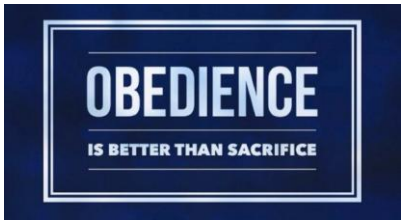
St Paul's Church



1 Samuel 15.22. "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifice as much as in obeying the LORD?. To obey is better than sacrifice…"

Hosea 6.6 "I want your constant love, not your animal sacrifices. I would rather have my people know me than burn offerings to me".

When we hear and read this, what comes to mind? Whilst, today we don't burn offerings to God, when we unpack this and apply this to our lives today, God is simply asking for our obedience, our constant obedience. Obedience in all aspects of our lives.

I don't know whether you're like me, but perhaps you've found yourself thinking:

"Yes, I obey God… well, at least most of the time. But when it comes to this particular matter, I'm sorry, Lord. I just can't do it!"

I wonder whether there has ever been a moment in your life when God asked you to take a step that felt just a little too far. A step you simply weren't ready to take.

Perhaps it was something like this:

"I'm certainly not forgiving them! Do you know what they've done? And if that weren't bad enough, they call themselves a Christian! I'm sorry, God, but I am never going to forgive them!"

Why? **God's Grace**. Accepting God's daily grace can be a really difficult thing and therefore it follows that being obedient in forgiveness and giving financially are equally difficult.

A Prayer

LORD, help me to hear you and become obedient to you, in all aspects of my life. **AMEN**

Services

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER – 2nd Sunday before Advent
10.30 am – Morning Worship – Gwyn
SUNDAY 22 November - Sunday next before Advent
10.30 am – Holy Communion – Rev Claude
Readings: Ephesians 1.15-23; Matthew 25.31-46
SUNDAY 29 November - Advent Sunday
10.30 am – Morning Worship – Rev Claude
SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER – 2nd Sunday of Advent
10.30 am – Café Worship – Gwyn
SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER – 3rd Sunday of Advent
9.15 am for 9.30 am - Bubble Church
10.30 am – All-Age Service with Communion – Rev Claude

Events

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER @ 2 pm
Mothers' Union: Remembrance
THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER @ 2.30 pm
Fellowship: Seasonal Crafts
SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER @ 2.30 – 4.30 pm
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 18th December.

Prayer Resource

2 weeks beginning Sunday, 15th November 2026
'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.' (Romans 12: 12)

We give thanks for:

- All who are on the edge of church life (who may not be able to attend regularly for a variety of reasons); we pray that they may feel part of what is going on and be reassured that they are remembered and cared for by the church family.

Please pray for:

- All who are involved in decision-making; may they find the route of peace and reconciliation, understanding and diplomacy between all parties, before choosing violent confrontation.
- People around the world who are at risk of displacement through floods and drought, and for success for those struggling to farm in difficult circumstances.
- Political leaders attending COP31, that they recognise the urgency of the world climate crisis and that real action quickly follows.
- The work of the water authorities, especially here in the South East, as their management of resources becomes ever more demanding.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; and for Edith, Alice, Jill, Brenda, Carol, Di, Ray, Percy, Paul, Jan, Trevor and Christine; 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, to express the kind of deep grief that cannot be hidden 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 your peace. Amen.