

St Paul's & St Mary's

PUTTING FAITH IN HARLOW

The Anglican Churches of St Paul's and St Mary's
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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

A letter from Martin

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

Sunday 20th May - Pentecost

9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
9.30am	Holy Communion	St Paul's
11am	Morning Worship	St Paul's

Sunday 27th May

9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's
11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's
6.30	Heart4Harlow Prayers Roydon - with Darrel & the Ignite band	St Peter's



Dear friends,

We hear much about gender issues. An article in the press last week was about a non-gender shop in America, for example.

A constant theme is that people may wish to express their gender in a new way. What someone feels can seem more important than the physical. In the choice between using words to describe the physical, and referring to the psychological, the latter wins.

This may partly be because society is not rooted in Christ. The view of society dominates our thinking. And since our culture has an unhealthy understanding of what it is to be man and woman, one way to try to be true to self can be to describe one's gender differently.

But being rooted in Christ means a different approach, one of challenging culture. We know that society's understanding of gender needs rethinking. TV adverts for example are full of wrong assumptions.

If we as Christians can help our society discover a proper understanding of sexuality, there will not be the need to ignore physical reality.

Paul writes that "we have the mind of Christ". What might this mean for us? How can we challenge the stereotypes around?

With my love, Martin

Quote of the Week

"When people say, "Life isn't a rehearsal," I say, "But it is, really, isn't it?" Life is a rehearsal. If we really think heaven is what we say we believe it is, then life actually is a rehearsal for that... I'm very affected by a lot of stories that encourage me in the belief that most of my life is preparation for crucial moments." - Sam Wells

Praying for Others



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:

Gordon Hewes, Zechariah, baby nephew of Gifty; Jackie Wiegold, Janet Broomhead and family, Dee Colley

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

Those bereaved:

The family and friends of Joan Viner of Northbrooks and latterly Alexandra House, including her daughter Lesley; Angeline and Venu Monikkom

...in residential care:

John Brookes, Matt Matthews

For the Big Lunch

A special prayer marking the 50th Birthday of Tearfund - A prayer by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

Gracious and generous God, you became poor so that we might be enriched by your love, and you gave the world's wealth and resources as a common inheritance of all human beings.

We pray you would strengthen your church to be a beacon of hospitality for the poor.

We pray that, seeing the light of Christ's love, the nations and peoples of the world may fight not to kill, but to outdo one another in care for the poor, and in actions of gracious generosity.

Through him who for our sakes did not grasp the wealth of heaven, but instead gave all to live for us as a slave, and die for us in pain, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen

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 every half term - Next: Thursday 31st May, 3 – 5pm.

House Group Questions

John 2:1-11; John 7:37-39

1. How much did Mary know of who Jesus was at this point (the wedding)?
2. Why does she put her question to her son as she does?
3. In what ways does 'living water' free from shame in John's gospel?

Cake Sale

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed last Sunday at St. Paul's. We made £86 for the ME Association. I am really delighted and touched by everyone's generosity.

Love and blessings to you all. Wendy.

Messy Church

At Messy Church on 31st May we will be making a giant paper chain with the words "I am with you always" written in as many different languages as possible.

If you speak a language other than English could you write down the phrase and say which language it is and give it to me by Sunday 27th May. Wendy Coxhill.

Development News – St Paul's

Further to the St Paul's developments we are pressing ahead with some preparatory stages.

We are obtaining quotes for new ground floor wiring. We are also seeking to fast track the flat roof works so they are fully waterproof to enable further rewiring. In addition, a grant application for the surveys spoken about at our Annual Meeting has been submitted.

Some of the spare pews (in storage at back of church) are about to be disposed of. This will help create space at back of church.

Foodbank will soon be moving to back of church. This will avoid injuring backs taking food to the Upper Room; and also means the church building can welcome more

visitors midweek. The area will be restored to normal for Sundays and other events eg weddings.

Thank you so much to Trevor and Peter for all their hard work this last week to enable this to happen.

Data Protection

You have probably recently been receiving letters and emails from organisations asking for your consent to continue communicating with you. This is because new Data Protection legislation comes into effect on May 25th. The church also needs to comply with this legislation, so in the coming days and weeks you may receive letters or emails from us, asking for your consent to continue receiving communications. It is important that you reply to each of these that you receive, so we can keep you informed of news and events of church life. The PCC has also recently approved a data Privacy Policy, which is available in church or can be downloaded from our web site here: http://stpaulsandstmarysharlow.co.uk/images/misc/Data_Protection/GDPR_Privacy_Notice_v1.pdf

Thy Kingdom Come



This period of focussed prayer ends on the 20th. But don't stop praying! Why not continue to use the app, prayer cards, wrist band etc. Let's keep praying for our "5 a day".

Spring Harvest 2019



Booking lines open 8am Wednesday 13th June.

We are looking at going to Minehead One, which is Tuesday 9th – Saturday 13th April. The cost is £179 for Standard Accommodation, the same as this year.

If you are interested in going (no commitment yet) please indicate on the Pledge Card (with contact details). We will then send you more details.

Diary Dates

When faith Gets Shaken

Not too late to join!

A course now underway on Tuesdays at Wendy Coxhill's, 7pm, beginning with a light meal. It is based on testimonies given by Christians who

admit that because of something that has happened their faith has been shaken - appropriate for everyone wherever they are on their journey of faith. Contact Wendy H 445 616, or speak to Jokey.

Heart4Harlow International Day

Saturday 26th May @ Harlow Museum Gardens – 12 noon – 5pm.

You are invited to wear National Dress – there will be prizes awarded to the best.

Music, dance, costumes, cultures, food from many nations. "Harlow welcomes all nations".

For more Heart4Harlow Festival events, visit

www.heart4harlow.org.uk/events/events-overview/

The Big Lunch @ St Paul's



Sunday 27th May from 12.30 noon

- Celebrating God's Goodness
- Celebrating Commonwealth Day
- Bring & Share Meal at St Paul's
- Come in National Dress
- Invite friends and neighbours
- Welcome our local community
- Live music with the Ignite band
- Ice Cream van
- Helium balloons

All are invited to bring contributions of food for the buffet. It would be great to have different foods representing different Commonwealth nations.

For more details of the food please speak to Fola.

Archdeaconry Vocations Day

Saturday June 9th @ St Paul's 9.30 – 1pm.

No need to book – just turn up.