

## Prayer at the Heart

### Immediate needs 2 - 4 weeks



Please pray for:

Prayers for Colin are greatly appreciated and he wishes to thank you all. The pain in Colin's right foot has not abated and he will continue to stay in hospital for the foreseeable future; please pray for release from pain and that Colin will have peace of mind and the love of the Lord's comfort. Jill Wimsett, for better health than she has at the moment. Suzi Thomas and her family as her mother Amedea is now in hospital in Croatia and whose father Marcello has been involved in a car accident. 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.

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 December we will be praying for those living in George's Avenue, Hazlemere Road and Corylus Drive.

### Long term needs - up to 3 months

Sheila Pearse. 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

29 November 2020

Advent Sunday

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1.3 - 9; Mark 13.24 - end



You are invited to our  
**Online Advent  
Contemplative Prayer  
Room**

Available via the church website  
([www.stalphegeseasalter.org](http://www.stalphegeseasalter.org)) or from  
[www.gentlewhisper.org.uk](http://www.gentlewhisper.org.uk) from Advent Sunday  
(29 November).

Each week there will be a guided reflection on one of the four Christmas 'songs' from the Bible

1. Zechariah's song at the birth of John the Baptist
2. The angels' song as they announced Jesus' birth
3. Magnificat, Mary's song of acceptance
4. Simeon's song before Jesus' presentation at the temple

Join us daily, or as often as you can, for about 15 minutes of quiet contemplation.

Ladies Ministry @  
St Alphege, Seasalter

FESTIVE  
CHRISTMAS  
QUIZ  
ON ZOOM

13.12.20

Festive attire please... prizes for the most outrageous!

Zoom opens 7.15pm, quiz begins @ 7.30pm

Register by sending your name and phone number by email (before 11.12.20):  
[ladiesministryteam@stalphegeseasalter.org](mailto:ladiesministryteam@stalphegeseasalter.org)

**Tea at the Vicarage**  
**Friday 4 December**  
 drop in between  
**3.00 - 4.30 pm**  
 via Zoom




ask Paulette for the link:  
 seasaltervicar@gmail.com

Last Sunday we played a video from CAP as part of the service, telling 'Sharon's Story' Find their website here: [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) and contact our local CAP Debt Centre in Whitstable via the national number (who will then refer you to the local centre) on: 0800 328 0006



**Joining in with the Chat on the Sunday YouTube Service**



If you watch YouTube on your phone, tablet or pc, the Chat function can be used as a pop up next to the film or livestreamed video so you can post messages that others watching can see. You have to be signed into YouTube to join in with that.

However this function doesn't pop up on your TV. So if you're watching the service on TV, but have a smartphone, tablet or laptop handy, then sign in on that separate device and have the service playing via YouTube on that as well, but mute the volume, then you can engage with the chat that way while you watch on the TV screen.

It's that time of year when usually we have advent calendars in the Christian Centre for people to buy. Unfortunately we can't do that this year, so you can buy them through the Eden website if you would like to. (Click on the link below to get to the Eden website). If anyone needs any help do feel free to contact me on [lise.jennings@stalphegeseasalter.org](mailto:lise.jennings@stalphegeseasalter.org) <https://www.eden.co.uk/advent-calendars/>



**The 'I'm working so I can't make the other one you've organised'**

**Tea at the Vicarage Too**  
**Saturday 5 Dec**  
 drop in between  
**3.00 - 4.30 pm**  
 via Zoom



ask Paulette for the link:  
 seasaltervicar@gmail.com

**Christmas Nativity Trail**  
 Do you want to spread some joy to your neighbours this festive season? If so please join our nativity trail, all you need to do is put up some outdoor decorations or some in a front window ready for the 5<sup>th</sup> December, they can be as simple or as extravagant as you'd like. You may like to put up a message or bible verse too. Please email Eve or Georgina ASAP as we will be putting together the trail soon and uploading a map to the website so that these can be downloaded and used by the community in the weeks running up to Christmas. The walking trail will be between the church and Borstal Hill, with a separate driving trail that goes further afield.

**Makaton Nativity**  
 Would you like to learn some simple nativity based signs ready for Christmas? If so join us on Zoom on Saturday 12th December, 4.30 to 5.30pm. Please email Lise or Georgina to book and then you will be sent the link nearer the time. For those who'd like to learn the Lord's prayer too then you're welcome to stay on and we can teach that too.

