



St Paul's Church



Photo by Charl Durand: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/black-and-white-photo-of-a-sprayed-script-on-a-pavement-6486185/>

Dear all

This week, the Church celebrated the feast of St. Barnabas whose story is told in Acts and in some of Paul's letters. He was a very early follow of Jesus, and we first hear of him when he sells land he owns and donates the proceeds for the support of the poor. When people mistrusted Paul because of his previous history as a persecutor of the Jews, Barnabas reassured them and said that Paul was a man who could be trusted. Later, both men travelled far and wide sharing the good news of God's love in Jesus. Born in Cyprus, Barnabas also died there in AD61, martyred for the faith.

Originally known as Joseph, he was given the new name Barnabas which essentially means '**encourager**', and this week, I have been reflecting on the value and the importance of encouragement.

- On Monday, a few of the Bubble Church team were given the opportunity to give a 15-minute taster session to the toddler group at St. Luke's. This was arranged by Laura, their Children and Families minister who had come to Bubble Church with her own children a couple of months ago and loved it. The session went well but what I found really encouraging was that Laura then took the trouble to write and thank us for coming, and to tell us that we'd done a great job, all of which really meant a lot to me.
- On Tuesday evening, I went to a fundraising dinner for The Princess Project held at Frederic's bistro in town. They had sold all 75 of the available tickets and people were very generous buying raffle tickets to raise even more money. It struck me what an encouragement it must be to the people who run this very worthwhile charity to see a room full of people enjoying themselves, willing to part with their cash to further this cause. It's a ringing endorsement of all the hard work they have put in over the years, and I was very glad to see it.
- You may remember that we held a joint prayer service with St. Nic's earlier on in the year to focus on praying for a new incumbent for both parishes. Well, we're doing it again, at St. Nic's this time, at 7.30pm on Monday 24th June, and obviously, we'd like as many of you to come as possible. I've been liaising with Nigel, one of their churchwardens, over the content of the service, and I have to say that I have found myself being encouraged anew, both to look back on the period of interregnum to see where God has been at work, but also to look forward with an enthusiasm for our future. If I'm honest, I have been feeling a bit bleak about all of this but reading through the liturgy that Nigel has prepared, I felt hugely re-energised. If you too are feeling a bit down in the dumps at the uncertainty we've been living with for some time now at St. Paul's, I urge you to consider coming to this service; I think you will be truly inspired.

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY 16th JUNE – Trinity 3

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church

10.30 am Experimental Worship – Gwyn

SUNDAY 22nd JUNE – Trinity 4

10.30 am - Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 30th JUNE – Trinity 5

10.30am - Music and Memories – Gwyn

SUNDAY 7th JULY – Trinity 6

10.30 am - Café Church - Gwyn

EVENTS

THURSDAY 20th JUNE

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

FRIDAY 28th JUNE

7 pm – Church Crafts

FRIDAY 5th JULY

9.30 am - Baby & Toddler Group

SUNDAY 7th JULY

Bring and share lunch 12 noon onwards

NOTICES

SATURDAY 21st 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 on Friday 5 July.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 16th June 2024

'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.' (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

This week we give thanks for:

- God's fatherly love in our lives, a source of true comfort and joy; and pray for all fathers around the world.

Please pray for:

- All countries facing war and unrest; pray for an end to conflicts, the release of hostages, the reconstruction of territories, and urgently needed humanitarian aid for displaced people in struggling areas.
- Political leaders and all of us to take seriously the climate crisis we are facing: to care for and protect our natural world, to love our global neighbours, to pray for and support the many 'green' community events; and, as we go to the polls, take the opportunity to tell candidates about the world we want to see, asking them to tackle climate change, injustice and poverty.
- Our Church as we continue to work together during the interregnum, and for some good applicants to respond to our advertisement for a new incumbent.
- Our Church family and all who are struggling; and for Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Trevor, Maureen, Sandra, Brenda, Elizabeth and Georgia; and for Ruth, Meaghan, Linda, Stephanie, Alan, Laura and Dean.
- May God show us those people in our circle of family, church family, friends and neighbours who are in need so that we can care for them and reach out to them with His love.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Loving God, as you have time for me, help me to have time for others and for you. Amen.