

# The Voice of St Paul's

Spring  
2019



A LETTER  
FROM

THE REV. HELEN SCANLAN



*Dear Friends*

We sit amongst the ruins of our country, well...not quite but it seems like it as Brexit begins to unfurl, bringing out the best and worst of humanity! No matter which side you voted for, I'm sure you would agree we want the best for our country and for the other countries within the EU.

I was at Diocesan Synod in late March and the worship was provided school children. Their presentation used the reading below, and it continued my thinking on how we should act towards each other in the chaos that this country is now in.

Luke 10:29-37 The Parable of the Good Samaritan  
*Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."*

*But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care*

of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Who is our neighbour? Yes, it's those either side of where we live, it's also those in our immediate community, but our neighbours are also those who live in the next country to us. We are all connected in some way, shape or form, so we must care for those and be concerned for those in other countries also.

I have heard many times about "US" what's best for "US" but nowhere have I heard, in passing conversations with family, friends, or even documented by MPs or newsreaders on the television, anyone ask "how will this affect you?" "What problems will it cause you?" or "How can we work to make that better for us all?" thinking specifically for the other countries within the EU.

In the back of all that is going on and will continue to go on, we need to be mindful of the parable of the Good Samaritan, written over 2000 years ago and yet speaks to us today. How do we treat those around us?

How can we make sure that we really do care for everyone compassionately and without prejudices? How do we let each other know that in the coming days weeks month and years that we are here for them, that we will listen and respond appropriately?


What has our reaction been when we find someone has voted differently than we did? Who is our neighbour then?

We do not know what will happen, and we do not know how we will react to the changes which are around us. But let us not forget the similarities which hold us together as friends and neighbours and treat each other with compassion and love no matter what the future looks like. Because Christ is in the midst of it showing us all how to "do likewise".

May you have a blessed Easter.

*Helen*





### A Prayer for Easter Eyes

My Lord, Jesus,  
You have risen to new life!  
Give me new eyes with which to recognize  
your presence in the world around me.  
Sharpen my vision so that I see beyond the  
ordinary events of each day and into the  
extraordinary reality of your grace.  
Brighten my view of the world with renewed  
hope in the coming of your Kingdom.  
Soften my gaze so that I view others with the  
kind of tenderness and compassion you  
showed to so many.  
May each day of this Easter season provide  
glimpses of your glory.  
In your sacred name, I pray.  
Amen.

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And the senior members of the Church back up Helen's thoughts:

*The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are calling for every parish and diocese to hold their local MPs, politicians and the members of the Government and civil servants in their prayers.*

*Their concerns are for the social divisions, which "feel more entrenched and intractable than for many years", and also for "the divisions within the major political parties, which are stifling the emergence of a hopeful and viable vision for the common good in our communities."*

*(Parish Pump)*



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.



### Special Services and Events at St Paul's

**Saturday April 13th 3.00pm** Concert

**Palm Sunday Sunday April 14th 10.45am** Parish Eucharist  
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

**Good Friday April 19th** Walk of Witness: 10.00 am from **St Thomas's** to **Service** 11am at **St John's**

**Saturday April 20th 9.30am** Decoration of church for Easter  
10.00am Film at The Savoy 'Paul, the Apostle' of Christ' -  
for details see page 15

**Easter Sunday April 21st 7.00am** Dawn Service  
followed by a bacon butty.  
10.45am Easter Service with Communion

**Saturday May 18th 10.00am** Men in Sheds Groundforce Day

**Saturday June 29th** Team Barbeque at St. John's

**Saturday July 6th** Pet Service

**Saturday July 27th** Strawberry Tea

**Saturday Concerts on April 13th, May 18th, June 15th, July 20th and August 17th at 3.00 pm.** See website or brochure available in church for details.

