

Sevenoaks Deanery Prayer Topics May 2021

*"...And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."
(Ephesians 6:18)*

Daily Hope - a free phonenumber of hymns, reflections and prayers from the Church of England. **0800 804 8044**

Also

"Sleep Well with Daily Hope" on the same number for people who are suffering from insomnia.

Pray for Laura Trott our M.P. and all local government councillors.

1st We give thanks for the ministry of Bishop James and pray for him and Bridget as the time for their retirement draws near, for guidance and peace as they cope with last-minute decisions and plans.

2nd The Fourth Sunday of Easter

For the Vacancy in See Committee as they seek God's wisdom and guidance for the appointment of the next Bishop of Rochester.

3rd May Bank Holiday For the Rev. Michael Gentry, Area Dean, in all his particular responsibilities.
Pray for a day of rest and relaxation for all.

4th For Bishop Simon and Archdeacons Paul, Andy and Julie and their families as they prepare for the Vacancy in See and the altered work patterns this will entail.

5th For all from ethnic minorities, all who have suffered racial abuse, unconscious bias or any form of prejudice that they may know how much God loves them.

6th For all who have been bereaved recently, including The Queen and her family, for peace, comfort and healing

7th Knockholt with Halstead: the Rev. Tim Edwards, lay ministers and congregation.

Please pray for all who have been isolated and are finding it difficult to know how much to mix now that restrictions are easing.

8th We give thanks for scientists working on adapting the vaccines to cope with the new variants; for the speed and efficiency of the vaccines' rollout; for all the volunteers helping to make the rollout work and that it will continue to be effective. As we give thanks, we pray for the countries of Brazil and India particularly that they may be able to access the medication they need and that the spread of Covid may decrease rapidly.

9th Fifth Sunday of Easter For Sevenoaks, St. John, the Rev. Robin Jones, lay ministers and congregation for God's guidance and blessings on all their worship

10th For The Stag cinema and theatre as they prepare to open on 17th; for all in the Arts world; actors, musicians, producers and so many others as they make plans for hopefully being able to work in theatres at full capacity next month.

11th Chevening, St. Botolph

The Rev. Hannah Adams, lay ministers and congregation that God will richly bless them all in their ministry.

12th We thank you, Lord, that so far the opening up of outdoor hospitality has not caused a major rise in Covid numbers and pray that it may be kept at bay.

13th Ascension Day Seal, St. Lawrence and Underriver the Rev. Serena Willoughby and family, lay ministers and congregation for God's blessings on everyone and for a blessing on all special services today.

14th Pray for all medical staff and paramedical staff in the hospitals in our area of Kent, especially Sevenoaks Hospital. Give thanks for the staff's dedication and pray that they may be given the strength to cope with the backlog of patients who have been waiting for operations and treatment, which have been delayed due to the pandemic.

15th For Brasted, St. Martin

Please pray for the Churchwardens, PCC and congregation during the vacancy and for God's guidance as we look to the future.

16th Sunday after Ascension Day

Seal, St. Peter and St. Paul the Rev. Anne le Bas, lay ministers and congregation, for God's blessings on all their ministry.

For all students taking exams, in whatever form, this term; keep them in your peace as they cope with all the changes being made.

17th The Rule of Six outdoors will be scrapped from today all being well, and a new limit of 30 takes its place. Two households can meet indoors and indoor hospitality opens. Again, we pray for caution!

18th Sevenoaks, St. Nicholas. For our APCM today and for Canon Angus McLeay, the Rev. Dr. Gavin McGrath and the Rev. Matt Taylor. Also for John Khnana and Hannah Blake leading Grace Church and 4 O'Clock Church. Please pray for our ongoing online Marriage Course and Hope Explored Course.

19th For all involved in organising St. Luke's Wednesday lunchtime recitals, which we hope to restart today.

20th For the West Sevenoaks Ministry Team, the Rev. Mark Bridgen, Rector, the Revs. Anne Bourne and Andy Finn, Team Vicars and the rest of the Team, for the first ever meeting today of the Joint Council since the Team became a legally constituted benefice. Please pray for those who have been elected onto the Council that the way forward to gauge how effective the Joint Council can be in areas of collaborative working in mission and ministry may be realised.

21st For all the charities represented by charity shops in Sevenoaks now that they are open again, that people will support them and be generous.

22nd Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill: the Rev. Pam Davies, lay ministers and congregation, for God's blessings on their ministry.

For all victims of trafficking or any kind of slavery living in our deanery that they might receive support and justice.

23rd Pentecost

Weald, St. George. Canon Mandy Carr, lay ministers and congregation, for our links with St. Francis, Strood, and mission partners.

24th For the many for whom life looks bleak, having been made redundant, having difficulty paying the mortgage and other financial commitments; also for the many whose jobs are still in the balance. For those young people, who have recently left full-time education and are looking for work.

25th Westerham, St. Mary the Virgin, for the congregation during the vacancy. Please pray for those who sustain the life of our church during the vacancy; for those hearing God's call to serve here and those involved in the selection process for our new priest, that they may discern the person who will be best placed to serve the spiritual needs of the church and community.

26th For all who work on the land in our deanery, for farmers as they adjust to the new situation now we have left the European Union.

27th For our link dioceses in Zimbabwe and Tanzania.

28th We give thanks for all who work for the emergency services and pray for their safety: police, firefighters, ambulance staff and others.

29th For all for whom home is not a safe place; for all suffering domestic abuse that they may be able to get the help they need when they need it.

30th Trinity

Give thanks that more and more churches are now open for Sunday worship in person as well as online. We also give thanks for the skill and gifts of those who have made online services possible over the last year.

31st Bank Holiday

For all affected by mental health issues, long Covid and chronic illness.

"The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease" Lamentations 3:22

