

Prayers for the Community

For the people of: Wivelsfield Road, Rookery Way, Sussex Road

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

In memoriam: Richard Garman, Joy Hoffman, Cassie Tucker, William Awcock
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.

RESCUE AND RESTORATION

'The Lord is my rock and my fort. He is the God who saves me ... The ropes of the grave were tight around me. Death set its trap in front of me. When I was in trouble I called out to the Lord ... The Lord thundered from heaven. He shot His arrows and scattered the enemy ... He reached down from heaven. He took hold of me.' - 2 SAMUEL 22 (NIV READERS VERSION)

EASTER DAY Heavenly Father, we praise You that 'in Your great mercy, You have given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade*.' Keep us in this knowledge and help us to become more like Jesus. By Your grace. Amen. (*1 Peter 1:3,4)

Prince of Peace, we bring to You places torn apart by war: cities razed to the ground and communities brought to their knees. Please cause Your resurrection life and hope to rescue and restore innocent victims through the work of peacemakers, aid and development agencies and Your Church. By Your grace. Amen.

Lord, we intercede for people with addictions that harm both themselves and others: excessive gambling, drug and alcohol abuse, pornography and inappropriate sexual activity. Help them to come to a place of wanting to be free and able to find support. May they seek Your strength and grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Father, we ask for safety and healing for all who suffer domestic abuse (over a million police-recorded cases in 2022) and for police to respond promptly to cries for help. Thank You for the many organisations and helplines that offer advice and follow-up care for survivors, many of whom become suicidal in their desperate situations. In Your mercy. Amen.

www.care.org.uk



This Week

Easter Sunday 20th April

5.30am Easter Vigil Service

10.00am Easter Celebration

Communion Service

Tuesday 22nd April

9.30am - 10.30am Food Larder

Wednesday 23rd April

10.30am Midweek Communion

Thursday 24th April

8.30am Morning Prayers

11.15am Open Space after Up
& Amble

12.00 - 1.00pm Food Larder

Saturday 26th April

9.00am Community Coffee

Sunday 27th April

10am Family Communion
Service

Please see the website for links for
online streaming:

www.ascensionchurch.co.uk

Birthdays this week

Happy Birthday to
Beth Hinton & Dave Chart

An Easter Prayer

Father God,
thank You for Jesus and
His resurrection.

As we celebrate Easter
may we be filled with joy
and renewed in spirit,
knowing that through His
sacrifice, we are redeemed
and have eternal life. Help
us to embrace this hope,
sharing it with others as
we reflect Your light in the
world.

May our lives be filled with
thanksgiving and our voices
echo with praise for the
glorious gift of grace that
is ours through Jesus and
His death and resurrection.

In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

"Alleluia! Christ is risen!

- He is risen indeed. Alleluia!"

Down the centuries, Christians have celebrated the Resurrection with the great Easter proclamation: **"Alleluia! Christ is risen! - He is risen indeed. Alleluia!"** Perhaps because it's so well-known, we can take it for granted without noticing what we are proclaiming. After all, 'alleluia', which means 'praise God', is not an everyday word. 'Indeed' is more familiar, but even then we might not fully appreciate what it means. Looking online shows 'indeed' to mean: 'without a doubt, certainly' and 'in fact; in reality'. So, what the Easter proclamation is saying is: **"Praise God! Christ is risen! - In fact, in reality, and without any doubt, He certainly is risen. Praise God!"**

That's a mouthful to say, but it does make the point. The Easter message is that Jesus Christ, having died for us, rose from the dead and, in doing so, proved He is who He says He is and that the rest of the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, is true: You are deeply loved by God, no matter your past, Jesus did die for you and rose again so you can be forgiven and free. By trusting in Jesus, you are welcomed into God's family and restored to eternal life where you can live each day with hope, joy, and a renewed sense of purpose focused on sharing God's love and grace. If you are searching for meaning, longing for forgiveness, or just want a fresh start, Christ is risen, and the Good News of God's grace and salvation is available to everyone, including you.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthian Church, pointed out that "if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain, and your faith has been in vain". C.S. Lewis, the great Christian writer, said that "Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, is of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important". In fact, in reality, and without any doubt, He certainly is risen, and therefore, Christian faith in the Good News of Christ's resurrection is not in vain and is as C.S. Lewis said, of infinite importance.

"Alleluia! Christ is risen! - He is risen indeed. Alleluia!"

Every blessing
Martin

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

ALM: Jill Costello



THE ASCENSION