

For the people of: Cobbetts Mead, Orchid Park

For prayer: Julian, Sally, Alison & Roger

From the Prayer Board: Pray for: Footsteps International and the work of helping disadvantaged children in Kenya; for Naomi and all who have asked for prayer for themselves and their families

In memoriam: Tracy Griffie, Samuel White, Mac Atkinson

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.

EDUCATION MATTERS

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people. Remember that the Lord will give you as a reward what he has kept for his people. For Christ is the real Master you serve.'

COLOSSIANS 3:23,24 (GNT)

Gracious God we pray for Christians working across the field of education to be effective light and salt. Thank you that one third of all UK state schools are 'faith schools' (98% of them Christian) with many in the private sector too. Please help them to retain their distinctive aim to educate children in a spirit of truth and love. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Heavenly Father, as the new term begins in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we ask for Your rich blessing of protection and peace to rest upon every school community, especially those that are in our own locality. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Holy Spirit, please continue to raise up Christians with a vision to see every school a prayed-for school. We ask for faith and encouragement for this crucial ministry. By Your grace. Amen. (26 September is National Day of Prayer for Schools: youthscape.co.uk/ndopfs)

Lord, thank You for the people who work in schools, from nursery age through to young adulthood: head teachers, senior leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, nursery workers and managers, special education teams, carers, caterers, cleaners, administrators, advisors and technical staff. Please help them day by day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, we pray for those who are responsible for planning and allocating the UK's £122 billion education budget: at national government level, through local authorities and within individual schools, colleges and universities. Grant them great wisdom. By Your grace. Amen. www.care.org.uk



Ascension Weekly

Sunday 30th August 2026 **The 13th Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 a.m. Communion Service

Readings: Romans 12.9-21, Matthew 16.21-28

Take up your cross

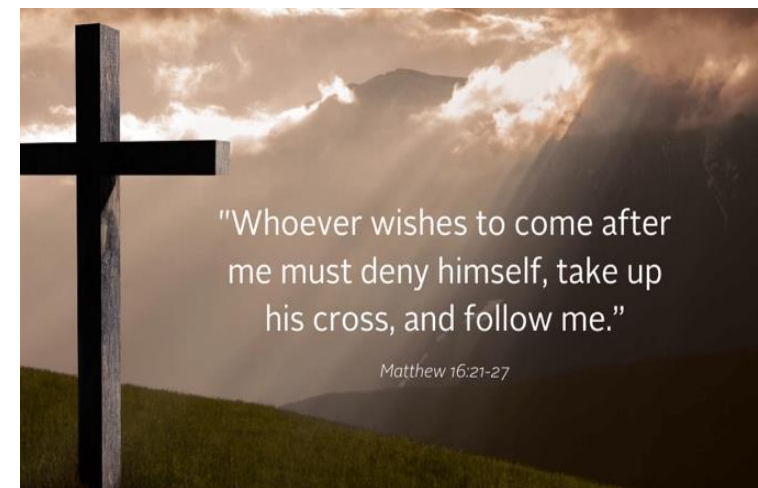
In just a few verses, Peter has gone from being called "the rock" in last week's Gospel to becoming, in this week's reading, a stumbling block.

Jesus had begun to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, suffer and be killed.

Peter's response was to take Jesus aside and insist, "This must never happen to you." The rebuke he received was blunt: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me."

Jesus then turns to all the disciples and makes clear what it means to follow him. They must deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him.

It can be tempting to imagine that following Jesus will spare us from suffering or hardship. Yet Jesus teaches the opposite. He does not promise an easy path; rather, he calls us to follow the way of the cross.



(Continued inside)

This Week

Sunday 30th August

10.00am Communion Service

Tuesday 1st September

9.30 -10.00am Food Larder

Thursday 3rd September

8.30am Morning Prayers

12noon – 12.30pm Food Larder

Sunday 6th September

8.30am Said Communion

10am Family Worship

Please see the website for more
information:

www.ascensionchurch.co.uk

Birthdays This Week

Happy Birthday to David Seabrook

UK Harvest

Friday 4th September 10.30am to
11.30am in the Ascension Church



CONTACT US

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ALM: Jill Costello



When I consider the cross of Christ,
how can anything that I do be called sacrifice?

AMY CARMICHAEL



©CHALLIES

For the Diary

Week Commencing 7th

September - Bible Course is
launched.

9th September. - Tiddlers and
home groups recommence

27th September. - Gift Day

11th October. - Harvest Sunday

8th November. - Remembrance
Sunday

15th November. - Safeguarding
Sunday

29th November. - Advent
Sunday

13th December. - Community
Carols

(Continued from the front page)

This is not a call to seek suffering for its own sake, nor to accept injustice or harm passively. It is a call to stop making self-protection, comfort, or control the centre of our lives. We are invited to entrust ourselves to Christ, even when faithfulness is costly, and to place our whole lives in his hands.

Jesus' promise is that those who lose their life for his sake will find it. His Way, the way of the cross, is not the final word. It often includes suffering and even death, but it doesn't end there; it leads us through death into the fullness of life that God has for us.

Martin

The Bible Course

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course>

The Bible Course, produced by Bible Society, is a set of resources designed for small groups. It includes videos, a guidebook and online materials, and over 8 sessions it offers an accessible overview of the Bible and encouragement and help in reading and understanding the Bible.

Whether the Bible feels familiar to you, or you are just beginning to explore it, you would be very welcome to join us. Group meeting times and venues can be arranged to suit those taking part.

We will be using The Bible Course when our home groups resume in the week beginning 7 September. Please let Martin know if you would like to find out more or are interested in joining a group.

Worship Songs and Hymns

We now have access to a much wider range of worship songs and hymns. If there is something you would like us to sing in church, please let Martin know and we will see whether we can introduce it.

(Please note that we cannot guarantee every request will be available or can be made to work in church.)