

Carnwath



Carstairs



Forth



Church of Scotland

Welcome

The new church of Carnwath, Carstairs and Forth Church of Scotland, was formed on 1st June and has its foundation on the Bible, the word of God.

All are welcome to join with us in any of our buildings, to worship and praise God, to share the gospel of Jesus, and show friendship to all.

Inside this issue:

- What's been happening?
- Forth Gala Day
- Neil and Mark interview
- Remembering Kathryn and Margaret
- The Life of our Church poem
- Cooking with Harrison
- Café news
- Thank you
- Dates for your diary
- Groups
- Intimations

Forth St Paul's – What's been happening?

Monday 13th to Friday 17th April – Church Shop

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to our Church shop. The amazing sum of £2,249.79 was raised.

Sunday 19th April – Celebrating Neil and Mark's Baptism and Membership



We were blessed to share in a truly special service as our church family gathered to witness the baptisms of Neil Thomson and Mark Warwick. With the baptism pool prepared, both Neil and Mark publicly declared their faith in Christ and were joyfully welcomed into the membership of our church.

The Rev. Mike Fucella led a deeply encouraging service, reminding us that God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — is always with us, guiding, helping and supporting us. Even when we wander, He faithfully welcomes us back with open arms.

Neil and Mark each shared heartfelt testimonies of God's work in their lives. One member of the congregation summed it up beautifully: *"Great testimonies and encouraging to hear how God has been working in your lives. May He continue to strengthen and guide you in life's journey."*

We are grateful to both Neil and Mark for worshipping with us and for the encouragement their faith brings to our whole church family. See Page 7 for an interview with Neil and Mark.



If you feel prompted to explore baptism or church membership, we warmly invite you to speak with Harrison, Margaret Hunter or one of the elders.

Do you have anything for our next newsletter?
Why not send it into us for the July to September edition.

10th to 16th May – Christian Aid week

We had a variety of fundraising activities on

- Together we walked 70k throughout May.
- Christian Aid Quiz.
- Christian Aid envelopes
- Proceeds from the Rainforest Café on 10th May all went to Christian Aid.
- Cake and Bake stall on 17th May.
- A curry night on 18th May. A variety of starters,



curries and rice were available along with some spiced onions and poppadom's.



A wonderful total of £1611.40 was raised, and we extend our thanks to everyone who contributed and helped make this possible.



Sunday 31st May – The Guide dogs visit Jigsaw

Throughout the Jigsaw session, the children have always been very interested in where the shoeboxes and Christmas gift parcels end up, and how the money raised for Christian Aid is used. As part of our programme exploring how Jesus transforms lives—and how we, in turn, can make a difference—the children discussed fundraising and the many charities that help others. They were unanimous in choosing to support Guide Dogs for the Blind, recognising how this charity can truly change someone's life.

Each child took home a Smarties tube, enjoyed the sweets, and then filled the empty tube with 5p or 20p coins. Members of the congregation were also invited to donate any spare change.

On 31st May, Elaine and her guide dog Arthur visited the Jigsaw children, joined by John, Sheila, and their "Buddy" dog, Bumble. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to see firsthand the impact their fundraising can have.



Caroline and Jennifer's bookmarks

Caroline, her sister Jenifer, and their friends Anna and Eilidh recently made a collection of beautiful bookmarks to raise money for the Guide Dogs for the Blind charity. A big thank you to the girls for their creativity, kindness, and hard work in supporting such a worthwhile cause!

Grand total

We are delighted to announce that we raised £430.10.

A huge thank you to all who donated.

Sunday 31st May – Our last service as Forth St Paul's Parish Church

Sunday 31st May was our last service as Forth St. Paul's church and it was great to have a photo to remind us of folk who have faithfully worshipped in Forth St. Paul's church for many years.

It was great that it was also Trinity Sunday and Robert preached a wonderful, thoughtful service on the trinity. Trinity meaning 3 — God, Son and Holy Spirit, so 3 was very appropriate as we were then moving into a union of 3, Carnwath, Carstairs and Forth. But the important message of the trinity given to us by Robert, does not depend on the building or its name. Wherever we are, God, Son and Holy Spirit are there for us.



Wednesday 3rd June – The Service of Union for Carnwath, Carstairs and Forth Church of Scotland



A service of union with Carnwath Parish Church of Scotland, Carstairs Parish Church of Scotland and Forth St. Paul's Parish Church, forming Carnwath, Carstairs and Forth Church of Scotland was held on 3rd June 2026 in Forth church building.

