



## The Vicar Writes: Travelling Light

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this new Bulletin which we hope you will find both informative and interesting. Change is rarely easy for any of us. Moving house is a drama few of us relish. Having to downsize from a large Edwardian vicarage to a modest, modern three bedroom end of terrace house, I have been 'turning out' in rare, spare moments. I've come across lovely china, clothes, and cherished books I had forgotten about. Being ruthless does not come naturally to me, so letting go of possessions there simply isn't room for has been difficult. The temptation to hang on to things out of nostalgia has had to be resisted. I have had to face priorities; be ready to travel light; to ask each time. "Do I actually need this for my new situation, in retirement?"

Over this past year, for a number of reasons, St Paul's PCC has been forced to re-evaluate many of our church activities. The decision to replace the Spire with this Bulletin came out of the realisation that while the Spire was an excellent production and much cherished by many, being a printed publication circulation was relatively limited and we were not reaching as many people as we could. Neither was it making the best use of our very limited resources. Replacing it was a difficult decision and not taken lightly, but we believe it was the right decision. The new Bulletin will be published monthly via email, and also be made available on the church website. Hard copies will also be available for collection in church for those without email.

It is very much a work in progress, and any constructive suggestions for improvement are welcomed. I hope you will enjoy reading it.

With love and prayers,

*Fr Kevin*

### Thank You

Very many thanks to all who worked so hard, running the Tower Tours, raising funds and offering hospitality during the River Festival weekend in July, both at the Vicarage and in church. It was also a splendid opportunity to engage in outreach with the wider community in Bedford.

Thank you also to Fr Anthony, Kaye McLelland and others from St Paul's and other local churches who organised the LGBT+ Tea party and Hymalong on 27th July. It was a warm and friendly occasion, with delicious cake and hymns sung with gusto, accompanied by Fr Kevin on the organ. The afternoon was much appreciated by those who came, particularly those who often feel excluded by the Church. It was good to see St Paul's taking the lead to make the Church more inclusive.

## Notes for September

### Music at St Paul's

Our autumn recital series begins on Tuesday, September 10th at 1.00pm. Warmest thanks to our audiences for all your support over the past year. We hope you continue to be delighted and entertained by the variety and excellent standard of music offered by our recitalists. See the poster on p3 for September details or find weekly information on our Facebook page. Recitals are free with a retiring collection.

### Visit of Dutch Evangelical Broadcast Television Station Choir

The choir are visiting the UK from 12th until 18th September, staying in Bedford to offer daily songs and praise to the honour and glory of God in churches and cathedrals. The choir numbers around 100 people and we look forward to welcoming them to St Paul's and hearing soprano Elise Mannah and organist Martin Zonnenberg, who will be leading the congregational singing. The choir will lead a 'Singing Sermon' on Friday 13th September at 10.45am for one hour and on Saturday 14th at 5.30pm will sing at the end of Evensong. The choir will attend the 10.15am Sunday Eucharist. All are invited to join us on Friday morning and the Saturday and Sunday Services.

### Retirement of Canon Kevin Goss, Vicar

While Fr Kevin will remain Vicar until the end of October, his last Sunday service at St Paul's will be at 10.15am on Sunday 29th September, the Feast of St Michael and All Angels, when we shall give thanks for his ministry of ten years among us. Fr Kevin will be the president and preacher at the Parish Eucharist, which will be followed by drinks and presentations. We hope that everyone will make the effort to be present to say farewell. For those wishing to make a monetary gift, these can be passed to the Churchwardens, or the church office. Please place gifts in a labelled envelope. If you are a UK taxpayer, you can also fill in a yellow *GiftAid* envelope and hand it in with your donation. You can also make a gift by bank transfer: St Pauls PCC Bedford / SC 20-05-74 / Acc: 10502286 marking the payment GOSSRETIEMENT.

*Alison Phillipson and Malcolm Smith, Churchwardens*

## For your October Diary

### Fellowship Lunch - Wednesday 2nd October 12.45pm

Sign up at the back of church for a two course lunch which costs £7.50 payable on the day. We meet in the Alexander Room. All welcome.

