

For the people of: Sylvan Close, Rushwood Close

For prayer: Julian, Sally

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

In memoriam: Ian Eldridge, Anthony Slight, Cecil Bradshaw, Jean Goddard, Matthew Osborne

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.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

'Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.' JAMES 1:17 (NIV)

Lord of the Sabbath, we thank You for the opportunity so many have to rest from their studies and work during the summer, whilst remembering those for whom this is not possible. We pray that people will be kept safe and be refreshed. In Your mercy. Amen.

Wednesday 12th INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

Father, we commit to You the rising generations of young people who will go on to shape our world, with its daunting challenges and amazing opportunities. We pray for all who have now left school, preparing for a new chapter once summer is over. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Thursday 13th Dear Lord, as students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland receive their A-level exam results today (this took place in Scotland on August 4 and the new term there begins next week), we rejoice at the successes and pray that those who feel disappointed will find Your way ahead for their lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord our Protector, we pray for 'travelling mercies' as many people take holidays at this time. Deliver them from anything that could endanger their lives: accidents, illnesses or malevolent deeds of others. Through Your kindness and grace. Amen.

Dear Jesus, may tens of thousands of the children and young people who attend summer Christian residential camps, festivals and events, missions and clubs respond to Your Holy Spirit by opening their hearts to believe and follow You more and more. Amen.

www.care.org.uk



Ascension Weekly

Sunday 9th August 2026 **The Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 a.m. Communion Service

Readings: Romans 10.5-15, Matthew 14.22-33

When Faith Falters

Our Gospel reading for today is both deeply unsettling and yet comforting. The disciples are alone in a boat, far from the land, battered by the waves and struggling against the wind. They are experienced fishermen, and yet even they are afraid.



Then, in the darkness before dawn, Jesus comes to them, walking upon the sea. Their first response is not relief but terror. *"It is a ghost,"* they cry out in fear.

But then Jesus speaks those wonderful words, *"Take heart, it is I, do not be afraid."* In the midst of wind and waves, confusion and fear, Jesus comes to His disciples. He does not wait for the storm to pass before He draws near. He comes to them in the storm.

Peter, impulsive and courageous, asks Jesus to call him out upon the water. At first Peter walks towards Jesus, his eyes fixed upon his Lord. But when he notices the strength of the wind, fear takes hold, and he begins to sink. His cry has been prayed by countless Christians through the ages, *"Lord, save me."*

(Continued inside)

This Week

Sunday 9th August

10am Communion Service

Tuesday 11th August

9.30 -10.00am Food Larder

Thursday 13rd August

8.30am Morning Prayers

11.00am Open Space Coffee after
Up & Amble

12noon – 12.30pm Food Larder

Sunday 16th August

10am Communion Service

Please see the website for more
information:

www.ascensionchurch.co.uk

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 Anabel Harris

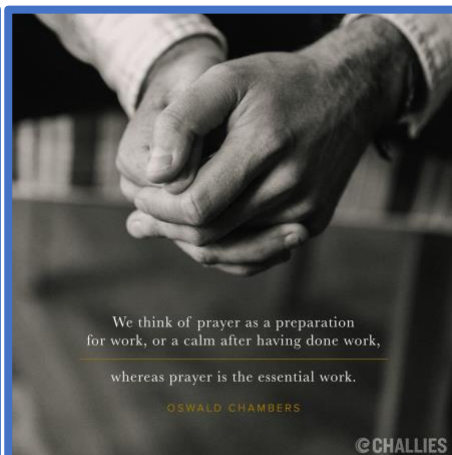
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ALM: Jill Costello



Focus on **JESUS**,
not the storm.

Focus on **JESUS**, not the
struggle.

Focus on **JESUS**, not the pain.

Focus on **JESUS**, not the worry.

Focus on **JESUS**, not the stress.

Focus on **JESUS**, not the past.

Focus on **JESUS**, not the world.

Focus on **JESUS**, not the distraction.

(Continued from the front page)

And immediately Jesus reaches out His hand and catches him. There is no delay, no hesitation, no question about whether Peter has deserved to be rescued. Jesus saves him. He does gently challenge Peter, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" Yet this is not a word of rejection. It is the loving question of the One who has already taken hold of him.

There are times when life feels like that small boat on a dark and stormy sea. We may feel overwhelmed by anxiety, grief, illness, uncertainty, or all that is happening in the world around us. We may wonder whether Christ sees our struggle, or whether He is far away.

This Gospel assures us that He sees, He comes, and He saves. The storms may still be real, and our faith may sometimes falter, but Christ is greater than the wind and waves. When we turn to Him and cry, "Lord, save me," we find that His hand is already reaching out towards us.

Martin

Prayer

In our recent 24 hours of prayer, we sensed that God is calling us as a church to be more intentional in praying for all the events and activities that take place in the Ascension.

As we enter the holiday period, when many of these activities pause, this is a valuable opportunity to pray for all who organise and participate in them. We think especially of Tiddlers, Home Groups, Open Space, and Community Coffee. Please pray that all involved will enjoy a time of rest and relaxation, returning refreshed and renewed. Pray that they may be encouraged, continue to be blessed, and receive fresh vision from the Lord for their ministry. We also invite prayer for our ongoing ministries:

Church Services

- For our praise, worship, readings, and intercessions
- For Martin, as he leads and brings God's word
- For the Prayer Ministry Team

The Food Larder

- For strong, positive and fruitful relationships with those who attend
- For opportunities to share faith, offer testimony, and pray with those who come

Now faith is
confidence in
what we hope for
and assurance
about what we do
not see.
-Hebrews 11.1