

ST PAUL'S ST MARY'S

PUTTING FAITH IN HARLOW

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

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Team Rector – Vacancy - Vicar – Jokey Poyntz 07954855154

Associate Priest - Barbara Aylett H 01279 745647

Facebook [@stpaulsharlowstmaryslittleparndon](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsharlowstmaryslittleparndon) Messy Church [@harlowmessychurches](https://www.facebook.com/harlowmessychurches)

Ministers: all the church members

13th September 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
20th September 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
A Message from Jokey

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I am grateful to Matt Holding of Stewardship for much of this reflection on Harvest which we celebrated last Sunday at St Paul's and this Sunday (13th) at St Mary's. This reflection will remain for the week after that due to Tracy's well-earned break, so I hope you will use the time to ponder on the things raised here!

Did you know that the church's celebration of Harvest Festival as we know it is surprisingly recent? In 1843, the Rev. Robert Hawker invited his Cornish parish to gather for a special service, giving thanks for the harvest and bringing gifts to share with those in need. Because of the agrarian nature of society at the time the idea quickly took root across the country.

But this new moment in the church calendar wasn't created from scratch, it echoed deep biblical rhythms. In the Old Testament, the people of Israel celebrated three major harvest festivals: Passover, the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot), and the

Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot). (At St Paul's Carole explored some of this with our young people at the Harvest Service). These were not just agricultural milestones, but acts of worship, thanksgiving and justice, where the people brought their first fruits and remembered God's provision.

In the New Testament, the concept of harvest often takes on a more spiritual dimension. Jesus speaks of the Kingdom of God as a field ready for harvest (Matthew 9:37), connecting the theme with the call to share the Gospel. Paul encourages believers not to grow weary in doing good, assuring them that "in due season we will reap" (Galatians 6:9) and pointing to a future harvest of righteousness. He also uses harvest language to speak directly about financial generosity, urging the church to give freely and faithfully: "Whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Corinthians 9:6).

So, while most of us no longer plant literal seeds, the pattern of sowing, tending, and reaping remains a deeply Christian rhythm. It is one that still speaks into our spiritual lives, our relationships, and even our finances.

Harvest is a natural moment to give thanks for what has grown, but it can also invite us to ask deeper questions: What am I investing in? What kind of fruit am I hoping to see?

For those of us working in offices, caregiving, teaching, or tech, the agricultural imagery might feel distant. But the spiritual practice it reflects is timeless. Harvest prompts us to pause, to reflect and to review. And, in our modern age, that might mean looking prayerfully at our financial habits and patterns of generosity. It's one of the reasons we always collect items for Foodbank in this season... but that may be a one-off so it is good to remember that giving is often slow and unseen, deliberate work that requires faith and patience. God sees the seeds we sow, even when the fruit is not yet visible.

Harvest isn't just a tradition to be remembered. It's a rhythm that can shape our hearts, and one of review, recommitment, and rootedness.

Blessings

Jokey x

Services for this Week

Sunday 13th September 2026

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

St Mary's 9.30am Morning Worship

St Paul's 11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 20th September 2026

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

St Mary's 9.30am Holy communion - Harvest

St Paul's 11.00am Morning Worship

11.00am "Sunday Live"- St Paul's live streamed on YouTube. [Join us on YouTube by clicking here.](#)

Regular Events

SPYK (St Paul's Youth & Kids) In term times, weekly except 1st Sundays in the month.

Foodbank and Bounty Club with Foodbank Hub
Both 10am-2pm Monday – Fridays in The Harvey Centre

The Sanctuary Cafe - St Paul's Church
11am-1pm Fridays - for fellowship and prayer

WhatsApp Group

St Paul's & St Mary's Community

For sharing news & info about activities, events & needs in church life. [Join here](#) or ask Jokey

Home Communion

For any unable to get to church due to sickness. Please contact Tracy or Jokey.

Our Text for 2026



Be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ.

Ephesians 4:32 Good news

Praying Together

Tues & Wed 9am Parish Prayers on [Zoom](#)
new link - ID 81685472781 Passcode 976753

Thursday: Heart4Harlow Prayer 4 Harlow on [Zoom](#)



WhatsApp Prayer Group – contact Rev Jokey Poyntz 07954855154. Our monthly prayer diary is at the back of church & via email - contact the

parish office.

