

New Year Greetings!

One of my New Year's resolutions this year was to get in touch with as many church members as possible to introduce myself if we haven't yet met and to also just say thank you for your prayers, support and faithfulness during this last year, especially during the time of the vacancy. Our churches rely so much on your volunteer support and goodwill. I wanted to say thank you for keeping the doors open and for enabling worship to continue in its many and varied forms- whether in-building or on-line, whether you've been making pastoral phone calls, running/leading groups/organisations, cleaning or maintaining the building, helping with hospitality or some other activity that perhaps often gets overlooked but we miss it when it doesn't happen- making these things happen is what being part of the body of Christ is all about.

If you haven't yet made it back to church for -in-building worship, please do get in touch with me to introduce yourself and let me know why you are not able to attend at the moment- this may be due to immobility or you are having to be careful due to health reasons- (I don't need to know details) or perhaps your family schedule has changed and Sunday's are busy with other events and activities - please do let me know- I've got an electoral roll of names and I'd love to be able to put more faces to names which also helps me with praying for you and your loved ones! If you no longer consider yourself a member of St Paul's- again can you just get in touch so we can then remove you from mailing lists etc. Also if you're a family member or relative of someone who had had to go into nursing care it's helpful to let us know that info and for us to have next of kin information.

As a new person to Sale and to St Paul's I'm asking a lot of questions- as a newcomer I'm always keen to try and understand what's happening and why decisions have been made and the assumptions that lie behind them. I've got some questions here- if you can answer any of them that would be really helpful. I may share this info with PCC members- without reference to names in respect of confidentiality and I hope you are agreeable to that. Your answers will help us in working out immediate and future priorities.

1. Are you able to access and watch the facebook live-stream or the service recording at a later time?
2. Have you tried using the Church of England free Daily Hope phone line?
3. Would you be interested in attending a Lent group? Either attending a small group in-building or an online group via zoom? Please indicate your preference
4. Would you be interested in receiving a seasonal prayer/bible study pack by post? or email?
5. Would you be interested in having a prayer partner? Someone you can phone to have a chat with and prayer/bible study time?
6. Would you be interested in meeting for worship on another day? (Did you know that we have a smaller midweek Holy Communion (using Trad language BCP) on a Wednesday morning at 10am which has less than 6 people attending at the moment).
7. Would you be interested in meeting regularly outdoors for worship? (Using the church/Hall as a base for facilities like toilets).
8. If you haven't received communion for some time, would you like a home communion visit?
9. Would you be interested in visiting the church building during mid-week for personal prayer?
10. Would you be interested in meeting for midweek morning prayer? (9.10am Tuesday mornings)

It may be that you are missing an aspect of church life that is particularly important to you- which includes fellowship, social activities and outings, fundraising events and community get togethers- with the obvious need to keep ourselves safe and adhere to covid-19 risk assessments, what activities would you like to see resume or begin? Either on-line or in-building? Would you be willing to volunteer help with setting something up?

Some of you will be aware that over Christmas there was a bit of a spring clean and tidy up going on in the church office- I'd like to use this space more and am hoping to be able to work from the office several hours a week, so that if you did want to drop-in for a chat you can do. There's a bit more tidying up to do - so please watch for pewsheets/newsletters for the timings- as we're not quite ready for visitors!

I'll make sure copies of this email are at the back of church for those who aren't able to use email- but if you do know of anyone who perhaps you see regularly or lives close by- please do print a copy and hand-deliver with my best wishes.

Yours in faith,

Becky Mathew
Vicar of St Paul's Sale

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[St Paul's Church, Sale – Serving God and the Community \(stpaulsale.co.uk\)](http://stpaulsale.co.uk)

Please note I currently work part-time for St Paul's and have flexible working hours, so there may be a delay in reply.