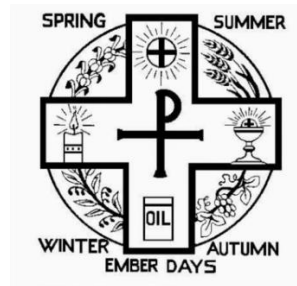




St Paul's Church



Dear all

If you were at St. Paul's last Sunday, you'll have heard me updating everyone on progress so far with our search for a new priest. If you missed it, I said that a 'Hub Group' has been formed who are tasked with compiling a Parish Profile (which is a bit like a turbo charged job advert if you're not familiar with this terminology). I also said that the whole congregation will get a chance to have their say about their vision for St. Paul's and that this will form a large part of the Parish Profile. I'll explain about the consultation process both in church (starting on 12th March) and in the weekly updates (or by post for those not reachable by email). You'll have until Palm Sunday (2nd April) to respond.

This week is actually a very fitting time to begin thinking about these matters because there are three 'Ember Days' this week, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. These are special days that the Church sets aside to pray for those called to Holy Orders, especially those going forward for ordination, although Ember Days are a great time for Christians to pray for all Bishops, Priests and Deacons too. As we turn our attention to the process of selecting our new Priest-in-charge, you may wish to use the following Collect to pray for the person currently unknown to us who will answer God's call to lead us here at St. Paul's:

O God, you led your holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place: Grant that your Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and may uphold them in their work for the extension of your kingdom; through the great Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

SUNDAY 5th MARCH – LENT 2

10 am Café Service – Lay Team

SUNDAY 12th MARCH – LENT 3 (ZOOM)

10 am All-Age Communion – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 19th MARCH – LENT 4 (ZOOM)

10 am Mothering Sunday – Gwyn

SUNDAY 26th MARCH – LENT 5 (ZOOM)

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

EVENTS

SATURDAY 18th 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.

EASTER

Easter is an appropriate time to remember a loved one, relative or friend who has died. One way of doing this is to donate towards the annual cost of church flowers in their memory. During the Easter season a list will be on display in church giving the names of those in whose memory flowers have been donated. If you would like to contribute in this way, please complete the form at the back of the church and place it with your donation in the envelope provided. **To ensure that names are included, please return the slip with your donation to Charys Beswick by Palm Sunday 2nd April.** Thank you

FOOD BANK

The next deliveries will be on 24th March.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 5th March 2023

'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.' (Romans 12: 12)

This week we give thanks for:

- All creation, and pray for wisdom and understanding, and the ability to seek to restore the life of this earth, its beauty and majesty.
- The life of Ronald and pray for his family and friends at this sad time.

Please pray for:

- The people of Ukraine as the war enters its second year.
- All those living through the aftermath of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, and for the aid workers caring for the many displaced, injured and grieving people.
- Those involved in the train crash near Larissa in Greece.
- Migrants risking their lives to get to Europe, and pray for those who were in the boat that was shipwrecked off Italy's southern coast last Sunday.
- The special people who have led us in the way of Christ through their words and deeds; may we, too, be a witness in our generation to the love and faithfulness of God.
- 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.
- Let us reflect this week on our attitude to those who struggle with the circumstances of their lives; when we feel impatient or judgemental, ask God to replace those feelings with his compassion.

The power of prayer may not be easily explained but it can be experienced. Thank you for your prayers.