

St Paul's, Winchmore Hill

New arrangements for the Prayer List: November 2022

Intercessory prayer is an essential part of the life of the church. It is through intercessory prayer that we open our hearts to God's transforming grace, and acknowledge that the concerns of our hearts are shared by Him whose heart is full of love for his people.

The Prayers of Intercession at the Eucharist are important, because in those prayers the community of faith brings its needs and desires before God. It is proper, therefore, that we name before God as a community those for whom prayer is particularly needed. By using a person's name we help to focus the prayers of the community.

However, we must remember that not everyone wishes to be prayed for by name. This may be for a whole host of reasons, including privacy and their own religious convictions (or lack thereof). We must always respect people's wishes in this regard. This does not mean that we cannot continue to pray for them privately, nor that, by not being prayed for by name, that God does not care for them.

From November 2022 we will have three prayer lists:

1. Those who are seriously unwell, to be prayed for on Sunday at 8am and 10.30am, and Wednesday at 12.30pm.
2. Those with ongoing illness, to be prayed for on Wednesday at 12.30pm.
3. The recently departed, to be prayed for on Sunday at 8am and 10.30am, and Wednesday at 12.30pm.

Names should be submitted by contacting the Parish Office (open Monday-Thursday morning) at office@spwh.org or on 020 8886 4290, or, from Thursday lunchtime onwards by contacting the Vicar at vicar@spwh.org or on 020 8886 3545. Requests shouldn't be left until Sunday morning unless unavoidable, as it is often difficult to pass on details to those leading intercessions.

Those who are seriously unwell (to be prayed for on Sunday at 8am and 10.30am and Wednesday at 12.30pm)

Please confirm that you have the person's permission to add them to a list which will be prayed for in public and at a service which will be live-streamed on the church's YouTube channel, or, if the person is unable to give permission, that you have the permission of their next of kin or equivalent.

The person will be prayed for by name for one month. Please re-submit the person's name by contacting the Parish Office if the person should remain on this list for a further month, or moved to the prayer list for those with ongoing illness. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that the person can be removed from our prayer list.

If the person we are praying for dies within the month during which they are being prayed for, please let us know.

Those with ongoing illness (just Wednesday 12.30pm)

This list is for people with long-term illnesses, or who are infirm. It could include those who are in a nursing home or who are housebound.

Please confirm that you have the person's permission to add them to a list which will be prayed for in public, or, if the person is unable to give permission, that you have the permission of their next of kin or equivalent. If you don't have permission, then we can pray for the person using their first name only.

The person will be prayed for by name at the Wednesday Eucharist until you instruct us otherwise. Periodically the Parish Office may contact you to check that the person should remain on the prayer list. Please let us know if the person no longer needs to be prayed for by name.

The recently departed (Sunday 8am and 10.30am and Wednesday 12.30pm)

The person will be prayed for by name for either four consecutive Sundays OR until their funeral has taken place.