



St Paul's Church



Photo by Dids

Dear all

Firstly, a quick update on our first Bubble Church last weekend. It went very well...we had families that we would call regulars and others who we knew less well or not at all. All the children seemed to have a great time and the team really hope that this is the start of something big for St. Paul's. It's a great way to connect with children and families; we do need more help to spread the word but we are confident that we will build a new congregation around this service in time. I'd like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and we are grateful to all of you for your support and prayers.

Now let's turn our attention to this weekend. This Sunday is Palm Sunday which marks the beginning of Holy Week, a sacred cornerstone in the Christian calendar. We begin by commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, hailed as the Messiah-King by adoring crowds. In all likelihood, they saw him as the political leader of their hopes and dreams, someone who would lead them in to battle against their Roman oppressors.

But as we know, a few days later, we find ourselves deep in the solemnity of Maundy Thursday, the night before Jesus was killed. He had his last supper with his friends and washed their feet, and both of these actions will be commemorated next week when we are joined here at St. Paul's by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

On Good Friday, we enter the depths of Christ's passion and reflect once again on his infinite love for humanity and ultimate sacrifice for our redemption. Yet the sorrow of Good Friday gives way to the celebration of Easter Sunday, the pinnacle of the Christian faith. With Jesus' resurrection, death is conquered, sin is defeated, and new life emerges. Easter heralds the dawn of hope and the promise of eternal life through Christ.

I do hope you are able to join us at some point as we journey through Holy Week at St. Paul's, whether that's waving palm branches this weekend, having your feet washed by an Archbishop on Thursday, enjoying a reflective meditation on Good Friday, or bringing the children for an Easter egg hunt around the church on Easter Sunday. You are always very welcome at St. Paul's; we are so grateful that you choose to spend a part of your time with us, and we look forward to seeing you whenever you come make it.

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY 24th MARCH – Palm Sunday

10.30 am Holy Communion

THURSDAY 28th MARCH – Maundy Thursday

6 pm Maundy Thursday – Foot-washing, Community Meal
Service to conclude with Stripping of the Altar – Rev Anthea

FRIDAY 29th MARCH – Good Friday

2 pm Meditation - Gwyn

SUNDAY 31st MARCH – Easter Day

10.30 am All-Age Worship – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 7th APRIL – Easter 2

10.30 am Café Worship – Gwyn

EVENTS

THURSDAY 21st MARCH @ 2.30 pm

Fellowship: Jacquie Grace Dandelion Time

FRIDAY 22nd MARCH @ 7 pm

Church Crafts

FOOD BANK

The next food bank delivery is Thursday 28th March.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 24th March 2024

'When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died; my richest gain I count but lost, and pour contempt on all my pride.'

This week we give thanks:

- For the joy of knowing Jesus and pray for a faithful Holy Week.
- That as Jesus was welcomed when he entered into Jerusalem with palms and shouts of praise, we too rejoice in his coming to us today and pray He may enter into our lives as our Lord and King.

Please pray for:

- Christians around the world praying and preparing for Easter.
- Peace in Haiti as the violence escalates, humanitarian need becomes more critical and the aid response painfully slow.
- The people of Ukraine as Russia continues its invasion and occupation of cities in Crimea.
- Gaza, with the entire population dependent on food aid in order to survive and a famine predicted by July; pray for Muslims as they fast during Ramadan and are unable to get the food they need for their pre-dawn and post-sunset meals.
- The residents and staff at Maidstone Care Centre, and for members of St Paul's leading an Easter Service there in Holy Week.
- Our Church family: all who are struggling, and for Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra, Brenda and Elizabeth; and for Ruth, Meaghan and Linda.
- An increasing knowledge of God's presence and for His light to shine into each of our lives.

You may like to use this prayer during Holy Week:

Loving Lord, may I tread a new path. Hard and stony as it is, may I walk the way of the cross, aligning my poor love with your pure love, remembering that I never walk alone. Amen.