

Prayers for the Community

For the people of: Ashenground Way, Courtlands, Sussex Villas

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

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

In memoriam: Esme Grace Marklew, Jimmy Fox, Adrian Wilder, Aubrey Coomber

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.

MIGRATION AND REFUGEES

'You must see that justice is done and must show kindness and mercy to one another. Do not oppress widows, orphans, foreigners who live among you, or anyone else in need. And do not plan ways of harming one another.'

ZECHARIAH 7:9-10 (GOOD NEWS TRANSLATION)

Gracious Lord, please bless newcomers arriving here, and send Christians and other people who will show kindness and help them to settle in. May they engage with the best of British society, whilst preserving and celebrating the richness of their own culture. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Lord, we realise there are complex reasons for using hotels to accommodate some asylum seekers, including slow processing of claims, and a rising backlog of initial decisions and appeals. Please grant wisdom to those responsible for this system, and for finding more cost-effective accommodation. May all people seeking asylum find healing in body and mind. In Your mercy. Amen.

Almighty God, we intercede for global solutions to the terrible predicament of the growing number of displaced people on every continent. Raise up leaders of vision, integrity, and influence to persuade governments and other organisations to work together for their welfare. In Your mercy. Amen.

Dear Lord, we praise You for the many immigrants who are Christians, blessing churches with their devotion to prayer, testimonies of Your goodness, gifts of leadership and service, and in many other ways. Thank You, too, for all who make a significant contribution to society by their hard work, skills, and expertise. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Father, please prosper the ministry of Welcome Churches, linking thousands of refugees to local churches that offer practical help and friendship. We pray for Christians to increasingly engage with people arriving in the UK, and speak up for those who are very vulnerable. For Christ's sake. Amen. www.care.org.uk



Ascension Weekly

Sunday 22nd February 2026

Lent 1

10.00 am Family Communion

Readings: Romans 5.12-19, Matthew 4.1-11

Motives and Temptation

Just like us, Jesus faced temptation. The circumstances may be different, after all, turning stones into bread isn't an option for us, but facing temptation was every bit as real to Jesus, as it is to us.

Making bread from stones wasn't, in itself, a sinful act. The issue lay in the motive and voice behind it. The devil used Jesus' hunger with a

deeper aim...to provoke Jesus into doubting His identity: "If you are the Son of God.....". He began by planting the seed of uncertainty. The temptation was not only to satisfy physical hunger, but to prove He was God's son, and by doing that to act outside the Father's will.

Even something that appears harmless can become sinful when it arises from the wrong motive, or leads us away from trust in God. Acting from pride, fear, or self-reliance can turn good desires into traps.



(Continued inside)

Dates & Times

Sunday 22nd February

10.00am Family Communion

Tuesday 24th February

9.30 -10.30am Food Larder

Thursday 26th February

8.30am Morning Prayers

12 noon - 1.00pm Food Larder

Saturday 28th February

9.00am Community Coffee

Sunday 1st March

8.30am Said Communion

10.00am Café church

Tuesday 3rd March

9.30 - 10.30am Food Larder

Wednesday 4th March

1.30pm Tiddlers

3.30pm Home Group in church

Thursday 5th March

8.30am Morning Prayers

11.15am Open Space after Up & Amble

12 noon - 1.00pm Food Larder

7.30pm Home Group at Jill's

Saturday 7th March

9.00am Community Coffee

Sunday 8th March

10.00am Communion Service

Please see the website for more details:

www.ascensionchurch.co.uk

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Basil Kingshott

Easter Services

Palm Sunday 29th March

10.00am Communion Service

Tuesday 31st March

7.30pm Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

7.30pm Communion Service

with Foot Washing

Good Friday 3rd April

10.00am Easter Messy Church

2.00pm An hour at the Cross

3.00pm until 4.00pm Open

Church for Quiet and Prayer

Easter Sunday 5th April

6.15am Easter Vigil Service

10.00 Easter Celebration

Communion Service



THE ASCENSION

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ALM: Jill Costello

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We, too, need God's help to see temptation for what it is, and the Spirit's strength to resist it. Our best defence is not through sheer willpower but by having a deep relationship with God, nurtured through prayer, Scripture, and trust.

Jesus did not waver in knowing His identity as the beloved Son. We can

be just as secure, because we are children of a loving Father. Faith and trust in Him can transform our motives, strengthen our will, and equip us to resist temptation, not in our own feeble strength, but with God's strength, which he gives us as we trust in Him.

Martin

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

- 1 Corinthians 10:13

Sunday 1st March 2026 **Lent 2**

8.30 am Said Communion

10.00 am Café Church

Readings: Romans 4.1-5 & 13-17, John 3. 1-17

Prayers for the Community

For the people of: Ash Grove, Keymer End

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

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

In memoriam: Henri Bessem, Lilian Waugh, Clare Fielder, Alice Miles.

Jesse Cripps

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Happy birthday to Marilyn Dalrymple