



St Paul's Church



This Sunday's lectionary passage is the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus from Luke 16.19-end. It's an interesting and complex parable that seems at first glance to be about the accumulation of wealth, but is really about what we choose to *see* and respond to as we go about our daily lives.

As Christians, we know that Jesus calls us to '*see*' in a deeper and more finely tuned way. He asks us to be sensitive and alert to the needs of others, both those in our immediate community and those on the outside, and these thoughts are resonating particularly with me at this time as I think about our own church family here at St. Paul's.

I have been delighted to see so many people in church over the past few weeks and I thank God that our church appears to be growing. I meet so many people in my day-job (I'm a full-time hairdresser), and very often, when people spot my collar, they will admit that they have a strong Christian faith but aren't part of a worshipping community. Of course, there may be many reasons for this (including previous bad experiences or practical difficulties) but it makes me very sad to hear because for me, we '*see*' better, we see as Jesus asks us to see, when we do so as a whole worshipping community. Humans are social creatures and when we come together, we can learn from one another. We can be inspired and encouraged by one another; we become bigger and better than the sum of our parts.

We thrive best when nurtured in communities that provide comfort, support, challenge, accountability, inspiration, and fellowship. A person can say that they're a football player, but if they only practice alone by themselves in their back garden, and aren't part of a team that practices and plays together, they won't be as good a player as they could be.

There's no such thing as a perfect church; they're all mixtures of various levels of health and dysfunction, but we hope that here at St. Paul's, we can all be part of a team that helps one another to grow and to *see* and *respond* effectively to the needs of those around us.

Rev Anthea



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

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 (Zoom)

SUNDAY 16th OCTOBER – TRINITY 18

10 am Experimental Sunday – Rev Anthea (Zoom)

EVENTS

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'

THURSDAY 20th OCTOBER

12.30 pm - FELLOWSHIP - Making gift boxes - *Sue Pamplet*

FOOD BANK

Thank you for all the toilet rolls, clothes and food which will be delivered today. The next delivery will be on Friday 14 October.

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PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 25th September 2022

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

This week we give thanks for:

- All who were involved in so many ways in the organisation of Queen Elizabeth's state funeral; pray for the nation as it paid a final farewell to a much-loved monarch and for the Royal Family as they continue to grieve.
- The comforting rhythm of the seasons, bringing beginnings and endings, growth and change.

Please pray for:

- King Charles III as he begins his reign.
- Countries experiencing hurricanes, typhoons, flooding and mudslides; for rescue workers and aid agencies helping people who have lost their homes, family members, livelihoods, crops and livestock.
- World Leaders, that they may reach sensible, well-considered and peaceful solutions to curb serious world tensions.
- All struggling to make ends meet with the high rise in energy, food and all household bills and for all around the world living in poverty.
- 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, Libby and Richard.
- Take time this week to put our world's future in God's hands – for peace, for action on climate change, for greater understanding of the needs of others, for solutions to the humanitarian crisis, and for hope.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

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