

Prayers for the Community

For the people of Sandy Vale, Sandrocks Way

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

In memoriam: William Pennington, Betty Pennington, Ronald Horscroft, Ellen Thorley

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.

PRAYING FOR SCHOOLS

'Try as much as you can to add these things to your lives: faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, the ability to hold on, service for God, kindness for your brothers and sisters in Christ, and love. If all these things are in you and are growing, they will help you never to be useless.' 2 PETER 1:5-8 (INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S BIBLE)

Sovereign God, please encourage many more churches to pray for their local schools: asking for Your protection, provision and blessing on the children and young people, teachers and other staff so these crucially important communities can flourish and be fruitful. Please send Your Spirit to bring restoration to broken situations and transformation to individual lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Father, please grant empathy, wisdom and skill to all who work with children with additional needs, pupils in special units or at home because they cannot attend school, those battling with poor mental health and newly arrived refugees who need a huge amount of extra support. In Your mercy. Amen.

Lord our Provider, we pray for schools struggling financially to recruit staff, maintain buildings, and meet pupils' needs. May Your favour rest upon headteachers as they seek funding, and please help all who make decisions to ensure that resources are allocated and used wisely. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, thank You for Christians who serve school communities as chaplains, Open the Book and Prayer Spaces teams, youth and schools' workers and other visitors who share biblical truth, encourage Christian young people and mentor struggling pupils. Grant them fruit by Your grace. Amen.

Father, You know and care about every concern of school staff, pupils and their families throughout the country. We name before You now the schools in our own area and ask for Your blessing of safety, fruitfulness, love and peace to rest upon all who work and learn there. In Jesus' name. Amen.

www.care.org.uk



Ascension Weekly

Sunday 9th February 2025 The 4th Sunday before Lent

10.00am Communion Service (Streamed via Zoom)

Readings: 1 Corinthians 15.1-11, Luke 5.1-11

The miraculous catch of fish.

It is not difficult to imagine a fisherman not liking a carpenter telling him how to fish. After all, who likes to be told how to do their job? However, following Jesus' instruction, Peter did let down the nets and a miraculous catch of fish was the result. This just shows us what simple obedience can achieve, even when a lack of faith, or doubt, gets in the way!



Peter, as an experienced fisherman knew something extraordinary was happening as the bulging nets were dragged out of the water. Recognising that God was at work convicted Peter of his own failings and inadequacy: *"Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"*

Letting go of thinking we know best, being broken by what God does, and being willing to do things God's way, is what Jesus looks for when He calls us to follow Him. Extraordinary things can happen when we do!

Martin

This Week

Sunday 9th February

10.00am Communion Service

Tuesday 11th February

9.30 - 10.30am Food Larder

7.30pm Home Group at Janet & Jerry's

Wednesday 12th February

10.30am Midweek Communion

1.30pm Tiddlers

3.30pm Home Group in Church

7.00pm PCC Prayers

7.30pm PCC Meeting

Thursday 13th February

8.30am Morning Prayers

11.15am Open Space following Up & Amble

12.00 - 1.00pm Food Larder

7.30pm Home Group at Jill's

Saturday 15th February

9.00am Community Coffee

Sunday 16th February

8.30am Said Communion

10.00am Worship Service

Please see the website for links for online streaming:

www.ascensionchurch.co.uk



Diocese of Chichester Year of Faith 2025

Cuckfield Deanery Morning

UNCOVERING THE NICENE CREED

**The Nicene Creed is a familiar summary of
Christian belief first formulated 1700 years ago.**

How did it come about? What does it mean for us?



To lead our morning, we welcome back

The Revd Canon Dr Earl Collins
scholar & former Benedictine Abbot

Saturday 15th March 2025

10am to 1pm

**at The Ascension Church, Vale Road,
Haywards Heath. RH16 4JS**

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.

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

Cuckfield Deanery Morning

The Ascension Church will be hosting the 2025 Cuckfield Deanery Morning on the 15th of March, when the Revd Canon Dr Earl Collins will be leading the morning. Volunteers to serve tea and coffee are needed please and donations of cakes will be very much appreciated. Please let Jerry, Jill or Martin know if you can help.

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 mid-February, 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 them the box at the back of the church, and we'll make sure it reaches those making the candles. If you would like to know more, please speak to Diana or Cathie. Thank you.

CONTACT US

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ALMs: Jill Costello & Sally Martin



THE ASCENSION