



September 2025

The Road to Damascus: New beginnings



September's Teatime Church takes place on Sunday 21st September. The focus is all about new beginnings. We will be exploring the story of The Road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-12). On this road, a man named Saul had a powerful encounter with God that changed the path of his life forever. Saul changed from attacking Christians to becoming a devoted Christian himself. Saul would later become known as Paul (his Roman name) – the greatest missionary in the church's history.

At this Teatime Church service, there will be necklace threading, exploring fish symbols, creating Saul/Paul puppets and decorating baskets that will be lowered from our very own city walls (which the children will build)! Supper will be served to all the children at the end of the service and tea/cake will be available for adults.



We will also be selling tickets for our **Harvest Festival Service**, taking place at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church Hall on Sunday 5th October at 4pm. At this service, we combine Teatime Church with the festival. Children will be able to make harvest wreaths and pictures and try some fruit and vegetable printing! There will be music from Westbury-on-Trym C of E Academy Choir followed by a wonderful afternoon tea for all. Tickets are £5 for adults, £2 for children (aged 5+).

The Road to Damascus

This is the well-known story of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, later known as the apostle Paul. Saul is on his way to Damascus to persecute followers of Jesus. On the way, he is struck down by a blinding light and Jesus asks why he is persecuting him. Meanwhile, God speaks to a faithful follower, Ananias, who, despite his misgivings, goes to Saul, greets him as a brother and lays hands upon him. Saul's sight is restored and he is baptised.

Saul grew up in Jerusalem. Saul had two names. His Jewish name was “Saul,” and his Roman name was “Paul.” Even though Saul believed in God, he did not follow Jesus. He was an enemy to people who followed Jesus. Saul hated these followers of Jesus and wanted to destroy the church. He even dragged men and women out of their houses and put them in prison for believing in Jesus. Saul was zealous for the faith and traditions of the Jewish people. His zealousness drove him to attempt to stamp out the followers of Jesus violently.

Once, Saul asked the High Priest in Jerusalem for letters to take them to the Jewish leaders in Damascus. He thought the leaders would hate these followers of Jesus, too. He thought they could help him arrest all of them there. So Saul set out for the city of Damascus. But something unexpected happened as he and his companions walked along the road to Damascus. A bright light shone down, and everyone stopped. The light was so bright that it made Saul blind. The others in the group saw the light and could hear something, but only Saul could hear a voice that said, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”



Saul was blind, but he could hear the voice. “Who are you?” he asked. Then he heard the answer, “I am Jesus, and you have been persecuting me. Now get up and go into the city.” Saul was shocked. This was Jesus? But he thought Jesus was dead! Now Saul knew the truth: Jesus was alive! And that was not all. Jesus had asked Saul, “Why are you persecuting ME?” Saul had been saying to everyone that Jesus was dead. But now he knew he had been wrong all of this time. They belong to Jesus, so when Saul had been persecuting them, it was actually like hurting Jesus Himself.

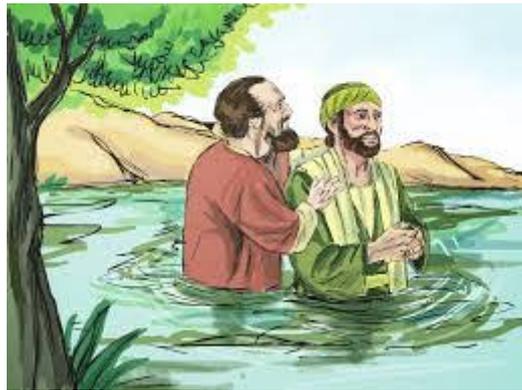
What would happen to Saul? Would Jesus ever forgive him for what he had done? If he changed, would Jesus’ followers ever forgive him? Can people ever forgive a man who had done such bad things? Saul had many things to think about. But Saul needed help. He could not even see where he was going. Since Saul was blind, the others who were with him led him to the city of Damascus.

