

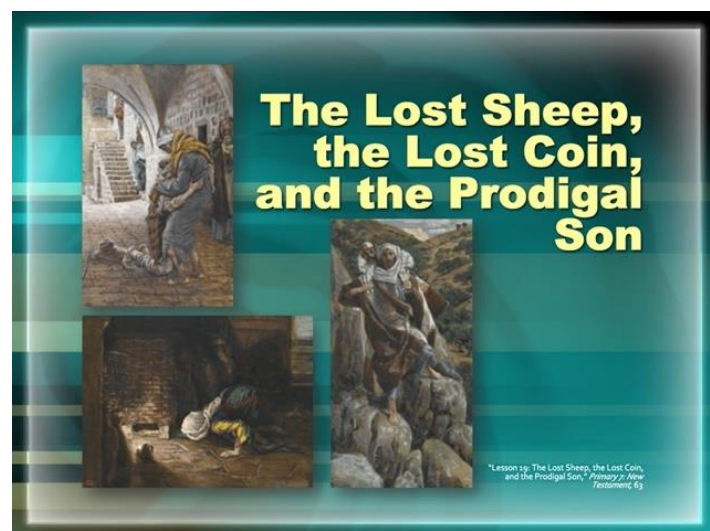
St Paul's Church

Dear All

The eyes of the world seem to be focusing on the events unfolding in London this week, especially the five-mile queue that has formed to see the Queen lying-in-state. Around 400,000 people are expected to wait for up to 30 hours to pay their respects and I for one admire both their dedication and their stamina. I was very interested to see that multi-faith chaplains are there too, offering comfort and conversation, as well as prayer (if they are invited to do so). These chaplains are identifiable by their Hi-Vis vests printed with "Faith Team", and seeing pictures of these people at work has brought me a glimmer of hope in what seems like a very sombre week. We are so very used to hearing that the Church is in terminal decline and yet when momentous things like this happen, people often find themselves ill-equipped to deal with the emotions that surface, and are searching for a place to make sense of them and lay their grief. People gravitate towards places of worship at these times, as we saw ourselves last Sunday when we were able to welcome lots of new faces to St. Paul's.

If any of those people return this weekend (and I hope some of them do!), I think they're in for a treat. Being a 'week 3' service (or 'Experimental Sunday' as I like to call it), the Williams family have been helping to shape the worship and will be leading the service with me. They're being very brave as I don't think any of them have done anything like this before so please be kind and give them lots of encouragement if you're planning to turn up. We'll be looking at the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin (postponed from last weekend) as well as the Prodigal Son, and trying to work out how these ancient stories can speak to us today.

Rev Anthea



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER – TRINITY 14

10 am Experimental Sunday – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER – TRINITY 15

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea (Zoom)

SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER – TRINITY 16

10 am Café Service – Gwyn

SUNDAY 9th OCTOBER – TRINITY 17

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Chris

EVENTS

THURSDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

10.30 am - FELLOWSHIP – Seaside Outing – Herne Bay

FRIDAY 30th SEPTEMBER

7 pm - Craft Group - Church

SATURDAY 1st OCTOBER

5.30 for 6 pm - Harvest Supper (*sign-up sheet at back of church*)

FRIDAY 7th OCTOBER

9.30 pm - St Paul's Baby & Toddler Group

THURSDAY 13th OCTOBER

12 noon for 12.30 pm - MOTHERS' UNION - Harvest Lunch @ 'The Bull'

FOOD BANK

The next delivery will be on Friday 23rd September. Thank you.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 18th September 2022

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for His name's sake.*

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
(Psalm 23: 1-4)*

With the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II, let us take time to pause and pray for her family and for the nation:

Loving God, we give you thanks for the life of your departed servant, Queen Elizabeth II, and remember her contribution to the world, her devotion to duty, her kind, compassionate and understanding nature and the fun and laughter she often shared with us all. We lift up our new King, Charles III, all the Royal Family and those who were closest to her in this time of mourning and remembrance, and thank you that she had a personal Christian faith and described Jesus as an 'inspiration and anchor' in her life. We ask that many be inspired by her faith, commitment to duty and her life of service. May she rest in peace, welcomed by You, her loving Saviour. Amen.

And a special prayer from the Church of England:

Gracious God, we give thanks for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth, for her faith and her dedication to duty. Bless our nation as we mourn her death and may her example continue to inspire us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.