



# St Paul's Church



Dear All

As I write this we are in the period between Christmas and the New year, 'Betwitxmas'. The period of expectant waiting over, the birth of Jesus has been celebrated.

For many, families and friends have spent time together, presents have been exchanged, meals shared, news caught up with. For others it will have been a lonely sad time.

As we prepare for the new year we look back over the past year, think of people no longer with us, new life, changes that have happened.

At St. Paul's we continue to be in an interregnum. There have been changes, among other things Anthea has moved to her next parish and we have started Bubble Church for young families. We have welcomed Ministers to lead and celebrate communion with us. We have also said goodbye to some dear friends who will always be missed.

We have formed a closer relationship with the congregation of St Nicholas and have gathered for shared prayer evenings, worked together to discern our needs in a new Minister to lead us into our future ministries, in both of our churches and wider communities.

At this time we are still waiting to hear from the Diocese about when we may have a new incumbent, we all need to keep the situation in our prayers.

Our church life continues to run smoothly with many thanks to our Churchwardens, Mark and Brian and to others who work quietly behind the scenes to make sure things happen as they should. If there is anything that you would like to help with/be part of please speak to Mark or Brian and they will point you in the right direction.

Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter will have started by the time you read this and runs until the end of March. The number of street homeless has increased over the last few months and the work of Maidstone Homeless Care (Day Centre) and MCWS is vital to keep those affected safe and supported on a daily basis. Please keep them in your prayers.

As we move forward into 2025 may we all feel God's love which surrounds us and share it with all we meet both in actions and words.

Wishing everyone a Hope Filled, Peaceful, Blessed 2025.

Gwyn

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

### **SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – Epiphany**

10.30 am - Café Church – Café Church Team

### **SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – Baptism of Christ**

10.30 am - All-Age HC – Rev Brian Stevenson

### **SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – Epiphany 2**

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church

10.30am Morning Worship – Gwyn

### **SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – Epiphany 3**

10.30 am - Holy Communion – Rev Robin Williamson

## **FOOD BANK**

The next delivery will be on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January.

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

*'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light...'*

*(Isaiah 9: 1a)*

We thank God for:

- The birth of His Son that first Christmas, and for the people who He may have sent into our life as a gift, to show us something of himself.
- Every act of kindness shown to us over this last year, and remind us to show our own appreciation with a kind word or deed.

Please pray for:

- The peace and joy of Jesus to touch each person's heart this Christmas.
- God's love and hope to reach every corner of our world.
- All who have been killed or injured this year in war-torn areas, terrorist attacks, road traffic accidents, natural and man-made disasters and in other incidents around the world.
- All who are missing family members this Christmas: for the bereaved or those who are separated from loved ones and for people spending this festive time on their own or in unfamiliar surroundings.
- Our homes and families, and for all whom we treasure.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; and for Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Sandra, Brenda, Elizabeth Carol, Di, Ray and Paul; and for Meaghan, Linda, Alan and Alison.
- 2024, and leave with God the struggles, worries and uncertainties we have faced; as we look ahead, ask God to renew our minds, soften our hearts, transform our lives and give us hope for 2025.

***Hope. Peace. Joy. Love.***

***It is about the light of the world that broke our fear.***

***An Emmanuel. A God who is here.***