

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Dear All

This I appreciate that this year has been another difficult one for many and developments in the last month have de-railed what we felt was an emerging from a very long tunnel. It is quite possible that by the time you read this, further restrictions will be in place. Thank you to all those who have helped to enable our Advent and Christmas worship.

The prologue from John's Gospel acts as a powerful reminder of the source of our hope, 'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it'. I hope and pray that for all of us, however we may be celebrating Christmas, we discover afresh the joy, hope and peace to which we are called in Christ, born in the humblest of circumstances and takes on our flesh. With love, prayers for a truly blessed Christmas, *Nicholas*

**At the heart
of Christmas**



DONATIONS TO THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF THIS PARISH

Our financial year is coming to a close. It is a year in which we have had to invest a significant sum in the care of our buildings. Unfortunately, our regular giving has dropped and plate offerings at all services have been significantly reduced by not passing the plate around as part of our COVID protection measures. Traditionally, our stewardship campaign is in the autumn but we will probably bring it forward to the early part of 2022.

Donations can be made at our services by cash or cheque in the collection plate, a stewardship envelope or standing order for regular giving please speak to Nicholas, the Churchwardens, Sue Jones or Alison Mings.



We are now also offering this QR code in our printed materials. Scanning the code with the camera on your smart phone will take you to the Give a Little page for our parish. You can choose how much, whether to Gift Aid, and request a receipt.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENEROSITY

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Hamper Collection organised by Sue Vallente-Kerr – 75 hampers have been delivered to families needing a little help this Christmas.

SAFEGUARDING – VOLUNTEER ROLE AGREEMENTS

The Church of England Safeguarding Requirements expect all members who have already have a voluntary role in church to complete a Volunteer Agreement. These will start to be sent out to you in the following week by email or post. If you need a printed copy, please contact Sue Jones on 01634 296050. Please sign and return within the next week if possible. You will require two referees and these will be provided by the Church Wardens.

PARISH HALL AND CHURCH CLEANER

After many years our Church and Parish Hall Cleaner, Shelley, has resigned in order to take up a new full time job. We wish her well in her new venture. We are seeking a replacement and a job description is being prepared. We have been blessed by Shelley's reliability and trustworthiness and we would like to find a replacement with these important qualities. This is a paid role and if you are aware of any possible candidates please do encourage them to find out more.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Strood World Day of Prayer Team would like a representative from All Saints/St Philip & St James to help organise the yearly service which takes place on the first Friday in March. Please speak to Nicholas or Sue if you are interested or would like to find out more.

VIRTUAL DROP-IN CAFÉ – 'ZOOMOFFEE'

This continues to 'meet' on Wednesdays at 10.30am via the Zoom application. Message Sue for more details.



PRAYER CHAIN

Carole Morrad has asked me to remind you that the Prayer Chain are always willing to take prayer requests. If the prayer is not for you then we do ask that you have the permission of the person you are asking us to pray for.

DEMENTIA RESOURCES

At this time, those who live with dementia are understandably disoriented and upset. It has been a difficult and concerning time for their families too. Carole and Annie, our Anna Friends, have gathered some resources which are now available on the website. In particular there are a number of online training and awareness courses available at no cost.

SAFEGUARDING RESOURCES

RELEASE THE PRESSURE - new helpline from Kent County Council
Mental well-being remains a huge concern at this time.

A new phone line is available through Kent County Council, offering 24/7 access to a highly trained and experienced team, to provide expert support no matter what a person is going through. People are encouraged not to suffer in silence and to text the word Kent to 85258 or call the number 0800 107 0160, for free confidential support.

SAFE HAVENS

Mental Health Matters can help any resident of Kent or Medway aged 16+ by offering a warm, welcoming, safe and comfortable environment. Contact: 07850 901151 or 07808 79503

CONTACT US

Vicar: The Reverend Nicholas Cooper	01634 717580 vicar@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk
Pioneer Minister: The Reverend Sue Vallente-Kerr	07940 161044 pioneer@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk
Administrator: Sue Jones	01634 296050 pa@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Vicki Webster	01634 515580 webstervictoria95@gmail.com

Prayer Diary 26 December 2021– 1 January 2022

“...in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”
(Philippians 4:6)

Church's Ministry	<i>Praying for the people, groups and mission and outreach of the churches in our parish, diocese and worldwide Anglican communion</i>
Community	<i>Praying for our community, our parish and Medway</i>
People of the Parish	<i>Praying for those who live in Frindsbury and Wainscott, (FW), Upnor (U), Chattenden (C) and those who work on Medway City Estate (MCE)</i>

	Sunday, 26 December
Church's Ministry Christmas 1	<i>God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.</i>
Community	Give thanks for family life and those we hold dear in our hearts, praying for their health, well-being and hope.
People of the parish	Lower Rochester Road, Main Road (C)
	Monday, 27 December
Church's Ministry	Pray for the work of charities and organisations, supporting those who are lonely and anxious
Community	Pray for all in education: teachers, support staff and administrators, pupils and students; pray for rest and refreshments for them during the Christmas break
People of the parish	Margetts Place (U), Marden Road (FW)
	Tuesday, 28 December
Church's Ministry	Pray for our Pioneer Minister, Sue Vallente-Kerr and family
Community	Pray for the elderly, isolated and vulnerable; pray for those who care for them that they would be strengthened and encouraged. Pray for staff and residents of Shaws Wood
People of the parish	Maritime Close (MCE)
	Wednesday, 29 December
Church's Ministry	Give thanks for our pastoral team supporting church family
Community	Pray for the economic well-being of our country – pray for all businesses in the hospitality sector
People of the parish	Mason Way (FW), Mayfair (FW)
	Thursday, 30 December
Church's Ministry	Pray for Archdeacon, Andy Wooding-Jones
Community	Pray for wisdom and discernment for all in roles of leadership and authority
People of the parish	Gambit Way (FW), Lingley Drive (FW)
	Friday, 31 December
Church's Ministry	Pray for hospital and hospice chaplains and their teams
Community	Pray for all NHS and community keyworkers - pray for social workers and those who work in social care that they may be upheld and strengthened in their work.
People of the parish	Songbird Crescent
2022	Saturday, 1 January
Church's Ministry	Pray for God's wisdom and discernment at the start of this new year.
Community	Pray for all who are struggling in body, mind or spirit
People of the parish	Admiralty Road (U), Mill Close (FW), Sholden Road (FW)