

Prayer at the Heart

Immediate needs 2 - 4 weeks



Please pray for:

Beth, Stan and Carol's daughter, who will have her first radiotherapy treatment next week at Maidstone Hospital and her PICC line put in the following week at Canterbury; she starts her chemotherapy on Thursday 3 September. Patricia Page, following an operation for a broken hip. Sheila (Pearse) suffering with a painful left leg. Melissa Clackett, undergoing tests, and for her baby Isaac for his ongoing conditions.

Dorothy Vener. Bob Simmons. Debbie (Frances Crocker's daughter), starting chemotherapy on 31 August. Ann Harley, having episodes of problems with her heart. Audrey (Porter) for continued healing of her back. Chris, Ann Shuttle's son-in-law, with DVT in his thigh. Pat Wade suffering with painful shingles.

During August we will be praying for those living in Jayne Walk, Anthony Crescent, Columbia Avenue and Field View.

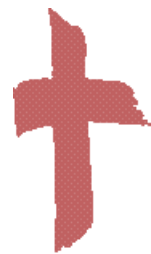
Long term needs - up to 3 months

Joan (Jill Freeman's Mum). Ray Clarke. Joan Moss. 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

30 August 2020

No service today - virtual or otherwise



The next 24-hour prayer event will take place next Wednesday 2nd/Thursday 3rd September. We would like as many people as possible to take part, especially as the Annual District Church Meeting will take place the following Monday, 7th September when important decisions need to be made. To book your 30-minute prayer slot please email Sue St John at suestj@gmail.com

Hope deferred

'I have waited for thy salvation O LORD.' (Genesis 49: 18, KJV)

Author: Dr Patrick Sookhdeo

We are waiting – waiting for a vaccine to be developed to protect us from Covid-19, waiting for an end to facemasks and lockdowns, waiting to be able to crowd into our church buildings and sing God's praise for God to deliver us from this pandemic and all its repercussions.

The Bible is full of waiting on the Lord, waiting for Him to intervene, to rescue, to restore. Often the waiting time is prolonged far beyond what we had expected. 'The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.' (Jeremiah 8:20, KJV)

This plaintive cry of the Lord's people, who had 'hoped for peace but no good has come, for a time of healing but there was only terror', may be ours too as we wait in a deteriorating world's situation, with growing hunger, hatred and violence. (Jeremiah 8:15)

But still we must continue to wait, trust and hope, praying for God's deliverance, no matter how long and hard the day. Even Elijah had to send his servant seven times to look towards the sea, before a little cloud was seen. (1 Kings 18: 43-44)

Our trust must be in God and in His divine providence, not in the scientists struggling to produce a vaccine, nor in the politicians and economists puzzling over how to restore livelihoods. The words of a well-loved hymn, written by a young German Christian in the turbulent seventeenth century, remind us to rely solely on God:

All my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance He guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown. He alone
Calls my heart to be His own.
Pride of man and earthly glory,
Sword and crown betray his trust:
What with care and toil he buildeth,
Tower and temple fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
Is my temple and my tower. *

Jeremiah prophesied in a time of national disaster. But he brought to the exiles in Babylon a message of hope:

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' (Jeremiah 29:11)

Cont. On page 3

Personal information - the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

The GDPR sets out how organisations must act when dealing with the personal data of individuals. Personal data includes such information as name, address, telephone number, financial information, health records etc etc.

The church holds information/data about all its members, and we are committed to handling it legally, responsibly and carefully. For most members the church holds name, address, telephone number and email address and does not hold more sensitive information about bank accounts or health. Members will appreciate that these days information is held not only in paper files, but also on computers and phones. Most information is held under the legal basis of *legitimate interest*, i.e. the church has a legitimate interest in holding the data, and virtually all the data has been freely provided by the members themselves.

If you have any questions about your data, what is held and how it is held please look at the Privacy Notice on the church website or talk to Russell Wyles on 07526 978 080.

