

## Prayer at the Heart

### *Immediate needs 2 - 4 weeks*



*Please pray for:*

Gill as doctors strive to find her more suitable and effective drugs. Sheila (Pearse) would like to thank everyone for praying for her daughter-in-law, Jane; Jane died in hospital; please pray for Sheila's son, Anthony, his daughter, Laura, and Sheila.

Following a successful knee replacement operation, Pat asks for prayer for a good recovery on her own.

Stella and her family following the death from cancer of her nephew Justin. Carol Holgate, Beryl Davies and her daughter Karen - prayers for recovery from shock following a car accident. Continued prayers for Beth (Stan and Carol's daughter) as she undergoes chemotherapy. Patricia Page, following an operation for a broken hip. Melissa Clackett, undergoing tests, and for her baby Isaac for his ongoing conditions. Dorothy Vener. Bob Simmons. Debbie (Frances Crocker's daughter), having chemotherapy until the end of the year; unfortunately it is causing her to feel very unwell. Ann Harley, having episodes of problems with her heart. Audrey (Porter) for continued healing of her back. Pat Wade suffering with painful shingles.

During November we will be praying for those living in St. Alphege Close, Medina Avenue and Florence Avenue.

### ***Long term needs - up to 3 months***

Sheila Pearse. Colin Curtis in hospital locally (and for the foreseeable future); please pray for healing and relief of pain in Colin's right leg. Ray Clarke. Joan Moss. Isaac Clackett. 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.***



## Welcome to St Alphege, Seasalter

8 November 2020

Remembrance Sunday

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-end; Matthew 25: 1-13



PRAYERS  
DURING  
LOCKDOWN

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LET US PRAY!

Join us as we pray together every morning @ 7 to 8 am from the 5th November to 2nd December.

Contact Tobi for more information

## Food Poverty

Many I know are concerned about food poverty. We don't want anyone in our local community or church community to be struggling to feed themselves or their family. If you are in difficulty, please contact Paulette, or the churchwardens Ali or Andrew in confidence and we can help. This can happen to absolutely anyone, especially with the current economic pressures.

If you want to add your support to others who are supporting families and individuals who need it, the best thing is to get behind the activity of existing community groups such as these:

1) Donate food to Food Bank using the yellow bin at Seasalter Christian Centre, or up at the big Tescos or any other place collecting. You can also give them money to buy food:

<https://canterburyfoodbank.org/donating/> follow them on Facebook and you'll get updates telling you what items they most need:

<https://www.facebook.com/FoodBankCanterbury/>

2) Donate to Riverside Church's Pantry Project

<https://www.riversideuk.org/pantryproject> who distribute food and essential items to those in need in the local community. They work with local supermarkets, [Fareshare](#) and personal donations to support those in need.

3) Support the Social Pantry at the Umbrella Cafe in Whitstable, a social enterprise that's been running for about 6 weeks with fresh veg, fruit, meat, dairy and store cupboard items from Fareshare and M&S. They are offering a breakfast club, and people who need a low cost shop can shop the pantry on a budget: £4 to shop for 20 items or £3 for 15 items. <https://theumbrellacafe.co.uk/>



## Reverse Advent



As you may know the last few years we have been running the Reverse Advent in the run up to Christmas. This is where we put aside an item of food each day over a couple of weeks, these then are combined and redistributed over a number of food hampers. These hampers are then delivered to people in the community around our church who may find Christmas an especially difficult time of year financially. The items could be a tin of soup/vegetables/chilli etc or a packet of

pasta/breakfast cereal/jelly/crisps or items of toiletries, a jar of jam/cooking sauce/hot dogs etc and children/youth books/games or toys. Ideally we would like a mix of some meal essentials and some nice Christmas treats such as chocolates or mince pies. Last year our church family was incredibly generous and we distributed 23 hampers.

This year has been tough and we know that many families are struggling, so we would love to be able to give out even more hampers to bless our neighbours. If you are able to help please could you start putting aside an item as often as you are able to, many shops have offers so maybe you could donate the 'free' item to the hampers? The items can then be dropped off at the Christian Centre during the week of the 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of December so that they can be sorted and then delivered on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. If getting them to the Christian Centre will be a problem for you then please contact Andy or Georgina Hedley-Smith or Becky in the office so that we can arrange to collect them from you.



Many thanks  
*Andy and Georgina*

## Christmas nativity trail

This Christmas is going to be unusual, our normal Christmas activities and opportunities for seeing friends and family will be changed. So that we can demonstrate hope in our area and provide joy over the Christmas period we are asking you to decorate your front windows/gardens and be part of this Christmas nativity trail.

**What** – Join in in any way. It can be a simple picture drawn by yourselves, a window display, a message from the nativity story or a full garden design. It can be nativity based or general Christmas fun themed. Some ideas – you could set out a full nativity or some of the characters in your window or garden, print a star and colour it in, make a fun scene for the window, hang a star outside or decorate the whole garden. Let your imagination be creative. Please remember this must be lit so it can be seen from the pavement on winter nights.

