

St Paul's C of E Church
Whitburn Close
Pendeford
WV9 5NJ 01902 787025
Summer 2024



St Paul's, together with the churches of Christ the King, Holy Cross and
St Michael & All Angels form the parish of Tettenhall Regis.

A letter from Rev Dave:
Dear All

It was a boiling hot sizzling day. The sun had risen like the yolk of a particularly orange free-range fried egg and had beamed fiercely down for hour upon hour baking everything and everybody. Enoch sighed, brushed an imaginary mote of dust off the table, scratched himself – squinted at the sun dial and sighed again – when would siesta time come! He was so bored – working for local Government was just so, well boring! Okay, he didn't fancy shepherding – risking life and limb from bears and lions to protect a few gormless sheep was not the life for him – and he couldn't swim so "fisherman" was right out. Then one day his dad had suggested he got a job in Government or leave home and become a beggar and suddenly it had all become clear to him. A life in administration beckoned.

He yawned and crossed the room to close the flap and leave the "gone to lunch sign" when a man hurried by him and sat down in front of the desk. Enoch sighed again – went and sat at his side of the desk – grabbed his slate and got to work. "Can I help you sir?" The man – white haired but still rather athletic looking older man put down an odd shaped stick – and shyly smiled. "I rather hope you can – I would like to apply for planning permission for something I'm going to be building in my back garden."

"Oh yes sir – you've come to the right place" Enoch might be bored but he knew his stuff "And how big do you want this to be?" "It's going to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high – here's the plans. Take a look". Enoch whistled under his breath! "Well sir that's going to be a rather large extension – palatial in fact. Umm may I ask how many wives and children you actually have?"

"I have but the one darling wife – and three sons – they're all married by the way – but no grandchildren – Thank God!" "So why do you need this extension - It's a bit big for a games room! Ahh, is the mother-in-law coming over? – I note that there is but a single door and no windows!" He looked at the plan a little closer. "In fact it doesn't look much like a building at all it looks more like a ...a". "Boat" Said the old man helpfully "Or Ark as I prefer to call it". Enoch was rather flustered. "Sir you live in a desert! Are you seriously proposing to me that you are going to build a boat ...err Ark - for your family?". "Yes. God told me to."

Enoch sighed again – it seemed the day for sighs he thought! But he was a professional bureaucrat and forms didn't fill in themselves. Even if the information on them was bonkers! "Let's start from the beginning then shall we? Name?" "Noah – son of Lamach, who was the son of Methuselah. who was the son of....". "That will do fine Mr Noah." He said hastily "Age?" "I will be Six hundred and one on my next birthday" said the old man proudly. Enoch coughed – took a big gulp of air "Well you don't look a day over five hundred and fifty! Right and what do your neighbours think about your project? Have there been any objections?"

Noah squirmed on his chair a little uncomfortably. "Well they think I'm mad, crazy, barmy, foolish, nutty, round the bend, moon struck, off my rocker, gaga, loony and, Mrs Nun at number 37 says it will spoil her view of the rocky desert". "Ah well we will be putting up a notice and ask for their comments, which, I, for one will look forward to reading. Now then just a couple of things before we finish, firstly – what is the purpose of this Ark. Not the storing of illegal substances I hope?" Enoch allowed himself a little chuckle.

"No, I plan to fill it with my family and to quote from the Lord God Himself, "seven pairs of all clean animals, a male and his mate: and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate and seven pairs of the birds of the

air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive upon the face of all the earth. For". The old man's voice trailed off and he looked a bit sheepish. Enoch was intrigued, Noah had more to say he was sure. "Go on" He said "For.....what?". Noah seemed to pull himself together, "For I will send rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights and everything that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground. Well that's what God said!"

There was a very uncomfortable silence. Both men shifted and squirmed a bit – then Noah piped up again. "I suppose you can come if you want – there's a bit of room between the Aardvarks and the Skunks, I'm sure you can fit in". Enoch sighed the biggest sigh of the afternoon. "That's very generous of you Sir. But I must decline it might be seen that I am accepting a bribe to further your ends" (and he thought to himself your neighbours are right you are mad crazy, etc etc and a God botherer as well)". I suppose you could start building your Ark but be advised, should your appeal fail, it will have to be torn down".

