



St Paul's Church



Dear All

December is often the time when we take stock of the past year. News items appear showcasing events that occurred and celebrities who have died in the past 12 months. Personally, we fondly recall our own family and friends who are no longer with us. As the dark nights close in and chill winds blow, we long for those warm summer days and yearn for their return.

What of St Paul's? We started the year seeking a new priest in charge and after much interviewing potential candidates we still await a final result. Anthea's enthusiastic and tireless dedication meant we never felt the lack of a permanent priest. She also enrolled us in Bubble church, which for some has been an unexpected, yet exciting journey. Her move to St Andrews has been quite a wrench for us. One event in the summer stands out especially and that was the combined birthday celebration and reminiscences of several of our 90+ year old members. A truly remarkable day.

What of the future? We have a possible new priest in charge sharing their duties with St Nicholas and bringing fresh energy and ideas. As Christmas approaches, we revel in the excitement of young ones, for whom the days pass far too slowly as they anticipate brightly wrapped presents and perhaps lots of snow during the school holiday.

Our world is seemingly in endless conflict. It's leaders wholly unsuited to the power they wield and desperately in need of Christ's redeeming power. Climate change and all that that entails! However, all is not doom and gloom.

I quote from this Christmas message of King George VI, made in the darkest days of 1939 which still seems apt today:

'I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."'

Brian

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER – First Sunday of Advent

10.30 am - Café Church – Café Church Team

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER – Second Sunday of Advent

10.30 am - All-Age HC – Father Paul Matthias

SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER – Third Sunday of Advent

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church

10.30am Morning Worship – Gwyn

SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER – Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.30 am - Holy Communion – Ven Andrew Sewell

WEDNESDAY 25th DECEMBER – Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.30 am - Christmas Communion – Rev Robin Williamson

SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER – Fifth Sunday of Advent

10.30 am - Morning Worship – Gwyn

EVENTS

SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER

2.30 – 4.30pm - Advent craft afternoon with tea and coffee

THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER

2 pm – Mothers' Union: Advent

THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER

2.30 pm - Fellowship: Christmas Lunch – Toby Carvery, Langley Park

FOOD BANK

The next delivery will be on Friday 20th December.

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 1st December 2024

'The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of darkness, a light will shine.'
(Isaiah 9:2)

This week we give thanks for:

- Advent and for knowing that as we journey to meet the new-born Christ, the risen Lord comes with us every step of the way.
- The life of Trevor Webb: for all he meant to us at St Paul's and remembering how much we enjoyed his excellent organ playing; please pray for his family and friends at this sad time.

Please pray for:

- Opportunities for us all to 'be still and know that God is with us' and make the most of those opportunities this Advent.
- Help and hope for communities facing a bleak winter through lack of food, water, medical aid, secure shelter, loss of livelihood or are living in fear;
- The light of Christ to shine in the lives of all who are battling with worry, loneliness or are desperate for news of a loved one.
- All in the UK affected by the recent heavy rainfall, strong winds and serious flooding; pray for those who have lost loved ones and have had their homes and businesses badly damaged.
- Our Church family: especially all who are struggling; for Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Sandra, Brenda, Elizabeth, Carol, Di and Ray; and for Meaghan, Linda, Alan and Alison.
- Our own journey through Advent; that the season may not be obscured by the commercial emphasis on Christmas, and as we make our practical preparations, may we keep sight of the spiritual.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Heavenly Father, may I feel your presence with me as I journey towards the crib of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Fill my heart with hope that all hearts will be changed to work for peace and reconciliation. Amen.

BOXLEY CHURCH
CHRISTMAS TREE
FESTIVAL

At ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS CHURCH
THE STREET BOXLEY MAIDSTONE ME14 3DX



Friday 29th November 10am -4pm
Saturday 30th November 10am - 6pm
Sunday 1st December 11am - 4pm
Monday 2nd December 10am -4pm

Refreshments available
Christmas stalls
Parking available

For a start to the festive season please bring your family and friends.