

## Prayer at the Heart

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*Please pray for:*

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

- Jean (Hunter) whose husband Derek has died. May Derek rest in peace and rise in glory
- Mark Temple, out of hospital following his operation last week. Please pray for his recovery and also for Christine, his wife, and their children, Cameron and Maddie.
- Paul Browning, for an operation date soon to remove a kidney with a cancerous tumour and for his recovery and wider healing, with no complications.
- Jade (a Little Salties mum) having serious health issues.
- Audrey Porter.
- Ann Moreton continues to be looked after in hospital - she is very frail, please keep her in your prayers.
- Mark Arnold for a complete recovery following his operation for Prostate Cancer.
- Frances Crocker with health issues.
- Pat Wade.
- Ann Shuttle.
- Janice and Graeme (Allott).
- Donald having injections into his painful knee.

During November we will be praying for those living in Beaconsfields, St. Mary's Grove and Allan Road.

*If you would like someone to be added to the prayer needs, please contact: Carol Judge 277752 or David & Lynda Kemp 272470*

## Frances Crocker

Frances will be in Bradbury Grange for 3 weeks from Friday 15th November. Please pray for her, and she'd be delighted to have visitors during her time there.



## Welcome to St Alphege, Seasalter

**Sunday 17 November 2024**

**2nd Before Advent**

**Readings: Philippians 2: 5-11 & Colossians 3: 1-17**

*Please take this notice sheet home with you*

### **Coming soon - our Christmas Fayre!**

Thank you for the lovely donations and offers of help we have received so far.

We are looking forward to welcoming our community on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November (from 10.30am to 2.30pm)**.

We hope this will give many families a special start to this year's Christmas celebrations.

There is still time to get involved (especially with set up and clearing away). Please speak to Lynda, Rosalind, Ann, Paula or Karen on Sunday; or contact Lynda on 07890 767711 or Rosalind on 0759 604333.

In the meantime, we are sharing with you our prayer for this event - that we will connect with our community at this time and that they will connect in a special way with the Christmas story this year.



*Lord, we thank you for this opportunity to reach out to our community and to offer a warm welcome to our church.*

*Please help us to show your love to all we connect with in the lead up to the fayre and on the day itself. We ask you to work in and through those connections. May those who come across the church threshold for the fayre respond to our invitations to special Christmas Services.*

*We ask you to draw families to yourself this Christmas. Show them clearly that the baby who was born in a stable was sent because God loves them.*

*May they experience an openness in their hearts and minds, and may they find new ways to respond to your love this Christmas.*

*Amen.*

## 'Hello Church' - letter from Paulette

Paulette will be writing a monthly 'letter from the Vicar' to help keep everyone up to speed with what's going on. The first of these was the November edition, sent out via ChurchSuite.

If your contact details aren't on ChurchSuite yet, or would like a hard copy, please pick one up from the back of Church, or let Paulette or the Churchwardens know.

## Christmas trees

For the last 35 years Peter Howard, who lives at Luddenham near Faversham (ME13 0TQ), has grown and sold Christmas trees to aid churches and other charities. You go along to his plantation of several hundred trees, choose the one you want while it's still growing, and return to collect it in December. You pay for your tree and 60% of the price is returned to your church, with the balance being divided between 25 other charities. **WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE??**

If the idea appeals to you, contact Peter by email:

[nashsfarmhouse@btinternet.com](mailto:nashsfarmhouse@btinternet.com)

or phone 079 10 248 30 to make an appointment to choose your tree.



## BAKERS! WE NEED YOU!

We need some cakes making for a couple of upcoming services/ events:

There's a sheet at the back of church if you could put your name down to let us know you are able to help, thank you.

1) Community Sunday service 24 November - one or two more bakers for refreshments at the end after the card deliverers return - *thank you to those who have already offered.*

2) Christmas Spirit Day up at the Old Church Saturday 14 December - so we can offer a hot drink and a cake to people from the community who come.

Thank you so much, Paulette

## 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.

## Please pray for your DCC (District Church Council) as it meets next week on 19th.

For wisdom, discernment and prayerful determination to shape our priorities and activity to be 'in line with the Vine' (Jn 15), and continue to work through any challenges with positivity and faith.

## Prayer at the Heart



Please pray for:

### Long term needs - up to 3 months

- Ted North.
- Ann (Shuttle's) sister, Joan, whose health is deteriorating
- The 4-year-old daughter of Tariq's niece who has been diagnosed with Leukaemia.
- Whitstable Street Pastors, that they increase in number.
- Dave (Remon), suffering from Parkinson's. He is now living in Bradbury Grange and would welcome visitors.
- Gill (Campbell).
- 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 Bob, Dennis, Emma, Katherine, Katy, Lee (Russell) & his wife Trudi, Lise, Rosalind and Stella (Masters).

*If you would like someone to be added to the prayer needs, please contact: Carol Judge 277752 or David & Lynda Kemp 272470*

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## SCC Office Administrator Post

Thank you to those of you who have got in touch signalling your interest in applying for the post when it is advertised.

At the moment recruitment is on hold until earliest after a Finance and Standing Committee Meeting has taken place, on 14 November - I'll communicate about what's going to happen in due course.

In the meantime, we are hugely grateful to Caroline Wiles who is covering the post voluntarily.

Paulette

## Yay! and Pray

This week we are . . .

### Celebrating:

- Thankful for our church community, for those who come alongside others with love, support and encouragement shared through the ups and downs of faith, that with the Holy Spirit's help we can be this to one another and to others we love, live with, work with and meet.

