

01 December 2021



Illustration for Advent Sunday by Tim Sanders

Greetings to everyone. I hope you are all keeping well and the cold is not too much. If anyone has any problems getting out and you need shopping please ring the office 020 8455 1873 or email churchwardens@gg-pc.co.uk.

It is no good pretending that last week has been a positive one from the point of national and international news. We have the threat of a new virus; the drowning of those seeking asylum, men, women, and children; young women and boys losing their lives through violence, and, distress in many countries through political upheaval, weather conditions and famine. I am sounding very much like a Job's comforter - sorry! When the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, was asked by someone about how she could pray in the light of the terrible situations that exist across the world, his reply was said to be just, "HELP!". Perhaps that is the best advice for us too.

But it is important to remember that we are at the beginning of Advent, the New Year in the Church, when we look forward in anticipation to the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah and are praying in hope that, in the end, "All will be well, and all manner of things shall be well". I love much of the book of Isaiah, his lamentations, his warnings and his wonderful words of acceptance and hope for us. Isaiah was not averse to telling it like it is in uncompromising language (just like the psalmists) and neither should we. However, there is one section, Ch 42 v 1-9 (and onwards) where he talks of us not being discouraged, that God will "faithfully bring forth Justice". Isaiah speaks a lot about Justice which we so badly need. It is a good section to read.

In this week's edition, Jenny's intercessions from last Sunday have been included as they cover all the immediate issues, we are aware of and say it all. Maybe we could use them daily in our own prayers, for each other, our families and those who are suffering in all situations.

The Bishop of Birmingham, Chair of the Churches' Refugee Network, sent round the statement below of the boat tragedy and a prayer for us to use that is below.

We also remember that last Thursday was the "International Day Against Violence Against Women" and marked the beginning of this year's "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence". In the light of what has been happening to young women in our streets and how unsafe so many feel, our prayers and vigilance are badly needed.

Thanks to those of you who have sent goods for the Christmas boxes “Homeless Action Barnet” are organising for our night sleeper guests and others who are homeless.

Last Sunday we had the end-of-the-month lunch after the service. It was delicious and many thanks to Nehar’s friend who cooked it for us. What a lovely time this is when we have time to eat and talk together. Kamran took some pictures which are below. He also included one of him at the Marzak farewell function where he met and made contacts with more of our community.

It is important, that in the midst of so much, we remember that we are all part of a loving and supportive church family who can call on each other, if and when we feel like it. So please, don’t hesitate to contact Kamran (07883 355 351) or any of us if you would like to talk. No one needs to feel on their own.

Love and good wishes – Sally

This week’s edition includes;

- ✚ **Statement on Boat Tragedy;**
- ✚ **Prayer for the Drowned- Churches Refugee Network;**
- ✚ **Sunday’s Intercession for the Issues We Face - Jenny;**
- ✚ **Prayer Times in Church;**
- ✚ **Parish Notices;**
- ✚ **Prayers, hymns, and broadcasts;**
- ✚ **Zoom Links;**
- ✚ **Church Rota:**



Statement from The Rt Revd John Perumbalath, Bishop of Bradwell and Chair of the Churches’ Refugee Network (CRN):

I, like many who heard yesterday’s news of the tragic loss of life in the English Channel, was both deeply saddened and appalled by this event. Our thoughts and prayers must be with those who have lost loved ones, many of whom may well be living in the self-same camps in Dunkirk and Calais from which the deceased came. As we know to our chagrin, this was not the first fatality of this kind; there have been a number of deaths this year as statistics reveal that over 25,000 people have sought to make the perilous channel crossing this year.

While we obviously focus on yesterday’s huge number of fatalities, we also need to remember that every life that was lost in that cruel, cold sea, was someone’s brother, sister, father, mother, son, daughter etc. As a society we often fall into the trap of describing these individuals as ‘migrants’ – a term that often strips people of their humanity. Like you and I,

they are human beings who are made in the image of God and loved by him. As such, we should always seek to show compassion and hospitality rather than coldness and hostility to those who are invariably fleeing situations and scenarios that are life threatening.

We also need to remember that asylum is a human right and as a country that prides itself on having an excellent record in supporting and upholding such rights, we should not be doing anything that hinders those who are seeking asylum. I would like to call upon our Government to ensure that there are 'corridors' or 'safe passages' that enable those seeking asylum to do so without further jeopardizing their lives.

Equally, I would want to see our government and that of France, establish a genuine Entente Cordiale with relation to this situation in order to thwart the exploitative people smugglers who are cruelly profiting from those who desire to start a new life in this country. We must also be mindful that the people smuggling chain often starts thousands of miles away in a person's home country, and until we, as the international community, address the 'push' and 'pull' factors that force people to flee their homes, this situation will be with us for a long time. Much like the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a global crisis that requires a global solution. I pray that out of yesterday's tragedy comes a real commitment from our government and those elsewhere to put aside politics and place human life centre-stage, so that we do not see a similar recurrence.

Worship Videos of the week:

This Is Jesus — Gas Street Music, Tim Hughes | Live at Team Night

<https://youtu.be/wXPtiR9mois>

Revelation Song - Mission House & Citizens, REVERE (Official Live Video)

<https://youtu.be/egRKYCjCvVQ>

A prayer following the tragic loss of life of refugees in The Channel

God of the destitute,
you know each one of us by name
and teach us that not one sparrow falls to the ground
without you noticing.
Hear then the cries of those caught up
in the tragedy in The Channel.
Give your comfort to the bereaved
and your healing to the traumatised;
and grant eternal rest to those who drowned.
As we are tempted to look away from that which disturbs us,
keep us uncomfortable until the day
when no-one is displaced through violence or poverty;
human beings do not exploit one another;
and we have built your kingdom here on earth.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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.

