

Prayer at the Heart



Please pray for:

Immediate needs 2 - 4 weeks

Barry (Paula's brother-in-law) in hospital with Mantles Lymphoma Cancer. Rob and Moira Clark and family following the death of Ray. Freddie and Charlie Crocombe (grandchildren to Andrew's brother), born last week and now in special care unit, both with respiratory problems and Freddie with erratic heartbeat too. Melissa Clackett whose health is deteriorating please pray for it to improve and for Isaac who started portage (help with speech, language and mobility) on 22 January for ongoing problems. Gill, as doctors strive to find her more suitable and effective drugs. Pat Martin, making a slow improvement following a knee replacement operation.

Continued prayers for Beth (Stan and Carol's daughter) as she undergoes chemotherapy. Pat Wade. Dorothy Vener. Bob Simmons. Debbie (Frances Crocker's daughter). Ann Harley, awaiting a diagnosis for ongoing heart problems.. Audrey (Porter) for continued healing of her back. During March we will be praying for those living in Freeman's Close, Church Lane, Heritage Close and Rowantree Park.

Long term needs - up to 3 months

Sheila Pearse. Joan Moss. 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, this notice sheet is circulated physically and digitally via our website, social media and email. Paula. Email: deaneves@msn.com



Welcome to St Alphege, Seasalter

21 March 2021

Lent 5

Readings: Psalm 30; John 15:1-8 (Message Version)

Opening up SCC for worship

Lockdown for most of us begins to gradually ease from 29 March in a more significant way after the schools have their staggered return over the previous 3 weeks. By then, most folk in the most vulnerable categories by age and health will have at least had their first vaccination.

Easter Day: first gathered services.

We plan to open for two services with congregations on Easter Day subject to the necessary risk assessment, and of course any revision by the Government in the meantime.

The two identical services, will be held at 9 and 10.30 as before, with a maximum capacity of 45 in each case, and places will have to be pre-booked via the office. **Bookings will be taken at the office from 22 March onwards up to 31 March.** We plan to offer Holy Communion, wafer only, as we did before. The second service will be livestreamed.

We will still be subject to the restrictions we were operating under when we opened before - social distancing and masks, *and it is absolutely vital that people cooperate fully with this if we want to stay open.* Although vaccines definitely improve the safety statistics for everyone, it is still possible for someone who is vaccinated to pass the virus on to somebody else. Rule of 6, socially distanced will be in place in the car-park as before initially.

From Easter Day onwards

After Easter Day, we will remain open for Sunday worship and gradually open up for other activities as the lockdown exit roadmap/restrictions allow. We will continue to livestream our services going forward, so that those who cannot or would prefer not to return to in-person services yet are able to watch from home. Those not online will continue to receive DVDs and information packs weekly. We expect to be able to open the Old Church for services once we no longer have to socially distance.

We are so looking forward to the day when we can gather without restriction, however in the meantime we give thanks to God we can resume worship in person now that rates are falling and the vaccinations are being rolled out widely.

Contact Paulette paulette.stubbings@stalphegeseasalter.org 07305 611437 if you have any questions or concerns.



Value G – Giving generously

Giving generously is one of the values which moulds our life together at St Alphege, Seasalter. Each year, as a church, we aspire to give away an amount equal to at least 10% of our normal giving income to partners in God's work locally, nationally and internationally.

We also encourage individuals and families to give generously to the church's work. The biblical guideline is the tithe, 10% of income, but Jesus never mentioned a percentage, because it's the heart that counts. The Church of England encourages members to give 5% to the church and 5% to other charitable causes. It's up to you – and God.

If you would like to know more about regular giving through banker's order or weekly envelopes, or about Gift Aid, please talk to Ceri Charilaou, the Stewardship Secretary (tel: 274650 or email: cericharilaou@hotmail.co.uk)



Public Sector Meet (over Zoom) is next booked in for Monday 19 April. A chance to chat me check in with each other. Please contact Tom Hedley-Smith or Rachel Berner for more details.

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number of times in several of his letters but most often (eight times) in his letter to the Philippians, the most well-known being 'REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS, I WIL SAY IT AGAIN: REJOICE!'

I wonder how many of you know and have sung as a 'round' the words:
 REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS AND AGAIN I SAY REJOICE
 REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS AND AGAIN I SAY REJOICE
 REJOICE! REJOICE! AND AGAIN, I SAY REJOICE!
 REJOICE! REJOICE! AND AGAIN, I SAY REJOICE!
 REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS AND AGAIN I SAY REJOICE

What have you had to rejoice about this past week? As illustrated in this article, something as simple as finding a pair of lost glasses can lead to a time of rejoicing. 'REJOICE' is itself a simple word meaning 'to feel or express great joy or happiness'. Yes even when you find a pair of 'specs' that went missing and even more so when each of us realises that we were 'lost' until Jesus found us, AND WE FOUND HIM!!

