



St Paul's Church



Hello to all of you.

Firstly, thank you for all who were able to come to my installation for both of our churches at St. Pauls 24th March. If you were not able to make it, I would still like to thank you for your heart felt prayers of support. I was and still am truly humbled to be chosen by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to walk alongside you and those to come on our journey to live, to love deeper, to forgive wider, than we ever thought possible.

I have been in the parish since 11th February as I moved into the vicarage, greeted by a food hamper (thank you again 😊). I would love to tell you I am totally unpacked, but the truth is I have hidden boxes in the attic just to make myself feel better!

I have enjoyed dog walking with my dog Buddy which I do most mornings as I prayer walk. Buddy and I even took the opportunity to walk in Penenden Heath, where we met Gill from St Paul's with her two dogs. So, if you see me out dog walking feel free to say Hello!

Indeed, if you are a fellow believer in walking the streets and claiming lost souls for Christ Jesus, hit me up and we can arrange to do this in groups. Jesus intended for us to be in twos as we see in Luke 10 and whatever two or three agree on earth, so shall it be done in heaven.

I have been able to meet a whole bunch of people on Tuesday at the community café organised by Canon Liz. I have met with Tracey and Katie our church administrators, Fiona and Faye our children's, families and school aged pupils leaders...such a long title it probably needs an acronym. (Suggestions on a post card please). To top it all, I had a deanery synod meeting that was positive and vibrant, which is a first! I am secretly looking forward to more of them! Three late nights, and I was lucky to have Rosemary from St Pauls at all of them. St Paul's PCC meeting was longer than usual I'm told. No doubt that was due to me getting up to speed. And as I reflect, I can say I am honoured to be in Maidstone. Expectant for a fresh move from God.

Thank you all for your continued support of prayers and protection upon myself and my family.

Rev Claude.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY 30 MARCH – Mothering Sunday

10.30 am - All-Age Communion – Rev Claude

SUNDAY 6 APRIL – Lent 5

10.30 am - Café Church – Café Church Team

SUNDAY 13 APRIL – Palm Sunday

10.30 am - All-Age Communion – Rev Claude

THURSDAY 17 APRIL – Maundy Thursday

7.30 pm – Maundy Thursday Service – Canon Liz Walker

SUNDAY 20 APRIL – Easter Day

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church

10.30 am - Easter Communion – Rev Robin Williamson

SUNDAY 27 APRIL – Lent 3

10.30 am - Holy Communion – Rev Claude

EVENTS

FRIDAY 4 APRIL @ 9.30 am

Baby & Toddler Group

THURSDAY 10 APRIL @ 2.30 pm

Mothers' Union: Braille

THURSDAY 17 APRIL @ 2.30 pm

Fellowship: Easter Craft Event

SUNDAY 11 MAY @ 12 noon

APM & APCM

ELECTORAL ROLL 2025

This year a new Church Electoral Roll is being prepared (this happens every six years). Every person who wishes to have his or her name entered on the new Roll, whether it is entered on the present roll or not may apply for enrolment.

Forms are available in church and must be returned by **Saturday 26th April 2025** to Jenny Turner to be included in this year's Roll.

FOOD BANK

The next delivery will be on Thursday 17th April.

EASTER FLOWERS

Easter is an appropriate time to remember a loved one, relative or friend who has died. One way of doing this is to donate towards the annual cost of church flowers in their memory. During the Easter season a list will be on display in church giving the names of those in whose memory flowers have been donated.

If you would like to contribute in this way, please complete one of the forms at the back of church, each envelope can be handed in on the collection plate. If anyone wishes to donate online or using the card machine, please record the donation as 'Flowers' on the 'Payments Form' next to the machine. *Thank you.*

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 30th March 2025

'This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name"' (Matthew 6: 9)

This week we give thanks for:

- All who show us a true mother's love, and reflect on what that support has meant to us over the years.
- Women around the world boldly standing up against injustice in God's name, often at great personal cost; pray they continue to be empowered by the Holy Spirit as they speak God's words of truth.

Please pray for:

- The dawning of Spring: teach us to plant seeds of hope among our loved-ones, in our churches and our communities.
- Relief for communities suffering from hunger: for rain for crops to grow, for warmth to ripen fruit, for an end to war and unrest, and for the healing of divisions between leaders of governments so that decisive action can be taken to tackle world poverty.
- All who are grieving, especially any young people who have recently lost a Mum or Dad; we pray for children in war-torn areas.
- Those special people in our lives who support and help us; pray for people who are alone and have no one special to turn to.
- The valuable work of the Mothers' Union throughout the world.
- Our Church family: especially Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Sandra, Brenda, Elizabeth, Carol, Di, Ray, Percy, Paul and Brian W; and for Meaghan, Linda, Alan, Alison and Carol.
- Everyone we meet this week, and that we see all people as your children and share your love with them.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Thank you, Lord, that whatever life brings, I face it with you, your arms wrapped tightly around me, as a mother embraces her child. Amen.