



# St Paul's Church

Dear all,

The First Sunday of Advent is upon us, and we start the journey to Christmas with our usual 10am service this coming Sunday.

We will count down, in church, with our Advent wreath where a new candle is lit each Sunday giving us a developing sense of the coming 'light' of Christ as we consider the principles of hope, love, joy and peace across the four weeks of advent. Details of services, across the season, can be found below.



In the meantime, it is important to consider that there will be many in our communities for which this time of year will bring added anxiety when considering the economic situation that this country faces at this time. With that in mind, if you are able, please be as generous as you can with donations to our Foodbank supplies – apart from the usual essentials of food and toiletries please also include 'treats' as these will be much appreciated.

Jesus said: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor."  
Luke 4:18

Advent blessings,  
Rev Chris

## **CRIB & CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – Christmas Eve**

We are doing things a little differently this year as follows;

2.30pm CHRISTINGLE MAKING - *children must be supervised by an adult (for ages 4-11)*

4pm CRIB & CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Can you help – either at 2.30pm with helping to make Christingles or at 4pm with the special nativity that Anthea is planning? Please see Anthea or Jenny Turner if you can.

## **RECTORY SUPPERS**

We will be hosting these over the three evenings of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rev.chris@hotmail.co.uk) or [sarahlavender59@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarahlavender59@hotmail.co.uk).

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

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

### **SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER - 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

10 am Holy Communion - Rev Chris (Zoom)

### **SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

10 am Café Church – Gwyn

### **SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER - 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

10 am Holy Communion - Rev Chris (Zoom)

### **SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER - 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

10 am Experimental Sunday - Rev Anthea

## **EVENTS**

### **SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

12 - 2 pm CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - Boxley Church

### **SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

ADVENT BRING AND SHARE LUNCH (a sign-up sheet at the back of the church)

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

2 pm MOTHERS' UNION - Advent Carols & Crafts

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

12 noon FELLOWSHIP - Christmas Lunch - Newnham Court

## **FOOD BANK**

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

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

**week beginning Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

*'The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of darkness, a light will shine.'* (Isaiah 9:2)

This week we give thanks for:

- Advent and for knowing that as we journey to meet the new-born Christ, the risen Lord comes with us every step of the way.
- The life of Tony Haisman and pray for Margaret and their family at this sad time.

Please pray for:

- God's blessing on the prayer life of St Paul's, and the difference prayer can make in people's lives and in the world.
- The opportunities Advent and Christmas bring in outreach: for Street Pastors, Workplace Chaplains, the Winter Shelter project and all Churches in Maidstone who regularly open their doors to others; pray that the people of Maidstone may experience God's love in some way in their daily lives.
- In this season of hope and anticipation, for those who are without hope, battling with worry, lonely, desperate for news of a loved one, that the light of Christ will shine in their lives.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; and for Gilly, Hazel, Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Carol, Sandra and Brenda; and for Ruth, Helen, Meaghan, Libby and Richard.
- Our own journey through Advent; that the season may not be obscured by the commercial emphasis on Christmas, and as we make our practical preparations, may we keep sight of the spiritual.

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

*Lord Jesus, open my eyes to your presence, my mind to your grace, my lips to your praises, my heart to your love and my life to your healing. Amen.*