

St Paul's & St Mary's

▲■ PUTTING FAITH IN HARLOW

The Anglican Churches of St Paul's and St Mary's
Parish Office 01279 434243 • www.stpaulsandstmarysharlow.co.uk • stpauls.office@tiscali.co.uk
Rector – Martin Harris 411100 - Vicar – Jokey Poyntz 321921 - Curate: Barbara Aylett 413749
Messy Church Facebook [@harlowmessychurches](https://www.facebook.com/harlowmessychurches)
Ministers: all the church members

Welcome

Welcome!

If this is your first time with us, we do hope you will soon feel very much at home.

Do join us for refreshments after our 9.30am Sunday service at St Mary's, and 11am St Paul's

Our **children's groups** normally meet during the service (children coming into church first), except on the All Age Worship services - 1st Sunday at St Paul's, 2nd Sunday at St Mary's. This includes the Creche at St Paul's.

Sunday 25th February

Lent 2

9.30am Morning Prayer St Mary's

11am Holy Communion St Paul's

6.30 Prayer for Harlow at St Mary's
Churchgate Street

Sunday 3rd March

Lent 3

9.30 Holy Communion St Mary's

9.30 Holy Communion St Paul's Ch'l

11am All Together Worship St Paul's

A letter from Martin



Dear friends,

I read this last week we can only begin to explain about 4% of the universe. I presume the rest is 'Dark Matter', as it is called.

Then, come to think of it, people like us, with souls and consciousness and who know what it is to love, are only a miniscule part of that 4%, in a small corner of the universe.

Job was humbled before the vastness of the universe God has made, as we read in the final chapters of the book. We ought to be the most humble of all generations, as we have discovered through science what Job could only have visions of. (Do not let anyone tell you we have no need of God, or that science has disproved God! How ignorant we are.)

As we follow Christ, we, the world and the universe are so much more wonderful and complex than we are led to believe! And we discover that God has made all this as a home for us. Take a look at Psalm 8.

Be open to all that God can and does want to do. He made the universe – he made you - he is love!

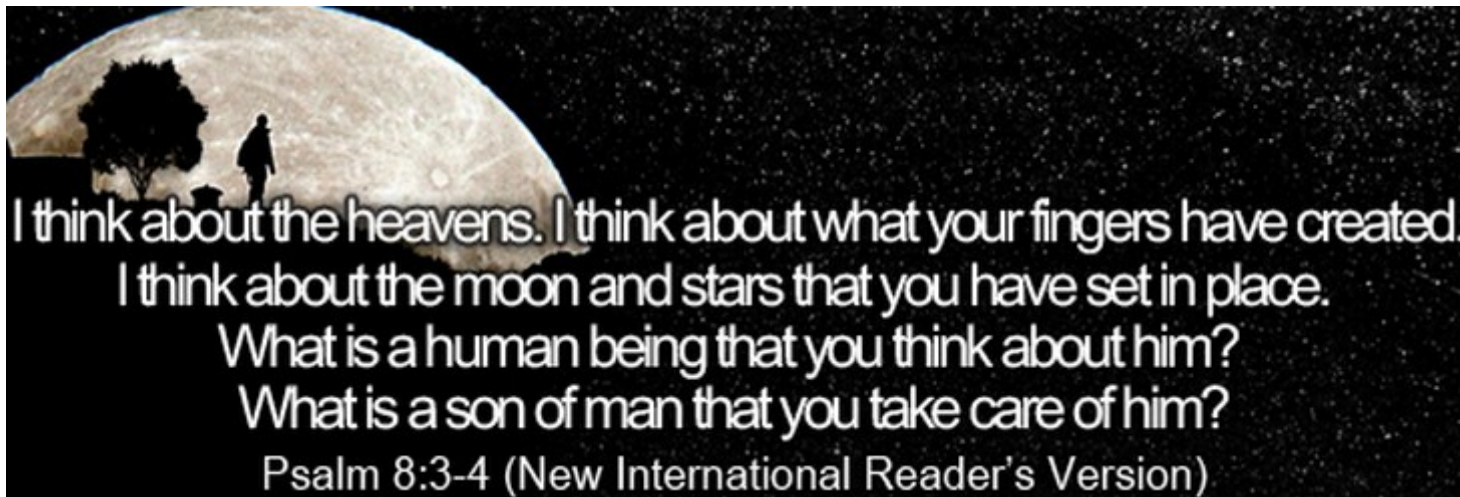
With my love,

Martin

PS I love the WhatsApp Prayer Group prayer for us this week: "Arise, shine for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee" - Isaiah 60:1. Amen!

Quote of the Week

"Miracles are a retelling in small letters of the very same story which is written across the world in letters too large for some to see." - C. S. Lewis



I think about the heavens. I think about what your fingers have created.
I think about the moon and stars that you have set in place.
What is a human being that you think about him?
What is a son of man that you take care of him?
Psalm 8:3-4 (New International Reader's Version)

Praying for Others

PRAYER
changes things

Our Text for the Year:
"... for such a time as this"
(Esther 4 v14)

To join our WhatsApp Prayer Group, contact Martin Harris or leave a message in the Parish Office

Our monthly prayer diary is available from back of church. In addition, please remember:

Those in especial need:

Zechariah, baby nephew of Gifty; Wendy Coxhill; Gordon Hewes; Pat Balkwill following surgery on her hip; for Randy Hart's godmother Nana Lauretta Boston following surgery.

