St Alphege, Seasalter

www.stalphegeseasalter.org.

Sunday 15 November 2026

Second before Advent

8.45 am HC Service ,10.30 am All-age Service

Readings: Isaiah 58: 1-11

Advent Calendars

Real Advent Calendars from the Meaningful Chocolate Company https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/pages/real-advent-calendar?srsltid=AYCX9vLlZk6Pl83J3GzrpSlql7ASUaKKlbeTF2zn4JHLqjzDqSoHPd1j

The Advent Calendars are £5 each and have a line of the Christmas story behind each window, a Fairtrade milk chocolate (dark also available) and activity book. Other chocolate treats are also on the website and I would be happy to include anything else in the order.

Please would you ask anyone interested to contact me on isobel@stalphege.org.uk and I can arrange how to pay with their order. The deadline is Wednesday 18th November. Isobel.

Advent Reflections - Sign up to receive

Frances Webster has very kindly been working on a wonderful series of daily scriptural reflections for Advent this year. With Paula Dean's editorial/tech support, these will be available to anyone who would like to receive them, sent out daily from the start of Advent. I think it's a huge blessing to have this resource as we go through this season of preparation before Christmas. If you can't access emails and need a paper version please let Paula Dean know at deaneves@msn.com. How to sign up: Contact Frances Webster at fewebster53@gmail.com

The Labyrinth at All Saints

There is much talk and challenging images of "Peoples Journeys". We are all on one, be it easy or difficult, unique to each person.
The "Labyrinth" is an ancient universal symbolic path. A walk of meditation and contemplation connected to one's own experience in the here and now.
It is Advent, a special time and the start of a new exploration of our spiritual relationship with our loving God.
Do come and explore, experience walking the Labyrinth for yourself, at your own pace in your own time at All Saints Church on Saturday December 10th any time between 12 midday and 3 pm.
I invite you to come "To walk and pray for Peace" as we move closer to celebrating the birth of "The Child Christ, Prince of Peace" this Christmas.
Do drop in at any time.
Martin Garsed

Yay! and Pray

This week we are:

Celebrating: Giving thanks for all who come alongside others in pastoral care and support in our church community. Praying for wisdom, strength and rest.

Praying for: all who struggle in the winter – with health or mental health, a sense of isolation, or who don't have appropriate shelter. Praying for the agencies and charities in our area that help.

Email problems

I'm having some problems with my church email account (paulette.stubbings@stalphegeseasalter.org) - it seems that some email providers - particularly yahoo, sky and aol are treating emails from me as spam, so I get a 'bounce back' message saying my email wasn't delivered and messages are not getting through where they should. So if you have emailed me and haven't heard back within a couple of days, or you need some information from me that you expected to receive but haven't, please send me a message another way, or call me on 07305 611437 - I may have responded and it just hasn't got through.
Many thanks and sorry for the hassle, Paulette.

Church Council Meeting (DCC)

At our next Church Council meeting among regular items like finance and funding, safeguarding, youth, eco church etc we'll be discussing:

- Growth - we are growing in number again. How do we respond well to that as a church together?
- Plans for the garden area behind The Hub
- Children and Families Ministry
- Resilience - as a church and how we support our community in the challenges caused by global and national issues of climate change, cyber and other security threats, limits to resources and energy.
- The SCC roof situation

Please pray for your church leadership as we meet and discuss, for God's wisdom and direction, for us to keep in mind our purpose and mission at the heart of what we do, as we talk about practical and functional things. Thank you, Paulette and the DCC.

Cakes for the Christmas Fayre

A BIG thank you to all who have agreed to bake cakes for the fayre. Could you please remember not to cut them up, and to make a list of the ingredients you used? Then bring them to SCC either on Thursday 19th to Open Door or on Friday 20th between 9.30 am and 4 pm or after 8.30 pm.

Thank you!

Empty Bottles Please!

A request for Christmas fayre! The Hernhill school need empty, clean plastic bottles (such as washing up liquid/shower gel) for their eco shop at Christmas fayre. Bottles can be given to Lynda Kemp or Rosalind.

New Church Banner

Those of you who have been part of the church family at Seasalter for a number of years may remember adding your name to our 'Living Stones' banner that we occasionally have on display in the auditorium. This banner was made over 20 years ago. We thought it would be a good idea to have a second banner to go alongside this with the names of those in our church family now. Over the next few weeks there will be an opportunity on a Sunday morning for you to write your name on one of the 'stones' that will form part of the new banner. Special coloured fabric pens will be available

for you do this and we invite you write your name only (nothing else please!) on one of the pieces of material that will be available.







Celebrating Evie's Progress

In April we met Steve and Lauren, who needed to use the space at SCC to help their daughter Evie to learn to use her walker. Evie-Grace is 3 and has Coffin-Siris syndrome, which affects her sight, hearing, muscle strength, and development. She can't walk or stand unaided, she is non-verbal and will eventually lose her sight.

Since those first steps we have shared their joy at seeing Evie's progress. The family have been a part of Open Door ever since and now bring Evie into the main auditorium on Thursday mornings as well as using the Oyster Bay Room and the Hub garden. Evie loves being outside, has an incredible turn of speed and when she sees an actual "open door" she heads right for it!

