



St Paul's Church



The Venerable Andrew Sewell (Archdeacon) will be with you this weekend as I am off to see *Witness for the Prosecution* at County Hall in London. Last Sunday I missed Café Church too as I was at the Beaulieu Motor Museum for the final instalment of my husband's much extended 40th birthday celebrations. Although you may not have seen me for a couple of weeks, I have been busy behind the scenes, and this seemed like a good opportunity to explain the parts of my role that are less visible to most of you.

As I am still a curate, I have things to do that are specific to my training. I've just finished the penultimate essay for my final Module (Leadership and Collaboration), and I have filled out my 'End of Curacy Self-Assessment Form' which will be discussed at a final meeting with the diocese in November (although I am technically still a curate until next summer). I regularly meet with my mentor for supervision meetings, and with my local, third-year curacy colleagues for 'Formation Group' where we get to share the sorrows and the joys of our different ministries.

Since I was last with you, I've been getting to know Hollie better (the new curate at St. Luke's), I've attended Chapter (a monthly meeting of deanery colleagues) and have had a catch-up meeting with Archdeacon Andrew. I've been in close contact with the leadership team at St. Paul's to talk about various things like worship, safeguarding and welcome, and I have been preparing for Robin's placement. (Robin is an ordinand from St. Augustine's who will join us in a couple of weeks for a period of three months.) I've also started work on our Christmas services. Very importantly, I have been getting ready to welcome the year One pupils from Sandling School who are coming to St. Paul's for a morning this month to learn more about the church generally, but also specifically about baptisms and weddings.

These things are really only a fraction of the workload of an incumbent and so I mention this as I think it's important to recognise that when we *do* get a new priest (hopefully soon!), we don't have unrealistic expectations of them. They will very likely be looking after another church too and will have a great deal of work to do in the first few months getting to know the churches, the people and the area. I would like to thank you all for your kindness and patience this year as I have tried to straddle paid work and ministry at St. Paul's, and I ask you to pray for the person who will emerge as our leader in the not-too-distant future.

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

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

SUNDAY 29th OCTOBER – LAST SUNDAY OF TRINITY - Christ the King (ZOOM)

10 am – Family Service - Gwyn

SUNDAY 5th NOVEMBER – Advent 1

10 am Café Worship – Café Team

EVENTS

FRIDAY 6th OCTOBER @ 9.30 am

St Paul's Baby & Toddler Group

THURSDAY 12th OCTOBER @ 12.30 pm

Mothers' Union: Lunch at The Bull

THURSDAY 19th OCTOBER @ 2.30 pm

Fellowship: Table - Top Games

FRIDAY 27th OCTOBER @ 7 pm

Church Crafts

FOOD BANK

The next collection will be on 20th October.

THANK YOU

Maidstone care centre wish to express their thanks for the donation of Harvest Goods from St Paul's Church

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 8th October 2023

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

This week we give thanks for:

- Late flowering plants and berries brightening up our gardens at this time of the year.
- The global church; pray for courage, vision and resources to make a difference in all communities around the world.

Please pray for:

- A brighter and more peaceful tomorrow for countries torn apart by war and unrest.
- The situation in Ethiopia, where conflict and the hunger crisis have made life extremely difficult for many people.
- God's healing touch upon Syria six months after the earthquake; pray for comfort, strength and restoration to those affected and divine intervention in the difficult economic situation.
- The rebuilding of The Philippines following the typhoons, and for swift distribution of resources to those who have been displaced, and safety for those assessing the damage.
- Mindfulness of God's call to live generous lives, sharing what He has given to us.
- Our Church family, especially Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra and Brenda; and for Ruth, Helen and Meaghan.
- As we start a new month, let us pray for God's blessing on our lives, our activities and work, on our relationships and as we rest.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Teach me, Lord, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to seek for any reward save that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.