**Sunday evening recitals on April 7th, May 5th, June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th, September 1st and October 6th at 6.30pm.** See page 12 for details

*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: A Vision of the Trinity. Giovanni Battista Tiepolo



On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June we shall be praising God as the Holy Trinity: three in one and one in three. Preachers will be pointing perhaps to the tree with its root, trunk and branches or to a human being with will, heart and mind. Or to symbols of the Trinity with the triangle or three interwoven circles. They are all images inviting us to ponder our world and be led from here to God: words and signs that take us into the mystery of God's glory and being.

That was the experience of an early pope, St Clement, when he was at prayer. He was granted a vision of the

Trinity which is the theme of this sketch of 1735 by Tiepolo – a painting for an altarpiece commissioned by the Archbishop of Cologne. In true Italian rococo style, it is full of vitality and life and colour. But at heart it is the scene of one man kneeling in prayer. He holds no signs of his papal authority for the cherub has charge of his three-barred crozier. It is a moment in worship: by the cherub, the incense is burning on a step.

And above the steps, to St Clement's amazement, the altar has burst into life. We see the risen Christ holding His cross, the dove hovering and ready to alight, and above, God the Father, leaning down to the saint. Clouds and angels surround the scene like the shekinah, the glory of God that shone out in the Temple and on the mount of Transfiguration.

The vision brings to life the signs of the Trinity we see in churches on altar frontals and in stained glass. It calls us with St Clement not just to ponder, but to offer to God the Holy Trinity our wills in service and our hearts in love. The well-known prayer of St Richard of Chichester expresses those three hopes: to know God more clearly, to love Him more dearly and to follow Him more nearly, not only on Trinity Sunday but day by day.

*Michael Burgess (Parish Pump)*

## Charles Wesley's great hymn for Easter: Love's redeeming work is done

*The Rev Dr Herbert McGonigle (Parish Pump)*

Jesus's death on the cross, and His resurrection on Easter morning are both part of the redemption story. Paul links them in this way: 'He was delivered for our offences [the Cross] and raised again [the Resurrection] for our justification. (Romans 4:25). Charles Wesley does likewise in his glorious Easter anthem.

*Love's redeeming work is done,  
Fought the fight, the battle won.  
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!  
Lo, he sets in blood no more!*

Charles wrote the hymn in 1739, a year after his Pentecost Sunday evangelical conversion, and the year in which he began his open-air preaching. Like all his hymns that followed in the next four decades, this hymn is full of New Testament references and allusions. A great stone was rolled into the opening of the grave where Jesus was laid, and as Matthew records, the Jewish authorities 'made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting a guard' (27:66). But all to no purpose! Christ, the Lord of Life, could not be imprisoned by death!

*Vain the stone, the watch, the seal  
Christ hath burst the gates of hell.  
Death in vain forbids Him rise  
Christ hath opened Paradise!*

The NT teaches that Christ's resurrection was the Father's seal of approval on His obedient life and atoning death. His resurrection was the proof that He was indeed Jesus Christ the Lord, as Paul argues in Romans 1:4. 'Declared to be the Son of God ... by the resurrection from the dead.' Charles Wesley works these great salvation truths into his verses. As our Lord promised His disciples long ago – and still promises us; 'Because I live, you will also live' (John 14:19).

*Lives again our victorious King;  
Where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Dying once, he all doth save;  
Where thy victory, O grave?*

The Resurrection of Christ, viewed as a historical fact, is only part of the NT teaching. His conquest of death He now shares with all His people. Christians are the people of the Resurrection! We are now 'made alive with Christ,' 'raised up with Him,' and already seated 'in heavenly places' (Ephesians 1:4-6). And Charles Wesley takes up this great theme of how believers share in their Lord's resurrection power.

*Soar we now where Christ has led,  
Following out exalted Head;  
Made like him, like him we rise,  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.*

Christ has conquered hell! Death has lost its sting! The grave is spoiled! What a Saviour! What a gospel! What a glorious hope!



## Celebration of a New Ministry

We gathered together at St Mary's Church, Heaton Reddish, on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February for the commissioning of our Helen as Area Dean.

