



# St Paul's Church



Dear All

If you asked one of the hundreds of children I have taught who I am, they would tell you two things. First, they learned that nothing in life is too big a challenge, and second, Mrs Gayle doesn't stop talking about chocolate and superheroes! I have come from a teaching background that has spanned both primary and secondary schools, spending 16 years teaching within Kent.

My journey from Mrs Gayle to Reverend Claude began many years ago with a sudden call. As I join you on *your* journey, I am thrilled to have this opportunity to be with St Nicholas Allington and St Paul's Maidstone as your Priest-in-Charge.

I have served my curacy at St. Alphege Seasalter, having completed two years mixed mode training with St. Augustine West Malling and the West Sheppey Parish. Before that I was a member of Holy Trinity church, Sittingbourne.

I am married to Lenox and we have five children: Lucas, Ramone, Heather, Ioannis and Christian. The last three are still at home and no doubt you will meet them all in due course. We are also proud grandparents to our first grandson Theo aged 5¾. When I talk of my family it includes my extended family, my parents, brother and sisters, nieces and nephews, who no doubt you will see once in a while.

I love to swim, and in my dreams, one day I'd like to do a joint relay swim of the English channel simply for fun. I would love to have a successful allotment with more than tomatoes and peppers in grow bags, and space to keep my own chickens.

I would love to tell you I play the piano, have a gospel singing voice, enjoy drinking tea and coffee and have perfected baking cakes. Sadly, I can't. As my former pupils could tell you, you're more likely to find me watching superhero movies. And the only thing more exciting than *Superman*: Looking for where the glimmer of The Holy Spirit is at work.

Blessings, Reverend Claude.

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

**SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent**

10.30 am - All-Age HC – Rev Brian Stevenson

**SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church

10.30am Morning Worship – Gwyn

**SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

10.30 am - Holy Communion – Rev Robin Williamson

**SUNDAY 2 MARCH – Sunday next before Lent**

10.30 am - Café Church – Café Church Team

**WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH – Ash Wednesday**

7.30 pm - Rev Robin Williamson

## **EVENTS**

**THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY @ 2.30 pm**

Mothers' Union: 102 Anniversary

**SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY @ 2 - 4.30 pm**

Afternoon Tea & Cake

**THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY @ 2.30 pm**

Fellowship: Games Afternoon

**FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY @ 7 pm**

Crafts

**THURSDAY 13 MARCH @ 2.30 pm**

Mothers' Union: Winter Memories

**SATURDAY 15 MARCH 5.30 pm for 6 pm**

Quiz Evening with 'Ploughman's'

**THURSDAY 20 MARCH @ 2.30 pm**

Fellowship: Robin Williamson

**MONDAY 24 MARCH time tbc**

Licensing Service – Claudette Gayle

**FRIDAY 28 MARCH @ 7 pm**

Crafts

## **FOOD BANK**

The next delivery will be on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

**week beginning Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

*'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:

- That sick and wounded Palestinians have been allowed to leave Gaza for medical treatment in Egypt; pray that more sick people may be allowed to cross the border for urgently needed medical help.
- For St Paul's and for all the ways we can respond as Christians to the needs of our church family and the wider community.

Please pray for:

- West African countries facing significant instability due to the rise of terrorism, an increase in coup attempts and challenges to democracy; pray for families striving to escape poverty amid unstable conditions.
- Families in South Sudan, returning from Uganda, to rebuild their lives with the support of aid organisations and local churches.
- Government action and adequate investment in order to keep UK communities safe and protect infrastructure, as extreme weather events such as wildfires and flooding threaten the world.
- All who live, work and travel through our Parish that they may glimpse something of God in their daily lives.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; and for Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Sandra, Brenda, Elizabeth, Carol, Di, Ray, Percy and Rama; and for Meaghan, Linda, Alan and Alison.
- God's comfort, love and hope to fill the hearts of all who are struggling at this time.

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

***Lord, you shine light in our darkness; we rejoice in your coming and find renewing strength as you dwell among us. May our lives tell stories of hope and our churches reflect your love in our communities. Amen.***