Meanwhile, in another part of the city, there was a man called Ananias. He believed in Jesus. Jesus came to Ananias in a vision and said that Ananias should go and meet Saul. He would be waiting in a house on the main road through Damascus called “Straight Street.” Now it was Ananias’ time to be shocked! Visit Saul? Saul was the man who was persecuting people who believed in Jesus. How could Jesus ask him to go to see Saul? Ananias was very frightened. What would Saul do to him?

But, in the vision, Jesus told Ananias that he had chosen Saul to do a very important job. Jesus had chosen Saul to be the teacher to the Gentiles (all of the people who were not Jews). So, Ananias obeyed Jesus. He went and found Saul. He touched him and said, “Jesus, the one who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”



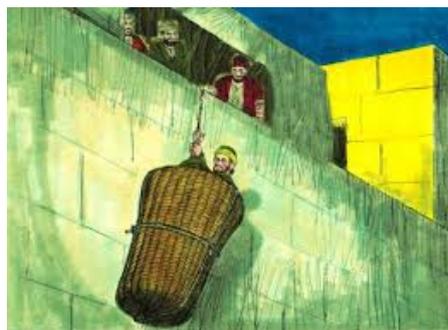
As soon as Ananias said this, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. Then he got up and was baptised.



Now that Saul knew the truth about Jesus, he wanted to tell everyone. He preached to the people in Damascus. Many people began to believe in Jesus when they heard Saul preach.

But not everyone was happy Saul was preaching about Jesus. Some were very angry. They began guarding the city gates to catch and kill Saul if he tried to leave the city.

But Saul's friends had a great idea. Late one night, they put Saul in a basket and lowered it over the wall. Saul escaped!



The followers of Jesus in Damascus had begun to trust Saul, but many followers in other places still remembered how he had once been their enemy. When Saul returned to Jerusalem, the followers there did not trust Saul and did not want him to be with them.

But Saul continued to do what Jesus had told him to do. He was a very different person now. When he used to live in Jerusalem, he told people NOT to follow Jesus. Now, he told them that they SHOULD follow Jesus. Jesus changed Saul.

After Saul met Jesus, he changed. His heart changed. His life changed. He stopped doing bad things and followed Jesus. Jesus wholly and immediately changed Saul's life. He continued to preach about Jesus for the rest of his life and often suffered because of it.

Saul never forgot what happened to him on the Damascus Road and he often told his story to others to help them to believe in Jesus too. He went on, under his Roman name Paul, to be one of the most effective and influential disciples of Jesus. Through his ministry, churches began to spring up all over the Roman Empire.



It is no small thing to change your mind or to make a new start, but it is not impossible. Saul and Ananais show us this. For both Saul and Ananias, it was the voice of Jesus that provoked a change of heart. Today, are we humbly listening out for the voice of Jesus, and allowing him to guide us, even if that path seems new or unexpected?



Please click on the following link for a retelling of the Road to Damascus and Paul's following of Jesus https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=74tfl_RzEy4&t=0s

Our monthly prayer



**Almighty God,
We thank you for going ahead of us,
For laying the path before us,
Lighting the way for us.
Guide us to change our hearts
and draw us closer to you.
Amen.**

Community information

Toddlers Together: Our parent and toddler group



Toddlers Together, our parent and toddler group held at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church Hall, runs every Thursday 10-11:15am during term time. All are very welcome! Details can be found on our website <https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/youth-and-family/parents-and-toddlers/>. We start the new term on 4th September. The Methodist Church will also be holding a Messy Church event on 30th October. Please contact marioncollis@ymail.com for booking information.

AidBox Community



AidBox Community is a local charity which supports people seeking asylum in Bristol

