

## Prayer Matters 29<sup>th</sup> November - 1st Sunday in Advent

### Please keep in your prayers this week:

**Advent** - May we find moments among the busyness of our lives to reflect on this time of expectation and preparation as we look forward to celebrating the coming of Christ in his incarnation. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year. Help us, and especially those struggling with loneliness and mental health issues, in these particularly dark times to see the light of Christ shining through.

**Covid 19** - We pray that the latest 4 week lockdown in England will start to show an effect so that families can get together at Christmas without resulting in a spike in infections. We pray especially for all NHS staff. May they find strength as they cope with the pandemic. We also give thanks for the encouraging news of the new vaccines.

**World AIDS Day (1 Dec.)** - This year's theme is "*Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Resilience and Impact*". We pray for all suffering from HIV/AIDS and that the advances made in treatment will continue.

**Charity of the week: 4ALL: Building Community in West Dulwich**, the local community charity founded by All Saints members. We give thanks for all that 4All has achieved and look forward to a resumption of all its normal activities which are so important in our parish. <http://4-all.org.uk/>

**Those who are sick or in need;**, Michael Billem, Ruth Kirk Wilson, Cherry Wootton, Russell Jenkins, Rosemary Cave, Thea Parsons as her life draws to a close and any others known to us; for those who support and care for them.

**Those with longer term needs:** Lorraine Falzon Gaughan, Hyacinth Brown, Wisdom Kari Kari, Anthony Backs, Isabelle Backs, Do Jones, Chris Worden, Ben, and Gina Vaughan.

**Those who have lately died:** Ruth Osrah (Eunice Ohene-Nyako's mother who died in Ghana on 20<sup>th</sup> November), George Farmer, their families and for all who mourn.

**Those whose year's mind falls at this time:** Joyce Shirley Davis, Ron Everson, Max Jones, Peter Ansdell-Evans (Priest), Elizabeth Morrison.

### Commemorated on 30<sup>th</sup> November Andrew the Apostle, Patron Saint of Scotland

Though Andrew is named among the apostles in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, it is in John's gospel that most is learned about him. Andrew was a Galilean fisherman, mending his nets, when Jesus called him to follow him, which he promptly did. He then seems to have remained with Jesus until the end. He was there at the feeding of the five thousand and then later, when some Greeks in Jerusalem wanted to see Jesus, Philip brought them to Andrew who told Jesus of their desire. Tradition has him travelling on several missionary journeys and eventually being martyred by being crucified on an X-shaped cross. He became the patron saint of Scotland because of a legend that his relics had been brought there in the eighth century.

#### Thought for the week:

*"We have found the Messiah" (John 1.41)*

*Andrew's words reveal a soul waiting with the utmost longing for the coming of the Messiah, looking forward to His appearing from heaven, rejoicing when He does appear and hastening to announce so great an event to others.*

St John Chrysostom (347-407)

If you would like prayer for yourself or another, please contact Pat Fisher on 020 8289 8348 [fisherpk@live.co.uk](mailto:fisherpk@live.co.uk).