



# St Paul's Church



## Centring Our Hearts

One of the most important biblical topics is your own heart. Throughout the biblical story, God shows that He is not nearly as interested in your money, time, or service as much as He is your heart.

Why is this important? Jesus taught his disciples that the heart is the centre of our lives. Our emotions and our desires flow from the condition of our heart. If God gets access to our heart, then the rest of our lives follow after.

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. The things that we treasure in our life reveal where our heart truly is. The things that we think about, the things that drive you, the things that keep you up at night, the way we aspire to look, our children being the centre of our lives, the things we spend our money on, focusing on how many people come to our church and the type of people we want in our church, the list is endless. Ultimately, where our time and energy is focused—that is where our heart is.

But it's not enough to just not let our hearts dwell on those things. Instead, we need to train our hearts to dwell on Jesus. The apostle Paul encourages us to dwell on the things that are of God:

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

Philippians 4:8 NIV

This type of thinking moves our heart to cherish Jesus as our treasure above everything else on earth.

If you're honest with yourself, where would you say your treasure is currently? What are the things you devote your time to and spend your money on? Consider how those things reveal where your heart truly is. Spending time in God's Word and in prayer are great ways to reorient our hearts back toward God.

Taken from You version.

*Rev Claude*

## **SERVICES**

### **SUNDAY 18 JANUARY – Epiphany 2**

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church

10.30 am – Morning Worship – Gwyn

### **SUNDAY 25 JANUARY – Conversion of Paul**

10.30 am – Holy Communion – Rev Claude

### **SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY – Epiphany 4**

10.30 am - Café Service – Café Church Team

### **SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY – Epiphany 5**

10.30 am – All-Age Worship – Rev Claude

## **EVENTS**

### **SUNDAY 25 JANUARY**

St Paul's Day – Baked Potato Lunch after the service

### **FRIDAY 30 JANUARY @ 7 pm**

Church Crafts

### **FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY @ 9.30 am**

Baby & Toddler Group

### **THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY @ 2.30 pm**

Mothers' Union: 103<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Tea

### **THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY @ 2.30 pm**

Fellowship: Life on an African Mission

### **FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY @ 7 pm**

Church Crafts

### **FRIDAY 6 MARCH @ 9.30 am**

Baby & Toddler Group

### **THURSDAY 12 MARCH @ 2.30 pm**

Mothers' Union: Bible Market – A.F.I.A

### **THURSDAY 19 MARCH @ 2.30 pm**

Fellowship: Games Afternoon

### **SATURDAY 21 MARCH - time tbc**

Quiz & Ploughman's

### **SUNDAY 22 MARCH**

Lunch after the service

### **FRIDAY 27 MARCH @ 7 pm**

Church Crafts

## **FOOD BANK**

The next delivery will be on Friday 30 January.

## **VACANCY @ ST LUKE'S**

Please see link below:

[Operations Manager \(Part-Time\) - St. Luke's Maidstone](#)

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

**for two weeks beginning Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

*'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path' (Psalm 119:105)*

This week we give thanks for:

- The abundance of God's provision, and pray for people who live in poor countries facing floods, droughts, rising sea levels and natural disasters.
- All who strive for peace in our world.

Please pray for:

- Hope for our world, as it continues to face immense challenges with war and unrest, climate change, economic injustice, poverty and inequality.
- Compassion for the lost people of our world; we pray that God will provide daily strength and courage to migrants and all people who have been forced to leave their homes.
- Farmers around the world struggling as harvests reduce year-by-year due to changing seasons, weather patterns and increased risks of drought and floods.
- God's light of wisdom to shine on the churches of our diocese, that we might discern the things He is asking us to prioritise.
- Our Church family: all who are struggling; for Edith, Alice, Jill, Sandra, Brenda, Elizabeth, Carol, Di, Ray, Percy and Paul; and for Meaghan and Alison.
- Strength and confidence to bring hope and joy to all we meet in our daily lives.

**Some words of hope:**

***When the sun sets in one place, it rises in another, giving us God's hope for another day.***