



St Paul's Church



“You’re not bright enough to become a vet.”

I’m surprised that I can’t remember the teacher who said this to me. I was acing it in Chemistry, Physics and Biology but once I started these subjects at ‘A’ level it was an entirely different matter.

There must be times in our lives that we have said difficult words to others, or had difficult words said to us. It goes beyond having those difficult conversations with our children that food in the bedroom cannot go on, just because they have exams or with our parents that perhaps they are not coping living alone anymore and the home they have lived in for the last 35 years needs to be sold.

In this week’s reading, Jesus says to a large crowd following him (Luke 14.26)

“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.”

If we have difficult relationships with these people, on the surface it would seem easy. But let’s be honest, like the parables Jesus told, there is a much deeper, richer hidden meaning. Actively hating or loving someone involves being in relationship with them. That relationship of love or hate takes time and energy.

Jesus is simply challenging us to whom or what we put first in our lives. Young and in love reminds me of only thinking about that person, night and day, day and night. Sending letters in the post with the words SWALK on the back. No one else mattered as much as my loved one.

Jesus doesn’t expect us to be infatuated by him, that we can’t eat or sleep, but he does challenge us. Verse 27 “Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

To carry a cross is to live with morals and principles that Jesus had in our modern ever-changing world. Yes, loving ones neighbour is right up there. Helping the orphans and the widows, today that may look like giving to charities, food bank or volunteering.

When I taught it was so easy to get so much done when the pupils weren’t in the class, but once they set foot in the door, they simply slowed me down and tested the skills I had as a teacher. Leaning back on their chair, chewing gum that wasn’t allowed in school, relentless loud talking and simply not doing the task I had asked them to do in order that they could learn.

I wonder if you feel like that as a Christian? I could follow Jesus teaching so much better if there weren’t all these challenges in the modern world. It was so much easier 30, 40, 50 years ago. We have no space in this country to house everyone. I’m happy giving to charities to feed people in other countries. What happened to male and female, I don’t get what non-binary is about? Why can’t people just do what we’ve always done? All this change is stupid. Even apple crumble, some people are putting oats and nutmeg on top!

“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.”

Love Christ.

“Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”
Love my ways and be moved into action for the things that break my heart.

Rev Claude

SERVICES

SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER – Trinity 12

10.30 am - Café Church – Café Church Team

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER – Trinity 13

10.30 am - All-Age Communion – Rev Claude

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

EVENTS

FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER @ 9.30 am

Baby & Toddler Group

MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER @ 7 pm

Prayer Meeting – St Paul's

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER @ 7 pm

Crafts

FOOD BANK

The next deliver will be Friday 26 September.

PRAYER RESOURCE

for two weeks beginning Sunday, 7 September 2025

‘Prayer transforms our vision of the world, and makes us see it... in the light of God.’ (Thomas Merton)

We give thanks for:

- The start of Autumn: our young people as they go back to school or college after the Summer break, and school staff as they work hard to help everyone to learn and grow, as well as stay safe.

Please pray for:

- World leaders to strive for peace and harmony, and to end wars and needless destruction.
- People who live in the Marra Mountain region of western Sudan where, due to heavy rain, a landslide has wiped out whole communities; and that a way can be found for humanitarian aid to be urgently delivered to this remote area.
- All caught up in the Afghanistan earthquake: for the injured and bereaved and for the rescuers continuing to search for survivors.
- County Councils, forced to scale back or delay non-statutory but vital preventative services, as they try to find new efficiencies to tackle the financial challenges amid increasing demand.
- 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.
- As we start a new month and season, let us pray for God's blessing on our lives, activities and work, on our relationships and as we rest.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Lord, you are the centre of our changing and challenging world – your presence unseen but heard through heart, mind and imagination. Calm my fears and anxieties for the future with your love. Amen.

* SCHOOL PASTORS *

Friendship Safety Care

TRAINING STARTS

**Saturday 4th October at
Allington Baptist Church**



If you are not sure what School Pastors do, how they help young people, schools and the community, please visit: www.schoolpastors.org.uk



7 training sessions and uniform provided at no cost to you. Can you give between 2 - 8 hours a month to help our youngsters?

Please contact us as below

You can make a difference to a young person by listening and talking to them!

To find out more please email: maidstone@schoolpastors.org.uk