

07 December 2022



Dear Everyone

Our second Advent Candle was lit on Sunday. The first advent candle usually called the “Prophet’s Candle”, is purple and represents “Hope”. This second candle leads us on from thinking about “Hope” to thinking about “Peace” - Peace in the world and Peace for ourselves, so badly needed at this time. In doing this each week we are getting ready for the birth of Jesus and also his second coming. It is a time of preparation and space for our thoughts. In his book, **“Sleepers Awake”**, written especially for Advent, The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, former bishop of Salisbury, says, “Advent is a time to face the truth about ourselves. It is also a time to review the way we live. Jesus summarized the Law as ‘Love God and love your neighbour as yourself.’ Our neighbour is not just family, or people from the same tribe, or the people we are physically close to, but everyone – the poor, the sick, the prisoner, the outcast, everyone”. He asks the vital question, “How do we live sustainably together in our common home”. Bishop Nicholas gave a subtitle to the book, **“Getting Serious About Climate Change”**.

As Bishop of Salisbury, +Nicholas was the Church of England’s lead bishop on the Environment. He spoke on this subject in the House of Lords and at many international conferences. It is an area about which he feels strongly as he has seen first-hand the devastation climate change is bringing to many countries. He stresses how we are tasked with caring for our environment given to us by God. His book confronts all of us with the harsh realities of the climate crisis while, at the same time, weaving through the chapters Hope from scripture, examples of the prophets and saints and practical ideas for us to consider during the weeks of Advent. You are welcome to borrow it as I have an extra copy.

We welcome Jenny back from her stay in Canada with her mother and hope they had a good and interesting time. I hope we hear something of their adventures in a future newsletter. In the meantime, she has sent us a sermon preached by + Sarah Mullally when she was Bishop of Crediton explaining the reason behind a painting of a Dalit woman. Reading it I found it incredibly moving and so much in keeping with God’s love for and value of the outsider whoever they are.

Crib Service: Next Sunday we are looking forward to a very enjoyable time. Our young people, with Ifey and Modupe, have been working hard and creatively designing Christmas decorations and cards - what an artistic group they are – see below! They are also leading the Crib Service, which we know will be full of Joy, story and colour.



Rough sleepers phone number: For the past two week the phone number for Rough sleepers plus details of St Mungo's, **(0300 500 0914 <https://www.mungos.org>)** have been published in the newsletters to ring if you see someone who may need help. There is also helpful information re Energy, Water Bills and Free Broadband. Please keep them to hand and let others have them as you never know when they might be needed.

Our coffee mornings have started on Wednesdays from 10.30am. Please drop in and enjoy coffee, cake and a chat in the warm. It would be so good to see you.

Christmas activities: Please note all the activities listed below. Help is needed, especially with the preparations for **“Christmas Cheer”** at Golder's Green Station and with **singing Carols** outside our church with other guests from local churches.

Food Bank collections: Recently you kindly donated a large amount of goods which were delivered to All Saint's Child's Hill where they have a food bank. Thank you so much for bringing them in. It was decided that, as All Saints have the food bank up and running, it would be sensible if we collected goods for them on a permanent basis and help to keep their supply replenished. The demand for food and other goods has risen sharply - other food banks are reporting the same. All Saints would be the central hub for collection and dispersal of goods sent from us and other churches. So please, it would be appreciated if you could bring in resources whenever you can and leave them in church, or they can be fetched from your home. They will be taken to All Saints when we have a goodly supply.

16 days of activism against gender-based violence: We're approaching the end of the global “16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence” which runs every year from 25th November to 10th December and was established in 1991 by campaigners calling for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. It's now supported by the United Nations. The article below is written by one of Jenny's colleagues, Ojobo Ode Atuluku, International Programme Director at Christian Aid. It is appropriately placed beneath the story of the Dalit Madonna from the Bishop of London. It is truly appalling that we still have to have days like this. But it seems gender-based violence is endemic in so many countries, or, is it that women and girls are not putting up with it any longer and demanding it is taken seriously by everyone, especially authorities who should be acting on the abuse. We see the courage of the women in Iran who are fighting against the paternalistic rules that curtail their freedom, the women and girls in Afghanistan who are deprived of education and so many other areas that restrict their development. There are many other countries. Our own cannot escape condemnation either. I was depressed and not a little angered by my youngest granddaughter telling me that she and her friends do not go out much in the evenings at their university since the murder of Sarah Everard and others as they are nervous and have no confidence that they will be helped or taken seriously if they are molested. This is inhibiting their lives and enjoyment at a time when they should feel free to go out and be themselves