### Praying for:

- Pray for all survivors and sufferers of abuse and for the successful change of any systems and structures in the C of E that enable it to continue. Pray for Archbishop Welby and his wife on his resignation giving thanks for his years of service and ministry and for the right appointment in due course.



## Singers Wanted!

*Parish Advent Carol Service, Sunday 1 December, 5 pm at St Peter's Whitstable*

There will be a gathered choir from across the Team Churches, and a couple of short evening rehearsals.

Please contact Rachel Webbley:

[vicar@stalphege.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stalphege.org.uk)

if you are interested.

## 2024 Attendance Survey

First of all, thank you to everyone for your patience and good humour as we collected all the information for our Attendance Survey throughout October.

Here are some of the headlines (figures in brackets are the 2022 numbers, the last time we counted). There may not be any jaw-dropping surprises but it's good to know who we are.

- 187 (214) individuals attended church on at least one Sunday or Wednesday in October – 155 (168) adults and 32 (46) children. There are perhaps a dozen or so regulars who weren't here in October for various reasons.
- Nearly two-thirds of our church family are female.
- Just over a quarter do not live in Whitstable - they come from east (e.g. Herne Bay), south (Blean and Canterbury) and west (Faversham). No-one from the north!
- We recorded 19 (27) children aged between 0 and 10, with 13 (19) young people between 11 and 17.
- Our Average Weekly Attendance for October was 94.5 adults and 14 children/young people.
- There is still a gap in our younger adults – 14 in their 20's, 12 in their 30's and 13 in their 40's
- Just over half of our adult members are over 60.
- 19 individuals have joined the church in the last year, and exactly half the church family have been members for over 10 years.

David

## Help needed

We need help with opening and/or closing the building when we have bookings out of office hours. This is not a big ask but absolutely vital if we are going to continue to open up the Christian Centre to the community. In reality it is only necessary once or twice a month on a Saturday and even less week nights, never later than 22.30. If interested or you want to find out more details please find me in the office Monday to Friday 9-1 or email the office on [office@stalphegeseasalter.org](mailto:office@stalphegeseasalter.org)

Thank you

Caroline

Acting-Administrator Seasalter Christian Centre

## Message from Lise

Hello, I am wondering if you might be able to help please?

We have a small handful of children aged 5 months to 2 1/2 years old who would benefit from having a creche on a Sunday morning during church.

Some of the parents are able to help by going on a rota and some of them are unable to because they serve in other ways in the church, which is where you come in!

Are you able to occasionally be on a rota, once a month, alongside a parent to play with and look after the children that might attend that Sunday morning? The children and families don't always attend regularly so you may not be needed if no children attended on the Sunday you are on the rota.

If this is something you could help with then please do let Lisé know via email. [lise.jennings@stalphegeseasalter.org](mailto:lise.jennings@stalphegeseasalter.org)

## Community Sunday 24 November - Come and be part of it!

We will gather as a whole church community together (all ages) in one service at **10.00 am**.

We will have a short time of worship together, and those who can will take the Christmas Cards out to deliver locally, they are invitations to people to come and join us for our Christmas services.

Everyone else will stay at SCC and pray - for the deliveries, and for our community more widely. There will be interactive prayer stations, a led prayer group, and plenty of places to sit and pray quietly or together.

We reunite together at the end for refreshments and cake.



## Upcoming Concert

**Sunday 8 December at 3 p.m.**  
at **St. John's Methodist Church, Argyle Road, Whitstable**  
Musical Director: Victoria Bawtree  
Accompanist: Spencer Payne

### Come and join us!

The variety of songs in the first half of the concert will be followed by those with a Christmas theme and some audience participation in the second half

**Tickets: £10 adults (12-18 yrs £5, under 12s free)**  
available on the day at the church or beforehand from members of the choir or online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitstable-oyster-singers>  
or use the QR code



This year the choir's chosen charity is Revival



## THIS WEEK at St Alphege Seasalter

*We do our best to compile this so the info is in one place - but we are a busy church - apologies if something gets missed*

<b>Tues 19</b>	10 am - 11.30 am Little Salties Toddler Group at SCC
<b>Wed 20</b>	8.00 - 8.45 am prayer at SCC 2.30 pm Holy Communion SCC 7pm Christian Meditation Group
<b>Thu 21</b>	10 am - 11.30 am Open Door Community Coffee Morning SCC
<b>Fri 22</b>	10 am Advent Bible Study Course SCC 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm Social Games SCC 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm Prayerpoint SCC
<b>Sat 23</b>	10.30 - 2.30 Christmas Fayre SCC (see separate notice)
<b>Sun 24</b>	9.15 - 9.45 am prayer at SCC 10 am Community Sunday - see separate notice for details

**Church Notices** Please note that the deadline for the following Sunday is midnight on Tuesday. *Paula* Email: [notices@stalphegeseasalter.org](mailto:notices@stalphegeseasalter.org)



[Canterbury Food Bank | Donate Now](#)

Click on the link above to find out which items are most needed every week. and also to find out about their **Reverse Advent Calendar**

St John's Parish Church in Swalecliffe, Whitstable is a warm and friendly church with great connections into the local community. We have a growing number of young people who have been attending our children's activities but who now need more personalised and targeted support as they head into secondary school.

The below link takes you to details about a newly-created role, working alongside our full-time Children & Families Minister at our monthly Messy Church and other activities, but also taking the initiative to work independently with our older children and young people. There is scope also to develop our relationship with 6th Whitstable Scouts Group with whom we have strong ties. This is an exciting time for us at St John's Swalecliffe and we are looking for someone as excited as we are to see young people growing in faith and discipleship.

<https://www.swalecliffestjohns.co.uk/about-3-1>