He paused. "It would help though if one of your sons counter-signed this slate. Is one of them available?" Noah thought for a minute "Not at present – Shem is getting quotes for a job lot of Gopher wood, while Ham and Japheth are looking for a female Unicorn. Then of course we've got a lot of building to do". "Never mind" said Enoch "I'm sure there's plenty of time to straighten things out." He started to usher the old man to the door – he'd had enough and his siesta beckoned. It was only when Noah had gone that Enoch realised he'd left something behind and he hurried after him. "Noah – Mr Noah you've left this stick". The old man turned – a strange expression passed over his face – it might almost have been called pity. "No, you keep it" He replied, "It's a new invention of mine – it's called an umbrella – I have a feeling you're going to need it!" And he turned sighed and walked into the heat haze and disappeared!

Have a great Summer and God Bless you all.

Dave

Church News

Christian Aid week – spending a few hours in Morrison's, our small team collected £204.29 towards the St Paul's Church total sum of £704.43. Well done to everyone for all the various collections taken towards this total that will go to help Christian Aid projects overseas.

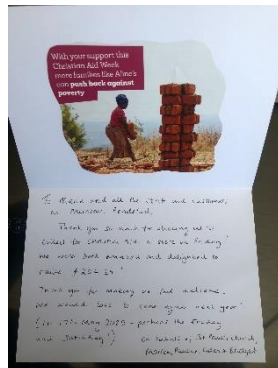


Photo from Oasis Café celebration of the **D Day Anniversary**. We had a great time eating spam fritters and corned beef hash and cakes from the times of the D Day period. A friendly occasion shared with our neighbours.

News from an old friend, **Ann Saunders**, shown here looking at photos of our church family on my mobile phone. Thankfully she has recently had her cataracts removed. She is now 95 years old, still wanting to



know how we are doing, still telling me off, still enjoying her bible readings and singing hymns.



Our weather has not been good this year for our **Circle Church**, but these pictures show how we made a 3D fruit from pieces of paper indicating the different fruits of the spirit. Let's hope we get better weather for our next Circle church so that we can worship outside again. Come and join us for a different kind of worship experience. Next one is at 3pm on Sunday, 15th September.

Our **Knit & Natter** group, as well as making lots of other knitted, crocheted and embroidered projects, have continued to make 6inch squares that go to Happy Hugs who make blankets for those in need. Here are two thank you notes received, to show you where they go: the first one shows Christmas bags that include presents as well as a blanket, that will go to carers in need. The second one is going to families in refuge and young families in need. Well done to all our crafty contributors and thanks to Marcia and her team who sew our squares into blankets.

CHADD @CHADD1979 - 20/12/2023
A special thank you to a local group called Happy Hugs who crocheted individual squares into beautiful blankets. Donated for our Refuge and Young Families services with extra Xmas treats in these lovely gift bags. Always so powerful when local people come together - thank you!



Photos from a joyful, emotional and very musical evening with the Hospice Voices Choir enjoyed by a large audience. £720.31 was raised for Acorn Hospice.



Ian Budd was ordained a deacon, here is a photo of him with his new team from Moele Brace in Shropshire. Our best wishes are with Ian. **Mark Cadwallader** was

ordained in a separate service, here he is with his proud family. Mark is a curate in our parish. We hope to see you at St Paul's soon.

School – St Paul's School and Dovecotes School have both visited the church as part of the school day. Try Praying booklets will be given to all school leavers at their leaver's service.

Dates for your diary

Boat Trip – a trip on the canal on Wednesday, 14th August 10.00 to 2.00pm Tickets available from church, £5 Adults and £2.50 children, first come first served. 24 places available



Oasis & St Paul's Church Summer Fair – August Bank Holiday Monday, 26th August from 11.00 to 3.00pm Children's Activities, crafts on sale, tombola, raffle for a bicycle from Jackson Hateley Cycles or a special hamper. Oasis café open.

Skittles Evening – 14th September at St Paul's Church – more details later.

HOPS – Hour of Praise Songs - come and join us in our singing on Sunday, 6th October 2024 at 5pm.

Together Festival – a day of worship and singing at Bethel Convention Centre "Together 2024" Saturday, 16th November - more details to follow

Phil Clayton's book , "At the Heart of Pendeford"

Have you got your copy? A book about the history of St. Paul's Church, Pendeford, telling the church's story over forty years. From a bare patch of land in the middle of an abandoned airfield, to the community hub at the heart of Pendeford it is today, this is a detailed history of the church and its people. With contributions and recollections from the six vicars who have served St. Paul's over the years, it is more than just a story of a building. Written by congregation member Phil Clayton, including 64 A4 size pages with full colour illustrations, the book, 'At the Heart of Pendeford : A History of St. Paul's Church', price £8.50. Available from Oasis or Church

Contribute your time to the church- on our noticeboard there are written descriptions of voluntary roles that you could help with. Take a copy and speak to Rev Dave if you might be able to help us. Take a copy of the job description from the board, help and support will be provided.

