

HARVEST AT WORK – WHAT WILL YOU BRING?

It's easy to assume that Harvest Festival is an ancient tradition dating from the days when everyone worked on the land. In fact, Harvest Festival as we know it, with churches decorated with fresh produce, only goes back to 1843, by which time the Industrial Revolution – and the move away from the land to the cities – was well under way.

So since its inception, Harvest Festival has had a slightly nostalgic, sepia-tinted, *Lark Rise to Candleford*' feel about it. No harm in that, of course, and the way schools have taken it up is great for helping remind predominantly urban generations where our food comes from.

All the same, it can feel strange to sing *We plough the fields and scatter*, when most of us do nothing of the sort. So this year, we thought we'd add a different element to our Harvest Celebrations at St Paul's. It's on 30th September, which is a 5th Sunday, so there's only the 10.30 service. We're asking everyone to bring to church some symbol of their working life. Whatever you do from Monday to Saturday, think of an object that you might bring.

It could be anything from a spreadsheet to a text-book, a pair of scissors to a dustpan and brush. If you're feeling really creative, it could take in DIY or hobbies, or, if you're retired, it could be something to represent your years at work. During the service we'll invite you to lay this object at the altar to remind us that not just agricultural produce, but all human work is part of God's gift to us. (You can take it home at the end of the service, of course - you might be needing it on Monday morning!)

We still want the usual harvest produce of course. If you have an allotment or a vegetable patch, fresh fruit or vegetables will not only add a decorative touch but also be a symbol of the hard work you've put in through the year. And non-perishable tins and packets of foods will be gratefully received at

Homeless Care as they are all the year round, as well as being a visible sign of our desire to share the good things we've been given.

All work, whether it's muscle-powered or brain-powered, can be traced back to our creator God. He made us, and gave us the skills and abilities with which to earn a living and make a contribution. It may be easier to see God's part in the miracle of growth that gives us our crops, but when you think about it, all human work is a partnership with the Almighty.

So we shouldn't confine God to rolling fields and blossoming orchards, any more than we should confine him to church, or to our time off. He's just as much interested in how we conduct ourselves at work as he is at home, and he wants us to be channels of his peace and bearers of his grace, even – perhaps especially – in the stress and hassle of the workplace.

At the service, we'll be hearing briefly from a handful of people about what they do during the week, and what it's like to be a Christian in that environment. Don't worry: if you haven't been asked, it won't be you! But do take the time after the service to ask other people what the object they brought represents, and what their working life is like, as well as talking about what you get up to through the week.

"All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above." So there's plenty to be thankful for!

Andrew

Items of Interest

St Paul's Fellowship

Apologies for not getting our usual article into last month's edition.

In July we enjoyed a very interesting demonstration from Tansey Pavey about Norwex products. Our thanks to Tansey for sharing her time and enthusiasm with us. At our August meeting A. Ellman Brown gave an informative talk titled "All About Hearing". Many of our members found it most helpful.

On 20th September we shall be travelling to Hythe for our seaside outing which will include a boat trip on the Military Canal.

In order to book your place please call Ann Lewis on 07713192369 or Katy Carter on 07837413472.



Deanery
Prayer for
September

Copies of the prayer focus can be found at the back of the church.

OUTLOOK

Celebrating faith and life in East Kent

Copies of the SUMMER 2018 Outlook Magazine can be found at the back of the church.

Bible Time Study of Mark's Gospel

We continue to meet once a month in Church to look at Mark's Gospel, using the *Cover to Cover* Bible Study on Mark 'Life as it is meant to be Lived' - By Christine Platt. Anyone is welcome to come along to these mornings.

If you would like more details, please speak to Jenny Clifton.

Our final three sessions (all at 10 am) are:

Tuesday 11 September

Tuesday 9 October

Tuesday 20 November



Copies of the MSP News can be found at the back of the church.

Harvest Service Maidstone Care Centre

On Thursday 4 October at 3pm, a few members of St Paul's will be holding a short Harvest Service for the residents at Maidstone Care Centre.

If anyone would like to join us please have a word with **Jenny** at Church.



Ride & Stride



Saturday 8 September 10 am - 6 pm

Once again we are at that time of year for the Friends of Kent churches Ride & Stride which is either cycling or walking around the Maidstone Churches. We are hoping for some sponsors for this event.

