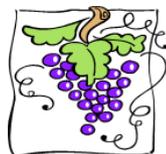


GRAPEVINE

17th October
2021

Letting people know about the love of Jesus Christ



I have lived to thank God that all my prayers have not been answered. Jean Ingelow

Welcome to St Peter & St Mary's Church

Do you watch that programme on television called Gogglebox? It goes out on Channel 4 on Friday evenings. It's a programme where the camera is turned around and pointed to the people who are watching television in their own homes. When it first started I thought that watching people watching television would be about as exciting as watching paint dry. That was until I had seen a couple of episodes and now I'm hooked. I think it's because the people involved are really interesting characters. They are genuine people who are not afraid to say what they think. I don't always agree with what they have to say but that's half the fun of it.

I like that you see their immediate reactions to what's going on. That's been fascinating when news bulletins come on and you get a spontaneous response to the latest stories concerning Covid or Brexit or Boris.

But there is also a sensitive side to it and I never realized quite how many people are moved to tears by the things they see on the box.

I would like to see a Churchy version called Goggleprayers. In it, you would get to see people coming to God and praying. I'm guessing there would be some people on their own in a quiet place, while others might be in triplets or groups. Some might even be in Church. You can imagine some who are bold, articulate and confident while others would be shy and embarrassed and struggle to find the right words. Still, others might remain still and silent, content in God's company. And I'm sure that at times there would be tears. And although there might be frustration if it feels as if God isn't listening I'm certain that there'd be times when God definitely does answer our prayers.

Michael

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Church Office CLOSED office@stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk

 Stowmarket Parish Church  @stowmarketcofe

Website: www.stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk **Regd Charity Number 1132857**

ZOOM LOGIN DETAILS

<https://zoom.us/j/9658283398?pwd=SjN2V252VGxSSngrSnBOM1JETk1Bdz09>

Meeting ID: 965 828 3398 - Passcode: 615182

Today's Service

This Sunday's Worship begins at 10am in Church and online. Today we are up to our 4th Sermon our Sermon Series on 'Prayer' and Matt Levett will be talking about the Wednesday weekly Prayer Meeting and the matters to do with continuing in prayer and unanswered prayer. Don't forget that you can join the Weekly Prayer Meeting on Wednesday evening on the Church Zoom from 6:30pm for half an hour.

At the end of the service The Prayer Ministry Team will be in the Memorial Chapel if you need support in prayer at this time.

We are still offering the option of sitting in a restricted or non-restricted area of the Church in case you are still feeling anxious about coming along. If you're ok with all the restrictions being lifted please respect those who aren't and be patient as we move forward slowly and safely.

The Coronavirus is still around and if you do choose to put yourself in a position that leaves you vulnerable to the spread of the virus you must take responsibility for your own actions. If you can't get to Church you can still join with us in worship, on YouTube: https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCUih_zTFVjMe1XckXQ0II_A A link can also be found on the Church Website along with the Service Sheet. A DVD of the Service is also available, contact the Vicarage (678623) if you would like one.

Refreshments

Until the work is finished at the back of the Church we will be serving refreshments after the Sunday 10am Service in St. Peter's Hall. Do please stay for a cuppa and a chat.



Christmas Shoebox Appeal



This year, as always, we are going to bring joy to some of the world's poorest children by sending shoeboxes full of gifts- including toys, hygiene items and school stationery. For details of what you can put in, see the leaflets in church, search samaritans-purse.org.uk, or contact Sarah

on 07979796231.

We need to receive your box (at church or direct to Sarah) by the 1st week in November (7th at latest).

You can even do a shoebox on line or Sarah can help you do this if you prefer!

Thank you in advance for your generosity and for helping to spread the gospel all over the world.



For our series of sermons on prayer, if you have recently had the experience of prayers being answered please speak to one of the Preaching Team.

Weekly Prayer Meeting



It's easy to join the Prayer Meeting as we are continuing to meet online, just use the regular Church Zoom. Starting at 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings for half an hour. The first 15 minutes focus on a specific subject then opening up for other areas of concern or thanksgiving.

You are invited to come along. There is no pressure to pray out loud, just the desire to meet with others and pray for our Church, friends, our town, the world and in fact anything. It is informal

and a most enjoyable and rewarding half an hour. Why not give it a go?