For the celebration of a new ministry we had a large congregation and present to take the service were The Right Reverend Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton and The Venerable Karen Lund, Archdeacon of Manchester. There were plenty of lovely hymns, and the singing, led by St Paul's Choir, was wonderful. Fortunately the roof stayed on!



The Archdeacon gave the address based on a passage from St Luke – the story of Mary and Martha. Martha was the person who opened up her home and gave hospitality to Jesus, but her sister Mary was more passive and stressed that Jesus's teaching was to be listened to in a still, calm manner. The Archdeacon reminded us that busy lives, like Helen's, have to be Christ centred whether our thing is hospitality, business, our employment or our hobbies and all should be transformed to Christ's likeness in whatever way it is shaped in each of us.

The Archdeacon finished her sermon by addressing Helen in a prayer that she will receive gift upon everlasting gift from the one who is Lord of heaven and earth. That everything she is and does will be held in Christ. This was followed with a prayer for us all, that we may integrate everything that we are and aspire to be, and all that we do in Christ's name, will be held in Christ who is all in all.

It was a very well organised service but it was a surprise that during one hymn we saw a member of the choir climbing over the stalls! Apparently this was to find a Bible for Helen to hold during the licensing. After the service we adjourned to the church hall where excellent refreshments were served. This gave us a welcome chance to circulate and chat to members of different churches.

We wish Helen a blessed period as she begins her work as Area Dean of the Heaton.

*Ann Sawyer*

## A prayer for MayDay

*An ancient Celtic prayer from Benbecula*

Might of the Triune our shield in distress,  
The paschal Christ's might with his peace to bless,  
Spirit's might, Healer of salvation's state,  
The gracious King's might, precious Father great.

Bless us ourselves, the children that we own,  
Our generations bless that shall be sown,  
Bless the sire who gave unto us our name,  
And bless her, O God, from whose womb we came.

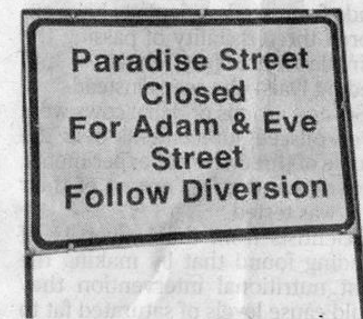
The cross of Christ be our shield down today,  
The cross of Christ our shield up on our way,  
The cross of Christ round be our shield and stay,  
Taking at our hands the blessing of May,  
At our hands blessing of the Beltane Day.

*(Parish Pump)*

**Beltane** is the anglicised name for the Gaelic May Day festival. Most commonly it is held on 1 May, or about halfway between the spring equinox and the summer solstice. *(Wikipedia)*

## Forbidden fruit is the Genesis of biblical road sign

A traffic diversion sign in Cambridge appeared to echo Adam and Eve's banishment from paradise. The road sign warned drivers that Paradise Street was closed and that they should follow a diversion for Adam & Eve Street. A picture of the sign was posted on a Facebook page with the message: "It was April Fool's Day but I think this is genuine highways signage." The sign was a genuine one, indicating a real road closure. The streets were given their names because they were built over the Garden of Eden allotments, near the city's former red light district.



From The Times 23/04/14



May18 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

## FROM THE REGISTER

### Baptisms

Jan 6th Orla Rose Forsythe

Jan 20th Benjamin Thomas Carmichael

Phoebe Isabelle White

Mar 3rd Ella Dorothy Reynolds

### Weddings

Jan 19th Ffion Eleri Morgan & David Charles Holden

### Funeral

Jan 30th Dorothy Hawkins



### Easter Night

All night had shout of men and cry  
Of woeful women filled his way;  
Until that noon of sombre sky  
On Friday, clamour and display  
Smote him; no solitude had he,  
No silence, since Gethsemane.

Public was Death: but Power, but Might,  
But Life again, but Victory,  
Were hushed within the dead of night,  
The shuttered dark, the secrecy.  
And all alone, alone, alone,  
He rose again behind the stone.

