



# St Paul's Church



Dear all

This Sunday we celebrate Pentecost, the culmination of the Easter season, which follows on from Ascension Sunday last weekend. Ascension and Pentecost are closely linked. The risen Lord is no longer present to the Church in his human form; the Church is now to be the new body of Christ, filled with his life through the gift of the Spirit.

The authorised liturgy for Pentecost (which we will be using on Sunday) is both beautiful and inspiring. It looks back on our journey through the wilderness of Lent, the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, and it invites us to explore what the continuing presence of the Spirit means for us now. So the service on Sunday will be reminiscent of the Easter Day service with which we began the season. We'll light our candles from the Easter candle again as we pray for the Spirit's power to grow together in love, and to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places. Of course, we won't just be looking backwards; we'll be looking forwards too, and remembering that the same Spirit is available to us now, ready to empower us to fulfil our God-given potential as the body of Christ.

The Spirit of God is a great gift to the Church. It is the gift of *belonging* in a deeper and more expansive way to God, our source and our destination. In Acts, we read that the Jews who had travelled to Jerusalem from all corners of the Roman Empire for the great pilgrim festival of Pentecost heard this good news each in his or her own language. It strikes me that is a great metaphor for the Church to aspire to today, and I pray that we might find a way to be *united* with each other in the Spirit of God, respecting each other's opinions and making space for one another, even in our differences.

Rev Anthea

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

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

**SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MAY – PENTECOST (ZOOM)**

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE – TRINITY SUNDAY**

10 am Café Worship – Café Team

**SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE – TRINITY 1 (ZOOM)**

10 am All Age Holy Communion – Rev Anthea to preside and Rev Susan Manners to preach

**SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE – TRINITY 2 (ZOOM)**

10 am Experimental Sunday – Anthea to lead and Nigel from Maidstone Street Pastors to do the talk

## **EVENTS**

### **FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE @ 9.30 am**

St Paul's Baby & Toddler Group

### **FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE @ 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm**

Chicory Tip at Boxley Church - £8.00 per person. Pay in advance or on the door. Nibbles in the interval and bar available. Car parking available. For more information please contact Martin or Penny 01622 687652, Janet or George 01634 323749. All proceeds to St Mary and All Saints, Boxley. Thank you for your support

### **THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE @ 2.30 pm**

Mothers' Union – Treasured Possessions

### **THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE @ 2.30 pm**

Fellowship – Guide Dogs and Good Friends – Alison and Spencer

## **FOOD BANK**

The next delivery will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

**week beginning Sunday, 21<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

*'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'*  
(Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

This week we give thanks for:

- The gift of community - neighbours, friends and colleagues; teach us, Lord, to be generous in the sharing of our time, energy and resources, that together we might make room for all that you want to give.

Please pray for:

- Peace in our world: continue to pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Israel and Palestine.
- An urgent resolution to the situation in Pakistan with the worsening economic situation and impending floods, and for safety and protection as the country faces outbreaks of violence.
- The people of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo as flooding and landslides continue to cause the loss of homes and livelihoods and hundreds of deaths; pray for people to access support and assistance, including essential things like food and clean water.
- The right words to say to people we meet who look to us for reassurance and hope.
- Our Church family, especially for all who are struggling; and for Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra and Brenda; and for Ruth, Helen and Meaghan.
- Our hearts to be strengthened and for a strong resolve to keep praying for peace in our world.

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

***Holy God, kindle in my heart the desire to speak of you, and the willingness to go beyond my comfort zones in doing so. By your love, transform me day by day into your likeness. Amen.***