Donald

Church Electoral Roll

If you wish to formally signify your commitment to the Church of England, to vote in church meetings, or to stand for a leadership role, you need to have your name entered on the church's Electoral Roll. The deadline for applications to join the Roll in order to vote in this year's Annual Meeting is 5 April. Application forms can be obtained by emailing David Kemp at kemps11@btinternet.com

Existing members of the Electoral Roll need not re-apply.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart
 and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶in all your ways submit to him,
 and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3: 5-9

'The Purpose of Sorrow'

Finding ways in which our sorrow, sadness and grief
can deepen our faith and aid our healing



A morning online brought to the Seasalter Churches and
beyond by 'The Living Well',
Canterbury Diocesan Centre for Healing and Wholeness

**Saturday 10th April 2021,
10 am - 12 pm**

With an opportunity to receive individual prayer
online in the afternoon

Booking via Eventbrite—For more information, contact
Diana High on 01227 262495 or john_high@sky.com
Suggested donation £5



www.the-living-well.org.uk

Registered Charity No.: 1123792



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

It was getting dark quickly. Son Jonathan was in the back garden mowing the lawn. I was in the front garden emptying black plastic sacks full of garden rubbish into my green bin. No way was it all going to fit in unless someone, and it wouldn't and couldn't be me, climbed into the bin and trampled the rubbish down. You've guessed, Jonathan did it but we still didn't get all the rubbish in the bin.



Job done, Jon drove home but was back less than twenty minutes later. He had lost his glasses; they had fallen out of his trouser pocket. We began by searching the back garden and couldn't find them nor did we find them in the top six inches of the green bin. We reasoned that if they were further down in the bin we would find them crushed anyway and we spoke of buying a new pair. Trampling down the rubbish now didn't seem a good idea after all.

The next morning, I did another search of the back garden before removing the contents of the bin layer by layer. Halfway down there were the glasses and surprise, surprise they were completely intact with not even a scratch on either lens. Holding them in my hand the rejoicing began but my rejoicing was nothing compared to Jon's when I arrived at his house and handed the glasses over to him.

As I drove home my thoughts turned to Luke's Gospel chapter 15 and the parables of the 'Lost Sheep', 'Lost Coin' and 'Lost Son'. In the first, having found the lost sheep the shepherd calls together his friends and neighbours and says to them 'Rejoice with me, I have found my lost sheep'. In the second parable the woman who had lost a precious coin does something similar. In the third parable, on the return of his lost son the father arranges a celebration party telling everyone 'For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found'. There was rejoicing in heaven too for Jesus concludes the first parable by saying 'I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent'. Jesus concludes the second parable by saying 'I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

The verb 'rejoice' occurs about 130 times in the Bible, mostly in the Psalms and the book of the prophet Isaiah. In the New Testament, St. Paul uses the word a

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Cook Along

Hello, I am writing to explain a project that I started with my Mum, Gail, and our friend, Sue. Towards the end of last year we were prompted to find a way to equip and empower people to learn to cook. We wanted to provide fresh ingredients for families and recipes for balanced healthy meals cooked from scratch. We also filmed ourselves making the recipes so that people could cook along with us if this was easier than the written recipe. We wanted a complete package, not just to provide the food or just to provide the recipes but to combine it. Cooking a meal from scratch isn't always easy and we want to make it as easy as possible for people to do; if you cook you'll know the sense of achievement you feel when you've made a meal and share it with your family.

Through the two weeks of the Christmas holidays, we provided 258 mains and puddings. It went really well and most of the people who participated for the Christmas holidays wanted to do it again. For the week of February half term, we provided 129 mains and puddings.

When I say 'we' I don't mean the three of us personally, we put a request out for church family to support this financially, they did and so as a church we enabled this to happen. The three of us did it physically but not without their support. We also had donations of cooking equipment and people were praying for the project from the start. If God wants something to happen the provision will always come and we really felt this, it is humbling that we've had so much support.

Since February half term Paulette shared this with the rest of the team clergy who were interested in this project. We have recently met as a team-wide group and it is clear this project has the momentum and potential to grow. We feel God is in this project and therefore we are taking the bold step of increasing the number of people we can offer this opportunity to for the Easter holidays! We will be working as a team to expand.

- We are trusting God to steer us in the direction he wants. With the project

expanding we need your help and we need to raise the money to provide the ingredients. Financial contributions can be given via bank transfer or cash and contact details for this are at the bottom of this page. We estimate £5 per family per meal.

- If you have any cooking utensils you no longer need, that are in good condition, please also get in touch. It is a real blessing to equip households with the things they need to participate.
- We need more than three of us! If you are able to help with shopping in the lead up to the distribution or are able to help us make up the parcels of ingredients please get in touch.
- If you are good with editing of videos that would be a real help, we have managed so far but going forward we need to hand the editing reins over to someone else.
- PRAY- for those involved in the organising, for those taking part and the contacts we make, and for the meals to be a blessing to those who eat them.

Finally, whilst there's a lot of information in what I've written there are so many other benefits to this project. We've had teenagers taking the lead on cooking for their family, it's built people's confidence, we are meeting new people and we are resourcing and empowering people.

It does not have to be a family to participate - as we expand this, if you know someone who would be interested in joining, please ask them and then let us know their details.

Contact details:

Rachel - rberner588@gmail.com

Jane - Jane.myhill@btinternet.com

Isobel - isobel@stalphege.org.uk

