

Prayer at the Heart

Immediate needs 2 - 4 weeks



Please pray for:

Jane, (Colin Curtis' daughter) and her family. Stella for a good recovery following a hip-replacement operation. Jill Wimsett, for better health than she has at the moment. Gill, as doctors strive to find her more suitable and effective drugs. 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. Melissa Clackett, undergoing tests, and for her baby Isaac for his ongoing conditions. Dorothy Vener. Bob Simmons. Debbie (Frances Crocker's daughter). Ann Harley, having episodes of problems with her heart. Audrey (Porter) for continued healing of her back. Pat Wade suffering with painful shingles. During January we will be praying for those living in Eden Road, MacDonald Parade and Cordingham Close.

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.

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

Welcome to St Alphege, Seasalter

10 January 2021

Baptism of Christ

Readings: Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1: 4-11



Reverse Advent

Thank you all for your generosity in donating so much to the Reverse Advent this Christmas time!! We were able to put together 36 hampers which were delivered to local people.

Nazareth to Bethlehem

We did it!!

Between us we walked over the 180 miles that Mary and Joseph jointly travelled in the run up to Jesus birth.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored us. We had set what we thought was an ambitious target of \$250, raising money for a project which supports teen mums in Liberia. Incredibly we have raised \$634 (254% of the target). If you'd like to see a quick video from Annette and Margot and hear how some of it has been spent please use this link <https://donorsee.com/project/7425>

Here's a message from Margot to all who supported us:

Wow! I am amazed at the generosity in funding this project, over and above what we asked for! Annette is absolutely blessed and thrilled from your generosity, as am I! We actually still have quite a bit of it left over which we will use for the babies in the next couple of months. Thank you for saving lives in Liberia, and showing the world's poorest that they are not forgotten. God bless you!

MAKING THE MOST OF WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US

Wow! It's over. Christmas is over. The decorations have been taken down and put away for another year. As a time of celebration, Christmas is once more 'done and dusted'. We all knew it was going to be different, but how different was it for you? If I had to name just three things that were different for me, they would be: -

- Not actually going to church for the 11.30 pm service on Christmas Eve.
- Having to restrict the number of close family members meeting up to have Christmas Day lunch together.
- As a traditionalist, when it comes to what I think goes best with turkey and roast potatoes, discovering whole brussels sprouts had been replaced by 'shredded brussels sprouts with pomegranate fruit'. However, there was no shortage of the usual food, fun and fellowship or useful, surprising and welcome Christmas presents.

In addition to all the cards, letters and phone calls I received in the run-up to Christmas, I had an email on Christmas morning about a German by the name of Andre Ortolf who holds the world record for dressing up as Father Christmas. Apparently in September 2019 he dressed up as Santa, which included wearing a scarlet suit, white gloves, wellies, a belt and false beard and did it in 30.94 seconds. I am sure you have just been waiting to hear something like that, so let me tell you about other records Andre holds. He's eaten more Marmite in one minute than anyone else, the most jelly eaten with chopsticks and the most yoghurt eaten, each in one minute; the most envelopes torn in half in 30 seconds, the most cucumbers sliced from a person's mouth with a sword, the

fastest time to arrange a chess set for a team of two, plus at least 10 more records for different things. Impressive? It depends on what we see as being important in life and maybe to ask ourselves such questions as 'What have I achieved in life so far?', 'What gifts and talents do I have and how am I using them and are others benefitting from them?' I guess Andre Ortolf 'goes' for these rather odd and peculiar records for his own delight and ego trip, none of which would give me any particular pleasure but, like the brussels sprouts I mentioned earlier, some of us love them whilst others hate them in whatever form they are 'dished up'. Our likes and dislikes are different as are the gifts and talents we each have. Over the years tastes often change but with our God-given gifts and talents, if we don't use them we often lose them. More to the point, nobody will benefit from their use.

Yes we are in another 'Lockdown' situation and could be for some time. Over the past year we have all had to learn to adapt to new ways of doing things, to use our gifts and talents in different ways in many cases. Thankfully, many have discovered gifts and talents they hadn't realised they have. Most will perhaps only benefit a family member or neighbour, whilst developing a vaccine to combat COVID-19 in record time will hopefully save millions of lives worldwide. I have fortunately had my first 'jab' and await the second which could be in the next week and certainly within the next ten weeks. If you get the opportunity to have your vaccination, take it. In possibly saving your life there will be further occasions for you to use your own gifts and talents in the community and for the furtherance of the Gospel and the Kingdom of God.

Donald