

# St Paul's Church

Dear All

It's just about six weeks now until my priesting at Canterbury Cathedral and I wanted to take a moment to reflect on some of what's happened since I was ordained deacon last July. Probably the biggest surprise for me has been how much I have enjoyed being immersed in the life of this church. I had quite expected that the more traditional aspects of the deacon's role to be far less exciting and fulfilling than my ministry in the workplace, but I can honestly say that I have felt equally delighted with both elements of my 'hybrid' role. I have felt so blessed to have had the opportunity to shape some really significant acts of worship in the church calendar, to have worked so closely with members of the congregation to plan services, and of course to have carried out so many baptisms. I thank you all for your overwhelming kindness and encouragement; I have felt more than ever this year that St. Paul's really is my spiritual home. Anyone who wishes to attend on Saturday 2nd July @ 5.30pm, please email Tracey ([admin@stpaulsmaidstone.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsmaidstone.org)) or speak to me as soon as possible.

I'm conscious however that I don't say much about the other side of my priestly ministry and Rev Chris felt it was about time I told you a bit about what I get up to in my role as a Minister in Secular Employment in my workplace. For those of you who don't know, as well as being a part-time Assistant Curate, I also run a hair and beauty salon in town. I'm very hands on, seeing clients for 12-15 hours each day, and I always wear my clerical collar when I'm at work which is really important to me; it's about transparency but it's also about witness. I can honestly say that I have really interesting and deeply spiritual conversations with the most unlikely people, and it's a genuine two-way exchange; I get to see up close and personal where God is at work in the world. My most significant conversation recently was with a six-year-old child who had asked his parents quite consciously to book an appointment with 'the vicar' because he had questions about God. I hope I wasn't a crushing disappointment to him! He was desperate to find out God's name but on further questioning, it turned out that what he really wanted to know was whether I thought God was a man, because he thought God sounded more like a woman. I said I thought God was probably both, because if we are all made in God's image then God can't just be a man. Failing to quit while I was ahead, I mumbled something about God being three persons in one anyway and so I felt sure that at least one of those was a woman, whereupon he said, 'Oh, you mean, the Holy Trinity. Well yes, I know all about *that!*'. I did ask if he was free to preach on Trinity Sunday but sadly he's not available and we'll have to put up with Rev Chris.



## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

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

### **SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

10 am Holy Communion - Rev Chris (Zoom– slides attached))

### **SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MAY – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

10 am Holy Communion - Canon Liz (Zoom)

### **SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE – PENTECOST**

10 am Café Worship – Gwyn

### **SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE – FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

10 am All-Age Communion – Rev Chris

## **EVENTS**

### **SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

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

### **THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

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

### **FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

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

### **THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

2.30 pm FELLOWSHIP - Platinum Jubilee Tea Party

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

### **SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> 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 at the door,  
Refreshments in the interval

### **SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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 is a small rainbow flag icon and the text 'Fridays 9.30am - 11.30am'. To the right is a red circular badge with 'FREE TO ATTEND!' in white. In the center, there are six cartoon children of diverse backgrounds. Below them is a white box with 'DATES' in bold, followed by '10th June', '1st July', and '5th August'. At the bottom, there is contact information for Sarah Lavender and the church address.

# **PRAYER RESOURCE**

**week beginning Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022**

*'Father God, thank you for the examples you have given in your word to help us pray.'*

This week we give thanks for:

- The Holy Spirit working in us, growing and developing our lives; let us rejoice at what God has done for each one of us.
- All who lead our services, groups, home groups and teams, and pray for guidance and strength for them as they do God's work.

Please pray for:

- People living in northern India as they experience an intense heatwave with temperatures hitting a record 49.2C.
- All cities around the world that they may become sanctuaries of peace and safety instead of places where people experience fear, violence and unrest (*Psalm 133 says: 'How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity'*).
- Students who are facing exams this coming month and have to make decisions about their future; pray for wisdom in their decisions and support from family and friends.
- Our communities to be places where displaced people will always feel at home.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; and for Joan, Gilly, Barbara, Hazel, Edith, Peter, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Tony and Maureen; and in our wider church for Ruth, Joan, Helen and Megan.
- Our hearts to be strengthened and for a strong resolve to keep praying for peace in our world.

**You may like to use this prayer during the week:**

**May the God of hope fill me with joy and peace as I trust in him, so that I may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **NOTICES**

### **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.



**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, Bolognese, Curry, Meat balls, Irish stew)

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