



St Paul's Church



Dear all

Did you know that Pantone, the colour company, declares a 'Colour of the Year' each year? The exact shade is decided by a team of global experts who look at things like trend analysis, films, art, fashion, travel and technology. The colour that they pick is meant to capture the spirit of the moment, and there's a whole narrative that underpins their decision.

For 2024, the Colour of the Year is *Peach Fuzz*, '...a velvety gentle peach tone whose all embracing spirit enriches mind, body and soul.' According to Pantone, our need for nurturing, empathy and compassion will grow stronger in 2024 as we recognise the need to find moments of respite, creativity and human connection. Their claim is that *Peach Fuzz* is a colour that focuses on the importance of community and coming together with others because it brings a feeling of kindness and tenderness, and communicates a message of caring, sharing and collaboration.

Now, it may be that this strikes you as very clever marketing, or you might even be reading this thinking it's a load of old rubbish BUT don't be too quick to dismiss it because I do believe they've tapped into something of the zeitgeist here. At Chapter on Monday (the monthly meeting of Maidstone Anglican clergy), my colleagues and I were sharing stories of our Christmas services, and we were delighted to discover how full our churches had all been. It really does feel as though more people came to church this year than at any time since the pandemic which is fantastic news. I wonder if Pantone have actually sensed a need or a longing in people to come together and be part of something bigger than themselves?

Of course if they are right, the question for us as Christians is this: What are we challenged to do or be as Christ's hands and feet in this spiritually hungry world? I don't ask this lightly; it's not an easy question to answer in world that seems to have largely rejected organised religion. But answer it we must...we cannot shirk our responsibilities, so I hope that our worship and our preaching in 2024 helps each of us to prayerfully discern how to follow Christ in our own ways, for the benefit of one another and for the glory of God.

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

SUNDAY 14th JANUARY – Epiphany 2

10 am All-Age Worship – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 21st JANUARY – Epiphany 3

10 am Experimental Sunday – Robin Fassenfelt

SUNDAY 28th JANUARY – Epiphany 4

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 4th FEBRUARY – 2nd Sunday before Lent

10 am Café Worship – Gwyn

EVENTS

THURSDAY 18th JANUARY @ 2.30 pm

Fellowship: Bring & Buy Auction

FRIDAY 26th JANUARY @ 7 pm

Church Crafts

SATURDAY 27th JANUARY @ 6 pm for 6.30 pm

1960s-1980s Disco (*bring your own drinks*)

FRIDAY 2nd FEBRUARY @ 9.30 am

Baby & Toddler Group

THURSDAY 15th FEBRUARY @ 2.30 pm

Fellowship: Beetle Drive

FRIDAY 23rd FEBRUARY @ 7 pm

Church Crafts

FOOD BANK

The next food bank delivery is Friday 26th January.

NOTICES

The Advent tea and coffee afternoon with craft fayre was well supported and everyone had an enjoyable time - £360.50 was raised.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 14th January 2024

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

This week we give thanks for:

- Jesus being among us; may He awaken us to discover the treasure we carry and the gifts we have to offer as a church and as people of God.
- The global church; pray for courage, vision and resources to make a difference in all communities around the world.

Please pray for:

- Peace and justice between and within nations and in the hearts and minds of all whose decisions shape the course of history.
- Countries struggling with an economic crisis and high levels of poverty.
- Wisdom as we seek to live well in a complex world; may we be attentive to the cry of mistreated and endangered human and animal life.
- All who seek shelter and warmth this winter, and for all those places where a loving welcome is offered.
- St Paul's and St Nicholas as, together, we pray and work towards appointing a new incumbent.
- Our Church family, especially Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra and Brenda; and for Ruth, Helen and Meaghan.
- God's healing touch on anyone known to us personally who is struggling at this time.

And a Prayer for our Interregnum:

Loving God, 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. Help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need and have courage to face our future, embracing the unknown with praise in our hearts.

Amen