



The Parish Newsletter

St Peter's, St Paul's & St Andrew's



May 2026 Edition

Stories, reflections, and news from across our parish community.

FROM THE VICAR

There's a lovely moment in parish life when you realise something has quietly grown — a ministry, a friendship, a habit of prayer... or, in this case, the weekly newsletter. What began as a simple way of keeping everyone in the loop has gradually expanded into something rather more substantial. It's full of good things, but it's also become quite a task to produce every single week, and not everything in it is needed every Sunday.

So this month we're trying something new.

From now on, you'll receive a simple weekly pewsheet with everything you need for the week ahead: readings, prayers, rotas, and the most immediate notices. Think of it as the "Sunday essentials".

And once a month, you'll receive this Parish Newsletter — a chance to look a little wider, to celebrate stories, to hear different voices, and to reflect on the life we share across our churches. My hope is that it becomes something you can sit down with, perhaps with a cuppa, and enjoy at a gentler pace.

This first edition is a bit of an experiment, so do tell me what you find helpful, what you'd like more of, and what we can happily leave behind. As always, our life together is something we shape together.

With love and prayers,
Pam

PARISH LIFE: STORIES & SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlight: The Quiet Heroes of Sunday Mornings

If you've ever wondered how the church seems to "just happen" each week, the answer is: it doesn't. It's held together by a small army of people who arrive early, stay late, and quietly make everything work.

This month we're celebrating our sidespeople, welcomers, and coffee teams. They're the first faces people see when they walk through the door, and often the last ones to leave. They notice who's new, who's struggling, who needs a seat near the heater, and who needs a friendly word. If you'd like to join one of these teams - even once a month - speak to Pam or one of the wardens. It's a lovely way to serve.

Five Questions With... Ellen *Member of the congregation at St Paul's*



1. What's the best thing about being a member of St Paul's?

The people, and the sermons which are easy to understand.

2. What's one thing you wish people knew about you?

That I always give my all and I never expect anything back. I like to make people comfortable – but I'm very shy!

3. Favourite hymn?

King of Kings because it touches me, and Jerusalem because of its message of hope.

4. A moment of grace this month?

Watching my daughter Sophia helping youngsters what it means to live with a stammer, and watching my granddaughter Margot being loved and respected by the smaller children in her school.

5. And to finish... an easy one. Tea or coffee?

Tea!!

FAITH & FORMATION

A Spiritual Practice for May: The One-Minute Pause

Life is full, and prayer can feel like one more thing to fit in. So here's a simple practice for the month:

Once a day, stop for one minute.

Breathe in: "Lord, I am here."

Breathe out: "You are with me."

That's it. No pressure. Just presence.

WHY WE DO THIS:

Standing for the Gospel

You'll notice we stand when the Gospel is read, especially when we are celebrating Holy Communion. It's not because we're being punished for something. It's a sign of honour, a way of saying, "We're ready to hear Christ speak to us." It's a small gesture, but a powerful one.

THIS MONTH'S RECOMMENDATION

Book: *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer

A gentle, practical invitation to slow down, which feels very apt for this new newsletter rhythm.

COMMUNITY & LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Update from the Blackley Community Hub

The Hub continues to be a lifeline for many.

Last month:

- Worship at the Hub welcomed around 30 people each week.
- The Bread and Butter Thing supported 40+ households.
- We welcomed "Soup and Socials" at St Andrew's on a Tuesday into the Hub family.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers, donates, or simply turns up and makes the place feel like home.

May Prayers for our Community

- ✠ Residents and visitors on Bridgenorth Road, Brindley Avenue, Broomhall Road and Brynford Avenue (St Andrew's parish); Coulsden Drive, Damhead Drive, Denstone Walk and Dommett Street (St Peter's parish) and Chain Walk, Chanters Close, Charnwood Road and Chilcombe Walk (St Paul's parish).
- ✠ The staff, residents, visitors and supporters of Polefield Nursing Home.
- ✠ The service users, staff and volunteers at the Higher Blackley Community Centre.
- ✠ The children, families, staff and carers at Tiddlywinks Nursery, Blackley

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Big Question of the Month

“Does God get tired?”

Short answer: No.

Longer answer: God rests not because God is tired, but because rest is holy. And if it's good enough for God, it's good enough for us.

Puzzle Corner

Find all the words hidden in the grid:

LIGHT – HOPE – PRAYER – JOY – PEACE – LOVE

Children and Young People's Update

The children and young people at St Paul's enjoyed a Good Friday workshop where they learned more about what's "good" about it, sewing prayer crosses, and doing a version of the Stations of the Cross.

P	E	I	Q	R	A
E	R	D	H	B	S
A	C	A	L	P	T
C	G	O	Y	O	J
E	V	F	O	E	K
E	P	O	H	M	R
L	I	G	H	T	N

CREATIVITY & CULTURE

Hymn Story: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Written by Charles Wesley in 1747, this hymn has been sung at everything from royal weddings to tiny village baptisms. Wesley originally wrote it as a prayer for sanctification — that God's love would transform us from the inside out.

Next time you sing it, notice how each verse moves deeper into God's work in us.

A POEM FOR MAY

*When morning breaks and light is thin,
And hope feels like a fragile thing,
Still, Love is near — a whispered call,
“Courage, child. I hold it all.”*

PARISH VISION & INVOLVEMENT

Growing Lay Leadership

This month we're beginning a gentle process of identifying and encouraging new lay leaders across the parish, that is, people who can help with worship, pastoral care, children's ministry, and community outreach.

