

### The next chapter...

There are times when it's convenient to be able to read books on my Kindle, but there are many occasions when I much prefer to read a 'proper' book. After all, there's something quite unique about the feel of a real book, like its physical weight or the feel and texture of the pages. One of the things I particularly like is the ability to tell easily how much of the book I've already read or to find out how many more pages there are left in the chapter I'm reading. Then of course there's the ability to easily thumb through the pages to find out what happens in the next chapter, or even to read the last few pages of the book before I get to them!!

Our lives have sometimes been compared to a book - and there are times when we'd really like to know what will happen in the next chapter of our lives - to know what the future will bring - to know what God has in store for us. Will the next chapter of our journey bring excitement, challenge, sadness, disappointment, happiness? What will be the next chapter of our own particular story?

As Mark and Tansye prepare to leave St Paul's to move a few miles across town, they can look forward to the next chapter of their lives and the things that God has in store for them.

For St Paul's this will naturally leave a large Mark and Tansye - shaped hole in our lives, but as they begin the next chapter of their lives, then for St Paul's too a new chapter will begin. What part is God calling you to play in that new chapter? What risks might he be calling you to take?

As I write this, I'm hoping that I too will soon be on the move, the vagaries of house selling and buying allowing! I have lived in this area virtually all my life, yet I believe that I now need to accept the challenge, take the risk and move to Wiltshire. Of course it will enable us to see much more of our daughter and her family (including helping with childcare), but it will also bring new adventures, new places to explore, new people to meet and inevitably, new challenges.

Having been part of St Paul's for more years than I'd like to admit, perhaps one of the biggest challenges will be finding a new church and becoming part of a new worshiping community, and hopefully in time, becoming a Licensed Lay Minister in Salisbury diocese.

This isn't yet the time to say goodbye, but when it does come I know it will be a hard thing to do. I have already warned Andrew to have lots of tissues at the ready!

And whatever the future holds in store, we can each be assured that God will be with us as the next chapter unfolds.

**Katy**



**Diocese of Canterbury**  
CHANGED LIVES ⇌ CHANGING LIVES

*Changing Lives Prayer Network*  
Sign up at back of church if you would like to receive  
Diocesan Prayer Cards through the year.

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# Items of Interest

## St Paul's Fellowship

The first meeting of the year took place on 17 January. We held our usual New Year Bring and Buy Auction and thanks to some lovely donations and enthusiastic bidding £56.00 was raised towards Fellowship Funds. It was also an opportunity for us all to meet again after the Christmas break.

The next meeting will be held on 21 February when Wilf Lower will again entertain us with tales of his experiences in the world of entertainment.

St Paul's Fellowship Group always welcomes new members, so if you know of anyone who might like to join us bring them along. Guests can attend for £1 per session and the annual membership fee remains at £10. This will be collected at the February meeting.

For more information please contact **Ann Lewis** on 07713192369 or **Katy Carter** on 07837413472

**The Fellowship Planning Team**

A new feature in our Parish News to help us all put names to familiar faces. We hope you enjoy learning a little bit about each other and hope that many of you will be keen to be featured in future. Please see **Anthea** if you wish to be included.

## Meet... the Okali family

Meet Nkam, Marilyn and their children, Toby (16), Jasmine (12) and Ije (who likes to be called Christine, 6). The family moved to Snodland two years ago from London and were introduced to St. Paul's by a friend. Although it's a long way from their home, they have become regular members of the congregation because they felt so warmly welcomed by our community. They enjoy being part of our church family and are particularly grateful for Andrew's kindness and support following the death of Nkam's father, only two months after they started coming to St. Paul's.

Nkam works in London as an IT Consultant and Marilyn is hoping to return to work soon as a Business Analyst, having had a career break to raise the family. If you've not spoken to the Okalis before, be sure to introduce yourselves to them.



Deanery  
Prayer for  
February

A copy of the Prayer Focus can be found at the back of the church.

## OUTLOOK

Celebrating faith and life in East Kent  
Copies of the WINTER 2019

Outlook Magazine can be found at the back of the church.



A copy of the MSP News can be found at the back of the church.



## Christmas Quiz 2018

### Congratulations

to the winners of the three prizes

**Fred Abery, Jenny & Chris Clifton  
and Joanne Lindsay**

We wish to thank everyone who supported the Quiz which has enabled us to raise the sum of £155 towards ongoing maintenance projects at St. Paul's Church.

## Coffee & Chat

Waterstones' Coffee Shop  
Fremlin Walk at 10.30 am  
as follows:

Thursday 14 February  
Thursday 21 March  
Thursday 11 April

Everyone is welcome. Please come along and join us. If you want to know more about our get-togethers, please speak to **Jenny Clifton** at Church.

