

Prayer at the Heart

Immediate needs 2 - 4 weeks



Please pray for:

Sheila (Pearse) would like to thank everyone for praying for her daughter-in-law, Jane; Jane died in hospital on Wednesday; please pray for Sheila's son, Anthony, his daughter, Laura, and Sheila.

Following a successful knee replacement operation, Pat asks for prayer for a good recovery on her own.

Stella and her family following the death from cancer of her nephew Justin. Carol Holgate, Beryl Davies and her daughter Karen - prayers for recovery from shock following a car accident. Continued prayers for Beth (Stan and Carol's daughter) as she undergoes chemotherapy. Patricia Page, following an operation for a broken hip. Melissa Clackett, undergoing tests, and for her baby Isaac for his ongoing conditions. Dorothy Vener. Bob Simmons. Debbie (Frances Crocker's daughter), having chemotherapy until the end of the year; unfortunately it is causing her to feel very unwell. Ann Harley, having episodes of problems with her heart. Audrey (Porter) for continued healing of her back. Pat Wade suffering with painful shingles.

During November we will be praying for those living in St. Alphege Close, Medina Avenue and Florence Avenue.

Long term needs - up to 3 months

Sheila Pearse. Colin Curtis in hospital locally (and for the foreseeable future); please pray for healing and relief of pain in Colin's right leg. 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

1 November 2020

All Saints' Day

Readings: Ephesians 1: 11-end;
Luke 6: 20-31



Lovely Church, please heed this plea...

Dan recently spoke on Sunday about 'clothing ourselves in Love' (from Corinthians 3) - can we please take care to do that for one another as we all work with the rules that we've had to put in place to keep everyone who visits Seasalter Christian Centre safe. This means complying fully with the requests to sign in, use hand sanitizer on entry and exit, keep masks in place, and being understanding if we have to keep you waiting a little bit before you can come into the building while we clean and get it ready.

We know it's a pain, and nobody enjoys having to do these extra things, but please be kind towards those on the door who are having to supervise this, and think of it as the loving thing to do for one another. Even if you don't personally see the point - these things are for the safety of others who may be more vulnerable than you, and they enable us to keep meeting in person for worship.

Thank you, Paulette

Food Poverty

Many I know are concerned about food poverty. We don't want anyone in our local community or church community to be struggling to feed themselves or their family. If you are in difficulty, please contact Paulette, or the churchwardens Ali or Andrew in confidence and we can help. This can happen to absolutely anyone, especially with the current economic pressures.

If you want to add your support to others who are supporting families and individuals who need it, the best thing is to get behind the activity of existing community groups such as these:

1) Donate food to Food Bank using the yellow bin at Seasalter Christian Centre, or up at the big Tescos or any other place collecting. You can also give them money to buy food:

<https://canterburyfoodbank.org/donating/> follow them on Facebook and you'll get updates telling you what items they most need:

<https://www.facebook.com/FoodBankCanterbury/>

2) Donate to Riverside Church's Pantry Project

<https://www.riversideuk.org/pantryproject> who distribute food and essential items to those in need in the local community. They work with local supermarkets, [Fareshare](#) and personal donations to support those in need.

3) Support the Social Pantry at the Umbrella Cafe in Whitstable, a social enterprise that's been running for about 6 weeks with fresh veg, fruit, meat, dairy and store cupboard items from Fareshare and M&S. They are offering a breakfast club, and people who need a low cost shop can shop the pantry on a budget: £4 to shop for 20 items or £3 for 15 items. <https://theumbrellacafe.co.uk/>



Reverse Advent



As you may know the last few years we have been running the Reverse Advent in the run up to Christmas. This is where we put aside an item of food each day over a couple of weeks, these then are combined and redistributed over a number of food hampers. These hampers are then delivered to people in the community around our church who may find Christmas an especially difficult time of year financially. The items could be a tin of soup/vegetables/chilli etc or a packet of

pasta/breakfast cereal/jelly/crisps or items of toiletries, a jar of jam/cooking sauce/hot dogs etc and children/youth books/games or toys. Ideally we would like a mix of some meal essentials and some nice Christmas treats such as chocolates or mince pies. Last year our church family was incredibly generous and we distributed 23 hampers.

This year has been tough and we know that many families are struggling, so we would love to be able to give out even more hampers to bless our neighbours. If you are able to help please could you start putting aside an item as often as you are able to, many shops have offers so maybe you could donate the 'free' item to the hampers? The items can then be dropped off at the Christian Centre during the week of the 14th to 20th of December so that they can be sorted and then delivered on the 22nd. If getting them to the Christian Centre will be a problem for you then please contact Andy or Georgina Hedley-Smith or Becky in the office so that we can arrange to collect them from you.



Many thanks
Andy and Georgina

Christmas nativity trail

This Christmas is going to be unusual, our normal Christmas activities and opportunities for seeing friends and family will be changed. So that we can demonstrate hope in our area and provide joy over the Christmas period we are asking you to decorate your front windows/gardens and be part of this Christmas nativity trail.