You can also join using even the most basic of phones. Just call 02039 663 809 and follow the instructions. Meeting ID which is 965 828 3398 # and if asked, dial in with meeting password 615182.



Christmas Tree Festival



We are delighted that decorators are busy signing up to do a tree for this year's festival. If you have not yet signed up and would like to, please contact Charlotte at cff@stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk speak to me at the end of the service or there are forms in the office.

Last year we found that opening for a shorter period of time made it easier for everyone who was stewarding. If you are able to be involved this year to welcome the visitors into the church, then please put your name down on the sheet at the back of the church. **This year we will be open on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday between 10am and 4pm only.** We are also delighted to have **Anthony Horowitz**, the author, coming to our light switch on, on Friday 26th November. *Charlotte*

Christening

This Morning we shall be baptizing Ethan Harry Leeds and welcoming him into the family of the Church. As Ethan has a lot of friends and family who are coming along to support him, his Christening will take place at 11:30am to help to keep everyone Covid safe.



Catering Manager

at St. Peter & St. Mary's Church, Stowmarket

There is an exciting opportunity at St. Peter & St. Mary's Church, now building work nears completion, giving the right person an opportunity to help the church provide a wide range of refreshments. We are therefore looking to appoint a manager to help develop and grow this area as part of our outreach and pastoral care. We would expect the manager to have relevant qualifications, be a good team player with leadership and communication skills as well as an understanding of working with volunteers.

The paid post is for 12 hours per week (Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays) at a rate of £10 per hour. If you are interested please contact the Vicar, Rev'd Michael Eden for a job description and application form.

vicar@stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk Tel 01449 678623.

St Peter and St Mary's Church Stowmarket is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and the vulnerable and expect all staff to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to provide references, undergo employment checks and an enhanced disclosure via the DBS.

For Your Prayers

The Bill that aims to allow terminally ill patients, with 6 months or less to live, the option of assisted killing in England and Wales is to have its Second Reading in the House of Lords on Friday 22nd October prompting the first major debate on the subject.

Church Meetings

Please let Michael know of any other Church Meetings so that they can be added to the Diary Page for information and a focus for our prayers

Diary

Sunday 17th October

10am Morning Worship in Church & online
Sermon series on Prayer - Continuing in Prayer and
Unanswered Prayer
11:30am Christening

Monday 18th October

2pm Housegroup on Zoom
7:30pm Clergy, Readers & Preachers Meeting : the Vicarage

Tuesday 19th October

6pm Boys Brigade & Girls association in St Peter's Hall
7:30pm Deanery Synod in St Peter's Hall
8pm Alpha Course contact Richard to log on

Wednesday 20th October

6:30pm Online Prayer Meeting on Zoom
7:30pm Christmas Tree Festival Meeting in Church

Sunday 24th October

10am Morning Worship:
Sermon Series Part 4: Whole Church Prayer Meetings

Sunday 7th November

3pm Memorial Service remembering lives lost during the Covid
Pandemic - book via the website