(people are included for 3 weeks – if you would like someone included for longer please contact Martin)

Those bereaved:

Family and friends of Revd Brian Surtees, in the sad loss of Brian. Brian's funeral will be at 2.30pm on Wednesday 7th March at St Martin's, Ongar.

...in residential care:

John Brookes, Matt Matthews

Our Regular Activities

Midweek Services – St Paul's Chapel

Monthly Healing Services 1pm on every 1st Tuesday;
Monthly Communion Services 1st Wednesdays at 9am.

House Groups to pray and study the Bible meet in people's homes. More details from Martin or Jokey

Maybury Drop-In St Paul's Hall Tues & Fri 11-4.

Teddy Bear Club for young children and someone caring for them – 10-12 St Paul's Hall in term times.

Messy Church – Thursday 15th February, 3.00-5.00
Theme "True Family" Fun, food and fellowship.

Parish Office

Please continue to hold Pat in your prayers following the operation on her broken hip.

The Parish Office remains closed. However, the phone, mail and email is all now being monitored and responded to. Thank you to all those who have offered to assist whilst Pat is not at work.

House Group Questions

Romans 12:1 and 2

1. Last Sunday we were challenged to go & be apostles in lives of sacrificial service. How have you got on?
2. In what ways was Paul's thinking transformed?
3. How does God want to transform your mind, to transfigure it?
4. Are there addictions and behaviours that enslave you, that God can set you free from.
5. How can we open our lives to a change of mind-set?

Hearing Loop at St Paul's

We hope it is now working but needs someone with a deaf aid and 'T Loop' to check if it works. If you can help, please can you feed back to Robert Brock, Donna Redding or me. Thank you. Martin

£20 Gifts and Gift Aid

Thank you to all who use our offering to give in cash. If you do not use the envelope scheme, you are invited to consider joining (details at back of church). In addition, if you give more than £20 in cash, please consider using the Gift Aid envelopes (if you qualify) available at back of church. We can recover Gift Aid on smaller amounts but not anything larger than £20 unless a suitable envelope etc. is used. Thank you for considering this.

Church Electoral Roll Revision

The time has come for a Revision of the Church Electoral Roll. Please take a look at the Electoral Roll at back of church to check your details are correct. And if you are not on it, why not consider joining so you can take a full part in our Annual Meeting. All who live in the parish or have been coming regularly for 6 months may join.

Journeying through Lent

Lent is the period in the church year when we think especially about Christian discipleship and resisting temptation, remembering Jesus who resisted the devil in the wilderness for 40 days. It leads us towards Easter.



Our our present sermon series is on the theme "Whole Life Worship".

Gathering on Sundays is the way we are able to support one another, find our compass morally, find strength to change, all in the awareness of God's help. We will be exploring this as part of thinking what it means to follow Jesus.

More than a Book

If you visit the Bible Society online bookshop you can support St Paul's & St Mary's. We are now part of the "More Than A Book programme."

Quote our church reference number of 12203 or select us from the drop-down menu at check out. The Bible Society will then make a gift to our church

Diary Dates



Working Worship @ St Paul's

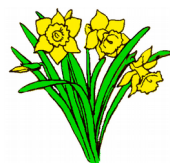
Saturday 3rd March. Join us for a free breakfast & church work party. Come from 9am - Breakfast served around 9.30

Heart4Harlow Leader's Forum

Tuesday 13th March, 7.45 at Roydon URC

All Christians in any form of leadership (at work, at church) welcome as we take counsel together and listen to all that God calls us to in Harlow

Mothering Sunday



Sunday 11th March.

There will be the distribution of posies at our 9.30 (St Mary's) and 11am (St Paul's) services

Church Annual Meeting

Sunday 18th March 11am at St Paul's

Our meeting begins with our normal service. All are welcome in the usual way. The final part of our meeting for those on the Electoral Roll will then follow, beginning with a light lunch and finishing by 2pm.

We do hope you can join us at this important moment in our life together. Our time together includes the elections of our Churchwardens and also the 5 vacancies on our Church Council. Those on the Electoral Roll will have opportunity to take part in the elections.

There will be a light buffet lunch available after our morning worship, before the concluding part of our meeting.

Nomination forms for Churchwardens, PCC members and Stewards are available at back of church. Those standing for the PCC need to have been on the Electoral Roll for at least 6 months.

Copies of the draft minutes of last year's meeting and Special Meeting are also available.

Please be praying about whom to nominate, and indeed whether God is calling you to serve our community in some specific way. One question to ask might be: What do you anticipate bringing to PCC?

Good Friday Walk with the Cross

9.30 Prayers at St Paul's, leaving for the Walk 10am. We then walk via the Water Gardens and Market Square to the Harvey Centre for concluding worship at BBs.