

# St Paul's Church

Dear all,

There is a lot of bad news around at the moment. I'm sure that we had all hoped that with the easing of restrictions from the pandemic life would get back to some sense of 'normal' but it is clear that the impact of those two years will be felt in many ways for some time to come, only compounded by the uncertainty around the leadership of the country, the economic situation, the war in Ukraine, climate change and so on.

It is difficult sometimes to find joy in the midst of such things, although I have to say that I did find great 'joy' when I went to a show at the Chichester Festival Theatre just the other week – that show was called 'Crazy For You' by Gershwin. It was light, frothy, fast moving and gave the whole audience a couple of hours of release from the troubles of the world.



A couple of days later I had the joy of baptizing an infant and then just this week meeting another family wanting to get their new addition to the family baptized. Baptism can often be referred to as Christening, and rightly so because it has 'Christ' at the centre. In a baptism service parents and Godparents are asked "Do you turn to Christ" – there is a 'centredness' (if that is a word!) about the person of Christ. There is a modern worship song (actually written in 1999) called 'Jesus Be The Centre' which presents this 'centredness' beautifully;

***Jesus, be the centre***

***Be my source, be my light***

***Jesus***

***Jesus, be the centre***

***Be my hope, be my song***

***Jesus***

***Be the fire in my heart***

***Be the wind in these sails***

***Be the reason that I live***

***Jesus, Jesus***

***Jesus, be my vision***

***Be my path, be my guide***

***Jesus***

(Michael Frye ©Copyright 1999 Vineyard Songs)

In the midst of all the troubles it is good to be reminded that the centre of our being is defined by the person of Jesus Christ whose life and resurrection had, and still has eternal implications for all of humanity, past, present and future. Our 'joy' is found in Him and, for me, brings a new meaning to those words 'Crazy For You'.

Blessings,  
Rev Chris

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

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

### **SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – TRINITY 12**

10 am Café Service – Gwyn

### **SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – TRINITY 13**

10 am All Age Communion – Rev Anthea

### **SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – TRINITY 14**

10 am Experimental Sunday – Rev Anthea

### **SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – TRINITY 15**

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea (Zoom)

## **EVENTS**

### **SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

12 noon ST PAUL'S SOCIAL COMMITTEE - Parish Picnic Penenden Heath - weather permitting (Church Hall if not)

### **THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

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

### **FRIDAY 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

9.30 am Baby & Toddler Group

### **SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

10-6 pm FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES RIDE & STRIDE - (please sponsor our Striders – form at the back of the Church)

### **SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

10.30-1 pm MU Coffee morning in aid of Church Fund

### **THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

10.30 am FELLOWSHIP – Seaside Outing – Herne Bay

## **FOOD BANK**

The next delivery will be on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

**week beginning Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

*'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.'* (Romans 12: 12)

This week we give thanks for:

- The start of the Autumn term: pray for our young people as they start or return to school or college; for school staff; for new hopes and possibilities; and for all beginning new ventures or stepping into new vocations.

Please pray for:

- The start of the Autumn term: pray for our young people as they start or return to school or college; for school staff; for new hopes and possibilities; and for all beginning new ventures or stepping into new vocations
- The people of Pakistan experiencing monsoon floods that have submerged a third of the country, with roads, crops, homes and bridges washed away and many people dead, injured or traumatised; pray that much needed aid will arrive from around the world following Pakistan's cry for help.
- The people of Baghdad as they experience the worst fighting for years – this follows a state of paralysis in Iraq since inconclusive elections in 2021.
- An end to the violence which is hampering relief efforts to deliver much-needed aid to the Northern Ethiopian region of Tigray already in an humanitarian crisis.
- All who are in positions of authority, that they strive to promote a greater understanding between races and nations, that they reach sensible and well-considered solutions to curb the current serious world tensions, and that they promote urgent climate action.
- 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.

**You may like to use this prayer during the week:**

**Lord of all, speak your word and calm the troubled waters of my life. Give me sensitivity in my attitude, humility in my actions and grant me the peace that you alone can give. Amen.**