Sunday 14th November

9:15am Remembrance Sunday Service in Church

Christmas Tree Festival

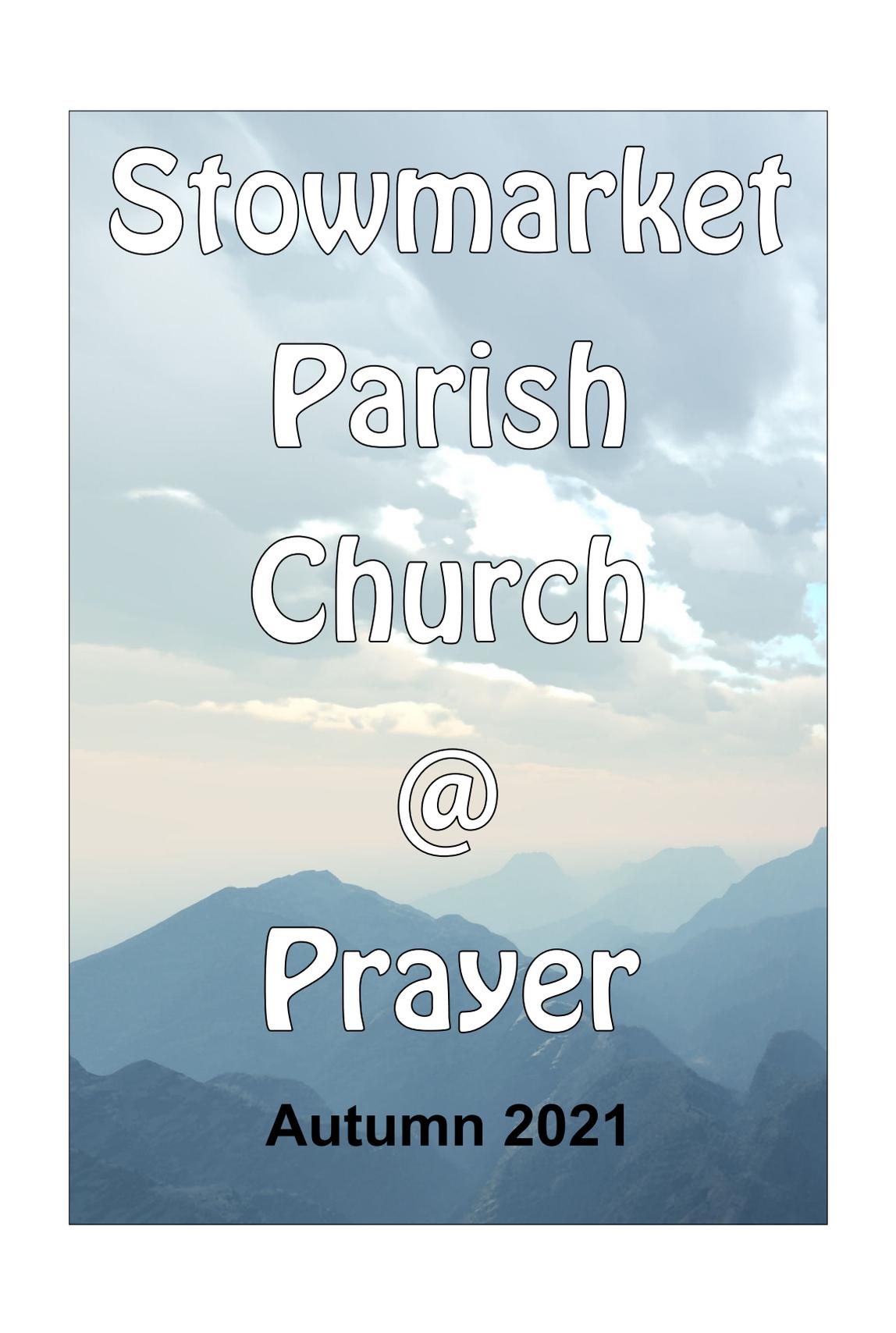
26th November - 1st January

Sunday 12th December

4pm Christingle Service

Sunday 19th December

6pm Town Carol Service



Stowmarket

Parish

Church

@

Prayer

Autumn 2021

The Parish Church @ Prayer



For a couple of Sundays in September and 3 in October, our sermons will be on the subject of PRAYER. It's an activity that most people struggle with at some time in their life and it's easy to fall into the trap of feeling that you are not 'praying enough' or that your prayers aren't 'good enough'.

Much prayer has gone on in Stowmarket Parish Church for centuries and still flows into and out of the life, mission and ministry of the Church today.

We will be looking at 5 particular areas of prayer that are vital for the good health of our active Church but we all know that the activity of prayer continues in other forms as well.

The 5 spheres of prayer activity are:

- 1. Prayer Ministry Team**
- 2. The Prayer Network**
- 3. Sunday Intercessions**
- 4. The Weekly Wednesday Prayer Meeting**
- 5. The Quarterly Whole Church Prayer Meeting**



Along with the Sunday Sermons, the midweek housegroups will be discussing these 5 headings and developing ideas raised by Pete Greig in his teaching course on prayer. If you would like to join a study group for the duration of this series contact Heather Bunting (676498).

You may find it effortless to spend hours with God in prayer or perhaps you haven't got a clue where to start, either way, join in this autumn and, as a Church, our prayers will draw us deeper into God's heart to give us a clearer vision of our future.

