

## **OUR FESTIVAL OF PRAYER**

This Sunday (19<sup>th</sup> June) we are launching our 6 week Festival of Prayer to encourage each of us to pray more, to pray together and to offer to pray for others.

We are starting a sermon series on prayer on Sunday mornings. Each week in church, we will have a prayer station from a different community group to give us a focus for our prayers.

We are inviting everyone to join our Monday evening prayer time – 7pm in church and we have started The Prayer Course – Thurs 7pm in church. **Don't worry if you have missed any sessions – come and join in!**

We also want to offer to pray for our community and we have lots of postcards to give out and to deliver, asking our parish to let us know what they would like us to pray for. What a great opportunity to show love to our community and to witness to our loving God who hears and answers us! Please take as many postcards as you can to give out or to deliver.

And finally, put Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July in your diary for our Day of Prayer here in church.

**Let's pray....**

## **A FEW WORDS FROM KEITH**

It's Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June as I write and it is the Feast Day of Alban, the first British martyr who was tortured and killed by the Romans in the year 250.

Alban was a citizen of the Roman city of Verulamium, now St Albans in Hertfordshire, who gave shelter in his home to a Christian Priest fleeing from persecution, hiding him there for several days.

Alban was greatly influenced by the priest's devotion to prayer, and so received instruction and was converted. When the hiding place was discovered, Alban dressed himself in the priest's cloak and was arrested in his place. He would not renounce his faith despite severe torture and so was killed by being beheaded. His shrine, place of pilgrimage and prayer stands in the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban.

Alban was greatly influenced by prayer. It changed him. Prayer does change things! Last Sunday we launched our Prayer Festival, a season of intentional prayer, a short sermon series, the prayer course, different prayer stations in church each week, postcards to go out into our parish offering to pray for people and ending with a day of prayer finishing with Evening Prayer. Prayer is so important. It's how we talk to God, how we ask for help and guidance. It's core to our faith.

The Prayer Course on Thursday evenings suggests that we Pause, Rejoice, Ask and Yield when we pray, and this is a helpful recommendation, but really it doesn't matter how or where we pray, just take the time to do so. God is always waiting to hear from us. What friend or situation could you pray for each day this next week?

God Bless,

Keith

## BREAST FEEDING FRIENDLY CHURCH

As part of our inclusive welcome and provision here at St Nic's, we would like to be a breast-feeding friendly church. This involves providing a space for anyone who needs to feed, where they will be a comfortable chair

## INCLUSIVE COMMUNION

We have gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic wine available for communion. Please let us know what you need and if you have any further requirements



**This is our new church logo.** It is still a work in progress but is on our prayer request cards for our Festival of Prayer. We are constantly working on our inclusive welcome and trying to anticipate how we can best love and serve all of our community. We have offered two opportunities to follow the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith looking at how the church can better serve all people. The PCC agreed to include the Progress Pride flag in our logo to show our welcome for all people of any gender, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity. June is Pride month – an excellent time to share our logo!

Beth

## ST NICHOLAS' MUSIC FESTIVAL

We are delighted to be able to host our wonderful music festival once again!

**Raffle tickets are £1 per strip** and available to purchase prior to the start of the Music Festival from various church/choir members - including Joyce Batey ([joycebatey1@btinternet.com](mailto:joycebatey1@btinternet.com)), Helen Pennington, Mike Foy and Julie Dray. Prizes include: Two nights' accommodation in Lake District; Meal for two persons at Blue Anchor Pub; Nail Voucher; and at least 15 baskets with collections of spirits, wine and beer, and toiletries and other goodies. Raffle proceeds go to the St. Nicholas' Church, Blundellsands Organ Restoration Fund.

If you are able to help on the various nights, please sign up on the A3 sheet at the back of church

## FOODBANK

Thank you for the donations of food to this wonderful local facility. Please keep them coming! They are currently in particular need of tinned meat and fish, UHT milk, tinned potatoes and mash, jam and fruit juices.

Please ensure that food has a shelf life of 3 months +

## **BIBLES**

Thank you so much to those who have dedicated a bible/bibles to loved ones so far. There are still some that can be purchased, at a cost of £12 each, and forms are at the back of church. Labels will be printed shortly and we will let you know when they are in the bibles.

## **CONTACT**

Please feel free to contact us:

**Rev Beth Anderson (Vicar) Tel: 07734 088 039 Email: [bethanderson68@hotmail.com](mailto:bethanderson68@hotmail.com)**

**Rev Keith Thornborough (Associate Priest) Tel: 0151 281 4459 Email: [keith174@aol.com](mailto:keith174@aol.com)**

**Bulletin articles/names for prayer list: [stnicspa@gmail.com](mailto:stnicspa@gmail.com)**