

# inspire

*Your life at St Chad's*

*November 2020*



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Once again, a big thank you to Pat and Jim for all the hard work they've put into making this copy of Inspire so enjoyable to read and helpful for prayer. As we celebrate Remembrance Sunday this year it will have a peculiar feel. Isolated from one another we will be asked to remember those who gave up their lives in a very different battle than the one our country faces today. Walter Culliford of the London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles) served in the First World War in Egypt, Salonika and Israel. His Christian faith sustained him during these dark years and in his Bible he wrote of a very small gathering that met one night under the stars to pray and read the Bible. He wrote, "In the quiet of a desert evening by starlight we felt verily in the presence of God and we're loath to return to the medley of the camp." Even though we can't meet in great numbers at the moment let's gather with those we can and, like Walter, seek the presence of God this month.



Revd Steve Burmester Vicar, St Chad's Church



The Poppy flower only grows in the absence of other flowers and only on ground that has been churned. In perhaps the best known poem of World War I, when Dr. John McCrae observed Poppies growing between the crosses on the soldier's graves, it inspired him to write the poem "In Flanders Field's." The Poppy has since become known as "The Flower of Remembrance". Poppies will not be sold by street collections this year. Instead, the Royal British Legion will focus on contactless donations, as a safer way forward during the pandemic, also when you reach the till in your supermarket you may be invited to round up your total to the nearest pound to help the Poppy Appeal. Maybe we can make our own Poppy to wear this year?

Pat Grange Editor

# Devotional - Faith, Trust, Belief

*Steve Burmester*

Proverbs 3:5

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."*

Many years ago, when I had just left University I spent a year sailing with a missionary family around the South Pacific islands delivering Bibles in the local language and encouraging the churches there.

As we travelled through the New Hebrides Islands

I heard about the first missionary

who had taken the gospel

there. A Scotsman

called John Paton.

He took the gospel

message to the New Hebrides in

the 19th century. Back

then the island people were

cannibals, and the culture there was one of fear, distrust, and suspicion. He settled

down, despite being in great danger, and began learning phonetics with a view to

eventually translating the scriptures.

To his amazement he discovered they didn't have any word in their language for

"faith", "trust", or "belief". They simply had no concept of those terms. This presented

serious challenges to translating the scriptures, and to his communication of the

gospel. But one day, he had a brain wave.

When his worker arrived in the morning,

Paton sat back fully into his chair raised his feet and asked, "what am I doing now?" his worker used a word that meant, "to lean your whole weight upon". Paton took this expression and used it for "faith" in his translation.

This is a wonderful example of what faith means. Are you leaning your whole weight on Jesus today? I think we usually only partially lean on him, we hedge our

bets, have a Plan B in case

God doesn't deliver the way we want him to.

Too often we try to work things

out ourselves using logic,

and then ask God to bless

our plans and blame

him when he doesn't do

things the way we want him to do them.

This famous verse from proverbs reminds us not to lean

on our own understanding.

Rather, using the story above we should lean on God and trust him with all our heart.

Faith is not illogical, but neither is it always logical to our reasoning. Mark Batterson

writes, "faith is theo-logical. It does not ignore reality; it just adds God into the

equation.

Think of it this way. Logic questions God.

Faith questions assumptions. And at the end of the day, faith is trusting God more than

you trust your own assumptions."



# Getting to know you

## Katie Piper



**K**atie Piper's faith is unexpected, she was born into a non-religious family. Mum Diane, a primary school teacher, and dad David, a barber, never took Katie and her siblings to church. "But they had good values. They instilled in us to love

our neighbours and treat others as we'd like to be treated.'

Katie became a Christian 12 years ago, as she recovered from the most horrifying event of her life.

Aged 24, she had moved out of the family home in Andover, Hampshire, and was living in London, appearing on TV shows, when she was contacted on Facebook by a man called Danny Lynch. He told her he owned property and was also studying computing.

With 30 mutual friends on the website, he seemed credible. After winning her over, she started to see him romantically.

However, when she began to doubt his stories, things rapidly turned ugly. Lynch abused her and then arranged for an associate, Stefan Sylvestre, to throw sulphuric acid in her face. Katie was horrifically injured, losing her eyelids, part of her nose and one ear, and has since endured more than 250 operations.

Whilst in hospital, lying immobile in agony, a nurse started talking to her about God.

