

23 November 2021



Greetings to everyone, I hope you are all enjoying what is left of this stunning autumn. I cannot remember such richness of the browns, golds, reds and oranges of the trees and bushes; it's like walking on a beautifully woven carpet of leaves in the streets (although we have to take care if it is wet).

How welcome is Tim's article on the positive changes that are taking place in Basing Hill Park in this small and well-liked park. A bit of a hidden gem for those who live near it. The proposal to have a café will be, I think, very welcome as most park café's I know are very well run, sell good food and usually have delicious cakes! Thank you Tim. Please keep us up to date on the progress being taken.

Jenny is now back and, I hope, recovering from the COP26 conversations. She has sent us a very full article on what she experienced with her analysis on the results. One benefit of attending this type of conference, demanding though it may be, is the contacts and friendships you make that are always so helpful at many levels.

Sheila has sent a request for all kinds of goods that are needed for the guests of the Night Sleepers Project, that is going well, and others who Homeless Action Barnet care for to help make their Christmas more enjoyable. How to collect them is in Sheila's article and if you are able to help or have a problem about delivering what you would like to donate, please, either ring the office: **020 8455 1873** or email: **Churchwardens@gg-pc.co.uk**

Nehar has given an update on community and parish matters. **Please** look at the very end of the newsletter to see the rota for those of you who have signed up for readings, intercessions, and refreshments.

I have included an article on St Hilda (or Hild) of Whitby (614–680) who is one of my favourite saints. Hild is a significant and powerful figure in the history of English Christianity who led one of the most important religious centres in the Anglo-Saxon world. Her Feast Day in the Cof E is 17th November.

Next Sunday is the beginning of Advent when we are preparing for coming of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus. We will have the Advent wreath with its four candles symbolizing, Hope - Gods people; Peace – the Old Testament prophets; Love – John the Baptist; Joy – Mary the mother of Jesus Christ. It is a time of reflection, anticipation, and Joy.



This is an appeal for our children and young people particularly

Please could you get your paints, coloured pencils and crayons out and create some of your drawing for our newsletters as a run up to Christmas. It would be so good if we could have your beautiful art to enjoy as we did last year. Everybody loved them. They made the newsletter bright and good to look at. I know you can do it and we would all be grateful. They can be on whatever you like. Please let me know that you will do this for us and send them when they are completed to: churchwardens@gg-pc.co.uk
Don't wait, as they will be published each week so the more the merrier.
I might just chase up one or two mums, dads, and grandparents as a reminder! Thank you.

Love and good wishes - Sally

This week's edition includes;

- ✚ **Recent activities at Basing Hill Park – Tim;**
- ✚ **COP 26: How did it go? – Jenny;**
- ✚ **St Hilda of Whitby – Sally;**
- ✚ **Community and Parish Matters – Nehar;**
- ✚ **Night Sleepers Goods Request for Christmas - Sheila;**
- ✚ **Book – “Hearing God in Poetry;”**
- ✚ **Prayer Times in Church;**
- ✚ **Prayers, Hymns, and Broadcasts;**
- ✚ **Zoom Links;**
- ✚ **Church Rota - Readings, Refreshments**

Recent activities at Basing Hill Park – Tim



(aerial photos by office@azariahgrossphotography.co.uk)

Anyone who has recently walked through or passed by Basing Hill Park – situated in the triangle formed by the Vale, Hendon Way and Wayside - may have noticed the temporary fencing around the main playing field area and, back in September, tractors at work ploughing, levelling, and re-seeding the field.



For the last three summer weekends, you may have seen groups of people in odd attire playing an unusual game – baseball. The players were probably members of the Herts Baseball Club, founded in 1996 and based at Grovehill Park Hemel Hempstead. Following a growth in membership from people living in Northwest London and further afield, the club decided to establish another baseball field in Northwest London. Basing Hill Park was the only viable playing field available as it was no longer used for football or other sports unlike most alternative locations. Unfortunately, the field was uneven – not helped by being used to train police horses – and players fielding in the outfield could often stumble or be embarrassed by a bad bounce.