Steve, Lauren and Evie's sister, Scarlett, also bring Evie along to "All In", as you can see from these photographs.

Please pray for them as they care for Evie, and for Evie's ongoing progress.

Steve and Lauren would like to find a way for their family to visit Disneyland Paris while Evie can still see and experience it and so they can make some memories together. They have asked if we can share this with our church and the wider community.

If you'd like to donate, here's a link to their Go Fund Me page where you can find out more about the challenges and what they hope to do. **https://gofund.me/22f3ba838** Karen and Paulette

Can you help make our church more helpful for those who are neurodiverse?

We have people of all ages in our congregation who are neurodiverse, including several children with SEN. We want church and Sunday group to be as accessible and welcoming as possible for everyone.

So far, we've introduced fidgets, crochet, colouring and journalling sheets to be available as standard in our services. We also plan to set up the Beach Room as a quiet "calm space" on Sundays, with lower lighting and sensory aids, where a parent or carer can take a child who needs a moment to self-regulate. We're also looking at how to make the Sunday children's group work for everyone given the differing needs.

We're looking for someone with knowledge or experience of SEN and neurodiversity to help us put these ideas into practice and keep them running week to week.

If you're interested, please speak to Paulette (Vicar) or one of the Churchwardens.

Overheads..

The roof of the Christian Centre is not in good condition. The last rainstorm we had a couple of weeks ago resulted in a large number of leaks in the auditorium, plus additional leaks in the kitchen and concourse. A full survey of the roof has established that it's due to a structural issue and that most of the roof will need re-doing in sections. This is going to be a significant task, and unfortunately, significantly expensive. On the plus side, we obtained a partial grant towards insulation of the building which will help keep our energy costs down. So expect to see some repair and building activity over the next few months in regard to these. Please speak to the Churchwardens if you'd like more information about this. We'll keep you posted.

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.

Christmas Tree Appeal

Oasis Restore is a secure school for young people who are in custody, providing education, care, and support to help them build positive futures. For many of these young people, Christmas can be a difficult time, away from family and familiar traditions. Decorating Christmas trees in living and communal spaces can help create a warm, festive environment, offering a sense of belonging, hope, and normality during the season. We are looking for the donation of three artificial trees and decorations.

If you are able to donate a Christmas tree and/or decorations (no lights), please speak to Phil Greig. Thank you for helping Oasis Restore make Christmas a little brighter for these young people.

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 is missed

All at SCC unless otherwise indicated

Mon 16	10 am Woodcarving Group 7 pm Flying Club
Tues 17	9.30 am – 11.30 am Little Salties Toddler Group 4.30 – 6.30 pm Youth @ the Hub (school yrs 7-13)
Weds 18	8 am prayer on Zoom (ID 279 401 6881 Password V3pXbH) 2.30 pm Holy Communion Service at SCC
Thurs 19	10 am – 11.30 am Open Door Community Coffee Morning
Fri 20	10 am Advent Course 2 pm Social Games 6 pm Prayer Point at Rosemary's home (contact

Paulette for details: 07305 611437)
6.30 pm – 8 pm Friday Night Club for Youth (school yrs 7-11) @ The Hub

Sat 21 11.30 am – 3 pm Christmas Fayre

Sun 22 8 am Prayer Meeting
8.45 am HC Service
10.30 am All-age Service with groups for children & YPs and Holy Communion (due to single Community Sunday service the following week at 10 am)

Church Notices Please note that the deadline for the following Sunday is midnight on Tuesday. Paula Email: paula.dean@stalphegeseasalter.org



Safeguarding is the name for the way all of us help to keep each other safe and supported at St. Alphege Seasalter, especially those who might be particularly vulnerable to harm children and vulnerable adults. **If you see or experience something that worried you,** speak to Hilary Poulton our Safeguarding Coordinator 07375 535198, Paulette Stubbings our Vicar 07305 611437, Hannah Rogers our Youth Minister 07477 493874 or Mark Arnold our Church Warden 07545 775860. You can also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team www.canteburydioces.org/safeguarding or the police if necessary

Prayer at the Heart

Please pray for:

Immediate needs 2 – 4 weeks

- Andrew Crocombe, for good recovery following his operation.
- Wayne Burney, for good recovery following an operation on his arm.
- Lucy Stubbings, for healing and strength for upcoming surgery.
- Lisa Barnett and family on the loss of her dad Paul.
- Caroline (Wiles), please pray for her diagnosis, treatment and also for healing.
- Graeme and Janice (Allott).
- Val and Paul Browning's nephew, Jonathan, having treatment for cancer.
- The Burney family, that their house move would go through soon.

During November we will be praying for those living in Norview Road, Swallow Avenue and Linnet Avenue.

Long term needs – up to 3 months

- Katy Burney with ongoing health issues.
- Derek (Becca's dad).
- Steve (Old Church member), for healing and strength as he recovers from cancer treatment and sepsis.
- Jo (Amanda's sister) that her stem cell transplant has been successful.
- Please pray for everyone in our church family living with long term illnesses or conditions including Brian (Evans), Dennis, Denise, Donald, Emma, Joan (Ann Shuttle's sister), Joyce Holland, Lenni, Katherine, Rosalind, Ruth Saleh, Stella (Masters).

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