

Prayers for the Community

For the people of: Cheales Close, Pullman Avenue

For prayer: Sally & David, Heidi, Mark, Simon, Simon, Susan, Bunty

From the Prayer Board: Pray for Cheryl, Linda, Guy, Marie, Glen, Sadie, Sandy

In memoriam: Don Bryant, Marjorie Cordell, Beatrice Waters, Ivy Lymer
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.

MARRIAGE

'...from the beginning 'God made them male and female. This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.' MATTHEW 19:4-6 (NLT)

Lord, we pray that more couples will choose to commit to marriage, with all its benefits, rather than simply living together—especially with sky-high wedding costs and marriage not being actively promoted in our society. We ask for attitudes to change. By Your grace. Amen.

Father God, may Your blessing rest upon newlywed couples known to us, and those preparing to marry: that they may grow ever closer and dearer to each other, whatever the future brings, and look to You with thanksgiving for all they need. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Holy Spirit, please help couples who are struggling to stay together to seek help to work out their differences, make necessary changes, and, where possible, agree to stay married. We remember children who are caught up in these situations. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Father, we pray for Agape, Care for the Family, Engage, Marriage Foundation, The Marriage Course, 2-in-2-1, and other Christian organisations, as they support married couples and families, and promote biblical values concerning sexuality and gender through research and reasoned debate. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Dear Lord, thank You for couples whose enduring and loving marriages are an encouragement to those around them. Please strengthen them in their latter years, especially as ill health, bereavement, and other sadnesses enter their lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

www.care.org.uk



Ascension Weekly

Sunday 26th October 2025 The Last Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Family Communion

Readings: 2 Timothy 2.1-7 & Luke 18.9-14

Whiter Than White?

When I was growing up, we had a dalmatian dog called Tess. She was an impressive sight—big, lean, athletic—her coat of black spots on white background made her look even more striking.



But when snow fell, we noticed something surprising. Against the backdrop of fresh, pure snow, Tess's coat didn't look nearly as white as we'd always assumed. Her fur, which had seemed bright, appeared a rather grubby yellowish grey beside the perfect whiteness of the snow. What seemed dazzling before now looked very ordinary — Comparison with something truly pure revealed her true colours.

In today's gospel, Jesus tells a parable that makes a similar point. A Pharisee, confident in himself, compared his life with those he labelled as 'sinners' and concluded that he was 'whiter than white.' But when held up next to God's perfect holiness and grace, human 'goodness' fades into insignificance as God's flawless holiness shows the reality of our lives.

That's a sobering warning. None of us, by our own efforts, can measure up to God's holiness. Our 'goodness', when set against the flawless standard of God, is more like Tess's grubby coat in the snow and not nearly as pure as we might like to think.

(Continued inside)

This Week

Sunday 26th October

10.00am Family Communion

Tuesday 28th October

9.30 -10.30am Food Larder

Thursday 30th October

8.30am Morning Prayers

12.00 - 1.00pm Food Larder

Saturday 1st November

8.15am Men's Breakfast

Sunday 2nd November

All Saints Sunday

8.30am Said Communion

10.00am Café church

Coming Up

Sunday 9th November

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 16th November

Safeguarding Sunday

Sunday 23rd November

Christ the King Sunday

Sunday 30th November

Advent Sunday

Sunday 14th December

6.00pm Community Carols with
the St. Wilfrid's School Choir.

Sunday 21st December

6.00pm Blue Christmas Service.

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th

4.00pm Christmas Carols and
Nativity.

11.30pm. Christmas Midnight
Service.

Christmas Day

10.00 a.m. Christmas All Age
Communion

Happy Birthday to
Katie Church

Real spiritual growth is *always*
GROWTH DOWNWARD
so to speak, into profounder humility.

J.I. PACKER

© CHALLENGE

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ALM: Jill Costello



THE ASCENSION

(Continued from the front page)

But here is the Good News: the tax collector in the parable, who recognised his shortcomings and came to God for mercy, found himself made righteous. Because he humbled himself and acknowledged his need, he was made 'whiter than white' in God's sight. This promise holds for all who come before God honestly and humbly.

Ultimately, Jesus' parable reminds us that it's not comparison with others that matters, but our openness before God.

God's grace meets us in our humility.

When we honestly bring our faults before Him, we receive not only forgiveness but also the gift of being truly made new. For "all who humble themselves will be exalted"—and in God's eyes, made dazzlingly clean.

Martin

*"True humility is not
an abject, grovelling,
self-despising spirit;
it is but a right
estimate of ourselves
as God sees us." –
Tryon Edwards*

Men's Breakfast

Inspired by the success of the Ladies Afternoon Teas there will be a Men's Breakfast in church on Saturday 1st November starting at 8.15. All welcome.

Cornerstone Survey

The Church of England has developed Cornerstone software which is a free online tool designed to help churches understand and improve their financial health and culture of generosity. David (Cole) and others are going to a training morning to find out about using Cornerstone.

Amongst other things Cornerstone includes a comprehensive, searchable database of over 650 grants—updated weekly—which are potentially available to churches. Completing the training gives access to the grants database. In order to complete the training David needs questionnaires returned from as many church members as possible and so a link to the online questionnaires will be circulated by email on Sunday morning. Please do fill in a questionnaire, it will be a great help and much appreciated.