

Prayer at the Heart



Immediate needs 2 - 4 weeks

Please pray for Liz Boys and her mum who passed away on 19 May - alone. Liz had not been allowed to visit her since she was moved to the new care home 12 weeks' ago. A peaceful passing but such a devastating separation in the last weeks of her life. She had pleaded to be allowed to see Liz but it was not to be.

Please also pray for:

Audrey (Porter) who fractured her spine following a fall in the garden. Julia (Frances' friend) is now in a hospice. Chris, Ann Shuttle's son-in-law, with DVT in his thigh. Tess, now home after a spell in hospital. Pat Wade suffering with painful shingles. Mick (Claire Gilbert's Dad) whose sister Margaret has just died; he is a Christian and is unable to go to the funeral, please pray for peace for him. Joan (Jill Freeman's Mum) suffering with dementia and very lonely in isolation. Carol Marks and family following the death of her mother. Denise Fasulo's friend, Louise Hockham, who is battling cancer for the second time and really struggling. Following the death of Beryl, please pray for Ray Clarke, Rob, Moira and family and Beryl's family in Wales. During June we will be praying for those living in Sandpiper Road, Norview Road and Swallow Avenue.

Long term needs - up to 3 months

Let us pray for everyone who has had to have a hospital appointment postponed, that they will not be too anxious and that their appointment will be re-arranged as soon as possible.

Sheila Pearse. Joan Moss. Dorothy Vener. Isaac Clackett. Dennis Spinner, please pray for him to get strong and stay free from illness. Lise Jennings, for relief from pain.

Prayer Needs

Please contact: Carol Judge 277752; or David and Lynda Kemp 272470

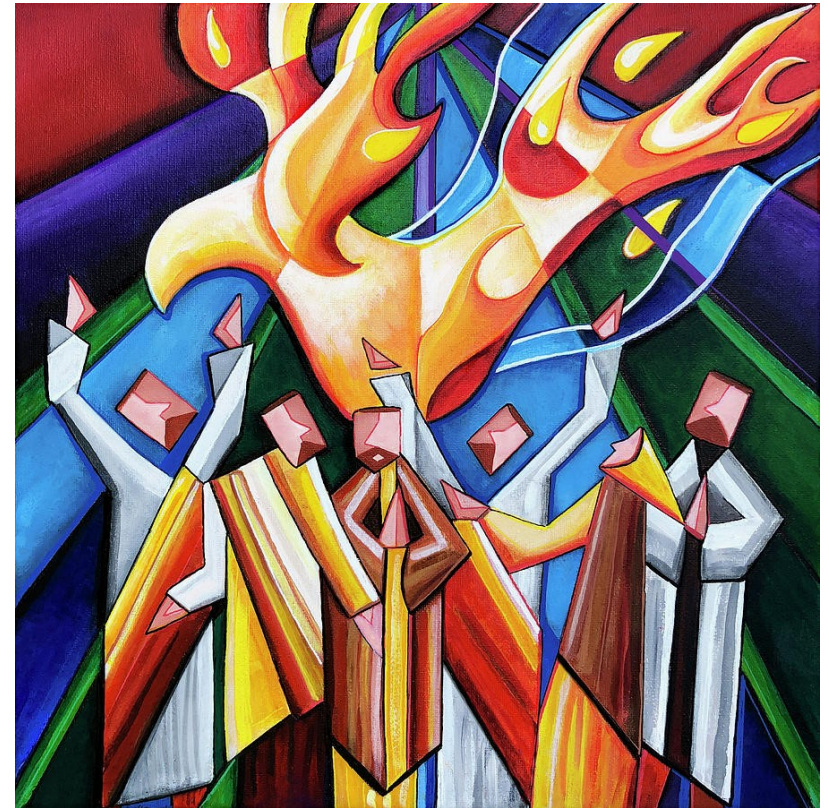
We also have a Prayer Requests page on Facebook, please let us know if you would like your prayer needs to be posted there.



Welcome to St Alphege, Seasalter

31 May 2020

Pentecost



Notices

Please encourage our church family to receive emailed copies of these notices - especially now when we cannot meet face to face. To be added to the mailing list, let me know by email. Paula. deaneves@msn.com

Church Finances - A Lockdown Update

Several people have asked how the church finances are faring during this time.



