

Golders Green Parish Church – Newsletter

09 November 2021

**Greetings to everyone** hoping you are all well and enjoying the beautiful autumn colours.



I took this photo on Hampstead Heath on an early evening walk with the dogs and my breath was taken away by the colours that made the trees look as if they were lit up. In Golders Green we are so lucky too as there are many roads with similar trees to be enjoyed as we go past. These are so precious we give thanks for them and do all we can to protect our environment.

This week we are continuing with news from the COP26 Conference sent by Jenny. While the leaders of the nations have gone back to their countries, they have left behind their teams of negotiators to thrash out and we hope, agree, the terms of the proposals that have been made between them. We hope and pray that what finally emerges is what the world needs to save all our countries and peoples from the devastation of Global Warming. Jenny has sent her reflections on what it is like to be in Glasgow at this time.

I have written a short piece on the “Books for Refugees” project with thanks to those friends who have contributed. This second batch of books for older children is on its way to schools and community groups who are supporting them.

There is a piece on “Worrying”, which many of us seem to be doing and talking about at the moment and, with all the dreadful things that are happening at home and abroad, it is not surprising. Then I came across a poem by Mary Oliver, one of my favourite poets, on that very subject which made me laugh in recognition of her words, especially the last two lines, and I thought I would share it with you.

Please see all the church notices and the rota at the end of the newsletter.

Love and good wishes – Sally



**Icon for All Saints Day which was on 1<sup>st</sup> November**

**This week's edition includes**

- ✚ **COP26 Update from Jenny;**
  - ✚ **Why Worry?**
  - ✚ **Poem – “Worrying” by Mary Oliver;**
  - ✚ **Book Project for Refugees;**
  - ✚ **Prayer Times in Church;**
  - ✚ **Prayers, hymns, and broadcasts;**
  - ✚ **Zoom Links;**
  - ✚ **Church Reading, Intercessions Rota List;**
- COP26 Update- from Jenny**



This is a welcomed reflection from Jenny, who is still in Glasgow:

*“Glasgow is definitely the place to be! Last week and for the rest of this week the UN climate summit, COP 26, has been meeting here and there’s a real buzz about the place. There are huge numbers of people around: thousands in the actual conference centre, both negotiators and representatives of affected communities, businesses, and others with an interest in the outcome. Outside the conference there are even more people, all here to show how much the climate crisis matters to them, and to demand urgent action by the politicians.*

*I’m there with a large team from Christian Aid. We have colleagues in what’s known as the Blue Zone, where the negotiations are happening, and they come from Kenya and Bangladesh as well as from the UK. They’ve been incredibly busy talking to negotiators and advisers from all regions of the world, challenging them to be ambitious and courageous in coming to the sort of agreements that are necessary if global heating is to be stopped before it’s too late.*

*The rest of us have been based in a church not far from the Blue Zone, using it as our base for meeting church leaders from around the world, holding discussions where they can share experiences of the climate crisis, and get to know each other so they can keep in touch and collaborate afterwards. We’ve heard inspiring stories from young people and from indigenous communities, whose voices are*

so important but who are mostly not getting a hearing in the Blue Zone. This COP was billed as the most inclusive ever, but sadly that's not how it looks from here. Anything we can do to get them heard is hugely important: if the negotiators don't hear what it's like to be on the receiving end of the climate crisis, they won't understand how desperately the situation is.

The march through Glasgow on Saturday was a fabulous experience, despite the fact that (rather predictably!) it rained most of the time! The BBC estimated that 100,000 people took part, and it's so encouraging that so many people were prepared to brave the weather to show how much the climate crisis matters to them. It wasn't just in Glasgow: there were marches in London, over 40 other cities around the UK, and in many other locations around the world. This was truly a Global Day of Action. Let's hope that the negotiators take note.

Please continue to pray for the negotiations, that a spirit of justice and generosity will prevail, and that God's kingdom will come a little closer as a result."

Jenny also sent us an amazing and broad selection of prayers on Green Christian's website: <https://greenchristian.org.uk/pray-for-cop26/>. She thought you might like to look them up and use one or two in your daily prayers. One she highlighted for the newsletter and the comment from Philippians fits in rather well with a piece I have written about "worrying" along with a poem by Mary Oliver.

### **Book Project for Refugees**



This is a sample of the books that have been purchased to be sent to schools and organizations who are supporting a number of refugees mainly from Afghanistan. These are for students from 8-14 years old who need a variety of stories that can be read to them, or they can read for themselves depending on their level of English and interest. The Early Years' books that went to a Westminster organization a couple of weeks ago were very well received and will also help the young children with their English and enjoyment of the stories and pictures.

The older aged books were recommended by a number of young people of friends in that age group who chose them thinking of the authors and story lines that they have liked and enjoyed and hope their refugee peers would like too. Let us hope they do give the enjoyment they deserve after their traumatic journey. Just to thank those who made contributions towards the books. They were very welcome.