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen

2 Corinthians 4: 16-18

Good News



I am still here, asking for your contributions to our church notices, one way that we can keep in touch when we cannot see each other in Sunday services. Do send me photos or stories or memories.

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. Email: deaneves@msn.com

Annual District Church Meeting – 7 September 2020

If you have provided your email address to the church, information about the Annual Meeting has been sent to you by email in the last few days.

If you have not received it please contact Ali Fuller on 07960 709 498.



*****2 WEEKS TO GO!!*****

TIME TO SIGN UP

Saturday 12th September 2020

RIDE & STRIDE - NEEDS YOU!

TAKE PART OR VOLUNTEER



Ride and Stride raises money by cycling or walking for sponsorship around local Kent churches; half returned to St Alphege Seasalter and half to Friends of Kent Churches. It has been decided that this event will still run in 2020 so please **SIGN UP** as family/group/individual to take part.

Get your sponsorship form and details from Ann Price

Volunteers normally welcome visitors to the Old Church/SCC for an hour, or more, slot between 10am-6pm on the day. Obviously, we will need to adhere to any social distancing requirements at the time but, if you would be interested in helping, please let us know (contacts below). We will understand if you decide that it is not feasible nearer the time.

Need more info - email annprice@sky.com or phone Ann Shuttle
(use church directory for phone numbers)

Jeremiah also modelled this message of hope by very publicly buying a field, as the Lord had commanded him, while Jerusalem was being besieged by the Babylonian army (Jeremiah 32:6-9). In a time of disaster, in a period of great uncertainty as to the future, Jeremiah was called by God to invest in hope.

To many, Jeremiah's action must have seemed ludicrous. No doubt some said it was an unnecessary risk, and others questioned his motives or his state of mind. Yet God was telling him not to retreat, not to give up, but to believe that there is going to come a time when God would be re-building and that Jeremiah was to be a part of this plan.

So we are called not just to see the tragedies of the present, but to have hope for the future, to believe that God has a plan for us and that in times of great trial His purposes will be fulfilled. For we know that 'in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose'. (Romans 8:28)

* Joachim Neander (1650-1680), translated from German to English by Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

This article was published in the Sept/Oct edition of the Barnabas Fund Organisation and has been reproduced with permission of both the author of the article and the editor of the magazine.

Contributor: Donald

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3LCGh02Vew>



Our Church Warden Has Gone Missing

Our Church warden went into lockdown
And he took with him the keys
He decided then to isolate
From the day he started to wheeze



Several months have passed since then
As he remains inside his bubble
And whilst we have every sympathy
It's beginning to cause us some trouble

His curtains are closed, his phone's off the hook
Of him there has been no sight
It's as if he's stolen completely away
Just like a thief in the night



And still the church is empty
Day after day after day
Not a soul has stepped inside
As the year ebbs slowly away



Inquisitive wildlife comes looking
A brand new place to explore
They'll not be hampered in their quest
By a locked and bolted door

The squirrels play in the rafters
And can climb to their heart's content
The harvest mice are making beds
From the book of the New Testament



A hole in the roof lets the rain in
But nobody's there with a mop

However the font is perfectly placed
And it's now full right to the top

The same hole lets the sparrows in
And what more could they possibly want
Their very own private bird bath
In a luxurious marble font



On top of the organ a nest has appeared
Creating a twiggy thatch
And now in the peace of the empty church
Some eggs have started to hatch



Perched on the arm of the crucifix
A proud mum twitters and sings
She's found the very perfect place
For her fledglings to test out their wings

There's a barn owl up in the belfry
With a hungry steely gaze
Waiting for just the right moment
Motionless she preys



The communion wine has been left untouched
So is doubtless now fully mature
And a mouse has devoured the Holy bread
He couldn't resist the lure



We are often encouraged, in times of need
To stand at His door and Knock
But what we need is a miracle
Or someone to unpick the lock.

Liz Boys