**Christmas Cards**  
 It's going to be difficult to exchange Christmas Cards this year so we wondered if you would like to follow Donald's example and put a message in the church notices? Donald donates the money he would have spent on cards to charity and this year has chosen CAP (Christians Against Poverty).

If you let me have your contribution by midnight on 8 December I will put them all together and make an ecard for us all which will be separate from the usual Sunday notices so that you can keep it should you wish to do so.

Please make your message fairly short - no more than 180 characters and email them to me as soon as possible so that I can get cracking!  
 Paula [deaneves@msn.com](mailto:deaneves@msn.com)

N.B. *Please don't leave cards at the Christian Centre for church members to collect or to be passed on - they won't reach the intended recipient'*

## 24 Hours of Prayer and Fasting

Our 24 hours of prayer and fasting is coming around again. This will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. In order to book your half-hour slot then contact Sue St.John on [suestj@gmail.com](mailto:suestj@gmail.com)

Please do not be daunted by the thought of half a hour of prayer, if you cannot pray for that length of time then pray for as long as you can and sing some worship songs. Also the Archbishop of Canterbury and York have put together a prayer leaflet with suggestions and prayers. I think I sent you the link earlier. Other topics could include:-

- Christmas holidays
- Safe and rapid roll-out of the vaccine
- Logistics regarding vaccination sites
- The NHS
- Patience on the part of the population
- Willingness to stick to the government guidelines
- Showing consideration for others
- Awareness that Christmas can still be celebrated because we are celebrating the birth of Jesus (not just giving presents)

## Bible Readings, Prayers and Testimonies in the Sunday Services

If you'd like to go on the list for Bible Readings, Prayers or to share something of your story in the short testimony slot during the Sunday Services I'd love to hear from you.

I know some who responded to the request in the early days of the pandemic now find it hard to fit that in around work/changed life circumstances, so it would be good to grow the list a bit and have more involved.

You need to be able to record yourself (or within what's permitted with the Covid restrictions get someone else to help) on a smartphone/laptop or pc with a camera, then upload the video to Tom by the deadline for that week - I will send you full instructions about that when I send out the order of service.

If you'd like to go on the list for any of the above, please email me: [seasaltervicar@gmail.com](mailto:seasaltervicar@gmail.com) Thank you, love Paulette

## Christmas 2020 with St Alphege Seasalter

*This is what we're planning, but of course it's subject to change depending on the pandemic restrictions in place at the time. Please contact the office nearer the event if you need to check whether it is still taking place.*

All events/services at Seasalter Christian Centre (SCC) must be pre-booked for attendance as places are limited. Unless otherwise stated below, contact the Church office between 9 - 11 am weekdays. Phone: 01227 276923 or email: [office@stalphegeseasalter.org](mailto:office@stalphegeseasalter.org) please ensure you have received confirmation of your booking.

**Christmas Trail** - Download the Christmas trail from the website [www.stalphegeseasalter.org](http://www.stalphegeseasalter.org) (from 5<sup>th</sup> December) and use it to explore some of the festively decorated houses of the area.

**Take-away Christingle kits** distributed Wed 16<sup>th</sup> to Sat 19<sup>th</sup> December. **contact the office on the number above to order your kit by Wed 9<sup>th</sup> December.** Why not join our Zoom Christingle Service on 20<sup>th</sup> December?

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December

**Take-away Christingle Zoom** Service 3 pm (details on how to get the Zoom link from us in your Christingle kit).  
**Contemplating Christmas** 3 pm - an hour of Meditative prayer at SCC.

Christmas Eve Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December

**Nativity** 'St Alphege Seasalter' YouTube Channel 4 pm - For all ages.  
**Midnight Holy Communion** 11.30 pm at Seasalter Christian Centre, and livestreamed to the YouTube channel.

Christmas Day Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December

**Holy Communion Christmas Day** 10 am SCC, livestreamed to the 'St Alphege Seasalter' YouTube channel.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December - First Sunday after Christmas

**Service and livestream** 10 am SCC.



## Reducing food waste - come and help yourself



Each day tons of food is thrown away by supermarkets/food outlets. The church is involved in the Fairshare scheme that distributes this to people and families but there is still food left over. Sometimes the supermarkets have 3 or 4 SACKS of bread products they give us for example! Food waste is bad for the environment as it is

thrown into landfill leading to methane emissions as it degrades, causing climate warming.