At that point, I really felt my life was over. But I remember her telling me: "Things happen for a reason. This is not the end. God has great things in store for you." That night I prayed for the first time. Then the weirdest thing happened. The room seemed incredibly bright, and I felt I was being enveloped in a warm hug. A voice in my head said: "Everything's going to be OK".

Katie believes she felt a divine presence: 'I didn't see God or angels, but I felt an incredible sense of being loved.'

Katie's faith has been a huge source of strength through her ongoing physical challenges.

Her most recent operation in July, taking skin from her armpit to graft onto her eyelid, left her looking so wounded her daughters were frightened. 'The eyelid was originally a skin graft. But it had shrunk, so my eye was closing,' Katie was so bruised after the procedure that daughter Belle begged her not to pick her up from school.

Her faith has helped Katie to manage the mental scars of her ordeal — and the unbearable ongoing saga of her attackers' release from prison.

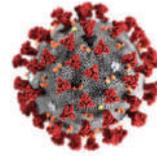
She steadfastly refuses to talk about either man, but must have found it hard to see Stefan Sylvestre released from jail in 2018 after serving just six years of his life sentence. He was recalled to prison last November, only to be cleared for release once more in June. But she is adamant she has forgiven both men. 'I am a Christian. I have forgiven.'

The Katie Piper Foundation opened the UK's first live-in residential Rehabilitation Centre for adult survivors of burns in 2019. Survivors are supported with restoration services, transforming the loss of hair and features through scarring from a lifelong trauma to something that is no longer a barrier to confidence. All these services help the burns community with mental health, physical challenges including disability and social connection.

*The charity was the vision of Katie Piper.*

# An Unseen Enemy

## 80 Years On



This year we've been remembering the Battle of Britain, described by Winston Churchill in August 1940 as 'one of the decisive battles of the war... never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'

The Battle of Britain was fought by the Few and won in the skies over the English Channel.

In our battle with the virus, we can call to mind the victory of Jesus: 'Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David.' (2 Timothy 2:8). Jesus secured the victory of death by His cross and resurrection, so that we don't need to fear death, but trust in His loving purposes for our lives.



It was a dramatic turning point in the history of the Second World War. The occasions for Remembrance this month will provide us times of gratitude for what was achieved in the darkest moments of war.



However, this year we are very aware of our own struggles with the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. We face an unseen enemy, but the effects on our lives and society are almost as devastating as world war.

Currently we can't see clearly what the future holds for us; it may be very different from what we might expect. However, we can pray for God's will to be done and that we will play our part, just as each of those airmen did so many years ago.

Remembering is not just about focusing on past events. It is also about making present past events, as we give thanks for all that took place.

***'They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'***

## Sunday 1 November

☪ Give thanks for the work of *Christians in Schools Trust, CiST*, for Steve Innes as Chairman, Sarah Williams, Lead Worker and Hannah Moore. Pray for the appointment in due course of new workers, and a new Treasurer. and for Sarah and Hannah as they find new ways, including on-line Assemblies, for building and keeping contact with schools as COVID restrictions continue. † Pray for Steve as Chair of Governors at Handforth Grange, for his role also as Chaplain and for a good working relationship with senior staff as they plan future development of the school. 🏡 Give thanks for our local schools and their staff, Handforth Grange, Head, Mark Unwin, Wilmslow Academy, Head, Charlotte Clowes and St Benedict's, Head Hannah McGuire, also for James Pulle, Head, and the staff of Wilmslow High School.

*Sue & Donald, Catherine and Thomas Alexander*

*Residents of Offerton Road*

## Monday 2 Nov.

☪ Give thanks for the contributions Emma Hinds and Josh Oppenshaw (ordination) have made to CiST, pray for them as they continue to serve the Lord, and for replacements. † Give thanks for the way Pat Grange keeps us up to date and cheers us up every Monday morning. Pray for her in the many unseen tasks she also does. 🏡 In September Esther McVey married fellow MP Philip Davies. Pray that their marriage will be strong as they support each other in the high pressures of life at Westminster and in their Constituences. May they also have time for each other.