Those in special need: Wendy Coxhill, Grace Munday, Mike Scanlan, Kath Shaw, Philip & Carol Haynes, Barbara Fuller, Janet Broomhead, Jenny Irving, Dorothy Taylor, Saba Mall, Pat Balkwill, Terry Cable, Mike Squires.

Please pray for Dee and Tony and their family in the loss of Dee's dad, Peter. He has been a regular worshipper at St Pauls.

We pray for the family and friends in the passing of Margaret Tuffin who used to worship with us at St Pauls (lady in high vis jacket who signed hymns)

Please pray for all our church family Asylum seekers awaiting court hearings for their right to stay here.

Our Home Communion team and those they visit.

The people of all areas affected by war, violence, famine and natural disasters, especially remembering those in Nepal and Tibet.

The Foodbank & Bounty Club, School Uniform Shop operating from the Harvey Centre and those who use their services.

The appointment of a new Team Rector -and all that are working towards this end.

Special Prayer 13th September

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Special Prayer 20th September

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Vacancy Prayer

Loving Father

We know you have plans for our Parish, please send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide all those involved in the process of appointing a new Team Rector. May they discern your way for our future. We also pray for those who apply as the next step in their ministry.

Most of all we ask that the person is the one chosen by you to lead your church.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen

Other News

Harvest

Harvest at St Paul's will be celebrated on 13th September at St Marys. Collections will go to the Food Bank. A reminder of things they currently are in urgent need of:

Tinned Meat , Packet Mash Potato, Sponge Puddings, Hot Chocolate, Teabags - max 240 size, Sugar **They have plenty of beans and pasta**

Baby wipes, nappies and food - **no Formula**

All items of toiletries and hygiene products , Laundry powder, Laundry Liquid, Washing up Liquid.

Heritage Open Day and Ride & Stride Day

This is happening on 12th September at both churches. St Pauls will be open from 10am to 12.30pm for the Ride and Stride people to stop and come in.

St Mary's will be open for The Heritage Day and Ride and Stride drop in from 10am to 3pm. We would be very grateful to receive offers of help with this event.

Sanctuary Cafe

On Friday 25th September Sanctuary will not be at St Paul's but at the Food Bank in the Harvey Centre supporting their Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Church Offerings

You can use this QR code to make a donation by payment card or Google Pay:



To give by online banking please use:

Sort code: 60-10-05

Account: 60517018

Account Name: PCC St Pauls & St Marys Harlow

Reference: OFFERING

You can also make a donation using the contactless payment device at the back of St.Paul's.

If you give regularly why not set up a Standing Order? Please speak to our Treasurer Peter Smith, or one of the clergy, or pick up a leaflet at the back of the church.

****Fire Assembly Point****

We would like to point out that while building works go on around us, our fire assembly point in College Square by Dad's Wood is not available to us. Therefore for the time being we will assemble behind the church hall by the old BHS site. Any further alterations on this will be communicated as they happen. Please be careful while you are in the vicinity of the church as the work proceeds.

Ramp

If you require the ramp to receive Communion please ask the stewards to put it up.

IMPORTANT

For safeguarding reasons, please do not video or take photographs during services unless agreed with the service leader or clergy beforehand.

Children's Area at St Paul's

There is now an area at the back of St Paul's for young children under 5 to access - this must be supervised by a parent/carer. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CHILDREN HERE UNATTENDED** and please tidy up after use.

Safeguarding

The care and protection of church children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.

In the church we have a Safeguarding Officer and an Assistant Safeguarding Officer for you to contact as first port of call. Our Safeguarding Officer is Austin Sobanam. Contact :07909975475

psostpaulsandstmarysharlow.co.uk

and our Assistant Safeguarding Officer is Vanessa Phinehas

Contact: 07812948677

vanessaphinehas@gmail.com

In the absence of a PSO, people with safeguarding concerns should initially contact Jokey as incumbent or Carol as warden with any concerns. If you don't wish to do that, then contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, the phone number and email **01245 294444**

safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org

