

St Paul's Church

Dear all,

We have all been reveling in the football results as the England Women's team lifted the Euro 2022 trophy last Sunday – a great achievement and richly deserved, however not all the news recently has been good. None of us can fail to be touched by the tragic event in Boston, Lincs, with the death of the nine-year old girl, Lilia Valutyte, who was stabbed while playing in the street.

An individual has been arrested and further details will probably be forthcoming before you read this. In the meantime, I just wanted to focus on this issue of knife crime, not because I know anything about the subject, but because Maidstone is to host a display to raise awareness of the issue.

That display is in the form of a 'Knife Angel' that will be in Maidstone for a month from 5th September, sited at Lighthouse Church (formerly St Faith's) on Station Road. The 'angel' is an 8.5m high sculpture, designed and created using over 100,000 knives surrendered in nationwide amnesties in 2015/16 and stands as a monument against violence and aggression – it was made at the British Ironworks Centre in Oswestry and has been touring the country.



Volunteers are being sought to be on hand for an hour or so at a time to hand out information and to be a welcome face to those visiting. If you think that you might be able to help, please contact Nigel Downes at nigel.downes@onemaidstone.com.

Blessings,
Rev Chris

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

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

SUNDAY 28th AUGUST – TRINITY 9

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Chris

EVENTS

THURSDAY 18th AUGUST

2.30 pm FELLOWSHIP – ‘I am a tulip’ - Jaqueline Violet

THURSDAY 8th SEPTEMBER

2.30 pm MOTHERS’ UNION – Hop-picking (tbc)

FRIDAY 9th SEPTEMBER

9.30 am Baby & Toddler Group

THURSDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

10.30 am FELLOWSHIP – Seaside Outing – Herne Bay

FOOD BANK

The next delivery will be on Friday 12th August.

PRAYER RESOURCE

for August 2022

‘Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.’ (Romans 12: 12)

This week we give thanks for:

- Summer holidays and outings, for opportunities to see new places, do new things and the chance to renew acquaintance with familiar ones.
- Our loved ones who we no longer see; we remember all who have died in the last few months including Joan and Peter.

Please pray for:

- Peace – in our world, our communities, our churches, our homes and in our hearts.
- Areas around the world continuing to experience extreme weather patterns causing widespread flooding, drought emergencies, ferocious heatwaves and deadly wildfires.
- Time to reflect, to renew energies and to peacefully enjoy August.
- Our young people as they receive their exam results this month and have to make decisions on their futures.
- Summer camps and youth activities which allow young people to relax, make friends and enjoy themselves in a safe and supported environment.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; and for Joan, Gilly, Hazel, Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Tony, Maureen, Carol and Margaret; and for Ruth, Helen, Meaghan and Libby.
- God’s blessing on our lives and on the lives of all who we love and pray for.

You may like to use this prayer during August:

Thank you, Lord, that I can rest easy, secure in your love and peace, knowing that whatever I face, you will be with me, now and always. Amen.

