



St Paul's Church



Photo by Anna Tarazevich: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/close-up-photo-of-pink-scrabble-tiles-5939142/>

Dear all

Most of you will probably know by now that I made an emotional announcement in church last weekend to say that I will be moving on to pastures new in October this year. I will miss you all dearly; I don't think it's quite sunk in yet and I know it will feel really alien to be somewhere else at first. You've been such a warm, welcoming and encouraging congregation; I couldn't have wished for better people to spend the last few years ministering with and to. My last day with you will be Sunday 29th September, and I am being licenced by Bishop Rose as the Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew's, Barming Heath on Wednesday 2nd October. You are, of course, very welcome to attend.

As I said at the time, this is not a decision that I have taken lightly. It has become clear to me over the last 18 months that what I had thought of as my unshakeable vocation to be a minister in the workplace has shifted on its axis, and I now see myself fitting more comfortably into a parish priest role. More importantly, I genuinely think that this is what God is calling me to. I can only take a very part-time role at the moment because of my current business commitments, and so because of this and many other reasons, St. Andrew's seemed like a good fit.

Running parallel to this, unfortunately the process of recruiting a new, full-time priest to cover St. Paul's and St. Nicholas has not been plain sailing. We hoped to have someone in the frame by now and be looking forward to them starting but that is not the way things have turned out. I genuinely have no idea what happened at the shortlisting meeting on Monday (the third so far) so I have no news to share with you, good or bad. However, those of us who went to St. Nicholas for the service of prayer at the beginning of the week did pray collectively for a good outcome, and we also had the opportunity to share the positives that had emerged during our interregna. We prayed too that we would be able to discern whether it is God's will that we are patient and continue our search as it stands, or be bold and have the wisdom, courage and creativity to change something about the process if this recruitment round also proves to be unproductive.

I do believe that it's important that we hold on to our faith and trust in God. Our prayers may not be answered in the next few weeks, but they will be answered, and maybe in the most surprising of ways.

Rev Anthea

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY 30th JUNE – Trinity 5

10.30am - Music and Memories – Gwyn

SUNDAY 7th JULY – Trinity 6

10.30 am - Café Church – Gwyn

SUNDAY 14th JULY – Trinity 7

10.30 am - All-Age Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

SUNDAY 21st JULY – Trinity 8

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church

10.30 am Morning Worship – Anthea

SUNDAY 28th JULY – Trinity 9

10.30 am - Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

EVENTS

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

THURSDAY 11th JULY

Mothers' Union: Cream tea

THURSDAY 18th JULY

Fellowship: Teapot Island, Teapot Museum, lunch or afternoon tea

FRIDAY 26th JULY

7 pm – Church Crafts

BOXLEY CHURCH GARDEN PARTY



to be held at The Old Vicarage
on Saturday 29th June 2024
from 2 to 4.00 p.m.
Please bring your own chairs



**TEAS STALLS GAMES TOMBOLA RAFFLE
CAR PARKING**

plus the ever popular **CAKE COMPETITION!!!!!!**

(see recipe on opposite page)

ORGANISED BY THE FRIENDS OF BOXLEY CHURCH - ALL PROCEEDS FOR THE FABRIC OF BOXLEY CHURCH

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, 30th June 2024

'The joy of the Lord is your strength' (Nehemiah 8: 10)

This week we give thanks for:

- The 20 deacons and 6 priests ordained at Canterbury this weekend, and pray for the parishes they will be serving.

Please pray for:

- Livestock farmers in Ethiopia and elsewhere who have lost their cattle due to drought and are desperate for new sources of income.
- People to adhere to advice on how to keep themselves, their homes and their pets cool during this spell of hot weather.
- Coastguards and lifeboat crews as they patrol our shores and risk their lives to save people who find themselves in trouble in the sea.
- All who are going away for holidays this summer, and for those who are unable to have a holiday this year.
- Summer camps and youth activities which allow young people to relax, make new friends and enjoy themselves in a safe and supported environment.
- All recently married couples and for those preparing to be married this summer; may they have the loving support of family and friends as they begin married life together.
- 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, Alan, Laura and Dean.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Loving God, teach me to greet life with a smile, seeing the best rather than the worst, the good instead of the bad. Help me to spread a little happiness this summer through the joy you have poured into my heart. Amen.