



St Paul's Church



Dear all

Last weekend I flew off to San Sebastián again for a couple of nights to eat, drink and soak up the unique culture of the Basque region. It's definitely my favourite place in the world so far, and I predict that Philip and I will visit again numerous times. Due to running our own business, we're never able to go anywhere for more than two nights (and even then we have to close the salon for a day), so whatever we choose to do really has to pack a punch, and San Sebastián does not disappoint.

This time, we were more adventurous and explored more of the city that we did in September last year. We have both been learning Spanish since then too, and we had the chance to put our skills to the test as we navigated the less touristy parts of the city to go to local bars and restaurants. We have even learnt a few words in Basque which is such an interesting and unusual language; it's origins are a complete mystery, and it does not bear any similarity to any other language spoken in the world currently. In fact, some of the Basque people trace their roots back to the sons of Noah and their language to one of the tongues that emerged when God scrambled human communication at the Tower of Babel, as recorded in Genesis.

I mentioned last time that one of the hills around the bay is called Mount Urgull and there is a huge statue of Jesus right at the top. The hotel we stay in is set into the rocks at the foot of this hill, and what I discovered this time around as we ventured into the less well-known parts of the city is that the statue of Jesus is a great navigational tool. If you can see Jesus and you're walking towards him, you know you're on the right path. Sometimes you lose sight of him and you have to trust your instincts a bit, but he soon reappears as you emerge from behind some buildings...and it's difficult to explain quite how comforting this is. It struck me forcibly that this is a great metaphor for life. As long as we keep Jesus front and centre in our sights and are actively walking towards him, everything will be OK, even if we are navigating unfamiliar territory.

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY – Sunday next before Lent

10 am All-Age Worship – Rev Anthea

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

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

WEDNESDAY 14th FEBRUARY – Ash Wednesday

7.30 pm – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY – Lent 1

10 am Experimental Sunday and Bubble Church (for congregation) – Rev Anthea/Gwyn

SUNDAY 25th FEBRUARY – Lent 2

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 3rd MARCH – Lent 3

10 am Café Worship – Gwyn

EVENTS

THURSDAY 15th FEBRUARY @ 2.30 pm

Fellowship: Beetle Drive

FRIDAY 23rd FEBRUARY @ 7 pm

Church Crafts

THURSDAY 14th MARCH @ 2.30 pm

Mothers' Union: Look Ahead

SATURDAY 16th MARCH from 5.30 pm

Quiz with Bangers & Mash Evening – Donations £5+

THURSDAY 21st MARCH @ 2.30 pm

Fellowship: Jacquie Grace Dandelion Time

FOOD BANK

The next food bank delivery is Friday 23rd February.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 11th February 2024

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

This week we give thanks for:

- The people we love: thank God for their goodness and take time to pray for them and show them how much they are cared for.
- God's help in the discernment of St Paul's future through our vision, and pray for His presence and guidance during this time of change.

Please pray for:

- Vision and wisdom from world leaders that they may think more deeply and see more clearly so that the decisions made and actions taken, are for the promotion of peace and justice.
- All who have lost loved ones, their homes and livelihoods in the Chile wildfires; pray for the rescue teams trying to reach the hardest hit areas.
- Those who work tirelessly to care for our world; pray that we all value the rich diversity of life and pledge to live sustainably, so that together we can improve our planet and its resources.
- St Paul's and St Nicholas as we work together to appoint a new incumbent.
- Our Church family, especially Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra and Brenda; and for Ruth and Meaghan.
- The opportunities you have to serve Jesus as you care for the needs of others; ask God to help you show His love to all you meet.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for being with me. Thank you for being the sure foundation of my life. Help me to hold fast to your truth, to follow your way and to live my life in your life. Amen