with their friends. No woman should be afraid to walk out anywhere in the evenings. The resolution is in the hands of those who attack or do not take this issue seriously. They are responsible and cannot be excused for their actions.

With Love and Good Wishes – Sally

This Week's Edition Includes:

- ✚ **Dalit Madonna - Jenny;**
- ✚ **16 days of activism against gender-based violence -Ojobo Ode Atuluku;**
- ✚ **Christmas Services;**
- ✚ **Coffee morning;**
- ✚ **Psalm 24 – Advent Reflection;**
- ✚ **Toddlers Club;**
- ✚ **How We Are;**
- ✚ **Prayers with Kamran;**
- ✚ **Church Bulletin;**
- ✚ **Church Rota;**
- ✚ **Prayer List;**
- ✚ **Links to Service**



2022 Christmas Services

The dates of the Christmas services are as follows:

- **Sunday 11th December - Crib Service at 10.00am**
- **Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December time - Spreading Christmas Cheer at Golder's Green Tube Station**
- **Sunday 18th December - Nine Lessons and Carols at 10.00am**
- **Christmas Eve 24th December- singing Carols outside the church at 4-5.00pm**
 - **Midnight Communion at 11.00pm**
 - **Christmas Day communion Service at 10.00am.**

**Enjoy a Cup of Coffee, Cake and
Warmth in Church**

Community Coffee Morning

Starting 23 November

All welcome



Come Join us for coffee, cakes and socialising

at Golders Green Parish Church

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Every Wednesday

Address - West Heath Drive, London NW11 7QG

Eucharist Service to follow straight after



Reflection on Psalm 24

To help us think about Advent and the importance of Climate Change.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.

They will receive blessing from the Lord,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.

Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

(Psalm 24)

**This Advent reflection was published in December 2015 by Sarah Mullally, now
Bishop of London, when she was Bishop of Crediton.**

Dalit Madonna



Today I preached at Exeter Cathedral and was reminded of how much I love nativity plays.

However, as someone with ginger hair I was never Mary as a child but always the angel – type caste! It can be easy for us to make assumptions about who God chooses use.

I don't know if you have come across the Methodist Art Collection. It is a collection of modern Christian art which was created over 40 years ago which rather than having a permanent gallery are given on loan.

One of the pieces is the Dalit Madonna painted by Jyoti Sahi in 2000. The artist has sought to illuminate the Christian faith through the cultural traditions of India. The figure of Mary and her son are seen in relation to symbol of the grinding stone. A grinding stone is often secured in the ground and can be found in every traditional Indian home. The grinding stone consists of a mother stone which is generally has a hollow centre into which fits a smaller seed or egg-shaped stone which is called the baby stone. This is free to move about and is used to grind various food stuffs which are placed in the hollow of the mother stone. The stone remains at the heart of the home.

In the picture the grinding stone and baby stone are used to create an image of the Madonna which the Christ child (the baby stone) at her centre almost in her womb.

Dalit is the current name for the caste previously called 'the untouchables'. Which means broken. Dalit women are oppressed because they are, poor, they are women, and they are Dalit and that means that they often find themselves open to exploitation including sexual.

Today in India even in Christian churches people refuse to drink out of cups used by Dalit. When the picture was painted in 2000 it met with a great deal of shock – how could Jyoti Sahi suggest that God used such a woman? But he did, although Mary was not an out caste, she was from the lower parts of society – a refugee and unmarried.

On this (last) Sunday of Advent we think about Mary as a forerunner, looking forward to the Incarnation – God with us. God does this not in a palace or through a prince but through the powerless. The word Dalit means broken. The grain and other items of food are broken in the grinding stone. That sense that God is found among the broken and in unexpected places and people.

