

The Parish Church of St Paul, Beckenham, BR3 1RB

# FORWARD

Parish Newsletter



*Sharing God's love revealed in Jesus Christ*

Vicar: Revd V C Short, The Vicarage, Brackley Road, BR3 1RB,

Tel 020 8650 3400, Email: [vicar@stpaulbeckenham.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stpaulbeckenham.org.uk)

Children and Family Worker: Kim Curle ([cfw@stpaulbeckenham.org.uk](mailto:cfw@stpaulbeckenham.org.uk))

Administrator: Stephanie Fox, Church Office, Lawn Rd, Beckenham BR3 1TP

Tel: 020 8650 0501, Email: [administrator@stpaulbeckenham.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stpaulbeckenham.org.uk).

Office hours: 9.30am – 1pm Monday - Thursday

Hall bookings: Juliet – 020 8658 6710



## Everybody has Questions...

Everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith,  
ask questions and share their point of view.

So St Paul's is running an **Alpha Course** this Autumn on **Tuesday** evenings.  
Each evening has supper, a film and a time for discussion and questions.

## You are invited – Come and See!

A Discovery Supper in the Church Halls on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September**  
will help you decide if you'd like to join the course. If you would like to come  
on 29<sup>th</sup> September, please email [alpha@stpaulbeckenham.org.uk](mailto:alpha@stpaulbeckenham.org.uk)  
or call Sue or Richard on 020 8663 1821.

Further details will be available via the church website  
[www.stpaulbeckenham.org.uk/alpha](http://www.stpaulbeckenham.org.uk/alpha)

Dear Friends,

## **Moving on**

Recently, it was announced that I am to be moving on at the end of October, in order to become Team Vicar in the Limpsfield and Tatsfield Team ministry, with responsibility for Tatsfield. Whilst we look forward to following this calling, my wife, Veronica, and I will be sad to be leaving behind so many friends and happy memories from our time in Beckenham.

The phrase "Moving on" might also speak to us in our everyday lives concerning the opportunity to keep going with certain things; to have a sense of direction in life; and consequently, to be growing in maturity.

Whilst it is good to have times of rest and reflection, it also seems that we cannot stand still for long without the risk of going backwards. For example, as the world looks forward to the performance of the athletes at the Paralympics in Rio, it is said that physical fitness begins to decline after just 2 weeks without exercise.

The autumn term brings opportunities for "moving on". For some it will be a new school or job or maybe a new phase of working within the same environment. The celebration of Harvest, this month, includes our relationship with God and the fruitfulness of our lives. For those who want to explore or grow in their knowledge and love of God, there are currently various opportunities, including our forthcoming Alpha Course, which is advertised in this issue.

With our best wishes for a purposeful autumn term.

Revd Vince Short,  
Vicar, St Paul's Beckenham

**Community Public Access Defibrillator** – A big thank you to all who contributed towards the cost of the public access defibrillator. The total gifts (including gift aid) thus far are just over £500.

**Harvest** – Please join us at any of the following, as we celebrate Harvest:

- Church open to view the floral decorations for Harvest - Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2-4pm and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2-4pm
- Harvest Bring and Share Supper – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm.
- All Age Service for Harvest – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 10.30am. We will be having a Foodbank collection at this service (see separate insert).



**Families Together at St Paul's** - Our popular monthly Bible-based after-school event for children and families. We resume after the Summer break with a second anniversary celebratory session on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September – and then on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Children with their parents or carers are warmly invited to join us for an action-packed programme of creative activity including crafts, singing, games, prayers, colourful animation of our featured Bible story on the big screen – and loads of fun! PLUS the highlight of a sit-down tea for all! There's no need to pre-register, simply turn up on the day! Sessions run from 4-6pm, with the Welcome café open from 3.45pm, so come early and join the fun! It's only £2.50 per child per session. More information from Kim Curle, Children & Family Worker at St Paul's, c/o the Church Office on 020 8650 0501.

Churches Together in Beckenham (CTiB) are following the highly successful Pentecost Picnics of the past two years with a **Harvest-time Picnic** this year. Come and join us on Beckenham Green (next to St George's church) on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September from 1.00 - 3.30pm. Bring a picnic lunch and join us for music, entertainment and children's activities from 2pm and visit the stalls around the Green. See the notices in church and on the outside boards for further details.

**St Paul's Community Choir** will resume rehearsals on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept. New members are very welcome: you do not need to be an experienced singer and there are no auditions. We will be preparing for a light-hearted concert on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December whilst also starting to rehearse a larger choral composition for a performance in the spring. Further details from David on 020 8663 9441.

**Barn Dance** - on the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> November in the Church Hall. Please save the date; more details to follow!

**St Paul's Pre-school**, which is a separately constituted charity, is looking for new trustees. In particular we need to fill the roles of Treasurer and Secretary which have become vacant. For further details please contact the Church Office.

**Church Gardens** – Please continue to enjoy our gardens. If you would like to join the Gardening Team at 10am on the first Saturday of the month, you would also be very welcome!

### **What's on in the hall at St Paul's** (please check dates/times)

|  |   |
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| Monday 7pm   | Bridge Club                                       |
| Tuesday 2pm (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> week) | Townswomen's Guild                                |
| Tuesday 6pm and 7pm                                  | Pilates (in church during Oct and Nov)            |
| Wednesday 2.45 pm (term-time)                        | Wednesday Fellowship (from 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept) |
| Thursday 10 – 11.30am (term-time)                    | Babies and Toddlers Group                         |
| Tues & Wed am/Mon & Fri all day (term-time)          | St Paul's Pre-School                              |
| Saturday 10am (1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday)             | Gardening Team                                    |
| Saturday 10am (1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday)             | Bereavement Group (please check office for venue) |

# Services at St Paul's

Details of the weekly services and what's on can also be found on the three noticeboards outside the church and on our website: [www.stpaulbeckenham.org.uk](http://www.stpaulbeckenham.org.uk)

Every Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) in the Chapel \*\*

## Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September

- 10.30am Morning Worship \*
- 4.00pm The 4 O'Clock. An informal service with contemporary worship

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September

- 10.30am Holy Communion \*
- 1.00pm Picnic on the Green, with stalls and Churches Together in Beckenham service at 2pm

## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September

- 10.30am All Age Service for Harvest
- 6.30pm Holy Communion \*\*

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

- 10.30am Holy Communion \*
- 6.30pm Evening Worship, Reflective \*\*

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October

- 10.30am Morning Worship \*
- 6.30pm Holy Communion \*\*

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October

- 10.30am Holy Communion \*
- 4.00pm The 4 O'Clock. An informal service with contemporary worship

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

- 10.30am Morning Worship \*
- 6.30pm Holy Communion \*\*

\* During the 10.30am service there is a crèche for babies and toddlers. There is also "Sunday Squad" for primary school age children, with crafts and activities (except at All Age Services). SPY (St Paul's Youth) meets on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays (in term-time).

\*\* The Chapel is accessed through the main Church entrance.

**Bible Reading and Prayer** – St Paul's Church is open every Monday –Thursday, 9.30 - 10.00am. There is a time of prayer, Bible reading and reflection in the Chapel. All are very welcome.

Would you like someone to pray with or for you? Are you housebound, and unable to get to church? Would you like a home visit or to receive Holy Communion? Please contact Juliet on 020 8658 6710 or Anne on 020 8658 0808.