If you would like to take part please speak to: **Margaret Hawkes**

I will be holding a sale at the back of the Church to raise money for this event, please bring in cakes, flowers, garden produce or anything else to sell on Sunday 9 September. I will be at Church. **Cath Garner**



Harvest Service 30th September at 10.30 am



As well as the usual fresh and non-perishable produce, please bring a symbol of your working life to lay before the altar – see front page Article for more information.

COFFEE & CHAT IN TOWN

Here are the rest of the year's dates for 'Coffee & Chat' in **Waterstones' Coffee Shop** in Fremlin Walk, meeting there at **10.30 am**:

Thursday 6 September

Thursday 11 October

Thursday 8 November

Thursday 6 December

Everyone is welcome. Please come along and join us. If you want to know more about our get-togethers, please speak to **Jenny** at Church.

Services at St Paul's for September

Date & Day	Time	Service
Sunday 2 September <i>14th Sunday after Trinity</i>	8.45 am 10.30 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion (sung) Café Worship Sung Evensong
Sunday 9 September <i>15th Sunday after Trinity</i>	8.45 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion (said) All-Age Worship (with Communion)
Wednesday 12 September	9.30 am	Mid-Week Holy Communion
Sunday 16 September <i>16th Sunday after Trinity</i>	8.45 am 10.30 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion (sung) All-Age Worship Taize Worship
Sunday 23 September <i>17th Sunday after Trinity</i>	8.45 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion (said) All-Age Worship (with Communion) Breathe
Sunday 30 September <i>18th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.30 am	All-Age Worship (Harvest Service)

What's on

Thursday 6 September	TBC	MU - Harvest
Thursday 6 September	10.30 am	Coffee & Chat in Town (Waterstones)
Saturday 8 September	10 am - 6.00 pm	Ride & Stride
Sunday 9 September	After Service	Fund Raising - Ride & Stride - Cakes, flowers, garden produce etc
Tuesday 11 September	10.00 am	Bible Time - Study of St Mark's Gospel
Thursday 20 September	TBC	Fellowship - Seaside Outing
Thursday 27 September	12 noon	MU - Cathedral Prayer time
Saturday 29 September	7.30 pm	Murder Mystery



Diocese of Canterbury
CHANGED LIVES @ CHANGING LIVES

Bits and Pieces

St Paul's Church - Coffee, Cake & Chat

1st Saturday of the month

9.45 am - 11.30 am at the back of church. All Welcome.



Who's Who at St Paul's

Priest-in-Charge

Revd Canon Andrew Sewell

01622 691926

Curate

Revd Mark Pavey

01622 431 538

Churchwardens

Mr Mark Turner

01622 206529

Mr Brian Beswick

01622 678315

Readers

Mrs Katy Carter

01622 735828

Authorised Lay Ministers

Mrs Jenny Clifton

01622 761533

Mrs Gwynn McPherson

01622 674683

Parish Administrator

Mrs Tracey Pavan

01622 762370

Mon/Tues & Thurs/Fri (am)

admin@stpaulsmaidstone.org



Jenny and Mark

would like to thank everyone who supported their "Tea and Cakes in the Garden" which raised £80.

MURDER at the MOTE

Murder mystery
incorporating
harvest supper

St. Paul's Church, Boxley Road, Maidstone

***SATURDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 7.30PM**

***PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER AND NIBBLES PROVIDED, BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS**

***RAFFLE**

***TICKETS AVAILABLE BY CALLING 01622 762370 OR BY EMAIL, ANTHEA.MITCHELL@SKY.COM**



UNSAVOURY EVENTS

INVITATION



More information to follow but get the date in your diary!
4.00pm - Sunday 14th October 2018

4th October 2008 was when we, the first Street Pastor initiative in Kent, went on patrol.

We are having a celebration event on Sunday 14th October 2018 @ 4.00pm at **The Vine Church** in Maidstone (plenty of parking).

It is hoped that all our current Street and Prayer Pastors along with ex serving Pastors, our Management team and partners: Police, Maidstone Borough Council, MaidSafe, Donators and many more are will be able join us.

You'll be kept up to date with information but mark the date now.

LOST PROPERTY

There is a basket at the back of the Church, please check when you leave, items include: sunglasses, keys, umbrellas etc.

