



St Paul's Church



Dear all

Yesterday (Thursday 18th January) marked the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This special week provides an opportunity to focus our prayers as the Body of Christ and speak about and experience Christian unity personally, in our village, town or county as well as engage with what happens at a national level. You may have been in church last week and heard Brian say in the Notices that we are holding a prayer evening at St. Paul's to which our congregation and the congregation of St. Nicholas, Allington are warmly invited. This will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 12th February and I encourage anyone who can make it to come along and meet the people from the church with whom we will share an incumbent. We will be praying for a stronger relationship between the parishes and for our new leader, albeit that interviews are scheduled for some time after this date, so we won't know who it is by then.

The theme of the Week of Prayer this year is based on Luke 10.27... 'you shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbour as yourself' from the story of the Good Samaritan which is a story about challenging the boundaries of who is considered a 'neighbour'. When Jesus is questioned about the path to eternal life, his answer is that we imitate the love of God in the giving of self for one another. Sharing an incumbent will join the parishes St. Paul's and St. Nicholas' together, not in a legal sense but certainly in spirit, so what a good opportunity we have to '...go and do likewise' (Luke 10.37).

Here is the Prayer for Christian Unity this year which you may like to use over the coming week:

God our loving God, we thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit,
the giver of life, who makes us more open to each other,
resolves conflict, and strengthens our bonds of communion.
May we grow in mutual affection
and in the desire to announce the Gospel message more faithfully,
so that the world may come together in unity and welcome the Prince of Peace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

SUNDAY 21st JANUARY – Epiphany 3 (Zoom)

10 am Experimental Sunday – Robin Fassensfelt

SUNDAY 28th JANUARY – Epiphany 4 (Zoom)

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 4th FEBRUARY – 2nd Sunday before Lent

10 am Café Worship – Gwyn

SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY – Sunday before Lent (Zoom)

10 am All-Age Worship – Rev Anthea

EVENTS

FRIDAY 26th JANUARY @ 7 pm

Church Crafts

SATURDAY 27th JANUARY @ 6 pm for 6.30 pm

1960s-1980s Disco (a variety of delicious homemade desserts will be available - *bring your own drinks*)

FRIDAY 2nd FEBRUARY @ 9.30 am

Baby & Toddler Group

MONDAY 12th FEBRUARY @ 7.30 pm (St Paul's Church)

Prayer Evening - Beyond the Interregnum - St Paul's & St Nicholas'

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.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 21st January 2024

'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.' (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

This week we give thanks:

- That we can gather in our places of worship in peace and safety; pray that we continue to grow in faith and love, seeking those things which bring us closer to God and to each other.

Please pray for:

- All who are experiencing severe winter weather; pray too for transport workers trying to keep rail tracks and roads safe and free from ice.
- A renewed determination by world leaders to work for peace and reconciliation, remembering all countries being torn apart by violence, war, poverty and natural disasters.
- All who are experiencing trauma or a serious crisis in their lives, and those who, through ill-health or infirmity, are finding the day-to-day tasks more difficult to achieve.
- God's wisdom to guide us as we care for the environment and help us to share the rich resources of this world gladly and justly.
- Our Church family: especially Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra and Brenda; and for Ruth, Helen and Meaghan.
- Our fellowship with one another this week – strangers and friends; pray that we may nurture and support others, treating everyone with kindness and respect.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Lord Jesus, help me to bring your presence into the lives of everyone I meet. May I shine as a beacon of light, reaching out in the power of your transforming love to show your love to others. Amen.