

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

For the people of	Cedar Avenue, Sandrocks Lodge
For prayer	Sally, Julian
Prayer Board	Footsteps International, Naomi, Danny and all who have asked for prayer for themselves or their families
In memoriam	Bonny Murphy, Eileen Reekie, Maureen Barnes, Dora John, Terry Sidwell, Keith Brooker, Celia Hitchings

To keep our prayers up to date, please let Janet or Martin know who to add to, or keep on, this list.

PRAYERS – ‘Gen Z’

‘Young people, it’s wonderful to be young! Enjoy every minute of it. Do everything you want to do; take it all in. But remember that you must give an account to God for everything you do.’ ECCLESIASTES 11:9 (NLT)

SUN 18 Father God, we bring before you young people who have lived through the disruption of Covid and now face conflict, uncertainty and many other challenges. Please draw them to yourself and grant them freedom and a sure hope. **In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

MON 19 Lord, we pray for young people who feel overwhelmed by the news they scroll through each day. Please help them to be wise in how they use the internet, and to recognise what is exaggerated, harmful or false. **In your mercy. Amen.**

TUES 20 Gracious God, grant wisdom to our government as they respond to the many young people unable to find work, some applying for job after job each week. Please reveal strategies to turn this around, and help individuals to find employment. **In your mercy. Amen.**

WED 21 Lord, please help employers to offer more apprenticeships to young people, giving them opportunities to learn skills and adjust to the expectations of working life. **By your grace. Amen.**

THURS 22 Thank you, Holy Spirit, that growing numbers of young people are finding Christian preachers, digital devotionals and church communities online. Speak powerfully into their minds and hearts through these channels. **In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

FRI 23 Lord our Healer, we pray for young people living with anxiety. Please bring relief to those in distress, and help them to find understanding and support suited to their needs. **For Christ’s sake. Amen.**

SAT 24 God of grace and truth, we pray for young people exploring faith and spirituality. Please guide them in truth and help them to encounter and believe the gospel. Help churches to welcome them with understanding and love. **In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Prayers adapted from [CARE \(care.org.uk\)](https://care.org.uk)



Ascension Weekly

ASCENSION CHURCH NEWS & NOTICES

Sunday 18 October 2026

20th Sunday after Trinity

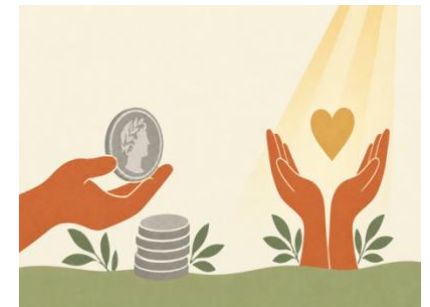
8.30am Said Communion

10.00am Worship Service with Breakout

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10 Matthew 22.15-22

Give to God what is God’s

When we read Matthew 22:15–22, it is tempting to treat the Pharisees’ question about paying taxes as a clever bit of political debate that has little to do with us. After all, they’re not really asking a question. They are setting a trap. If Jesus says yes to paying the tax, he loses the support of the crowds who resent Roman rule. If he says no, they can report him to the Roman authorities as a rebel. Either way, they think they have him.



“So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

Jesus, recognising their trap, said, “Show me a coin” and then asked whose image was on it. The Pharisees had to reply, “Caesar’s”. So, he told them to “give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s”.

The coin carries the emperor's face, so it belongs to him. But who carries God's image? The answer is, we all do. In Genesis 1:27, we are told that God created humankind in his own image. Caesar may have a claim on our coins; God has a claim on our whole lives.

This reminds us that we cannot separate our faith from how we live. The question for each of us is not simply what tax we owe to the Caesars of this world, but whether we are giving back to God what is already his. Everything we have is a gift from him, and the best way we can say thank you is to live every part of our lives for him.

Freely you have received, freely give. Matthew 10:8

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This week

Sunday 18 October	8.30am 10.00am	Said Communion Worship Service with Breakout
Monday 19 October	7.30pm	Home Group
Tuesday 20 October	9.30–10.00am 10.30am -11.30am 7.00pm	Food Larder Time to Talk: A listening Café PCC Prayers followed by PCC at 7.30pm
Wednesday 21 October	1.30pm 3.30pm	Tiddlers Home Group (in church)
Thursday 22 October	8.30am 11.15am 12.00–12.30pm 7.30pm	Morning Prayers Open Space Coffee after Up & Amble Food Larder Home Group
Saturday 24 October	9.00am	Community Coffee
Sunday 25 October	10.00am	Family Communion

For more details follow the links above or visit our website: ascensionchurch.co.uk

For the diary

SUN 8 NOVEMBER
Remembrance Sunday

SUN 29 NOVEMBER
Advent Sunday

SUN 15 NOVEMBER
Safeguarding Sunday

SUN 13 DECEMBER
Community Carols

BIRTHDAYS

No birthdays are recorded this week. If you'd like yours included, please let us know.

Contact us

ascensionchurch.co.uk enquiries@ascensionchurch.co.uk

Vicar Revd Martin Jones · revdmartin@ascensionchurch.co.uk · 01444 415229

Churchwardens Jill Costello 07736 285995 · Jerry Whitehead 07540 599309

Authorised Lay Minister Jill Costello

Gift Day

Once again huge thanks are due for the extraordinarily generous response to the Ascension Gift Day on the 27th of September. We should all be so grateful for God's provision enabled through the responses of generous people. An extraordinary **£13,236** (including Gift Aid) has been raised so far to support the life and ministry of the church.

Every gift, whatever its size, is gratefully received, but giving is always voluntary. Everyone is equally welcome and valued, whether or not they can give financially.

If you haven't yet had a chance to consider your response please see the Gift Day letter. It's not too late to contribute. You can still make a one-off gift, and if you already give regularly, this may be a good opportunity to review your giving.

To find out more: read the [Gift Day letter online](#), or pick up a printed copy at the back of church.

Time to Talk: a listening café

Time to Talk is a new monthly drop-in at Ascension Church for anyone who is worried, feeling down or lonely, or doesn't know who they can talk to. You'll find a warm welcome, a cuppa and cake, and someone ready to listen.

Opens

Tuesday 20 October, 10.30am

Then

Third Tuesday of every month

Cost

Free, and no need to book

- No pressure to talk: it's fine just to come for a cup of tea.
- Our volunteers are there to listen. They are not professional counsellors.
- Everyone is welcome. A worry shared can often be a worry halved.

Find out more: visit <https://ascensionchurch.co.uk/events-groups#time-to-talk-1>