



# St Paul's Church



Dear all

As I write, we have just marked World Homeless Day, 10<sup>th</sup> October. In this country, this takes the form of a campaign which calls on the Government and all leading political parties to commit to a national mission to end all forms of homelessness. The organisers recognise that this seems an impossible task but remind us that great victories of the past such as women having the vote, once also seemed impossible. Our worship service this weekend is very much focused on homelessness and what we as Christians can do to show love towards those for whom an adequate level of housing security seems out of reach.

Homelessness is a very complex issue; its causes are many and various, but we know that across Britain, over 250,000 families and individuals are rough sleeping, sofa-surfing or in temporary accommodation. There are many charities and organisations working hard to alleviate the suffering of those who find themselves in this position and this Sunday we'll be hearing from Gwyn about local initiatives, and how we too can get involved in supporting homeless people in Maidstone. For my own part, I've been looking into charities that have national and international reach in this arena too, so I'll be sharing some of what I've learned with you through the lens of what we read in Matthew's Gospel about the Kingdom of heaven.

And all this seems horribly real this week as our TV screens have once again been filled with terror and conflict, this time in Israel and Gaza. Far be it from me to wade into this debate but one thing I know for sure is that this latest round of hostility will result not only in death and injury but in high numbers of people once again fleeing their homes and becoming refugees.

We are a community of faith and must respond with empathy, compassion and a commitment to justice. It's easy to despair but there are things we can do; we can support organisations that aid refugees, provide shelter, and advocate for peace, and we can create a welcoming space within our own community where those who have experienced homelessness can find solace and support. It is surely part of our mission to walk alongside those who are on their journey to find a place to call home.

Rev Anthea

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

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

**SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – TRINITY 19 (ZOOM)**

10 am Experimental Sunday – Rev Anthea

**SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER – TRINITY 20 (ZOOM)**

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

**SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – LAST SUNDAY OF TRINITY - Christ the King (ZOOM)**

10 am – Family Service - Gwyn

**SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER – Advent 1**

10 am Café Worship – Café Team

## **EVENTS**

**THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER @ 2.30 pm**

Fellowship: Table - Top Games

**FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER @ 7 pm**

Church Crafts

**FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER @ 9.30 am**

Baby & Toddler Group

**THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER @ 2.30 pm**

Fellowship: Sue Spiel talk on Victoria Wood and Joyce Grenfell

**FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER @ 7 pm**

St Mary All Saints, Boxley 'A Career in the Police Force' A Talk By Julie Parker

£5 per person Licensed Bar Parking All proceeds to the church

**FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER @ 7 pm**

Church Crafts

## **FOOD BANK**

The next collection will be on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

**week beginning Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 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:

- God's endless grace which sustains us, and his love which makes our lives richer; we pray that the light of his love shines on all places of care and on all who stand by and support us.

Please pray for:

- All caught up in the Israel-Gaza conflict: for those grieving loved ones, for the injured, traumatised and homeless, and as the death toll rises, pray for an end to the bombing, rocket attacks, fighting and massacres on both sides and the release of hostages.
- Afghanistan, following the powerful earthquake last Saturday; pray for those who have lost loved ones and medical staff at the inadequately equipped hospitals as they struggle to care for the injured.
- The many families who will find the coming months, as we move into the autumn and winter seasons, hard to manage; pray that those who provide help and support, have the wisdom, knowledge and humility they need; help us to encourage those people who have more than they need to recognise their role in helping others in any way they can.
- Our Church family: especially Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra and Brenda; and for Ruth, Helen and Meaghan.
- An end to the exploitation of earth's resources and humanity's greed, and for the day when all people will be free to enjoy the perfect gifts of God's creation.

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

***Lord Jesus, I shall have this day only once; before it is gone, help me to do all the good I can, so that today is not a wasted day. Amen.***