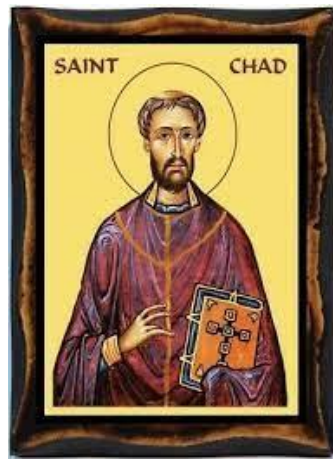
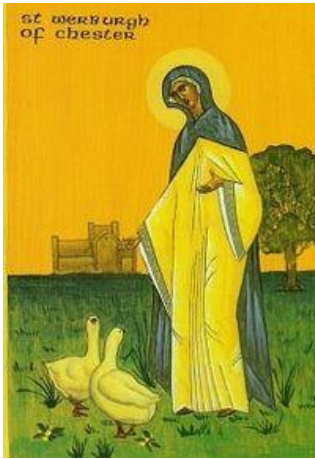


St Paul's Church

Dear all,

Thank you for your patience as there was a break in these weekly updates whilst I was off walking a pilgrimage route, from Chester Cathedral to Lichfield Cathedral, called the Two Saints Way. As a route it was opened in 2012 in dedication to St Werburgh (Chester) and St Chad (Lichfield). Both lived in the 7th century and were instrumental in bringing Christianity to the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia (what we now call the midlands) that was one of three kingdoms that developed in the post-Roman era.



It was fascinating following the trail as it weaved its way along various canals side paths such as the Shropshire Union Canal and the Trent & Mersey Canal and the ancient stories of those saints merged into more modern stories of the development of these waterways and their importance as trade routes, not least the pottery industry of the 18th century and notable characters such as Josiah Wedgwood, who's grave and memorial we found on the south side of Stoke.

How society changes over the years with the nature of industry, employment, and sociological development. What will be said of our times and in what direction will things go from here? I find such questions fascinating as I wonder what sort of world future generations will inhabit. I cannot know the answer to these things and can only relate to the here and now – there is a wonderful line in one of the Lord of the Rings films when Gandalf, the wizard, says to Frodo, the hobbit *"All you have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to you"*.

It reminds me of a passage from the bible in the book of Esther from the Old Testament. The character of Esther lives in exile, with her fellow Jews, under Persian rule. The people are under threat, but Esther has a chance to prevent their destruction, but she hesitates as she will be in great danger – her mentor, Mordecai, then says *"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for a time such as this?"* St Werburgh and St Chad were of their time and did what they needed to do to make apparent the good news of Jesus Christ. We are of our time, and we do what we can in the world as it is now knowing that we are each called for *"a time such as this"*.

Blessings,
Rev Chris

p.s.
RECEIVING COMMUNION

As previously advised, we will be returning to communion in two kinds (wafer & wine) as of the 12th June. The Church of England have also now issued guidance on this that essentially says that they see no reason why we cannot now re-commence communion in both kinds.

The following options will be available for communicants;

- 1) Drink wine from the chalice as had been the case pre-pandemic.
- 2) Continue to receive just the wafer.
- 3) Intinction (dipping) of wafer in the wine. Previously I have said that communicants can do this with the wafer they have been given – however the Church of England does not recommend this course of action therefore if 'intinction' is the preferred method of receiving then the priest will intinct the wafer before passing it to the communicant. The logistics of how this takes place will be communicated during the service.

All of these are full and sufficient means of receiving Holy Communion and, hopefully, meet the needs of all concerned. This has been a difficult period in the life of the church, and we are working to make everything as normal as possible as we fully appreciate that communion is a significant place of encounter with Jesus.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

All services are in church, zoom is available for some services.

SUNDAY 15th MAY – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10 am All-Age Worship - Rev Anthea (Zoom)

SUNDAY 22nd MAY – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10 am Holy Communion - Rev Chris (Zoom)

SUNDAY 29th MAY – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10 am Holy Communion - Canon Liz (Zoom)

SUNDAY 5th JUNE – PENTECOST

10 am Café Worship - Gwyn

EVENTS

THURSDAY 12th MAY

2.30 pm MOTHERS' UNION - Canadian Mounties

THURSDAY 19th MAY

2.30 pm FELLOWSHIP - Great Comp Garden, near Sevenoaks

SUNDAY 5th JUNE

12 noon ST PAUL'S SOCIAL COMMITTEE - Queen's Jubilee Celebration (Bring & Share Lunch - see attached)

THURSDAY 9th JUNE

2.30 pm MOTHERS' UNION - Queen's Platinum Celebration Tea

FRIDAY 10th JUNE

9.30 am BABY & TODDLER GROUP - (large hall – see attached)

THURSDAY 16th JUNE

2.30 pm FELLOWSHIP - Platinum Jubilee Tea Party

EVENTS @ ST MARY & ALL SAINTS, BOXLEY (Car parking available)

SATURDAY 21st MAY

10.30 am - 12 noon Coffee morning for Christian Aid raffle, bring and buy, cake stall
7pm Kent Police Band in concert Musical Director John Groves Tickets £6

SATURDAY 28th MAY

10.30am Historic Tour of Boxley Church with local historian Robin Ambrose Including an accompanied tour of the Bell Tower All welcome, children must be supervised by an adult.

NOTICES



BABY & TODDLER GROUP

FREE TO ATTEND!

Fridays
9.30am - 11.30am

DATES
10th June
1st July
5th August

More details - Sarah Lavender
07934 666 865

St Paul's Church, Boxley Road, Maidstone, ME14 2AN

The poster features a colorful rainbow background. At the top, it says 'BABY & TODDLER GROUP' in bold black letters. Below that, there's a red circular badge with 'FREE TO ATTEND!' in white. Underneath, it says 'Fridays' and '9.30am - 11.30am'. In the center, there's a white box with 'DATES' in bold, followed by '10th June', '1st July', and '5th August'. At the bottom, there's contact information for Sarah Lavender and the church address.

FOOD BANK

The food have some severe food shortages at the moment, it is suggested in part due to the crisis in the Ukraine causing extra demand I presume.

The attached flyer is asking for all sorts of tinned food. If you are able to buy some extra things or make a financial donation, that would be very much appreciated.

My next delivery is next week Friday 20 May.

Thank you so much for your continued support in prayer, word and deed.

Best wishes

Allert Riepma



maidstone homeless care

We are in urgent need of:

Tinned Ham	Rice pudding
Corned Beef	Custard
Meat Puddings	Tinned carrots
Spam	Pot noodles
Hot dogs (in tins or jars)	Tinned ready meals (E.g. Beef stew, Bolognaise, Curry, Meat balls, Irish stew)

To donate, please contact:
Matt Lamb - Maidstone Day Centre Manager
manager@homelesscare.org.uk
01622 674064