Basing Hill Park happens to be the park where I grew up – my father still lives in Basing Hill – and I have many memories of playing in the children’s playground and the School Sports Days. I can still remember the wartime air-raid shelters – mysterious caves sunk into mounds of earth closed off by iron railings – these must have been removed in the late 1960s or early 1970s and the uneven surface might be part of that legacy too. My youngest son, Charlie started taking an interest in baseball this year and joined Herts Baseball Club as an under 15 players in May after an initial try-out session. Although he plays mostly at Hemel Hempstead, he has played or trained a few times at Basing Hill. Charlie has got on well in the short time that he has been playing and, although he has yet to hit a home run (where the batter clears the fence and gets to run round all four bases unimpeded), he did play in the National Baseball Championships in Hadlow Kent with the Herts Under 15 team. In the first game on Saturday 18 September Herts took an early 7 – 4 lead after the first innings, but eventually lost 8 – 13 and also narrowly lost their second game 7 - 10, so didn’t qualify for the final stages on the Sunday.

To make the playing field fit for its new purpose, the club set out to raise over £21,000 this year and with help from the Borough of Barnet and crowd funding reached the target in August. This work is Phase I of a wider plan to improve the facilities, including reopening the café in the park. For more information about the project, see spacehive.com/basing-hill-ballpark--phase-1 and for more information about the club, see hertsbaseball.com.

COP 26: How did it go? - Jenny writes



Now that we've had a few days to reflect on what happened in Glasgow, and what emerged, here are a few thoughts from me and Christian Aid colleagues. From my point of view, I was on a roller coaster of emotions, from deep frustration, anger, and disappointment through to a sense of hope, possibility, encouragement, and a renewed motivation. My role as part of our team of 30, was to meet and support church leaders from the UK and around the world, ensuring they had the information and contacts they needed in order to speak out on the climate emergency as effectively as possible, both in Glasgow and when they returned home, so that the maximum possible pressure was, and continues to be, put on the decision-makers who can stop global heating.

The article below is a slightly modified version of what appears on Christian Aid's website and gives an overview of how the two weeks of COP went, and what now needs to happen. My lasting impression was of being part of a huge, diverse, and growing worldwide movement of people of all faiths and none, determined to keep on speaking out and challenging the decision-makers until they do what they have to do. It's not an easy job, but all of us can do our bit and I'd love it if GGPC can be part of that. I'll keep you posted!

This is Christian Aid's summary of the fortnight: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/news/what-happened-cop26-and-what-next>

"As the COP26 summit closed, countries most impacted by the climate crisis were left with mixed feelings.

The Glasgow Climate Pact (the final deal agreed by delegates) came as a huge disappointment, leaving us with a lot to do make climate justice a reality.

But, amongst the disappointment, we did see some progress, and there is a glimmer of hope that whilst 'keeping 1.5C alive (i.e., keeping global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees) is on life support, it's certainly not dead (yet!).

The COP text also mentions fossil fuels for the first time, and -significantly for our partners in climate-vulnerable countries - the issue of compensating the hardest hit for losses and damages caused by the climate crisis has moved up the agenda.

What is Loss and Damage?

The climate crisis is affecting vulnerable communities around the world. People are already losing their homes and their livelihoods due to the climate crisis, for instance through rising sea levels, or years of persistent drought. Their losses, whether land, homes, or livelihoods, can never be recovered, and the damage is huge. We believe that those most responsible for the climate crisis need to pay for this.

Week one

We had high hopes as our delegation arrived in Glasgow for the ‘most inclusive COP ever’. However, the summit started with disappointment as many civil society organisations were not able to gain access, and concerns grew for how voices from the Global South would be heard.

We were also disappointed with the UK Prime Minister’s paltry contribution of an extra £1bn to climate finance, which was just a drop in the ocean compared with what is needed.

Meanwhile, Chancellor Rishi Sunak’s announcements about new measures for the UK’s financial sector fell far short of what is required to rapidly shift this sector out of fossil fuels.

As negotiations continued, we saw some ups and downs. On the positive side, a new anti-methane deal was struck, which could reduce warming by 0.3C by the 2040s and world leaders pledged to end deforestation by 2030.

More than 40 countries committed to move away from coal altogether and more than 20 countries committed to stop financing fossil fuel projects overseas.

These pledges don't go far enough but will help to signal to investors that fossil fuels are on the way out.



