

16th August. For the people of: Marlow Drive, The Oaks

In memoriam: Maud Cook, Edward (Ted) Honey, Doreen Newington, Ramadam Baccush, Terry Tipple

23rd August. For the people of: Charlesworth Park, Burma Close

In memoriam: Mike Honey, Victor Glass, Doreen Baldey

For prayer: Sally. Alison and Roger

From the Prayer Board: For all who have asked for prayer for themselves and their families

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.

Human Dignity (16th of August)

'You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book... How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!' PSALMS 139:14-17 (NLT)

Lord Jesus Christ, though 'being in very nature God' You 'took on the form of a servant, being made in human likeness*' and having given Your life to save us You have kept Your glorified human body for eternity. Help us to understand this wonderful truth and live a life worthy of Your great love. By Your grace. Amen. (*Philippians 2:6-8)

Holy Spirit, please inspire us as Christ's people to value and protect human life from conception to natural end, speaking up for the oppressed, caring for the weak and protecting the vulnerable as You lead and inspire us. In Your mercy. Amen.

Creator God, we grieve the death of every unborn life. Please comfort every woman who has experienced baby loss, whether through stillbirth, miscarriage or having a termination. Please equip medical and nursing staff, counsellors, family and friends seeking to help them to come to terms with what has happened. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Friday 21st August FIRST NATIONAL DAY FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF TERRORISM

Today, as the nation unites to honour and remember victims and survivors of terrorist acts, we ask for the comfort, healing and peace that comes only from You for those affected by such horrific attacks. May they receive support to rebuild their lives. In Your mercy. Amen.

www.care.org.uk



Ascension Weekly

Sunday 16th and Sunday 23rd August 2026

10.00 a.m. Communion Services

Readings 16.8.2026: Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15.21-28

Readings 23.8.2026: Romans 12.1-8 Matthew 16.13-20

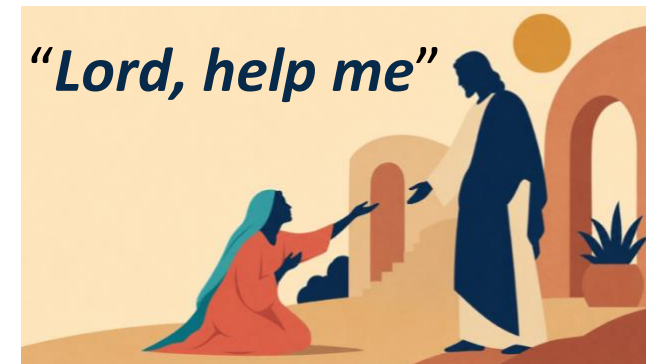
Actions speaking louder than words

Today's Gospel reading is one of those Bible passages that is difficult to hear. Taken at face value, it seems that Jesus is being appallingly rude to a Canaanite woman who has come to Him begging for help. Jesus's reply grates with us, because He tells the woman, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

It's tempting to dismiss His comment and move on. But that's a slippery slope. If we only hear what we want to hear, or try to ignore the parts in the Bible that we don't like, where do we draw the line? Dismiss one part of the Bible, and it gets easier to dismiss all of it.

It's challenging, but we do well to engage with *all* of the Bible - maybe, or even *especially* with the passages we find difficult. To engage we need to look at the context around something which can then throw light on its meaning. The context of today's passage shows Jesus's actions speaking louder than the apparently harsh words. He went on to praise the woman for her faith, then did as she asked and healed her daughter – actions which were compassionate, not harsh.

(Continued inside)



Church Diary

Sunday 16th August

10am Communion Service

Tuesday 18th August

9.30 -10.00am Food Larder

Thursday 20th August

8.30am Morning Prayers

12noon – 12.30pm Food Larder

Sunday 23rd August

10am Communion Service

Tuesday 25th August

9.30 -10.00am Food Larder

Thursday 27th August

8.30am Morning Prayers

11.00am Open Space Coffee after
Up & Amble

12noon – 12.30pm Food Larder

Sunday 30th August

10am Communion Service

Please see the website for more
information:

www.ascensionchurch.co.uk

*I don't always feel His presence.
But God's promises do not
depend upon my feelings;
they rest upon His integrity.*

R.C. SPROUL



August Services

During August there will be
just one service on Sundays
which will be a 10.00am
Communion Service.

Birthdays This Week

Happy Birthday to Ros Moss,
Chris Steel, Jackie Church
and Jono Moloney

*(There are no birthdays recorded
for the week beginning on the
23rd of August)*

CONTACT US

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ALM: Jill Costello



(Continued from the front page)

His words, though, do show up the attitudes of those around Him. By using a term of abuse that they would have used, He highlighted their attitudes; then He showed them they were wrong by acting as He did. Furthermore, He showed that He came for the salvation of every nation with no exceptions. Even to those that His followers, then and now, might reject. **Martin**

First Aiders

We are updating the church's list of First Aiders. If you hold a current first aid certificate and would be willing to be included, please let David Cole or Martin know.

If you are interested in first aid or defibrillator training, please also speak to Martin or David. If there is sufficient interest, we will explore options for arranging training.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC (23rd of August)

'And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the Lord, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.' 2 SAMUEL 6:5 (ESV)

Holy Spirit, in our worship with music may the Lord Jesus be honoured and glorified. We especially pray for those who write songs and hymns, play instruments, sing and lead others in praise, that their hearts will be increasingly attuned to the eternal song of heaven. By Your grace. Amen.

Lord, may Christian composers, performers, sound engineers, and others working in the world of music be faithful witnesses to You and express rhythms, harmonies, and melodies that spring from Your heart as they share with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God of all harmony, thank You for the universal language of music that by Your grace transcends human cultures and situations: freeing emotions, creating memories, and bringing people together. Open our ears to Your songs of love. In Christ's name. Amen.

Holy Lord, please watch over anyone who is exposed to harmful influences through the music they perform or listen to that glorifies violence and other destructive actions and words. Please deliver them from evil to turn to what is good. In Your mercy. Amen. www.care.org.uk