

## Prayers for the Community

**For the people of** Cheales Close, Pullman Avenue

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

**In memoriam:** Keith Brooker, Celia Hitchings

*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.*

## Generosity

*'Give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.'* 2 Corinthians 9.7-8

**Father God, as we thank you for your provision and people's wonderful generosity in responding to our Ascension 2024 Gift Day, we pray for continued and increasing generosity inspired and led by You. Amen**

Lord Jesus Christ, loving Redeemer and glorious King, please help us to have a deeper understanding of what it meant for You to be born into obscurity, live an entirely selfless life and die on a cross of shame, all for our sake. We are so thankful for your amazing, generous grace. Amen.

Dear God, please equip and encourage those in government and other concerned agencies who are determined to bring about changes that will help people who are trapped in poverty and debt to break free. Release Your generous provision we pray. In Christ's name, Amen.

Holy Spirit, please fill us with grace to love others with hearts of forgiveness, generosity, kindness, humility and patience – especially in difficult circumstances. Help us to call on Your strength to share the blessings we have received, with glad hearts, through Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

Lord, please grant us wisdom as we decide how best to support our own church, and give to charities, family members, friends in need and to respond to unexpected appeals for help. Thank You for Your generosity, providing for us so that we can share with others. By Your grace. Amen.

Bountiful God, thank You for people's generous response to financial appeals for acute situations and ongoing funding of commendable causes. Please grant discernment to charities and other agencies as they allocate money to where it will be used wisely. For Jesus' sake, Amen. [www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk)



# Ascension Weekly

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024**    **21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**8.30am Said Communion (Streamed via Zoom)**

**10.00 am Worship Service (Streamed via Zoom)**

**Readings: Romans 6: 1-7,11-14 & Mark 10.35-45**

## Serving Others

The apostle Peter is fondly remembered for his mistakes. He's gone down in history for stepping out of the boat and sinking, for being rebuked by Jesus, who told him to "Get behind me, Satan!", and for denying Jesus three times right after swearing he'd never do such a thing.

It does seem unfair that Peter should be singled out. After all, Thomas is known as 'Doubting Thomas'; Philip, when faced with 5000 people to feed did the maths and declared it impossible; all the disciples fell asleep in Gethsemane; tragically, Judas made the ultimate mistake of betraying Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, and today, in our Gospel reading, James and John get it wrong by asking if they could be seated with Jesus 'in glory'.

It's not just the disciples who got things wrong, though. In reality, we can all get it wrong. Every time our actions are motivated by self-promotion and a desire for status, Jesus, in His answer to James and John, is speaking to us too.

Leadership in God's kingdom is exercised by becoming a "servant of all". Jesus's followers are called to prioritise the needs of others above their own ambitions. True greatness in God's eyes is found not in positions of power, but in following the example of Christ himself, who came "not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

**Martin**



## This Week

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October

8.30am Said Communion

10.00am Worship Service

### Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

9.30 -10.30am Food Larder

6.30pm Alpha 4

### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

10.30am Midweek Communion

1.30pm Tiddlers

3.30pm Home Group in church

7.30pm Home Group at Janet and Jerry's

### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October

8.30am Morning Prayers

11.15am Open Space following Up & Amble

12.00 - 1.00pm Food Larder

7.30pm Thursday Home Group at Jill's

### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October

9.00am Community Coffee

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October

10.00am Family Communion

Please see the website for links for online streaming:

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

FOR THE  
son of man  
CAME NOT  
to be served  
BUT TO SERVE AND TO  
give his life  
AS A  
ransom for many.  
MARK 10:45

sharing GIFT FAITH  
GIVING  
BLESSING  
growing GIFT  
OFFERING  
FAITH  
GIVE GIVING  
growing GIFT  
BLESSING  
FAITH  
GIVING  
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FAITH  
GIVING

### Peter Ford's Thanksgiving Service

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

## Gift Day 2024

We're still waiting to confirm final pledges and gift aid calculations. However, it seems pretty clear that this year's Gift Day total is now very close to **£15,000** (Including gift aid tax reclaim).

£15,000 bears testament to God's extraordinary provision expressed through people's wonderful generosity. Thank you to God and to everyone who has contributed.

Gift Day offerings (and regular giving) are confidential, some of the giving has been anonymous, and some comes from joint accounts and via cash donations. We don't therefore always know who to thank so as to be able to thank people directly. Nevertheless, huge thanks are due to everyone involved.

## 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.

### CONTACT US

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ALMs: Jill Costello & Sally Martin



THE ASCENSION