



St Paul's Church



Heaven is for REAL

What you may not know is that, in the first few months after I started, I used to preach my sermons in front of my mum. She was brutally honest about whether they flowed. Sometimes we need people who will tell us the truth, and parents often do that best. They also know how to support and comfort us, and for me, that is something my mum has always done so well. In February this year, my mum, Panzena — Panz for short — spoke the library into existence. *"Sweetie pie, open a library so your congregation can read Christian books."*

Over the next year or so, you will see more books in the mobile library, and I may even have an organised system for borrowing and returning them. My mum has more unread Christian books than I do!

I'm not sure whether anyone has looked inside the front cover of the brown notebook that you sign when you borrow a book, but it says, "This library has been opened in honour of my mum, Panz."

She went home last Sunday, and she was gracious enough to wait until I had finished church. If I say that a sense of jealousy surrounded me as she took her final breath, it is because I believe she did not truly die. She has been born into a new life and is now with our sister Dolly in heaven. She has met Jesus face to face, and in that moment, I thought, "Aw man, how blessed and honoured is she?"

I've been told that grief comes in waves, and I suppose it will. On Tuesday I had tears, yet today, Thursday, I have a smile on my face as I type this update.

Rev Claude



Services

SUNDAY 30 AUGUST – 13th Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am – Celtic Service – Jenny Clifton

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER – 14th Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am – Café Worship – Gwyn

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER – 15th Sunday after Trinity

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

Readings: Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER – 16th Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am – Morning Worship – Gwyn

Readings: Philippians 1.21-30; Matthew 20.1-16

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER – 17th Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am – Holy Communion – Rev Claude

Readings: Philippians 2.1-13; Matthew 21.23-32

Events

THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER @ 2.30 pm

Mothers' Union: Packing Shoe Boxes

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

Ride and Stride Coffee morning

THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER @ 10.30 am

Fellowship: Seaside outing

THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER @ 12.30 pm

Mothers' Union: Harvest Lunch at the Bull

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER @ 6.15 pm for 6.30 pm

Harvest Supper

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER @ 10.30 am

Fellowship: Beetle Drive

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER time tbc

Autumn Fair

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER @ 2 pm

Mothers' Union: Remembrance

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER @ 2.30 pm

Fellowship: Crafts

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER time tbc

Advent Craft Sale

THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER @ 2 pm

Mothers' Union: Advent

THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER @ 12 noon

Fellowship: Christmas Lunch

Food Bank

The next delivery will be on 11 September.

Prayer Diary

week beginning Sunday, 2nd – 30th August 2026

'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.' (Romans 12: 12)

This week we give thanks for:

- Summer holidays and outings, for opportunities to see new places, do new things and the chance to renew acquaintance with familiar ones.

Please pray for:

- Peace – in our world, our communities, our churches, our homes and in our hearts.
- All battling major wildfires in Europe, with further climate-driven disasters predicted as temperatures continue to rise and the world gets rapidly hotter; pray for those who have lost their homes, pets and possessions.
- Those caught up in the earthquake in the Kumamoto area of Japan: the people trapped inside a shopping centre, those missing at a paper factory, and many experiencing power cuts, damaged roads and collapsed bridges and buildings.
- Summer camps and youth activities which allow young people to relax, make friends and enjoy themselves in a safe and supported environment.
- The coastguard and lifeboat crews patrolling our shores helping people who have got into difficulty at sea.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; Edith, Alice, Jill, Sandra, Brenda, Elizabeth, Carol, Di, Ray, Percy, Paul, Jan and Trevor; for Meaghan, and Allert's Dad, Jan, who is undergoing treatment.
- Time to reflect, to renew energies and to peacefully enjoy August.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Thank you, Lord, that I can rest easy, secure in your love and peace, knowing that whatever I face, you will be with me, now and always. Amen.

Independent Safeguarding Audit

INEQE Safeguarding Group has been commissioned to carry out an Independent Safeguarding Audit of the Church of England, to help ensure dioceses and cathedrals provide safe, valued and respectful environments.

As part of the audit, parishioners and members of St Paul's parish community are invited to complete an anonymous and confidential online survey by Wednesday 9 September 2026. Responses go directly to INEQE's Audit Team and are not shared with the Church of England. To access the survey at <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/canterbury/>

Recognised Lay Ministry Courses – Approaching Application Deadlines

A number of recognised lay ministry courses have closing dates in September 2026. Details of these and other courses are below.

Deepening Discipleship

Explore your journey of discipleship and unique calling and gifts, identify key gospel discipleship practices as a basis of service and reflect on the growth and development of Christian communities.

Oct-Dec	Thurs	7pm-8.30pm	Diocesan House, Canterbury	application	17 September
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For more information on Deepening Discipleship [click here](#)

Lay Funeral Ministry – Closing Date 14 September

A course for Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) and experienced worship leaders on the recommendation of their incumbents and with PCC support. Successful completion will lead to diocesan authorisation with local recognition and support. Applicants will be interviewed prior to acceptance on the course.

24 October	10am-4pm	Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury, CT1 1NQ
6 March	10am - 4pm	Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury, CT1 1NQ
8 May	10am - 4pm	Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury, CT1 1NQ