

Prayers for the Community

For the people of Cedar Avenue and Sandrocks Lodge

For prayer: Kathy Ford and her family, Brenda T, Bunty, Chris J, David, Heidi, William and Miranda

In memoriam: Charles Brice, Tom Milward, Bonny Murphy, Eileen Reekie, Maureen Barnes, Dora John and Terry Sidwell

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.

People in Prison

Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you. Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith...’ 1 PETER 5:7-9 (NLT)

Lord, please break bonds of fear and isolation. With your love, support prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded, especially victims of crime. Help us all to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ. Amen.

(prisonsweek.org)

Father, please bring healing to the many women in custody who come from difficult and abusive backgrounds and are now afflicted with addictions, self-harming and other painful consequences of trauma, fear and brokenness. Help them to trust people who seek to support them. For Jesus’ sake. Amen.

God of mercy, please help the over-stretched staff in HM Prisons Services, responsible for almost 100,000 inmates, in their duties to maintain security and order and provide vital services that support prisoners’ physical and mental health and prepare them for release. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Lord, thank You for the many Christian ministries that engage with people in UK prisons and Youth Offender Institutions and help those leaving custody through chaplaincy, evangelism, discipleship, education, counselling and other support. Please strengthen them in this work. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sovereign God, we lift to You the Minister for Prisons, Director General Operations of HM Prisons and Probation Service and those who work with them. Grant wisdom to ensure the welfare of prisoners and fulfil their other responsibilities. In Your mercy. Amen. www.care.org.uk



Ascension Weekly

Sunday 13th October 2024 **20th Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 am Communion (Streamed via Zoom)

Readings: Hebrews 4.12-16 & Mark 10.17-31

Jesus, looking at him, loved him

Today’s Gospel reading contains one of my favourite phrases from scripture. Jesus, having discerned that a rich man’s wealth was a block to following Him, challenged the man to sell what he owned and give the money to the poor. Jesus knew this was more than the man would manage. Nevertheless, and here’s my favourite bit: **“Jesus, looking at him, loved him”**.

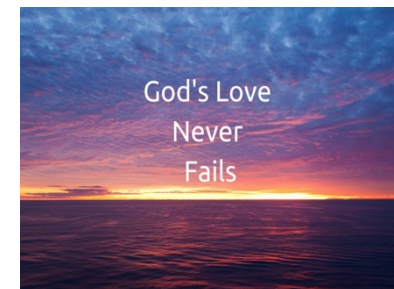
We don’t know what happened to the rich man. Who knows what effect Jesus’ love had on him or how he might have responded in the future? Maybe there was *no* response, but even so Jesus still loved him.

“Jesus, looking at him, loved him”. His love is unconditional and not dependent on what we are prepared to do for Him. Even in the face of our weakness and failure Jesus looks at us, loves us and never gives up on us.

Following Jesus means putting Him first. The man's inability to give up his wealth shows the challenge of putting Jesus first and fully trusting Him. It means letting go of the things we value more than we value Him. Often, we'd rather trust our wealth, possessions and our own abilities, holding onto them instead of trusting in God’s unconditional love.

We can let go of our wealth and still be secure! Indeed, we *need* to let go to be *genuinely* secure, because true security is only found in the eternal life that is ours through Jesus and His unconditional love.

Martin



This Week

Sunday 13th October

10.00am Communion Service.

Tuesday 15th October

9.30 -10.30am Food Larder

7.00pm Alpha 3

Wednesday 16th October

10.30am Midweek Communion

1.30pm Tiddlers

3.30pm Wednesday afternoon

Home Group in church

7.30pm Wednesday Evening

Home Group in church.

Thursday 17th October

8.30am Morning Prayers

12.00 - 1.00pm Food Larder

7.30pm Thursday Home Group in

church

Saturday 19th October

9.00am Community Coffee

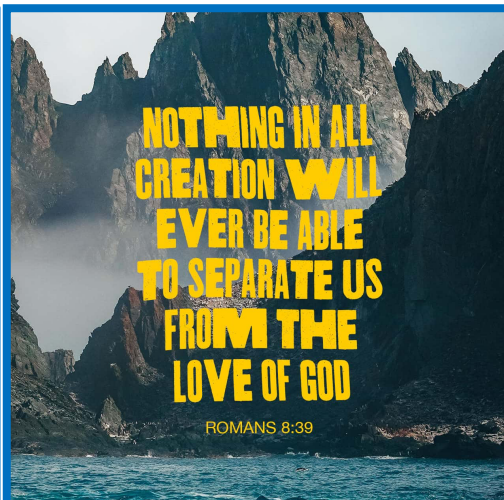
Sunday 20th October

8.30am Said Communion

10.00am Worship Service

Please see the website for links
for online streaming:

www.ascensionchurch.co.uk



Your love never fails
It never gives up
Never runs out on me
Your love.

- The chorus from 'One Thing Remains' by Brian Johnson,
Christa Black Gifford &
Jeremy Riddle

Peter Ford's Thanksgiving Service

A Thanksgiving Service for Peter's life will be held at 1.30pm on Wednesday 23rd of October in All Saints Church, Lindfield.

Prayer Chain

Our Ascension Prayer Chain is a simple way to quickly get a group of people praying for a situation or need that arises suddenly. When somebody has a pressing request for prayer, they can phone the prayer chain coordinator explaining the need. The coordinator contacts Martin plus a couple of other people, who each contact three or four others, and so on. Quickly, a few dozen people will be praying about that request.

We are updating the list of people offering to be part of the chain. If you would like to be added to it, please would you send your details: your name and the telephone number to be contacted on, and say whether you would be happy to receive a text message to: enquiries@ascensionchurch.co.uk by Thursday 17th October. If possible, please give a mobile number as a text gives a record of who and what the prayer is for, which saves you having to remember it or take notes. You will be sent details of who will contact you and whom you should contact.

Light Party



Plans are being made to hold a children's Light Party in the church from 2pm to 4pm on Thursday 31st October. This is as an alternative to the usual Hallowe'en events going on outside.

Help is needed please. Help will be needed on the day with welcoming and with running the activities, as well as with setting up and clearing away. If you can help, please let Jill or Martin know ASAP so that plans can be finalised.

Home Groups

Please note that all the Home Groups will be meeting in church this week for Session 5 of the Romans course about 'The Freedom We Have in Christ'.

CONTACT US

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ALMs: Jill Costello & Sally Martin



THE ASCENSION