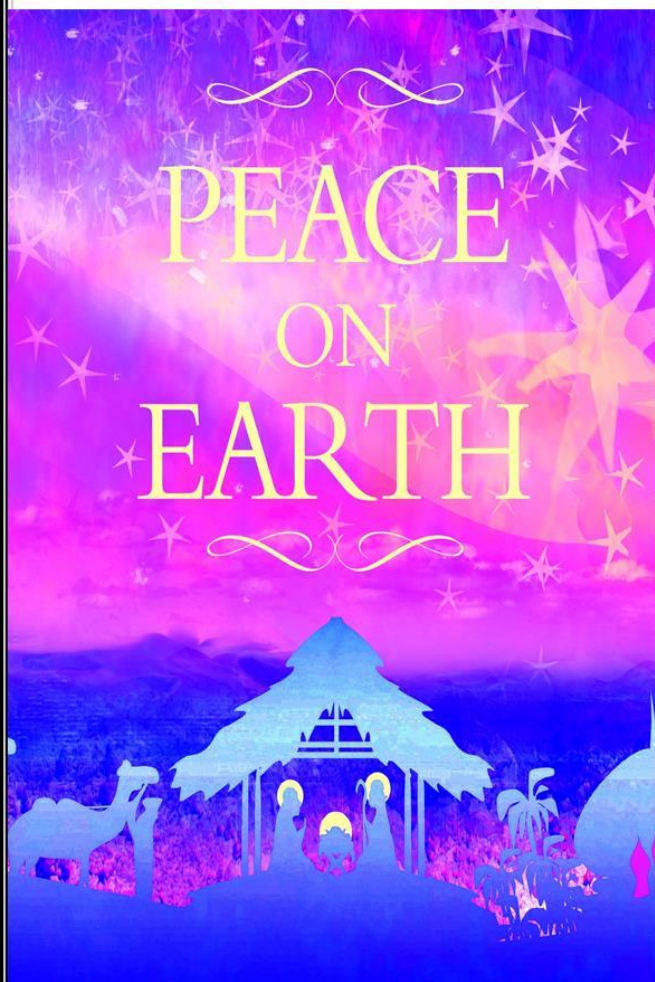


# The Voice of St Paul's

Winter  
2018



**TEAM VICAR: THE REVD. HELEN SCALAN**

Tel. 0161 432 1227  
E-mail: [helen.scanlan@btinternet.com](mailto:helen.scanlan@btinternet.com)

**CHURCHWARDEN**  
Mrs Ann Sawyer Tel. 432 7285

**ASSITANT CHURCHWARDENS**  
Mrs June Rolff 432 3431  
Mrs Marika Plowman 286 9587

**P.C.C. SECRETARY**  
Dr Judith McGovern Tel. 431 0683

**P.C.C. TREASURER**  
Mr David Bradshaw Tel. 431 4661

**GIFT-AID SECRETARY**  
Dr John Langrish Tel. 432 8699

**ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER**  
Mrs Kathryn Chesworth Tel. 432 1719

**MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS**  
Mrs Wendy Corbridge  
Tel. 718 2513

**MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS:**  
Editor: Mrs Virginia Lloyd Tel. 432 1013  
[ginia.lloyd@outlook.com](mailto:ginia.lloyd@outlook.com)

**CHURCH HALL**  
To hire the Church Hall contact  
Margaret Hardstone, Tel. 431 9761

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**  
Mr Gordon Viney, M.B.E.  
Tel. 432 7896

## ORGANISATIONS:

Church Choir Fridays at 8.00 p.m.; Gordon Viney, Tel. 432 7896

Lay Assistants' and Readers' rota Jane Fleming 07887 812385

Flower rota Ann Sawyer, Tel. 432 7285

Baptism Prep Beryl Divine, Tel. 442 4147

Maintenance Julian Hardstone, Tel. 431 9761

Toddlers Group 'Little Fishes' Thursdays, 9.30 am.; Helen Scanlan Tel. 432 1227

Rambling Group 2nd Saturday of each month; Gordon Viney, Tel. 432 7896

Website coordinator David Bradshaw Tel. 431 4661  
email: [office@stpaulsheatonmoor.org.uk](mailto:office@stpaulsheatonmoor.org.uk)

A LETTER  
FROM

THE REVD. HELEN SCANLAN



*Dear Friends*

This week has been busy because it's been filled for me with commuting into Manchester every day for four days. A total shock to the system for me being up and out for 7.30am and getting the tram by 8am. For the majority of the country's workforce this is nothing new, and has been happening for centuries.

