



St Paul's Church

Dear all,

This coming Sunday is the Feast of Christ the King and was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI and serves as the last Sunday of the church 'liturgical' year before the start of the new one on the first Sunday of Advent. The Pope instituted the feast day as a reminder of the rule of Christ over the world.

In 1953 Queen Elizabeth II was crowned and as part of her coronation ceremony she would have been presented with the Coronation Orb, as will King Charles III at his ceremony next year. It was originally made for Charles II's coronation in 1661.



The orb is presented to the Sovereign after they have put on the Imperial Robe and is placed in their right hand by the Archbishop of Canterbury who then says; "Receive this orb set under the cross and remember that the whole world is subject to the Power and Empire of Christ our redeemer."

At Christmas, many churches hold a Christingle service. This has become something of a national tradition where 'Christingles' are made using an orange (the world), four cocktail sticks (the four seasons) and sweets or raisins (the fruits of the earth) a red ribbon (the blood of Christ shed for the world) and a candle placed on top (Christ).



Both the orb and the Christingle present a wonderful image of how important we, as Christians, believe Christ to be, not just for us, but for all of humanity from the beginning of all things to the end, and beyond.

As the bible says (from The Message version with contemporary language – COLOSSIANS chapter 1);

We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he's there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so expansive, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.

Have a blessed Feast of Christ the King
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.

A BIG THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who gives regularly to the Church either by standing order, or by envelope or both. At this time of financial difficulties we are so grateful that our congregation continue to give to support St Paul's. As you all know, we need to raise a significant sum of money every year to keep the church going and to pay for our clergy. We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you.

Jan Hudson

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

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

10 am All Age Worship - Gwyn (Zoom)

SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER - ADVENT SUNDAY

10 am Holy Communion - Rev Chris (Zoom)

SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER - 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 am Café Church – Gwyn

SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER - 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 am Holy Communion - Rev Chris (Zoom)

EVENTS

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 9th December.

LIVING WORLD BOOK SHOP

We are sharing the attached information about our new project, the 'Living Word' Christian bookshop at our old charity shop premises at 49 Church Street.

It's an unusual concept as we have a wide range of pre-loved Christian books available for a donation, meaning some cheap Christian books and gifts, set within a lounge area with tea/coffee and cake, and a quiet room. Various groups are also using the space for different activities in the town centre at different times.

We are currently open Saturday 10 - 1pm and increasingly as volunteers come forward (and ad hoc openings in the meantime).

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 13th & 30th 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.