

## Golders Green Parish Church – Newsletter

07 December 2021



**Greetings to everyone.** Advent is a season of waiting and watching for God to come near, keeping awake, staying alert, and paying attention. We are doing this when, as on each Sunday we light an Advent candle knowing the time gets nearer and nearer. All over the world people are doing the same. *Mary Oliver*, the American poet, whose poem “Advent” is below, lived in the countryside. She loved the scenery, animal, and birds around her; nature was her church and spiritual refuge. she thought of it as medicine for the body and soul and saw God in everything. She expressed her thoughts of all she saw through sensitively expressed poetry which she felt was a beautiful way to sharpen our senses. “Poetry helps us to notice what we otherwise might miss” was one of her sayings. In this poem she is cleaning her house to make it as sparkling as it can be for the birth of the Messiah but worries that nothing is as clean as it should be, but then, she with the animals, waits to welcome him, “come in, come in”. We, in our turn, say, “come in, come in”.

This week we have an update from Nehar on what we have been doing and hoping to do. Please give a thought to one or two of the suggestions made in her article. Nehar is off to Australia for three weeks. We hope she has a good flight, enjoys her time with her family and especially keeps safe.

Jenny has sent us two updates on thoughts regarding COP26 and on the Nationality and Borders Bill which is being discussed in Parliament this week. Several of us read the original proposals and responded to them. They were thought to be, by those who have anything to do with refugees, very one-sided and unbalanced in the arguments put forward. We heard last week that other aspects have been added to the proposals without any consultation which will make it even worse for refugees and Asylum seekers. Please read Jenny’s article and consider the points she has made.

The Revd Robin has sent us an invitation to All Saints Christmas Tree Festival on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December and also to a concert being held on 7<sup>th</sup> January when the UK Gospel Singer of the year will be performing. I enjoyed the finals of the Gospel Singer of the Year and thought the competition was really tough with excellent competitors. Monique was a worthy winner.

Thank you, Maia, for your beautiful picture of moths and butterflies. So apt, as it reminds us at this time of climate change to appreciate their delicate beauty and value our insects and small creatures.

Thank you too to Tatyanna for your joyous and thoughtful Advent/Christmas poem. It will be much appreciated and enjoyed by everyone.

There are more to come from our young people, and we look forward to receiving them. Thank you in anticipation.

Love and good wishes - Sally

**This week's edition includes;**

- ✚ Parish and Community Matters – Nehar;
- ✚ Advent-by Mary Oliver;
- ✚ Follow up comment from COP26 – Jenny;
- ✚ Update on the Nationality and Borders Bill – Jenny;
- ✚ Invitation from Robin , Priest in Charge, All Saints' Child's Hill;
- ✚ Prayer Times in Church;
- ✚ Prayers, hymns, and broadcasts;
- ✚ Zoom Links;
- ✚ Parish Rota;

**Parish and Community Matters – 7 December 2021**

Dear Friends

For those of us who were there last Sunday it was a really great time of fellowship – we had wonderful food home cooked by my dear friend Tricia . It was just lovely to sit down together and catch up on each other's news. We missed those who could not stay – perhaps we should start putting the last Sunday of every month into our diaries and make it part of our service on that Sunday. I promise you it is great fun!!

In our last PCC meeting, we discussed the Safeguarding Policy document which we hope to put in place for GGPC in the New Year. As a community we are committed to safe environment for our children and all other vulnerable members of our church family. Our aim is to model our policy on the diocesan safeguarding policy and to be compliant with it. I am the appointed Safeguarding Officer and will work closely with Kamran and the diocesan Safeguarding Officer in this work. If you have any questions on this issue, please feel free to email me or grab me at the end of the service. Having said that I shall be away for a few weeks (God willing) but will be back at the end of the first week in January.

We were able to give food to the Homeless at the Hotel again this Tuesday. There were 10 guests last week – but I was told 3 might be moved to more permanent housing this week. The food from the Turkish restaurant was well received and we provided cereal and milk for breakfast. It is a privilege to be able to share in this work. I know that Sheila makes regular deliveries of food and clothing to the HAB offices in North Finchley. It may be useful to hear from Sheila if she has been made aware of any particular needs leading up to Christmas.

