



St Paul's Church



Photo by Bella White : <https://www.pexels.com/photo/beach-during-sunset-635279/>

Dear all

Last month, I had my final 'sign off' meeting with Bishop Rose where she confirmed that I had 'fulfilled the diocesan obligations concerning the taught IME programme and parish-based training.' Essentially, what this means is that I have successfully jumped through the training and learning hoops I am required to jump through and that I have met the national standards as a minister in the Church of England. She also made it clear that although I had entered this process as a Minister in Secular Employment (an Associate role), she is happy for me to pursue roles of Incumbent status.

More important even than this were her final words in which she exhorted me not to abandon the disciplines of learning and growth. She reminded me that ordained ministers of the gospel are also disciples of Jesus, and if we are to retain the vitality of our calling, we must still engage in and be excited by learning the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. Only in this way, she said, can we become wise stewards and teachers in our service of others.

If you know me at all, you will know that she was preaching to the converted. Nothing makes me happier than learning and devouring information, as the many delivery drivers arriving at my house each week laden with books will attest. I'd like to share with you the best book I have read in recent weeks: it's Chris Russell's *Yearning for the Vast and Endless Sea*, and I strongly recommend this to you. I met Chris during Holy Week because he is the Archbishop's Advisor on Evangelism and Witness. He has a quiet but commanding presence and so, when I came across his book, I thought I'd give it a go. If you're not a natural evangelist (and there are very few who are!), if you've ever struggled with sharing the good news of our faith, this book is for you. As he says in his introduction, before we can evangelise or even witness to others, we have to be grasped by the good news *about* the good news. He says:

"All I seek to do here is to take you to the beach, the edge of the ocean, and lift your head so that we all might live in the wonder of the beauty, goodness and truth that we find before us.

Because it is a vast and endless sea.

It is a pearl so exquisite and captivating that, having stumbled across it, we gladly give up everything to make it our own."

The cheapest place I have found this book is on Eden.co.uk. The link is here:

<https://www.eden.co.uk/shop/search.php?products%5Bquery%5D=chris%20russell>

but it is also available from other retailers.

Happy reading

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

SUNDAY 26th MAY – Trinity Sunday

10.30 am - Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

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

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 24 May.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 5th May 2024

'Prayer transforms our vision of the world, and makes us see it... in the light of God.' (Thomas Merton)

This week we give thanks for:

- Our world which has been made by God and it is good. Let us serve God by taking care of it and valuing what He values.
- God in everyday things; help us to find Him in our daily lives and to always know His loving presence.

Please pray for:

- The people of Kenya as the impact of the continual rain devastates the area, causing rivers and sewers to overflow, roads to be water-logged and homes destroyed; pray for the families of those who have lost their lives.
- Serious commitment by all countries to meet the climate goal of keeping global temperature rises below 1.5 degrees.
- The comfort and peace of the Holy Spirit on all who are broken hearted, and pray for God's blessing on each of us as we journey in faith, walking in the footsteps of Jesus.
- All looking to move location and find new accommodation; pray that we all try to be helpful and supportive neighbours within our local communities.
- Our Church family: all who are struggling; and for Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra, Brenda and Elizabeth; and for Ruth, Meaghan, Linda, Stephanie and Alan.
- This week, let us each try to discover afresh the life changing stories of grace in our midst.

You may like to use the words of this hymn in your prayers this week:

Jesus be the centre, be my source, be my light, be my hope, be my song.

Be the fire in my heart, be the wind in these sails, be the reason that I live.

Jesus, be my vision, be my path, be my guide. Jesus.