

Prayer Matters

Our country

In the midst of all the uncertainty, unrest, strife, fear of the future and in justice in our society, we pray the church, as never before, will respond prayerfully, practically and compassionately to needs around it and within it.

The world

There are at least 60 million displaced persons globally. We pray for their safety and future, and that countries around the world will see this as a common problem needing global answers, and not seek solutions based on national boundaries.

Spafford Center

The Spafford Children's Center, founded in 1925 in the Old City of Jerusalem, continues to support disadvantaged children and their families in East Jerusalem, despite overwhelming challenges. We pray for the dedicated staff who bring hope and healing, and for the children attending the programmes, designed to build their self-confidence and transform lives.

www.spaffordcenter.org.uk

Charity of the Week

Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY)

Today, Carl is joining hundreds of others for CRY's annual London Bridges Walk, in memory of his daughter, Lisa. Through raising awareness, funds, support and internationally recognised research, CRY does amazing work to prevent the loss of 14 to 35-year-olds from Young Sudden Cardiac Death (YSCD). Do visit their website for more in-depth information.

www.c-r-y.org.uk

Commemorated on 24 June

Birth of John the Baptist

Christians have long interpreted the life of John the Baptist as a preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ, and the circumstances of his birth, as recorded in the New Testament, are miraculous. The sole biblical account of the birth of John the Baptist comes from the Gospel of Luke. John's parents, Zechariah or Zachary—a Jewish priest—and Elizabeth, were without children and both were beyond the age of child-bearing. During Zechariah's rotation to serve in the Temple in Jerusalem, he was chosen by lot to offer incense at the Golden Altar in the Holy Place. The Archangel Gabriel appeared to him and announced that he and his wife would give birth to a child, and that they should name him John, a name which was unfamiliar in Zechariah and Elizabeth's families.

However, because Zechariah did not believe the message of Gabriel, he was rendered speechless until the time of John's birth. At that time, his relatives wanted to name the child after his father, and Zechariah wrote, "His name is John", whereupon he recovered his ability to speak (Luke 1.5–25, 1.57–66). Following Zechariah's obedience to the command of God, he was given the gift of prophecy and foretold the future ministry of Jesus, this prophecy forming the text of the Benedictus canticle.

Those who are sick or in need

Mavis Adenekan, David Robin, Robert Shaft, Robert Scott (friend of Ruth), Rosemary Bull and any who are known to us.

Those with longer term needs

Ruth Kirk Wilson, Simon Berlyn, Rosemary Cave, Hyacinth Brown, Wisdom Kari Kari, Anthony Backs, Isabelle Backs, Do Jones, Chris Worden and Gina Vaughan, all who support and care for them.

Those who have lately died

We think of all young people who have died this and their families as they mourn.

Those whose year's mind falls at this time

Jon Edward Clark, Raoul Bruce Faulkner and Russell Geoffrey Duddell Vernon.

Thought for the week

"And I will ask the Father and He will give another advocate to help you and be with you forever—even the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans."

John 14.16-18

Next week's Prayer Matters

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