

## Prayers for the Community

**For the people of** Virginia Drive, Vita Close

**For prayer:** Bunty, Chris J, David, Heidi, Ros, Janine and Alan, William and Miranda

**In memoriam:** Bishop Eric Kemp & Ann Davidson.

*Community prayers are being updated. Please let Martin or Sally know about people to list and keep listed in prayers for the community.*

## FATHERHOOD

*'God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.'* 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3,4 (NLT)

Father God, please encourage men to reflect on the responsibility, joy and privilege of caring for children. May Your love be reflected in generous, gentle relationships of wise leadership between children and fathers, grandfathers and other relatives and friends. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Lord, we intercede for a major shift in society back towards a firm belief that a couple's commitment to marriage is the best basis for family life, whilst affirming and supporting the UK's 2 million lone parents – 84% of them mothers, who are raising 3.3 million children. In Your mercy. Amen.

Loving Lord who cares for widows and orphans, we pray for the millions of fatherless families who have never known a father or been separated because of relationship breakdown, war and conflict, migration, poverty, natural disasters and other factors. Have mercy on them each day. Amen.

Father, we pray for fathers who are raising children alone – over 450,000 in the UK – and those living apart from their families, doing their best to build and maintain a positive relationship with them. Please provide for their practical, emotional and social needs. May many of them turn to You. In Christ's name. Amen.

O God, please strengthen those with difficult, sad or non-existent memories of a father who carry emotional pain and vulnerability in their hearts. May they experience positive relationships with family, friends and others – and above all, with You – that will bring them recovery and flourishing. In Jesus' name. Amen.

[www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk)



# Ascension Weekly

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024 **Christ the King**

10.00 a.m. Family Communion Service. (Online via Zoom).

Readings: Revelation 1.4b-8 & John 18.33-37

## Christ the King

With Christmas just over a month away, Christ the King Sunday is a day to pause and remember that the infant Jesus in the manger, whose birth we are preparing to celebrate, is now the risen, ascended and enthroned Christ the King.

Christ rules in heaven, but not yet over all the earth. - That is why we are led to pray, "Your kingdom come, you will be done, on earth as in heaven." He *will* return to rule on earth as He does in heaven, but sadly, for now, His rule on earth is often contested and even rejected. Nonetheless, His Kingdom is established and *will* reach perfect completion.

Jesus is unlike any other king, and His Kingdom is unlike any other kingdom. Earthly kingdoms expect their subjects to be prepared to lay down their lives; Christ the King of kings died for us. Earthly kingdoms rise and fall, but Christ has established the only eternal Kingdom through the cross and invites us to follow Him and live forever in His Kingdom.

Christ died not only to establish His Kingdom, but to invite us to live in it, at one with Him and protected through doing His will from the pressures, values, and forces of this world. As we come to the time of year with lots of invitations to Christmas events, the one invitation we definitely do want to accept is the invitation to live under the rule and loving care of Christ the King.

**Martin**



## This Week

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

**10.00am** Family Communion Service

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

**9.30 -10.30am** Food Larder

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

**10.30am** Midweek Communion

**1.30pm** Tiddlers

**3.30pm** Home Group in church

**7.30 pm** Home Group at Janet & Jerry's

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November**

**8.30am** Morning Prayers

**11.15am** Open Space following Up & Amble

**7.30pm** Thursday Home Group at Jill's

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

**9am** Community Coffee

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

**8.30am** Said Communion

**10.00am** Café Church

Please see the website for links for online streaming:

[www.ascensionchurch.co.uk](http://www.ascensionchurch.co.uk)



## Christmas Services

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

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

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**6.00pm** Blue Christmas Service.

**Christmas Eve Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>**

**4.00pm** Christmas Carols and Nativity Play.

**11.30pm.** Christmas Midnight Service.

**Christmas Day**

**10.00 a.m.** Christmas All Age Communion.

## Christmas Present Appeal

Once again, we are aiming to give out 30 Christmas present boxes through the Food Larder. Each box will contain a tub of sweets, chocolate biscuits, shortbread, a Yule Log, a Christmas Pudding, Lebkuchen Stars, Treeslets, mince pies and an iced fruit cake.

We are appealing, please, for contributions to help us fill the Christmas Boxes. Contributions can be made in different ways.

1) Money. Contributions of money are very welcome, especially if you are able to Gift Aid. Gift Aid can increase the amount that your money can buy for the Boxes. Please mark any money given online, or in church, as 'For the Christmas Boxes'. Contributions given in cash of up to £30 do not need a Gift Aid declaration.

2) Whole Christmas Box(es). If you would like contribute a *complete* Christmas Box, or even more than one, please make sure that whatever you buy is still in date at Christmas

3) Box Contents. Once again please make sure everything is still in date at Christmas time.

Thank you all.



## Church Decorating & Cleaning

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we look forward to welcoming visitors into church over the Christmas period. Help is needed, please, with putting up the Christmas tree, and decorating, cleaning and tidying the church. We plan to spend the evening of **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 7.30pm** getting the church ready for Christmas. Please come along to help and to enjoy mince pies and carols as you do. Thank you.

### CONTACT US

[www.ascensionchurch.co.uk](http://www.ascensionchurch.co.uk) email: [enquiries@ascensionchurch.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ascensionchurch.co.uk)

Vicar: Martin Jones [revdmartin@ascensionchurch.co.uk](mailto:revdmartin@ascensionchurch.co.uk) 01444 415229

Churchwardens: Jill Costello 07736285995 Jerry Whitehead 07540599309

ALMs: Jill Costello & Sally Martin



THE ASCENSION