



St Paul's Church



Dear all

The Church of England has designated this week as 'Generosity Week', timed especially to coincide with the start of the Harvest season when our thoughts naturally turn to sharing what we have with others. Saying that, 'Generosity Week' isn't really designed to be a celebration of *our* generosity but of *God's* as it is lived out in our churches and parishes.

After years of austerity and a general sense of doom and gloom in the country as a whole, it's all too easy for us to focus on the things we *don't* have, to inhabit a 'scarcity mindset' in the modern parlance. However, this week we are asked to focus intentionally on what we *do* have, all of which stems from the abundance of God's generosity in our lives.

Harvest is such a good time to reset our perspective in this way. Most of us are very willing to bring heaps of food to church at Harvest Festival, knowing that it will be distributed to those most in need in our town, and we'll be collecting food at St. Paul's *this Sunday* as we celebrate Harvest during Café Church. Please bring something along if you are able to do so. For most of us, it's a no-brainer that we should share our spare food with our neighbours; none of us want to think of people in our communities going hungry.

Understandably, we don't seem to feel the same way when it comes to being generous to faceless organisations, even our church, but the truth is that St. Paul's receives virtually no money from the diocese or from the Church Commissioners (the organisation that holds the purse strings of the Church). Without your generosity, our church wouldn't be able to function, and something very important in the life of this community would be lost. So please, if you are able, consider giving to our church regularly. Even a few pounds as a monthly contribution would make all the difference, and would ensure that we can look forward together to a flourishing and sustainable future.

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER – TRINITY 17

10 am Café Worship – Café Team

SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER – TRINITY 18 (ZOOM)

10 am All-Age Worship - the Ven Andrew Sewell

SUNDAY 15th OCTOBER – TRINITY 19 (ZOOM)

10 am Experimental Sunday – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 22nd OCTOBER – TRINITY 20 (ZOOM)

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

EVENTS

THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER @ 10 am – 1 pm

Work Day

SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER 2023 from 2 – 4.30 pm

'DR JAZZ' with LYN FALVEY will be playing at BOXLEY CHURCH (ME14 3DX) (car parking available adjacent to the church) Tickets – Adults £10 and children £5 (to include light refreshments) available from - Gill Munson 01622 630231 or Jackie Saunders 01622 677121. Proceeds in aid of The Friends of Boxley Church (Charity No. 287040) which provides support for maintaining the fabric of the church.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 24th to Saturday, 7th October 2023

'There is nothing that makes us love someone so much as praying for them.' (William Law)

We give thanks:

- For the beauty in the variety of life on earth and pray for the preservation of biodiversity across the world.
- That God knows the seasons of our lives and that no detail is a surprise to Him.

Please pray for:

- The people of Morocco, as children return to school in a number of towns which were hit by the earthquake; pray for the local authorities and the Army as they provide mobile units and transport for students.
- All caught up in the ongoing clashes between rival factions of the Sudanese military, leaving thousands dead since the violence broke out in the capital, Khartoum, and which has now spread to Port Sudan.
- Libya, as the country comes to terms with the devastation caused by the recent heavy floods.
- A swift resolution to the dispute in the NHS between doctors and the government.
- Our Church family: especially Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra and Brenda; and for Ruth, Helen and Meaghan.
- May God help us to be wise with the use of natural resources; we pray for sustainable solutions to the cost of living crisis where the environmentally friendly choices are the most economical and the most beneficial to people and the planet.

You may like to use this prayer during this period:

Creator God, you have fashioned a universe of wonders and made it our home. Forgive us when busyness blinds us to beauty and indifference dulls our delight. Awaken us to marvel at your works and cherish the world you have given us. Amen.