<https://www.aidboxcommunity.co.uk>

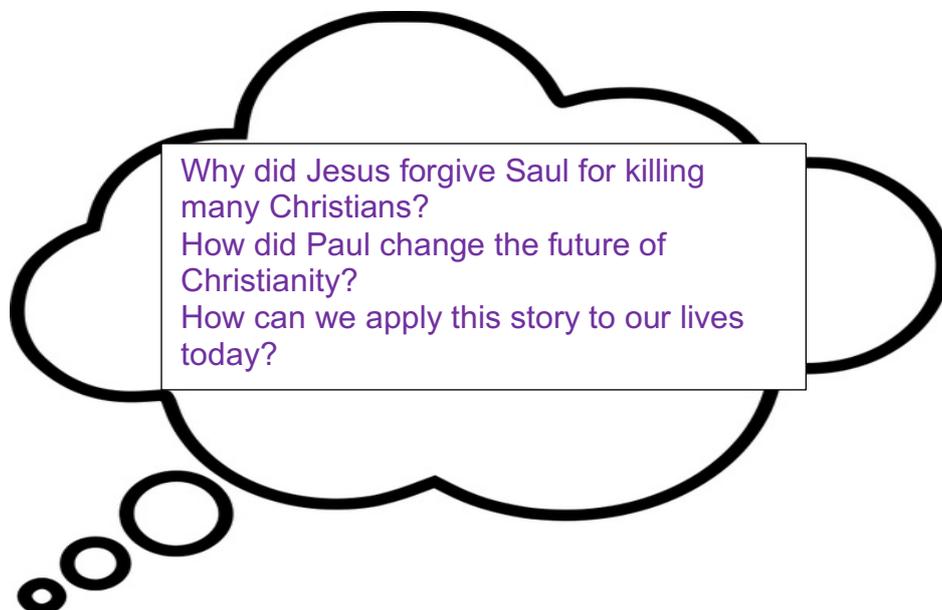
They are always looking for the following items for children in very good condition (pre-loved is fine): Backpacks, Baby/toddler blankets, Baby/toddler comforters (suitable from birth), Wash bags, Small games, Pencil cases

And the following items in new/unused condition: Toiletries for children/adults, Felt tips and colouring pens/stationery items

If you can help with 'little and often' donations then they would be gratefully received at the hub or via me at the church. They also have an Amazon Wishlist that you can use to help provide Aidbox children with essential items:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1PPOIV5A4SOWX?ref=wl_share

Some questions for the whole family to think about at home...please do come to Teatime Church with any questions that you have!



Why did Jesus forgive Saul for killing many Christians?
How did Paul change the future of Christianity?
How can we apply this story to our lives today?

Please click on the following link if you would like to donate to Westbury on Trym PCC to support the work and mission of Holy Trinity Church, Westbury-on-Trym. Thank you

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/westbury-on-trym-holy-trinity-bristol/>

From Georgie and the Youth Team

familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk



HARVEST CELEBRATION

Afternoon Tea

**5TH OCTOBER, 2025
4PM - 6PM**

*join us as we celebrate Harvest Festival
at our Annual Harvest Tea
at
W-o-T Methodist Church Hall*

*Tickets available from the social committee
from 7th September
or contact Jane 07779 463 187.*

ADULTS £5

CHILDREN OVER 5 YEARS OLD £2

Teatime Church Dates

2025



Our monthly 4pm service for children and families. Fun crafts, LEGO, treasure hunts, baby/toddler corner, songs and stories, supper for the children.

Fun, faith and fellowship for all the family.

**12th January, 9th February, 16th March,
18th May, 22nd June, 13th July,
21st September, 5th October (held at
Westbury Methodist Church for Harvest),
23rd November, 7th December**

Please visit our website for further details

<https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/teatime-church/>



HOLY TRINITY
WESTBURY ON TRYM - BRISTOL

WORSHIP 4 YOUTH



OUR WORSHIP 4 YOUTH SERVICE TAKES PLACE ONCE A MONTH FROM 4 – 4:45PM AT THE BACK OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH. THIS IS AN INFORMAL SERVICE AIMED PRIMARILY AT YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 8+. THERE WILL BE A SHORT, FUN ACTIVITY FOLLOWED BY A LIVE BAND PLAYING CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SONGS. PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO DROP CHILDREN OFF OR JOIN IN WITH THE SERVICE. DOUGHNUTS AND DRINKS ARE SERVED AT THE END.

28TH SEPTEMBER 2025

26TH OCTOBER 2025

[HTTPS://WWW.WESTBURY-PARISH-
CHURCH.ORG.UK/SERVICES/](https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/services/)