

## Prayer at the Heart



*Please pray for:*

### **Immediate needs 2 - 4 weeks**

Elaine (Oakley) waiting for an MRI scan and an op/radiotherapy to deal with an early stage cancer. Barry (Paula's brother-in-law) back in hospital with sepsis. Rob and Moira Clark and family following the death of Ray. Freddie and Charlie Crocombe (grandchildren to Andrew's brother), 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 baby Isaac. Gill, as doctors strive to find her more suitable and effective drugs.

Continued prayers for Beth (Stan and Carol's daughter) as she undergoes chemotherapy. Pat Wade. Dorothy Vener. Bob Simmons. Debbie (Frances Crocker's daughter). 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

**11 April 2021**

**2nd after Easter**

**Readings: Psalm 37:1-11; Matthew 6: 5-8**

### **Contemplation**



### **IMPORTANT: REVISED ADCM DATE Tuesday 18 May at 7.30**

We've had to change the ADCM date (originally planned for 19 April) so we can legally gather in person to do so, at the direction of our Bishop and in line with the Government roadmap out of lockdown.

We want to hold a hybrid meeting (in person and on Zoom) to make sure that people who aren't online can attend, so we will be holding our **Annual District Church Meeting this year on Tuesday 18 May at 7.30 pm.**

More information about it will follow in due course.

## Move Up Sunday

Usually around this time of year we have what we call 'Move Up Sunday' - it's the time in the year when the oldest children of each of the Sunday groups in church move up to the next one. For those who are moving it can be a big deal - generally moving to a new regular room to meet in and with different leaders, and joining a group of older children they may not know as well.

For some it's a big change - as they move up into the youth group for the first time.

In pre-pandemic times, we would get the children, young people and their leaders to stand in the service and we would pray for them on Move Up Sunday before they go out to their groups.



Well last year we were all finding our feet with this novel thing called Lockdown, and this year things are different - all our youth and children's work has been online for the most part and organised differently from the in-church groups. And it will be a little while yet before any groups can start up in person in the way they did before.

It's also an opportunity for a fresh look at how some of the groups are organised. So I still want to invite you to pray especially for:

- For our children and young people, Georgina, Lise and Andrew and their ministry, and all who help with this work.
- For those who will be leaving the children's work and moving into the youth group this year,

For leaders, children and young people as we review our provision and make plans for the future and our journeying with God as a whole church community.

Love from Paulette



Stewardship envelopes are now available for the year from April 2021. If you have been regularly using envelopes over the past 18 months I will automatically renew them. I will leave the new ones at SCC for you to collect from Easter Sunday or (if they are not collected) we will try to drop them off to you.

If you would like to request a set of envelopes please let me know via email at [cericharilaou@hotmail.com](mailto:cericharilaou@hotmail.com), by phone on 01227 274650, or speak to Becky or Paulette and they can pass a message on.

If you would like to change to a standing order, or no longer require envelopes, please let us know.

Ceri Charilaou

## Used Stamps

Don't know what to do with your used stamps? Please collect them for a premature baby charity. You can give to Ann Price or can send direct to: Octopus for a Preemie UK  
PO BOX 16992  
Sutton Coldfield B73 9YA

## 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](mailto: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

when King Oswui was celebrating Easter. Both had converted to Christianity but their instruction in the faith came from different sources – one Roman and one northern.

To solve the problem Hild convened a synod at her monastery. Those invited to the synod included two kings, a father and son named Oswui and Alchfrid, and their two bishops Colman and Agilberht. Also attending was Abbot Wilfrid who had taught King Alchfrid and aligned with Bishop Agilberht who stood for the Roman manner of the Christian faith. King Oswui gave an opening speech. Then Colman, a northern bishop was given the opportunity to state his case for calculating Easter according to the manner taught by Columba who by tradition followed teaching from St John the Evangelist. Their calculations were related to the lunar cycle and its relationship to the Jewish Passover. Yet Colman's confident speech was soon counteracted by Wilfrid who was commended to speak by Bishop Agilberht due to his ability to speak with clarity in the English language. Wilfrid then eloquently expounded the Roman viewpoint. He referred back to the Apostles Peter and Paul contrasting Jewish customs with Christian beliefs which centred on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday the first day of the week. Wilfrid explained the 'correct' way to calculate Easter relating it to both the lunar cycle and the spring equinox. In conclusion he posed the question as to who they should follow; should it be Peter who Scripture says holds the keys of heaven or their saint Columba? When King Oswui heard this he decided that he would adopt the Roman way rather than risk arriving at the gates of heaven to meet St Peter and know that he had disregarded his teaching. This settled the question on how to calculate the date of Easter. Indeed for many centuries afterwards the pope in Rome was the ultimate authority on English church matters. So if you visit Whitby take a moment to reflect what occurred in 664.

