

14 December 2021



Greetings to everyone- We are nearly at Christmas. I hope everyone is well and getting prepared for all you may have to do on Christmas Day. Our letter this week has two lovely pictures from Tatyanna and Mahalia. Tatyanna has sent us all a Christmas card to bring us greetings; Mahalia has designed us a Gingerbread House on a paper bag with lots of detail and a little help from mum. Thank you both so much for brightening up our newsletter. It is so good to have a contribution from our young people and please don't hesitate to send us more of your art – we love it!

Thank you too, Sheila, for your article on Toilet Twinning which is so important for those in countries where there is very poor, if any, proper toilet arrangements.

At our Wednesday prayer meeting Tony gave a heartfelt commentary on Ephesians chapters 1 & 3. He talked about Paul's comment on the importance of family and how we all belong to each other. It was a moving comment and so relevant to today when we have so often been separated from our families and friends and are full of insecurity and uncertainty about what is going to happen next. He has written it up for us so it can be shared and reflected upon. Thank you, Tony.

We are all family, whether related or not, through friendship, affection, interests, shared faiths, cultures, and care for each other. This has been shown in so many ways throughout the lockdowns and for the concerns and grief people have suffered in so many different ways. It is hard to come to terms and deal with it all isn't it, but we do have each other and that upholds us.

This week I went on a retreat, held at Ammerdown Retreat Centre in Somerset. The focus of the retreat was on Advent including, among other things, the different meanings of waiting. It was taken by John B of the Iona Community, who you may hear on Thought for the Day. He is a well-known, wise, and accomplished retreat leader. I really wished you had all been

there too. It is so difficult to distil the key points that we learnt and discussed that meant so much at the time and then fly away because our brains just can't hold them all (well mine can't anyway!) I will try and recall some of the important aspects that spoke to me and share them when I have had time to process them. During the course of the sessions the whole question of what we feel about waiting arose and the different sorts of waiting there are. One aspect that came up was the pain and uncertainty of waiting and the unknown that causes us so much anxiety and often grief. We know that among us there has been a great deal of grief, anxiety, and loss and, let us be honest, it is often very hard to know how best to console and support each other when that arises; perhaps the best way is just, "being with", silently upholding the person concerned who is part of our family. During one of our prayer sessions the poem on "The Blessings of Hope", was read to us, written by Jan Richardson, a poet, artist, and ordained minister, as a result of struggling to come to terms with a tragic loss. It moved me very much, so I have printed it below to see what you think about it. To me the important thing about it was that it is about "Hope", what she calls "wobbly hope" and how blessedly stubborn hope can be. Hope, whatever happens, is what we are offered through the Gospels and for ourselves to hold on to. Jan has written a book about "Grief and Hope" that I haven't yet read but will get a copy and review it as I have a feeling it will be sensitive and helpful as her poems are. So let us be hopeful as we look towards and beyond Christmas, that, "All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well" Love and good wishes – Sally

This week's edition includes;

- + We are Family – Tony;**
- + Toilet Twinning -Sheila;**
- + Blessing of Hope – Jan Richardson;**
- + Prayer Times in Church;**
- + Prayers, hymns, and broadcasts;**
- + Zoom Links;**
- + Church Bulletin;**
- + Church Rota;**



Greetings from Tatyanna

We are Family!!! - Tony

“¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love^[1] toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

“¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family[c] in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

“²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Above are two passages from a very interesting letter of Pauls,' his letter to the Ephesians, chapters 1 and 3. I was leading our weekly prayer meeting on Wednesday, 8th December and I shared a few thoughts based on this passage.

I was motivated by this quite simple consideration that we are a family: every group of Jesus followers forms a family, with Jesus as its head. Pauls was writing to a church, to the family of believers in Ephesus who had come to faith through John's baptism and then on the back of his work over 2 years or so, the fellowship grew (see Acts 19 vv1 to 10 and then Acts 20 vv 17 to 38). This fellowship was one that was close to him.

This family matters - as Paul says in Ephesians 2 that we gentiles have been grafted into Abraham's family and this leads into Ephesians 3: 14 and 15 where he says that he bows his knee before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. (I know this means every human family or person regardless of ethnicity.) In Ephesians 1, in the passage above, Paul talks about the Ephesians' faith in Jesus and love for all the saints.

Why I shared this is this for it was these two points that lead me to share this: we in Golders Green Parish church are a family. We are a family made up of people from most parts of the world. So as a family we should seek to love each other, care for each other, and pray these two most precious prayers for each other.

