

Prayer at the Heart

Please pray for:



Immediate needs 2 - 4 weeks

- Donald, for a complete recovery from his recent operation.
- Gill (Campbell) has started on a new drug as well as a cardioversion on her heart.
- Marcea Evans, for complete recovery following an operation.
- We continue to pray for Lee, for strength and recovery as he battles severe anxiety and depression and for Trudy, his wife, as she supports him.
- Ann (Shuttle's) sister, Joan, whose health is deteriorating.

During March we will be praying for those living in Eden Road, MacDonald Parade and Cordingham Close.

Long term needs - up to 3 months

- Janice and Graeme Allott.
- Dave (Remon), suffering from Parkinson's.
- Frances Crocker.
- Stella (Masters) for a full recovery following an operation.
- Ted North, recovering from a 3rd dislocation of his hip, please pray for healing and strength and for a long term solution
- Graham Goldstraw, for his health to continue to improve.
- Brian Evans, whose condition continues to deteriorate and for Jane and their family.
- Ruth, (Bob Simmons daughter).
- Please pray for everyone in our church family living with long-term illnesses or conditions including Audrey, Bob, Denise, Dennis, Emma, Katherine, Katy, Lise, Pat Wade and Rosalind.

If you would like someone to be added to the prayer needs,

Please contact: Carol Judge 277752

or David & Lynda Kemp 272470



Thank you to all who prayed for my daughter-in-law Susan; she has now finished all of her treatment and is now clear of cancer. Thank you also for praying for me; my knee is much better now and I hope to be back at church soon.

Margaret Tyce-Butcher



Welcome to St Alphege, Seasalter

Sunday 24 March 2024

Palm Sunday

Readings: Psalm 118:19-end & Mark 11:1-11

ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING

The church's Annual Meeting will be held on Monday 15th April at 7.30pm at SCC. *Please note that this is an in-person only meeting and there will not be a Zoom link as in previous years.* Please do try and attend this important meeting where we shall give thanks to the Lord for all that has happened over the last extraordinary year and a bit and also think and pray about the people we need to represent us on various bodies.

One of the important tasks of the Annual Meeting is to elect those who will guide or represent the church over the next year. This year we need to elect to the Deanery Synod one representative. There are the usual three vacancies for our District Church Council (DCC) and two places on the Team Council (PCC) - if you are a member of the Deanery Synod or PCC you are automatically a member of the DCC too. We also elect the two Churchwardens and two Deputy Wardens. If you would like to serve in any of these ways or know of someone who would be suitable for one of these roles (please talk to the person before nominating them!) please complete a nomination form available from the Churchwardens or the office. If you would like any further information about any of the roles or the Annual Meeting, please speak to Paulette, Andrew or Ali. Copies of the Annual Report Booklet will be available shortly.

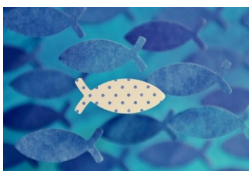
Important Church Communication

If you weren't there on Sunday 17 March and didn't hear Paulette's important communication during the service (it was not recorded or livestreamed) please make sure you read one of the written copies being circulated. If you haven't managed to get hold of one of these, please email Paulette. paulette.stubbings@stalphegeseasalter.org or ask the Churchwardens, Ali or Andrew

Confirmation, Baptism and First Communion at Seasalter

Confirmation

On 6 June, 7 pm at St Mary's Reculver, a number of people from the churches in our Deanery will be Confirmed. Confirmation is an opportunity for people who were baptised/Christened as a young child or baby to affirm for themselves the promises that were made on their behalf by parents and godparents. It can be a significant step on the journey of faith. At this special service, the bishop lays hands on your head and asks God's Holy Spirit to strengthen you as you commit to live God's way. If you are interested in being confirmed please talk to Claude or Paulette as soon as possible.



Baptism

Being baptised is an important step on the journey of faith in Jesus Christ. It's a wonderful experience and there's no age limit. At Seasalter you can choose to be baptised with poured or sprinkled water from a bowl or font, or even have your baptism in the sea! If you were baptised as a child or in a different Christian tradition there are ways to renew those promises if you'd like to do that. Talk to Paulette if you are interested.

First Communion

We are happy for all who know and love the Lord Jesus to come to the table for Holy Communion and some do from a young age. But we know that for some families, making a formal 'first communion' is an important step in the faith journey. If your children are at an age where you think they are ready and you would like to talk about this then speak to Lise or Paulette, and we can talk to you about them receiving first communion on Easter Day. In the same way, if you are an adult who has never received Holy Communion and would like to start, speak to Paulette about it.

Yay! and Pray

This week we are ...

Celebrating:

- Giving grateful thanks that Donald is home recovering, praying for all in our church who are going through or waiting for medical treatment.
- Giving thanks for the marriage preparation day on Saturday and the couples who attended. Praying blessing on them and their families.

Praying for:

- The youth, the leaders and Hannah and that we hear God speaking clearly about how we engage with the young people in our town.
- Following the half-night of prayer on Friday, for God to deepen each of us in our habit and practice of prayer and also as a church community.



Upcoming Services and Key Church Events

Please read the fuller notices for groups and other activities.

Wednesday 27 March

2.30 pm Midweek Holy Communion at SCC

Thursday 28 March

Maundy Thursday Church Bring and Share Community Meal (for all ages) from 6 pm at SCC

Friday 29 March

Walk of Witness from 9.30 at the Whitstable side of the Skate Park in Swalecliffe

2 - 3 pm Last Hour at the Cross, a reflective service at the Old Church

Easter Sunday 31 March

8.30 Easter Fire service on the beach at Seasalter

10.00 All-Age Easter Celebration with Holy Communion at SCC

East Monday 1 April

Experience Easter, book in 11 - 4pm at SCC, see separate notice

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll is the list of church members who are entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting and indicates that you would like to be formally seen as a member of this church. Every year the Electoral Roll has to be revised by adding or deleting names as necessary. If you are not on the Electoral Roll and would like to be, please complete an application form available today and subsequently from Elaine Oakley - Electoral Roll Officer, or a Churchwarden. Completed forms MUST be received by **Sunday 31st March 2024**.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are already on the Electoral Roll you do not need to do anything .

