

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 April we will be praying for those living in Applegarth Park, Seasalter Lane and Faversham Road..

Long term needs - up to 3 months

Daniel Hampton with Long Covid. 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

28 March 2021

Palm Sunday



Holy Week and Easter Services

Most of the provision is online this year but we open SCC for gathered services on Easter Day.

Links to these will be shared via the church Facebook pages, emailed to connect group leaders and to the email group for notices, a little nearer the time. Grateful thanks to Tom Crocombe, Simon Tillotson, Mark Fagg and to all who have contributed to these services.

Palm Sunday 28 April

A Whitstable Team Ministry joint service, with contributions from members from each church including Seasalter, pre-recorded and online via the All Saint's YouTube channel.

Maundy Thursday 1 April

Set your table for yourself if you live alone, or for you and your household for your evening meal/tea on Maundy Thursday, and run the Maundy Thursday video on the St Alphege Seasalter YouTube Channel while you eat. All the instructions will be on the video, which you can pause as you go along. It will take you through a 'table liturgy' we think about the Last Supper and Jesus washing the feet of his disciples.

Good Friday 2 April

Churches Together in Whitstable service following the format of the Walk of Witness usually held in the town. Includes contributions from members of the Whitstable churches, as well as Seasalter. It will be livestreamed at 10 am from All Saint's YouTube channel and via the Churches Together in Whitstable Facebook page, link to be published nearer the time.

An hour at the cross with Mark Fagg - a contemplative YouTube video available to watch via St Alphege Seasalter YouTube channel.

Easter Day 4 April

2 services with Holy Communion in one kind, at Seasalter Christian Centre, 9.00 am and 10.30 am. Book your place to attend via the office 01227 276923 up to 11 am Wednesday 31st March. The 10.30 will also be livestreamed to the St Alphege Seasalter YouTube channel for those who cannot attend in person.

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.

Notice from the Church Wardens

Dear Church

We think it would be a lovely idea if we could deliver everyone in our congregation a card to celebrate their birthday and send the church's love to them.

If you, or anyone you know in your family would like to be included in this programme, could you please email Andrew (a.crocombe@sky.com) with the persons name and birthday details (year of birth not necessary). Birthdays can be announced in the notice section of the Sunday services, but only if you have specifically asked us to do so.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Love

Ali and Andrew



I know I am not alone when I say that this last year has been horrendous. We must grasp at every ray of hope and comfort that is offered to us. Sadly, I lost my mum under very difficult circumstances during lockdown and, as a reflection of her love for Whitstable, I took my kayak out and scattered her ashes at sea. I walk on the beach every day and natter to the waves in her memory.

Fast forward ten months and I have just found out that my sister has arranged for mum's name to grace the side of a new Lifeboat. The RNLI have an initiative called Launch a Memory whereby they invite nominations for names to be added to a fleet of new Shannon Lifeboats they are building, and they have accepted mum's name. The Shannon is currently under construction in Poole and will be launched at the end of the year. I will confess that the news brought a tear to my eye but it is a lovely way to Launch Mum's Memory. The Lifeboat will go on to touch many people's lives during its service and I love the thought of her name pounding the oceans.

Liz Boys



'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



Thomas Becket: Archbishop of Canterbury 1162-1170

The 29th December 1170 is etched in history as the notorious murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral. Four knights entered the Archbishops' house before Becket retreated to the Cathedral for safety; however, the sacred place did not protect him and a brutal death followed as the top of Becket's head was removed by a sword. Becket was soon named a martyr and he



was canonised as a saint on 21 February 1173. Most people reading this piece will know this infamous murder but the events leading up to it, and the reason for its continuing endurance, can be lost.

Canterbury had become a centre of Christianity many years before this event with the arrival of Augustine who converted the Kent King Ethelbert around 597. The Pope in Rome was the head of the church and was keen to convert Britain (England was not formally established at this time) and embraced an invitation from Ethelbert. If the King converted to Christianity at that time the population followed, this gave members of the church establishment much power, sometimes meaning they oversaw in the Kings absence.

