



# St Paul's Church



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Dear all

The days are getting longer, the weather is improving very slightly, and we have some very exciting things happening at St. Paul's this month.

17<sup>th</sup> March is a really important day for us. The Bubble Church team will be launching the first ever Bubble Church service at St. Paul's for our parish. As well as practising, we've been very busy behind the scenes advertising on social media, arranging to go into schools and nurseries, and of course putting up the great big banner outside church (thanks to Mark and Jenny for that!). Please spread the word if you can, pick up a few of the postcards from the back of church and encourage anyone that you know with young children to come along.

Straight after Bubble Church, at the new time of 10.30am, we will have our 'Love Nature' service where eminent ecologist and ornithologist John Buckingham will be giving two twenty minutes talks on the birds in our gardens, how to identify them and what we can do to encourage them. Please do come along and support us. Jenny Clifton has put a great deal of effort into this service, and I know she'd really appreciate you being there.

In other news, Archbishop Justin has confirmed that he will be coming to the St. Paul's Community Meal and service on Maundy Thursday (28<sup>th</sup> March) at 6pm. He sincerely wants to meet the people of our parish as well as the wider deanery, and he is very keen to offer foot-washing during the service itself (at which he will also be preaching). The two-course meal promises to be delicious and I really urge you to come along and invite your friends too. It's not every day that you get a chance to be up so close and personal with the leader of the Church of England and ceremonial head of the worldwide Anglican Communion! It's likely that the event will be promoted on the St. Luke's website (as Gareth is Area Dean) and you will be able to sign up there, but we'll have a sign-up sheet in church too from this weekend to give St. Paul's people priority. If you know you want to be at this event but can't come to church on Sunday, please let Tracey know by replying to this email and we'll add you to the list.

Rev Anthea

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

### **SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH – Mothers' Day**

10.30 am All-Age Worship – Rev Anthea

### **SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> 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)

### **SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH – Palm Sunday**

10.30 am Holy Communion

### **THURSDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH – Maundy Thursday**

6 pm Foot-washing, Community Meal

Service to conclude with Stripping of the Altar – Rev Anthea

### **FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH – Good Friday**

2pm Meditation - Gwyn

### **SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH – Easter Day**

10.30 am All-Age Worship – Rev Anthea

## **EVENTS**

**THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH @ 2.30 pm**

Mothers' Union: Look Ahead

**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH from 5.30 pm**

Quiz with Bangers & Mash Evening – Donations £5+ (bring your own drinks)

**THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH @ 2.30 pm**

Fellowship: Jacquie Grace Dandelion Time

**FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY @ 7 pm**

Church Crafts

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> March.

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

**week beginning Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

*'This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name"' (Matthew 6: 9)*

This week we give thanks for:

- All who show us a true mother's love, and reflect on what that support has meant to us over the years.
- Women around the world boldly standing up against injustice in God's name, often at great personal cost; pray they continue to be empowered by the Holy Spirit as they speak God's words of truth.

Please pray for:

- The dawning of Spring: teach us to plant seeds of hope among our loved-ones, in our churches and our communities.
- Relief for communities suffering from hunger: for rain for crops to grow, for warmth to ripen fruit, for an end to war and unrest, and for the healing of divisions between leaders of governments so that decisive action can be taken to tackle world poverty.
- All who are grieving, especially any young people who have recently lost a Mum or Dad; we pray for children in war-torn areas.
- Those special people in our lives who support and help us; pray for people who are alone and have no one special to turn to.
- The valuable work of the Mothers' Union throughout the world.
- Our Church family: especially Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra, Brenda and Elizabeth; for Ruth, Meaghan and Linda.
- Awareness this Lent of things we take for granted; let us look at ourselves and try to change things we do that could be destroying the environment or violating the human rights of poorer nations.

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

***Thank you, Lord, that whatever life brings, I face it with you, your arms wrapped tightly around me, as a mother embraces her child. Amen.***