

FROM NICHOLAS

The Teddy Bears' Picnic was blessed with beautiful weather on Sunday 8 May and a great time was had by all. Fifty, teddies, pandas (which are not members of the bear family), superheroes, lions, cats, dogs, frogs and even a knitted pterodactyl safely made history as the first zipliners from the tower in 800 years. It wasn't intended as a major fund raiser but nevertheless about £300 was raised retrospectively for the repairs to the tower that were completed last year. We had a few families pass through the churchyard without teddies, but some donated teddies were duly adopted and found new homes!

The Frindsbury Handbell Ringers concert on Friday 6 May was enjoyed by all and £340 was added to the Ukraine Dec appeal. It contained an interesting variety of music and techniques including, rather poignantly, the Ukrainian national anthem.

Thanks to those who served refreshments and provided logistical support. Neither of these events could have happened without you.

COVID PRECAUTIONS

We have continued to exercise a considerable degree of caution with respect to COVID. However, because of vaccination, the risk of serious illness is much reduced as many in our congregation will testify. However, others church members have known a different experience amongst friends and family.

It is very difficult to balance different kinds risks, but I suspect many feel that by not lifting some of our precautions we risk losing visitors or of creating the wrong impression, given that the society is moving on and learning to live with COVID. Since the lifting of all legal restrictions, local decisions are the responsibility of the Incumbent alone. I am therefore inviting your prayerful reflection in advance of the APCM on what you think is right for you, for others and for our witness.

I am currently minded to suggest that we remove the requirement for social distancing and masks whilst allocating an area of the church for those who wish to observe those measures. I would also like to re-introduce reception at the communion rail and am considering offering a common cup in addition to the current practice of intinction. It would be helpful if you could respond to me so that I can get a wide breadth of opinion before the APCM.

PARKING AND ACCESS – note 22 May

Traffic is still quite busy to Upnor with the resumption of the Boot Fair. It particularly affects those travelling to Upnor. Also, parking at Upnor due to the change of use of the Old Vicarage is becoming quite restricted. Please park well and be particularly careful of, and as, pedestrians on Upchat and Upnor Roads.

We have a baptism on Sunday 22 and are welcoming families and friends of Lincoln and Jasmine. Please consider using Parsonage Lane if possible.

PARISH WALK - TO BROOMHILL PARK (This is a buggy-friendly walk)

Meet 11am Saturday 21st May at Church Green Frindsbury ME2 4HJ

Do join us for our spring walk to and around Broomhill Park. This is a varied and attractive urban and park walk. We will stop in the park for the younger ones to try out the swings and for those doing the longer walk (three miles) to visit the human sundial, which is up a short steep climb, and the small orchard. The shorter walk (just over two miles) will return from the lower park. The walk to the park is

a relatively gentle set of ups and downs with nearly all of it on footpaths and pavements. We will return for hot or cold drinks, and tasty treats.

Dogs on leads welcome; children under 14 must be accompanied.

You may wish to bring water and sunscreen/hat.

All welcome. Please share, and feel free to invite family, friends and neighbours.

To avoid the need for signing in please e mail judith.armitt@btinternet.com to reserve a place*.

** Please note all participants walk at their own risk. We may take photos of the adults to share on social media and promote our activities, unless you let us know you do not wish your photo to be taken. High-vis straps will be available for wear (but are not compulsory).*

CHRISTIAN AID

You will note from the Prayer Diary that this Sunday marks the start of Christian Aid Week. Lesley Wright has been our Christian Aid Co-ordinator for many years. Earlier this year she indicated that she was stepping down from the role. With all the efforts we have put into raising funds for Ukraine (which is supported by Christian Aid) we have not had the resources to do very much this year other than our own personal donations. However, if anyone is interested in taking on the role for next year please speak to Nicholas or Sue Jones.

FUNERAL – Anne Wade

Anne Wade's funeral will be held at All Saints, on Friday 27 May at 12 noon. Followed by a burial in the churchyard. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Parish Hall.

BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

Please continue to pray for Bishops Simon and Jonathan in this period of vacancy.



The poster features a crown at the top, followed by the text 'Queen's Platinum Jubilee June 2022'. Below this is 'Community Art and Craft Project' with a bunting banner. It lists 'All Saints Church, Frindsbury and St Philip and St James Church, Upnor'. A central text block says: 'If you would like to be part of this project by making some bunting, flags, rosettes, crowns or any royal themed art or craft work, please contact the Parish Office for more details.' At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'pa@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk', 'www.allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk', and '01634 296050'. There are small images of craft projects on the sides.

QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE

If you would like to join with others making contributions for the Jubilee Craft Project come along to the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 16 May or to Pilgrims Pantry on 17 May from 10.30am. Materials provided or bring your own!

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

We shall be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday, 5 June:

10.00am All Age Worship with Parade followed by BBQ with 27th All Saints Scouting Groups

4.00pm Evensong followed by tea and cake at St Philip & St James, Upnor

LITTLE LIGHTS

All Saints Baby and Toddlers has recommenced as 'Little Lights' on Tuesday afternoons, term time, from 1.00pm. Carers, babies and toddlers meet for play, craft, snacks, songs a short story and a prayer.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR COFFEE!



PILGRIMS PANTRY Pilgrims Pantry meets every Tuesday morning from 10.30am in the Parish Hall. Tea, coffee and a menu of snacks and light lunches available.

UPCHAT CAFÉ UpChat Café meets on Fridays 10am, at St Philip & St James (*nb not Friday 6 May*)

ZOOMOFFEE Coffee by Zoom takes place on Wednesday mornings from 10.30am. Message the Parish Office for details of how to join in.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who returned their stewardship form – if you haven't done so yet, it's not too late! Please bring to church or pass to Nicholas or Sue.

APCM and ELECTORAL ROLL

This year our APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) will be on Sunday 29 May 10.00am. The revision of our Electoral Roll took place from 1- 6 May. The new roll is now published – please check your entry.

Del had given advance notice at the last APCM that this would be his last year as churchwarden. Therefore, there is a vacancy. Whilst churchwardens customarily serve for 3-4 years, they are elected each year, so it is not a 'life sentence'. It is a significant burden for a parish to place the responsibilities on a single warden and so I hope that someone will give consideration to this important role.

ECO CHURCH

As a church we would like to be better stewards of our planet and so we have committed to being part of the Eco Church network and work to become more 'eco-friendly'.

This month's Green Tip is:

Green Tips



Don't throw away your egg shells - break them up and use them in your garden around your vegetables and plants as a safe way to deter slugs!

DONATIONS TO THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF THIS PARISH

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.

PRAYER CHAIN

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.

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.

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 Revd 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
Parish Hall Team	07526 094 017	roomhire@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk

Prayer Diary 15-21 May 2022

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

Prayers from the Church of England to use

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry ...

and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...

Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler, bind up the injured,
strengthen the sick and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...

Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers, and be with us always.
Amen.

Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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>

Easter 5	Sunday, 15 May
Church's Ministry	<i>Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.</i>
Community 	Pray for the work of Christian Aid at the start of Christian Aid week
People of the parish	Bogarde Drive (FW), Parsonage Lane (FW), Upchat Road (U)
	Monday, 16 May
Church's Ministry 	At the start of Dementia Action Week pray for all with dementia, and for those supporting others, for breakthroughs in ongoing research and for the work of The Alzheimers Society
Community	Pray for all in education: teachers, support staff and administrators, pupils and students; pray for Abbey Court School
People of the parish	Brickfield View (FW), Peckham Close (FW), Upnor Road (U)
	Tuesday, 17 May
Church's Ministry	Pray for our Staff Team
Community	Pray for Pilgrims Pantry, our church café – for those volunteering and those coming along and for Little Lights – our baby and toddler group
People of the parish	Brissenden Close (U), Pemberton Square (FW), Utah Rise (FW)
	Wednesday, 18 May
Church's Ministry	Pray for Guiding Groups in Frindsbury, Wainscott and Chattenden
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	Broadwood Road (C), Peninsula Way (C) Vanguard Way (MCE)
	Thursday, 19 May
Church's Ministry	Give thanks for our parish hall team and for community groups and families using our parish hall.
Community	Pray for those in positions of authority making decisions at national and local level
People of the parish	Brompton Farm Road (FW), Pier Place (U), Vestry Place (FW)
	Friday, 20 May
Church's Ministry	Pray for our mission and outreach to the community
Community	Pray for all community keyworkers. Pray for businesses on Medway City Estate
People of the parish	Bunters Hill Road (C), Poole Close (FW), Wainscott Road (FW)
	Saturday, 21 May
Church's Ministry	Pray for all who are struggling in body, mind or spirit
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	Burnt House Close (FW), Povey Avenue (FW), Wainscott Walk (FW)