I am looking to run a basic Alpha course, that would suit people exploring faith, those new to faith and those with a faith and Jesus, but seeking to equip themselves with sound teachings from the Bible.

I need a group of volunteers to support this and be there to head up and guide table discussions that will take place.

I am planning to run Alpha on Sundays from 4pm—5:30pm.

Training will be given. If this is something you have done before or would like to do, please contact me.
01227 657877
claudette.gayle@stalphegeseasalter.org.



Money

Managing your money doesn't have to be a pain. Learn the skills to make it simple at The Harbour Church Whitstable. Best bit? It's totally free.

Next course is on Wednesdays 10.30am to 12 midday
17 & 24 April + 1 and 8 May 2024

You will need to attend all four days in order to complete the course.

Give Joyce a call to find out more.
Book your free place, contact: 07599 281586
capuk.org/trymoneycoaching



Easter Services and Events 2024

Palm Sunday 24 March, 8.45 am and 10.30 am services at SCC with blessing of palms.

Maundy Thursday 28 March Bring and Share Meal - from 6.00 pm for ages 0-99 at SCC, with handwashing, sharing in Holy Communion, and 'stripping of the sanctuary' at the end.

Good Friday 29 March Walk of Witness for Churches together in Whitstable, begins near the Skate Park in Swalecliffe at 9.30 am

Good Friday 29 March 2.00 -3.00 pm Last Hour at the Cross - reflective service at the Old Church

Easter Day 31 March, 8.30 am Easter Fire service on the beach at Seasalter, followed by refreshments and bacon rolls at SCC, then 10.00 am All Age Easter Celebration with Holy Communion

Easter Monday 1 April: Experience Easter, 11-4 pm SCC, contact Hannah Rogers hannah.rogers@stalphegeseasalter.org to book.



UNCOVER THE EASTER MYSTERY

7 Stops, 1 Amazing Story - An interactive and immersive 'walk through' event for all ages followed by refreshments.

Monday 1st April
11am - 4pm

At Seasalter Christian Centre

Booking is essential to be a part of this epic exploration!

Head to church suite to book in!



Churchwarden

After incredibly hard working and faithful service to us at St Alphege Seasalter, Andrew Crocombe will be stepping down as Churchwarden (from the Annual District Church Council Meeting).

Please will you pray as we seek a new Churchwarden to stand and fill this vital role. Andrew took on a lot of additional responsibilities and work beyond the usual role, some of which he will continue - below is an outline of what a Churchwarden does.

CHURCHWARDEN – ROLE DESCRIPTION

The churchwardens are the senior lay people of the church and have a leadership role with the vicar. But their crucial role is one of management – not doing everything but making sure that everything gets done.

The technical stuff

Churchwardens are elected each year at the Annual District Church Meeting and may hold office for six consecutive years (unless the ADCM decides, in exceptional circumstances, that this may be longer). Canon Law states that *“they shall be foremost in representing the laity and in cooperating with the incumbent”* and that *“they shall use their best endeavours to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace among them”*. Churchwardens are officers of the Bishop. They are ex officio members of the District Church Council, its Standing Committee and the Parochial Church Council.

Buildings

Churchwardens have a particular responsibility for the practical care and maintenance of the church buildings. They must maintain the Terrier (the record of all the land owned by the church), the inventory of the church’s property and a logbook of any work done in the church. They will be responsible, with the vicar, for applying for a faculty (permission) for work to be done to the church building (only the Old Church because the Christian Centre is not a consecrated building).

Money

Whilst the DCC has responsibility for the financial affairs of the church the churchwardens should maintain a close relationship with, and support, the treasurer particularly in a large church like Seasalter. If there is no treasurer, it falls to the churchwardens to ensure that the role is fulfilled until a new treasurer is appointed.

Services

It is important that at least one churchwarden should attend each of the main services, not only to make sure the practical arrangements are in place (welcomers, AV, communion supplies, money counters etc) but also to be visible and available to members of the church family.

Administration

There is a great deal of administration in a large church like Seasalter. It is important that the churchwardens do not try to do it all, but they should make sure all the tasks are covered. They should know “how things work” (church members will expect the churchwardens to know!) and make sure any gaps are filled.

The DCC

The churchwardens will be regarded as leaders of the DCC. Their opinions will carry weight and they should do their best, with the vicar, to ensure that the DCC works smoothly and effectively.

The church family

The churchwardens carry a responsibility for the pastoral care of the church family even though this may work practically through connect groups and any pastoral network.

And finally, the vicar

Perhaps the most important of the churchwardens’ roles. They should have a close working and personal relationship with the vicar and should meet regularly. They should ensure that the vicar and her family are cared for and supported and that practical issues like days off, holidays and expenses are in order. They should be the “critical friend” of the vicar (but not too critical!), loyal and supportive but also honest, the people the vicar can turn to for good advice and encouragement.

It’s a great job!

Please Note We livestream our 8.45 service and occasionally other services, uploading these to our church YouTube channel. The camera is focussed on the stage area (please be aware of this if you go up onto the stage during the service), and we don’t film during the distribution of Holy Communion. Some backs of heads will appear in camera view. Please speak to a Church Warden when you arrive if you wish to avoid being in camera view.