Britain was not united and raiders from Scandinavia (commonly known as Vikings) and Norse men (commonly known as Normans) invaded at different points. Although there is evidence of Christianity during these periods there is also evidence of disputes within the church as Canterbury and York wanted to be the central hub. York was seen as a more Celtic type of Christianity and Canterbury more Roman in its approach.

Thomas Becket was born on 21st December 1118 amid continuing church disputes, clerics (which is where the word 'clergy' originates) were often married, worked for the church but not ordained in the way we see today. The role of

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priest was more formalised and had more status but people often remained clerics for many years. Thomas had a privileged upbringing in London, the son of parents from Normandy (now France) and received a good education. His parents gained a position for Thomas with Archbishop Theobald in Canterbury, which was a way to establish you in societal circles as the King and Archbishops worked closely together. Thomas had opportunities to travel and met Pope Alexandra III during this period; thus Thomas had developed good connections.

Henry II came to power in 1154 and was known for his raging temper and changing his mind. Thomas knew the King, became the Chancellor and was seen as his friend. The Chancellor role was a relatively high position and Thomas executed it with good standards and commitment so enhanced his reputation.

So why appoint a chancellor to the role of Archbishop of Canterbury? Thomas was thought to have been a religious man and Henry II wanted an ally at the top of the church. At the time the King had a lot of power and persuasion to get Thomas 'elected'. Thomas had warned the King not to inaugurate him but Henry did it anyway! Thomas became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162 having been ordained a priest a few days beforehand. Thomas became passionate about protecting the church but this was not what the King had intended so led to disputes.

Henry thought the church had too much power and wealth and wanted clerks and clergy to be tried in the Kings court rather than the Church court. The church courts were more lenient than the Kings court (which could be very brutal) and Henry wanted more power to control the church finances too; the 'Constitutions of Clarendon' were proposed in 1164 as a result. However, he had underestimated Thomas's resolve to protect the church's rights and his disagreement to the Constitutions led to Thomas having to flee England and live for several years in France. On 2nd December 1170 Thomas returned to Canterbury believing that the dispute had waned after the Pope intervened. Henry's rage soon resurfaced and the fateful night where the King proclaimed '*who will get rid of this priest*' led to the Knights actions and Thomas's murder.

The news of the murder spread widely, giving Henry a bad reputation and Becket was being hailed a martyr for upholding the church. There were reports of miracles happening in Becket's name soon after his death and the Canterbury monks (of the cathedral not Augustine Abbey) used the opportunity to promote

these and bring income into Canterbury. Thomas was canonised as a saint in 1173 and Canterbury became a centre for pilgrimage. There were few pilgrimage sites in Northern Europe and Canterbury was on the road to London, which had grown in prominence, so it became an easy stopping place. The money brought into the cathedral led to an elaborate shrine being made for Becket around 1220.

Becket was not seen as a saint by everyone as he could be arrogant and unbending, with some people thinking he wanted the fame of martyrdom, but under his robes is said to have been a garment made of hair which persuaded people that he was more reverent than external appearances suggested. Becket's murder disadvantaged Henry II as it created so much outrage that he could not proceed with his plans for the church. On 12th July 1174 Henry II performed a penance in Canterbury Cathedral for the death of Becket which included walking bare foot and scourging.

However, Henry VIII in the 1540s wanted change and the dissolution of the Church started around this time. Henry VIII was fearful that someone might imitate Becket and hamper his own designs for reforming the church which led to mass destruction of any pictures, icons or statues that venerated Becket which included Becket's shrine. The site of Becket's murder is now noted with a wall plaque as none of his bones are believed to exist.

The Canterbury Tales, written by Chaucer, 1387-1400, were based on the pilgrimages to the Cathedral, this book continues to keep the memories alive' along with films and several books. St Thomas Becket day is still venerated in the Roman Catholic Church as the patron saint of secular clergy but not in the English one.

Ann Price



Cook Along - Reminder

If you don't remember what this is about, contact deaneves@msn.com for a back issue.

Otherwise, contact details: are
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