The service was led by the Moderator of the Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale, Rev Scott Burton, with Rev Mike Fucella conducting a very suitable sermon. Rev. Fiona Crawford, Presbytery Clerk, gave the narrative leading up to the union and it was great to have Harrison's son, Isaiah, give the reading. Rev Sumit Harrison, previously minister of Carnwath and Carstairs churches was inducted to the post of minister of newly formed church of Carnwath, Carstairs and Forth Church of Scotland. It was a joyful service and afterwards everyone enjoyed a lovely tea with plenty of home baking and plenty good fellowship. It was good to have Rev Sarah Ross there, representing the Presbytery and supporting us in this new time for our churches.



Sunday 7th June – Communion and first service as Carnwath, Carstairs and Forth Church of Scotland

What a wonderful, uplifting communion service was celebrated in Forth church building on Sunday 7th June. It was great for all the church families from Carnwath, Carstairs and Forth, to join together to form one large church family to worship God and follow Jesus' teaching of sharing bread and wine at a communion service. Harrison reminded us that buildings, time of service, form of service are not the important part of the church. The important part is the foundation and the foundation of our church is the Bible, the word of God. There was a friendly, happy atmosphere in the church, with folk sharing the joy of worshipping together.



Sunday 14th June – Appreciation Service

JIGSAW appreciation service was held on Sunday 14th June. This is the day when the church tells the JIGSAW children how much the congregation appreciate their faithfulness of joining our church services. The JIGSAW children help with certain services, nativity, Mother's Day, Easter, harvest and they always brighten our church services. Harrison presented the children with a gift and both children and leaders were thanked for their faithfulness which has remained strong even although there have been changes to church. God's love for us and the gospel of Jesus never changes. So thank you to Jennifer, Caroline, Katie, Gracei, Jacob, Kingston Callan and Millie.



Monday 22nd June – Primary 7 taster session

Karen welcomed the Primary 7 class to the hall to provide them with a taster session of what the Youth Rainforest Cafe will be like. All are invited to attend after the summer on a Friday afternoon.



The sale of the manse went through on 24th June.
We hope the Gibson family have many happy years in their new home.



Wednesday 24th June – Boys Brigade Taster Night

Cammy and Caitlin hosted a Boys Brigade Taster Evening as part of their plans to relaunch the company. The session introduced the Anchors group (P1–P3), with additional age groups to follow as the company grows.

Several enthusiastic children attended and took part in a range of activities. Several others were unable to join us on this occasion but expressed interest in future events.

The Anchors section welcomes both boys and girls. More details will be provided in upcoming issues.



Saturday 20th June –

Forth and District Gala Day

How truly lucky we were with the weather! After a week of rain and wind, it seemed impossible that the weather would be good on Saturday, but it was. The sun shone, the Queen, Herald and court performed their duties extremely well, children had great fun and adults met up with old and new friends. The Gala Day committee are to be congratulated on another well planned day. The church stands in the centre of our village so it is good that the church fence was decorated with pictures of the song — “He’s got the whole world in his hands” and were lucky enough to win the street shield. However, it

should be noted that they were the only one in that category, however this will not stop the church fence being decorated again next year. Cannot wait for Gala Day 2027.



Catching up with Neil Thomson and Mark Warwick

The congregation agreed that Mark and Neil's baptism, along with their heartfelt testimonies and their decision to join the Church, made for a truly moving and memorable service. It was an emotional moment for everyone present, and it has since become our most-viewed Sunday service of the year.

Although both men appeared calm and confident on the day, we later caught up with them to ask whether they had felt any nerves speaking in front of the congregation, as well as a few other questions about their experience and journey.

Questions for Neil

I'm glad everyone enjoyed the service of Mark and me getting baptised and hearing our testimonies. It was very special for us just as it was everyone else too. I may have come across confident when I was speaking but in the week leading up to the baptism I was very anxious and nervous to speak not off a script to the congregation. I felt like me reading not from script would be more meaningful to me and to let God speak through me also. I prayed a lot about it beforehand for God to take away my anxiety and to let me speak with confidence in front of everyone to share my testimony, proclaim victory in Jesus' name and to convey the power of the Gospel.



