



# St Paul's Church

Dear all,

The days are gradually getting longer, and it is heartening to see the daffodils coming up in the Rectory front garden. These are wonderful signs of new life that point us in the direction of spring.

In the coming weeks, I have quite a few baptisms to conduct, each of which is meeting point between God and those being baptized that also speaks of new life, not physically but spiritually. It is a great privilege to be the 'facilitator' of such a meeting point and whilst none of us know how that will impact their lives, we seek to do our best to make the whole process of getting to know the families concerned, the pre baptism preparation sessions, and then the services themselves, a positive and affirming experience that points all concerned in the direction of the kingdom of God.

We offer prayers of thankfulness for the turning of the seasons and the coming of the light, soon to be accompanied by signs of new life all around and give thanks for those who seek a new spiritual direction as they come to us for baptism. May their lives, and ours, be blessed through the person of Jesus Christ whose birth we have celebrated, whose life we seek to emulate, in whose death we are made whole, and in whose resurrection we have hope.

Rev Chris

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

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

### **SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – EPIPHANY 2 (ZOOM)**

10 am All-Age Worship - Gwyn

### **SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY – EPIPHANY 3 (ZOOM)**

10 am Experimental Sunday – Rev Anthea

### **SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – EPIPHANY 4 (ZOOM)**

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

### **SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY – 3 BEFORE LENT (ZOOM)**

10 am Café Service - Gwyn

## **EVENTS**

### **FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY**

9.30 am St Paul's Baby & Toddler Group

### **SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

Quiz Evening timings tbc

## **NOTICES**

Margaret received the attached Christmas card from Friends of Kent Churches and we thought you would be interested to see that the Ride and Stride on 10 September 2022 raised £98,696.87 excluding gift aid and during the year £181,000 was distributed in 30 grants. Before grants are considered 50% of that which is raised is given to the church that raised the funds and we received back £211.50 in November. St Paul's has previously benefitted from grants from this fund in the past and will hopefully do so in the future. Thanks go to the St Paul's team of riders, striders, welcomers and especially Margaret.

*Sue Willmott*  
*Treasurer*

## **FOOD BANK**

The next food bank delivery will be on Friday 27 January. Thank you for your generosity for the first delivery of this year.

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

**week beginning Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

*'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path' (Psalm 119:105)*

This week we give thanks for:

- The abundance of God's provision, and pray for people who live in poor countries facing floods, droughts, rising sea levels and natural disasters.
- All who strive for peace in our world.

Please pray for:

- Hope for our world, as it continues to face immense challenges with Covid, climate change, economic injustice, poverty, conflict and inequality.
- Compassion for the lost people of our world; we pray that God will provide daily strength and courage to all migrants and all people who have been forced to leave their homes.
- All farmers around the world struggling as harvests reduce year-by-year due to changing seasons and weather patterns and increased risks of drought and floods.
- All who work tirelessly in our churches that they will be re-energised, and that the Holy Spirit will fill them with peace and strength.
- Our Church family: all who are struggling; and for Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Carol, Sandra, Brenda and Charys; and for Ruth, Helen, Meaghan and Libby.
- Strength and confidence to bring hope and joy to all we meet in our daily lives this week.

**You may like to meditate on these words during the week:**

***God be in my head and in my understanding. God be in my eyes and in my looking. God be in my mouth and in my speaking. God be in my heart and in my thinking. God be at my end and at my departing.***