What – Join in in any way. It can be a simple picture drawn by yourselves, a window display, a message from the nativity story or a full garden design. It can be nativity based or general Christmas fun themed. Some ideas – you could set out a full nativity or some of the characters in your window or garden, print a star and colour it in, make a fun scene for the window, hang a star outside or decorate the whole garden. Let your imagination be creative. Please remember this must be lit so it can be seen from the pavement on winter nights.

Who For us all - We are asking the church family and the wider community to join in. It doesn't matter where you live or how old you are, let's make an impact by all having a go, from Faversham to Herne Bay, all are welcome.

When – We will decorate our windows on the weekend of the 5th December and take them down weekend of 2nd January.

The trail - We will produce walking trails so the community can walk and explore our messages of Christmas hope over the time between.

Fancy dress walk – We plan that one evening children (and adults with a childish sense of fun!!) will be invited to dress up as nativity characters or Christmas themed and do the trail with battery operated Christingles or lights. More information on this to follow.

Let's be the joy in our community this Christmas. Please let Georgina or Eve know by the 9th November if you would like to take part
georgina.hedleysmith@stalphegeseasalter.org

eve.locktongoddard@outlook.com.

And nearer the time we can encourage our community to do the same.

Thank you. *Georgina and Eve*

Filming for the Service

PLEASE film any contributions for the Sunday Services such as Bible readings, prayers, testimonies or notices
LANDSCAPE (long side of the 'phone horizontal) rather than PORTRAIT (long side of the 'phone vertical) - see the diagram below. Our screens, the video software we use for services and the media they are played on (e.g. YouTube) is designed with the landscape format in mind, and it means an extra 20 minutes editing for Tom every time he gets it in the wrong format. Tom, we love you and we're sorry.... :)



If you have been asked to film something and you need some tech support to be able to do that, please ask. We can usually sort something out.

Car Park Chat

Fancy a chat? We are still continuing with the car park chats.

Most weekdays from around 9-11 outside the front of Seasalter Christian Centre there will be a socially distanced chair and somebody to chat to.

Come say hello if you are passing, or ring ahead to Becky Whittaker in the office 01227 276923 just to check someone's there, then pop down.



Safe, Loved, Accepted

On 18 October, St. Luke's Day, Stephen Cottrell, formally Bishop of Chelmsford, was enthroned in York Minster as the 98th Archbishop of York and the first Archbishop of York to be enthroned wearing a face mask!! What would normally be a grand occasion in the presence of a congregation filling the Minster, this time, due to the coronavirus restrictions, it was a case of social distancing with the service itself being much simpler and part of the regular Sunday 'Evensong'.

The Archbishop himself preached the sermon and what follows are snippets of what he said:- 'The church of Jesus Christ, what a motley band of muddled humanity it is. All the wrong sort of people gathered together with their foibles and failings; the cracked vessels through which the light of God's vision shines into the world.'

As an example of the 'motley band' the Archbishop went on to mention from the New Testament Tychicus, Aristarchus, Onesimus and Demas as examples and spoke about them.



For those who don't know, the official residence of the Archbishop of York is called 'Bishopthorpe' and Stephen went on to say that when he moved in there a month earlier, he held conversations with his staff asking each of them the same questions, one of which was 'What would you do if you were Archbishop of York?'

The gardener who works at 'Bishopthorpe' two days a week told him about a young woman who goes to church in York but doesn't really believe in God. She wants to believe, she is not an atheist but, as the Archbishop put it 'Like many people in England she hasn't got there yet.' 'So why do you come to church?' Bernard the gardener asked her, to which she replied 'Because I feel safe here, I feel loved, I feel accepted.'

In his sermon, the Archbishop continues by saying:- 'I found the story profoundly moving. Don't get me wrong. I do indeed

long for people to see that Jesus Christ shows us what humanity is supposed to look like and that knowing Him and following Him brings liberation, joy and purpose to life. But she's not there yet. That's not what she believes but she's still travelling with the church. Why? Because she feels safe, loved and accepted.

After expanding on those three things, the Archbishop concludes his sermon by saying:-

'Let's put this sign up outside our churches, Let's wear it on our sleeves and declare it to the world "Everyone is Welcome". Then let them know and see that here are a place and people where you will be safe, where you will be loved, where you will be accepted. This is where you will find hope for the world and a new vision for a new humanity. Enter here and be changed not into somebody else but into the beautiful person you are meant to be. Then join with us in changing the world.'

Donald

Click below to hear the full sermon:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lec8pLSBWEo>

Say One For Me

A huge thank you to all of our church family who rallied round and answered the call to deliver the "Say One For Me" postcards in the local district ; it was a tremendous effort.

Can we please pray that people respond to the message and above all know that we are thinking and praying for them.

Phil and Vanessa Farnham

If you would like to contribute to these church notices; do please get in touch with me.

Please be aware when supplying contact information for notices, this notice sheet is circulated physically and digitally via our website, social media and email.

Paula. Email: deaneves@msn.com