



# St Paul's Church



Dear All

Last weekend, ten of us from St. Paul's travelled to South London to attend the Bubble Church training for our region. It took place in the 'birthplace' of Bubble Church, Ascension Church, Balham, and I have to admit to a teeny bit of 'church envy'...it's a beautiful, historic building and they have a lovely café and really nice loos! I can't speak for the others, but I certainly came back with all sorts of grand ideas for St. Paul's!

My expensive dreams aside, we all had a great day. After a very warm welcome (with lots of good coffee and freshly baked pastries), we settled down to experience a whole Bubble Church service for the first time. It was very fast paced, engaging and colourful with a mixture of action songs, puppets, a Bible story, time for reflection and opportunities for prayer. The service itself lasts no longer than 30 minutes but there is a time of gathering and welcome (with good quality refreshments!) for 15 minutes at the beginning. We could all readily see how this could work perfectly at St. Paul's and be a real blessing to families with small children in our community. The rest of the day was spent learning from others who are already running Bubble Churches what works for them in their context and thinking through how it might work for us. We also had a chance to share ideas about how we'd promote the services in our own parishes and deaneries, and we learnt about the very professional, ready-made marketing that the organisers of Bubble Church would like to make available to us. At St. Paul's we have already bought most of the kit required and will shortly purchase the remainder.

We are planning to run Bubble Church monthly and probably on the third Sunday of the month, but the exact timing is yet to be decided. PCC did debate this on Monday and ideas were put forward, but we'll have to work through the implications of those ideas over the coming few days. We'll need to strike the right balance; of course we want to welcome new people to our church but not at the expense of alienating those who already enjoy what we offer, so there are practical and spiritual matters to attend to.

As I mentioned on Sunday, there are a number of roles for anyone wishing to be a part of Bubble Church so please ask myself or Gwyn if you'd like to find out more. (It's worth saying that we will be taking each and every person involved in Bubble Church through the Safer Recruitment procedure before their involvement can be officially rubber stamped.) In the meantime, please pray for our first ten volunteers, for Bubble Church itself, and for the families who we will come to know and love at St. Paul's as a result of it.

Rev Anthea

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

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

**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent (ZOOM)**

10 am Celtic Worship – Rev Anthea & Jenny C

**SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER – Sunday next before Advent - Christ the King (ZOOM)**

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Robin Williamson & Gwyn

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER – Advent 1**

10 am Café Worship – Café Team

**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – Advent 2 (ZOOM)**

10 am All-Age Worship – Rev Anthea

## **EVENTS**

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

Church Crafts

**SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER**

2.30 pm - Afternoon Tea (large hall)

## **A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL REGULAR GIVERS**

As the year draws to its end, it will soon be time for me to distribute next year's boxes to all regular givers who use envelopes. Thank you so much for all you have contributed. Thank you also to all of you who give by standing order. Many people have increased their giving this year; if at all possible please try to increase your regular giving.

This year things will be slightly different as the envelopes are generic with the number and date to be filled in by the giver. Also this will be the last time I will give out boxes as, from now on, I will give a pack of 52 refill envelopes at the end of each year. This will save a huge amount of paper and will save a significant sum of money.

If you regularly attend St Paul's and would like to start planned giving please let me know, and I will give you a standing order form for your bank. If you are a tax payer I have declaration forms for you to fill in to ensure that we can claim gift aid on all your giving. This is 25p for every pound given. You can reach me on 01622 758995 or at [jan.hudson1@googlemail.com](mailto:jan.hudson1@googlemail.com).

Best wishes to you all

Jan

## **FOOD BANK**

The next collection will be on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

**week beginning Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

*'Remembrance is acknowledging that a life was lived....'* (Leo Tolstoy)

This week we give thanks for:

- People and places grown ever more precious through continued recollection; and where memories are tinged with pain or regret, may they know God's peace and grace.

Please pray for:

- Our Armed Forces serving abroad: for their protection and courage for each task they face; and for those whose lives have been disfigured by war.
- God's blessing on all who attend Remembrance Services this weekend and for them to know His love in their sadness.
- Situations of violence causing suffering in so many parts of the world: Gaza and Israel, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Haiti.
- God's restoration, healing and justice on situations weighing heavily on your heart this week.
- Countries relying on farming for food and income such as Burkina Faso where the climate crisis and ongoing conflict make it harder to grow and harvest crops.
- Children who are hungry and are without warm and safe beds in which to sleep.
- Our Church family and especially for all who are struggling: Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra and Brenda; and for Ruth, Helen and Meaghan.
- Look back and reflect, allowing God's presence to enhance your memories and bring comfort when remembering difficult times.

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

***Father God, remind me of the debt I owe – a life made possible through the death of others. Help me to cherish and nurture the things they died for – liberty, justice, peace – so that their sacrifice will not have been in vain. Amen.***