

Prayers for the Community

For the people of Burchetts Close

For prayer: Chris J, David, Heidi, Ros, Sally, Simon and Simon

In memoriam: Ron Parsons Elizabeth Gooding and Michael Parris.

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

Family Matters

Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long suffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another... even as Christ forgave you ... But above all these things put on love ... And let the peace of God rule in your hearts ... and be thankful.' COLOSSIANS 3:12-15 (NKJV)

Father, we celebrate the many joys and blessings of family life and the love that You breathe into human hearts that draws us together. Help us to nurture and cherish those in our families and also understand more of what it means to be adopted by You as co-heirs with Christ. By Your grace! Amen.

Holy God, we praise You for bringing together Your Family from every nation, tribe, people and language throughout all generations who have been redeemed to live with You forever! We pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world to be filled by Your Spirit with the faith, hope and love we have in You. Through the grace of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

Loving Saviour, we intercede for families where children and vulnerable adults are suffering neglect, abuse and relationship breakdown. We pray for mistreatment to be brought to light and wise action taken to protect them from harm and restore their confidence and trust in others. May they turn to You for help. Through Your great mercy. Amen

Heavenly Father, we remember families who are living through great grief, anxiety and fear because someone they love is very ill, missing, facing great trouble or undergoing some other suffering. May they know how deeply You care and seek Your comfort and peace to strengthen them in this trial. In Your mercy. Amen.

www.care.org.uk



Ascension Weekly

Sunday 2nd February 2025 **The Presentation of Christ**

8.30am Said Communion

10.00am Café Church

Reading: Hebrews 2.14-end Luke 2.22-40

A light in a dark world.

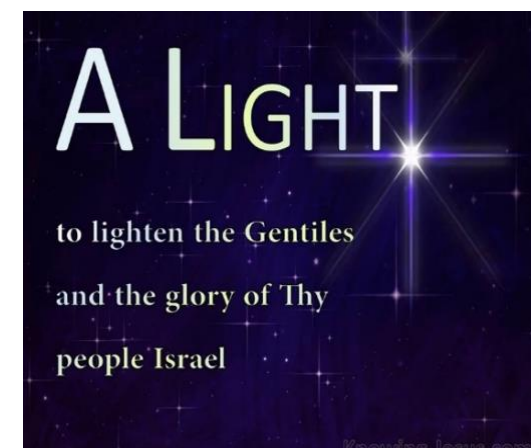
Some are, more naturally, 'glass half full' personalities, while for others it is easier to see that the glass is half empty. For many, we can be bit of both, and how we see things changes.

Even the most positive outlooks can be troubled at the moment. World news doesn't seem to get any better, and many people are having to deal with challenges and are experiencing troubled times. It can seem a dark world if we are prone to seeing the glass half empty.

However, even in the darkest of times, there is a light. Simeon and Anna were able to see, and rejoice in the light piercing the darkness. Simeon taking the baby Jesus in his arms spoke words that have echoed down the centuries as praised God saying: *"My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."*

We can be encouraged and learn from their example. We should be real about the challenges of dark in the world, but never lose sight of the light of God, revealed in Christ, that has come into the world.

Martin



This Week

Sunday 2nd February

8.30am Said Communion

10.00am Café Church

Tuesday 4th February

9.30 - 10.30am Food Larder

Wednesday 5th February

10.30am Midweek Communion

1.30pm Tiddlers

3.30pm Home Group in Church

7.30pm Home Group at Janet & Jerry's

Thursday 6th February

8.30am Morning Prayers

12.00 - 1.00pm Food Larder

7.30pm Home Group at Jill's

Friday 7th February

10.00am UK Harvest Food Hub

Saturday 8th February

9.00am Community Coffee

Sunday 9th January

10.00am Communion

Please see the website for links for online streaming:

www.ascensionchurch.co.uk

Happy birthday to
Ann Honey

Luke 2.32



A light to lighten the Gentiles,
and the glory of thy people
Israel.
Luke 2:32

Dear Lord, You are the Light of
the entire world. Thank You
for not leaving us in fear and
darkness. I look to Your light.

Prayers

"If you want to learn to pray, pray!"

– Tim Challies

Home Groups

Home groups will be meeting at Janet and Jerry's on Wednesday evening, at Jill's on Thursday evening, and in the church on Wednesday afternoons.

The Home Groups will be looking at the practice of prayer and using the prayer resources from Practicing the Way. Please see <https://www.practictheway.org/prayer> for more information.

5th/6th February- Session 02 Talking with God

12th/13th February - Session 03 Listening to God

19th/20th February - Session 04 Being with God

If you've not been in a home group before (you've been missing out!) you'll be very welcome to join in. **It's not too late to join in.** Please speak to Martin, Jill or Jerry if you would like to know more about Home Groups.

Electoral Roll

The Church of England Electoral Roll is completely renewed every six years and is due to be renewed this year. This means that the existing electoral roll ends and requires everyone who wishes to be on the Ascension Electoral Roll to submit a new application, even if they were previously on the roll. Application forms are at the back of church. Please return your completed form to the churchwardens, or David (Cole) the Electoral Roll Officer.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding in a church context is Gospel work. It is an expression of our love for God and each other and, in particular, of our obedience to the command to *'act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God'*.

Our policies have been updated where necessary and new policies added to the Safeguarding page of the website. I (Martin) am therefore writing to encourage us all to look at our Ascension Safeguarding web page, and consider how we can best fulfil the responsibility that is all of ours to safeguard those who could be vulnerable.

Please see: <https://www.ascensionchurch.co.uk/safeguarding>

CONTACT US

www.ascensionchurch.co.uk email: enquiries@ascensionchurch.co.uk

Vicar: Martin Jones revdmartin@ascensionchurch.co.uk 01444 415229

Churchwardens: Jill Costello 07736285995 Jerry Whitehead 07540599309

ALMs: Jill Costello & Sally Martin