But for me, my working life has been either in working from home or a pub, missing out this morning commute.

So Monday morning was quite novel. The tram was packed to bursting point and I noticed that the only seat I could get was one where I would be travelling backwards (but thankful to have a seat at all). I began to enjoy the scenery. It didn't take too long in experiencing that I was spending a lot of time looking at where I had been and not where I was going too.

We do this so much in life too, always reminiscing on the past and paying little attention to the future, or even present day. It's as though we are missing out huge chunks of our life trying to relive what has clearly passed us by.

On the tram I could see the dark clouds once above now trailing into the distance, and trees once laden with leaves now laid bare across the horizon allowing me to see through the branches. It gave me a sense of not capturing the past and freezing the frame of our lives to hold it there, not allowing ourselves to try and retrace our steps, perhaps into areas of hurt, pain and grief, but to allow these to become distant memories – memories to look back on and smile at, memories to learn from, memories to keep locked in our hearts.

When I arrived at Exchange Square in Manchester and began my short journey to Church House I walked through the cabins of the Christmas Market. They were all locked up but I imagined in just a few hours time how much joy and excitement would be held by the people who would arrive to see them open.

The anticipation of what is to come in this moment gave me a glimpse of the future, better times to come.

It brought that favourite Christmas song back too me by Andy Williams, "It's the most wonderful time of the year" so the song goes and if you have small children around you will know for sure what joy it brings.

It is a time to enjoy what this season has to offer, the anticipation of a coming King, the Christ Child (not Prince Charles! just for clarification). We await with bated breath this Christ Child who will change hearts and minds; who will bring us a renewed hope and vision for today and the future. We take on board the message of hope and joy as we travel into the New Year, doing our best to keep the message of Christmas in sight all the year through, just like the message in Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol", and removing from our hearts all forms of prejudice and malice so that we become whole again.

We cannot become the perfect family which is often shown on the television at this time of year, because that does not exist, but we can become a family with tolerance at its heart, learning to listen to each other with a deep understanding of the complexities involved. We remember that Mary and Joseph were a displaced family as they returned to Bethlehem for the census. They were homeless as the child which Mary was carrying came into the world. They were refugees as they fled to Egypt. Let's not forget this as we head on into the future facing Brexit and all the hate which surrounds it on both sides.

Let us go forward into the new year with hearts free from indifference, apathy and craving for what others have, because we are very blessed in this country to have an abundance of wealth. That wealth may not be monetary but is one of love, and time.



So share that time with one another, put down your devices, be that memories of the past or computers. And look into this wonderful future which is approaching with an unstoppable speed and embrace it.

John 16:33 (NRSV)

*"I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"*

No matter what has gone before I am reminded by this passage in the Bible that we have a fearless God who has turned this world upside down because of the love he has for us. All I ask is that we show this love to others in all its fullness.

Have a wonderful and joyous Christmas and an enlightening and prosperous New Year.

May the peace of the Christ Child be always in your hearts and minds.

*Helen*

### *A Christmas Tree Blessing*

Holy Creator of Trees,  
Bless with your abundant grace  
this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy.  
May its evergreen branches be a sign  
of your never fading promises.  
May its colourful lights and ornaments call us  
to decorate with love our home and our world.  
May the gifts that surround this tree  
be symbols of the gifts we have received  
From the Tree of Christ's Cross.  
Holy Christmas tree within our home,  
may Joy and Peace come and nest  
in your branches and in our hearts. Amen

Anon



## Regular Services at St. Paul's

Service	Language	Day	Time
All Age Service	Modern	1st Sunday	10.45 a.m.
Parish Eucharist	Modern	3rd & 5th Sunday	10.45 a.m.
Service of the word	Modern	2nd & 4th Sunday	10.45a.m.
Choral Evensong	BCP	2nd Sunday	6.30 p.m.
Commuion	BCP	Wednesday	9.00 a.m.
Little Fishes Toddler Group	In church hall	Thursday	9.30 a.m.