Parish Prayer Whatsapp group

If you are interested in praying together for the big issues affecting our Parish, would you like to take part in a Whatsapp Parish prayer group? If so, please send your mobile number to Marion from St Paul's, who has volunteered to set the group up. You will receive an invitation to join via Whatsapp. You can set your notifications to receive alerts or not, as you wish. It is up to you how much you engage with the group, so it is a 'gentle' commitment to pray as you are able. Send to:marion.burns@tiscali.co.uk

Sunday mornings youth group, BOING – on 3rd Sunday of the month except June and August. Come and join us for activities such as: cake and debate, drama or craft. Secondary age children welcome.

Encounter Wednesday evenings A youth group for Year 7 and older with weekly social activities, leading to confirmation. The group is parish wide, so this is a chance for the youth to meet others from different churches, includes a weekend residential. Contact Rev Dave 01902 787025 for more information.

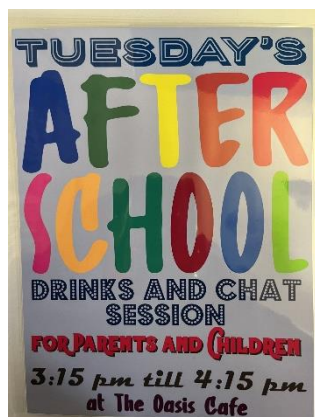
Oasis Café_OPEN 8.30 to 3.30 Mon to Fri and also open on Sat mornings until 1.30pm.

New this term: 3rd Saturday in each month, from 11.00 to 1.00 for parents and children, a craft session. Also each

Tuesday from 3.15 to 4.15, parents and children session.

Sitting Down Group meets 10.30 to 12.30 on Thursday mornings in Oasis – a social group. .

Knit & Natter, Craft & Chat meet 10.30 to 1.00 on Saturday mornings in Oasis. We are knitting and



crocheting 6" squares, hats of all sizes and baby and children's clothes for charity. Bring along to Saturday morning Knit & Natter or hand in to Oasis. Bring your own crafts, embroidery etc and join us.

Services for those without Internet

Television – BBC1 have Sunday worship at 11.00am and 1.15pm Songs of Praise which is repeated on BBC2 on Mondays at 6.40am

Radio 4 5.43am Prayer for the day; 7.48am Thought for the Day or Radio4 198 LW; 9.45am Daily Service

Sundays Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship

Sundays Radio 3 3.00pm Choral Evensong and Wednesdays 4.00pm Choral Evensong

For those with DAB radio, Premier Christian Radio and United Christian Broadcaster, UCB.

UCB 1 and UCB 2 – plays today's Christian hits and is about making sense of the world around us

Online Worship -

Online Parish worship is usually at 10.30am every Sunday via Facebook or Youtube Our Parish uses Facebook, (<https://facebook.com/tettenhallregis>) to livestream one of our Sunday morning and short daily services, at these times: 8.30am - Morning Prayer

9.30pm - Night prayer known as Compline

Rev Dave records a short bible reading and reflection with prayers every morning except Sunday – it is available on the St Paul's Church, Pendeford facebook page.

Mental Well Being – It has been a stressful time, please be kind to one another, reach out and speak to someone. A few names and phones numbers are here. We will help put you in touch with a church friend, or we will be able to speak with you. Dot Clayton 01902 780920 Greta Lowe 07927 045705 Bridget Campbell 0793 6939 804 If you would like clergy support, Rev Dave Wills will help. Contact the vicarage on 01902 787025

Financial Support for St Paul's Could you consider donating either a one off gift, or regularly once a month. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Hughes, Treasurer 01902 471392.

Please use Sort Code: 09-01-55 Account Number: 71525709 Account: SAINT PAULS CHURCH PENDEFORD

Use your telephone number as reference. You will receive a confidential phone call about Gift Aid.

As we pray for peace in our world at this time, maybe you could look out for our next **Healing & Wholeness Service**. We sing, listen and pray and write down our concerns, sometimes some craft work, opportunity for private prayer.

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

Yours in Christ Rev. Dave Wills

St Paul's Vicarage, 1 Talaton Close, Pendeford

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