Week two

The week began with Loss and Damage Day. Civil society demanded action to put this permanently on the UN Climate agenda and to create a new global fund to pay for it. The Scottish Government became the first to commit to provide funds specifically for loss and damage. We hoped this would encourage commitments from other countries, but that was not to be.

To emphasize the economic impacts of loss and damage, we released [new research](#) that highlights how climate change could cause a 64% drop in the national wealth of the world’s most vulnerable countries.

Campaigning and activism gives hope

Throughout the 2 weeks, our staff - and partners from the global south who had managed to secure access to the official ‘blue zone’ of the negotiations - pressed hard for action to limit temperature rises to 1.5C, and to secure the money communities need to respond, adapt and be compensated for the impacts of the climate crisis.

Outside the blue zone, we joined faith movements from around the world to present their demands for climate justice to delegates and leaders.

More than 150,000 actions, including petition signatures and paper prayer boats made by thousands of supporters, were gathered together alongside statements from religious leaders and young people.

Then thousands of people joined the Global Day of Action on 6th November, with an estimated 150,000 people (including Jenny!) marching through the streets of Glasgow, and just as many taking part in over 100 actions across the UK. In so doing, they stood in solidarity with those on the frontlines of the climate crisis and demanded action for climate

justice. [Jenny adds, it was particularly inspiring that so many people joined the Glasgow march as it was tipping down with rain most of the time!!]

What was in the final deal?

Here's a quick summary of what was agreed in the Glasgow Climate Pact:

I Mitigation (cutting emissions): The agreement instructs countries to come back in 2022 with strengthened emissions reduction commitments. Collectively the commitments of countries put us on track for 2.4C of warming. More ambitious commitments must be made next year.

I Finance: The pact requires rich countries to "at least double" funds for adaptation to the climate crisis. But there was no progress in getting developed countries to fulfil their promise to provide \$100bn a year in climate finance overall.

• Loss and damage: the issue of compensating the hardest hit for losses and damages caused by the climate crisis has risen up the agenda like never before. Developing countries demanded a new loss and damage financing facility but the pact only provides for a 'dialogue' to discuss 'arrangements'.

Fossil fuels: The call to reduce the burning of coal is significant, even if the language was changed at the last minute from 'phase out' to 'phase down'.

What's next?

We must not lose hope. We must continue to hold governments to account for what wasn't done at COP26. Looking to next year's COP, which will be in Egypt, Joab Okanda, Christian Aid's Africa Senior Policy Advisor from Kenya says:

'All eyes now turn to COP27 in Africa, which needs to do much more to put the priorities of the global south above those of the rich world and corporate profits. Hopefully a COP led by an African nation can better prioritise the needs of those who live and experience the devastating impacts of the climate crisis every day.'

Here in the UK, there is much work to do to hold the UK Government to account on its pledges during COP26, all starting with our Christmas-themed action in late November. Watch this space.

As we continue to act and pray for climate justice we can remember some powerful words from Greta Thunberg, calling on us to **'remember that there's not a point where everything is lost. It's never too late to do as much as we can.'**

St Hild of Whitby



Hild (sometimes called Hilda) was a Saxon Princess who became a nun and founded the double monastery of men and women at Whitby at St Aidan's request. They followed the Celtic way and calendar which she preferred. When Oswald became King of Northumbria, he, and his wife, who came from the South, followed the Roman way. They had different rules and celebrated Easter at different times. With Hild's help he summoned a Synod, which he chaired, in her monastery at Whitby; hence the name, "Synod of Whitby." This was a meeting held by the Christian Church of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria in 663/664. Its aim was to decide whether to follow Celtic or Roman usages. The decision made was to be crucial and would affect the Church from then on to the present day. After listening to speeches on both sides the King decided that he and his people should follow the Roman way with its calendar and customs. Hild very much regretted this decision but in a spirit of reconciliation accepted it and instructed her monks and nuns to do the same. The decision led to the acceptance of Roman usage elsewhere in England and brought the English Church into close contact with the Continent. Hild is one of the few female leaders of the English Church of whom we have records. She upheld the decisions of the Church against her own convictions and worked hard to unify the Church in England. She is much admired, especially by women for her learning, intellect, care, love, and reconciling leadership. Her Abbey of Whitby, now a ruin, is still a place of pilgrimage by many.