*Dorothy Anderson*

*Residents of Orchard Drive*

## Tuesday 3 Nov.

☪ Continue to pray for Bishop Mark and Lindsay Tanner as they settle in Chester and for the appointment of a new Bishop of Stockport. † Pray for Steve, Pat and Jim as they prepare material for Christmas and the December/January edition of Inspire. Pray for wisdom and insight to know what other material or activities it might be appropriate to plan this year. 🏡 Pray for your Postmen and women, often forgotten 'key workers'. Give thanks and pray for them as they can be the only people with whom some isolated people have regular contact.

*Peter & Dianne Armstrong*

*Residents of Orwell Close*

## Wednesday 4 Nov.

☪ Pray for India. COVID-19 has had a huge negative impact especially in the poorest rural areas. Pray for many Christian churches and groups who are giving help to their neighbours and have remained strong and faithful in the face of Hindu nationalism. † Give thanks for our House Groups and pray for them, their leaders and members as they keep contact and study together when bigger meetings are not possible. 🏡 Give thanks for the evidence for God's presence which can be seen in the wonders of creation around us.

*Cynthia Ashworth*

*Residents of Overton Way*

## Thursday 5 Nov.

☪ In the past, Greg and Jim have spent time with Chinese scholars on Thursday mornings. Pray for effective conversations to continue on-line but also for ways safe direct contacts could be kept. † No Aroma Cafe also means no Rhyme Time. Pray that we may know how it might be possible to rebuild our contacts with Aroma customers and with young families. 🏡 Pray for the residents and staff of Upton Grange Care Home and for all who are having to cope with the restrictions on visits and access to Care Homes.

*Greg & Diana Aspinall* *Residents of Parkgate Way*

## Friday 6 Nov.

☪ Lord we pray for the people of *Nogorno-Kalabash*, a Christian enclave in largely Muslim Azerbaijan. Pray that neighbouring countries will work for peace rather than stoke the fires of conflict. † Staff from Pure Innovations have been able to bring some helpers from Aroma into our Lounge for cooking and craft activities. Give thanks for this and pray it will be possible to restart their service as a Cafe. 🏡 Pray for other Pure Innovations staff finding ways to support and teach life-skills to their clients who need support on their life's journey.

*Graham & Gillian Barlow* *Residents of Peacock Way*

## Saturday 7 Nov.

☪ Many Mission agencies ask us to pray not only for their workers but also children of 'missionaries'. Living in a different culture and often on the move, can be enriching but sometimes stressful. Pray for strong family bonds which can promote the positives and guard against the negatives. † Pray that St Chad's members who do not belong to House Groups may find links which can encourage them. 🏡 Pray for those couples whose marriage is under stress. May they find the help they need to restore a positive relationship.

*Ian & Moira Battersby* *Residents of Peckmill Close*

## Remembrance Sunday 8 Nov.

☪ The practical outworking of Remembrance Sunday will be different this year but the purposes remain the same. Pray for those responsible for arrangements nationally and locally, so that all who want to can still be part of the Remembrance and that those who suffered and died in wars past and conflicts present will be honoured as we remember them. † Pray for the leaders of our Rainbows and Brownies and for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Guides. As normal meetings inside are not now possible, pray for the leaders as they find other ways to keep their groups together and encourage them. 🏠 Pray that Borough and Parish Councillors will work together with local Police, uniformed organisations and all other groups to build up community spirit and identify and stop the minority whose actions spoil our village.

*Stella & Wayne, Amber, Noah & Willow Ashworth*

*Residents of Peover Road*

## Monday 9 Nov.

☪ Pray for Cheadle Mosque and its leaders, that they can work for understanding and harmony. Pray too for the Rev. Jacob Devadasan, Vicar of Heald Green as he builds a good relationship with the Mosque. † Give thanks for the completion of restoration work on our Curatage in Pickmere Road. As we move to let the property pray for a good tenancy but pray ahead that we will be able to use it to house a Curate in due course. 🏠 Give thanks for Age UK and for the volunteers who help with its work. Pray for them as they try to keep their services going and for the many older people who rely on them for help.

*Glenda Beardwood*

*Residents of Pickmere Road*

## Thursday 12 Nov.

☪ Pray for our Universities; particularly for any staff and/or students whom you know. Administrators need wisdom and all need great patience as they cope with radical changes to the whole system. † Give thanks for our church garden and the gardeners as they seek to keep colour and interest even through the winter months. 🏠 Rules on meeting together caused by COVI-19, together with use of face masks make it more difficult for those whose lives are already restricted by other disabilities. Pray for them and support workers.

