



St Paul's Church

Dear all,

Friday is Armistice Day and then there will be Remembrance Sunday with both St Nicholas Church and St Paul's Church having acts of remembrance, as close to 11am as possible, as part of their morning services.

Events of this year make Remembrance Sunday particularly poignant. There was the death of Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 8th September. As well as being the monarch her role would have been as "Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England" and she often spoke of how important her Christian faith was to her, drawing on teaching from the bible as inspiration.

The monarch's role is also as Commander-in-Chief of the British Armed Forces. King Charles III now takes on all such duties, as the new monarch, and, as part of that, will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph on Sunday.

Another event that comes to mind is the conflict in Ukraine that started on 24th February this year as Russia invaded that country. Sadly, the result of these actions has been that ordinary lives have been lost, or deeply impacted - through all such tragedies we continue to ask the question WHY? I have no answer other than to try to live by the good example of others and hold on to my faith in God, through Christ, that in the words of the prophet Isaiah (Chapter 2:3-4) from the Old Testament;

**Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.**

Peace be with you,
Rev Chris



RECTORY SUPPERS

We will be hosting these over the three evenings of Tuesday 6th, Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th December at 7pm. Sarah and I will host you in the Rectory and provide a two-course dinner and drinks – all you need to do is let us know that you would like to come (and any dietary requirements) by phone, 01622 297307, or email rev.chris@hotmail.co.uk or sarahlavender59@hotmail.co.uk.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10 am Holy Communion - Rev Chris (Zoom)

SUNDAY 20th NOVEMBER - SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT - CHRIST THE KING

10 am Experimental Sunday - Gwyn (Zoom)

SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER - ADVENT SUNDAY

10 am Holy Communion - Rev Chris (Zoom)

SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER - 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea (Zoom)

EVENTS

THURSDAY 17th NOVEMBER

2 pm FELLOWSHIP '50 ways to tie a scarf' Helen Kendall-Tobias

SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER

12 - 2 pm CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - Boxley Church

SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER

Advent Bring and share lunch (a sign-up sheet at the back of the church)

FOOD BANK

The next delivery will be on Friday 18th November.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 13th November 2022

'Remembrance is acknowledging that a life was lived....' (Leo Tolstoy)

This week we give thanks for:

- People and places grown ever more precious through continued recollection; and where memories are tinged with pain or regret, may we know God's peace and grace.

Please pray for:

- Our Armed Forces serving abroad: pray for their protection and for courage for each task they face.
- God's blessing on all who attend Remembrance Services this weekend and for them to know His love in their sadness.
- Peace in our world; and for the oppressed and exploited, the hungry and homeless, the sick and suffering; help us to hear their cries and to respond in Jesus' name.
- Relationships: with God, with family and friends and Church family, and with strangers and all within your community.
- For those involved this year in the organisation and manning of Maidstone Churches' Winter Shelter; for sufficient volunteers and a safe environment for all; and that the guests will experience true hospitality and God's love and care.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; and for Gilly, Hazel, Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Tony, Maureen, Carol and Margaret; and for Ruth, Helen, Meaghan, Libby and Richard.
- Look back and reflect, allowing God's presence to enhance your memories and bring comfort when remembering difficult times.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Father God, remind me, lest I forget, of the debt I owe – the life made possible through the death of others. Help me to cherish and nurture the things they died for – liberty, justice and peace – so that their sacrifice will not have been in vain. Amen.