### **Worship Songs of the week:**

Adonai Tsuru(LIVE) | Psalm 19 [Hebrew Worship Sessions]

<https://youtu.be/A046d8eUrPM>

Behold Him (Live from Glasgow Scotland) - Paul Baloche w/ 500-Voice Choi...

[https://youtu.be/NyW-u7CEe\\_A](https://youtu.be/NyW-u7CEe_A)

## A Prayer for COP (the United Nations Conference of the Parties)



Green Christian's Co-Chaplain, Andrew Norman, in Glasgow, is leading simple and contemplative-style prayers for 10 minutes at 8am every morning from 1 to 12 November, based on Why Faith Matters at COP26. This is one of them:

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6.”* Andrew said, *“It is hard to imagine the world leaders coming up with an agreement at COP26 that preserves the abundance of Creation. That is why we need to pray, and in the words of Walter Wink, ‘pray an alternative future into being.’”*

### Sustaining God

as in November, at great cost and with great urgency  
the leaders of our species  
and those with concern for their common home  
are gathered in Glasgow,  
we ask for your welcoming, affirming presence  
in the many layers of gathering  
which are part of that event.

Give to those who make decisions  
a freedom from the burdens of a past  
which have pushed us to this cliff-edge.

Give a dawning vision of your offer of healing  
greater than the blocked horizon of what it might cost

Argue and wrestle with the powers and principalities  
of expediency and despair

Open every human ear to the voices of the Earth, and of sisters, brothers, siblings  
who already suffer sharply

Save us from the despair of complacency  
and the toxic temptation  
when the visitors have departed  
to embrace ‘business as usual’  
for that ‘normal’ has gone

And our only future  
will be in wakefulness  
trust,

hope,  
yes, joy  
as we live out your love for the Earth we are part of  
through your Word made Flesh  
Jesus, our Friend.

Hosanna: God help us!  
AMEN

### Why Worry?



Recently I have been having quite a few discussions with friends about our capacity to worry about virtually everything; the kind of life our children and grandchildren will live; how safe or not it is for them to walk on the streets or travel by transport; whether the environment will be unspoilt by pollution; the increasing anger among people; the mismanagement by government; the widening gap between rich and poor, and, our own aches and pains that are preventing us doing the things we want to do and not wanting to rely on others to do things for us. What a list, it goes on and on. Then, by chance, I came across Mary Oliver's poem called "worrying" that stopped me in my tracks and made me laugh. She has a gift in her poetry of putting most things into perspective so I offer it to us. Mary was an American poet who won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. Her work is inspired by nature, rather than the human world, arising from her lifelong passion for solitary walks in the wild near her home. As one who loves solitary walks with my dogs, I know the healing property of walking (or sometimes hobbling) among trees and by water making you look at things differently. This poem, about our capacity to worry, is so apt to the conversations I have been having and the times we live in. Each of us could add our own worries, especially as we age, and certainly empathise with what she says about eyesight and rheumatism- oh certainly yes!!! But it ends with such hope, humour and joy and reminds us of Philippians 4, mentioned in the COP25 piece above, "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God*". As with Philippians we must add as Mary suggests, "*going out into the morning and singing.*" We just might feel heaps better!

### **"Worrying" by Mary Oliver**

"I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers  
flow in the right direction, will the earth turn  
as it was taught, and if not how shall  
I correct it?

Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven,  
can I do better?

Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows

can do it and I am, well,  
hopeless.

Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it,  
am I going to get rheumatism,  
lockjaw, dementia?

Finally I saw that worrying had come to nothing.  
And gave it up. And took my old body  
and went out into the morning,  
and sang.”



### **Prayers Times in Church**

- ❖ from Mondays to Thursdays, Kamran will be in church at 9.00am for a short time of prayer with anyone who would like to join him. This does not have to be compulsory; you are welcome to stay home and pray for the church and the parish each day for 15-20 minutes;
- ❖ he will also be in church each day for those who would like to visit and talk with him. Please consider making an appointment to ensure that he will be available to meet with you;
- ❖ Wednesday evening prayer time will now take place in church at 7.00pm (please note the change in time). The prayer meeting will take place both in person and via Zoom. Please see the link below.

### **Church Wardens' Personal Meeting Room**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0xDaDhY2paUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: J4FbKf

One tap mobile

+442034815240,,8585545365#,,,,\*400416# United Kingdom

+442039017895,,8585545365#,,,,\*400416# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6591 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6592 United Kingdom

+44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: 400416

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/8585545365>

## How We Are

News of Margaret from her brother John: *“Margaret moved to Hythe by private ambulance on Saturday and we have spent the last few days settling her in and making her room as comfortable as possible. Fortunately, where she is she is allowed unlimited visits from family as long as they take daily lateral flow tests. Thanks for all your concern and good wishes.”* It is good to know she is settling in and can receive family visits. If you wish to write to her, please contact me on: [churchwardens@gg-pc.co.uk](mailto:churchwardens@gg-pc.co.uk). I know we will all keep Margaret in our thoughts and prayers at this major transition in her life.