We are planning to start a food waste reduction scheme so that, when given excess that we can't distribute, it will be offered to the wider church/community. Various churches are involved in this initiative so the whole of Whitstable can benefit.

We intend to advertise when food waste will be available via Facebook/email. So watch out for the '**Help us reduce food waste**' messages and come to Seasalter Christian centre between 9-10.30 am on the day specified to help yourself! (Remember the freezer is our friend). Don't be afraid to take as much (or as little) as you can use, you will not be depriving anyone.

Thanks. Ann

## Covid Christmas – Celebrating as usual

Although many of us have 'Family Traditions' when it comes to celebrating Christmas, for a variety of reasons each Christmas is a little different. 2020 will be different for whole populations and nations around the world.

Probably the last time there was such a difference for so many was during the second world war (1939 to 1945). Thousands of men and women were away serving in the armed forces and merchant navy. Food was rationed as was petrol but fewer people had cars and people were prepared to walk many miles in order to join family members and/or friends. For many, Christmas Day was not a holiday. In addition to those working to provide essential services, there were hundreds of volunteers on duty as Air Raid Wardens, members of the Home Guard, The Women's Voluntary Service and the Red Cross worked around the clock to provide and serve meals to individuals and families and generally care for those who had recently been bombed out and lost their homes and other possessions. Midwives, District Nurses and Doctors were often called out on Christmas Day – no National Health Service in those days.

Then of course there was the blackout to contend with but still, even then, nothing prevented those who could from celebrating Christmas, even if it meant spending part of the day or night in an air raid shelter. In my parents' home we always had a traditional dinner and tea with turkey and all the trimmings, vegetables all grown in the garden followed by Christmas pudding and mince pies, all homemade from ingredients mum managed to save up during the year. The decorations, mostly hand-made paper chains, went up as usual as did the Christmas tree festooned with any small thing we could find to put on it. Where possible, churches were open and the normal Christmas services took place and as usual the Salvation Army were out on Christmas morning playing carols. Many things were different but many were the same.

What about Christmas 2020 to be celebrated in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic? Some things will be different and others just the same. Although numbers will have to be limited, services will take place at Seasalter both late on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning, and relayed courtesy of 'YouTube' into the homes of those who can't physically get to church. We may not be able to sing carols in church but there is nothing to stop us singing them in our homes. I have already started and there have been no complaints from neighbours so far.

Due to Covid 19 we won't be able to have a Post Box in the church this year and the Swalecliffe Scout troop are unable to operate their delivery service to raise funds for their troop. Delivery of our own cards is not advisable so I encourage you to do what a few of us have been doing for several years, send a Christmas Greeting Message to be included with the church notices on Sundays 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December in their email and printed form. They will be in a format that when printed off can be folded into a card containing everyone's message/greeting. Our grateful thanks to Paula who has undertaken the job of producing the 'card'. Further important details about it are to found elsewhere in these notices. Please read the instructions carefully and act quickly.

Whilst we have to make changes as to how we celebrate Christmas this year, even a COVID CHRISTMAS can't in anyway change the message of Christmas and the implications of that message for our lives. I guess in the years to come when we are discussing Christmas 2020, one of the questions we will be asking each other is "And which tier were you in?"

WE WILL BE CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOUR AS USUAL. HIS NAME IS 'JESUS' WHO IS 'CHRIST THE LORD'.

Submitted by Donald

## 'CAP' Christians Against Poverty

As a 'follow up' to the video shown as part of last Sunday's Service, here are a few more details about 'CAP'.

It is a national Christian charity which we at St. Alphege Seasalter already support and with a local branch right here in Whitstable; with Joyce Mitchell, the wife of the Pastor of the church in Harbour Street, leading the team of volunteers who run it.

The organisation was founded in 1996 by John Kirby of Bradford, West Yorkshire and specialises particularly in 'Debt Counselling' for people in financial difficulties and is being swamped by enquirers during the present coronavirus pandemic when so many people have suddenly found that they no longer have a job.

The charity also runs 'Job Clubs' for those seeking employment and 'Life Still Groups' helping people with particular skills to survive whilst being paid low wages. Last but not least CAP runs 'Fresh Start Courses' for people looking for help to overcome addictions and dependencies.

Submitted by Donald