

**4 Feb 2024**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent



William Blake, **Ancient of Days** 1794, British Museum

When I was in my teens I had this as a poster on my wall. I cannot remember why it resonated with me then as I was not particularly religious and not as into art as I became later. [In fact, it is not meant to be of God but of another of Blake's mythical beings!] I remember how dog-eared it became, peppered with drawing pin marks, as I moved it around the room to make way for other posters of contemporary pop stars! But it remained a favourite. Even though not of God, I still see in it a powerful reminder of the awesome nature of God in the beginning, at the point of creation as well as in the way in which John describes the Logos [the Word] which was made flesh and lived among us. To show us the way. Blake would probably be quite annoyed with my interpretation!

[Love and blessings, Mother Cherry](#)

### Dates for the Diary

January:

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month: Rite of Healing @1245pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month: Souper Social with food and chat @1-2.30pm

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month: St Mark's Physical Community Noticeboard @ 1-2.30pm This month we hear from Southend Care Bank [tea and cake too!]

Ash Wednesday: 14<sup>th</sup> February – Here we will do Ashes to Go 0730-0815am; and there will be an Ash Wednesday service at St Alban's at 1015am

**We pray for the church around the world:** Especially those who are persecuted for their faith. We pray for compassion and kindness, inclusion and love for all. We pray for all who have not yet let Jesus into their lives.

**We pray for our world:** All the casualties of war and conflict; victims of natural or manmade disasters; those who are living in poverty or under oppressive regimes; for all who have no safe place to live in. For the earth and all the damage done to it by humankind. For more empathy and compassion.

**We pray for our local community:** [[4: Elmer Av, Elmer Approach] [5: Luker Rd, High St] [6: Queen's Rd, London Rd] [7: College Way, Park St] [8: Park Rd, Avenue Rd] [9: Park Lane, Parkgate][10: South Essex College, Uni of Essex]

**For those who are sick or in need:** Leah Sharibu David, Naomi, Eris, Lynda, Gail, John, Sonya, Richard, John Henning, David Stanley, Sammy, Pam, Jenny, Jean Wren. Nigel, Alla, Hannah, Emma, Huw, Anna, Kim, Matty Simpkins [Priest] Margaret Jones, Terry, Maff, Ken, Valerie and Ian, Leo, Cayton and Logan, John Wren, Noa, Meghan Schubert  
**Prayers for all sick in hospitals, hospices, care homes and at home. For those who are caring for them.**

**Recently departed: Murial Stevens**

All who have died with no-one to pray for them.

**In Memoriam: February**

Eileen Walker 18/2, Sandy Sandover 27/2, Ann Harvey 26/2

**NOTE: Words for final prayer for the departed and for Hail Mary is in Mass Book**

### Contact Details

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St Alban's Website: [Saint Alban the Martyr, Westcliff-on-Sea - A Church Near You](#)