***** Reminder: Wednesday Evening Prayer Time at 7.00pm*****

Please see the zoom link below which is for the Wednesday evening prayer group, and also the link for Sunday.

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>



*"I Viaggiatori" by Bruno Catalano,
symbolising the void created by leaving
one's country, one's family, one's people for another life.*

Intercessions, 28 November 2021 - Jenny

Last Thursday was the International Day Against Violence Against Women, and marked the beginning of this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence. Violence against women and girls is never OK, and it's wonderful that so many churches around the world have got involved. This is a sensitive and for some of us painful subject, but if anything, that makes it even more important to bring it to God in our prayers this morning.

I'm therefore going to start with a prayer based on one from the Lutheran World Federation. At the end of each phrase, I'll say: 'We cry out to you': please join me in responding: **'Bring justice!'**

Hear us Jesus, our God and brother, as we cry to you for all women and girls, knowing they are precious in your eyes. God of love and mercy, help us to see in them and each other a precious gift, help them to know that they are a precious gift, whom you created in your image and love totally and unconditionally.

We cry out to you: bring justice!

For the young girls given or sold in marriage, and for unwilling brides with no way out: **We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women raped as a weapon of war and for the children they bear in grief and shame: **We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the victims of rape who are killed or take their own lives, and for the rape survivors who live with its scars:

We cry out to you: bring justice!

For the girls denied access to education, told they are stupid or worthless or expendable:

We cry out to you: bring justice!

For the girls and women sold or tricked into the sex trade, and for sex workers exposed to disease and violence, **We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women trapped in destructive relationships, manipulated, controlled, making excuses for their abusers: **We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women who hide their bruises and lie about their injuries for fear of the next attack: **We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women bullied in their workplaces, belittled, underpaid, threatened with losing their job: **We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women attacked because of their sexual identity, targeted for physical or spiritual assault: **We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women and girls denied religious freedom, forced to submit by custom or law: **We cry out to you: bring justice!**

We cry to you, Jesus, for our sisters, our daughters, our mothers, ourselves.

Make us a church of safety, healing, hope and belonging. Show us how we can bring justice.

One of the defining events of this week, which has shaken so many of us is the horrific drowning in the Channel of 27 of our fellow human beings. It raises a lot of issues that we need to pray about.

Grieving God, we grieve with you for the loss of those 27 women, men, and children, all of them created in your image and loved so much by you, We acknowledge the shock and heartbreak of their families, friends and wider communities, wherever they are. We acknowledge the many millions of other people around the world who are forced to leave their homes because of persecution, conflict, poverty or climate change, and the indifference, selfishness, fear, and injustice which so often greet them when they seek safety and new lives.

We pray for justice throughout your world

We pray against the hostile environment, which is so pervasive, including in this country

Grant all decision-makers the courage, imagination, integrity, and generosity to do the right rather than the easy thing, so that every displaced person can experience a future of dignity, safety, hope and belonging

Give us compassionate hearts with a desire to welcome and receive people in need,

Protect us from complacency: keep disturbing us till no-one is forced to leave everything behind and seek a new future elsewhere

Make us angry with your anger for justice,

So that together we can transform our world, and all people can be loved, valued, and respected.

In our grieving with you, challenge us and transform us.

We pray for those known to us who need to know your peace and healing presence. We name them in our hearts, confident that God knows them and loves them more than we can possibly imagine.

Loving God, we place in your presence everyone we pray for, trusting in your unimaginable love for them.

Bringing all of our prayers for compassion, generosity, and justice together, I'll close with words adapted from St Teresa of Avila: (a wonderful reminder and challenge)

Christ has no body now but ours.

No hands, no feet on earth but ours.

Ours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world.

Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Ours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.

Ours are the hands, ours are the feet,

Ours are the eyes, we are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but ours.

So be it (St Teresa of Avila)

**The Parish of Golders Green
Parish Notices: 05/12/2021**

Sunday Service: 10 am

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

Advent Season Services

Please note the times and dates of church services over the month of December

Weekday Events

Wednesday 7 pm call to pray in church and by zoom

For your prayers:

Margaret has now moved to her new home in Hythe near where her brother lives. Should you wish to contact her, please let Sally or Kamran know. You can also contact the office.

Please continue to prayer for Dorothy, Simon, Margaret and for those who are grieving for their loved ones, You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Pictures for Prayer Board

Please send your pictures to Kamran or Jennifer, If you would like to put your picture on the prayer board. You can send the picture through WhatsApp or by email.

Advent 2 Rota Sunday 05/12/2021.

Reader – Rose

Intercession - Sally

Hospitality: Alexis and Naila

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Rev Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873

Mobile: 07883355351

Email: kamran@gg-pc.co.uk

Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

Church Rota

Date	Reading	Readers	Intercession	Hospitality /Steward
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	Annie	
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	
25/12/2021 Christmas Day	Ephesians 1:3 14 John 1:1-14		Nwadi	
26/12/2021 Sunday Bank holiday	Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52		Tony	Naila

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 .

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=377e261db>
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/>