



# St Paul's Church



7 May 1994 – Dr George Carey ordains women for the first time in Canterbury

Dear all

I have very good news for you all this week. It's that time of year again when Canterbury Cathedral gear themselves up for the ordination season, and this year we seem to have a bumper crop! Archbishop Justin will be ordaining 20 deacons (including our own placement student Robin if he passes his last essay!) and Bishop Rose will be ordaining 6 priests. Please pray for all these people, for the communities that they have been called to serve, and for the whole people of God, lay or ordained, that we may be equipped to love and serve in name of Christ. The ordination ceremony takes place on 29<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm and all are welcome to attend.

A couple of weekends ago, there was another special ceremony held at the cathedral to mark 30 years since the ordination of the first women priests in the diocese. Unfortunately, as it was held on a Saturday I was unable to attend, but most of the women priests in the diocese did, and they were invited to wear their robes and process. Other major roles in the service were carried out by women too; there was an all-female verger team and singing by the girls' choir. My friends who were there said that it was a really joyous occasion.

However, all of this good news is, for me, tinged with some sadness. The situation in the Church of England as a whole is not so welcoming in that not all of its roles are *open* to women. Individual churches are even allowed to pass resolutions saying that they do not want a female vicar or indeed the oversight of a female bishop, and plenty do (including in our own deanery). For some, it will be because they do not believe that the Church of England has the authority to ordain women, for others, it is because they believe (apparently on theological grounds) that God created men to be leaders and women to have only a supporting role in this endeavour.

The thing is though there is an inherent unfairness at play here. Individual female priests themselves do *not* have the right to ask for the oversight of an alternative bishop who *does* support the ordination of women if they find themselves in a diocese with a bishop who doesn't. The whole set up seems hideously unfair to me. The last time the Church of England produced statistics (2020), a third of ordained clergy were women and I'm sure that number has risen since. I'm glad to say that we are really lucky in Canterbury; our bishop is a woman as you know, and we have a high number of women clergy in the diocese. Fortunately, both St. Paul's and St. Nic's are very open to women clergy (and indeed men!) so let's all pray very hard that someone fabulous is even now filling in their application form for our vacancy, attracted by our inclusive and welcoming churches!

Rev Anthea

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

### **SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MAY – Trinity Sunday**

10.30 am - Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

### **SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE – Trinity 1**

10.30 am Café Worship – Gwyn

### **SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE – Trinity 2**

10.30 am All-Age Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

### **SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE – Trinity 3**

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church

10.30 am Experimental Worship – Gwyn

## **EVENTS**

### **FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MAY**

7 pm – Church Crafts

### **FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

9.30 am - Baby & Toddler Group

### **THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

2.30 pm – Mothers' Union: Bingo

### **THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

2.30 pm – Fellowship: Talk - Olive Lindsay and Gwen Walker

## **NOTICES**

### **SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE AT 2.30 PM**

The Friends of St Peter's Church in Boughton Monchelsea will be hosting a concert by Sonare, the superb London vocal quartet, who will be singing "The Best of British" in St Peter's Church. Come and join us for this excellent musical event. Cream teas and cakes will be available. Tickets cost £10 and are available from Margaret Greig on 01622 476705, or online from [www.sonarechoir.com/concerts](http://www.sonarechoir.com/concerts)

### **SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER @ 3.30 PM**

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 7<sup>th</sup> June.

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

### **week beginning Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

*'God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children.'* (Romans 8: 16)

This week we give thanks for:

- All we experience through the love of our Sovereign God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- This Bank Holiday weekend, giving many people the opportunity to spend some time with family and friends.

Please pray for:

- Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo so that people are able to live their lives without fear of violence and can return to their homes in safety.
- The heatwave in south and south-east Asia to ease and for cooler weather to return.
- An end to the chaos in the Middle East and for the warring parties to work for creative peace.
- Our young people in the process of taking exams or looking for work; and for those who are struggling with the pressures put on them by the education system or the society in which we live.
- 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.
- Deeper, stronger foundations in Jesus to keep us steady and for the Holy Spirit to build each of us into a dwelling for His glory.

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

***Sovereign God, teach me to live with mystery, and to celebrate each day my innumerable experiences of your love. Amen.***