

EPIPHANY GREETINGS

Dear All

This week, we choose to focus on the Old Testament reading from Nehemiah. The home groups have been studying the Bible Society's 'The Bible Course'. Often the Bible, particularly the Old Testament, can feel like a very large jigsaw puzzle and that the corners and edges aren't always easily identifiable!! It can be very difficult to understand the 'Big Picture'. The Bible Society's Bible course aimed to provide a tour through the big themes and ideas of Scripture and how they link together. Jesus himself in John 5:39-40 says, '*And these very Scriptures speak about me!*' So if we want a better understanding of Jesus, his ministry and his redemptive work, it is really helpful to have this background. Thank you to the home group leaders who have lead it and home group members who have shared how helpful it has been.

I am happy to repeat a daytime version, should any body feel they have missed out. I am also offering a challenge, to read the Bible in a Year! It sounds quite ambitious but it is quite doable with a bit of determination, especially with a friend. There are many such schemes, but the one I am offering is to read it chronologically. This is not how the books of the Bible are arranged, and often why reading the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is rather confusing. If that feels too ambitious, there is the *100 Minute Bible* which, as its title suggests offers an abridged version for a Sunday afternoon reading. Of course there are also lots of Bible reading notes for those who want a daily devotional.

Yours, *Nicholas*

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.

SUNDAY 30 JANUARY – FIFTH SUNDAY PARISH WORSHIP

Next Sunday will be a Parish Communion at 10am. We have decided to hold the service at All Saints this month to facilitate social distancing. However, from May we will follow a pattern of alternating between the services for the remaining Fifth Sundays this year.

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 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.

VIRTUAL DROP-IN CAFÉ – ‘ZOOMOFFEE’

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



PARISH QUIZ

Our weekly parish quiz, hosted by David and Alison Mings via Zoom, has started again for 2022 on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. If you would like to take part contact Sue or Alison for details.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

Strood Deanery is running Living in Love and Faith: *How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?* This is a five week course led via Zoom by Jane Winter, Assistant Director of Formation and Ministry for Rochester Diocese on Monday evenings at 7.30pm. Please contact Sue or Nicholas for details of how to take part.



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 23-29 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, 23 January
Church's Ministry Epiphany 3	<i>God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.</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	Cagney Close (FW), Prospect Avenue (FW), Weaving Close (FW)
	Monday, 24 January
Church's Ministry	Pray for the work of Medway Foodbank – its staff, volunteers and clients
Community	Pray for all in education: teachers, support staff and administrators, pupils and students; pray for Hilltop School
People of the parish	Castle Street (U), Provis Place (FW), West Street (FW)
	Tuesday, 25 January
Church's Ministry	Pray for our Licensed Lay Ministers
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 Frindsbury House
People of the parish	Chancel Drive (FW), Quixote Crescent (FW), Weymouth Road (FW)
	Wednesday, 26 January
Church's Ministry	Give thanks for our parish hall team and cleaner
Community	Pray for the economic well-being of our country – pray for businesses on Medway City Estate
People of the parish	Chaplin Close (FW), Randolph Cottages (FW) Whitewall Road (MCE)
	Thursday, 27 January
Church's Ministry	Pray for parishes and congregations in the Strood Deanery
Community	Pray for wisdom and discernment for all in roles of leadership and authority. Pray for our local councillors
People of the parish	Chartwell Close (FW), Ravenswood Avenue (FW) Whitewall Way
	Friday, 28 January
Church's Ministry	Pray for chaplains and their teams working in prisons
Community	Pray for all NHS and community keyworkers; pray for our paramedic and ambulance service.
People of the parish	Chatsworth Drive (FW), Richmond Close (U), Windmill Close (FW)
	Saturday, 29 January
Church's Ministry	Pray for our ministers preparing Sunday worship
Community	Pray for all who are struggling in body, mind or spirit
People of the parish	Chattenden Lane (C), Riverside (FW), Windmill Street (FW)