Community and Parish Matters - Nehar

Night Shelter Work

We took over from Alyth Synagogue in providing food for 4 weeks for the Homeless . The Turkish restaurant is supplying the food at the same cost as last year - £9 a head. There is enough food (as we know from our own experience) for lunch the following day. We provide fruit and a cereal bar for breakfast. We had provided yoghurt on the last occasion but one of the guests is dairy intolerant.

Last Sunday of the Month

Next Sunday is the last Sunday of the month – so time again for our diverse service with a family meal afterwards. As agreed last time we will order food in. As people suggested on the last occasion, we will all make a contribution of £10 for the food. It will be great to see a good turn out as last time. It was great to see everyone spending time together- just like old times 😊

Hello and Farewell

It is good to see more people coming back to the church after such a long time away. We pray more will follow – and the children! Our friend, Margaret will be moving away from Edgware to live closer to her brother. I still remember Margaret and Hugh - erstwhile members of the choir - when I first came to the church in 2013. Hugh always asking for his cup of coffee – black! We will miss Margaret – perhaps she will be able to join us on zoom sometimes - once she has settled into her new accommodation.

With God's blessings.

Request for Christmas Goods for HAB - Sheila

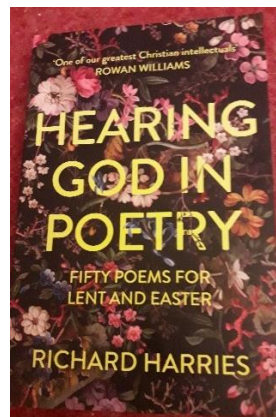
Please could you make donations to the Night Shelter Christmas Project and others who are homeless. Goods are listed below and are being received by HABs (Homeless Action Barnet). The staff will start preparing the present bags from next week so if anyone would like to bring donations to church on Sunday or by Wednesday, 1st December I'll take them to HAB. If anyone wants to take their donations themselves HAB's address is **36b Woodhouse Road, North Finchley, N12 0RG. This is staffed until 3.00 p.m. Monday to Friday.** There is a small car park next to the building. Maybe a family group or group of friends might like to buy something as a joint gift. I have also been looking in charity shops to see if there is some suitable clothing. I went to Matalan and the large Sainsbury's in West Hendon and noted that the new jeans, jackets, and joggers are cheaper new than second hand in the Cancer Research charity shop. Argos and Amazon would probably be the best bets for small tents.

There is a need for (Most of the clients are men):

- ❖ Shower gel, shampoo, soap, deodorants and, as extras for their Christmas bags, would appreciate some especially tasty biscuits and chocolates.
- ❖ Boxer shorts, thick coats/jackets, jeans, men's joggers, strong trainers (not lightweight)
- ❖ They also need small tents.

Donations would be so welcomed. Thank you.

Book Recommendation



Thank you so much to those of you who came to +Richard Harries's talk on "Prayer in Poetry". It was so good to see you. He is such an inspiring man with a great wealth of knowledge on literature and poetry. I do hope you enjoyed it. He said afterwards how much he enjoyed talking to such an appreciative audience.

Worship Songs of the week:

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross Lyric Video - Keith & Kristyn Getty

<https://youtu.be/tRfcehPOSLU>

OH LORD YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL + spontaneous worship: UK Acoustic Sessions

<https://youtu.be/z-Fs8ZLuizo>

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 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.

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>

Church Rota

Date	Reading	Readers	Intercession	Hospitality/S teward
28/11/2021 Advent 1	The Patriarchs Genesis 12:1-3	Kia	Jenny	Nehar/Nwando
05/12/2021 Advent 2	Prophets Micah 5:2-3 Mark 1-9	Rose	Sally	Alexis/Naila
12/12/2021 Advent 3	Joseph and Mary Luke 2:1-7 Isaiah 7:13-15	Keith	Anne	Shaniv/Silvia
19/12/2021 Advent 4	Shepherds Luke 2:8-20 Isaiah 9:2-7	Shaniv	Naila	Nwando
24/12/2021 Mid-night Service	Isaiah 52:7-10 Luke 2:1-12	Nwadi	Nwando	Sheila
25/12/2021 Christmas Day	Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:1-14	Tim	Nwadi	Sally
26/12/2021 Sunday Bank holiday	Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52	Silvia	Tony	Anne & Bernard

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

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 .

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/coronaviruscovid-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/>