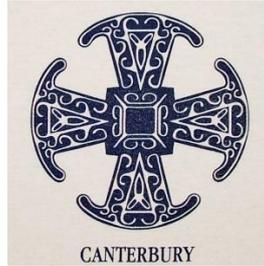




St Paul's Church



Dear all

I'd like to take this opportunity to update you all on the progress of my ministry and how that may play out in the life of St. Paul's.

I'm currently about half way through my three-year curacy, just wrapping up a module on Mission and about to embark on the next module which is Canon Law. (A curacy is a bit like an old-fashioned apprenticeship; mostly on-the-job training with a certain amount of further academic study thrown in.) Last week, Rev Chris and I went to Canterbury for a meeting with Tim Naish, the person who looks after curates in this diocese, and I'm pleased to say that everyone seems happy with my progress so far.

In this meeting, we discussed my role as a Minister in Secular Employment and how I balance that with work in the parish. I had to admit to some frustrations at not being able to do more in the parish through lack of time. This feels particularly poignant as I have recently completed a placement in a primary school in the Rochester diocese which made me sad that we are missing such important opportunities at St. Paul's by not engaging with schools (and other organisations) on our own patch. When Chris and Sarah leave and we enter our period of interregnum, these are the sorts of issues we'll need to be thinking about together as we begin our discernment process and pull together a parish profile in order to seek the best priest we can for our particular set of circumstances. It's a fairly complex process but as soon as we are able to say more about it (it can't be properly discussed while Chris is still in post) please be assured that the PCC and the churchwardens will do their best to involve everyone and keep you all in the loop.

In the meantime, I hope we can give Chris and Sarah a really good send off, and I trust that as many of you as possible will come to their farewell lunch on 12th February. Cash donations for a gift can be given to the churchwardens. (If you need to send money electronically, please email me on anthea.mitchell@sky.com.)

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

SUNDAY 22nd JANUARY – EPIPHANY 3 (ZOOM)

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Chris

SUNDAY 29th JANUARY – EPIPHANY 4 (ZOOM)

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 5th FEBRUARY – 3 BEFORE LENT (ZOOM)

10 am Café Service – Gwyn

SUNDAY 12th FEBRUARY – 2 BEFORE LENT (ZOOM)

10 am All-Age Communion – Rev Chris

EVENTS

FRIDAY 3rd FEBRUARY

9.30 am St Paul's Baby & Toddler Group

SATURDAY 4th FEBRUARY

6.30 for 7pm - Quiz Evening - Teams of 2-6 - £5 per person.

Prizes for winners (prize donations gratefully received - please liaise with Brian)

BYOB - Nibbles, tea & coffee provided.

Contact Anthea 07764 587976 for more information

SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2023

7 pm for 7.30 start Murder Mystery Night - The George V Memorial Hall, Manor Rise, Bearsted, ME14 4DB

Tickets £8 per head Nibbles on the tables, Bar available All proceeds to St Mary and All Saints, Boxley

For tickets please contact Janet 01634 323749 or Penny 07734 409140

FOOD BANK

The next food bank delivery will be on Friday 27 January.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 22nd 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.