

Maidstone Deanery Prayers for August

Thank you for your continued prayers for the churches and people of our deanery.

This month, we pray for St Martin's with the following from Rev Joyce Addison:-



As we continue through the summer months of July and August we thank God for his enduring and steadfast presence through what has been a very challenging time for us all. Naturally, there is some anxiety and tension being felt by the easing of restrictions, but there is also a sense of optimism in our midst and an excitement about the future as we see God's hand in the new 'shoots' of life that are appearing around us.

We are delighted to have Andrew Edwards with us as our Curate and we pray that his time with us will be good, transformative and positive. We pray also that the congregation and community around St. Martin's will participate in his ongoing development. May his transition from Ignite Enabler to Curate go well and may his past experience bear fruit in his new role. We also pray for Melanie Banister who continues as our only Ignite Enabler, supported by the St. Martin's team who faithfully serve every Monday evening.

God is gradually pouring new life into our church through the growing number of baptisms and weddings. He has 'added to our number' both individuals and families. We are also seeing our Youth Group flourish. They co-lead worship on the first Sunday of the month, participate in hymn/song selection, and some are ready to resume Altar Party duties, when that begins again. Thank you Lord, for our young people. May they enjoy the summer with their families and friends.

Worship and a range of activities are taking place outside: singing and refreshments after Sunday service, coffee after the Thursday Holy Communion service, our fundraising markets and we are moving forward in faith with our Grab and Go initiative on 19th and 26th August. Along the way, God is bringing the church and neighbourhood communities together enabling stories to be shared and the love of Christ to be known. Thank you Lord!

Sadly, we said "Goodbye" to our long-standing pre-school in the church hall. We pray that God will be with each member of staff and each child and their families as they embark upon new life journeys. We are now making room for other communities in the hall. As finances continue to be strained, may the hall be a trusted source of income for the mission and ministry of St. Martins.

The Shepway Regeneration plan is being discussed and planned. May everything work for the good of this community and we pray that St. Martin's will be for all a rock of stability and a beacon of light and hope in a time of change.

Finally, we ask for God's blessing on the entire Deanery as we go through a time of transition and upheaval ourselves. We pray for Rev Chris Lavender as he relinquishes and takes on new roles. We hold in our prayer Anthea, Curate at St. Paul's. May she flourish in her workplace ministry.



May God continue to direct and guide all our steps and decisions.

Amen.