

Prayer Matters

Please keep in your prayers this week:

World – Pray for our world leaders that they may have a sense of their responsibilities beyond their own country's interests as the pandemic is deepening world-wide, but also, as a vaccine becomes more available, that this, and other recourses, may be shared equitably.

Covid-19 – Pray for our nation as winter approaches and it is clear that any vaccine will not have general affect till well into next year. Pray that our NHS will be able to cope through the dedication and hard work of all its staff and that we all will consider the part we need to play in keeping down transmittion of Covid19.

All Saints - Advent Sunday will not be quite the same this year, but let us pray that we will all have a deep sense of Immanuel – God is with us - and look forward to the times we can, hopefully, have together over the Christmas.

Charity of the week: Brixton and Norwood Foodbank

Trussell Trust Norwood and Brixton Foodbank opened in September 2011 with the support and encouragement of a number of local churches. It began in West Norwood with a small space in St Luke's church and quickly expanded the working area and added another distribution centre in Brixton in March 2012.

The foodbank serves those in our community in crisis and, in normal times, sees people from across Lambeth but especially south Lambeth and also north Croydon, within a short walking distance of Norwood. During the Coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic, face-to-face sessions had to be suspended and operations moved to a delivery service only from the warehouse in St. Margaret's, Barcombe Ave. This service now covers large areas of Lambeth and Croydon.

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

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

Those who have died recently: George Farmer died on Thursday 12 November, after a short illness following a fall. He has given his All Saints' statue of St Luke back to the church. This will be placed in our St Luke's library. At his family's request, a small memorial plaque will be attached. George has given his body to science and did not wish for a funeral service. But please pray for Penny, Alison and Ann and their families' as they mourn.

Those whose year's mind falls this week: Violet Parfitt, Elsie Hardy, Elizabeth Morrison

Commemorated this week: 22nd November - Cecilia – Martyr at Rome c. 230

Cecilia was one of the most revered martyrs of the Roman Church, but the only thing we know for certain is that at some point in the second or third century, a woman called Cecilia allowed the Church to meet in her house in Trastevere in the city of Rome and that subsequently the church erected on that site bore her name. She was remembered as a brave woman who risked giving hospitality to the Christian Church when to do so was to court censure and possibly death. According to a tradition that can be dated no earlier than the fifth century, she converted her pagan husband and his brother to the faith, both of whom were martyred before her. She is honoured as the patron saint of musicians.

Thought for the week:

When all is said and done, what we must learn above all is to offer ourselves - imperfections and all - to God. If we keep waiting until we are 'worthy' of God, we will move farther rather than closer to God. It is through our broken, vulnerable, mortal ways of being that the healing power of the eternal God becomes visible to us. Henri Nouwen A CRY FOR MERCY

If you would like prayer for yourself or another, please contact Judith Powles – 020 8693 4437