Paul has this knack of breaking out into prayer, into praise of the Father as he is writing some deep theological thoughts. So, in fact as you read his letters (and indeed those of the other writers in the NT) they will break out into praise of Jesus mid flow. As here Paul had been discussing how Jesus has blessed us in our lives with and through His live such that we are

now part of His family he then breaks out into this prayer at v 15. He then reverts to our spiritual blessings and mentions something most remarkable - He, God the Father, has raised us up with Christ Jesus to sit with Him in heaven (Eph 2: 4 - 6). Then he goes on to talk about how we are saved by grace to do such good works as He has prepared for us to do and then, watch this, he (Paul) says that we are one in Christ - one with the Jews now and each other. He Jesus is our peace; He has reconciled us to one another. He tells us in Ephesians 3, before the other passage above this - the mystery of the Gospel is that we Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus, the Messiah, through the gospel.

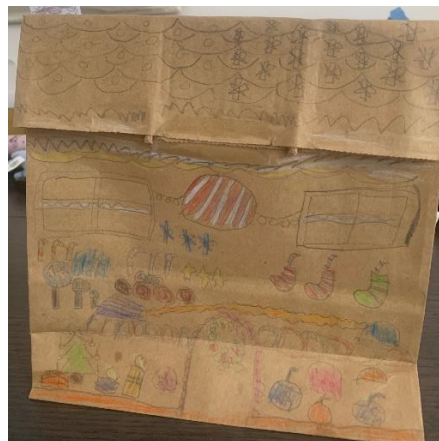
Is this not quite something. So, we should desire the good of each other no matter who we are. We are part of the same family and so we prayed for those hurting, who were / are not well and for Christmas, the sharing of the gospel. My desire is that as we are family, we should love each other as we would love our own and care for one another.

YouTube - Worship Videos of the week:

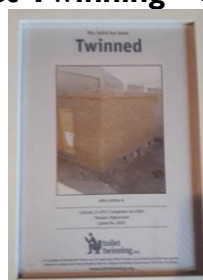
This Is My Father's World (Official Lyric Video) - Keith & Kristyn Getty
<https://youtu.be/NwqTvmPnKeE>

Chris Tomlin - Crown Him (Christmas) (Live) Matt Redman
<https://youtu.be/snJcqpBNyIU>

Christmas Gingerbread House: Paper bag Art designed by Mahalia with a little help from Mum



Toilet Twinning – Sheila



During a recent drive up the M1 we made a stop at the usual service station. Visiting the ladies' toilet, I noticed the posters for ActionAid had been changed to those for toilet twinning which is something we have done as a church by sponsoring toilets in Pakistan and Afghanistan. There are photographs of these in the two toilets. A donation of £60 per toilet is needed with a suggestion that maybe for those who are charity minded or are trying to downsize as far as presents are concerned (to give or receive) that this would be a life changing Christmas (or birthday or other celebration) gift. Maybe we could hold a fundraising event - there is more information and ideas on the website - toilettwinning.org.

When I was in South Africa 10 years ago on a Girlguiding orphanage support trip we visited and painted the house of a girl who was bringing up her own two children and her younger brother and sister in a Zulu 'township'. As well as being provided with a home and a small piece of land for growing vegetables the government had just had toilets built on each individual plot. Not everyone is so lucky. It is amazing how the basic need for a such an important item varies around the world and people's circumstances. My first experience of camping as a Girl guide was having to dig a trench and surround it with sacking, the toilet roll hanging on a piece of string and a spade for shoveling soil, the later use of an Elsan toilet was luxury!

Blessing of Hope
by Jan Richardson, Artist, Poet and Ordained Minister

So may we know
the hope that is not just
for some day
but for this day –
here, now,
in this moment
that opens to us.

Hope not made of wishes
but of substance

Hope made of sinew
muscle and bone,

hope that has breath
and a beating heart,

hope that will not
keep quiet
and be polite,

hope that knows
how to hollar
when it is called for,

hope that knows
how to sing
when there seems
little cause,

hope that raises us
from the dead –

not someday
but this day,
every day,
again and again and again

Taken from "The Cure for Sorrow A book of Blessing for Times of Grief"

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

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 in December

Christmas Card

Christmas cards are available for you to take to invite your families and friends to Christmas Services

Toddler Group

There are plans to start back the Marthas Toddler group and we need volunteers to assist with this. If you can help, please let Kamran know.

Weekday Events

Wednesday 7pm 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 Kamran's WhatsApp/ email.

Advent 4 Rota Sunday 19/12/2021.

Reader – Shaniv plus others

Intercession – Naila

Hospitality: Nwando

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Rev Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,

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/aemYT2p1YY>

Church Rota

Date	Reading	Readers	Intercession	Hospitality/ Steward
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			
25/12/2021 Christmas Day	Ephesians 1:3 14 John 1:1-14	Anne	Nwando	
26/12/2021 Sunday Bank holiday	Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52	Silvia Rodriguez	Tony	Anne and Bernard
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	
26/12/2021 Sunday Bank holiday	Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52	Silvia	Tony	Anne and 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 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/>