

St Paul's Church



In the last couple of weeks, I've been asked lots and lots of questions around my priesting, not just by the people at church but also by my clients, colleagues, friends and family. And they're all good questions, so let me have a go at answering them:

- *"Why another ordination?"*
The Church of England (and others) recognises three ordinations for clergy; Deacon, Priest and Bishop. I've managed two out of three...I have no plans to go any further!
- *"What's your title now?"*
I am still Rev Anthea, the title hasn't changed.
- *"Are you staying at St. Paul's or moving on?"*
I fully intend to stay at St. Paul's to finish my curacy (I have another two years to go) and if you'll have me, I'd very much like to stay after that in whatever capacity makes sense at that time.
- *"Surely you're going to give up your 'day job' now?"*
I entered in to this process with a very strong sense of my calling as a Minister in the Workplace. God may have other ideas for me at some point in the future but right now, I feel I am exactly where I need to be.
- *"What will be different now you're a priest?"*
This is a much trickier question: To prepare candidates for ordination, we are sent on retreat for three days prior to the ceremony itself. The retreat was particularly good this year I thought. The sessions focused on four aspects of the Eucharist, *Taken, Blessed, Broken, Given*, and the retreat leader was able to share with us how each of these aspects will play into our day to day ministry. Reflecting with my colleagues on her words of wisdom together with a very helpful practical session on presiding at the altar led by the precentor of the cathedral, we all agreed that we felt renewed and ready for the challenges ahead. Apart from the practical outworking of being priested (presiding at the Eucharist and giving blessings), being a priest does just 'feel' different...both a responsibility and a feeling of lightness at the same time. It's very hard to explain.

I presided at St. Paul's for the first time on 10th July, under the guidance of Rev Chris and Jenny Clifton (as server). It's such an honour and a privilege but also so very humbling at the same time. I had worried that I might suffer from imposter syndrome as I stood before the altar, but it very quickly became apparent to me that none of this was really about me and whether I was 'worthy'. Of *course* I'm not worthy, none of us are, but fortunately, this doesn't matter to God who continues to show up despite all of our failings and inadequacies. And isn't that just the most amazing thing when you think about it...that the God whose scarred hands flung the stars in to space (look for that line next time we sing *The Servant King*) meets us in such a simple and yet profound way in the Eucharist? That very thought takes my breath away, and I hope it always will do.

Rev Anthea



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

SUNDAY 24th JULY – TRINITY 6

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Chris (Zoom)

SUNDAY 31st JULY – TRINITY 7

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Robin/Rev Anthea (Zoom)

SUNDAY 7th AUGUST – TRINITY 8

10 am Café Service – Gwyn

SUNDAY 14th AUGUST – TRINITY 9

10 am All Age Communion – Rev Chris

SUNDAY 21st AUGUST – TRINITY 10

10 am Experimental Sunday – Rev Anthea

EVENTS

FRIDAY 5th AUGUST

9.30 am BABY & TODDLER GROUP - (large hall)

SATURDAY 13th AUGUST

3.00 pm ST PAUL'S SOCIAL COMMITTEE - Traditional Cream Tea

FOOD BANK

The next collection will be on Friday 29th July.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 24th July 2022

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

This week we give thanks for:

- Our faith and for knowing that God hears our prayers, helps us and guides us; we pray for peace and for reconciliation and forgiveness in our lives.

Please pray for:

- The people and animals of Western Europe where ferocious heatwaves have caused deadly wildfires forcing thousands to evacuate their homes; pray for the firefighters risking their lives to control the blazes and for hospital staff tending the injured.
- The millions of people living in heat hotspots in Britain and especially for those living in deprived areas, the elderly and the very young who are most at risk from severe heat.
- Compassion and action from all in positions of authority whose decisions can make a difference to the climate crisis; pray for us all as our lives are turned upside down by the extreme weather events, but especially for people living in the poorer areas of our world.
- The Bishops preparing for the Lambeth Conference: fill their hearts, strengthen the bonds of friendship and nurture seeds of new vision.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; and for Joan, Gilly, Hazel, Edith, Peter, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Tony, Maureen, Carol and Margaret; and for Ruth, Joan, Helen and Meaghan.
- Replenish us, that we might shine the light of hope.

The power of prayer may not be easily explained but it can be experienced. Thank you for your prayers.

