchwardens. Alison and Simon.

Keeping in touch

We are currently reviewing and updating all the data we hold and seeking permission to continue to use this data to contact our friends and supporters. We would also like to give you the opportunity to 'opt in' to other forms of contact. If you would like to continue to be contacted by St Paul's to receive news, including these weekly notices, please complete this form: <https://stpaulshook.churchsuite.com/-/forms/5cprbxzx> If you have difficulty completing the form above, please contact me in the Parish Office (0208 391 2362) and I can assist you.

Please complete the following survey by 31st July: <https://stpaulshook.churchsuite.com/-/forms/4yuk5whz> It should only take a few minutes. You do not have to be with us in Church every Sunday to complete the survey; we are keen to get feedback from our regular worshippers and those who come on occasion or for special services too - you are all part of the St Paul's Church family.

Interment of ashes - Ian Reid's ashes will be interred in the Garden of Remembrance at St Paul's on Wednesday 22nd July. The short service will start in the church at 12pm and then move out to the churchyard. You are all welcome to attend, and are invited to come back to my home for a light lunch afterwards. Mary.

Sunday 6th September - Blessing of backpacks Service at 10am

During our All-Age service, we will be blessing backpacks and school bags at the start of the academic year. Our children and young people - including any mature students and others working in education - are invited to bring their backpack to Church to be blessed, and we will pray for those in education. We will also be thanking and affirming our Children's Group leaders and helpers on this date.

Sunday 13th September – Pet Service at 4pm - as we celebrate the joy and companionship our animals bring to our lives. Bring your beloved pets for a blessing, fellowship, and a time of gratitude for all creatures great and small.

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 7th June was another success and we look forward to: **Sunday 4th October** when The **Kingston and Malden Scout and Guide Band** who will be playing for 15-20 min after the parade service **DO NOT MISS!!**

Sunday 6th September – Blessing of Backpacks service – for start of new school year.

Saturday 12th September – Church working morning – 9.30am-12.30pm

Sunday 13th September at 4pm for a special **Pet Service**

Saturday 19th September – Macmillan Coffee morning from 10am – 2.30pm

Sunday 3 October - 9.30-2pm - **Mission Action Planning day for the whole Church** (see notice overleaf)

Sunday 11th October – 10am - Harvest Festival.

Sunday 11th October – 6pm at Southwark Cathedral – Everyone is invited to attend, to celebrate Neil being licensed as a Lay Minister.

Saturday 17th October – *Music@St Paul's* Concert with internationally acclaimed artist – Jo Harrop

Sunday 18th October – 10am - Celebrating Neil's first service as a Licensed Lay Minister.

Archive Anecdotes – July 1996 – A Summer Poem by Chrissy Greenslade

I **SAW** God in a flower today, I saw God in the trees,
I saw Him in the flying birds, the busy humming bees.
I **FELT** God in a loving hand, I felt Him in the sun,
I felt Him in my cosy home, in warmth and love and fun.
I **HEARD** God in the whispering wind, I heard Him in the birds,
I heard Him in the way you spoke those loving kindly words.
GOD's PERFUME filled the air today in fresh mown grass and sea,
In damp dark earth and misty rain in shrubs and lilac tree.
I **TASTED** water from a spring, fresh honey from the bee,

St Paul's Church WhatsApp group

We will be setting up a St Paul's Church group on WhatsApp as an additional way of communicating with the Church. This will be a 'broadcast only' group for Church to send members announcements (rather than a way for members to chat). We hope this will complement our existing ways of communicating, and messages will be sent no more than 1-2 times a week. There is no requirement to join this, but details of how you can be added to the WhatsApp group will be sent to you during June. Watch this space!

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.

