

## Prayer at the Heart

### Immediate needs 2 - 4 weeks



*Please pray for:*

Becky (Whittaker) recently tested positive for COVID. Jane, (Colin Curtis' daughter) and her family. Stella for a good recovery following a hip-replacement operation. Jill Wimsett, for better health than she has at the moment. Gill, as doctors strive to find her more suitable and effective drugs. Following a successful knee replacement operation, Pat asks for prayer for a good recovery on her own.

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. Melissa Clackett, undergoing tests, and for her baby Isaac for his ongoing conditions. Dorothy Vener. Bob Simmons. Debbie (Frances Crocker's daughter). Ann Harley, having episodes of problems with her heart. Audrey (Porter) for continued healing of her back. Pat Wade suffering with painful shingles. During January we will be praying for those living in Eden Road, MacDonald Parade and Cordingham Close.

### Long term needs - up to 3 months

Sheila Pearse. 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.***

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](mailto:deaneves@msn.com)



## Welcome to St Alphege, Seasalter

17 January 2021

2nd Epiphany

Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; John 1:43-end

The worst thing we ever did  
was put God in the sky  
out of reach  
pulling the divinity  
from the leaf,  
sifting out the holy from our bones,  
insisting God isn't bursting dazzlement  
through everything we've made  
a hard commitment to see as ordinary,  
stripping the sacred from everywhere  
to put in a cloud man elsewhere,  
prying closeness from your heart.

The worst thing we ever did  
was take the dance and the song  
out of prayer  
made it sit up straight  
and cross its legs  
removed it of rejoicing  
wiped clean its hip sway,  
its questions,  
its ecstatic yowl,  
its tears.

The worst thing we ever did is pretend  
God isn't the easiest thing  
in this Universe  
available to every soul  
in every breath

Chelan Harkin  
From her poetry book 'Susceptible to Light'

With thanks to David Harwood for drawing our attention to DailyHOPE.  
[Daily Hope | Thy Kingdom Come](#)



### Seasalter Parish Charities - prayer and support

A few of our St Alphege Seasalter members serve/have served as Trustees to this charity. Its aim is to provide alms to the "ancient parish of Seasalter". This is done, currently, by the provision of alms-houses in the shape of 5 self-contained flats in a house in Tankerton and a flat in Swale Park.

The current trustees would really welcome prayer for these 3 key areas, for God's guidance and help:

- The well-being and health of the 6 current residents
- The development of the charity in terms of how it delivers for those from Seasalter who will benefit the most
- Attracting new people to help manage the charity

If you'd like to know more information about this or think you could help, please get in touch with Richard Candy at: [richardcandy@me.com](mailto:richardcandy@me.com)

### Laptops etc

Going in to our third lockdown last week I've really felt for all the teachers who are busting a gut trying to organise online learning. Again! Whilst also juggling all those who are still going in to school. We have several teachers amongst our congregations so please keep them in your prayers.

One of the biggest problem is for those children who don't have a laptop/tablet to be able to access the work that is set for them. It got me thinking of what we could do to help.

I'm trying to get hold of as many unused laptops and tablets as possible and aim to get them to children and young people who really need them in order to access school work being set for them. So they don't get left behind.

The government have recognised this as a huge problem and are trying nationally to do what they can. I'm going to focus on our area and see if we can make a difference here.

So if any of you have any old iPads, tablets or laptops' to donate to help local children and young people please contact me ASAP. We will then get them swiped clean (if you're unable to do so) before passing them on.

Thanks  
Georgina



## PCC Secretary Needed for the Whitstable Team Ministry

We've got a vacancy for the PCC Secretary, a really important role in the Whitstable Team Ministry. The PCC meets quarterly, with an annual meeting and is drawn from representatives of the 5 Church of England (Anglican) churches: St John's Swalecliffe, St Alphege Seasalter, St Alphege Whitstable, All Saints and St Peter's. The PCC Standing Committee meets to prepare the PCC agenda, conduct any urgent work and follow up on work following the meetings.

The PCC Secretary ensures the vital flow of communication to enable this work to be done so that ministry and mission can be effective across the Team.

Please pray for the right person to come forward and to be appointed.

Please contact Paulette ([paulette.stubbings@stalphegeseasalter.org](mailto:paulette.stubbings@stalphegeseasalter.org)) as soon as possible if you'd like a copy of the role description for this key volunteer role. We're hoping for anyone who is interested to make contact by 22 January, details about that in the role description.

## Reduce Food Waste

Reduce food waste - there are now excess food deliveries to Seasalter Christian centre on Monday and Tuesday mornings - free for anyone to collect from 9-11am.



This has been a really successful initiative, and I want to thank the team behind the scenes who are picking up, dropping off and delivering food.

