

Prayer Matters

Please keep in your prayers this week:

Elections

For all the candidates for the Mayor of London and London Assembly. Give them strength and courage to stand for all the people of London.

Peace

For all those countries suffering wars and conflicts. For the wounded and displaced. May they find a place of safety and be hopeful for the future.

Spring

We give thanks for the changing of the seasons. With new life in livestock, produce, plants and flowers. May we continue to learn to protect our world.

Our church

As we start to prepare for our annual parochial church meeting, elections of church wardens and committee members. We give thanks for those working hard to get the annual report ready.

Charity of the Week: L'Arche London

This year L'Arche UK is celebrating 50 years of joyful rebellion. Since 1974, L'Arche has been a place for people who want change; people with and without learning disabilities who won't accept a world that's unfair and unkind to people with learning disabilities; who won't accept social care that is under-funded, impersonal, and does things for people not with them; who won't accept ways of living that disconnect them from others and their true selves. L'Arche, creates a different world every day, by being themselves, together, in community. Their world is real, rowdy and relational. It's individuals living life to the full. It's people being there for each other in good times and bad. It's beautiful. It's a joyful rebellion worth celebrating.

Commemorated on 2 May:

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria

Athanasius was born in about the year 296 of Christian parents, and educated at the Catechetical school in Alexandria. He was present at the Council of Nicaea as a deacon, accompanying his bishop Alexander, whom he

succeeded as Patriarch in the year 328. Athanasius held firmly to the doctrines of the Church as defined by that Council, and became the leader of those opposed to the teachings of Arian, which denied the divinity of Christ. He was deposed from -- and restored to -- his See several times because of his uncompromising faith. In or out of exile, Athanasius continued his writings, ever the proponent of orthodoxy over heterodoxy and the essential need for the Church to teach the true doctrines of the faith rather than watered-down versions of it. He was a strong believer in asceticism as a means of restoring the divine image in humanity and thus a supporter of monasticism, which was in its nascent state at that time. He was a friend of Pachomius and wrote the Life of Antony of Egypt, which showed the cenobitic life as holding a balance between things earthly and heavenly. He died on this day in the year 373.

Those who are sick or in need

Tim Clarke, Mary Birch, Mavis Adenakan, Christopher Pick, Lauren, Davidson, Fiona Harman, Ruth Kirk Wilson, Harriet Greene, Gwynneth Pedlar and any known to us.

Those with longer term needs

Mary Allen, Jeremy Baker, Julian Greene, Simon Berlyn, Rosemary Cave, Judy Clarke, Wisdom Kari Kari, Anthony Backs, Isabelle Backs, Hannah Sharma, Norma Prior; all who support and care for them.

Those who have lately died

Sylvia Ryan, Hyacinth Brown (see Notices for funeral details) Elizabeth (Libby) Mayall (funeral 30 May) and any known to us. All those who mourn.

Those whose year's mind falls at this time

Peter Justice, Valerie Kyte and Phil Daniell.

Thought for the week

From you have I been absent in the spring,
When proud pied April, dressed in all his trim,
Hath put a spirit of youth in everything.
William Shakespeare, from Sonnet 98

If you would like prayer for yourself or another, please contact Judy Smith-Blow: jcsmithblow@gmail.com.