



St Paul's Church



Up, In and Out.

Mike Breen makes it clear that we need to balance all three aspects of our relationship with Christ. If our relationship as a church is too inward focused, we become a club. If it's too outward focused, as a church we become social services. I've been trying to work out what too much upward focus does to us as a church. When I find an answer, I shall let you know.

Recently, the verse of the day was Psalms 105.1 *"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done"*.

It was one of those light bulb moments that hit me out of the blue. I had to repent.

In this short verse, God calls us to do three things.

- 1) Give God praise
- 2) Proclaim His name in place of prayer
- 3) Make known His deeds to all people.

We must remember to give God thanks for all that he does for us, that we don't deserve. Instead of focusing on our lack, we should focus on what we do have, on what God has already given us.

Prayer is the most important love relationship in our lives as Christians. Proclaiming God's name in prayer, enables us to seek God's face not His hand. How often do we come simply with our prayer lists? I'm guilty.

Next, call upon His name. This is our love relationship with Christ, to see His face not His hand. When you fall in love, we don't look at a person's pocket, wealth before we look at their face, we look at their face first and foremost. If we only kept our relationship with Christ, focused on His hand we would miss His face. Pause, rejoice and adore the LORD.

The LORD's prayer starts with the words,
"Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."

It was a reminder to me that's where we should start and perhaps linger there for a little longer than usual.

In the process, I went back to my default way of praying. It starts by listening to YouTube. This time my You Tube history remembered a different set of songs.

"A little longer", by Jenn Johnson, where one of the lines says,
"You don't have to do a thing, please stay here with me, and love on me a little longer."

Wow. Is that all that the LORD requires from me? To love on Him a little longer? To really take the time to hallow his name?

When I reflected, I decided to take time to re-orientate my prayer routine that week. Sometimes it's good to change things up .

You Tube (other service providers are available). Starting with "A little longer," led me to over 30 minutes for praising the LORD. I felt so much lighter and had nothing to ask God for. Just being able to sing to Him was enough. This has led me to erupt in singing wherever I am. So, if you're in a supermarket and hear someone singing aloud to the LORD, yep, it maybe me, but it could be someone else you know, seeking God's face and not His hands. You never know we might bump into each other singing in the isles of the supermarket.

Rev Claude

SERVICES

SUNDAY 29 MARCH – Palm Sunday

10.30 am – Morning Worship – Jenny C

SUNDAY 5 APRIL – Easter Sunday

10.30 am - Holy Communion – Rev Claude

SUNDAY 12 APRIL – Easter 2

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church

10.30 am – All-Age Worship – Rev Claude

SUNDAY 19 APRIL – Easter 3

10.30 am – Morning Worship – Gwyn

SUNDAY 26 APRIL – Easter 4

10.30 am – Holy Communion – Rev Claude

EVENTS

TUESDAY 31 MARCH @ 9.45 am

Lent Course

THURSDAY 2 APRIL @ 6 pm

Maundy Thursday Supper with communion and stripping of the altar

THURSDAY 2 APRIL @ 6 pm

Maundy Thursday Meal

THURSDAY 9 APRIL @ 2.30 pm

Mothers' Union: Bingo

FRIDAY 10 APRIL @ 9.30 am

Baby & Toddler Group

THURSDAY 16 APRIL @ 2.30 pm

Fellowship TBA

FRIDAY 24 APRIL @ 7 pm

Church Crafts

SATURDAY 25 APRIL @ 5.30 pm

Quiz & Ploughman's

FRIDAY 6 MAY @ 9.30 am

Baby & Toddler Group

FRIDAY 14 MAY @ 9.30 am

Mothers' Union: Hosting a Bishop - Edna

FRIDAY 27 MAY @ 7 pm

Church Crafts

PRAYER RESOURCE

for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter 2026

'When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died;
my richest gain I count but lost, and pour contempt on all my pride.'

This week we give thanks:

- That as Jesus was welcomed when he entered into Jerusalem with palms and shouts of praise, we too rejoice in his coming to us today and pray he may enter into our lives as our Lord and King.
- For the joy of knowing Jesus and pray for a faithful Holy Week.
- For all people with their different ways, temperaments and views, and for their fellowship; pray that we may enrich the lives of others each day simply by being there.

Please pray for:

- Christians around the world praying and preparing for Easter.
- Countries torn apart by war, unrest and famine, and for all people living in fear and anguish.
- People who, for whatever reason, feel forsaken, abandoned and lost.
- The residents, staff and carers of the Care Centres in Maidstone.
- All who look after our church making it a safe, friendly and comfortable space; and for our flower arranging team who decorate the church with colour and scent.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; and for Edith, Alice, Jill, Sandra, Brenda, Elizabeth, Carol, Di, Ray, Percy, Paul and Jan S; and for Meaghan, Frances and Jeni.
- An increasing knowledge of God's presence and for His light to shine into each of our lives.

You may like to use this prayer during Easter:

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave so much; help me to give to you, if only a little, in return. Amen.

FOOD BANK

The next delivery will be on Friday 1st May

Thank you to all who send food via Allert and Rosemary, Allert and Rosemary and to those who give directly financially.

Just over 300 people including 24 children have been helped so far this year with our food parcel service 'Food For Thought', issuing emergency parcels to families in need.

At the day centre, so far this year we have had 23 people present themselves as newly street homeless.

We have also helped 482 homeless and vulnerable people, which covers anything from signposting to other agencies, showers, laundry service, supplying fresh hot meals daily & drinks as well as a pack-up when they leave for the day..

All of this is ONLY possible through your kindness and your donations.

We receive NO Govt. funding, so it is vital that donations continue, both physically and financially so we can continue the work we do, but in realistic terms, the work we do for you on these peoples behalf.

If you would like to know how you could help, please contact us on;
donations@homelesscare.org.uk

or either click the link below,
<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/19111>

Quiz night

2nd May 2026



Weaving Village Hall
Behind the Fox and Goose
Weaving Street

7 pm for 7.30 start

Tickets £5 per head
Bring your own
food and drink



For more information please contact
Janet or George 01634 323749
Penny or Martin 07801547700

All proceeds to St Mary and All Saints Church, Boxley

Thank you for your support

UK PAPER BAND
Sittingbourne

Curtain Up!

Music from
Stage & Screen
with UK Paper Band

Sun 17 May 2026
3 pm

**St Mary & All Saints
Church at Boxley**
Maidstone, ME14 3DX

Free entry
with retiring collection