Moonless darkness stands between.  
Past, the Past, no more be seen!  
But the Bethlehem star may lead me  
To the sight of Him Who freed me  
From the self that I have been.  
Make me pure, Lord: Thou art Holy;  
Make me meek, Lord: Thou wert lowly;  
Now beginning, and always,  
Now begin, on Christmas day.

Gerard Manley Hopkins, 1844-1889.

## Special Services and Events at St Paul's

**Saturday 1st December 11am – 2pm** Christmas Fair

**Sunday 2nd December 10:45am** Toy Service

**Sunday 9th December 4.00pm** Christingle Service

**Sunday 23rd December 6.30pm** Nine Lessons & Carols

**Monday 24th December 3.00pm** Crib Service

**Christmas Eve 11.00pm** Midnight Communion

**Tuesday 25th December 10.45am** Family Service

**Christmas Day** with Communion

**Sunday January 6th 10.45am** All Age Service

**Sunday January 13th 6.30pm** Choral Evensong

**Ash Wednesday is March 6th**

**Lent Course—based around The Greatest Showman—tba**

**Sunday March 31st 10.45am** Mothering Sunday

**Easter Sunday is April 21st**



You can see the magazine in full colour on the St Paul's website  
—[www.stpaulsheatonmoor.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsheatonmoor.org.uk)

## God in the Arts: 'He gave us eyes to see them'

a Catalan artist's Nativity in Barcelona



We end the year with a sign that proclaims birth and new life: the crib of Christmas. In December cribs will be set up in churches, homes, villages and town centres. It is a tradition that goes back to the nativity scene in a cave outside Greccio in Italy on Christmas Eve, 1223. St Francis of Assisi

invited all the people to a service there to remind them of a truth they had either forgotten or neglected: that Love came down at Christmas. We are told that as they looked inside the cave and saw the crib with the ox and ass, St Francis prayed and took up the infant Christ in his arms. Christ was 'the peaceful, tender and loving brother,' a vulnerable baby needing affection and care.

The simplicity and the beauty of that nativity scene is portrayed in this 12<sup>th</sup> century painting by an anonymous Catalan artist in a museum in Barcelona. Cribs were often very elaborate and ornate creations, bejewelled and decorated with episodes from our Lord's life. Here the scene is ordinary with few details. The haloes around the heads of Mary and the Christ-Child may look a little odd, but the artist and St Francis are at one in proclaiming a sign of life and love in this birth.

Each Christmas we are called to kneel before the crib with the animals and the shepherds. A 13<sup>th</sup> century Franciscan invites us to 'Gaze on the face of the babe with devotion...and delight in Him.' May we see the light of God's love in the new-born babe as we look into the crib, and may we delight to offer our hearts and lives in His service.

*Michael Burgess Parish Pump*



## Silent Night - Stille Nacht

200 years ago this Christmas Eve a parish priest near Salzburg in Austria and his organist wrote a new carol for the midnight mass. The priest, Fr Joseph Mohr, provided the words in a poem he had recently written. The organist was Franz Xavier Gruber who created a tune of haunting beauty. The carol, *Stille Nacht*, was duly sung at the service.

We don't know what the congregation thought of it, though I bet someone said, 'I can't stand all these new tunes!' But the simple words and wistful melody were to become one of the world's favourite carols, translated into hundreds of languages, 'Silent Night' as we know it.



My father told me of his experience in the First World War, when on Christmas Day the British troops heard the sound of German soldiers singing *Stille Nacht*. They responded with Silent Night, and the sacred words echoed across the blood-stained no man's land. It is a carol that breathes peace, quite unlike the traditional ones that stir us to action – 'O come all ye faithful', 'Hark the herald angels sing'. This German song is about the infinite peace of nativity – Mary pondering her heart all that was happening and the shepherds returning to their fields. The birth of this royal baby went largely unnoticed. There were no crowds, no cheering, no processions. But for two centuries people have sung this precious song of peace to recall that silent and holy night.

