

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter January 2026

Service

A motorist drove into a service station. Three attendants charged out to meet him. The first washed the windows, the second checked under the bonnet, the third checked the tyres. When they finished, the motorist paid for the 30 litres of fuel he had ordered and drove off.

Three minutes later he returned. Once more, the attendants rushed out. 'I'm embarrassed to ask you this,' said the motorist, 'but did anyone put petrol in my car?' The attendants looked at each other rather sheepishly. In their rush to do what they thought they should be doing, they had forgotten the most important part of the service.

I think this could be an appropriate illustration of our own approach to service. All too often, our busyness prevents us from attending to what should be a priority – service to others. It is too easy to say to ourselves, 'I'm a bit busy right now. When I'm not so busy, I will see what I can do.' Invariably, that time doesn't eventuate. Our priorities are wrong, and we miss out on the very rewarding opportunity to make a small difference in the life of someone.

'And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need.' Hebrews 13:16.

Ash Wednesday

It seems only yesterday that we were immersed in the busyness and excitement of the Christmas season, and now Lent/Easter is on the horizon. Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday 18 February. We will be holding our usual 'Imposition of Ashes' service at 7.00pm.

Youth Group

We are intending to get a youth group under way next month. Anyone aged from 10 to 20 most welcome. We will be meeting on Friday evenings 6.00 – 8.30pm. What will the agenda be? Not too sure! That will be driven by the youth themselves but I envisage sharing, games, dancing, pizzas! We will probably begin on Friday 20 February, but watch this space.

Health Expo

I am attaching a flyer regarding a Health Expo to be held in our community centre on Saturday 14 February. Come along for a check-up.

Prayer

On Sunday, I will be addressing the very important issue of prayer. Here is a story to reflect on: *Two wives of church elders sat mending their husbands' pants. One of them said to the other, 'Poor John, he is so discouraged by his church work. Just the other day, he said that he was considering resigning. It seems like nothing ever goes right for him.' The other wife replied, 'That's too bad. My husband was saying exactly the opposite. He's been feeling so inspired lately, it seems like he's closer to God than ever.' A heavy silence filled the room as the two women continued mending the pants – one on the seat and the other on the knees.*

'The value of persistent prayer is not that God will hear us, but that we will finally hear God.'

William McGill

Bookings

We continue to take bookings for both the auditorium and the community centre. Weekends especially are becoming very busy, with the whole complex fully booked for every weekend in February.

Our volunteer manager, Shireen Powys, is doing a sterling job.

Stained-glass Window

The ambience of our lovely new church has been further enhanced with the installation of the stained-glass window. Our grateful thanks to the Somerville Foundation.

The photo does not do it justice – come and see for yourself!



Time for a Smile

A man walks into a pub in London and asks the barman, 'What's the quickest way to get to Buckingham Palace?' 'Are you walking or driving?' asks the barman. 'Driving,' says the man. 'Ah yes,' says the barman, 'that is definitely the quickest way.'

To Ponder

'Appreciation can make a day, even change a life. The willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary.' Margaret Cousins

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