

## Prayers for the Community

**For the people of:** Petlands Road, St Edmunds Close

**For prayer:** David, Heidi, Mark, Sally, Simon and Simon, Susan

**In memoriam:** Patricia Farquharson, Michael Reekie, Marjorie Barnes, Elaine Washington, Irene Pickett

*To keep our prayers up to date please let Martin, Jill or Jerry know about people to list and keep listed in Prayers for the Community.*

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

*'Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit. There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.'* PROVERBS 12:17,18 (ESV)

Lord, You commissioned Your Church in love to preach the gospel to everyone. Please help Christians to be courageous, clear, wise and gracious with opportunities to share Your Word through personal conversations, at church gatherings and in public spaces. For Your glory. Amen.

God of justice, may our laws continue to uphold true freedom of expression whilst wisely protecting people from abusive messaging, discrimination, terrorist activity and other harms. Please equip and enable 'whistleblowers' and others who are concerned about such malpractice and wrongdoing in the workplace and other settings to report this fairly and without fear of reprisal. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Holy Spirit, we pray that more people will consider biblical truth, and not reject the gospel to embrace secular beliefs that can stifle free speech. We pray that the right to preach 'the whole counsel of God'\* and witness for Jesus will not become unlawful in our land. Through Your grace. Amen. \*Acts 20: 27

Father, we remember Christian educators in schools who feel pressured to conform to gender ideology and liberal sex education content or else face censure, possible suspension, investigation and dismissal. Grant them wisdom and courage to know how to act. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY Lord, we remember scores of journalists worldwide who are missing, detained or have been killed in the course of uncovering evidence and reporting news in dangerous areas of conflict, repressive government and criminal activity. Please deliver them from the evil one. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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



# Ascension Weekly

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025** **The Second Sunday of Easter**

**10.00am Family Communion**

**Readings: Acts 5.27-32 & John 20.19-31**

## Doubting Thomas

Thomas the Twin, one of Jesus' disciples, has gone down in history as 'Doubting Thomas'. But is that really fair? He was no more 'doubting' than the other disciples were before they'd met the risen Christ, and probably no worse than the rest of us.

Calling him 'Doubting Thomas' seems even more unfair when we remember that he didn't *stay* doubting. His were honest doubts and he was genuinely seeking the truth that he then found.

Having doubts need not be a problem, but being stuck with them definitely can be. If Thomas had had a closed mind, with doubts motivated by cynicism or rejection, then perhaps he would have deserved the name *Doubting* Thomas. But doubts can be part of a process that brings a deeper conviction and understanding. Thomas went from doubting to trusting and then declaring, "My Lord and my God!" The challenge for each of us is: Do I stay with the doubts? Or do I use them to motivate me to seek the truth?

May we each seek that which leads us to the truth that Thomas found as he met the risen Christ, and like him declare with a new understanding and conviction, "My Lord and my God!"

*Martin*



## This Week

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

**10.00am** Family Communion

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

**9.30am - 10.30am** Food Larder

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**10.30am** Midweek Communion

**1.30pm** Tiddlers

**3.30pm** Home Group in church

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

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

**8.30am** Morning Prayers

**12.00 - 1.00pm** Food Larder

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

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

**9.00am - 11.30am** UK Harvest

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**9am** Community Coffee

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

**8.30am** Said Communion

**10am** Café church

Please see the website for links for  
online streaming:

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

Jesus said to  
him, Thomas,  
because you  
have seen me,  
you have believed:  
blessed are they that have  
not seen, and yet have believed.

John 20:29



## For the Diary

### APCM

The APCM will be on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> May after the 10.00am Family Communion Service

### Ascension Day Service

The Ascension Day Communion Service will be at 7.30pm on Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> May. Other churches are invited. We have planned a cheese and wine social for after the service.

### Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is an annual prayer initiative that runs from Ascension Day on the 29<sup>th</sup> May to Pentecost on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June and begins for us with an Ascension Day Communion Service at 7.30pm on Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> May. More details will follow. See <https://www.thykingdomcome.global> to find out more about Thy Kingdom Come.

### 24 Hours of Prayer

Our annual 24 Hours of Prayer will be from 11.00 am on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> July until the end of our Worship Service on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> of July

### Harvest Sunday

Harvest Sunday this year will be celebrated on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> of October.

## Home Groups

Home Groups will begin again this week and will be meeting on Wednesday and Thursday evening, and Wednesday afternoon in church. Times and venues will be confirmed each week in Ascension Weekly.

Between now and Thy Kingdom Come at the end of May, the Home Groups will have Bible studies based on the readings for the previous Sunday. Groups this week will be looking at the John's Gospel reading about doubting Thomas and the Acts reading about Peter and John witnessing for Christ in front of the Sanhedrin.

### CONTACT US

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ALM: Jill Costello



THE ASCENSION