*Ada Bescoby*

*Residents of Primrose Way*

## Tuesday 10 Nov.

☪ *The Sahel* is the region south of the Sahara across West Africa. Climate change has resulted in chronic water shortages and Islamic groups have disrupted life for many. Pray for Tearfund partners and others bringing hope, teaching better farming practices and sharing the love of Jesus. † Our PCC would normally meet this evening. Pray that necessary administration will still be carried out but, more importantly, that we can plan together for a new 'normal' in our church's work. 🏠 Pray for the staff and Residents at the Hawthorns.

*Marion Berry*

*Residents of Picton Drive*

## Friday 13 Nov.

☪ *UCCF* (Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship) has staff in almost all university centres, supporting Christian students in their life and witness. Pray for imaginative innovation as they continue their work whilst college life is so changed. † Continue to give thanks for the way the Lord has provided for St Chad's financially and for those who give. Pray for wise management of all our resources. 🏠 Pray for those who live alone, particularly those who are self-isolating; that they will make the effort to contact others and that neighbours will not forget them.

*Chris & Hilary Birch*

*Residents of Queens Terrace*

## Wednesday 11 Nov.

☪ *Armistice Day* So many needs; so many conflicts; pray for our world and for the leaders of nations, that they may see the urgency of working together if problems are to be solved and peace known. † Jeremy is Vicar of St George's, Hyde. Pray for him as he seeks to make the Gospel relevant in an area with a high Muslim population and for Pauline who has not been well. 🏠 Hope Central, by providing food for many local families, is showing the love of Jesus in the heart of our community. Pray for them in this and for the starting of a CAP Debt Centre.

*.Jeremy and Pauline Bentliff*

*Plumley Road*

## Saturday 14 Nov..

☪ GAP years are a valuable and useful year for many young people before or after university courses. Many Christian organisations offer this experience. Pray for this year's GAP students and for those who have missed out because of COVID-19 restrictions. † **BIG QUIZ NIGHT** This year's Quiz is 'on-line', pray that all the technical arrangements needed nationally and locally will work smoothly so that everyone enjoys the evening but also learns more about the work of Tearfund and our part in its vital relief work.

*Mrs Josie Bird*

*Residents of Rainow Way*

## Sunday 15 November

🕊️ **The True Freedom Trust**, TFT, is a Christian charity which offers support to those affected by issues of same sex attraction, SSA. It offers non-judgemental help and a safe space for those struggling with SSA whilst upholding biblical standards of celibacy outside of heterosexual marriage. Give thanks for a recent on-line national conference and pray for many who find encouragement through on-going Barnabas Support Groups. Pray for the protection of TFT from attack by groups who cannot accept their stance and want to undermine their work. † Pray for ways to bring together and encourage young people connected to St Chad's, even if they cannot meet physically. 🏠 Give thanks for and pray for the preservation of freedom to worship without hindrance in Britain.

*John & Anita, Csaba & Csilla Barnes*

*Residents of Redbrook Grove*

## Monday 16 Nov.

🕊️ Pray for the Christian Biker Group, **The God Squad** as a fellowship supporting each other, meeting with and reaching out to some extreme Bikers Groups (e.g. Hells Angels). Pray for God's blessing on them, for safety and protection. † Give thanks for Hope Central using our Hall for food distribution. If other groups who used the Hall including our Rainbows and Brownies are to restart when Covid restriction are lifted, Hope Central will need a new, permanent, base. Pray for this. 🏠 Give thanks for the open spaces we have around Handforth, may they be well used.

*Tony & Margaret Blundell Residents of Redesmere Rd*

## Thursday 19 Nov.

🕊️ **Tearfund** has polished a map showing 49 countries around the world where it has work. Give thanks that through their partners from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe the love of God is being shown in very practical ways. † Lord, we long for the time when we can sing out together again. Meanwhile thank you for those who are recording music which can help us. 🏠 Pray today for professional musicians whose work has been disrupted by the pandemic. Where they have lost income may they find new ways to earn a living and may all be able to retain their skills and creativity.

*Gareth & Tracey Brown*

*Residents of Rodepool Close*

## Tuesday 17 Nov.

🕊️ **Honduras** is a country that has benefitted from Tearfund's Church and Community Transformation. As church members have learnt and shared improved farming methods the whole community has benefitted and the church has grown. Give thanks and pray. † No Praise and Play, very little contact with the families who came. Pray for ways to restart activity for families with the youngest children. 🏠 Pray for Class teachers and other school staff who need extra care and patience because of COVID constraints.