Alice Meynell (1847-1922)

The Parish magazine costs about £50 to produce each issue.. Donations to defray these costs would be gratefully received. If you would like to contribute please email our treasurer, David Bradshaw, at [office@stpaulsheatonmoor.org.uk](mailto:office@stpaulsheatonmoor.org.uk)





## *Music Notes*

*David Bradshaw*



### *Music on the Moor'*

Despite the dreadful weather on **Sat 16<sup>th</sup> March**, the first of our new series of Saturday afternoon 3 pm recitals was well attended and enjoyed by all who braved the elements. These recitals will now continue until August.

**Please see our brochure available at the front and back of church for the full content of future recitals (and those you have missed !)** or refer to our website.

### *Sunday Evening Recitals*

(1<sup>st</sup> Sun of the month at 6.30 pm)

This year we are trying to accommodate new talent who are eager to display their virtuosity and our first recital of combined guitar and violin duo, held on 6<sup>th</sup> April, certainly provided a Latino atmosphere which was enjoyed by all.

### *Full Recital Programme*

Sun Apr 7<sup>th</sup> Marcus Forster (guitar) & Oscar Tabor (violin)  
Sun May 5<sup>th</sup> Ivan Hovorun (international pianist)  
Sun June 2<sup>nd</sup> The Schubertians (string quintet)  
Sun July 7<sup>th</sup> Callum McClachlan (piano)  
Sun Aug 4<sup>th</sup> Joanna Lam (piano)  
Sun Sept 1<sup>st</sup> Katie (Little Sparrow) Ware (guitar, cello & piano)  
Sun Oct 6<sup>th</sup> Helen Earey (piano & organ)

**Our regular Choral Evensong will continue at 6.30 pm on the second Sunday of each month except for August.**

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

**If you would like to be kept informed of future concerts and recitals at**

**St. Paul's Church, please email a request to our Church Office.**

**E: [office@stpaulsheatonmoor.org.uk](mailto:office@stpaulsheatonmoor.org.uk) W: [www.stpaulsheatonmoor.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsheatonmoor.org.uk)**

## Courage and Forgiveness by Raymond Prior

When our young people, and sometimes older ones as well, are ready to be confirmed into full membership of the Church, they are presented to a Bishop at a Service not surprisingly called Confirmation. Usually a group of local Churches come together for this purpose and the Heaton Churches will often welcome the Bishop of Middleton. He is, of course, our Area Bishop under the Bishop of Manchester. Absolutely never would it be the Bishop of Stockport as we are north of the River Mersey which separates us from the Diocese of Chester.

Reading an old St Paul's magazine I came across the fact that on May 5<sup>th</sup> 1953 the Dean of Manchester had officiated at a Confirmation Service at St Paul's, 23 candidates being from St Paul's and some from other churches. It would be quite a sight as in those days; the girls being confirmed wore white dresses. But how could a Dean have performed this episcopal duty? Well, the Dean in question had been consecrated a Bishop fairly early in his career, as the Bishop of Singapore. Back in this country he had been appointed Dean of Manchester before going on to be Bishop of Birmingham. So, on occasion, the Bishop of Manchester was able to ask the Dean to take a Confirmation.

But the story of John Leonard Wilson is hugely more dramatic than the succession of his appointments. Interned as Bishop of Singapore in World War Two's notorious Changi gaol, he suffered with others the most appalling torture. He saw the torturers with "faces hard and cruel, and some evidently enjoying their cruelty, but by the grace of God saw these men not as they were, but as they had been. Once they had been little children, playing with their brothers and sisters, and happy in their parents' love; more than as they had been, capable of being redeemed by the power of Christ" He saw it thus as only common sense to say "Father, forgive".



