

# St Paul's Church

Dear All,

Looking for something entertaining to watch while ironing this week, I stumbled across a BBC programme first aired in March this year called *Stacey Dooley: Inside the Convent*. We follow the TV presenter as she spends ten days in St. Hilda's Priory, Whitby, with the Anglican nuns who reside there, and it's an absolutely compelling watch. As you might imagine, the pace of life in the convent is something of a culture shock for Dooley who is well known for living her life at frenetic pace. Three things really stood out to me as learning points for the TV presenter and I realised with a jolt that these are the same three things God has been trying to say to me during my really busy year as a deacon so I've summarised them below in case anyone else would find them useful or can relate to them. If you have a TV licence, you can watch the programme here too:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00156nh/stacey-dooley-inside-the-convent>



- Although it's not a silent order, silence is observed at certain times at St. Hilda's. The nuns explain that it's helpful to still our minds and allow ourselves to hear our own voice and the voice of God. Perhaps this is easier to achieve in a convent than in the outside world, but I have found it *essential* this year with so much to do and so much to learn. I know I'm not alone in this.
- Dooley reaches an appreciation, with the help of the nuns, of the beauty to be found in the ordinary, repetitive and even mundane tasks of everyday life. The monastic life plays out as much in the domestic chores that take place in the convent as it does in the holiness of the chapel. This is something many of us need to hear. Often we don't think that our daily lives are worthy, but whether we are in paid employment, caring for someone, tending our garden, raising children, or whatever, we show up day after day and give of ourselves, and there truly is something beautiful and monastic in that.
- There is clearly a shift in Dooley in the ten days that she lives with the nuns. It feels as though she begins to glimpse a spark of the divine, and she has very frank discussions with the sisters about their faith. The most important thing, they tell her, is to *keep on asking questions* and I think this is great advice. I've realised this year that *curiosity* is a really important quality for a healthy spiritual life, and we must always keep learning and growing as we reach towards God.

Rev Anthea

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

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

### **SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JUNE – TRINITY 1**

10 am All-Age Worship with Baptism – Rev Anthea (Zoom)

### **SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE – TRINITY 2**

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Chris (Zoom)

### **SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY – TRINITY 3**

10 am Café Worship – Gwyn

### **SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JULY – TRINITY 4**

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

## EVENTS

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

2.30 pm FELLOWSHIP - Platinum Jubilee Tea Party

### FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JULY

9.30 am BABY & TODDLER GROUP - (large hall)

### SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY

11.45 am Anthea's Celebration

### THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JULY

2.30 pm MOTHERS' UNION – Maidstone & Me (Rev. Robin Williamson)



## PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022

*'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'* (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

This week we give thanks for:

- God's fatherly love in our lives, a source of true comfort and joy; and pray for all fathers around the world.

Please pray for:

- The safe passage of civilians wishing to leave Ukrainian cities torn apart by the war.
- All displaced people around the world who have lost everything for whatever reason; pray for God's blessing and love on each of them.
- People in the Horn of Africa facing a catastrophic hunger crisis due to the changing weather patterns: pray for provision of nourishing food and clean water; healing for those suffering from malnutrition and hunger; and ask God to bring the rainfall which will lead to abundant harvests and for water sources to spring up again.
- All whose lives are limited by poverty, suffering or worry.
- Ongoing support for the food bank and other organisations helping vulnerable people in Maidstone as KCC review their funding and some commercial food donors have to cut back on their donations.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; for Joan, Gilly, Hazel, Edith, Peter, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Tony, Maureen, Carol, Margaret; and in our wider church for Ruth, Joan, Helen, Meaghan.
- Your own walk with God.

**You may like to use these hymn words during your prayer time this week:**

*O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame;  
a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb.*

## FOOD BANK

Dear all

Hope you are enjoying the summer weather. Although, when I am writing this, it is Friday morning and it is already beginning to feel hot. At least I don't have to wear something formal today for work.

I would like to remind you that the next Food Bank delivery is next week Friday 24 June. Please continue to drop your donations in our green bin right next to the front door at 24 Knowle Road, the road opposite St Paul's Church. We are halfway down the road on the right hand side with a red front door. Alternatively you can give things to me at church or if I am not there put them in the donation basket in the church lobby.

Thank you for your ongoing support to the food bank in prayer, word and deed.

Best wishes  
Allert Riepma