### Bishop's Harvest Appeal - Sunday 6th October

This year the diocese is partnering with the Leprosy Mission to support the Kaveri Kala Manram (KKM) project in Sri Lanka. This project is helping families affected by leprosy to start their own vegetable Gardens and brings people together for community meals to learn about nutrition and break down the stigma against people with leprosy. A special collection will be made at our Harvest Thanksgiving, which will provide seeds, plants, coconut trees and tools so that families can grow their own food and build a sustainable income. Gifts of non-perishable food (tins and packages) will also be welcomed for the Bedford Foodbank.



## Services in September

### Sundays:

**1 September The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Proper 17*

**10.15 am Parish Eucharist**

*Preacher: The Reverend Canon Michael Bradley, Honorary Assistant Priest*

**5.30pm Reflection and Compline**

*Preacher: The Reverend Anthony Davis, Assistant Curate*

**8 September The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Proper 18*

**10.15 am Parish Eucharist**

*Preacher: Cliff Harris, Reader*

**15 September Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Proper 19*

**10.15 am Parish Eucharist with Holy Baptism**

*Preacher: The Vicar*

**22<sup>nd</sup> September The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity** *Proper 20*

**10.15 am Parish Eucharist with Prayer Ministry in the Trinity Chapel**

*Preacher: The Vicar*

**29<sup>th</sup> September The Feast of St Michael and All Angels**

**10.15 am Parish Eucharist and Valediction on the Retirement of the Vicar**

*Preacher: The Vicar*

### Weekday Services:

#### Wednesdays:

**12 noon Eucharist** (*Nave*) preceded by *Coffee and Chat at 11:00am*

#### Fridays and Saturdays:

**9.30am Eucharist** (*Trinity Chapel*)

## EVENTS

### Music at St Paul's, Bedford SEPTEMBER 2024 Programme

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 1.00pm**

Elizaveta Saul, Violin

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 12 noon**

Organ Recital, Christopher Hughes

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 1.00pm**

June Lee, Violin and Guitar

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 1.00pm**

Yoko Sakakura, Piano

Our concerts are free to attend with a retiring collection, suggested donation of £5.

Proceeds, after recitalist expenses, in aid of St Paul's church funds.

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**10.15 Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October**



**Gifts of tins and packages of food for the Bedford Foodbank are invited. There will also be an offering in aid of the Bishops' Harvest Appeal for Sri Lanka**

# Prayer Diary - September 2024

1	Monday	For religious communities and hermits	16	Tuesday	For the Anglican Communion
2	Tuesday	Christians facing persecution today	17	Wednesday	For today's visionaries and mytics
3	Wednesday	For all who teach the faith	18	Thursday	Residents of Christie and John Crosse
4	Thursday	For Bishops, Alan, Richard and Jane	19	Friday	Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury
5	Friday	Charity workers, at home and abroad	20	Saturday	For missionaries
6	Saturday	For all missionaries	21	Sunday	For our faithfulness to the Apostolic faith
7	Sunday	Greater awareness of God's inclusive love	22	Monday	For our singers
8	Monday	Accession Day: His Majesty the King	23	Tuesday	All those in Bedford prison
9	Tuesday	All pilgrims to Walsingham	24	Wednesday	Residents of Christie and John Crosse
10	Wednesday	All those in Bedford prison	25	Thursday	For writers and theologians
11	Thursday	Pray for self-discipline	26	Friday	Pray for self-discipline
12	Friday	We pray for the residents of our parish	27	Saturday	We pray for Fr Anthony
13	Saturday	For the Eastern Churches	28	Sunday	Retired clergy: Canon Michael & Fr Roger
14	Sunday	That all may be drawn to the Cross	29	Monday	Fr Kevin at his last Sunday service
15	Monday	Our staff: Robin, Sharon and Miriam	30	Tuesday	Sister Hazel and all who live alone

## Contact Information

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