*Canon David Winter, Parish Pump*

## Celebrate Christmas at St Paul's!

Candlelit Traditional Service of  
Nine Lessons and Carols on  
December 23rd at 6.30pm



Crib Service—especially for children  
at 3 o'clock on Christmas Eve

Midnight mass at 11pm on  
Christmas Eve



And at 10.45am on Christmas morning—  
Family Service with communion.

## The story of St Nicholas

One account of how Father Christmas began tells of a man named Nicholas who was born in the third century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to use his inheritance to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering. He dedicated his whole life to God's service, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop in later life, he joined other bishops and priests in prison under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians across the Roman Empire. Finally released, Nicholas was all the more determined to shed abroad the news of God's love. He did so by giving.

One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight, and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery.

The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas – on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.



The example of St Nicholas has never been forgotten – in bygone years boys in Germany and Poland would dress up as bishops on 6<sup>th</sup> December, and beg alms for the poor. In the Netherlands and Belgium 'St Nicholas' would arrive on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. To this day, 6<sup>th</sup> December is still the main day for gift-giving and merry-making in much of Europe. Many feel that simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

**Poster found in a church in France (translated)**

*As you visit this church this Christmas, it is possible that you may hear the call of God. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile, so thank you for turning it off. If you want to talk to God, please choose a quiet corner here, and talk to Him. If you want to see Him later, send Him a text while driving.*





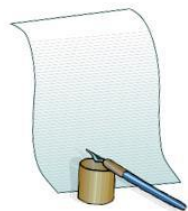
## FROM THE REGISTER

### Baptisms

Henry James Cox  
Finley William Sholes  
Sophia Lily Collins  
Evie Joan McCord

### Weddings

Edward James Birley and Nicoll Walsh  
Stephen Hewitt and Claire Marie Hegarty



### Epiphany by Malcolm Guite

It might have been just someone else's story,  
Some chosen people get a special king.  
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,  
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.  
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,  
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;  
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,  
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.  
They did not know his name but still they sought him,  
They came from elsewhere but still they found;  
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,  
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.  
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice  
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.



## Music Notes

David Bradshaw



Looking back over the last 21 months since we were gifted our very fine Kawai baby grand piano, I think we can safely say that we have made the most of our acquisition and 'struck a chord' with our local community in providing a facility whereby they can come and enjoy a variety of concert performances across the musical spectrum.

Our early introductory evening concerts last year opened up the possibilities, this year, of developing Saturday afternoon recitals with professional musicians and the 5 monthly recitals we held were very well received and supported.

In addition, our monthly Sunday Evening Recitals over the summer months also proved to be popular and enabled many more local amateur and professional musicians to showcase their talents to a wider audience.

*And the good news is that this situation is definitely set to continue!*  
The musical sponsor of our Saturday afternoon concerts, John Turner, has already drafted another series of monthly recitals which will run from March through to August and will include a performance in July which will be particularly appropriate for children and families.

And already, I have received several enquiries from hitherto unknown musicians who are eager to see whether they can be accommodated in our series of Sunday Evening Recitals. These include an established singer/songwriter (guitarist with additional instrumental backing) who has her own very pleasant ballad style and is currently working on her second album, a duo of violin and guitar who offer something different and an international professional pianist who focuses on tailoring his programme to make the maximum connection with his audience.

So I am relishing the opportunity to put together another series of varied recitals which may have to increase in number to accommodate the level of interest! **Roll on 2019!**

*We welcome all enquiries for use of the church for the performing arts.*

Contact David Bradshaw T: 0161 431 4661 E: [daveb76brw@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:daveb76brw@tiscali.co.uk)



## An on-going story



We all like a good story. When God wanted to grab our attention, He gave us a book of stories. The Bible is full of God's encounters with people. At Christmas, we remember the story of Jesus born in Bethlehem. But this story begins back in Genesis and as we go through the Old Testament books, there are many pointers to Him.

Some prophets announced His coming, stating where He would be born, what He would be like and what He would do. They prepared the way for the arrival of the Holy Child.