*Terry & Chris Bradley Residents of Richmond Ave.*

## Friday 20 Nov.

🕊️ Pray for refugees, especially Christians, returning to their homes in Syria and Iraq. Physically homes and businesses have been destroyed, yet with help from Tearfund and other agencies they are starting again from scratch. Give thanks for their resilience and the help they are receiving. † Continue to pray for Pure Innovations Aroma Cafe Managers continuing to help their clients with some training. Pray for the re-opening of Aroma Cafe, but when? 🏠 Pray for Agencies who try to monitor and police the *dark web*, the secretive areas of the internet used by those who want to escape regulatory controls.

*Margaret Buckley*

*Residents of Rookerypool Close*

## Wednesday 18 Nov.

🕊️ **Manchester University Christian Union** has planned a system of **Buddies** for this term with International students paired with members. Pray that this will be effective at a time when large social gatherings are problematic. † As a new pattern of Sunday and Wednesday live congregations develops, pray for a unity of church members with those on-line and those having to stay in their homes without internet access. 🏠 Pray that those who think of themselves as strong will take the care needed to protect the more vulnerable.

*Brenda & Samantha Brookes Ringstead Close*

## Saturday 21 Nov.

🕊️ Give thanks for a decrease in conflict in **Yemen**. Pray for the people of Yemen, for whom the corona virus is just one more impossible burden to bear. Give thanks and pray as **Tearfund partners and FEBA radio** are agents of hope in their darkness. † How do we plan for Christmas amongst all the present uncertainties? Pray for Steve and the PCC locally and others nationally who need to make decisions involving events and resources. 🏠 With COVID Test and Trace, use of personal data is a sensitive issue, pray for Elizabeth Denham and her staff in the Office of the **Information Commissioner** in Wilmslow.

*Audrey Burgess*

*Residents of Rossenclough Road*

## Sunday 22 November

☪ This week we concentrate our prayers for the worldwide Church on *Christians who are suffering directly for their faith in Jesus*. Give thanks for those Groups whose work focuses on the 1 in 8 Christians (245 million) who face daily persecution simply because they say "I believe in Jesus Christ". We receive information directly from Open Doors and Barnabas Fund and use their prayer material. † It is good to pray today for the Burmesters as a family. Hannah, Mental Health nurse, and Charlotte in her final university year, now have their own lives. We give thanks for a family who have grown up in Handforth and we pray that they will be kept close to each other and to the Lord. 🏡 Pray for God's protection on all families in Handforth especially as children grow towards independence.

*Steve & Jo. Hannah & Charlotte Burmester*

*Residents of Saltersbrook Grove*

## Monday 23 Nov.

☪ *North Korea* remains top of Open Doors Persecuted Church list. Whole families are imprisoned under the most appalling conditions if just one member is found with a Bible. Give thanks for Christians from China, who risk their lives to bring help. Keep N Korea in your prayers. † Cleaning and sanitising in church needs to be done with great care, pray particularly for Pam in doing this so that church remains a safe place to meet. 🏡 We cannot stop development in Handforth. Pray however that building will include affordable housing, be of high standard and that new residents will be welcomed.

*Lisa Burgess*

*Residents of Sagars Road*

## Thursday 26 Nov.

☪ Give thanks that the committed giving of many Christians means that the finances of much mission work has not been badly affected by COVID but the needs have escalated. 'See that you excel in this grace of giving' 1 Cor. 8:7. † Give thanks that in bereavement many families still look to the church. Pray that Steve will have the Spirit's wisdom and grace with every family. 🏡 Give thanks and pray for Handforth Post Office and its staff. For many it is both a vital service and an important social contact. As the viability of many Post Offices is in doubt pray against closures only on economic grounds.

*Malcolm, Audrey & Rebecca Calvert*

*Sealand Way*

## Tuesday 24 Nov.

☪ Pray for the General Synod which will probably meet on-line this week. Pray for a focus on building God's Kingdom as churches serve their communities at this time. † Although numbers in church are smaller new people are coming in. Pray that Sidespeople and all others will give them a warm welcome so that they will want to continue with us. 🏡 Give thanks and pray for the work of Hope for Justice as they work to expose and rescue enslaved people, not only 'out there' but also others entrapped much nearer to home.

