

Sunday 9th March 2025

The First Sunday of Lent

St. Paul's
Church
Rusthall



Collect for the Week

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Eucharist with Baptism (CW)

President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom

Lead: Tim Harrold, Link: Liz Goddard

Hymns: 10000 reasons
You Raise Me Up
Father, hear the prayer we offer
How great thou art
Reading: Luke 4.1-13 (NIV page 1030)

6.30 pm Choral Evensong (BCP)

Minister: The Vicar

Introit: O Lord, the maker of all things - Mundy
Hymn: NEH 64 Be thou my guardian and my guide
Responses : Smith 5 Part
Psalm: 48 (BCP page 405)
1st Reading: Jonah 3 (NRSV page 895) Tony Johnson
Magnificat: Gibbons Short Service
2nd Reading: Luke 1.9-14 (NRSV page 60) Jo Winter
Nunc Dimittis: Gibbons Short Service
Anthem: Cantique de Jean Racine - Fauré
Hymn: NEH 65 Christian dost thou see them
Amen: A Belfast Amen - Stopford

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY 10th March

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Parish Church – The Vicar**
10.00 am Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer

TUESDAY 11th

Parish Office closed

WEDNESDAY 12th

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Church Centre – The Vicar**
9.00 am Playtime at St Paul's
10.00 am Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer
12 noon Interment of Ashes of Jimmy Hole
3.00 pm Communion to Chamberlain Court - Ginette

THURSDAY 13th

- 8.30 am Boiler service in the Lodge
10.00 am Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer
11.30 am Holy Communion at the Church Centre – The Vicar
12.30 pm Wedding rehearsal at the Parish Church
12.30 pm Lunch Club at the Church Centre
7.30 pm Lent group in the Lodge

FRIDAY 14th

- 10.00 am Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer
12.30 pm Community Larder at the Church Centre
1.00 pm Wedding at the Parish Church – with the Choir
6.30 pm Junior Choir practice
7.30 pm Full Choir practice

SATURDAY 15th

10am-4pm Choristers Café in the Lodge

NEXT SUNDAY 16th March

The Second Sunday of Lent

- 8.00 am Holy Communion**
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Eucharist (CW)**
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10am-4pm Choristers Café in the Lodge
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom**
Lead: Daphne Pilcher , Link: Rosemary Romano
- 6.30 pm Compline**
Minister: The Vicar

NEWS AND NOTES

From The Vicarage

Greetings to you all, and a very warm welcome to our services today, the First Sunday of Lent. Special welcome to William and Lily, who are being baptised at the 10 am service at the Parish Church, and to their parents, godparents, family, and friends.

Today is also the National Day of Reflection for those who died from Covid-19. As we worship and fellowship together at the beginning of Lent, may Almighty God, the God of all encouragement and comfort, inspire us and enable us, through the Spirit, to bring encouragement, support, and comfort to one another.

Plant Sale & Tea plus Treasure Hunt, Church Centre, Monday 21st April

Please continue to take cuttings, sow seeds etc for our plant sale after Easter. Thank you.

New Electoral Roll (Full Revision)

Electoral Roll application forms are available at the back of both the Parish Church and the Church Centre, please complete your form as soon as possible. Also if you are aware of anyone who cannot get to Church please either take them a form or let me know. If you have any questions, do get in touch. Thank you – Ginette.

Treasurer for the Parish

As you know Pat has now retired from this role and we are now looking for someone to take on this role. This can be a shared position with two or more people taking on different aspects of the job. Full training and support will be given. If you feel this is something you could do as part of the ministry of St Paul's please speak with Ronnie.

Confirmation

This year, we will be hosting the Confirmation Service for our cluster of parishes at the Parish Church at 4 pm on Sunday 18th May and Bishop Jonathan will preside. If you or someone you know would like to get confirmed, please put your details on the list provided at both Churches.

Malawi

Chris and I are off to Malawi in 3 weeks. If anyone has any old phones and chargers hanging around please leave them at the back of the church, at the Church Centre or give them to us. The Malawians would be incredibly grateful. Thank you, Angela.

Flower Pots

The CYC would be grateful for any flower pots, of any size. We will put a box outside each of the Churches. Thank you.

Family Service Children's Group

There will not be a children's group on the following Sundays:- 16th March, 13th April, 30th March (Mothering Sunday), 20th April (Easter Sunday). Children of all ages are of course welcome at all services when the group isn't running. We are terribly short of leaders and would love to recruit some more! If you feel you would like to help with our children's group please do get in touch with Mary Holmes: 07881371684 or mary@mandmcreative.co.uk

Lent Groups

Sheets have gone up in both the Church and Church Centre for those interested in registering for one of the Lent Groups this year. There is one group already meeting on Thursdays at 7.30 pm in the Lodge. On the sheet, along with your name and contact details, please indicate your preferred time (morning, afternoon, or evening) and Day(s). The topic for this year's Lent Course is Living Hope. If you would like more information about the course, please contact Tim Harrold (07413 805814 or timharrold@duck.com).

Pilgrimage 2025 Monday 23rd June

This year we will be following the Martyr's Way which will take us from Tower Bridge to St. Bartholomew the Great in the City of London. After some refreshments in Borough Market, the day will finish with Evensong in Southwark Cathedral. Sign up sheets are in both Churches. For further details please contact Tim Harrold (07413 805814 -timharrold@duck.com).

March is National Brain Injury Awareness month!

Despite huge numbers of people affected by brain injury every year, most people don't know about brain injury and the impact it can have. Acquired brain injury (ABI) is the largest cause of acquired disability in the working age population. It is estimated that 8,000 people across West Kent have an acquired brain injury. The charity Brains Matter (originally part of UK charity Headway, the Tunbridge Wells branch of which was set up by our late good friends Michael and Pam Munro, long time St Paul's members) provides the only service of its kind in West Kent. The charity is independent and self funding. They offer support in the community through their C+ommunity Wellbeing Support, Wellbeing Support Groups and a Programme of Activities. The choir sang carols with them at their day centre in December which was very favourably received. If you would like to find out more about how you might be able to help or donate please visit the website at Home | Brains Matter - Brain Injury Charity

Flowers for the 175 Banner

A huge Thank You to everyone who has been crocheting and knitting flowers for this. Please can I ask that all completed flowers are added to the boxes in the churches by 23rd March.