**During our PCC meeting we talked about having an area where food could be left for people to take as needed. If you have any thoughts on this, please let us know.**

With love in Jesus. Nehar



*Colourful Moths by Maia*  
**Advent-by Mary Oliver**

Dear Lord, I have swept, and I have washed but  
still nothing is as shining as it should be  
for you. Under the sink, for example, is an  
uproar of mice it is the season of their  
many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves  
and through the walls the squirrels  
have gnawed their ragged entrances but it is the season  
when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And  
the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard  
while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;  
what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling  
in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly  
up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will  
come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox,  
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know  
that really, I am speaking to you whenever I say,  
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

## **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 seasons Services**

Please take 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 12/12/2021.**

Reader – Keith

Intercession - Annie

Hospitality -

**Contact details:**

Parish Priest: Rev Kamran Bhatti

Email: kamran@gg-pc.co.uk

Website: [www.ggpco.uk](http://www.ggpco.uk)

### **Follow-up to the COP update - Jenny**

After the deeply disappointing outcome from COP 26 on which we've had Jenny's update, there's more need than ever to increase the pressure on our government to implement even the minimal commitments they made. One way in which you can help do this is by sending the Prime Minister a Christmas card with a message encouraging him to do what he promised. This is a joint initiative of Christian Aid with Tearfund, and you can find details, including suggested points to make on your card, and where to send it, here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christmas-card?>

## **Update on the Nationality and Borders Bill**

- Jenny

Many of you will be aware of this proposed law, which is going through Parliament at the moment. It is a very scary set of proposals, as among other things it aims to introduce new policies which will mean that asylum-seekers will be treated differently depending on how they reach the UK. This is particularly worrying in the light of the tragic deaths of 27 women, men, and children in the Channel only two weeks ago. One proposal is to criminalise anyone entering the UK without permission. This is not acceptable. Anyone who needs to seek safety in the UK should be able to do that irrespective of how they arrive in the country and should be treated with dignity and respect. The proposals in the Bill risk creating more injustices and increasing the already huge trauma and stress experienced by asylum-seekers and need to be challenged before it's too late. At the very least, safe routes to the UK must be created so that people seeking sanctuary don't have to rely on people-traffickers and make dangerous journeys, which as we repeatedly see can end in tragedy.

The next debate in the Commons is this week. After that it will go to the House of Lords for detailed consideration, probably not till the New Year, and after that it will go back to MPs for their final debate and vote. If you'd like to know more, and take action, please follow this link to the website of the Joint Public Issues Team of the Methodists, Baptists and United Reformed Church, where you'll find more information and suggestions for what you can do, including writing to your MP: <https://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/nationalityandbordersbill/>.

People who are fleeing persecution and conflict deserve far better treatment from our government than they currently receive, and if this Bill goes through without major changes they'll be in an even worse position. They need our help.

### **Worship Videos of the week:**

Hark the Herald (Sing Out Loud) | The Spirituals Choir (Official Music V..  
<https://youtu.be/XmtKIOB-0-I>

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (Live) |The Worship Initiative feat. Aaron...  
[https://youtu.be/1Zcyxr\\_qW6w](https://youtu.be/1Zcyxr_qW6w)

### **A Message and Invitation from The Reverend Robin , Priest in Charge, All Saints' Child's Hill**

You are all, at Golders Green Church, invited to our Christmas Tree Festival Grand Opening on the 11th of December from 3pm to 6pm. There will be a raffle, tombola, mulled wine, baked goods, live music, children's crafts, and lots and lots of Christmas trees decorated by the local community. We ask for £1 entry per adult.

We are holding a concert in early January. We are lucky enough to have the UK Gospel Singer of the year performing. Tickets are £10. - please do come if you can.  
Many thanks.