We have not furloughed any of our contracted staff because they have still be working, so we are still paying salaries. We have of course been significantly down on our monthly income through bookings of rooms and we ae not able to offer catering or hospitality at the Christian Centre. As I write this, the only booking we still have is for NHS Blood Donation sessions which have continued as an essential service. Geoff Armer has been checking the Christian Centre and cleaning from time to time as it is also being used as a hub for Food Bank. We are saving a little on water/electricity but we will soon need to pay for some significant repairs to the Christian Centre roof.

However, I'm glad to be able to say that people are still continuing to give, and a few who previously gave cash or used the envelope system have been able to move to standing order, which has helped us. We are also grateful to people who are continuing to put aside their giving at theme for a time when it will be safe to collect it (and easier to bank it).

We are looking into the possibility of an online-giving facility via the website. There are some hurdles to overcome to enable that so it may take a few weeks to get up and running.

I am also grateful to Keith Berry our Treasurer, David Kemp, Ali Fuller, Andrew Crocombe and Ceri Charilaou who, with me, form the Finance and Standing Committee, and for the support of the DCC as we continue to do our best to look after the resources we have.

So please keep praying, and giving as you are able.

We do, as ever, trust in our faithful God who knows our needs and supplies them - in a pandemic or otherwise! (Philippians 4:19).

Love Paulette
22 May 2020

I pray that the eyes of your heart
may be enlightened in order that you may know
the hope to which he has called you,
the riches of his glorious inheritance
in his holy people.

Ephesians 1:18

..... And now for something slightly
embarrassing
(for me, not you). The Editor

*Thank
you!*

Following the sudden and heart-breaking death of my mum last week, I was in a very dark and lonely place. I would like to express my deepest thanks to Paula Dean who reached out to me and helped me through the difficult task of putting together an Order of Service for mum's funeral. What she has produced is a beautiful tribute that I will treasure forever, and has she has done mum proud. Thank you Paula for your patience. Much Love Liz Boys

https://christian.art/videos.php?utm_source=Christian+Art&utm_campaign=cb3fe564c9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_12_27_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5c87526297-cb3fe564c9-375548693

prayer

Oh merciful God, and full of grace,
as we come into your presence
may we remove,
like outdoor clothes
all pretence, all show,
all arrogance;
may our inner self be revealed,
humble, honest, open
and longing to be changed
by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer from this year's Novena

A Prayer Video for Pentecost
Click on the link below

Corona

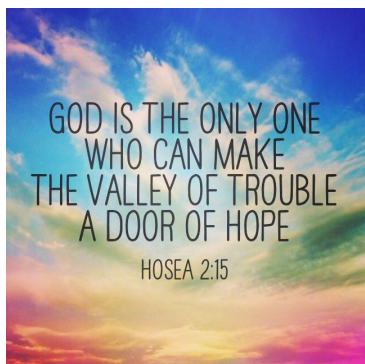
By Mia Evans

Please go away
I want to see my family and play,
You have isolated us for many ways
You have come and spread in many ways.

People dying
Catching you and not surviving,
People isolated and bulk-buying
It is terrifying.

But life of plants are coming back
And pollution is taking a step back,
Lakes and seas are becoming clearer
The skies are less busy and bluer.

Life must continue in these strange times
With new procedures and new minds,
Life has changed let's stand together
And beat corona all together.



.../... Continued from page 3

"When the day of Pentecost came they were all together in one place." (Acts 2, v 4) This was to make all the difference to their lives - and the lives of millions of people since.

WE too need to be "filled with the Holy Spirit". It is a gift, a power for the members of the entire Christian Church, something we should be constantly asking God to give as we praise Him and pray to Him. We cannot do without the **"fellowship of the Holy Spirit"**. Church and Church growth depend on it.

Spirit of God, bring your fulness to each one of us. We need it more than ever in these days of lockdown. Amen.

Donald

Ascension Day to Pentecost or Ten Days' of "Lockdown" of a Kind

Due to Coronavirus we have been Lockdown for over ten weeks now. Around 2000 years' ago there was a "Lockdown" of sorts that lasted for just ten days.

