



St Paul's Church



A big thank you. For holding myself and family in prayer at our time of loss. Thank you for emails, cards, face to face encounters as you offer your condolences. Thank you so much for all the flowers and plants, a few just left on the vicarage doorstep. They have been received. The vicarage has never smelt so goooooood. (Don't tell Lenox, the smell of his cooking is wonderful, especially when you're hungry).



On Wednesday 23rd of September, I will be taking part in a course on bereavement that I signed up to in July. It is on Zoom but I have decided to complete this at St Nicholas' church. It starts at 10am and finishes at 2pm. If you, like me are lost with what to say and how to support someone who is bereaved, this may be for you. If you are bereaved you may also find this course useful. Please bring your own lunch.

Daily
Prayer

Finally, on Mondays, term time only, I will begin doing a new broadcast of the church of England daily prayer, live from St Paul's Facebook page. It is at 9am, live, or you can watch later at your leisure.

Blessings,
Rev Claude

Services

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER – 15th Sunday after Trinity

9.15 am for 9.30 am – Bubble Church

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

Readings: Job 1:21b, 27.2-6; John 1:29-34

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

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER – 18th Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am – Café Worship – Gwyn

Events

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 @ 2.30 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 9th October.

Prayer Diary

week beginning Sunday, 13th September 2026

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.'

This week we give thanks for:

- All who comfort the sick, dying, bereaved and anxious.
- World-wide churches: pray for encouragement, protection and resources for them to bring transformation in the lives of the communities they serve.

Please pray for:

- An end to the Israeli air strikes on southern Lebanon as attacks intensify and innocent people are killed and injured, and residential buildings destroyed.
- The victims of the flash floods in Nepal and Tibet and for aid and support to reach those in need.
- Peace between Russia and Ukraine as the daily air raid alerts escalate and the attacks on Kyiv cause huge disruption to schools, businesses and residential buildings.
- The people of Nigeria as they continue to navigate a humanitarian crisis fuelled by conflict, climate change and displacement.

- Those devising policies that will help slow climate change and give them wisdom and boldness.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling: Edith, Alice, Jill, Sandra, Brenda, Elizabeth, Carol, Di, Ray, Percy, Paul, Jan and Trevor; and for Meaghan and Allert's Dad, Jan.
- Our need to care deeply for the suffering of others in a way that enables us to mourn with them, and to support and pray for them.

You may like to use this prayer during the week:

Loving Lord, shelter all who are suffering from the storms that alarm them; shepherd them and safely enfold them; shine your light on the path that you show them and give them peace . Amen.

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

Café Worship

Last Sunday's Café worship theme was **trees**. In groups the congregation were asked the following questions:-

1. Which Biblical tree would you ascribe to yourself and also to St Paul's.(Biblical references supplied)
Ans. The personal responses were varied and interesting.
As far as St Paul's is concerned all the responses said a Sycamore (Shade and shelter) Luke 19:4.
2. Where are your spiritual roots getting refreshment.
Ans: Praying, daily devotion, reading Bible, homegroup; worship. Suggestions were to start a Bible study/fellowship group, meeting at the church, or join the Gillespie home group.
3. Jesus says God will cut off every branch that does not bear fruit. What does that mean for us as individuals and as a church?
Ans: We may need to stop some activities, even if we have been doing them for some time, but don't be too heavy in pruning. Another response was leave it to the PCC