1. We all want to know, Was the water cold?

The water wasn't the warmest that we got baptised in but it would have definitely been a lot warmer than that Clyde which was my original place I planned on getting baptised.

2. What job do you do?

I'm a lorry driver for MacKenzie Transport, driving nationally using the lorry mounted crane to deliver and collect various products and materials.

3. Do you have any hobbies?

My favourite hobbies include camping, hiking and kayaking. I love to spend time outdoors and enjoy God's creation. I also really like to cook.

4. What is your favourite band or music?

My favourite genre of music would have to be rock/country although I have often found myself listening to classical and opera. I enjoy listening to any genre that sounds good. My favourite band would probably be Creed.

5. How do you spend your weekends?

I spend my weekends by catching up on sleep usually on Friday after a tiring week at work. Saturdays usually spent helping to do jobs in and around the house and helping where I can. Sundays I most look forward to for our weekly worship service.

6. It is great to see Mark and you at church, how do you think we could get other folk your age to come to church?

I think to gather more younger people in the Church would be to go out and meet people where they are instead of waiting for them to come to us, not everyone will join the church like how I did. Evangelism really helps but we need people bold enough to do it! I try to encourage people online by making videos encouraging people to be strengthened or even find their faith.



7. If you had 3 wishes, ignoring the obvious of world peace, end to poverty and illness, would be your Wish for yourself?

My wish for myself is to be used by God by whatever way he sees fit and to truly serve the church and local community.

Wish for church?

My wish for the church is to be expanded and gather in much greater number especially in younger generations.

Wish for our area?

My wish for our area is that the people seek and find God in their lives and that Forth becomes a village reliant on God.

Questions for Mark

1. Were you nervous on the day?

I was sick with anxiety actually. Beforehand I was pacing about sweating but after a quick prayer and a conversation with the minister I felt more confident.

2. We all want to know, Was the water cold?

It was baltic! I was told the heater had been on but I think they were kidding me on.

3. What job do you do?

I'm a heavy steel fabricator. Particularly bridges and staircases for train stations

4. What things do you like to do with your family?

I enjoy wholesome outdoor activities with the family. However, the Scottish weather isn't always suited to them.

5. Are you romantic?

I'd like to think I am but I'm told I can be quite awkward and clumsy.

6. What kind of food do you like / favourite place to eat?

Italian food would probably be my favourite cuisine. The best place I've ate it would be a pasta place in Glasgow called Sugo Pasta, their cannolis are the best I've eaten.

7. It is great to see you and Mark at church; how do you think we could get other folk your age to come to church?

Probably the biggest issue with people not attending church is the fact from primary school the story of God and Jesus has been sold to them as a "fairytale". I know the biggest factor in me accepting Jesus is the irrefutable historical evidence of his existence and his resurrection. So, educating people in Christianity as history rather than a religion is probably the way to get through to a lot of people.



8. If you had 3 wishes, ignoring the obvious of world peace, end to poverty and illness, would be your

Wish for yourself? I hope I can live a long comfortable life with my family and serve God as best I can.

Wish for church? I hope more people from the village and around discover the truth and give their life to Jesus so the church is wall to wall with people every Sunday. I was told Neil and I were the first adults to have a full Emerson baptism in the church but I hope we're not the last.

Wish for our area? I hope we see some change in how we act as a community. I remember being wee and knowing everybody and people were always helping one another out but these days there's a lot of division and sin in the community. I hope we can all get back to being there for one another because if we don't get along are we really a community? May God watch over our area, bring peace to our families, protect the vulnerable, and help us live together in harmony and compassion.

Remembering Kathryn Tennant

Kathryn was a faithful and supportive member of Forth St. Paul's church. Until she was ill, she rarely missed a Sunday service.

She was one of the first members and then later the president of the Young Wife's group.

She had to leave the Young Wife's group when she was 40 and she joined the Guild. She was, therefore, a faithful, hardworking Guild member for 49 years. She was often a very able president and vice president.

She worked tirelessly for Guild fayres, she could take a wooden spoon, or a piece of cloth, or an empty yogurt tub and create a novelty gift people would buy.

She knitted wonderful Santa Clauses and her tammy hats were in every colour. She baked plates and plates of sweets, yogurt loaves and her peanut butter squares were legendary although she would tell you herself, they were never exactly the same.



