



St Paul's Church



Dear all

X-Factor began on British television in 2004 and it seemed that most contestants only ever wanted to become famous singers, their whole life, ever since they were two or three. Some had great voices and others had charisma and charm with a voice that may not have matched. I must admit, for me it became a cliché phrase, as though saying, "That's all I ever wanted," was enough to get through to the next round. I guess I stopped watching X-Factor when Britain's Got Talent became more popular as Saturday night viewing. Today career choices have changed again. Not many people are saying they want to be an influencer, Youtuber, I guess they are just getting on with it with some degree of success or not. Are there some career choices that are more favoured today than others?

This week's reading comes from Matthew 9.9-13. Matthew first appears in chapter nine of the Gospel of Matthew, where he is sitting at a tax booth. Jesus simply says, "follow me" and Matthew obeyed the call to follow, becoming one of Jesus' disciples. Many of Jesus' disciples, including Matthew, were unpopular choices because of their careers or social standing in the Jewish culture. When Jesus called Matthew to follow him, Matthew was a tax collector. This was a frowned upon profession by most Jews at the time, not because of the idea of taxes but because tax collectors worked for the Roman Empire, which had put extensive pressure on the Jewish people.

It is important to note that Matthew did not choose Jesus, Jesus chose Matthew. None of us chooses Jesus, he chooses us. And Jesus did not ask him if he would take some time to think about the possibility of considering going along with him. The call to follow is in the imperative mood, which is the mood of command. At the command of Jesus, Matthew got up and followed him. Jesus calls Matthew to "follow after" him.

With the other disciples, Matthew spread Jesus' message throughout the Middle East. Some extra-biblical traditions teach that Matthew extended his ministry to Ethiopia, where he was eventually martyred.

Many people who are not Christians today believe that following Jesus would be too costly and definitely boring. What would you say to someone who thought that?

Rev Claude

SERVICES

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER – Trinity 14

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church

10.30 am – Morning Worship – Gwyn

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER – Trinity 15

10.30 am - Holy Communion – Robin Williamson

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER – Harvest

10.30 am - Café Church – Café Church Team

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER

10.30 am - All-Age Communion – Rev Claude

EVENTS

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER @ 7 pm

Crafts

WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER @ 1 – 2.30 pm (small hall)

Coffee with Rev Claude (please note there is another group in the large hall so the car park will not be accessible)

FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER @ 9.30 am

Baby & Toddler Group

THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER @ 12:30 pm

Mothers' Union - Harvest Lunch at 'The Bull'

THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER @ 2.30 pm

Roy Peachey - Mary's Meals

THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER @ 2 pm

Mothers' Union - Quiz

THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER @ 2.30 pm

Craft Afternoon

Mothers' Union - Advent

Christmas Lunch -Venue To Be Decided


The next deliver will be Friday 26 September.


week beginning Sunday, 21st September 2025

This month we celebrate Creationtide and for the next few weeks we will be giving thanks for Creation and praying for climate change issues – the world, the environment and nature.


- All whose lives have been torn apart by the effects of climate change – floods, droughts and wildfires - and awoken us all to the scale and urgency of the crisis, especially for those living in poverty.
- Peace in our world, remembering the people of Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and other areas that do not make the headlines.
- Compassion in our hearts: teach us to love one another more deeply and to walk more lightly on the earth, and the will and wisdom to change our habits for the sake of all.
- Our children and young people as we hear their challenge and may we follow their lead as they help us journey towards a flourishing, sustainable future.
- Encouragement to use water wisely as new figures are revealed by the Environment Agency that in some areas reservoirs have lost more than half of their water following the hottest summer on record.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; and for Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Sandra, Brenda, Elizabeth, Carol, Di, Ray, Percy, Paul and Brian W; and for Meaghan, Alan and Alison.
- Each one of us to choose one small lifestyle change which will benefit the planet.

Let Justice grow. Let Peace come. Let Creation flourish





Prepared to die
Pentecostal



Want to know more about our Priest,
Claude? October is Black & Global
Majority History Month, so why not have

Coffee with Claude

Wednesday October 1st St Paul's Maidstone
1-2:30pm

Monday 6th October St Nicholas' Allington
7-8:30pm

Wildfire
Mandela
Beast

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