



St Paul's Church



I had the honour of meeting our new, shiny and polished, first female ABC (that's code for Arch Bishop of Canterbury) during the reception of the Chrism Mass, April 2nd on Maundy Thursday. The Chrism Mass reminds us of our oneness in Christ through Baptism and its holy anointing. During the liturgy, the entire assembly is called to renew its baptismal promises; deacons and priests also renew their vow of obedience to, the Sovereign, Archbishop and their commitment to serve God's people.

For some of us we may choose to renew vows of marriage at significant miles stones. Later this year, I will have the opportunity of sharing this with a couple that have been married for 25 years.

There are some notable vows made in the Bible: -

Hannah: Promised to give her child to the Lord's service if she was granted a son (1 Samuel 1:11).

Jacob: Vowed to serve God if he was protected and provided for on his journey (Genesis 28:20-22).

Jephthah: Made a vow before fighting the Ammonites (Judges 11:30-31).

The following are some of God's vows:

- **The Promise to Noah (The Rainbow Covenant):** God promised never again to destroy all life on earth with a flood.
- **The Promise to Abraham:** God swore by himself that he would bless Abraham and make his descendants as numerous as the stars.
- **The Covenant with David:** God vowed that one of David's descendants would reign on his throne forever, a prophecy pointing to Jesus Christ.
- **The Promise of Salvation:** God vowed that Jesus Christ would defeat Satan, referenced as a promise of victory over evil.
- **The Promise of Presence and Provision:** God promises to never leave his people, to provide for them (Psalm 23:1), and to strengthen them.
- **The New Covenant:** God promises to write His law on hearts and forgive sins.

Whatever your belief and thoughts, personally I love vows, and the opportunity to make and renew a vow, centres me as a child of God, made from dust, a little lower than angels.

Rev Claude

SERVICES

SUNDAY 3 MAY – Easter 5

10.30 am – Café Worship – Gwyn

SUNDAY 10 MAY – Easter 6

9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church

10.30 am – All-Age Service with Communion – Rev Claude

SUNDAY 17 MAY – Easter 7

10.30 am – Morning Worship – Gwyn

SUNDAY 24 MAY – Pentecost

10.30 am – Holy Communion – Rev Claude

SUNDAY 31 MAY – Trinity Sunday

10.30 am – All-Age Service – Rev Claude

EVENTS

FRIDAY 1 MAY @ 9.30 am

Baby & Toddler Group

FRIDAY 15 MAY @ 9.30 am

Mothers' Union: Hosting a Bishop - Edna

THURSDAY 21 MAY @ 10.30 pm

Fellowship Outing: Merriments Gardens

FRIDAY 29 MAY @ 7 pm

Church Crafts

FRIDAY 5 JUNE @ 9.30 am

Baby & Toddler Group

SATURDAY 6 JUNE - Time tbc

Jemima Soames Quiz Evening

SATURDAY 13 JUNE @ 2 – 4 pm

Cream Tea

THURSDAY 11 JUNE @ 2.30 pm

Mothers' Union: Bring & Buy

THURSDAY 18 JUNE @ 2.30 pm

Fellowship: Growing Hope – Lorraine Ackroyd

FRIDAY 26 JUNE @ 7 pm

Church Crafts

FRIDAY 3 JULY @ 9.30 am

Baby & Toddler Group

THURSDAY 9 JULY @ 2.30 pm

Mothers' Union: Cream Tea

THURSDAY 16 JULY @ 2.30 pm

Fellowship: Beetle Drive

FRIDAY 31 JULY @ 7 pm

Church Crafts

SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST - tbc

Morning Social

THURSDAY 20 AUGUST @ 2.30 pm

Fellowship: The Leprosy Mission - Wendy Piccinini

FOOD BANK

The next delivery will be on Friday 1st May.

Annual Parish and Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Sunday 10th May 2026 as soon as possible after the 10:30 service.

These two meetings are held to elect the Churchwardens, PCC members, Deanery synod representatives and to conduct parish business.

You are invited to join these meetings but only those on the electoral roll can vote at the APCM. The current electoral roll is now on display at the back of church. This year we will be electing

- Two church wardens
- Two members to the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
- Two members to the Deanery Synod

Anyone on the church electoral roll is eligible to be nominated for these roles provided they are able to fulfil the necessary safeguarding measures. If you are interested in being a member of the PCC, Deanery Synod or a churchwarden and want to know more please speak to Rev'd Claude, Mark Turner (Churchwarden) or myself. More information is available at the back of church along with the nomination forms.

Please return all completed nomination forms to Jenny Turner before the APCM.

The Trustees' Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 2025 along with the necessary information for the APCM will be emailed to those on the church electoral roll by Sunday 3rd May 2026.

Jenny Turner

PCC and APCM Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer

PRAYER RESOURCE

week beginning Sunday, 3rd May 2026

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

This week we give thanks for:

- David Attenborough as he approaches his 100th birthday, and for the wonderful natural world documentaries that he and his team have brought to our screens over many years.
- All who volunteer in so many ways in our towns, communities and churches.

Please pray for:

- Peace in our hearts and in our world.
- All who have been involved in accidents recently, especially remembering this week those caught up in the fatal rail collision in Indonesia last Monday.
- The Government of Nigeria as it grapples with a kidnap crisis in many parts of the country where criminal gangs are abducting school children and adults for ransoms.
- Anyone experiencing some form of violence or domestic abuse both here or abroad, and give thanks for organisations offering help, support and protection to victims.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; and for Edith, Alice, Jill, Sandra, Brenda, Elizabeth, Carol, Di, Ray, Percy, Paul and Jan S; for Meaghan, Frances, Jeni and Wendy.
- Courage to trust God when risks require to be taken.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

God of grace and love, in the darkness of hatred, evil, sorrow and suffering, may your light shine in our lives this and every day. Amen.