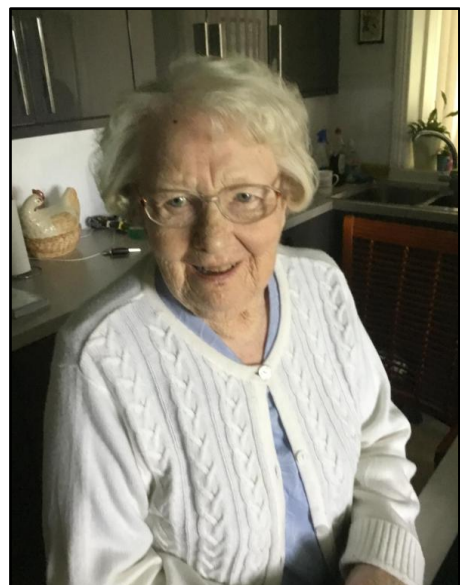
Remembering Margaret Watt

Margaret moved to live with her son Gordon and daughter-in-law Ellen when her health began to decline. She spent seven happy years with them and became part of Forth Church in 2016, having previously been a member of Houston and Killellan Church in Bridge of Weir.

She loved attending the Lunch Club run by May Gibson, going along twice a week, and she enjoyed many wonderful day trips with the club.

Church was always an important part of her life. No matter where she lived, she found a way to stay connected. Even in her final years as a resident of Milton Grange Care Home in Carlisle, she was able to join services through the livestream. The family fondly remembers Easter 2024, when they were with her as she attended the service online and even took communion.

In a touching tribute, her grandson David—along with his apprentice Ryan—kindly installed a new ceiling in the small hall in memory of his Gran.



In the Life of our Church poem

We enjoy looking at all the photos and reading the articles on "Forth Village – Memories" Facebook page. We came across this wonderful poem which we hope you enjoy reading...

Thank you to Forth Village – Memories for allowing us to share it.

THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH.

ST. PAUL'S, HAYWOOD & WILSONTOWN.

Our Church was built in eighteen seventy-nine,
Blest by God with His love sublime,
It stands there strong, each one to see,
A part of "Well-built Scotland," you'll all agree.

Many long, long hours of toil was this
To build so strong an edifice,
Men prayed and slaved from morn till night
And asked God's blessing on this site.

The Church is now seventy-nine years old,
To pioneers so brave and bold
Look back, and think and give a thought
For the Church they built upon this spot.

Nigh fifty years, Rev. John Bain did hold
The place as Shepherd to this fold,
He served it well let it be known,
Helping many to a place of renown.

He tutored and taught many lads far and near,
With the help of his wife so kindly and dear,
A right talented family there lived in the manse
And real pleasant company if you went there by chance.

The laughter it rang from attic to floor
When grandchildren played and romped there of yore.
The Soirees were grand and Maple Leaf Dance,
Fine singers there came the night to enhance.

The next Minister we had was Rev. J. A. Rae,
A man who could preach, praise God and pray.
He mixed with the youth, all children he'd love:
Mr Rae was a man endowed from above.

As lawyer or father or doctor or friend,
To old and to young a hand he would lend.
Sincere in the pulpit, sincere in the street,
Up-to-date in his knowledge, best you could meet.

The trips to the farms were a thing of delight,
The horses and carts arrayed ever so bright,
We wended our way 'mid excitement and glee,
Till we reached the farm-house, grand welcome to see.

The founder of many youth movements round here,
He started debates and discussions to cheer,
A great loss to the district when he passed away,
His memory with each one for ever will stay.

His wife was a helper and worked with the Guild,
A talented speaker and ere by his side.
The family of three were young and were gay,
God's blessing be with them for all time and a day.

Rev. H. C. G. Allan, our Minister now,
Is a splendid young man and true to his vow.
He tells us Sunday by Sunday the life we should lead,
If we only had sense we would surely take heed.

He also is blest with a wife just right,
She's cheerful, she's clever, she's true and she's bright,
They work well together as good comrades should,
And always you'll find them in good friendly mood.

The Women of the Guild year in year out,
Give help to the Church and its missions all about.
Come on Saturday, grace the Sale of Work,
Give something, buy something, in aid of God's Church.

A word of welcome to Mrs Gibson that day
Who opens the Sale in her usual kind way,
May the Grace of God be with her always
And prosper the work of the Guild and pray.