*Betty Butler*

*Residents of Sandiway Road*

## Friday 27 Nov.

☪ *Brexit* comes every closer; pray for Ministers and Civil Servants involved in big decisions and detail; pray for them and their EU counterparts. Some disruption may be inevitable but pray that it will be minimised. † Happily, Covid has not stopped people wanting to get married or babies being born. Pray for the opportunities Steve still has through weddings and baptisms. 🏡 Give thanks that Handforth and Cheshire East have not seen large numbers of COVID-19 infections. Pray for those who have seen higher rates and tighter restrictions.

*Jon & Anne Camm*

*Residents of Sefton Drive*

## Wednesday 25 Nov.

☪ Pray for the Christian Churches of *Pakistan and India*. Give thanks for on-going help given to poor Christians in Pakistan; pray for them and for Christians in India where persecution is growing fueled by the Hindu Nationalism of Prime Minister Modi and his Party. † Lord, give us a wider vision as a church, worshipping together but looking outwards to serve our village. 🏡 Thank you Lord for the Lindow Singers and local music groups. May they again be able to meet and share their music.

*Jean Butterworth*

*Residents of School Road*

## Saturday 28 Nov.

☪ *Climate Change* has much more serious long term implications worldwide than Brexit or COVID. Pray that not just world leaders but everyone will be willing to change lifestyle and priorities in the light of this. † Give thanks for those who served at St Chad's as part of their training and pray for their flourishing in present ministries. Pray for Will and Sami Marshall in Pentre Broughton, Wrexham. 🏡 Pray for Handforth patients and staff at Hulme Hall Medical Practice. Pray that the difficulties caused because the Practice main base is in Stockport can be overcome.

*Mary Charnley*

*Residents of Shellbrook Grove*

## Advent Sunday 29 November

📍 **Colin and Ikekia** are based in Aydin, a university town in Western Turkey (near to ancient Ephesus). Their small congregation meets in a Prayer Room with a shop front where they can display Christian literature. Because of COVID restrictions numbers are limited and children cannot join them. Pray that families will meet by Zoom in small House groups which can include children. † Josh Carlson is now Associate Vicar of St Peter's, Heswall with responsibility for the Church of the Good Shepherd. Give thanks that Gemma has settled in High School. Pray for Josh and for Natalie juggling work in Mental Health with caring for the children. 🏠 Pray that parents who have not sent their children back to school will see the need to do so despite unavoidable risks.

### Monday 30 Nov.

📍 **St Andrew's Day** Pray for Nicola Sturgeon the Government and people of Scotland. As the Scottish Government makes decisions which they see as right for Scotland pray that they will also see when there is the need for coordinated action across Great Britain. † Pray for Steve and other school Governors as they work with Heads particularly in choosing material to use in Health and Sex Education. 🏠 Give thanks that Gwynneth Morley Court and similar homes can provide a supportive community for residents. Pray for the active residents who can make this happen.

*Sue Clarke-Berry & Alan Berry Siddington Road*

### Thursday 3 Dec.

📍 Teaching on marriage with individual couples is an important part of Colin and Ikekia's work; pray for them in this and for the couples whom they help. Sadly counselling on divorce is part of this ministry. † The Rev. Sarah Parkin has replaced Philip Berry at Bramhall Methodist Church, she also has responsibility for Christ Church, Colshaw. Pray for her in this at a time when Christ Church is unable to meet. 🏠 Give thanks for the new system of area responsibilities for police and support officers. Pray for PC Matthew Rowbotham and PCSO Gareth Harding in Handforth.

*June Cottam Residents of South Acre Drive*

### Tuesday 1 Dec.

📍 **World AIDS Day** Whilst AIDS is now largely controlled, the long term effects on families continue. Give thanks for effective treatments and for those who care for chronic sufferers; pray for the many children who have lost parents to AIDS and need additional support. † At crises times in the early church, Christians came together to pray, Acts 4:24, 12:12. Zoom prayer at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays is easy to access and no less effective. Can you join us? 🏠 Pray for mothers with babies in Styal Prison. May they have good support and future hope.

