



Father Paul writes 20th of September 2026

I welcome you as we today, during this Season of Creation, consider how we are stewards of God's creation and how we use our gifts to care for this world and the church. Those gifts are taking responsibility for the things God has entrusted to us through our stewardship. Our bible readings focus on stewardship. Our Old Testament reading shows King David's praise for God, where he states that all riches and honour come to Him. Then in the New Testament reading, Paul provides teaching on Christian stewardship in being a cheerful giver while the Gospel reading reveals Jesus admiring generous and sacrificial giving. I hope the focus of today will help us consider how on this Stewardship Sunday we can give generously, in continuing to care for God's creation and for the ongoing mission of the Church here and beyond.

The Archbishop has recently circulated a discussion paper on the administration of the elements of Holy Communion. It gives some broad guidelines, all of which are being followed by St Saviour's. They include sharing the common cup but also being able to receive communion in one kind only. For those who do not wish to receive the common cup, the wafer has a small amount of wine pre-added. The intinction, that is dipping of the wafer in the common cup by the recipient is not permitted. When receiving the chalice, it is helpful to hold the bottom of the cup to guide it. As well, baptised Christians of all denominations are invited to receive communion. Copies of the discussion paper are available on request.

On Sunday the 4th of October at 10 am, it will be the Blessing of the Animals Service. The service comes at the completion of the Season of Creation, where we celebrate St Francis of Assisi, who is the patron saint of animals. Please bring your pets along for a blessing. A special focus for this service is a public expression of the bond we have with all animals and so we make this an integral part of our worship. Please advertise this widely and invite those whom you know with pets to come along for this annual service. It's always good fun!

Parish Council has accepted the nomination of Gill Nield as our Peoples Warden. The position has been vacant since the Annual Vestry meeting and so I am pleased that it has now been filled. My congratulations to Gill.

Your friend and priest,

Paul