## Services at St Paul's for February

Date & Day	Time	Service
 <b>FEB</b> SUN <b>3</b> <i>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</i>	8.45 am 10.30 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion (sung) Café Worship - 'Drawing closer to God' Sung Evensong
 <b>FEB</b> SUN <b>10</b> <i>Fourth Sunday before Lent</i>	8.45 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion (said) All-Age Worship (with Communion)
 <b>FEB</b> WED <b>13</b>	9.30 am	Mid-Week Holy Communion
 <b>FEB</b> SUN <b>17</b> <i>Third Sunday before Lent</i>	8.45 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion (sung) All-Age Worship
 <b>FEB</b> SUN <b>24</b> <i>Second Sunday before Lent</i>	8.45 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion (said) All-Age Worship (with Communion)

## What's on

Thursday 7 February	2.30 pm	MU - Quiz/Games afternoon
Sunday 10 February	12.30 pm	Pavey's Goodbye - Bring and Share Lunch
Thursday 28 February	12 noon	MU - Cathedral Prayer time
Thursday 14 February	10.30 am	Coffee & Chat - Waterstones
Thursday 21 February	2.30 pm	Fellowship - Wilf Lower (tales of his experiences in the world of entertainment)
Friday 1 March	11.00 am	The World Day of Prayer - <i>Please try &amp; support this Service.</i> (Either at Salvation Army or URE - venue tbc later)
<b>Sunday 3 March</b>	<b>8.45 am</b> <b>10.30 am</b> <b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion (sung)</b> <b>Café Worship</b> <b>Sung Evensong</b>
Thursday 7 March	2.30 pm	MU - Frogmore and Windsor - Edna Tupper
Thursday 14 March	7.00 pm	Mark Pavey - Licensing Service - St Nicholas, Leeds



## Café Church - 'Drawing closer to God'



For our next Cafe Church 3rd February, we invite you to bring along an object or picture to represent those times when you most feel the presence of God in your life. If you're willing, we'll be asking you to share your story with your table. We look forward to hearing all the different ways that we become aware of God, knowing that one

Please take copies of the February Parish News home with you for you and your friends.  
The March issue will be printed on **Thursday 20 February.**

# Bits and Pieces

## SHOW THE LOVE

in February



Climate change and caring for and protecting the planet should be urgent concerns for all Christians. From the book of Genesis to Revelation, a thread runs through the Bible binding creation and humanity together in a relationship of love, respect and protection.

We are called to care for the Earth and for one another, including for the poorest of the Earth most vulnerable to climate change, for the beauty and diversity of species created by our loving God, and for future generations.

The Climate Coalition is the national umbrella body working on climate change, bringing together over 130 organisations including Christian Aid, Cafod and Tearfund, representing 17 million people across the UK. This February we are all invited to *Show the Love* for God's creation by wearing a green heart sticker and having conversations in our church community and with friends and neighbours about climate change and the protection of the planet. Our action should begin with prayer, and then faithful conversations.

From the back of church, please take and wear a green heart sticker, and then, after church services, as you drink your coffee, talk to others from our church community about climate change: What do you care about? What do you love that you want to protect? What actions do we as Christians need to take together?

Please speak to **Jenny Clifton** (01622 761533) if you want to know more about *Show the Love*.

## GDPR

Last May a new EU law came in to force: General Data Protection Regulations. Whether we're still in the EU or not, we need to take account of the rules which govern what information we hold on you, how we use it and who can see it.

I expect you have been plagued by emails from companies asking for permission to use data as well as having an extra box to tick when visiting web sites on the internet. We at St Paul's have to go through the same exercise so there are consent forms to complete at the back of church, together with a copy of the privacy notice for you to read. There are two types of notice: one for role-holders (PCC members, MLT members etc) and one for everyone else.

Please return the completed forms to **Mark Turner** and we will store them securely.

## Who's Who at St Paul's

### Priest-in-Charge

Revd Canon Andrew Sewell

01622 691926

### Curate

Revd Mark Pavey

01622 431538

### Churchwardens

Mr Mark Turner

01622 206529

Mr Brian Beswick

01622 678315

### Readers

Mrs Katy Carter

01622 735828

### Authorised Lay Ministers

Mrs Jenny Clifton

01622 761533

Mrs Gwyn McPherson

01622 674683

### Parish Administrator

Mrs Tracey Pavan

01622 762370

**Mon/Tues (9 am - 10.30 am)**

**Thurs (9 am - 11 am)**

**Fri (11.30 am - 1 pm)**

admin@stpaulsmaidstone.org

## LOST PROPERTY

**There is a basket at the back of the Church, please check when you leave.**