*Margaret Collin Residents of Somerford Way*

### Friday 4 Dec.

📍 Pray for families where a member has gone 'missing'. Give thanks that modern track and trace systems can help in a search but the feeling of emptiness and anxiety cannot be dismissed. Pray for individuals and their families. † Pray for Steve and others preparing for our worship on Sunday. Lord we look to feed on your Word, help us also to see how you are at work in the world around us. 🏠 Pray for Tabley House and other residential homes which provide both respite and long term care. May staff and residents be kept safe and COVID free in these days.

*Carol & Andrew Cutts Residents of Southfield Close*

### Wednesday 2 Dec.

📍 Students come to university in Aydin from all over Turkey, the Middle East and Africa. Some are in the Christian Fellowship there. Pray that their faith may be strengthened so that they can be a blessing to others. Pray for those from outside Turkey in difficulty because of a large increase in fees. † Pray for a camera/projector/sound system in St Chad's which will help us to worship together in church and on-line. 🏠 Give thanks and pray for the Food Standards Agency and Inspectors whose checks ensure that we can trust the food we buy.

*Nancy Connolly Residents of Snapebrook Grove*

### Saturday 5 Dec.

📍 The North Caucasus is in the south of Russia, north of Georgia and west of the Caspian Sea. A beautiful, mountainous region with many different people groups mostly of Muslim background and hardly any Christian witness. Pray for it as a region unreached by the Gospel but where OM and other Christian groups are planning to send workers. † Pray for the future of Christ Church, Colshaw. Unable to meet together at present how can they best show the light of Christ to the surrounding area. 🏠 Pray for Young Offenders Teams looking to reduce youth offending.

*Allan & Anne Dawson Residents of Spath Lane*



# Smile Lines

## Lord, prop us up!

There is a story of an old farmer who always prayed the same prayer at his church meeting. 'Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side'. After hearing this many times, his minister asked him one day quite what he meant.

The farmer replied: "Well, it's like this... I've got an old barn out in one of my fields. It's been there a long time, and gone through a lot of storms. One day a few years ago I noticed that it was leaning to one side a bit. So, I went and got some poles and propped it up on its leaning side, so it wouldn't fall. Then I got to thinking about how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time, and seen plenty of storms in life. I was still standing, but I was also leaning a bit. So, I decided to ask the Lord to prop me up, too, on my leaning side.

Our 'leaning side' is where we are weakest in ourselves. Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, bitterness, bleakness in life. Then we too need to pray for God to prop us up, especially on that leaning side. He wants us to stand tall and free, in Him.



## Fire in church

The town's fire prevention officer was conducting a health and safety course at the local church. The officer said to the minister: "Now imagine this: it is a Sunday morning and you have a number of people, spread socially distanced, throughout your church building. Some are in the choir stalls, some are in the kitchen, and some are in the nave. Suddenly, a big fire breaks out. What are the first steps you would take?"

The minister thought carefully for a moment. "Really big ones," he said.



## Food

People at my workplace have started a funny new tradition where they give names to the food in the office fridge. Today I ate a sandwich called Mark, followed by some cake called Rosie.



## November Services

### Sunday 1st

10:00 am

Morning Priase - Faith

### Wednesday 4th

10.30 am Morning Prayer

### Sunday 8th

10.00 am

Remembrance Service



### Wednesday 11th

10.30 am Morning Prayer

### Sunday 15th

10.00 am

Morning Praise - Meribah

### Wednesday 18th

10.30 am Morning Prayer

### Sunday 22nd

10.00 am

Morning Praise - Seraphim

### Wednesday 25th

10.30 am Morning Prayer

### Sunday 29th

10.00 am

Morning Praise - Christ The King

## Contacts

### Vicar

Revd Steve Burmester

01625 250559

### Readers

Jim Lethbridge

01625 520815

Ian Pettigrew

0161 4394737

### Wardens

David Gilbert

01625 250485

Rob Moore

01625 540116

### Administrator

Pat Grange

01625 532145

### Safeguarding Officer

Carole

Harding

01625 585997



### Treasurer

Chris Birch

01625 251018

### Pastoral Work Coordinator

Steve Burmester

01625 250559

### Prayer Ministry Coordinator

Natasha Fraser

01625 549398

### Praise & Play Contact

Avril Lethbridge

01625 520815

### Little Fishes Rhyme Time

Sue Thompson

01625 531282

### House Groups Coordinator

Steve Burmester

01625 250559

