



# St Paul's Church



Photo by Megan Andrews

Dear all

This week I was lucky enough to participate in a house blessing. Although I had received some training on this after my ordination, I'd never done it before and didn't know what to expect. Luckily for me, my supervisor (the Very Reverend John Richardson) was there to guide me through it. I couldn't have been in better hands as John has just celebrated 50 years as a priest, many of those as part of a small, handpicked team which specialises in this sort of ministry.

There are lots of reasons why someone might ask for their home to be blessed. Perhaps they have recently moved in to a new house, or they may have been through a distressing time and want to draw a line under it, or (rarely), they may sense that there is something 'not right' and wish to cleanse their home of this feeling. It surprised me to learn that there is a resource of beautiful, authorised liturgy and prayers made available by the national Church to guide ministers as they prepare to enter a house and perform this function.

That said, I believe it's a rare thing for someone to have a house blessing these days and I don't imagine I'll be making a habit of it. When I was growing up though, it felt like the Greek Orthodox priest was in my house every five minutes wafting incense three times around every room. I have to confess that I was suspicious of his motives (he charged every household he went in to!) but on the plus side, it made the house smell divine, and I think my love for incense grew from there.

You don't need to wait for a priest though to ask for God's blessing on your home. I've added one of the authorised prayers below in case you'd like to save it and pray it yourselves from time to time:

Lord God, hallow and sanctify this house  
that in it there may be joy and gladness,  
peace and love, health and goodness,  
and thanksgiving always to you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit;  
and let your blessing rest upon this house  
and those who dwell in it, now and always.  
Eternal and almighty Trinity,  
enfold this home with love;  
indwell this home with joy;  
and build this home in peace,  
evermore and evermore.  
Amen.

Rev Anthea

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

### **SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JULY – Trinity 8**

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church  
10.30 am Morning Worship – Anthea

### **SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JULY – Trinity 9**

10.30 am - Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

### **SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST – Trinity 10**

10.30 am - Café Church – Gwyn

### **SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST – Trinity 11**

10.30 am - All-Age Holy Communion – Rev Anthea

## **EVENTS**

### **FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JULY**

7 pm – Church Crafts

### **FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST**

9.30 am - Baby & Toddler Group (siblings welcome)

### **THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**

Fellowship: Party to celebrate the birthdays of our members 90 and 90+

### **SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER @ 10 am**

Ride & Stride Coffee Morning with cakes

## **NOTICES**

### **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 on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

**week beginning Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 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:

- The summer holidays: for places where we can relax and reflect on the beauty and diversity of God's world, and for those who, for whatever reason, are unable to have time to rest.
- All who risk their lives to save others, especially, at this time of the year, the coastguard and lifeboat crews patrolling our shores.

Please pray for:

- King Charles III and all who took part in the State Opening of Parliament; pray for our Prime Minister, Opposition Leader and other MPs debating the key points put forward in the King's Speech.
- Those in authority around the world, and pray for peace - in the Church, among nations, in our homes and in each of our hearts.
- Protection of all life on earth: help us to prepare for a better future and for the coming of God's Kingdom of justice, peace and love.
- Young people as another school year ends; for God's protection and guidance through the holidays and as they make decisions on their future or tackle new challenges.
- 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, Alan, Laura and Dean.
- This week we pray for All Saints Church, Loose: for a Youth Worker and their building project to accommodate the growing youth groups, and for their church plant and outreach.

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

***Teach me God, to value your word and read it with joy, to meditate upon it with diligence and share it with others, and to put it into practice in my own life. Amen.***