

St Paul's Church

This week, it feels as though every time I listen to the radio or turn on the TV, if I'm not being bombarded with Tory leadership candidates slugging it out, my news feed is full of dire warnings about the cost-of-living crisis. It is, of course, genuinely worrying for all but the wealthiest among us, and we will all be wondering just how we might weather the coming storm. We may indeed have some sympathy for the 'rich fool' from Luke's Gospel who we will hear about in our second reading this Sunday; he considers building bigger and bigger barns to store his crops, to future-proof his life from the ravages of bad luck and a poor harvest. What Jesus tries to explain by telling this story is that our possessions alone won't save us, that they give us false comfort. Our faith is more important than the 'stuff' we accumulate, which (as the writer of Ecclesiastes tells us in our first reading) cannot, after all, be taken with us when we die.



This is not, in any way, to play down the very real fears that people have about how they will manage in the face of an uncertain economic future, and as a church, we must do all we can to support our community by continuing to give to local charities such as the foodbank, and by considering in what other ways we can bless those around us.

This includes looking at what is stored in the church itself, and finding ways to re-purpose (or at the very least, recycle) unused items. There is no point in hanging on to things which will never be used, no matter how comfortable their presence makes us feel. To this end, the PCC have agreed to take a good, honest look at the various 'stuff' stored in church and see if it might be put to better use. We have designated Sunday 14th August as our first 'De-clutter Day'. Everyone is invited to help us sort out and rehome unused items stored around the building, but most importantly, if you know of items in church that are dear (or indeed personal) to yourself or others, may we respectfully ask that you make this known to any PCC members? It is absolutely not our intention to dispose of items that are still in use or that hold a special place in people's hearts, and that's why we need your help. If you're able to lend a hand any time between 11.30am – 6.00pm on the day to help us with de-cluttering, it would be very much appreciated.



Not only can we make sure that our unused items go to places where they will be welcomed and cherished, once spaces are cleared, we can then begin to imagine better and more creative ways in which St. Paul's can be a blessing to the worshipping community, our hall users and the wider parish. Thank you all so much, in advance, for your co-operation.

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

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 (Zoom)

SUNDAY 21st AUGUST – TRINITY 10

10 am Experimental Sunday – Rev Anthea (Zoom)

SUNDAY 28th AUGUST – TRINITY 11

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Chris (Zoom)

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
Donations for Raffle Prizes – grateful received

THURSDAY 18th AUGUST

3.00 pm FELLOWSHIP – I am a tulip – Jaqueline Violet

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 31st July 2022

'The joy of the Lord is your strength' (Nehemiah 8: 10)

This week we give thanks for:

- Our young people who are showing their love and care for the environment by campaigning for climate change to be taught in all schools and in all subjects.

Please pray for:

- Countries weary of war and longing for peace and compassionate leadership.
- Greater understanding between races, nations and communities.
- Wise counsel in the choice of the Country's future Prime Minister.
- Rain for areas around the world suffering from the lack of water, causing the failure of crops and the death of people and livestock.
- Our seabirds as bird flu is rapidly spreading through breeding colonies.
- The life of Maidstone Churches, the Deanery and the Diocese as Chapter meets to discuss the way forward.
- 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, Meaghan and Libby.
- God's love to fill the hearts of all who cry out to Him.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Loving God, teach me to greet life with a smile, seeing the best rather than the worst, the good instead of the bad. Help me to spread a little happiness this summer through the joy you have poured into my heart. Amen.

