

# wantage parish

## CONVERSION OF PAUL 26 January 2025

**Choral Eucharist:** Communion in A minor (Harold Darke) **Gloria:** Gloria from the Mass of Ss Peter & Paul (John Ridgway) **Motet:** A Gaelic blessing (John Rutter) **Voluntary:** Allegro in A minor (William Russell)

**Hymns at PC:** NEH 154, 415, 391, 155

**Hymns at HT:** NEH 154, 360, 415 (omit\*), 391, 155

### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

**Saturday 25 January** 4pm Vigil (Holy Trinity)

**Sunday 26 January** **CONVERSION OF PAUL**  
*Preacher at all services: the Vicar*  
8am Eucharist (Parish Church)  
9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity)  
10.30am Choral Eucharist (Parish Church)

**Monday 27 January** 9.30am Eucharist (Parish Church)  
*Followed by Parish Breakfast*  
7.30pm–9pm Home Group (*see notice below*)

**Tuesday 28 January** 9.30am Old Testament Bible Study Group (*see notice below*)  
5.45pm Bible Reading Book Club (Holy Trinity)  
*Refreshments from 5.30pm*  
7pm Eucharist (Holy Trinity)

**Wednesday 29 January** 12 noon Holy Half Hour (Parish Church)  
3pm–6.30pm Around Table (Holy Trinity)

**Friday 31 January** 12 noon Eucharist (Parish Church)

**Saturday 1 February** 4pm Storytime Service (Holy Trinity)

**Sunday 2 February** **CANDLEMAS**  
8am Eucharist (Parish Church)  
9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity) *Preacher: the Curate*  
10.30am Choral Eucharist (Parish Church) *Preacher: James Clarke*  
5pm Choral Evensong & Benediction (Parish Church)

**Morning Prayer** is said in the Parish Church at 9am Monday–Friday.

**Eucharist at the Convent** Tuesday–Saturday at 10am, all welcome (space permitting).

## READINGS & PRAYERS

### **Collect**

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; 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 **Amen.**

### **First Reading: Acts 9.1-22**

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptised, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

### **Psalm 67**

**Response: Let the peoples praise you, O God.**

God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,  
That your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations. **R/.**

O let the nations rejoice and be glad,  
for you will judge the peoples righteously  
and govern the nations upon earth. **R/.**

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,  
and God, our own God, will bless us.  
God will bless us,  
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him. **R/**.

**Second Reading: Galatians 1.11-16a**

For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles.

**Gospel: Matthew 19.27-end**

Alleluia, **Alleluia**

Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

**Alleluia**

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

**Post-Communion Prayer**

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**For Your Prayers:** Sarah Clark, Lizzie, Beth Hirst, Natalie, Rowland Jenkins, Sirma, Sybil Smith, Phoebe, Mary, Chris, Sharon, Glauce, Steve West, Pat and Dave, Amanda, Angela, Martin, Michael, Deirdre, Danielle.

**RIP:** Jacqueline Chamberlain, Irene Bell, Danny Rusher, Billy Stevens, Heather Howell

**Readings & Hymns for next Sunday:**

Malachi 3:1-5, Psalm 24.7-end, Hebrews 2.14-end, Luke 2.22-40

Hymns at PC: NEH 408 439 (omit \*), 8, 157

Hymns at HT: NEH 408, 44, 439 (omit \*), 8, 157

**NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE PARISH PANTOMIME RETURNS! (O yes, it does!)** with a sparkling production of **DICK WHITTINGTON** on **Saturday 1 March** (matinee at **2.30pm** and an evening performance at **7pm**) in the Parish Church. Written and directed by our own Sheenagh Dernie and produced by Wantage Parish Music Guild, the pantomime tells the story of how Wantage's most famous son-in-law, Dick Whittington (and his cat), take on King Rat and his minions. Fun for all the family! Tickets available from Ticketsource (<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wantage-parish-music-guild>), or see the link in the eNews.

**SPIRITUAL ART WORKSHOP Saturday 8 March 10.30am–3.45pm** at Holy Trinity. Led by the Revd. Catherine Lomas, who is trained in traditional iconography and produces spiritual art in a range of styles. Learn about the history and technique of icons, and praying with icons, followed by an opportunity to create our own artistic responses to scripture. There will be a service at 4pm for those who wish to stay. Cost £30 to include a light lunch and materials. Places are limited; contact the Parish Office ([administrator@wantageparish.com](mailto:administrator@wantageparish.com)) to book.

**PARISH MAGAZINE** Now available, special new year edition with a spotlight on the involvement of children in our parish. Free, but if you are able to make a donation of £2 this will cover the production costs for your own copy and one we are giving away in the community.

**HOME GROUP:** at Caroline and Andrew's house, Priory Cottage, Church Street (the white house opposite the main entrance to the Parish Church) on **Mondays** from **7.30pm–9pm**. For conversation, bible study and prayer and tea/coffee. Contact [candahaines@gmail.com](mailto:candahaines@gmail.com).

**FULLY BOOKED:** a new Book Club for Christians of all denominations across the Deanery. The first book is 'Small Pleasures' by Clare Chambers and we will be meeting to discuss it at **8pm on Wednesday 19 February** at The Bear Hotel in the Market Place. Contact David Richardson ([dcrwantageparish@gmail.com](mailto:dcrwantageparish@gmail.com)).

**OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE STUDY GROUP: Tuesdays mornings at 9.30am** at Felicity's house: 24 Smith's Wharf, Wantage, OX12 9GQ. Please contact Sheenagh for more information ([sheenagh.dernie@btinternet.com](mailto:sheenagh.dernie@btinternet.com)).

**TRINITY TOTS:** on **Monday 3 February from 9am–11am** at Holy Trinity. A relaxed play session for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their parents/carers, with refreshments for all. £3.00 per family. Booking via the Wantage Parish events page at Ticketsource (<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wantage-parish>) and the parish website.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY Monday 27 January:** Wantage Methodist Church will be open from 10am–12 noon for people to drop in and quietly be reminded of what happened not only during the 1930s and the Second World War, but also other genocide events since then in other parts of the world. There will be printed material and candles available to help with prayer and reflections. This being the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz–Birkenau makes this a particularly poignant year.

**CANCELLATION of ELMBROOK COURT FRIENDSHIP CAFÉ:** on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January** due to sickness. The café will be open again in February.

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Vicar:** Revd. Katherine Price (Rest Day: Thursday) 01235 768806 [vicar@wantageparish.com](mailto:vicar@wantageparish.com)

**Curate:** Revd Frances Caroe (Rest Day: Friday) 07856 278983 [curate@wantageparish.com](mailto:curate@wantageparish.com)

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**Churchwardens:** Alastair Hunter [alastair.churchwarden@wantageparish.com](mailto:alastair.churchwarden@wantageparish.com)

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**Parish Assistant:** James Clarke [james.parishasst@wantageparish.com](mailto:james.parishasst@wantageparish.com)

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**Director of Music:** Phil Johnson [music@wantageparish.com](mailto:music@wantageparish.com)

**Personal Discipleship Plan:** Susie Lapwood [pdp@wantageparish.com](mailto:pdp@wantageparish.com)

**Parish Website:** [www.wantageparish.com](http://www.wantageparish.com)