



Father Paul writes – 26th of July 2026

Jesus today uses the image of treasure to describe the reality of God's kingdom. A treasure isn't something we can earn, it's something we need to go out and search for, perhaps even for a long time. There are two characters in the Gospel for today who respond when they find treasure; they sell all their possessions just to have that one treasure they have found. Jesus uses this parable to remind us that God is the greatest treasure of our lives, and perhaps also that we are God's own treasure; that, like the landowner and the merchant, God will do anything to have us near him and belonging to him. As our first reading explains, King Solomon, at the start of his life, found this pearl of great price and placed it at the very centre of his life. Solomon disregarded offers of health, wealth and security and instead prized knowing the heart and mind of God. However, as the books of Kings go on to document, the wealth and life of pleasure drew Solomon's focus away from the wisdom he once prized above everything. The life on offer from God gives us meaning and joy. It offers us a life where "all things work for good for those who love God." It is worth it to cast everything aside to attain it.

Next month, the Diocese is offering an excellent course focused on Pastoral Care. As you may know, Judy Bowyer is our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, supported by me as Parish Priest and by Sue Lewis. We would welcome a wider group of pastoral carers to help the team visit, contact, and build relationships with others. If you would like to be on the Pastoral Care Team at St Saviour's, I do encourage you to enrol in the Archbishop's Certificate in Pastoral Care, which begins on Tuesday week, 4th August. Please also speak with Judy Bowyer if you are interested in joining the team. Enrolment details are on the second-last page of the pew sheet. Speaking of which, the new roster between August and December for readers, intercessors, welcomers, lay assistants and other volunteer positions is almost complete. If you would like to become a lay assistant/server or in leading the prayers or in the other positions on the roster, please let me know today. Training is available.

I am taking two weeks annual leave from tomorrow. The Rev'd Peter Brown will preside at the Sunday services, while Fr Peter Thomson will take the mid-week Wednesday services. Please make them welcome. There will be no Thursday service at 7.30 am while I am away.

Your friend and priest Fr Paul