



St Paul's Church



Dear all

There was very exciting news this week about a new walking route that launches this weekend known as the *Royal Kentish Camino*. There are three churches involved and the route is just over 23 miles long so if I'm honest, I'd probably do it in three stages if I were to tackle it (or maybe I'm just feeling a bit pooped as I write this!).

The pilgrimage begins at St, Martin's, Canterbury which is part of the World Heritage site (along with Canterbury Cathedral and St. Augustine's Abbey), and celebrates Bertha who prayed with St Augustine in her private chapel on the site, laying the foundation for the conversion of Kent to Christianity. Bertha was pivotal to her pagan husband King Ethelbert accepting Christianity and together they established the first Christian royal family in England.

The halfway point is St Mary & St Ethelburga Church, Lyminge, where recent excavations uncovered the remains of a church, dated to the time of Queen Ethelburga, daughter of Bertha. These stone foundations are evidence for what is acknowledged as one of the first Christian communities in this country.

The end of the route is St Mary & St Eanswythe, Folkestone, dedicated to Bertha's granddaughter, and Ethelburga's niece, Princess Eanswythe, who is recorded as founding a very early Christian community in the town. Her bones have been preserved in this church ever since. Nowhere else in the British Isles is there a church preserving the relics of its founding saint, so St Eanswythe's shrine is in this sense unique.

This pilgrimage route is important in that it celebrates the achievements of three long forgotten Christian women. The new Camino also offers the chance to explore some fabulous countryside while reflecting on the significant achievements of these women who were pioneers of their faith fourteen centuries ago when it was still very new in England. I've not yet quite managed to work out how to download a map of the route but if any of you are interested in this pilgrimage, do let me know. Perhaps we could get a group together and accompany one another spiritually as well as physically?

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY 28th April – Easter 5

10.30 am - Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 5th MAY – Easter 6

10.30 am Café Worship – Gwyn#

SUNDAY 12th MAY – Easter 7

10.30 am All-Age Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 19th MAY – Pentecost

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church

10.30 am Experimental Worship – Gwyn

EVENTS

FRIDAY 3rd MAY

9.30 am - Baby & Toddler Group

THURSDAY 9th MAY

2.30 pm – Mothers' Union: Grand Canyon Edna & Janette

THURSDAY 16th MAY

2.30 pm – Fellowship: Outing to Great Comp Garden

FRIDAY 24th MAY

7 pm – Church Crafts

NOTICES

Revision of Church Electoral Roll

Notice is hereby given that the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish of St Paul's Maidstone will be revised by the Parochial Church Council, beginning on Sunday 14th April 2024 and ending on Sunday 28th April 2024.

Annual Parish and Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Sunday 12th May 2024 at 12 noon in church

These meetings are held to elect the Churchwardens, PCC members, Deanery synod representatives and to conduct parish business. The APCM is open to all members on the church electoral roll which is displayed at the back of church. Electoral roll application forms are available at the back of church for those of you who would like to be added to the roll this year. All application forms must be returned to the electoral roll officer by the 28th April 2024. The revised roll will be on display from Monday 29th April 2024.

This year we will be electing

- Two church wardens
- Three members to the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
- One member to the Deanery Synod

Again, nomination forms for the above are available at the back of church. All nomination forms should be handed to the PCC secretary before the APCM.

The Trustees' Annual Report and Audited Accounts will be available from 5th May 2024. If you would like to receive a copy by email please let me know your email address.

Jenny Turner

PCC Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer

FOOD BANK

The next delivery will be Friday 3 May.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 21st April to Saturday, 4th May 2024

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

We give thanks for:

- The gifts that God has given each one of us, and for the various ministries within the church.
- The Bank Holiday weekend: for time to spend with friends and loved ones, for the warmer weather and for the simple delights of life that we are able to enjoy.

Please pray for:

- All who have been denied freedom or peace: places where communities have been destroyed, loved ones and homes lost and families separated.
- Our homes, schools, workplaces and shopping areas that they may be places where God's love is seen and experienced in the ordinary things and everyday routines.
- All whose lives have been marred by the past and destroyed by bad memories, hatred, guilt or resentment.
- 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.
- God's love to shine on this struggling world and all its sorrows, and pray for peace among nations, peace in our homes and peace in our hearts.

You may like to use this prayer during this period:

Loving God, you bring hope to broken dreams and show us new possibilities. Renew me with an open heart, an open mind and an open will, ready to follow wherever you lead. Amen.