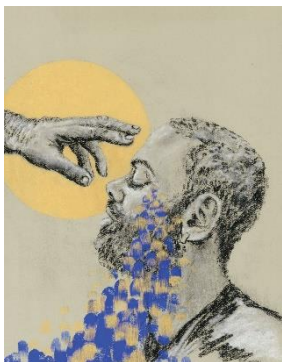


Dear Friends

A change of perspective

This week's lectionary readings lead us to consider changing our perspective on things that we thought we held dear. We are looking at Acts 9.1 – 20 in particular, which is the well-known story of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus who later became known as the Apostle Paul.



Saul is on his way to Damascus to persecute followers of Jesus, but on the way, is he felled by a blinding light and Jesus asks him why he is so intent on persecuting him. Later, Ananias is sent by God and despite his reservations, goes to Saul and lays his hands upon him. Saul's sight is restored and he is baptised.

Through our readings we are encouraged to explore changes in perspective – whether we can change ours, whether we allow others to change, and how God changes the way we see things.

In other news, our Annual Parochial Church Meetings take place in the next couple of weeks, with the first two being this week. St Paul's is after the service on Sunday and St Andrew's is at 7pm on Wednesday 7th. Please do your best to attend. It is important in the life of the church that we have these meetings to ask ourselves those questions about where we are and how we are fulfilling God's call on us to join him in his mission.

And finally, on a personal note, a huge thank you to all of you for your prayers, cards, support, gifts and love through these last few weeks and months. It has been a very stressful and emotional time as Kevin and I have been preparing to leave our home of 27 years to move into the Rectory. The move itself went well (thanks to a small team of shifters and lifters and meat and potato pie makers 😊) but we are still surrounded by boxes that need to be unpacked and sorted out. Oh, and there is just a small dab or two of decorating to still be done... We couldn't have done it without your support and understanding, so from the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU.

With every blessing,
Pam (& Kevin)

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, 4th May

- 9.30am St Andrew's Sunday Worship
9.30am St Peter's Sunday Worship
11.30am St Paul's Sunday Worship
12.45pm St Paul's APCM
2.00pm Baptism of Vinnie at St Peter's

Monday, 5th May

Bank Holiday – no activities

Wednesday, 7th May

- 10.45am Morning Service at St Andrew's
7.00pm St Andrew's APCM

Thursday, 8th May

- 11.00am Worship at the Hub – with a special service to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day
12.00pm Community Café and Drop In at St Paul's

Friday, 9th May

- 12.00pm Funeral of William Appleby at Blackley Crematorium

Saturday, 10th May

- 10.00am Community Café at St Paul's
10.00am Cleaning and Grounds maintenance at St Peter's
10.00am Second Saturday cleaning and maintenance at St Paul's

Sunday, 11th May

- 9.30am St Andrew's Sunday Worship
9.30am St Peter's Sunday Worship
11.30am St Paul's Sunday Worship
1.30pm Baptism of Mason at St Peter's



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Those grieving

The congregation at St Paul's who are grieving the loss of Pat Ryan. Her funeral details will be published soon.

The family of William Appleby whose funeral is on 9th May, and all those who are remembering an anniversary at this time.

Baptisms

- 4th May – Vinnie, *St Peter's*
11th May – Mason, *St Peter's*

Those caring

Staff and residents at Chestnut House Care Home

Those in hospital

Especially Dorothy C from St Peter's and Dorothy N from St Paul's

Blackley residents and visitors

Rastell Walk, Rathbourne Avenue and Red Cedar Close

Community Organisations

Blackley Rangers Community Rugby

Schools and Young People

All children and staff at Camberwell Park Specialist School

Worldwide Church

The Church of Ireland

FUTURE EVENTS

WORSHIP LEADERS MEETING

To be advised

PCC MEETINGS

Will be set by the new PCCs after the APCMs

DEANERY MEETINGS

Deanery Synod – 3rd June, 7.30pm
Deanery Chapter - TBC

NOTABLE CHRISTIANS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK - Thursday 8th May



Julian of Norwich, c1417

On this day in the year 1373, when she was thirty years old and suffering from what was considered to be a terminal illness, a woman of Norwich, whose own name is unrecorded, experienced a series of sixteen visions, which revealed aspects of the love of God.

Following her recovery, she spent the next twenty years of her life

pondering their meaning and recorded her conclusions in what became the first book written by a woman in English, *The Revelations of Divine Love*. At an unknown point in her life, she became an anchoress attached to the Church of St Julian in Norwich, and it was by this name of Julian that she came to be known to later generations. She died around the year 1417.

VE Day – 80th Anniversary

VE Day, marking the end of World War II in Europe, is a powerful reminder of sacrifice, deliverance, and hope—a moment when nations rejoiced in the triumph of peace after great suffering. As we commemorate its 80th anniversary, we reflect on the biblical call to remember the

deeds of the Lord and the resilience He grants in times of trial. The war's end was not merely a political victory but a testament to perseverance, unity, and the restoration of communities torn by strife. Today, as conflicts continue to shape our world, we look to Christ's message of reconciliation and justice, remembering that true peace is not just the absence of war but the presence of His love. By honouring VE Day, we remind younger generations that while human efforts may falter, God's faithfulness endures, calling us to be peacemakers and bearers of His light.



Matthew 5:9 (NRSVA) "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need to contact anyone in church, please use the following methods:

Phone 0161 264 9982 **Email** clergy@blackleycofe.church **Website** <https://blackleycofe.church>

If you would like to receive this notice sheet by email, please contact us on churchoffice@blackleycofe.church and we will add you to our mailing list.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (1 Corinthians 12:27, NIV)

As a church family, we are called to walk together in faith, reflect on the past year, and prayerfully seek God's guidance for the future. The APCM is more than just a meeting—it's an opportunity to celebrate our shared journey, engage in meaningful discussions, and be a part of shaping the ministry and mission of our church.

Your voice matters, and your presence makes a difference. Come and be encouraged as we give thanks, share updates, and look ahead with hope and purpose. Let's build together, grow together, and strengthen the bonds of fellowship in Christ.

We look forward to seeing you there!

St Paul's – Sunday 4th May 12.30pm (after the service)

St Andrew's – Wednesday 7th May 7.00pm in Church

St Peter's – Sunday 18th May 10.30am (after the service)

Between now and then, you will see nomination sheets for various roles in church such as Church Warden, PCC members etc. Please do consider carefully and prayerfully who God is calling to serve your church in these ways. If you feel he is calling you and want to know more, please speak to Pam directly, or drop her a message and she will be delighted to talk things through with you. As ever, you can find her on 07834 424568 or pam@blackleycofe.church.

