

## Prayers for the Community

**For the people of** Roddick Walk & Alma Copse

**For prayer:** Bunty, Chris J, David, Heidi, Ros, Janine and Alan, William and Miranda

**In memoriam:** Annie Seddon, Kathleen Exeter, Michael King, Molly Millward, Anthony Boots & Margaret Piper

*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.*

## PROVIDING HOMES

*Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted.  
Unless the Lord protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good.'*  
PSALM 127:1 (NLT)

Lord Jesus, thank You for preparing a place for us in Your Father's House to be with You forever. Meanwhile, may Your kingdom come increasingly on earth, as multitudes receive the forgiveness and grace that brings them home because You died and rose again to free us from sin. Glory to Your name! Amen.

Father, please help local authority employees and charities working with homeless people to be increasingly successful in finding long term solutions to the complex problems involved in helping people to recover their lives and receive the support they need. In Your grace. Amen.

Loving Father, we thank you for those helping vulnerable individuals who are leaving state institutions such as hospitals, prisons and childcare placements – in danger of becoming homeless or having to stay somewhere that is inadequate – to find secure accommodation. May you bless the work of their hands. For Christ's sake. Amen

O Lord, we pray about the growing housing crisis, that 'compared to other European countries, Britain has a backlog of millions of homes that are missing from the housing market.'\* Please help everyone involved to work cooperatively towards solving this problem. In Your mercy. Amen.

(\*centreforcities.org)

Lord, we pray that those in government who are responsible for overhauling planning systems and setting targets to tackle the UK's housing crisis will make wise decisions that protect important green spaces but identify and release enough suitable land to build urgently needed new homes. In Your mercy. Amen.

[www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk)



# Ascension Weekly

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024**    **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent**

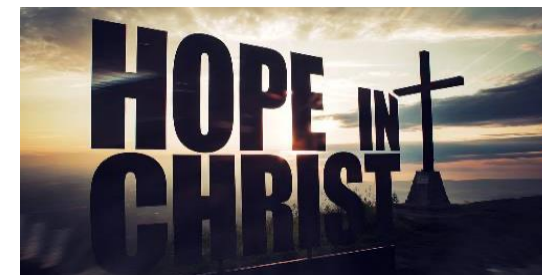
**8.30 a.m. Said Communion Service**

**10.00 a.m. Worship Service.**

**Readings: Romans 12.1-21 & Mark 13.1-8**

## Be Encouraged

In response to the disciples being impressed by the magnificence of the temple buildings, Jesus told his followers, "All will be thrown down". When Peter, James, John, and Andrew wanted to know when that would be, Jesus didn't give them a date. Instead, He warned them of the wars, earthquakes and famine that were to come.



Even though Jesus didn't give any dates, many people, like the disciples, are obsessed with future events and when they'll happen. Instead, of giving timelines, Jesus spoke to both warn and to encourage. He was telling them, and us, to be prepared for difficulties – to recognise that even the most troubling events can be used for God's purposes, and can even be seen as the "birth pangs" that are part of the coming of God's Kingdom 'on earth as it is in heaven'. By saying that what He was describing "must take place", Jesus showed that everything was under God's control. This should encourage us to trust in God's sovereignty and stay faithful in the present rather than worry about the future. Because of Jesus, we can face uncertain times with faith and hope.

Rather than be preoccupied by events, however troubling they may be, what Jesus said, as we hear from today's Gospel reading, calls us to stay alert and to focus on Him and the hope that is ours through Him.

**Martin**

## This Week

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November

8.30am Said Communion

10.00am Worship Service

### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November

9.30 -10.30am Food Larder

6.30pm Alpha 8

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November

10.30am Midweek Communion

1.30pm Tiddlers

3.30pm Home Group in church

7.00pm PCC Prayers

7.30 pm PCC Meeting

7.30 pm Home Group at Janet & Jerry's

### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November

8.30am Morning Prayers

7.30pm Thursday Home Group at Jill's

### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

10am Alpha Holy Spirit Day

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November

10.00am Family Communion Service

Please see the website for links for online streaming:

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



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Romans 15.13

### Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Grace Coupland

## Safeguarding Sunday

Somewhat ironically, given the events of this last week, this Sunday, the 17th of November, is Safeguarding Sunday. It's the annual date when churches are encouraged to focus on safeguarding. The theme for this year is 'Let's talk about it'. It's intended to encourage churches to have open and honest conversations about safeguarding.

In his resignation statement, Archbishop Justin Welby referred to 'personal and institutional responsibility'. His personal responsibility as Archbishop included responsibility for the whole of the Anglican Church and especially the Church of England. However, many people would have been aware, or had a degree of awareness, of the awful abuses perpetrated by John Smyth. It is too easy to assume that the responsibility for safeguarding is someone else's. Tragically, anyone who knew anything and didn't vigorously act, failed in their responsibilities to safeguard the victims of John Smyth.

The Archbishop's resignation in the week before Safeguarding Sunday gives us a shocking reminder that safeguarding is something we all share responsibility for. Furthermore, safeguarding in a Christian 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'. I (Martin) therefore want to encourage us all, at the very least, 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 are vulnerable. And then let's talk about it.

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

## Christmas Services

Sunday 15th December 6.00 p.m. Community Carols with the St. Wilfrid's School Choir. There will be refreshments served after the service.

Sunday 22nd 10.00 a.m. Family Communion

Sunday 22nd December 6.00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service.

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th 4.00 p.m. Christmas Carols and Nativity Play.

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th 11.30 p.m. Christmas Midnight Service.

Christmas Day 10.00 a.m. Christmas All Age Communion.

### CONTACT US

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THE ASCENSION