At Christmas we are invited to be people of hope. We're invited to be people who look for God in the saddest parts of the world and see what is promised to us. We are invited to know that God is with us in our brokenness and that the best is yet to come.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sarah Mullally

Global 16 days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence - Ojobo Ode Atuluku

“UNiTE! Activism to end violence against women and girls.

I spent a spell of time in the very late 1990s providing legal support services to women who had experienced violence; and appearing in lower courts of records as a friend of the court just so the then 100% male prosecutors and more often than not, male magistrate knows the survivor is not on her own. The correct Latin phrase being appearing as ‘amicus curiae’. Appearing as a friend of the court meant that you are there as an impartial adviser of the court on a particular case. It also meant that the prosecutors and the magistrates felt watched and put on their better behaviour and generally treated the survivor with better respect.

At this time of the year, with the 16 days activism to end violence against women and children, I reflect on the state of violence against women and girls in all its ramifications all the world. It is still not a good time.

Today, across the world, we have come a long way from the silence, the 'blame the victim', but we are still mired in the now even more complicated expositions of violence against women and girls and the even more complex responses from society. However, there is some progress. It's now accepted globally and in all our country locations, that such abuse of rights of women and children is unacceptable and must change. Many countries have specialised services across many diverse sectors.

Activism has gained traction and we now have a global movement instigated by a small group of people from the Center for Women's Global Leadership, at the launch of a women's global leadership institute in the early '90s, to a globally endorsed United Nations annual campaign. The 16 days cut across several significant days, beginning on the 25th November and ending on the 10th December. These dates are as listed below:

November 25th – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

November 29th – International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

December 1st – World AIDS Day

December 2nd – International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

December 3rd – International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 9th – International Anti-Corruption Day

December 10th – Human Rights Day

The scourge of gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls is a global pandemic with 1 out of 3 women having to face this in their lifetime. In our struggles to eradicate poverty, eliminating GBV of women and girls sits centrally in ensuring the dignity of the woman and the correction of the power imbalance between the sexes and within our societies. The

recent role that COVID played in rolling back gains and how far reaching the implications are or would be, has yet to be properly quantified. Current estimation states that for a 3-month lockdown period, an additional 15 million cases of violence against women and girls would occur.

The impact of conflicts, humanitarian crises, and other life-threatening challenges including climate change also see issues of women and girls being relegated out of the conversation agenda and regarded as insignificant. However, this is just when they should be significant as attaining the rights and well-being of the most vulnerable women and girls in any society, regardless of the concerns of the times, guarantees that the welfare and rights of the wider society also gets uplifted.

Experiences of violence against women and girls breaks my heart even more where it is state designed and operated such as we see happening now in Iran. Where shall the hope of freedom then come from if the perpetrator is the State?

As we start the annual ritual of the 16 days activism this year with the theme *UNiTE! Activism to end violence against women and girls*, I long to see the coming year centre on ending GBV more visibly in our countries, in our programmes, our campaigns, our relationships.

On an individual level, I invite each of us to make a commitment that in your private life, you will work to end any form of violence you may be meting out to any person; and you will resist attempts to make you a victim of violence.”

How We Are

Thursday 1st December was the **funeral of Myfanwy's sister, Yvone**, at Frome in Somerset. As Myfanwy could not attend in person, she was able to watch it on zoom and think of her much-loved sister and her long and fruitful life. We hoped being able to do that helped.

Please pray for **David A, Gideon O** and **Rose O**. We hold them in our hearts that they may be filled with God's healing love.

Please continue to pray for **Alice** who is being cared for at home by **Alex**. We pray that she is surrounded by God's loving Care.

We pray as we always do for **Simon and his father Michael** and wish for strength for them and their family.

We pray for **Tony** and hope he is back with us soon.

We send all those who are sick our love. Please continue to pray for all who have been unwell that they may gain in strength and good health as well as those who are grieving because of loss of a loved one.

It would be so good if you could let us know either by **WhatsApp, the newsletter, phone or email** about anyone who is not well, bereaved or would appreciate our prayers. It is so important we remember and pray for them.

