



St Paul's Church



Dear all

At the time of writing, the reasons for (and the aftermath of) Storm Daniel in the Mediterranean region are still unclear. However, it is safe to say that in Libya, thousands have been killed and many more thousands are missing from the coastal town of Derma.

As well as the loss of human and animal life, buildings and property, the impact on the region's environment is nothing short of devastating. Addressing the possible causes of this crisis, the University of Reading has issued a report stating that "climate change is thought to be increasing the intensity of the stronger medicanes [Mediterranean hurricanes] and we are confident that climate change is supercharging the rainfall associated with such storms."

Of course this is not the whole story; compounding the issue is the fact that Libya's infrastructure is fatally weak after a decade of chaos and underinvestment by a political administration split in two, each side backed by different militias and foreign governments.

And so, as we move through this season of Creationtide (1st Sept – 4th Oct), let us pray for God's help, both to become more aware of the ecological challenges facing our world, and also the part that governments and leaders can play in acknowledging and tackling these challenges with courage, wisdom and determination.

*Creator of all life,
we thank you for the precious world you so carefully crafted.
We lament the ways in which humans seek to have dominance
instead of practising care.
We ask that you would humble us and help us to see ourselves
not as separate from creation but as part of it.
Guide us as we seek to turn our gratitude for the earth into care for it,
and let us never forget that to love and care for the earth
is an expression of love and worship of you.*

Amen.

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

SUNDAY 17th SEPTEMBER – TRINITY 15 (ZOOM)

10 am Experimental Sunday – Gwyn

SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER – TRINITY 16 (ZOOM)

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER – TRINITY 17

10 am Café Worship – Café Team

SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER – TRINITY 18 (ZOOM)

10 am All-Age Communion – Rev Anthea

EVENTS

THURSDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 10.30 am onwards

FELLOWSHIP - Sea-side Outing to Deal

FRIDAY 29th SEPTEMBER @ 7.00 pm

Church Craft Group

SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER from 6.30 pm

Harvest Supper

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.

HARVEST

Please contribute to the harvest festival for the Café Church service on 1st October.

Donations can be drop off as for the Foodbank or delivered to church.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 17th September 2023

'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 cycle of the seasons, for beauty and nourishment, and we long for the day when all people will be free to enjoy the perfect gifts of your creation.

Please pray for:

- Morocco as desperate search efforts continue for survivors of last week's powerful earthquake.
- Libya as the death toll rises following a powerful storm which has triggered devastating floods; pray for the government to accept more international aid into the country.
- An end to the destruction of the Amazon Rainforest and other habitats and their associated species; for the continuation of ecological systems which are vital in helping to regulate our climate.
- Pray for all returning to, or starting a new school this term; be with them through all the joys and in any challenges, and give them guidance and encouragement.
- Our Church family: especially Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra and Brenda; and for Ruth, Helen and Meaghan.
- St Paul's as we continue to support each other during the Interregnum.

Loving God, as we journey together through this period of Interregnum, we thank you for your everlasting faithfulness to us. At this time of uncertainty and change we ask that you send us your Holy Spirit to fill us with your vision, energy, and faithfulness in prayer We ask that you help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need and have courage to face our future and embrace the unknown, with praise in our hearts, in loving obedience to you. Amen.