### The 2018 Manchester Sleepout Andrew Masters

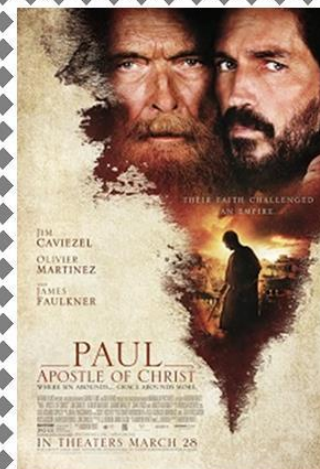
Every year, the Booth Centre holds a Manchester Sleepout to raise money for the homeless. This year Kersti and I decided to take part so, on the night of Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> November, we made our way to Manchester Cathedral, armed with our sleeping bags, to take part in this event.

Several hundred people took part, probably around 400 though I cannot find the exact figure, and the total raised, at the last count, as £125,000. We began by listening to some talks in the Cathedral, one by an official from the Booth Centre and one a testimony from someone who used to sleep rough in Manchester followed by a performance from a choir of ex-homeless people. After this we were turfed outside, to put down our sleeping bags on the Cathedral lawn and there to spend the night.

The weather was pretty mild, though a little drizzle was in the air. We had a ground sheet and a big plastic bag to encase the sleeping bag, so we were quite cosy and protected from the damp. Amazingly the night was not at all bad. Occasionally I was woken up by the sounds of passers-by, or bars emptying out their glass bottles into bins, and it was odd, when you did come to in the middle of the night, to look out to see the lights of the Premier Inn, which happened to be in my direct line of sight.

Just after 5.00 am, though, the mood of the masses was that this was time to get up and we all wrapped-our things and trooped back into the Cathedral for some tea and a bite to eat. Then it was a case of walking back through the city, past the doorways containing people sleeping out for real, and back to a warm house and a little sleep.

The exercise was, of course, very artificial. We were well-looked after during the sleepout and we had nice homes to go to when the night was over. Even so, I do hope that this and the many other similar actions that are taking place all over the county will raise the profile of this problem. It is, after all, a national disgrace that we should have people sleeping rough in our cities.



*Special film performance for  
Easter  
at the Savoy Cinema  
Organised by the Heaton's Churches  
Partnership  
The film: 'Paul, Apostle of  
Christ' (cert.15)  
Date: Easter Saturday April  
20th  
Time: 10.00 am  
Cost: £7 to include refresh-  
ments*



## Newlands

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

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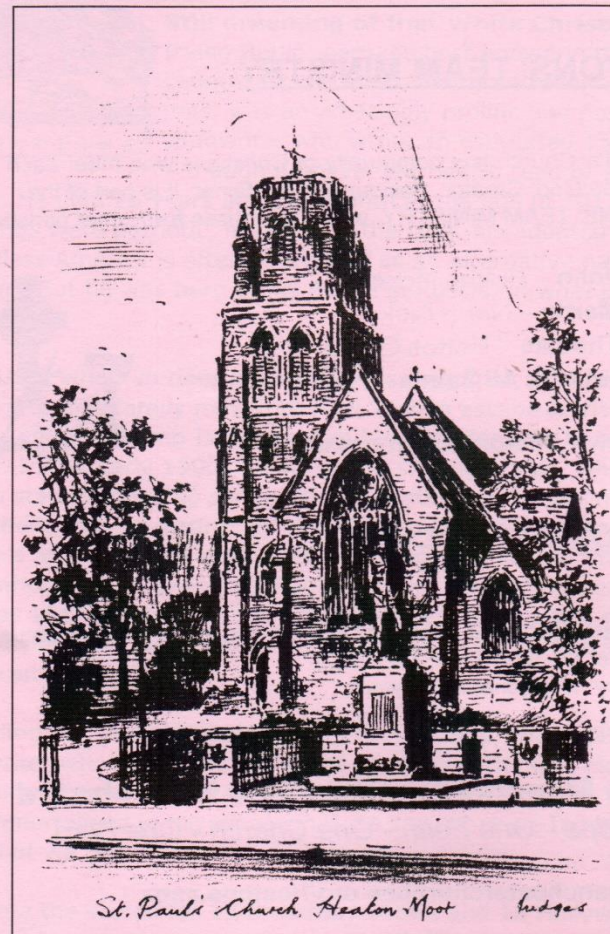
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