

**For the people of:** Silver Birches

**For prayer:** David, Doreen F, Heidi, Mark, Simon, Simon, Bunty, Dennis and Elizabeth

**From the Prayer Board:** Pray for Footsteps International and the work of helping disadvantaged children in Kenya; pray for Roydon, Brian, Gavin and Catherine, and for all who have asked for prayer for themselves and their families

**In memoriam:** Rupert Capon

*To keep our prayers up to date please let Janet or Martin know about people to list and keep listed in Prayers for the Community.*

## CHALLENGES FACING BOYS AND MEN

*'Who is a rock, except our God? Who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless. He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights. He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your right hand supported me, and your gentleness made me great.'*  
PSALM 18:31-35 (ESV)

**FATHERS' DAY** Lord, today please encourage fathers, whether they are content in their role within the family, concerned about problems, sad because they are separated from their children, regretting past decisions, or rejoicing in Your blessings. May they call upon You for strength. In Christ's name. Amen.

Father, although many boys are excelling, a concerning number are underperforming across each stage of education. We pray for wise and practical approaches to be identified, adopted, funded and fast-tracked to raise expectations and support boys who struggle, restoring confidence and

Father, we pray for more boys and young men to engage in physical and social activities that increase their sense of wellbeing and identity, build strong relationships and bring them great enjoyment and satisfaction. Thank You for all who train and mentor them. In Jesus' name. Amen. aspiration to apply themselves well. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus our Redeemer, we praise You that more young men are attending church and discovering the life-changing power of the gospel. We pray for them to be well disciplined and nurtured, to find the joy and purpose for their lives that You have ordained. Through Your amazing grace. Amen. [www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk)



# Ascension Weekly

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026**

**The Third Sunday after Trinity**

**8.30 a.m. Said Communion**

**10.00 a.m. Worship Service & the Baptism of Sidney Grimwood**

**Readings: Romans 6.1b-11, Matthew 10.24-39**

## Finding Life

Jesus' words in today's Gospel can feel unsettling. He speaks of division, of taking up a cross, of not putting even our closest relationships before Him. In a world where we naturally value comfort and personal choice, this is challenging and raises a question: What does it really mean to follow Christ?

Jesus is saying following Him is not just about belief, but about allegiance. Jesus calls for a loyalty that goes deeper than even our strongest human ties. Not because those relationships do not matter, but because our relationship with Him should matter even more and reshape every other part of our lives.

We naturally prefer faith to fit with what we want without disturbing us too much> We want to build lives that feel secure and manageable, to avoid conflict, and to hold on to what we value, but Jesus offers something very different. He tells His disciples not to expect an easy path, but to share in His way of life, even though that is often costly, demanding, and at times deeply uncomfortable.

**WHOEVER FINDS HIS LIFE  
WILL LOSE IT, AND  
WHOEVER LOSES HIS LIFE  
FOR MY SAKE WILL FIND  
IT.**

**- MATTHEW 10:39**

*(Continued inside)*

# This Week

## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June

8.30am Said Communion

10.00am Worship Service & Baptism

## Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

9.30 -10.00am Food Larder

## Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June

1.30pm Tiddlers

3.30pm Home Group

## Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June

8.30am Morning Prayers

11.00am Open Space after

Up & Amble

12noon – 12.30pm Food Larder

7.30pm Home Group

11.00am Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June to

11.00am Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June

**24 HOURS OF PRAYER**

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June

10.00am Family Communion Service

Please see the website for more  
information:

[www.ascensionchurch.co.uk](http://www.ascensionchurch.co.uk)

## Birthdays This Week

Happy Birthday to Tommy Harris

## CONTACT US

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ALM: Jill Costello

It is a good thing to lose confidence in  
ourselves so as to gain confidence in God.

D.L. Moody

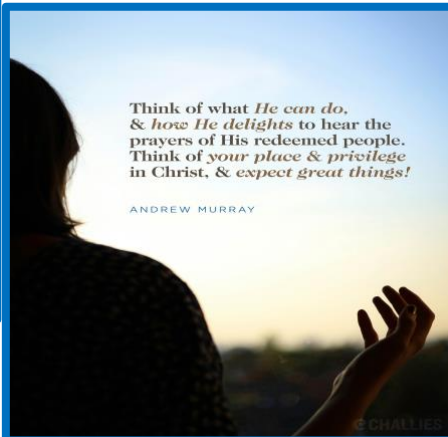


## 24 Hours of Prayer

Next Sat/Sunday  
27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> of June

Think of what He can do,  
& how He delights to hear the  
prayers of His redeemed people.  
Think of your place & privilege  
in Christ, & expect great things!

ANDREW MURRAY



(Continued from the front page)

Although challenging there is also profound reassurance. Jesus tells us, again and again. "Do not be afraid,". He reminds us that we are known, seen, and deeply valued by God. Even in the face of opposition or uncertainty, we are not forgotten or abandoned.

Jesus' call to take up our cross is not a call to despair, but to trust. It is an invitation to let go of the illusion that we are in control, and to place our lives in God's hands. And in doing so, we discover something surprising: what feels like loss is, in fact, the beginning of true life.

In our everyday lives, this may not mean dramatic acts, but quieter choices, choosing faithfulness over convenience, truth over approval, love and service over self-protection. Each small act of trust is a step into the life Jesus promises

Jesus told his disciples, "Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it." In giving ourselves to Him, we do not lose what matters most, we find it.

**Martin**

*"If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me." – Matthew 10.39 from the Message Bible*

## 24 Hours of Prayer

We have our annual 24 Hours of Prayer next weekend from 11am on Saturday until the end of our service on Sunday. (The Church will be open from 11.00am to 9.00pm on Saturday, and from 7am on Sunday)

This is for everyone, whether you are used to praying for hours or are just beginning. You can simply come as you are, stay for a short while, or stay for hours. Please come if you can and add your prayers as we gather.

In a world that feels hurried and anxious, we believe God is inviting us to pause, to draw close to Jesus, and to focus on Him.

