



# St Paul's Church



Dear All

Lent began on Ash Wednesday this week and we marked this at St. Paul's with a special candlelit Communion service. The Lenten season lasts for 40 days and is a time set aside for fasting and penitence in preparation for Easter. You'll notice that the colour of the linen in church will change to purple (as it does in Advent) and I'll be wearing my purple vestments, including the beautiful Lenten stole I was gifted by St. Paul's when I was ordained priest last year.

The 40 days of Lent call to mind Christ's fasting in the wilderness and we'll hear Matthew's version of this story on Sunday. (It also appears in Mark and Luke.) The Old Testament passage for this weekend is taken from Genesis and it's the story of Eve and the serpent in the garden of Eden. Obviously the strong themes here are *temptation, desire* and choice, and these are very appropriate themes to consider as we begin our Lenten journey. Traditionally, lots of Christians have chosen to give something up for Lent, partly as a sacrifice and partly as a devotional practice; the point of these observances is to help us become more aware of our dependence on God. All too often, we fall for the fiction that we are in control; that we can fix ourselves; that we were designed first and foremost to love and care for ourselves.

So whether or not you choose to give up anything for Lent, or prefer to add something to each day (like a more disciplined pattern of prayer or a deliberate act of kindness), may this Lent bring you closer to the God who knows you and loves you, and made you for the express purpose of an eternal relationship with you.

Rev Anthea

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

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

### **SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY – LENT 1 (ZOOM)**

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

### **SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH – LENT 2**

10 am Café Service – Gwyn

### **SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH – LENT 3 (ZOOM)**

10 am All-Age Communion – Rev Anthea

### **SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH – LENT 4 (ZOOM)**

10 am Mothering Sunday – Rev Anthea

## **EVENTS**

### **FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

7-9 pm - Craft Group

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

9.30 am - Baby & Toddler Group

### **SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

2.30 pm Afternoon Tea

## **NOTICES**

Annette Vale's funeral will be at Vinters Park Crematorium on Friday 17th March at 12.30 pm and afterwards at the Bull, Penenden heath. Please confirm to Maureen if you will attending for catering numbers.

## **ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL**

You may be interested in the following if you are not already aware. Rochester Cathedral is an easy place to visit and there are 2 good reasons to go

### **Peace Doves**

11th February 2023 - 18th April 2023

*Open daily during Cathedral opening hours. Admission free during the day, charges apply for evenings and special events*

<https://www.rochestercathedral.org/peacedoves>

### **Fenland Black Oak Table coming to Rochester Cathedral**

See the spectacular 13m table made from 5,000 year old fossilised wood

3rd March 2023 - March 2024

<https://mailchi.mp/6fefbc148760/announcing-peace-doves-at-rochester-cathedral-10345726?e=a67404dfc4>

I saw the table in Ely Cathedral last summer. The history of the wood, described in the presentation boards alongside the table, is fascinating and humbling.

An added bonus if you haven't been for years is the café in the fairly newly refurbished crypt which serves light snacks and of course great cake!

*Sue Willmott*

## **FOOD BANK**

The next deliveries will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

### **week beginning Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

*'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.'* (Psalm 46: 1)

This week we give thanks for:

- Our journey through Lent, and may we welcome the Holy Spirit into our homes and our hearts.
- The life of Annette, and pray for her family and friends at this sad time.
- All that we have, and pray for those around the world who have lost everything.

Please pray for:

- The millions of traumatised people caught up in the Turkey-Syria earthquake who have lost loved ones, homes and belongings, livestock and livelihoods, and for those who are badly injured.
- All people to learn the way of justice as the gap between rich and poor widens.
- Countries around the world facing chronic food shortages due to extreme weather conditions, poor harvests and border controls and sanctions.
- God's protection for humanitarian workers doing such vital and constructive work with communities in desperate need of help and hope.
- 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.
- Our Church as we enter an Interregnum and start preparing a parish profile.

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

***Lord, may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. Amen.***