Prayers with Kamran

- ❖ 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 takes place in church at 7.00pm The prayer meeting will take place both in person and via Zoom. Please see the link below.

Topic: 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/u/aemYT2pIYY>

The Parish of Golders Green

Parish Notices: 04/11/2022

Sunday Service: 10 am - After the service, Prayer ministry is available for anyone who wishes to receive prayers.

Sunday School – please continuously keep our children and team in your prayer.

The Community Coffee Morning – Started on Wednesday 23 November from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Communion Service will follow straight after.

The Toddler Group – Next Tuesday will be the last Toddler group for this year. We will break for Christmas & return on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

Advent Season Services – You are welcome to share the Advent program with your friends and family.

Christmas Cheer – 13 & 14 December starting 7:30 – 9:30. Golders Green Churches & District together will be holding the Christmas Cheer at Station.

Prayers for the Church ministry and mission:

Please pray for the Senior Circle about to start soon. The Soup Kitchen which started in July. For the ongoing Church Maintenance issues. Pray for the Church Choir, Children Ministry, The Toddler Group, and the Mission of the Church.

For your prayers:

Please remember Myfanwy in your prayers as she is grieving the loss of her sister. Please continue to pray for Tony, Mike H, Eunice and Naila for God's healing.

Rota for Sunday 11 December:

Reader: Elizabeth

Intercession: Sally

Hospitality: Sheila

Eucharist Minister: Nehar

AV Desk: Thomas

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,

Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

[Golders Green Rota December 2022 to January 2023](#)

| Date | Bible Passage | Readers | Intercessor | Refreshments | Eucharistic Minister (Chalice) | AV Desk | Service leader |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 11/12/22 Crib Service | James 5:7-10 | Elizabeth | Sally | Sheila | Nehar | Thomas | |
| | Matthew 11:2-11 | | | | | | |
| 18/12/22 Carol Service | Isaiah 7:10-14 | Tatyana | Nehar | tbc | Ify | Elizabeth | Alexis |
| | Matthew 1:18-24 | | | | | | |
| 24/12/22 | Isaiah 9:2-7 | Onyeka | Sally | Sally | Sally | Onyeka | |
| | Luke 2:1-14 (15-20) | | | | | | |
| 25/12/22 | Isaiah 52:7-10 | Ifeyinwe | Rose | Rose | Sheila | Tony | |
| | John 1:1-5, 9-14 | | | | | | |
| 01/01/23 | Galations 4:4-7 | Cynthia | Annie | Nehar | tbc | Thomas | |
| | Luke 2:16-21 | | | | | | |

The Toddler Group

Another fun, packed toddler group this week. We had ten children with parents/carers. We played with play doh, read with the dollies and sang songs at the end. The last session of the year will be on Tuesday 13 December. We will open again on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

TODDLER GROUP

@ GOLDERS GREEN CHURCH



Meet weekly on

Tuesdays 9.30-11.30am/Term Time Only

£3.00 Entrance Fee

Held in the church

More details contact the office

020 8455 1873

Golders Green Church

West Heath Drive NW11 7QG

Please note our last session will be on Tuesday 13 December. We will then close for Christmas and return on Tuesday 3 January 2023

[Links to Services](#)

If you're looking for online prayer and worship opportunities, here are some suggestions:

Daily worship:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online>: including

- Prayer for the day
- Services of daily prayer
- Time to pray app and podcast

<https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/whats-on/?category=204> livestreamed daily services and some one-off services on particular themes and issues.

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

The following links take you to prayers and reflections on particular themes:

Covid: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

Mental health: some short reflections to support good mental health:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/mental-health-resources/supporting-good-mental-health>

Ukraine: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-crisis-appeal>

Climate justice: www.climatesunday.org

Environmental issues: <https://arocha.org.uk/prayer-diary/>

The world's poorest communities and those affected by emergencies and conflict: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/faith-resources/prayer-library>

The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) offers a series of prayer journeys which you can sign up to here: <https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/prayer-journeys/>

Daily Bible readings:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/daily-bible-readings>

LICC also offer e-mailed '**Word for the Week**' each Monday. You can sign up here:

<https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/word-for-the-week/>