There's lots to be had so see and come soon,
There's Cake and there's Candy, Vegetables and Bloom,
There's Groceries and Knit-wear, Handkerchiefs and Gifts,
Ice Cream and a Tea Stall, do not miss this.

There's something unique, it's an antique display,
Goods made long ago and brought here today,
For your special viewing and interest, I'm sure
Some relic of the past, your heart will allure.

Keep Saturday, 29th of November
A date in your mind, and worth-while to remember.
Thanking you kindly, God's blessing to all,
The truest and best gift that on us can befall.

J. M. S. GRAY

Cooking with Harrison

Harrison has shared his enthusiasm for cooking during several of our church services, and it certainly caught our attention! Keen to learn more about this enjoyable hobby, we asked him a few questions about what inspires him in the kitchen.

What is your cooking style? I enjoy cooking Indian dishes, particularly curries.

What is your go to family dish? Butter chicken with chapati's. A chapati is a soft, unleavened flatbread that is a staple food in many parts of India, as well as in neighbouring counties.

What do you cook for guests? For a starter, I'd make chicken wings – my own version of KFC-style wings. For the main course, I'd serve biryani, a fragrant rice dish cooked with meat, vegetables and a blend of aromatic spices. My favourite is goat biryani. I buy a goat from a local breeder in Pettinain and butcher it myself before preparing the dish.

For dessert, I'd make kheer, a traditional South Asian dessert similar to a creamy rice pudding.

On one occasion, I cooked for around 40 guests. I bought a deer, cooked it on the barbecue, and served it with roti, an unleavened flatbread, and a fresh salad."

Do you like to bake? No, I don't bake.

Someone once said if you are cooking a 3-course meal, you should cook 2 of the courses and buy the other one from Marks and Spencer, which 2 would you cook? I would choose to make a starter and a main. I like to cook all my food from scratch.

Do you sing hymns, think about the Sunday service or pray while you cook and does this help or not? I love singing hymns while I'm cooking. I also enjoy listening to gospel music on YouTube. If I fancy a laugh, I'll put on Dry Bar stand-up comedy, and I also like listening to Guzzles music and Sufi music.

Do your boys get involved in cooking? I get them to help by chopping up the vegetables.

Do you have any recipes that you would like to share with us? I have a recipe for a fish curry which I hope people enjoy.



Harrison's Fish Curry (Serves 4)

Ingredients

• Trout, cut into cubes or cutlets • Juice of 1 lemon • Salt, to taste • Paprika, to taste • Oil for frying • 1 teaspoon mustard seeds • 1½ bulbs of garlic, finely chopped or blended	• 5 fresh tomatoes, chopped (or three-quarters of a tin of chopped tomatoes) • 1 teaspoon turmeric • 1 teaspoon garam masala • 1 teaspoon ground coriander • Green chillies (optional) • Fresh coriander, chopped, to garnish
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Method

1. Marinate the trout with the lemon juice, salt and paprika for at least one hour. For the best flavour, leave it to marinate for 3–4 hours if possible.
2. Heat a little oil in a large pan and add the mustard seeds.
3. Add the chopped or blended garlic and cook gently until golden brown.
4. Stir in the fresh tomatoes (or chopped tinned tomatoes) and cook until softened.
5. Add the salt and paprika to taste, together with the turmeric, garam masala and ground coriander. If you like a little extra heat, add some chopped green chillies.
6. Continue stirring and cooking for 10–15 minutes. When the oil begins to separate from the masala, add the marinated trout and a splash of water, ensuring the fish is well coated in the sauce.
7. Simmer gently over a low heat for about 5 minutes, or until the fish is cooked through.
8. Garnish with freshly chopped coriander and serve with steamed rice or chapati.



Café News

The Rainforest Café is open on a Sunday from 12noon (last orders 1.15pm) and every Wednesday from 10am till 3pm (last orders are taken at 2.15pm).

The café is open to everyone to sit in or takeaway lunches/snacks.



Celebrating Special Moments at the Café

A very happy 90th Birthday to our wee Agnes, who celebrated this wonderful milestone in May. We enjoyed cake and singing in the café to help her celebrate.

We've also enjoyed celebrating several other birthdays recently too.

Happy Birthday and Congratulations to all!



Thank you to West Lothian Crematorium

On 13th May, we were visited by Manager Carole, her colleagues and Fraser from Ian Brown Funeral Directors who presented us with a Cheque for £500 donated from their metal recycling scheme. The team at Ian Brown Funeral Directors suggested the Rainforest Café to the Crematorium as a charity they felt would benefit from the donation.

