

## Prayers for the Community

**For the people of** Pinewood Court, Harvesters

**For prayer:** Bunty, Chris J, David, Heidi, Ros, Simon, Simon

**In memoriam:** Charles Smith, Stanley Pays, Tony Chedzey, Rosalind Smeed, Brenda Wood, Ellen Pays, William Thorley, Edward Green, Valerie Hollingshurst, Grace Owens

*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.*

## ADULT SOCIAL CARE

*'Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.'* GALATIANS 6:2 (ESV)

Father, all good gifts come from above. We ask that men and women who require extra help in this season of their lives will turn to You in their need, and we pray for churches and other Christian groups and individuals to be ready and willing to come alongside them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, we ask for anyone who needs a mental health assessment to be assisted and enabled to access services and benefits to support them and their carers. We particularly pray that those in crisis situations can be seen quickly and helped to find a way forward to manage their lives. In Your mercy. Amen.

Lord, we remember the 1.5 million individuals working in adult social care within nursing homes, retirement villages, daycare centres, people's own homes and other community settings in Britain. We ask for fair pay and conditions, and for enough workers to come forward to fill these important roles. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Good Shepherd, we pray especially for everyone who is caring for a person suffering from Alzheimer's and other conditions and injuries that affect the brain and body. Please give them the physical and emotional strength to keep going, especially in the dark times. In Your mercy. Amen.

Father, thank You for every person whose role it is to look after those who need extra support, including the UK's 5.7 million unpaid carers – 9% of the population. Please grant them strength, peace, patience and hope to carry out daily tasks well and with compassion. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Lord, please bless the dozens of integrated care systems (ICPs) throughout the UK that bring together partners from the NHS, local councils and voluntary community groups to share and develop plans to improve people's health and wellbeing, including adult social care. In Jesus' name. Amen. [www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk)



# Ascension Weekly

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Epiphany 2**

**8.30 a.m. Said Communion (Streamed via Zoom)**

**10.00 a.m. Worship Service (Streamed via Zoom)**

**Readings: 1 Corinthians 12.1-11, John 2.1-11**

## Abundantly More

The account of the wedding at Cana is well known, so we know how it turned out.

Mary though didn't have the benefit of our hindsight and Jesus hadn't yet done anything miraculous. However, her simple statement, "They have no more wine,"

showed her belief that Jesus could resolve

the situation. Her faith in Him was so sure that she boldly told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them to do. Mary trusted Jesus even though she didn't know what He might do or what she was asking for. She simply trusted Him.

We can only speculate about what Mary was hoping for. It's hard to imagine that Mary, who had never seen Jesus perform a miracle, would have anticipated Jesus instantly changing six huge jars of water into the best wine. Nevertheless, she didn't only trust Jesus with the problem, she *also* didn't try to sort out what she thought was needed. She left what was needed up to Jesus.

We can easily turn to Jesus for the solutions we want or think we need. We'd do well to learn from Mary. Let us take our problems to Jesus and trust Him for *His* solution. What we think we need is often much less than God intends for us. After all, no one would have imagined that Jesus would miraculously deliver an abundance of the best wine!

God, who "is able to accomplish abundantly more than all we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3.20), can do so much more for us than we can do for ourselves when we follow Mary's example in trusting Jesus.

**Martin**



## This Week

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

**8.30am** Said Communion

**10.00am** Worship Service

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

**9.30 - 10.30am** Food Larder

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

**10.30am** Midweek

Communion

**1.30pm** Tiddlers

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

**8.30am** Morning Prayers

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

**12.00 - 1.00pm** Food Larder

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

**9.00am** Community Coffee

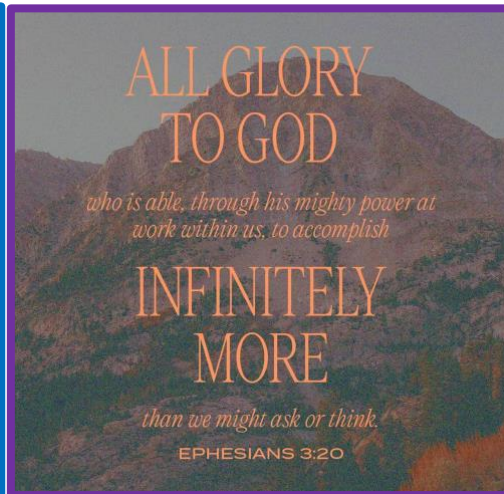
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

**10.00am** Family Communion  
with First Communion.

Please see the website for links for  
online streaming:

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

Happy birthday to  
Isaac Elliott



## First Communion Sunday.

Please remember Emily, Madison and Oscar who are preparing for their First Communion on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> January at the 10.00am Family Communion Service.

## 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 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. **Martin**

Please see:

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

## Plastic Milk Bottles

**WANTED.** 16 Clean, plastic milk bottles (of any size) are needed please, with their lids, for a craft activity at Tiddlers in a few weeks' time. Please leave the clean bottles by the coffee machine at the back of church.

## Candles for Ukraine.

As well as continuing to pray for Ukraine there's now an opportunity to do something practical to help.

When the Russian army invaded Ukraine in early 2022, the Ukrainian military began making candles to help provide a little light, to heat food and drink, warm cold hands and feet, and even to dry out clothes. Until the end of January, we're collecting candle stubs and any left-over wax, to make hand warmers and trench candles for soldiers on the frontline. If you have any old candles or left-over wax, please put in the box at the back of the church, then we'll add it to Cuckfield Church's collection of the same. If you would like to know more, please speak to Diana or Cathie. Thank you.

### CONTACT US

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THE ASCENSION