Perhaps, Mary, on seeing her old cousin Elizabeth pregnant, reminded her of the amazing conceptions and births which God had given to Sarah, Rachel and Hannah. And now the angel Gabriel had announced that she, of all women, would bear the Messiah. No wonder Mary praised God with all her heart.

The Christmas story is so attractive, with memorable ingredients: angels; poignant dreams; a pregnant mum on a long and tough journey; the lack of a clean room at an inn and a stable for a birth. The story has a wealth of characters: an innocent young girl, a kindly older man, bright angels, rough shepherds, wealthy men from the East and a tyrannical ruler out to kill the baby. And over all hangs that mysterious lone star that marked the place where Jesus lay!

But the story of Jesus doesn't end here. He grew up. Jesus became the teacher and miracle worker – He became the Messiah. It culminated with His death, resurrection and ascension. This is a story of sacrificial love. A Saviour who died on a cross to remove our sin and give us eternal life.

And the story hasn't finished, as WE are its final part! Our response to the Christmas story determines our future. Are we living in the light of Christ, in service, worship and prayer? We are now part of God's continuing story and the last chapter has still to be played out. We are involved in it. Now, that is something to celebrate!

*Lester Amann Parish Pump*

## Some thoughts on Valentine's Day

God obviously approves of romance – after all, putting Adam and Eve alone together in the Garden of Eden was His idea. And romance – love between a man and a woman – has been around ever since. The history of the Israelites began with three great romances: Abraham and Sarah. Isaac and Rebekah. Jacob and Rachel. The on-going history of Israel was deeply affected by later romances: Esther and King Xerxes, David's love affair with Bathsheba, and Solomon's marriage to hundreds of foreign wives. There is even an entire book in the Old Testament devoted to the love of a man and woman: the Song of Solomon!

When we reach the New Testament, we find real love between Joseph and Mary (even when Joseph thought Mary had been faithless, he did not want to harm her). St Paul, though himself a bachelor, nevertheless spent a lot of time urging Christians to love and be kind and faithful and considerate to their spouses. He even wrote 1 Corinthians 13 – the great love chapter that is read at millions of weddings worldwide 2000 years later.

Down the centuries ever since, romantic love has been critical in shaping history (Anthony and Cleopatra), in shaping cultural ideals (King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table). Some of our favourite stories are built on romance. (Puccini's *Tosca*, Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*.)

Romance remains as prominent now as it ever was, added to which we have films, television and drama all flying the romantic flag. Think of *Titanic*, *Mamma Mia*, *Love, Actually*, to name but a few. Wherever we look, whatever we do, romance continues to permeate every aspect of life. The old adage that 'love makes the world go round' is irrefutable – and it also



seems to make the galaxies go round, too. (Think of the Star Wars films.) Certainly, romance is alive and well – last year in Britain we spent about one billion pounds on Valentine's Day, sending each other cards, flowers, presents, and going out to restaurants.

And what of the future? Well, just as the Bible begins with a love story, so it ends with one. And *you are involved!* For actually the greatest Love Story of all time is that between God and His people. Christ is described in Revelation as our heavenly Bridegroom, and the Church is His beloved Bride. He has given us the most expensive present of all – Himself. And, just as in all the best romances, the story will end with the bride and groom together at last, so at the End of Time, Christ will return for His Bride.

*Parish Pump*

## Newlands

Newlands is a welcoming, purpose-built care home offering exceptional care and support for elderly people in the local community.

The premier 'Beeches Suite' offers luxury 'hotel style' accommodation for those who are currently living independently, but would like the added peace of mind that their care needs can be supported discretely.

At HC-One kindness is at the heart of everything we do and our care and services are tailored to individual preferences.



### Offering:

- Nursing Care
- Residential Care

For more information on the care we can offer you or your loved one, please visit our website or contact our dedicated kind team.

