

Parish of St Andrew's and St Peter's, South Shoebury

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH

Hall users

Pray for good relationships between hall users and ourselves. Pray that they may all feel welcome and at home. Pray for the WI, the Shoebury Society, the Stamp Club, Baby Sensory, the Wednesday Club, the table tennis club and all who use the halls for parties and other special occasions.

Local shops, cafés and businesses: industrial areas, railway

Pray for all who make their living in our parish. Pray especially for the people you know and businesses you use. Pray that these will flourish and provide employment and energy for our community. Pray too for opportunities to make connections with the businesses we currently have no contact with. Pray, too, for those who come to Shoebury for day trips and to have a holiday: pray for safety and relaxation for all who visit our area.

Surgeries, police, fire, ambulance, coast guard

Pray for all who serve our local community in the health or emergency services. Pray for their strength and protection. Give thanks for their hard work and courage, compassion and experience.

Diocese of Chelmsford

Pray for the Time to Talk Conference as the diocese looks to plan and prepare for the next 15 years. Pray for Bishop Stephen, Bishop designate John; Archdeacon David. Pray for our Deanery, for Area Dean Stephen, and for our local Cof E churches, St Augustine's, St Mary's, N. Shoebury; Christ Church and Holy Trinity.

Local churches

Pray for St George's RC Church, Thorpedene & Friars Baptist Churches, Shoebury Methodist Church, West Road Evangelical, Gospel Hall: that God will bless their work and fellowships and help us to build strong relationships with one another

Some space for our own thoughts and prayers...

Pray for the Holy Spirit to enable each of us to grow in our love for God and to follow Jesus more closely. Ask God to inspire us to pray, read the Bible, serve, give and share our faith. Pray that our lives will be marked by love, gentleness and godliness. Pray that our churches may be places where new people are welcomed and loved and where everyone is accepted and valued. Pray for God to help us be patient and tolerant, gracious and encouraging. Ask him to help us keep quiet when tempted to gossip or be negative and unhelpful. Ask him to prompt us when we have an opportunity to build one another up in love and faith.

Children's Work: Messy Church, Family Services, Youth Group

Pray that God will guide and provide for us as we seek to reach out to families, children and young people and to draw them into fellowship. Pray that we will be effective in communicating the good news of Jesus and that many will come to new and lasting faith. Pray for all the leaders and helpers of these activities. Pray for safety for all the children, energy and patience for their parents and teachers. Pray especially that our young people will find their own faith and their own way to serve within the church.

Worship

Pray for our regular services, occasional services, music, readers, those who lead prayers, those who welcome and serve refreshments. Pray that our whole lives will be pleasing to God, and especially those times when we gather together. Pray that his presence may be very clearly experienced by all who worship at our churches. Pray especially for those when we have lots of visitors who are not used to church and for our healing services.

Teaching

Bible study groups, Lent Groups, Enquirers' Groups, Confirmation Preparation, Wedding Prep, Sermons, Course in Christian Studies

Pray for the many opportunities we have to grow in our understanding of our faith. Ask God to teach and help us remember what we have already learnt. Pray that we will be effective in passing on the faith to those who are new and ask that we may never think we have learnt enough. Pray for all who preach, teach and lead groups.

Loving God and our Neighbours in South Shoebury

Baptisms, weddings, funerals, churchyard

Give thanks for many contacts made and ask God for wisdom to know how to continue to care for these people and to offer opportunities to grow in faith

Evangelism: to see people become committed Christians. Wisdom, love and joy

We have many different activities in the local area and in our church buildings to reach out with God's love. Pray that this will bear fruit in people coming to an active faith in Jesus. Pray that we will each be witnesses in word and deed, that we will be faithful in speaking about Jesus, serving those around us and inviting friends and neighbours to share in church events.

Publicity

Pray for us to be efficient in our use of publicity and use our creative and organisational gifts well to help others know who we are, what we stand for and what we have to offer.

Parochial Church Council

Pray for continued good working relationships, vision and inspiration in all we do. For any who will step down from PCC and any who will join PCC this year. Pray too that God will help us to have integrity and high standards in all our organisation and governance.

Finances:

Give thanks for God's continued provision. Pray that God will help us to exercise good stewardship of our resources and stir us to generosity to his work here in Shoebury.

Vocations

This year we will need 2 new church wardens: pray that God will stir those to volunteer whom he is calling. Pray for everyone to be willing to serve God however he leads. And ask God to help us receive and accept peoples' gifts and ministries.

The Garrison

Pray that the Christians who live there will make contact with us and for guidance for how we might make an impact there.

Schools: Shoebury High, Richmond Avenue Primary, Hinguar Primary

Pray for our local schools: for students, teachers, head teachers, assistants, office, catering, cleaning and caretaking staff. For God to bless them with safety, peace and a happy learning environment. Pray especially for the children who lack encouragement and stability at home. Pray for those who having learning and behavioural difficulties and for their teachers and class mates. Pray for the work of Life in Abundance at Shoebury High and for Christian assemblies at all 3 schools.

Care homes

Biffins, Maplin House, Kathryn Court, Autumn Cottage, Saxon Lodge

Pray for all those who live in residential care homes and for their carers and the managers of the homes. Pray especially for those we take communion to and those with whom we share in worship. Pray for families as they visit and residents who are confused or unhappy. Ask that God will direct us to care for those who will especially value it.

Those who are sick in in any other kind of need

Pray for those at home, those in hospital, those who just can't cope with life. Pray for God's healing and help and ask that we will be alert to what we can do to encourage and support those in distress. Pray that our Healing Services may be a place of comfort and hope.

Bereavement follow-up

As we seek to enhance our care for those who are bereaved, ask God for wisdom and compassion as we do so. Pray for our meeting on Feb 2nd when we begin to look at this in earnest.

Uniformed organisations

Ask God to bless and prosper all the young people's groups that meet in our halls. Pray for good relationships with these groups and for an increased awareness of our church community and attendance at Family Service.

Little Buffaloes

Pray for protection and blessing on all the children and staff. Pray for good relationships with parents, children and staff.