

## 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.

### All Saints

Alleluia, He is risen indeed. Alleluia. May we as a church experience the power, presence and love of the risen Christ as we journey through the coming weeks into ever greater freedom of worship and outreach.

### The world

There are so many countries in the world enduring civil war, hunger, disease and political strife of all kinds. We pray to the God of reconciliation that peace and stability will prevail.

### Charity of the week: Shelter

The pandemic has plunged thousands into uncertainty. With more people than ever living in fear of losing their home, it's crucial they keep services like the helpline, campaigns and up-to-date online advice running at full capacity. Shocking levels of unemployment and economic hardship caused by coronavirus (COVID-19) mean the number of people at risk of homelessness is at a record high. In the last three months, a new person has called the Shelter helpline every minute due to the uncertainty from this pandemic. This means the helpline is already under significant pressure. At this critical stage in the pandemic, donations are desperately needed to ensure everyone who needs Shelter's vital services can access them. Please support those struggling with bad housing and homelessness in the wake of coronavirus by donating today.

### Those who are sick or in need

Robert Shafto, Ruth Kirk Wilson, Pat Fisher, Peter Raistrick, Pat Raistick, Georgina Cooke 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, and Gina Vaughan

### Those who have died recently

Loving God, we pray especially for the repose of the soul of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. We give thanks to God for his long life; for his dedicated service to the nation over so many years in support of Her Majesty the Queen; for his devotion to his family; and for his numerous charitable works. We pray that he may rest in peace and rise in glory.

### Those whose year's mind falls this week

Grace Dolores Mary Wilson.

### Commemorated this week:

#### Ælfheah (c. 953; 19 April 1012)

More commonly known today as Alphege, was an Anglo-Saxon Bishop of Winchester, later Archbishop of Canterbury. He became an anchorite before being elected abbot of Bath Abbey. His reputation for piety and sanctity led to his promotion to the episcopate and, eventually, to his becoming archbishop. Ælfheah furthered the cult of Dunstan and also encouraged learning. He was captured by Viking raiders in 1011 during the siege of Canterbury and killed by them the following year after refusing to allow himself to be ransomed. Ælfheah was canonised as a saint in 1078. Thomas Becket, a later Archbishop of Canterbury, prayed to him just before his own murder in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170.

## Prayer Matters/2

### **Thought for the week**

“When we are crushed like grapes, we cannot think of the wine we will become. The sorrow overwhelms us, makes us throw ourselves on the ground, facedown, and sweat drops of blood. Then we need to be reminded that our cup of sorrow is also our cup of joy and that one day we will be able to taste the joy as fully as we now taste the sorrow.”

Henri Nouwen

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