If you feel a nudge (even a tiny one), come and chat.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED THIS MONTH

- ✚ Join a Sunday welcome team
- ✚ Help with the Community Hub
- ✚ Offer to read or lead intercessions
- ✚ Donate toiletries for the Booth Centre

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Dates for Your Diary

Parish Social Gathering: Saturday 2nd May at the Rectory, 1.30pm – 5pm.

Everybody is welcome! If you can, please bring something for the shared table whether it's some sandwiches, some cake or some nibbles. Please let Pam or Kevin know if you are coming and if you can bring anything so we can plan accordingly.

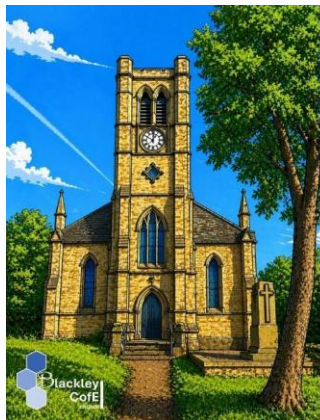
APCMs:

St Andrew's – Wednesday 29th April, 7.15pm in church

St Paul's – Sunday 3rd May, 12.45pm in the Hall

St Peter's – Saturday 9th May, 10.30am in church

Confirmation Service: Sunday 17th May, 6.00pm. *Location to be confirmed*



Blackley - we need you!!

St Peter's Church Saturday 23rd May 2026

We're giving the upper graveyard some much-needed care and we'd love your help.

A BBC crew is coming to film the work, and it's a great chance to show the true Blackley spirit of people pitching in together.

If you can spare a few hours from 11am on 23rd May, drop us a message so we can count you in (and make sure there's enough refreshments).

Please bring your own work gear/tools, and if you can help us remove rubbish from site please let us know.

Mission Community Leaders Fellowship: Wednesday 6th May, 7.30pm at St Andrew's

Safeguarding

We are committed to being a safe church for all. If you have any concerns, please speak to the Safeguarding Officer for your church, or to Revd Pam. If anyone is in immediate danger, please call the Police on 999.

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

If you'd like to enquire about any of these, please contact us on 0161 264 9982 or email clergy@blackleycofe.church. We're always glad to walk with you through life's big moments.

Giving

Thank you to everyone who gives regularly. Your generosity keeps our churches open, warm, and welcoming. If you'd like to start giving regularly or review your giving, please speak to Pam or the Treasurer.

SERVING THIS MONTH

St Andrew's

	Lead	Preach	Prayers	Reader 1	Reader 2	Euch Assist	AV
3 rd May	Pam	Pam	Philip	Ruth	Colin	Philip	Kevin
6 th May	Philip	Pam	Graham	Philip	Katherine	X	
10 th May	Helen	Philip	Ruth	Lisa	Graham	X	Colin
13 th May	Pam	Pam	Helen	Ruth	Graham	Helen	
17 th May	Pam	Pam	Colin	Philip	Helen	Ruth	Kevin
20 th May	Pam	Pam	Philip	Pam	Helen	Ann	
24 th May	Jane	Jane	Graham	Ruth	Katherine	Katherine	Graham
27 th May	Pam	Pam	Ruth	Graham	Philip	Philip	
31 st May	Pam	Pam	Helen	Colin	Lisa	Ann	Kevin

St Paul's

	Lead	Preach	Prayers	Reader 1	Reader 2	AV	Hospitality
3 rd May	Pam	Pam	Nnoema	Margot	Jody	Ikemba	Ellen & Sue
7 th May	Pam	Pam					
10 th May	David	Pam	Sylvia	Moyo	Nnoema	Ikenna	Jody & Derek
14 th May	David	David					
17 th May	Pam	David	Ikenna	Nathan	Sylvia	Nathan	Sylvia, Bola & Marta
21 st May	Pam	Pam					
24 th May	Jane	Jane	David	Sophia	Jackie	Ikemba	Tina, Esther & Chief
28 th May	David	David					
31 st May	Pam	Pam	Jody	Daniel	Dorothy E	Ikemba	Jackie & Rita

St Peter's

	Lead	Preach	Prayers	Reader 1	Reader 2	AV
3 rd May	Jane	Jane	Dave	Gillian	Wiktor	Dave
10 th May	Pam	Pam	Bev	Karen	Bev	Dave
17 th May	David	Sue	Sue	Michael	Dave	Dave
24 th May	Pam	Pam	Karen	Sue	Dot	Dave
31 st May	Jane	Jane	Dave	Wiktor	Gillian	Dave

WHO'S WHO

Incumbent: Revd Pam Smith
SSM: Revd Jane Astley
Lay Readers: Helen Vickers, Katherine Strudwick, Steve Grey,
Philip James, and Sue Winstanley
ALMs: David Armsbey and Jody Swain

St Andrew's:

Wardens: Graham Gordon and Dianne McCann
Safeguarding: Dianne McCann
Treasurer: Graham Gordon
Secretary: Colin Birnie Campbell
Pastoral lead: Helen Vickers

St Paul's:

Wardens: David Armsbey and Paul Sykes
Safeguarding: Taron Entwistle
Treasurer: Jackie Whitehurst
Secretary: Jody Swain
Pastoral lead: Jody Swain

St Peter's:

Wardens: Dave Heal and Michael Scotney
Safeguarding: Karen Moores
Treasurer: Bev Sutton
Secretary: Anne Morrison
Pastoral lead: Sue Winstanley

A BLESSING FOR THE MONTH

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

GET IN TOUCH

Contact us: 0161 264 9982 (leave a message) or 07834 424568
Email: clergy@blackleycofe.church
Website: www.blackleycofe.church
Facebook: @BlackleyCofE and @FriendsOfStPetersBlackley