



# St Paul's Church



Dear all

I thought it was time for an update with regards to our search for a new Priest-in-charge for St. Paul's. We are hoping to look in more detail at the parish profile at the forthcoming PCC meeting (Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September) and make sure we've taken all the feedback from various interested parties on board. The Archdeacon and the Area Dean have both been involved in these conversations and have given us their advice. I believe that we are fast approaching the time when we will be ready to advertise the post, in all likelihood as a shared ministry with another parish, probably St. Nicholas, Allington.

I have every confidence that this dual opportunity is a very attractive proposition for a clergyperson. Neither church is a historic building (so maintenance is much less complex); there are no graveyards (which take up an inordinate amount of clergy time); both churches sit in mixed residential parishes with good schools and huge potential for community engagement; both have vibrant and varied worship with excellent lay teams; both have comfortable worship space, good audio-visual equipment, and good quality hall/kitchen space. Our ecclesiology and theology are in the same ball park and there is 'life' in both churches with members willing and able to welcome people of all ages and backgrounds

Of course there are differences between our churches too. St. Nic's has a paid Children and Families Minister who has grown out of the community and has established good links with local schools, youth groups and families over many years. We've not had this privilege at St. Paul's, and our consultation exercise revealed our collective regret that we have so few children in church and little engagement with local schools. A couple of months ago, I became aware of a new Church of England initiative called 'Bubble Church' which is a new Sunday service aimed at 0-7-year-olds (mainly) and their families. This immediately struck me as being perfectly pitched for St. Paul's and so, after obtaining PCC approval, I applied on our behalf to be considered as a pilot church for this scheme. I'm delighted to say that we have been accepted and I couldn't be more excited! Further details will follow as we work things out but if you are interested in joining the Bubble Church team and haven't yet spoken to me about it, please do so as soon as possible.

Rev Anthea

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

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

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER – TRINITY 13**

10 am Café Worship – Café Team

**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – TRINITY 14 (ZOOM)**

10 am All-Age Communion – Rev Anthea

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – TRINITY 15 (ZOOM)**

10 am Experimental Sunday – Gwyn

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – TRINITY 14 (ZOOM)**

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

## **EVENTS**

**SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 10 am onwards**

Ride & Stride

**THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 10 am onwards**

MOTHERS' UNION – Mountain Gorillas – Edna

**THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 10.30 am onwards**

FELLOWSHIP - Sea-side Outing to Deal

**FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER @ 7.00 pm**

Church Craft Group

**SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER from 6.30 pm**

Harvest Supper

## **FOOD BANK**

The next delivery will be on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

from Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> August to Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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

We give thanks:

- For summer holidays and outings, for opportunities to see new places, do new things and the chance to renew acquaintance with familiar ones.
- That whatever difficulties we may face or decisions we have to make, God is with us, we can trust him completely and He will never let us down.

Please pray for:

- Peace – in our world, our communities, our churches, our homes and in our hearts.
- Areas around the world continuing to experience extreme weather patterns causing widespread flooding, drought emergencies, ferocious heatwaves and deadly wildfires.
- Time to reflect, to renew energies and to peacefully enjoy the rest of August.
- Our young people having to make important decisions on their futures.
- 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.
- God's love to fill the hearts of all who cry out to Him.

**You may like to use this prayer during the rest of August:**

**Thank you, Lord, that I can rest easy, secure in your love and peace, knowing that whatever I face, you will be with me, now and always. Amen.**