

Prayers for the Community

For the people of: Virginia Drive, Vita Close

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

From the Prayer Board: Pray for Cheryl, Linda, Guy, Marie, Sandy, Annette and her son Louis, Danny

In memoriam: Ann Davidson, Dorothy Ballard, Brian Wembridge, Geoff Wicker, Stanley Moss

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.

SERVING HUMBL

'In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. Christ himself was like God in everything. He was equal with God. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be held on to. He gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant.' PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7 (INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S BIBLE)

ADVENT BEGINS: *To celebrate Christ's incarnation and look for His second coming* King of heaven and earth, this Advent season please help us to focus our minds, devote our hearts, and offer our lives to You in worship as we anticipate Your coming—at Christmas, and also on the Day of Your glorious return, when You will establish Your kingdom forever to the glory of Your name. Amen.

1st December WORLD AIDS DAY – *uniting people to fight against HIV and AIDS* Lord our Healer, we mourn the loss of 35 million lives to AIDS since 1985, and we pray for those who live with HIV— suffering its physical effects and often experiencing discrimination in work, education, housing, and healthcare—that they may receive the help they need. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we remember those who care for vulnerable people in nursing homes, hospitals, hospices, and in their own homes. Please strengthen and encourage the UK's 5.8 million unpaid carers, many of them juggling this with employment and other responsibilities. For Christ's sake. Amen

Holy Spirit, we pray for grace for the 'apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers' You have called 'to equip Your people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may... become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.'* Please help them to serve with humility and compassion. For Christ's sake. Amen. (*Ephesians 4:1).

www.care.org.uk



Ascension Weekly

Sunday 30th November 2025 **First Sunday of Advent**

10.00 am Family Communion

Readings: Romans 13.11-14, Matthew 24.36-44

Advent - A Season of Preparation

As Christmas celebrations seem to start earlier each year Advent can so easily get lost. Sadly, we then miss out if we jump straight to Christmas without the Advent work of preparing, watching and waiting. Observing Advent helps us to slow down and pay attention to the hope we have. It reminds us of what we are celebrating: that the birth of Jesus was the beginning of God's great rescue plan, with the sure and certain hope we have of its fulfilment when Jesus comes again as King of Kings.

During Advent, we can simply count down the days to Christmas, or we can use the time as a focus to make some extra room for Christ. That could mean setting aside some extra time each day to

pray, engaging with Advent resources, renewing our focus on Christ as we light Advent candles or open Advent calendars. Or maybe letting God inspire us to find extra ways to love and serve someone in need. We could even ask the Holy Spirit to help us lay down what distracts us and to wait with hope and expectation.

May we all turn to Christ with that renewed hope, as we watch joyfully and expectantly for His return as King of Kings—Something which is well worth waiting and preparing for!

Martin



This Week

Sunday 30th November

10.00am Communion Service

Tuesday 2nd December

9.30 -10.30am Food Larder

Wednesday 3rd December

1.30pm Tiddlers

3.30pm Home Group in church

7.30pm Home Group

Thursday 4th December

8.30am Morning Prayers

12.00 - 1.00pm Food Larder

7.30pm Home Group

Saturday 6th December

9.00am Community Coffee

Sunday 7th December

8.30am Said Communion

10.00am Café church

Please see the website for links for
online streaming:

www.ascensionchurch.co.uk

Birthdays this week

Happy Birthday to Jo Blows



Christmas Services

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

Christmas Present Appeal

We are appealing, please, for donations to the Ascension annual Christmas Present Appeal. This year we are planning to provide a bag of Christmas goodies to give out through the Food Larder, and a copy of the Bear Grylls book to go with the 'Goody Bag'.

Furthermore, the intention is to give Bear Grylls' book, The Greatest Story Ever Told, to visitors who come to the Christmas services. We are very grateful that these plans have been generously underwritten to allow the books to be bought. Donations will of course still be needed and much appreciated.

Donations can be made in different ways.

1) Money. Donations of money are very welcome especially as Gift Aid* can be claimed to increase the value of financial donations. (Please see below for information about Gift Aid.)

2) Goods. It's not intended that every bag will be identical so anything appropriate for a Christmas bag would work well. Biscuits, chocolates, a tin of Christmas ham etc. would all be appreciated.

Donations are will always be welcome. However, **to allow shopping and organising it would be really helpful if donations could be made by Sunday the 14th of December** at the latest. - Sooner, would be even better.

Thank you all.

*Gift Aid

Gift Aid is a UK government scheme that allows charities to claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated, at no additional cost to the donor. There are two ways Gift Aid can be claimed:

1. For individual donations of £30 or less, given in cash or via contactless card machines, the church can claim a 25% top-up through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS). Donors do not even need to provide their name, let alone complete any paperwork for these donations and don't need to be paying tax.
2. For donations over £30, the church can claim Gift Aid from donors who are UK taxpayers and have paid enough income or capital gains tax to cover the amount claimed. To enable this, donors must complete a Gift Aid declaration form. By doing so, they confirm their taxpayer status and allow the church to claim Gift Aid on their donations.

CONTACT US

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THE ASCENSION