



St Paul's Church



Dear all

We are running Bubble Church again for the third time this Sunday and the team have been practising hard again as usual. We're really hoping that existing families turn up and that new ones join them, although I must say, staying on top of the publicity is very time consuming. Each time we run, I know that the team are anxious about whether anyone will come; it's actually a great act of faith putting in all the practice hours beforehand and hoping and praying that families will find out about us and come along. We certainly need all the help we can get to spread the word so if anyone has any creative ideas, we'd love to hear them. Initiatives like Bubble Church can take a while to gain traction and so the more people prepared to help the better.

I know I've mentioned before that Bubble Church nationally is currently in its pilot stage until the end of next year. This means that those of us who were early adopters are rightly obliged to keep in touch with its creators to give feedback as well as attend regular training events, in person and on Zoom. This Monday five of the team travelled to Ascension. Balham (the home of Bubble Church) to meet up with the other 'Bubbles' in the South East region, to share our hopes and our concerns, our triumphs and our challenges. We also had a chance to experience the new elements of Bubble Church that have been added since our initial training, including a new 'saying sorry' slot in the service and some new songs.

I found it a really inspirational day and I'm sure the others did too. When Bubble Church was first conceived, the founders had low expectations; they hoped they'd get about five churches signed up. To date, there are 40 Bubble Churches running across the country, all welcoming new families to church, all creating new worshipping communities and showing the love of God to a whole new generation. I truly believe that there is so much potential in this project and over the next few weeks, I hope to enlist the help of our deanery colleagues to help us spread the message to more people.

But as I mentioned, we can't do any of it without your help. If anyone feels that they can help us in any way, either in terms of publicity or bodies on the ground on the day, please speak to Gwyn or myself. Bubble Church could be such a bright and shining star for St. Paul's, and most likely its greatest hope for the future. Even if all you could do is to deliver a few leaflets nearby, that would be such a great help!

Thank you
Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY 19th MAY – Pentecost

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church

10.30 am Experimental Worship – Gwyn

SUNDAY 26th MAY – Trinity Sunday

10.30 am - Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 2nd JUNE – Trinity 1

10.30 am Café Worship – Gwyn

SUNDAY 9th JUNE – Trinity 2

10.30 am All-Age Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

EVENTS

FRIDAY 24th MAY

7 pm – Church Crafts

FRIDAY 7th JUNE

9.30 am - Baby & Toddler Group

THURSDAY 13th JUNE

2.30 pm – Mothers' Union: Bingo

THURSDAY 20th JUNE

2.30 pm – Fellowship: Afternoon Tea Party

NOTICES

SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER @ 3.30PM

Friends of Kent Churches (Ride & Stride organisers)

75th anniversary evensong service - All Saints Church, Mill Street – All Welcome

FOOD BANK

The next delivery will be Friday 24 May.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 19th May 2024

As we pray, let us be open to receive from God all the gifts of the Spirit that he has lovingly chosen for us.

This week we give thanks for:

- God's gift of the Holy Spirit in whose power all things are possible; pray that through the Spirit we may be given the strength and courage we need to be God's children.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom and discernment for all Churches Leaders around the world as they face the many complicated issues affecting the Church today.
- Our troubled world: areas torn apart by violence, unrest, natural and man-made disasters; pray for any situations that have particularly touched your heart this week.
- All who cheer us up when we are sad and lonely.
- God's loving kindness and compassion to fill our homes, schools, places of work and communities; may He guide our relationships with each other.
- Our Church family: all who are struggling; and for Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra, Brenda, Elizabeth and Georgia; and for Ruth, Meaghan, Linda, Stephanie and Alan.
- Reflect on any challenges in your life, and ask God to give you an abundance of the fruit of the Spirit to enable you to face them with hope and grace.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Holy Spirit, unpredictable as the wind, unquenchable as fire, yet gentle as a dove: come now and breathe new energy into my life and new life into my soul, by your gracious power. Amen.