On the day of His Ascension into heaven Jesus made a promise and gave instruction to His eleven disciples **"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."** (Luke 24, v 40) The eleven carried out that instruction **"they returned to Jerusalemand they stayed continually at the Temple, praising God."** (Luke 24, v 52 and 53)

There was no social distancing or self-isolation but they were confined to Jerusalem where they were joined by others. For their daily exercise they all went to the Temple in order to praise God. Places of worship were not closed nor gatherings in large numbers banned in this "Lockdown"! It was a time of waiting for Jesus's promise to be fulfilled. **"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."** (Acts 1, v8)

When not in the Temple they spent their time in an upper room, **"they went upstairs to the room where they were staying"** (Acts 1, v 13) Besides the eleven disciples there were a number of women - including Mary the mother of Jesus and Jesus's brothers. Altogether there were about 120 people there for a ten-day prayer meeting, **"All joined together constantly in prayer"**. (Acts 1, v 14)

Peter took the opportunity to remind everyone that what Judas Iscariot did in betraying Jesus was foretold in Scripture as is the instruction that he should be replaced. Amongst the assembled gathering there were two people who met the criteria Peter outlined. They were Barsabbas and Matthias. After all praying about it a choice was made, the place left vacant by Judas is filled. Matthias became an apostle. and part of the first Church's Ministry Leadership Team. **(Acts 1, v 15 - 26)**

In a kind of "Lockdown" situation we have about 120 people who, in obedience to Jesus, just prior to His Ascension, gave eleven of them the command to stay in Jerusalem and a promise that His physical presence on earth would be filled by the Holy Spirit who He would send. They don't just sit around waiting for it to happen. They spend their time praising and praying. On the tenth day it happened.

God's Creation, our role and EcoChurch

Part 5 – cleaning us and homes

This is the final instalment considering Ecochurch and our planet (hurrah you say!!). I've actually surprised myself about how much there is to consider and change within my own life, and what we could inch forward within church life.

One of the hardest things I've found to change is things like toothpaste (tablets in jars rather than plastic), dental floss (most brands are made from plastic), soap (instead of shower gel), solid deodorant (cardboard case rather than plastic), soap nuts (instead of washing powder and can be used in dishwasher too), more environmentally friendly household cleaning products and make up that is kind to animals and plants. A lot of these, currently, take a bit more effort to source (very difficult to get toothpaste tablets in shops locally – let me know if you find some!) and even soap is often wrapped in plastic. Before lockdown there was a monthly market at the umbrella centre for more environmentally friendly produce so could support this (they do environmental doggy poo bags too!!).

There are lots of options online, 'peace with the wild', 'cosy cottage', Lush, ringana.com (Sophie Valdes Montealegre has links with this company if you want to know more) – and plenty of others. I've had to try a few products before I find one I really like, sometimes we have to remember the products we are using 'feel' nice because we are not used to anything else (Shampoo soap is an example). However, this may be too much faff and every little helps! Maybe we need to encourage local shops to stock items or support shops with less packaging and refill options.

A great Psalm (thanks Lizzie Hales) is 90:17 *"And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us and make our endeavours successful; Yes, make them successful"*. The bible does refer to stewardship and this can translate into our church life. EcoChurch (see <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>) is a recognised system to test how well we are doing from an environmental view (bronze, silver, gold awards are possible) and helps us to focus on areas to improve. The organisation

suggests involving external organisations (like Tearfund or Christian Aid) who have real life examples where environmental issues make an impact on global communities. We have raised money for toilet twinning which is a great example, but there are other small projects we could possibly do (one church has worked to re-establish trees in South America). We can't do everything but heightening our awareness keeps the issues in our prayers and possibly could link to 'closer to home' initiatives.

What about involving our children? Could we make a wildlife area or install bird boxes? Even planting? I still remember the excitement of growing sweet peas for the first time as a child!! Great for learning and valuing God's creatures/creation. The website has lots of small things that we could consider and build into Seasalter SCC DNA – do have a look.

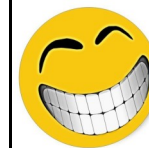


We never stop learning, we should appreciate creation and marvel at the awesomeness of God through every element! Thank you if you've stuck with me for these newsletter pieces – hopefully it has given food for thought and can start conversations about our church, Whitstable setting and wider global community.

Love Ann x

Good News

Please share your good news with us - no matter how seemingly insignificant - and if you have a photo to go with it even better. Maybe your child or grandchild said something amusing, maybe you heard a good joke, maybe you found some flour! *Paula*
My email is deaneves@msn.com



Bags of plain flour now available in smaller bags at Tesco.