

21 December 2021



Crib designed by Peter Eugene Ball for the Millenium

Greetings to everyone. What a joyous Carol Service we had on Sunday, with favourite carols, readings and then lighting the candles signifying Hope, Peace, Faith and Joy.

Thanks so much to Kamran for organising such an uplifting service; to Tony for making it possible for those of us who couldn't get to it but could join in by Zoom; to the choir and Geoffrey and to the readers. What a great idea about writing our prayers, hopes and wishes onto the Christmas tree. And, of course, Happy Birthday Kamran - perhaps we can enjoy the birthday cake at another time!

Thank you again Maiaah, Tatyanna and Kirsty for your stunning drawings that have brought such pleasure to us. You could be our resident newsletter artists you know! Please keep sending them in when you have time.

In this week's edition we have a picture of Jenny, as we have never seen her before(!), with an article about requesting the Prime Minister and others to follow-up on the promises made at the COP26 conference. We can help with this too.

Thinking of the candles at our service and what each represented, it is good if we, during this anxious time concentrate firmly on those key areas of Hope, Peace, Faith and Joy, especially with the birth of Jesus Christ soon to be celebrated. I like to think that, "there is no fear in love but perfect love casts out fear." The words "do not be afraid" are apparently the most repeated words in the bible - 365 times I am told. I haven't counted them myself but they are at the very heart of the Christmas story along with Love. Maybe this is something we can hang onto as we go through yet another stage of the pandemic; looking out and caring for each other. Just remember we are all valuable, valued and, as Tony said last week, very much a family who love and support each other.

These words reminded me of Bell Hooks, the black feminist, writer and educationalist, who was read and studied by many of us. Bell has just died and much has been written about her in tribute to her life and works. She wrote a great deal about love and justice and said this about Fear and Love, which I thought was so apt for our situation. What do you think?

“When we drop fear, we can draw nearer to people, we can draw nearer to the earth, we can draw nearer to all the heavenly creatures that surround us. In a world anguished by rampant destruction fear prevails. When we love we no longer allow our hearts to be held captive by fear. Power gives us the illusion of having triumphed over fear, over our need for love. To return to love, to know perfect love, we surrender the will to power. We cannot know love if we remain unable to surrender our attachment to power. if any feelings of vulnerability strike terror in our hearts lovelessness torments”. In other words, release our Fears to Love and not Torment or Power. “Perfect love casts out fear”.

The psalms can always be relied upon to have something important to say relevant to any occasion and feelings we have. One that springs to mind at this present time is psalm 46. “GOD is our hope and strength: a very present help in trouble.” I have written a little about Malcolm Guite’s view of Psalm 46 below and his poetic version of it.









The next newsletter will be on January 4th. Wishing everyone a Joyous Christmas and for a New Year that is full of promise with hope for all of us.

Love and good wishes – Sally



From Kirsty

This week’s edition includes;

-  **Psalm 46 & Version by Malcolm Guite;**
-  **Message from Jenny;**
-  **Prayer Times in Church;**
-  **Prayers, hymns, and broadcasts;**
-  **Zoom Links;**
-  **Prayer List**
-  **Links to Services**
-  **Church Bulletin**



From Maia

Psalm 46 & Version by Malcolm Guite

Malcolm Guite, one of my favourite Christian poets, says about this psalm, “It is in the context of that reassuring strength and confidence that we can face our fears and deal with what the prayer book calls ‘all the changes and chances of this fleeting world’ and 2020/1 have been certainly years in which we have seen more than our fair share of those changes and chances”. He continues with the psalm:

*GOD is our hope and strength: a very present help in trouble;
Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved:
and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;
Though the waters thereof rage and swell:
and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.
The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God:
the holy place of the tabernacle of the most Highest.
God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed:
God shall help her, and that right early.
He maketh wars to cease in all the world:
he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder,
and burneth the chariots in the fire”.*

He then points out, as so often happens in many psalms that towards the end comes the wonderful prophecy of peace, and the vision of God as peacemaker.

“It was through Mary’s obedience”, Malcom says, “that the Prince of Peace was born into this world. It is a a poem for strength and encouragement written in the midst of this appalling year in which it seems, as I say in the poem, that ‘everything around us falls apart’. Everything except our loving God”.

May we echo that same hope and faith in our lives as the psalmist shows in his that we too “will not fear and see God in the midst of us”.

[XLVI Deus noster refugium](#)

Through her our saviour came, Love’s revelation,

For God was in the midst of her, and now
We too are called, in every generation

To find in him our hope and strength, though
Everything around us falls apart,
And all our towering schemes have been laid low

Now is the time to take his truth to heart
And to be glad within the holy place
That he himself has made in us. To start

Each day with him, abiding in his grace
As he abides with us. To know his peace
To turn towards his light and seek his face

And let his flowing spirit find release
And flow through us into his weary world
That wrongs may be redressed and wars may cease.

<https://malcolmguite.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/deus-noster-refugium.m4a>



From Tatyanna

Christmas Greetings from Nehar who is away in Australia. She sends warm wishes to everyone for now and the New Year. We all hope she is having an enjoyable time with her family and send our good wishes to her.

YouTube - Worship Videos of the week:

Behold - Official Music Video

<https://youtu.be/RAY3gVR2FcQ>

Hosanna(Live) | Old City Jerusalem [Hebrew Worship Sessions] SOLU

<https://youtu.be/83COydTuhRc>

Message from Jenny



This is how Jenny spent a morning last week! With colleagues from Christian Aid and a number of other organisations, she was calling on the Prime Minister to follow through on the climate commitments the UK made at the COP in Glasgow last month. With so much else going on for the government, it will be easy for them to lose momentum in relation to the steps they committed to take, but that would be catastrophic for the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world, and we must keep the pressure on.

It's an important step that commitments were made in the GAP, even though they were disappointing, but they need to be implemented. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. That's why a group of Christmas puddings was seen walking across Westminster Bridge last Wednesday, and then singing climate-themed carols in Parliament Square! You can see in the photo a 3-metre-high Christmas card for the Prime Minister, containing 50,000 names all calling for urgent action on the climate crisis. We handed that in at Downing Street.

There's so much that our government, and all governments, need to do to reduce global heating before it's too late. Do read this article on Christian Aid's website if you haven't already, to find out what now needs to happen <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/news/what-happened-cop26-and-what-next>. You can keep an eye on this link as well, so you're up to date with things you can do to maintain the pressure: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/climate-justice-every-moment-matters>.

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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0xDaDhIY2paUT09>

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>

**The Parish of Golders Green
Parish Notices: 19/12/2021**

Christmas Eve 24 December – Outdoor singing 4 pm (1 meter distance)
Midnight Communion Service 11 pm

Christmas Day Communion Service 10 am

New COVID guideline for the Sunday Services are on the notice board

Toddler Group

There are plans to start back the Martha's Toddler group and we need Volunteers to assist with this. If you can help, please let Kamran know. Please keep this in your prayers

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/ email.

Rota for Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve Mid-Night Service

Reader: Elizabeth to read Isaiah 52:7-10

Intercession: Rose

Christmas Day

Reader: Josh to read Ephesians 1:3-14

Intercession: Karinna B

26/12/2021 Sunday Bank holiday

Reader: Anne B to read Colossians 3:12-17

Intercession: TBC

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Rev Kamran B

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873

Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

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/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/>