## **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=em85aDF5ZmJ5kVlb0xDaDhIY2paUT09>

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

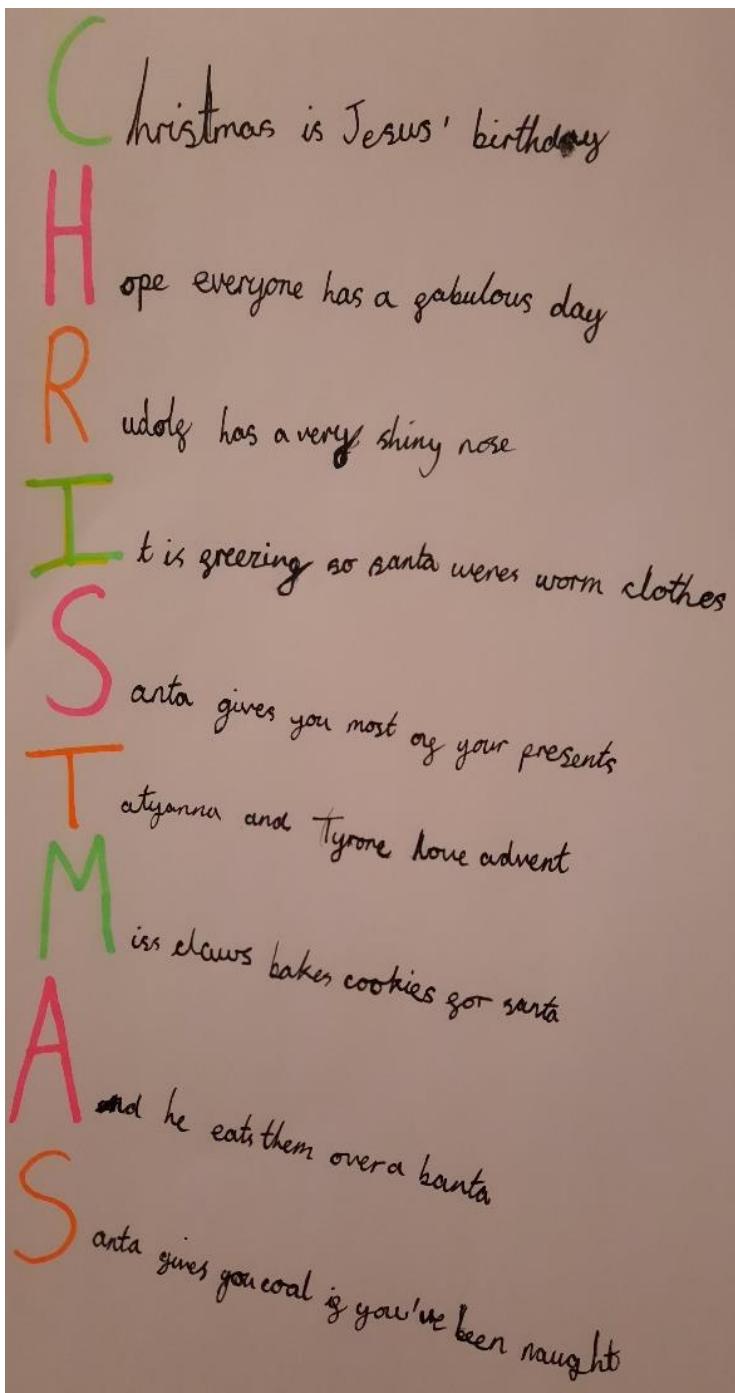
+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: 400416

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aemYT2p1YY>



Advent and Christmas by Tatyanna

## Church Rota

Date	Reading	Readers	Intercession	Hospitality/ Steward
12/12/2021 Advent 3	<b>Joseph and Mary</b> Luke 2:1-7 Isaiah 7:13-15	Keith	Anne	
19/12/2021 Advent 4	<b>Shepherds</b> 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			
25/12/2021 Christmas Day	Ephesians 1:3 14 John 1:1-14			
26/12/2021 Sunday Bank holiday	Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52	Anne and Bernard	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](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/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.liicc.org.uk/>

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