**Who** For us all - We are asking the church family and the wider community to join in. It doesn't matter where you live or how old you are, let's make an impact by all having a go, from Faversham to Herne Bay, all are welcome.

**When** – We will decorate our windows on the weekend of the 5<sup>th</sup> December and take them down weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

**The trail** - We will produce walking trails so the community can walk and explore our messages of Christmas hope over the time between.

**Fancy dress walk** – We plan that one evening children (and adults with a childish sense of fun!!) will be invited to dress up as nativity characters or Christmas themed and do the trail with battery operated Christingles or lights. More information on this to follow.

Let's be the joy in our community this Christmas. Please let Georgina or Eve know by the 9th November if you would like to take part [georgina.hedleysmith@stalphegeseasalter.org](mailto:georgina.hedleysmith@stalphegeseasalter.org)

[eve.locktongoddard@outlook.com](mailto:eve.locktongoddard@outlook.com).

And nearer the time we can encourage our community to do the same.

Thank you. *Georgina and Eve*

## Filming for the Service

PLEASE film any contributions for the Sunday Services such as Bible readings, prayers, testimonies or notices LANDSCAPE (long side of the 'phone horizontal) rather than PORTRAIT (long side of the 'phone vertical) - see the diagram below. Our screens, the video software we use for services and the media they are played on (e.g. YouTube) is designed with the landscape format in mind, and it means an extra 20 minutes editing for Tom every time he gets it in the wrong format. Tom, we love you and we're sorry.... :)



If you have been asked to film something and you need some tech support to be able to do that, please ask. We can usually sort something out.

## Blaze Hearts on fire for God Sunday School on Zoom



Sundays 3pm  
Breakout rooms for age groups  
Contact Andrew  
[andrew.price@stalphegeseasalter.org](mailto:andrew.price@stalphegeseasalter.org)



## A Prayer for all those affected by Coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord, under  
the shadow of your mercy.

Sustain and support the  
anxious, be with those who  
care for the sick, and lift up  
all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can  
separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

# IF MY PEOPLE.....'

## (PART 1)

While searching my bookshelves for a particular book this week, I noticed a very thin booklet between two larger and thicker books. It wasn't the book I was looking for but from the title, '**PRAYING FOR THE GOVERNMENT**', I knew instantly that was to be the topic for an article in this week's notices.

The booklet of only 20 pages was written in 1970 by a man known by many of us older Christians by the name of Derek Prince, an American author and Bible Teacher who was actually born and educated in England.

Derek devotes the first 12 pages of 'Praying for the Government' explaining the contents of the well-known verse in 2 Chronicles 7: 14 which begins '**IF MY PEOPLE**'. At the time he wrote his booklet those three words were in the minds and on the lips of Christians worldwide. They are the title of a Christian musical written by two Americans, Jimmy and Carol Owens, which brought Christians together from many different denominations for the first time to rehearse and eventually perform, described as 'a musical experience in worship and intercession . . . . a rallying point for unity for the whole church'.

But what does the entire verse say?

**'IF MY PEOPLE, WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY, AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS; THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND.'**

Let me share with you some of the things Derek Price comments on related to that verse.

'God desires the church to exert a controlling influence in the affairs of this world through prayer. This clearly stated in the scriptures. If the church fails to do it, the church has become salt that has lost its savour.' Our God is **ALWAYS** faithful in keeping His promises but here the promise is conditional. 'God says that IF his people will do four things, He will do three things' in other words **IF** my people will meet my conditions **THEN** I will do these things.'

One of those things is to 'heal the land'. The land needed healing then and it needs healing now. The responsibility for that to happen lies with the Church 'my people'. 'If our land is not healed, there is only one reason. We have not done the things that God requires.' The salt has lost its savour.

What are we to do? First 'my people shall humble themselves'. 'God cannot humble you.' 'The only person who can humble you is you.' 'It requires submitting yourself to God, to His Word and His authority.' Step 2? Prayer. 'If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and **PRAY**.'

'And seek my face'. That is step 3 but what does it mean? Derek Prince says, 'I understand it means to get directly into the presence of Almighty God. Where every barrier and every hindrance is removed, and you are face to face with Almighty God. You may have a prayer meeting but that is not necessarily seeking God's face . . . . There is a lot of praying that is not seeking God's face. It stops short of contact with God.'

Step 4 'turn from their wicked ways'. Who? Criminals, adulterers, terrorists, all the people who don't go to church? No, '**THE CHRISTIAN – GOD'S PEOPLE**'. The hindrance to revival is inside the church, not outside.' Derek quotes 1 Peter 4:17. Check it out for yourself. 'If a land is not healed, the fault is with the people of God . . . . The responsibility for the condition of modern America (and the United Kingdom) lies at the door of the professing church . . . . If our land is not healed the responsibility rests with us. I share the responsibility with you. I am not telling you something that is true about you but not about me.

To be continued next week.

Submitted by Donald

If you would like to contribute to these church notices; do please get in touch with me.

Please be aware when supplying contact information for notices, this notice sheet is circulated physically and digitally via our website, social media and email.

Paula. Email: deaneves@msn.com

P.S. Don't forget there are no more Car Park Chats for the time being.