Ann Price

## Zoom Coffee 11 am after the Sunday Service

Some connect groups do this already but for those who don't there will be an opportunity for 'Coffee after the service' on Zoom from 11 am for half an hour following the pre-recorded service on YouTube each Sunday.



It will be good to see each other even if it's only from the waist up! We join the zoom then go into a series of random smaller groups to chat more easily (managed by the Zoom host). You don't have to stay for the whole half hour.

Zoom Link available from Paulette - [paulette.stubbings@stalphegeseasalter.org](mailto:paulette.stubbings@stalphegeseasalter.org) if you email her she'll email the link to you.

Please don't share the link publicly or with anyone you don't know.

It will be a re-usable link for that weekly post-service meeting, so you should be able to re-use it for future weeks

## Bible Readings, Prayers and Testimonies in the Sunday Services

If you'd like to go on the list for Bible Readings, Prayers or to share something of your story in the short testimony slot during the Sunday Services I'd love to hear from you.

I know some who responded to the request in the early days of the pandemic now find it hard to fit that in around work/changed life circumstances, so it would be good to grow the list a bit and have more involved.

You need to be able to record yourself (or within what's permitted with the Covid restrictions get someone else to help) on a smartphone/laptop or pc with a camera, then upload the video to Tom by the deadline for that week - I will send you full instructions about that when I send out the order of service.

If you'd like to go on the list for any of the above, please email me: [paulette.stubbings@stalphegeseasalter.org](mailto:paulette.stubbings@stalphegeseasalter.org)  
Thank you, love Paulette

## **‘DEPENDS ON WHICH WAY YOU ARE LOOKING’**

Those of us who log into “Zoom” for any of the three one-hour weekly prayer times organised by Tobi, usually start by greeting each other, enquiring about each other’s health and have a general chat about what we should specifically pray for. Being a bit deaf, I don’t always hear what is being said, particularly if two or more people are speaking at the same time. Last Sunday morning the first clear voice I heard was that of Phil Farnham who said ‘Depends on which way you are looking’. I still don’t know what Phil was referring to, but my mind turned to a situation I regularly face. It concerns the difficulty I have when I drive and reach the end of Vulcan Close, turning to go either up or down Borstal Hill. Sometimes it’s due to the volume of traffic, often it’s because cars are parked and block the view or because of vehicles speeding down or up the hill. Time and time again I have had to rely on another motorist waving me out or risk pulling out hoping it’s safe to do so. There have been a number of times when I have only just made it and there are numerous junctions just like it all over Whitstable, Herne Bay and Canterbury. I’m making this point to illustrate that in life it’s often important to look in more than one direction.

As Christians, there is only one way to look spiritually and know it’s safe to do so. To begin with, Jesus calls us to ‘Come to Him’. Then in John 1:29 we read ‘The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said ‘Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world’. Hebrews 12:2 says, ‘Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God’ or, as the King James version of the Bible puts it, ‘Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith ....’. The Amplified translation puts it like this, ‘Looking away (from all that will distract) to Jesus .....’. Then there is the old and well-known chorus that begins, ‘Turn your eyes upon Jesus .....’.

Neither that chorus nor any of the scriptures I have quoted came to mind last Sunday morning at the prayer meeting, instead I found myself recalling a verse from a Psalm, ‘God is our hope and strength a very present help in time of trouble’ and words like ‘We have a hope that is

steadfast and certain’ and ‘All my hope on Him is founded’. The word ‘Hope’ was included in other people’s prayers and was used later by several people leading different parts of the pre-recorded worship service. Later that day the word ‘Hope’ was mentioned by Micha Jazz, the new editor of the ‘Every Day with Jesus’ Bible Notes, who had written ‘Choose to be an Ambassador of hope this year and live every day with Jesus’ and in a prayer that followed, asked ‘Lord as an Ambassador of Hope, help me to light up the world with the love of God’.

‘Is life worth living?’ Reply: ‘It depends on the liver.’ As a play on words, both meanings can be said to be true. But to make life really worth living depends on our looking in the right direction. To be looking at and to Jesus is the answer. In Him and in Him alone do we find not only hope for the here and now but for eternity. Look away in the opposite direction and there is only hopelessness, despair and nothing to look forward to. Truly we have in Him our Lord and Saviour, a hope that is steadfast and certain.

The chorus ‘Turn your eyes upon Jesus’ is actually the chorus of a hymn. Here are the words of the verses: -  
O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see?  
There’s light for a look at the Saviour, and life more abundant and free!

Through death into life everlasting He passed and we follow Him there;  
Over us sin no more hath dominion, for more than conquerors we are!

His word shall not fail you He promised: believe Him, and all will be well:  
Then go to a world that is dying, His perfect salvation to tell.

Donald