Christine Holland (Reader in Training)

## Future-shaped church?

I'd like to continue to encourage you to keep praying and to get in touch with the things God is laying on your heart about the way we need to be church here at St Alphege Seasalter, especially as we gradually emerge from the pandemic. What lessons has God been teaching us during this time that we need to carry into the future as we decide what we pick up again and what we do differently as we continue alongside God, one another and our community? Your church leadership are actively praying and reflecting about this, and since you ARE the church, we need your voice!

It's tricky because some of the usual ways we'd collect this information together would be through an evening or half-night of prayer, using interactive materials as we gather in person, or gathering information during coffee time at church by writing it up on bits of paper - and we can't do this for a while yet.



BUT, we can pray, reflect and discuss in our Connect or other small groups, or by ourselves, we can drop an email, letter, postcard (or send a carrier pigeon, fax or telegram) - to Paulette c/o the SCC office: 49 Faversham Road CT5 4AX, email: [paulette.stubbings@stalphegeseasalter.org](mailto:paulette.stubbings@stalphegeseasalter.org) and I'll make sure we prayerfully feed in your reflections to the thinking processes.

Thank you!

With love and excitement for the journey ahead, Paulette

## Reminders

Next Public Sector Meet (over Zoom) is Monday 19 April - contact Tom Hedley-Smith or Rachel Berner.





## Whitby – its place in Church History, what happened there and why it is of particular significance

Whitby is a small seaside resort in North Yorkshire at the mouth of the River Esk. Looking up from the west pier you can see the dramatic remains of Whitby Abbey as well as St Mary's Church perched high up on the east cliff. Ascend the 199 steps from the east cliff up to the abbey and you can see panoramic views which have given spiritual inspiration to many over the centuries. English Heritage has been the guardian of the abbey ruins since 1920. Their guide book is well worth obtaining if you plan a visit.



Whitby is a Danish name given to the place in the ninth century by Viking settlers. Originally in Anglo-Saxon times it was called 'Streaneshalch' which the guide book suggests may mean 'Streane's headland'. In the seventh century a monastery was established and ruled over by an abbess named Hild. No visible evidence remains of this monastery. Perhaps it was destroyed by Viking raiders of

the ninth century. During the eleventh century Reinfrid, a soldier companion of William the Conqueror, is believed to have visited the headland and had a spiritual encounter which resulted in him taking holy orders and becoming a monk. In 1078 he returned to Whitby and founded a Benedictine monastery. Over time there were several building projects first in the Romanesque style but subsequently in the Gothic style. Eventually the monastery was surrendered to King Henry VIII in 1539. Following the dissolution of the monastery it passed to the Cholmley family whose mark was made with grand buildings for residential use.

Whilst much could be said about Whitby the event which historians

frequently highlight is the Synod of Whitby in 664. Few people today recognise the significance of this event and the way it shaped the Christian church in this land for centuries. We know that the date of Easter varies each year but at one time opinion was divided on how to determine the date resulting sometimes in two possible Easter Sundays. Following the synod this situation was resolved and to understand the reason a brief overview about the spread of Christianity is helpful.

Christianity probably arrived during Roman times but was driven back towards Cornwall and Wales by the Anglo-Saxon invaders. In the north Christianity spread due to missionary monks travelling from Ireland, Scotland and Iona including one notable monk called Aidan who was made a bishop. Meanwhile Pope Gregory the Great decided that he should send a missionary team to England and in 597 Augustine landed in Kent. A bridgehead for the Roman style of Christianity was soon established due to the conversion of Ethelbert, king of Kent. Over the next few years Christianity was spreading around the country but there were some marked differences between north and south. These included differences in church governance, styles of worship, and in tonsure i.e. how the holy men shaved their heads, and most notably when they celebrated Easter. The Roman calculation for Easter was different from the Celtic method resulting in two alternative dates for celebrating Easter which led to controversy over what should be the most important Christian celebration each year. In 664 the problem was finally settled due to the wise intervention of an abbess named Hild at Whitby.

So who was Hild? She was born a princess in the north of England and converted to Christianity in 627. Before becoming a nun she lived for a time in Kent moving in court circles and gaining experience and wisdom. Later she returned to the north and set up a monastery at Whitby (or Streaneshalch) where she was granted land by Oswui King of Northumbria. There Hild ruled over two religious houses one for men and one for women and therefore her monastery had the space and ability to provide a suitable venue for an important meeting. The controversy between the southern Christianity which was strongly linked to Rome and the northern or as sometimes referred to as 'Celtic' faith came to a head. It happened that Queen Eanfled was celebrating Palm Sunday on the day