



St Paul's Church



Dear all

I'm writing this on Wednesday 21st February having just done Morning Prayer and I notice that today is an 'Ember Day'. The Church observes several Ember Days throughout the year and these are days set aside to pray specifically for those who serve the Church in its various ministries, both ordained and lay, and for vocations. And of course, this is very much on my mind at the moment, having met on Monday (along with many others) the candidates who were invited for interview for the shared post at St. Paul's and St. Nic's.

I know we're all desperate to know what happened (none more than me!), whether and when we'll be able to welcome a new priest soon, but this information must remain strictly confidential for some time for obvious reasons. We must be patient and wait for those entrusted with the decision-making process to give us the information in an appropriate and timely fashion.

But all of this aside, I think we should use our Ember Days to celebrate how well we at St. Paul's **all** take up our own ministries so readily, each in different ways. If you were in church last Sunday, you'll have seen the first run through of Bubble Church and I was so pleased to have had such great feedback about it. The really amazing thing is that there are TEN people on the Bubble Church team, each playing their part to make sure that it's going to be a success. And there are many other teams that operate at St. Paul's that help fellowship to flourish and church life to run smoothly; the Social Committee, the Worship Team, the Fabric Committee, the Eco Group, the Pastoral Care Team, sidespeople, welcomers, musicians, intercessors, readers and the refreshment team to name a few. And then there are those who reach into the community and share the love of Christ with our neighbours such as the Toddler Group and those who donate and deliver to the Food Bank. We also have a very willing and able PCC, as well as extremely dedicated Churchwardens who go above and beyond what's expected of them.

So I guess what I'm saying is that, although it'll be great to welcome a new priest after all this time, we are a great church already. A new leader would be the icing on the cake of course, but there are already a huge number of people 'in ministry' at St. Paul's and that number is growing. I am proud to be a part of you all.

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

SUNDAY 25th FEBRUARY – Lent 2

10 am Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 3rd MARCH – Lent 3

10.30 am Café Worship – Gwyn

SUNDAY 10th MARCH – Mothers' Day

10.30 am All-Age Worship – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 17th MARCH – Lent 5

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church

10.30 am - LOVE NATURE - Rev Anthea, Jenny Clifton, talk by John Buckingham

(very well respected ornithologist and ecologist)

EVENTS

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+ (bring your own drinks)

THURSDAY 21st MARCH @ 2.30 pm

Fellowship: Jacquie Grace Dandelion Time

EASTER FLOWERS

Easter is an appropriate time to remember a loved one, relative or friend who has died. One way of doing this is to donate towards the annual cost of church flowers in their memory. During the Easter season a list will be on display in church giving the names of those in whose memory flowers have been donated.

If you would like to contribute in this way, please complete one of the forms at the back of church and hand to Charys by Palm Sunday 24th March. If anyone wishes to donate online or using the card machine, please record the donation as 'Flowers' on the 'Payments Form' next to the machine. *Thank you.*

FOOD BANK

The next food bank delivery is Friday 1st March

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 25th February 2024

'Father God, thank you for the examples you have given in your word to help us pray.'

This week we give thanks:

- That God can bring change to our lives if we allow him to; let us put our trust in him and, in turn, help bring God's change to others.
- For our Church building: for all it offers to us and to those who use the premises; may we generously and respectfully care for it.

Please pray for:

- People displaced by conflict, climate change, disaster and poverty: ask God what we can do in response.
- World leaders, that they may show a renewed determination to work for peace and reconciliation.
- Churches around the world that bring deep and lasting transformation to all people, and are hope and beacons of light in a struggling world.
- All who are waiting for help, healing or comfort; pray for someone who particularly comes to your mind, and ask God to show you what you can do to help.
- Vulnerable countries and communities suffering from the impact of climate change; give thanks for the charities who are so committed to campaigning for help for the poorest people on this planet.
- Our Church family: especially Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra, Brenda and Elizabeth; and for Ruth, Meaghan and Linda.
- Your time with God this Lent and place before him any worries or feelings you might be afraid to deal with.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Lord, help me to trust you more, and never to give up hope. Help me to put each disaster into your loving hands, while giving out your love for me to others, in whatever way I can. Amen.