

FROM NICHOLAS

I am delighted to announce that Carol Gravestock and Jan Young have agreed to stand as churchwardens. We are currently looking at how we elect them before the APCM so they can take up office ASAP (they will then need to be re-elected at the APCM).

The Homegroups who will be studying Lent materials, the Church of England's course *Dust to Glory* with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book *Failure – What Jesus said about sin and messing stuff up*. Interest has also been expressed in a 'standalone' Lent group. This will meet on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. At present the venue is set to be the Vicarage. *HOWEVER, if you have not already let me know you are coming, please do so. There are a couple of spaces but the venue may need to change to accommodate much larger group.*

I am also, wondering whether there is sufficient interest to restart a Men's Curry Night (ladies, you're welcome to start your own). It need not, of course, necessarily be 'curry' – other food choices for friendship are available! If you are interested, please let me know.

TURKEY-SYRIA APPEAL

Thank you to those who contributed to our post-service collection for Turkey and Syria last week. Whilst there have been some remarkable stories of rescue, the overwhelming news has been of inconceivable devastation. The death toll is now in excess of 45,000 – nearly three times the population of our parish. The rebuilding task is massive, but immediate concerns are getting basic aid to those who need it, and rebuilding infrastructure. The DEC appeal remains open.

STAFF TEAM AWAY DAY

For three years our plans as a church have been disrupted and affected by Covid. We have had to be reactive rather than proactive. Even this past Christmas we had a plan 'B' for cover at the major services. I am hopeful that we are beginning to settle down into a more stable pattern. The Staff Team will be going on an Away Day with Archdeacon Andy, partly to recharge our batteries but also to receive some encouragement and inspiration with respect to our Church vision and mission. Please pray for us as we prepare for this on 4 March

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING – RAISING AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

The PCC are grateful to Vicki Webster for running the CofE safeguarding training 'Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse' on Tuesday 21 Feb. It is not a comfortable topic, and I think it fair to say that all of us were shocked by the statistics indicating the prevalence of such abuse. Sadly, it is increasing.

APCM

The PCC has agreed our APCM date will be the 30 April 2023. It is a fifth Sunday of the month and the service will be held at All Saints. It will therefore be a communion service and although we normally hold our APCM in the context of worship, this will be the first time we have held it during a communion service. It will be slightly longer than usual, but we will try to be efficient in the business and the sermon will be shorter.

We will have elections for:

Churchwardens: See my opening notice.

Deanery Synod: These are elected for the next three year sitting of the synod and become, *ex officio*, members of the PCC.

PCC Members: In this parish they are elected each year. Currently under the Church Representation Rules we have to agree that Readers become, *ex officio*, members of the PCC.

Electoral Roll: The revision of our Electoral Roll will take place from 3-7 April 2023. The new roll will be published on Sunday 9 April. The Electoral Roll is our church membership list - being on the roll allows you to stand as a church officer and to vote at the APCM. Most of you will already be on the existing roll and therefore do not need to complete a new form but please check the list at the back of our churches. To join the roll, please complete a form which is at the back of churches and pass to Andrew Whiteley, Electoral Roll Officer, or Sue, Administrator. Forms need to be returned by the end of April, please.

Please note that all those standing for election must be prepared to sign a 'Fit and Proper Person' form and complete the necessary declaration to enable a DBS check. If you have any questions regarding this, please see Sue Jones, PCC Secretary.

DEANERY APPOINTMENTS

The Revd Adam Pyrke will be licensed as interim Priest-in-Charge to St Francis, Strood on Sunday, 12 March and the Revd Clifford Stocking will be licensed as Priest-in-Charge to St Helen, Cliffe on Tuesday, 25 April. Please prayer for Adam, Clifford and their respective congregations.

LENT COURSE 2023

This Lent we are all invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life. The Church of England course, **Dust and Glory**, encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings and, rather than pretending we can always avoid them, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them.

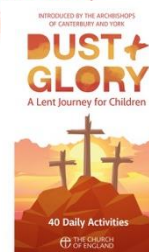
There are several ways to take part:

- Read through Lent the **Dust and Glory booklet** with daily readings and reflections (*you can get a digital version and we will have paper copies available*)
- Read the book **Failure by Emma Ineson** (the book on which the course is based)
- Take part as a family with daily **activities and challenges** with the **Dust and Glory booklet: A Lent Journey for Children** (*available as digital version and we will have paper copies available if you prefer*)
- Join a **Lent Group**, meeting with others to discuss the book and watch the course films together (*groups meet during the day and evenings – ask for details*). Existing homegroups continue but, as usual there will be a specific Lent group formed for those who seek it.
- **Social Media** Follow Dust and Glory on Church of England social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram) for daily updates; for younger people The Way UK Failing Forward will feature on TikTok
- **Listen** - The Daily Hope phone line will also have some of the course resources.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

DUST + GLORY

A Lent journey of faith, failure and forg



More information about the course can be found here...

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/dust-and-glory-resources-lent-2023> Please ask Sue Jones for more details and for a copy of the books.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR COFFEE!

WARM SPACE – our Parish Hall is open as a Warm Space every Tuesday from 9.00am-12.30pm. Everyone welcome.

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

LITTLE LIGHTS

All Saints Baby and Toddlers Tuesday afternoons, from 1.00pm. Carers, babies and toddlers meet for play, craft, snacks, songs a short story and a prayer.



This month's **Green Tip** from A Rocha: **Switch off from digital.**

Try exploring technology-free times or areas of the house, switching to 'airplane mode' for the first hour in the morning and the last hour at night, or 'switch off Sundays'.

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, 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.


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 26 February-4 March 2023 <i>"...in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6)</i>
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 February
Church's Ministry Lent 1	<i>Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.</i>
Community	Pray for all affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and for charities and organisations providing vital resources and skills.
People of the parish	Lower Rochester Road, Main Road (C)
	Monday, 27 February
Church's Ministry	Pray for our Lent Group, and Home Groups, starting our Lent Course this week.
Community	Pray for all working in education; pray for all staff and pupils at Hilltop School
People of the parish	Margetts Place (U), Marden Road (FW)
	Tuesday, 28 February
Church's Ministry	Pray for our Parish Hall Team and community groups using our hall.
Community	Pray for fellowship and good conversation at our Warm Space, Pilgrims Pantry and Little Lights; give thanks for those who lead and volunteer at these groups.
People of the parish	Maritime Close (MCE)
	Wednesday, 1 March
Church's Ministry	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 Hall
Community	 Fairtrade Fortnight starts this week – making the small switch to Fairtrade supports producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet.
People of the parish	Admiralty Road (U), Mill Close (FW), Sholden Road (FW)
	Thursday, 2 March
Church's Ministry	Pray for Pioneer Minister, Sue Vallente-Kerr, and family
Community	Pray for all in positions of leadership and authority that they will govern with integrity and honesty and for the common good. Pray for
People of the parish	Admiralty Terrace, (U), Mill Close (FW)
	Friday, 3 March
Church's Ministry	Pray for those meeting at UpChat Café and give thanks for those who lead and volunteer each week.
Community	Pray for keyworkers in our community – pray for all working in Health and Social Care
People of the parish	Albion Place (U), Miller Way (FW), Smeatham Gardens (FW)
	Saturday, 4 March
Church's Ministry	Pray for all who are struggling in body, mind or spirit
Community	Pray for those who are housebound
People of the parish	Anthony's Way (MCE), Millpond Close (FW), Spire Way (FW)