

## Prayer Matters

### **Please keep in your prayers this week:**

**Covid-19** – We have been given a route back to some kind of normality this year. We pray that everyone approaches this enthusiastically but responsibly so that 'normality' becomes permanent. We pray that everyone offered the vaccine and want it, will be able to gain access to vaccination facilities.

**All Saints** – Be with us, Lord Jesus, in a special way as we journey with you to Calvary and the empty tomb. May the Holy Spirit reveal to us new things about You and your Passion and Resurrection.

**The world** – We pray for the global Covax vaccination programme that it will be an instrument for equitable distribution and administering of the COVID-19 vaccine.

### **Charity of the week: St Christopher's Hospice – South London**

The hospice offers world class palliative and end of life care to everyone who needs it, whenever or wherever that may be. They are also here for the family and close friends. Their founder, Dame Cicely Saunders, said: "You matter because you are you and you matter until the last moment of your life." the staff listen to people's story, adapt treatments and advice to suit particular needs, and stop until the best possible support is given. The hospice itself is a friendly, vibrant place, giving excellent medical and nursing care. The clinical teams are highly professional and devoted to doing their best for those for whom they care.

More than just a hospice, they are proud of their community programmes that offer practical, emotional and spiritual support to over 7,500 people in the local area, most of whom can be helped to continue living at home. Visit the website at [www.stchristophers.org.uk](http://www.stchristophers.org.uk) for more information and the opportunity to donate and support their work. Please pray for the work of this amazing place.

**Those who are sick or in need:** Ruth Kirk Wilson, Robert Shafto, and any others known to us; for those who support and care for them.

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

### **Those who have died recently and all who mourn.**

**Those whose year's mind falls this week:** Marion Cavanagh, Sonny Sharma, Sheila Elizabeth Ray

### **Commemorated this week: Feb 27<sup>th</sup> George Herbert (3 April 1593 – 1 March 1633)**

Welsh-born poet, orator, and priest of the Church of England. His poetry is associated with the writings of the metaphysical poets, and he is recognised as "one of the foremost British devotional lyricists." He was born into an artistic and wealthy family and largely raised in England. He received a good education that led to his admission to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1609. He went there with the intention of becoming a priest, but he became the University's Public Orator and attracted the attention of King James I. He served in the Parliament of England in 1624 and briefly in 1625.

After the death of King James, Herbert renewed his interest in ordination. He gave up his secular ambitions in his mid-thirties and took holy orders in the Church of England, spending

the rest of his life as the rector of the rural parish of Fugglestone St Peter, just outside Salisbury. He was noted for unfailing care for his parishioners, bringing the sacraments to them when they were ill and providing food and clothing for those in need. Henry Vaughan called him "a most glorious saint and seer". He was never a healthy man and died of consumption at age 39.

**Thought for the week:**

"Hope means to keep living amid desperation and to keep humming in the darkness. Hoping is knowing that there is love; it is trust in tomorrow; it is falling asleep and waking again when the sun rises. In the midst of a gale at sea, it is to discover land. In the eyes of another, it is to see that you are understood... As long as there is still hope there will also be prayer... And you will be held in God's hands." - Henri Nouwen

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