It was so good to see Ify in church for the first time for so long after returning from Nigeria. We hope now she is back with us, her church family, she will gain in strength, and we look forward to seeing her again.

We carry on praying for those who are unwell and who we miss seeing. May they all be given strength and healing.

## The Parish of Golders Green Parish Notices:

### **Sunday Service:** 10 am

After the service, Prayer ministry is available for anyone who wants to receive prayers

### **Weekday Events**

Wednesday 7 pm call to pray in church and by zoom

### **Future Events**

**Remembrance Sunday 14 November 2021:** Remembrance Sunday Commemoration in church and **at the Cenotaph at 10.45am**

### **The Donald Barnes 11th Memorial Lecture:** 20 November at 3.00pm

Address; St Peter's Church, Belsize Square, London NW3 4HB Saturday

Guest speaker, Richard Douglas Harries (former Bishop of Oxford) will speak on his latest book *Hearing God in Poetry*. **For further details please see Sally**

**UNCCC Meeting:** Please keep the UNCCC (United Nations Climate Change Conference) meeting in your prayers. **For further details please see Jenny**

### **For your prayers:**

Please continue to prayer for all those who are in our prayer list

**Rotas** – Next Sunday: Reader - **Sina**  
Intercession - **Rose**

**Contact details: The office at the Golders Green Church**

## Golders Green Church Rota

| Date                              | Reading  | Readers   | Intercession | Hospitality/Ste ward |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------|--------------|----------------------|
| 14/11/2021<br>Remembrance Service | 1 Corinthians<br>15:50-58                              | Sina      | Rose         | Sally                |
| 21/11/2021<br>Christ the King     | Revelation 1:4b - 8<br>John 18:33-37                   | Barnard B | Nehar        | Anne and Bernard B   |
| 28/11/2021<br>Advent 1            | <b>The Patriarchs</b><br><b>Genesis 12:1-3</b>         | Kia       | Jenny        | Nehar/Nwando         |
| 05/12/2021<br>Advent 2            | <b>Prophets</b><br>Micah 5:2-3<br>Mark 1-9             | Rose      | Sally        | Alexis/Naila         |
| 12/12/2021<br>Advent 3            | <b>Joseph and Mary</b><br>Luke 2:1-7<br>Isaiah 7:13-15 | Keith     | Annie B      | Shaniv/Silvia        |
| 19/12/2021<br>Advent 4            | <b>Shepherds</b><br>Luke 2:8-20<br>Isaiah 9:2-7        | Shaniv    | Naila K      | Nwando               |
| 24/12/2021<br>Mid-night Service   | Isaiah 52:7-10<br>Luke 2:1-12                          | Nwadi     | Nwando       | Sheila               |
| 25/12/2021<br>Christmas Day       | Ephesians 1:3 14<br>John 1:1-14                        | Tim       | Nwadi        | Sally                |
| 26/12/2021<br>Sunday Bank holiday | Colossians 3:12-17<br>Luke 2:41-52                     | Silvia R  | Tony         | Anne and Bernard B   |

**Daily Hope** - The Church of England Phone line church service - is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

**We at Golders Green Church** will continue to offer a number of ways we can and will keep in contact though emailing and phoning each other, the use of Facebook and the website, sending out updates by supporting those who need shopping, prescriptions fetched, letters posted and anything else you may need if you are isolated at home, whether you are in the over 70-year-old age group, or, have underlying health conditions.

The important thing is, PLEASE LET US KNOW by emailing [churchwardens@gg-pc.co.uk](mailto:churchwardens@gg-pc.co.uk)

### **Radio, Television and Online Worship**

You may wish to join in worship during this time through television and radio.

Check online, in the Radio Times and elsewhere for details:

Songs of Praise BBC 1, Sunday afternoon, variable times

Sunday Worship BBC Radio 4, Sunday, 8.10am Choral Evensong BBC

Radio 3, Wednesday Daily Service

BBC Radio 4 (Longwave only), weekdays, 9.45am

Big Sunday Service Premier Christian Radio, Sunday, 7am, 8am, 10am Easter Sunday

Eucharist A service is usually broadcast on the BBC on Easter morning

Free 24 hour telephone church service 0800 804 8044

Online resources Church of England Daily Prayer <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-dailyprayer>

<https://mailchi.mp/b9d86a4acdc7/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-1274047?e=377e26b1db>

St Paul's Cathedral have a number of resources available for us to use.

Church of England Online Resources during this time

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

Go On-line to "[ps://www.achurchnearyou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com)", put in Area or post code and find a local church that broadcasts Worship.

Prayers from Christian Aid <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/churches/coronavirus-prayers>

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/> Pray as you Go (a short service each day in the Jesuit Tradition)

LICC have some great resources on their website <https://www.licc.org.uk/>

Especially on Covid-19 <https://www.licc.org.uk/ourresources/prayer-journeys/presence-pressure-purpose/>