Thank you for this very kind donation and for a lovely review on their facebook page



Café holidays over the summer

There will be no café on:

Sunday 19th July

Wednesday 22nd July

Sunday 26th July

Wednesday 29th July

We will reopen on Sunday 2nd August

Thank You!

To all our volunteers

A huge thank you for all your efforts through the year with our various groups, activities, events, the cafe, cleaning, flower arranging and delivery. Please enjoy your break over the summer. You've all earned a well deserved rest and we need you all back bright and breezy after the holidays... as it all starts all over again.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Lanarkshire Upperward – Annual Divine Service

We extend our thanks for the generous donation of £400 in support of the Church's work. This was a public service of worship open for anyone to attend and anyone attending was invited for tea afterwards. We are also deeply grateful for the additional gifts of confectionery, crisps, juice, and other food items, which will greatly support the work that Karen carries out.

Royal Arch Masons

We would like to thank the Royal Arch Masons very much for their generous donation of £100 to the work of our Church.

New ceiling in small hall

A huge thank you to the Watt family for supplying and installing the new ceiling in the small hall. It looks fantastic-modern, bright, and so much cosier. We truly appreciate your hard work.

Dates for Diaries

The service at Forth Church will be at 11.30am until Sunday 30th August. Times following that will be confirmed.

We are in the process of organising a joint Church Event. More details to follow.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page, website, Church order of service and poster in the hall for more information on upcoming events.

Church services

We would love you to join us in person on a Sunday morning but if this isn't possible our services are streamed live via our website www.forthstpauls.com or via YouTube (a link for this can be found on the website).

Church Groups (open to everyone)

- ❖ **KNACC (Knit, Natter, Craft & Chatter)** meet on a Monday from 10am-12noon.
- ❖ **Guild** meet every second Monday from 1.30-3pm.
- ❖ **Mainly Music (pre-school parent & toddlers)** meet on a Tuesday from 9.30 -11am.
- ❖ **Planet Earth Afternoon Club** for P3-P7 meet on a Tuesday from 3-4.30pm.
- ❖ **Youth Rainforest Café** for high school pupils meet on a Friday from 1pm onwards.
- ❖ **Jigsaw** meet on a Sunday. Times vary depending on what time the service starts. Jigsaw will start 10 minutes before morning worship begins.
- ❖ **Crèche** – A creche will be provided, in the small hall, during the service for parents to attend Church.

*All our groups will
be off during the
summer*

Guild - The new session of the guild starts in September and will be held at a new time. The Guild will now be held at 1.30 instead of 7.00 as many of the members were finding it difficult going out in the dark nights. Our new syllabus will be available soon and we hope that some new members will be able to join us for some or all of our meetings.

Co-op Community Grant – Please support Forth St Paul's Parish Church if you are a Co-op member.

Gift Aid – If you give regularly to the Church and are a Tax payer, please consider signing up for Gift Aid. This will not cost you anything and will allow the Church to claim back 25% of any amount you give. Also, if you have previously signed up for Gift Aid and are no longer a Tax payer then please let us know so that we do not make a false claim. If you are unsure or would like any further information then please speak to either Catherine McGurk or Jane Savage and they will be able to help you.

Old Spectacles - If anyone has any old spectacles they no longer use and are happy to donate them to a charity in Ukraine, please bring them along to Church or the Cafe and Audrey will coordinate.

Used stamps – Please leave in the box at the back of the Church to support the work of the Al Ahli Hospital in Northern Gaza.

Volunteers:

All the following wee jobs need covered if you'd be interested please get in touch. Remember you'd be on a rota not covering all the time.

- Church Door Duty
- Readers in church
- Sound desk/ Powerpoint preparation
- Flowers in church and flower delivery
- Anyone willing to write and read the 'Prayer for Others' during weekly worship
- People willing to help with our Property Group to maintain our buildings

Our newsletters are all
on our website:

www.forthstpauls.com

Prayer Box

A prayer box is at the back of the Church for anyone who would appreciate prayer for themselves, a friend, a family member or a situation.

Please pop a note in the box and the prayer group will offer a prayer.

We would like to encourage more people to use this box

When your heart starts to worry,
and your mind just can't rest,
put your prayers down on paper
and let God do the rest

All requests are confidential.