W [hc-one.co.uk](http://hc-one.co.uk)

T 0161 432 2236

E [newlands@hc-one.co.uk](mailto:newlands@hc-one.co.uk)

A 122 Heaton Moor Road, Heaton Moor,  
Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 4JY



EVERYTHING YOU WANT FROM THE

## STATION STORE

Heaton Chapel Station  
Heaton Moor Road SK4 4NX

GROCERIES  
MAGAZINES  
PET FOOD



DRINKS  
KITCHEN  
SUPPLIES

NEWSPAPERS (delivered to your home)

Telephone:  
0161 431 7929

O  
P  
E  
N

EVERY DAY  
EARLY – 5.00AM  
'TIL  
LATE – 7.30PM



## Traditional & Alternative Funerals George Ball & Son

Independent Family Run Funeral Directors for five generations  
with a tradition of caring and quality service. Established in 1870.

39 Derby Range, Heaton Moor,  
Stockport, SK4 4AB  
Tel: 0161 432 2131

- \* Prestigious Jaguar Fleet
- \* Personal 24 hour service
- \* Chapels of Rest
- \* Serving All Areas
- \* Nature Conservation Burial Ground and Green Funerals
- \* Pre-payment Funeral Plans

Also at: 52 Sandy Lane, Heaton Norris,  
Stockport, SK5 7NZ Tel: 0161 480 8627

[www.georgeball.co.uk](http://www.georgeball.co.uk)  
[www.burialswithnature.co.uk](http://www.burialswithnature.co.uk)



Golden Charter  
Funeral Plans

## **HEATONS' TEAM MINISTRY**

St. Paul's Church is a community of Christians who meet each week to worship God: Creator, Saviour and Sustainer. It is part of the HEATONS' TEAM MINISTRY, which comprises **four** other parishes:

**St. John** – Heaton Mersey

**St. Mary** – Heaton Reddiah

**St. Thomas** – Heaton Chapel

**Christ with All Saints** – Heaton Norris



<http://www.heatons-team.org.uk/>

## **HEATONS' TEAM COUNCIL:**

**The Team Rector & Chair of the Council:** The Revd. Marcus Maxwell of St. John's (tel. 442 1932)

**Secretary:** The Revd. Janet Butterworth

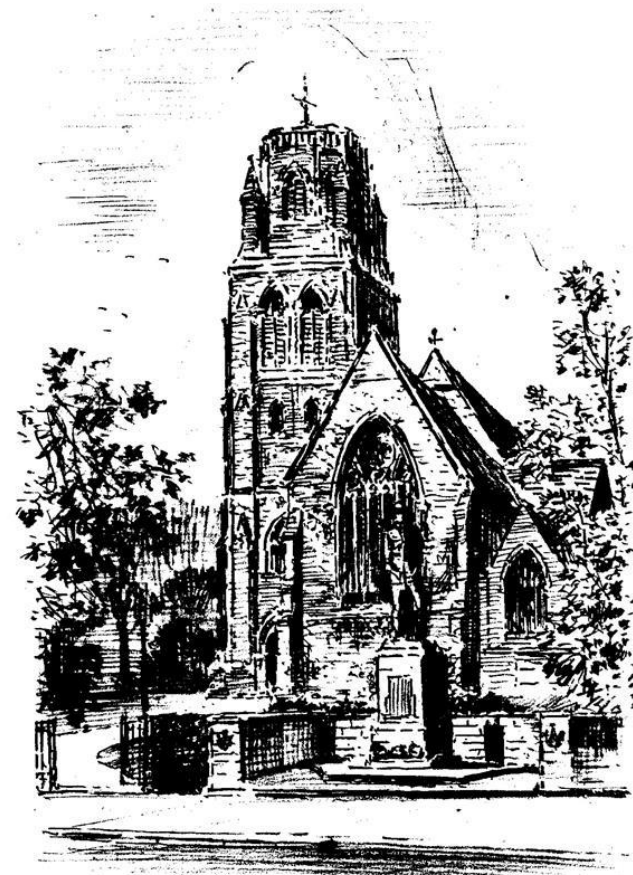
## **South Manchester Churches Noticeboard**

*One Hope - One Faith - One Church - One Lord*

<http://manchesterchurches.org/Heatons.aspx>

An initiative of The Churches Together In The Heatons and Heatons' Churches Partnership.

A resource for all the churches in the Heatons.



*St. Paul's Church, Heaton Moor Judges*

**ST. PAUL'S CHURCH  
HEATON MOOR**

[www.stpaulsheatonmoor.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsheatonmoor.org.uk)