



St Paul's Church



Dear all

This Sunday, we will be enjoying Café Church at St. Paul's, but the wider Church will be celebrating the Transfiguration of Christ, an awe-inspiring moment of revelation, the realm of the divine breaking through into the ordinary world as we usually see and experience it. (You can read about it here: Mark 9. 2-13, Matthew 17. 1-13, Luke 9. 28-36) This profound encounter offers a glimpse of Christ's true nature as fully human and also fully divine.

The Transfiguration unfolds high on a mountain, secluded from the noise and clamour of the world below. The mountain becomes the 'thin space' where the material and spiritual intersect, where heaven's radiance pierces through the ordinary veil of existence. Jesus, accompanied by Peter, James, and John, ascends this sacred peak, inviting them to witness the transformation that is about to unfold.

As Christ stands transfigured before them, his garments glow with divine brilliance, and his face radiates with a splendour beyond human comprehension. The presence of Moses and Elijah reminds us that God's redemptive plan is at work throughout the ages and that Christ's life, death and resurrection are intrinsically woven into the fabric of human history.

This story invites us to look for the 'thin spaces' in our own lives, those times and places where we catch a glimpse of the divine in the middle of the mundane and the ordinary. I can honestly say that I had a genuine experience of this last week in church at Gwyn's Music and Memories service. Yes, the people whom she had asked to share some of their story with us are familiar faces at St. Paul's, but as they stood before us and spoke about their own journeys, their joys, their struggles and what God has done for them, I certainly caught a glittering glimpse of the divine at work. I would like to thank them all for allowing us to see both their vulnerabilities and their emotions; I thought they all showed much bravery and integrity. For a community that have been without a leader for almost six months now, I am hugely encouraged at the way we have grown, both numerically and in terms of our discipleship. In fact, I consider it to be a minor miracle; well done everyone!

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

SUNDAY 6th AUGUST – TRINITY 9

10 am Café Worship – Café Team

SUNDAY 13th AUGUST – TRINITY 10 (ZOOM)

10 am All-Age Communion – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 20th AUGUST – TRINITY 11 (ZOOM)

10 am Experimental Sunday – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 27th AUGUST – TRINITY 12 (ZOOM)

10 am Holy Communion – David Grimwood

EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 23rd AUGUST from 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Afternoon tea in Mark and Jenny's garden

FRIDAY 25th AUGUST @ 7.00 pm

Church Craft Group

FRIDAY 1st SEPTEMBER @ 9.30 am

St Paul's Baby & Toddler Group

FOOD BANK

The next delivery will be on 24th August.

PRAYER RESOURCE

weeks beginning Sunday, 30th July – 6th August 2023

'The joy of the Lord is your strength' (Nehemiah 8: 10)

This week we give thanks for:

- Our faith and for knowing that God hears our prayers, helps us and guides us: we pray for peace and for reconciliation and forgiveness in our lives.

Please pray for:

- An end to the conflict and violence in Yemen.
- Those living in areas of Europe experiencing extreme heatwaves.
- All who are being forced to leave their homes or abandon their holidays as wildfires sweep across many areas of Europe, including the Greek islands of Rhodes and Corfu and in Spain and Sicily.
- Summer camps and youth activities which allow young people to relax, make new friends and enjoy themselves in a safe and supported environment.
- All recently married couples and for those preparing to be married this month, especially remembering Juliet and Benjamin; pray for loving support from their families and friends as they begin their married life together.
- Our Church family: all who are struggling; and for Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra and Brenda; and for Ruth, Helen and Meaghan.
- The opening of St Faith's Centre by Bishop Rose on Sunday.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Lord Jesus, grant that everything I am, and all I say and do, may resound to your praise and glory. Amen.