

ROMANIA UPDATE

We have raised £7400 towards our £8000 target. Please keep sponsoring our amazing young people and help us get over the line. You can also now donate via the website <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/furzedownromania2017>.

Also the youth ministry urgently require volunteers as a number of volunteers are moving on to different things. If you would like more information please contact Sam Talbot !

FUNERALS

Margaret Finlay's funeral will be held at St Alban's on Thursday 11th May at 11.30am. There will be a reception afterwards at Mary Holben House.

The funeral of Michael Overall, a member of St Albans fellowship for many years, and who passed on on Good Friday, will be held at Southend Crematorium on Wednesday 17th May at 1.20pm. Christine would love to welcome any from St Albans who are able to come. Also, if any of us would like to say a word at the funeral, it would be most appreciated. The family have asked for flowers from family members only, but there will be a collection box at the funeral with proceeds going to two charities, Christian Friends of Israel and Fair Havens Hospice. Both charities meant much to Mike as one who cared for Israel, and having benefitted from care at the Fair Havens Hospice himself. If you would like to attend, please let me know if transport is a problem. Any other queries, please do ask me. Nicky
Cheques payable to :
Havens Hospices, Fair Havens Hospice
CFI Charitable Trust

How to get in touch

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Fair trade goods are available in the church lounge on
Wednesdays and Thursdays 10-11.30am

Newsletter for Sunday 7th May, 2017

Welcome to St Alban's on the fourth Sunday of Easter, and the first Sunday of May

We will be thinking together about what 'Bethany' means for us at St Alban's over the coming weeks, reflecting on episodes which might have resonance for us here. This Sunday, we will be thinking about Mary's anointing of Jesus in Bethany, and how she prepared Him for death. We will also be thinking about the anointing that the Lord gives to bring comfort after death, 'the oil of gladness instead of mourning', as we remember Isaac Akintade, who died last year, and welcome members of his family on this anniversary.

Events this week

Sunday 7th May	10.30am 6.30pm	All-age worship First Sunday – Election Special!
Wednesday 10th May	2.30pm	Holy Communion

Events next week

Sunday 14th May	10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Monthly Prayer
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WEEKLY PRAYER DIARY – Week beginning 7th May 2017 JESUS AMONG HIS PEOPLE

SUNDAY: PERSONAL PRAISE AND PRAYER Consider Psalm 138, treasuring any part that particularly strikes us. Spend time today thanking the Lord for His love, His presence, and daily provision to us personally. Think back on this morning's teaching of the anointing of Jesus in Bethany. Ask Him how we can give to Him in a way that would express how precious He is and what He means to us.

MONDAY: FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION This morning we should know who is the new President of France. Let vv4-6 inspire our prayers for France under new leadership, remembering the Church in an overtly secular nation.

TUESDAY: THE SCATTERED SHEEP OF ISRAEL *"As a shepherd cares for his herd in the day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day."* Ezekiel 34:12 Thank God for His care and presence among His first flock, the Jewish people, scattered across the world, and His promise to bring them back. With help from Psalm 138 vv7-8, pray especially for Jewish students facing rising anti-semitism in universities worldwide.

WEDNESDAY: BELIEVERS PERSECUTED FOR THEIR FAITH Praise God for His strengthening presence and power in the work of Turkic Belt Ministries, based locally and which supports Christians in, and refugees from, the Turkic Belt countries. These nations are hostile to the truth of Jesus and there are dangers in sharing the gospel and meeting together. Pray according to the words of vv7-8, remembering especially a small fellowship from Azerbaijan who have been banned from meeting and are marginalised in society. (turkicbeltministries.co.uk)

THURSDAY: THOSE KNOWING LOSS In light of v3, cry to God for those knowing loss in their lives. Remember especially the family and friends of Margaret Finlay, whose funeral is today. Also remember the Akintade family for whom it has been a year since Isaac passed on; and the Overall family in their long wait for Michael's funeral service. Pray too for those knowing other kinds of loss – health, partnership, job, home, security, or freedom.

FRIDAY: LYDIA FELLOWSHIP ENGLAND This women's prayer fellowship is meeting over the next 3 days to learn from God, encourage one another and pray for our nation. In the light of vv1-3, and at a time of great uncertainty in Britain, please pray for true worship and powerful intercession as Jesus comes amongst us.

SATURDAY: PREPARATION TO MEET WITH JESUS TOGETHER Thank the Father for the safety we still enjoy to gather together and to hear His word. Pray for all who are teaching or leading in the congregations of Furzedown churches tomorrow. Praise God for Jesus' ministry to our teenagers and pray for Paul as he prepares to lead "Resonate" on the subject of the Resurrection of Jesus, their living Saviour and Lord, who will never leave them. Pray for our young people in light of Psalm 138 as they face the future personally and on a world wide scale.

PSALM 138 – to read together with the prayer diary

I will give You thanks with all my heart;

I will sing praises to You before the gods.

²*I will bow down toward Your holy temple*

And give thanks to Your name for Your loving kindness and Your truth;

For You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.

³*On the day I called, You answered me;*

You made me bold with strength in my soul

⁴*All the kings of the earth will give thanks to You, O LORD, When they have heard the words of Your mouth.*

⁵*And they will sing of the ways of the LORD,*

For great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶*For though the LORD is exalted,*

Yet He regards the lowly,

But the haughty He knows from afar.

⁷*Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me;*

You will stretch forth Your hand against the wrath of my enemies,

And Your right hand will save me.

⁸*The LORD will accomplish what concerns me;*

Your loving kindness, O LORD, is everlasting;

Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

ROMANIA FUNDRAISING

Natalie Richeux walked from London to Portsmouth (with her mum and dad!) last weekend, trekking up and down hills, arriving tired and footsore, but happy!

If you would like to sponsor her, please speak to her, put a pledge on her sponsorship form in the lounge, or visit her justgiving page online at

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/natalie-richeux>