

04 January 2022



*To us with thanks from Kirsty*

**Greetings to everyone** wishing you all a Hopeful, Healthy and Happy New Year. I write this in optimism looking towards better things happening in 2022. We have experienced such a mixed year of so many happenings and emotions haven't we; for some it has been a year of loss and sadness, for all of us I think one of anxiety wondering what is going to happen next with the pandemic, for many others it has been one of "How am I going to feed my family? Pay my rent" "What is going to happen with my job?" "How are my children/grandchildren managing?" or the sheer frustration at the hostile attitudes encouraged towards those who are asylum seekers and refugees, whose lives are hard enough as it is. We recognise them all and, in our different ways, have tried to support and help where we can in whatever way we can. We work to try and make things better, to think what it would be that Christ would have to say and do about all these things.

But, as we do this in hope, it is important for our insights and wellbeing to recognise that there have been good things too, that have lifted our spirits, and given cause to feel some joy, warmth and connections with each other and nature. We may have passed them by in our anxiety, but it helps so much to try and recall and reflect on them and ask ourselves, "what in my life can I recognise as having been a cause of joy, hope and pleasure this year?". They are so often not the big, grand things but maybe the pleasure gained by our connectedness with each other, walking in the parks around us, hearing the birds that sing so clearly, (there is a little Robin who sings his heart out every day from early morning to evening in the trees around my garden and I love hearing him), speaking with friends and neighbours on the phone or having coffee, knowing that we as a church are a family who care about and look-out for each other. What have been your joys and pleasures that have helped you through the year? What are they ways we can build on them in 2022?

In the midst of Christmas how sad it was to hear of the death of our much beloved Archbishop Tutu.



I say “our” because he was a man who belonged to everyone as the scale of world-wide tributes showed. He certainly was a man, who, having lived through such appalling times and experienced so many terrible things, kept his deep faith, and used it to spread humour, laughter, hope and, most of all, love, and forgiveness.

**Please note that** next week’s newsletter will be entirely dedicated to him as he served as a curate here for some time in the 70’s and visited us when he came back to England on more than one occasion, notably in 2009 When he preached at evensong and large numbers of people turned up to hear him, so many, we had an overflow in the hall. If you have any memories of this time and would like to let me have them so they can be included in our newsletter, with pictures you may have please, sent them in. Just a sentence or two of recollections would be fine. I would be grateful to have them by Friday. Send them to: [churchwardens@gg-pc.co.uk](mailto:churchwardens@gg-pc.co.uk)

How sorry we all were to hear that Kamran had succumbed to Covid. We wish him well and a speedy recovery and also to Naila that she stays free from it. The service on Sunday went really well as, in spite of being unwell, Kamran took it by zoom and it was great. Thanks so much to him, to Tony for making sure everything worked well and for the hymns that everyone enjoyed singing. Maybe zoom is one of the things we have that we can be grateful for during Covid?

Special good wishes and congratulations to Diana on the occasion of her 90th birthday last week. Flowers and a card are on their way to her with love from us for her friendship, which brings so much warmth, and her long lived faithfulness to Golders Green Church. You are very special Diana!

Love and good wishes – Sally



**This week's edition includes;**

- ✚ Climate Sunday: What's next after COP26?;
- ✚ Update from Eco Church;
- ✚ "Attending" a prayer for now;
- ✚ Prayer Times in Church;
- ✚ Two Book Recommendations;
- ✚ Prayers, Hymns, and Broadcasts;
- ✚ Zoom Links;



*An Ethiopian Travelling Icon*

**Climate Sunday: What's next after COP26? - Jenny**

Many of you will have been part of our Climate Sunday service in September, led so thoughtfully by Rev Petrica B. We celebrated the wonders of God's creation and prayed for the environment and the climate. We asked God to bring justice and wisdom to the negotiations at the UN Climate Summit in Glasgow, COP26, and to show each of us how we individually and as a church can help rescue the world from the climate emergency that we're already experiencing.

COP26 may be over, but it will continue to be vital for churches to build on the progress made during the year-long Climate Sunday campaign and on what emerged from the COP itself.

We're therefore being encouraged to join the Climate Sunday team to celebrate everything the campaign has achieved and to look towards the future at a webinar on **Thursday 20 January 2022, 7-8:30pm** when we'll hear about where we need to go next in the pursuit of climate justice and creation care.

They will be exploring **how churches can continue to incorporate the environment and climate in their teaching and worship, why it's helpful for churches to be part of a greening scheme such as Eco-Church (GGPC already have a bronze award!!), and what needs to happen to keep the 1.5 degrees target alive.**

There will be panelists from the Climate Sunday steering group as well as guests from the greening schemes to tell you about their campaigns and actions. The panel will be chaired by Andy Atkins from A Rocha UK. You can register to attend the webinar [here](#).

### **Eco Church Updates**

**In her December letter, from Eco Church, the Editor tells us of all the successes of the year. We at Golders Green are part of this too through A Rocha and receive monthly updates. We did get as far as a bronze award up until lockdown stopped everything. Let us hope that when the pandemic has subsided, we can pick up where we left off as we had a lot of plans for the future. These are the successes achieved across the country by many churches. It is good to know that we are among so many other churches in this venture up and down the country:**

**More than 4,500 churches have registered as Eco Churches** since the programme's launch in 2016. This took it 'over the line' of our original ten-year goal of reaching 10% of churches in England and Wales, more than four years early!

**1,500 Eco Church awards** have been surpassed with the biggest jump in Gold award applications - now totalling 23 churches holding a Gold award. A huge congratulations to [St Asaph Diocese](#) too for receiving a Bronze Eco Diocese award in December, the second Church in Wales diocese to do so.

As we look to 2022, we'd value hearing your thoughts on how we can best equip and support the Eco Church community going forward. We will be piloting an **online prayer forum** to bring Eco Churches together via Zoom, to share and pray with one another. We'd also like to know what you want to see in Eco Church Connect next year, so do **look out for a questionnaire in the next edition** where you can let us know your thoughts and ideas.

We know there is much work to do and that 2022 will be another critical year, but for now we hope and pray that you will be able to spend time with family and friends, celebrating the birth of Jesus. As the seasons themselves remind us - it is important to take time to slow down, and so we wish you a time of deep rest and restoration over the coming weeks.     The Eco Church Team



### **Attending A prayer by Stephen Shakespeare**

This is not the time  
To think that all is right with the world  
This is not the time  
To accept prejudice and poverty.

This is the time  
To face the truth of our past  
The shadows of the present  
The promise of what is not yet.

We pray for the mind of Christ:  
Attentive love,  
Deep compassion  
And a fierce longing that all may have fullness of life.

### **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 this week, will now take place **via zoom at 7.00pm** (The church will not be open). 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>

**YouTube - Worship Videos of the week:**

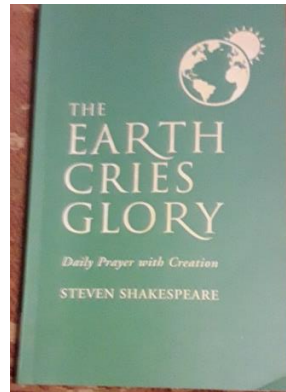
YOU ARE HOLY // Joshua Aaron, Shilo Ben Hod LIVE (Hebrew & English)

<https://youtu.be/Bz8Qz3C2110>

Immanuel | Worship from Israel

<https://youtu.be/Fdh1ESUJgVo>

## Recommended Books



**The Earth Cries Glory** is a book written by Stephen Shakespeare who is a writer of prayers and liturgies. His writing is clear, simple to use reflecting the beauty of the God-given nature of creation. It is in two parts. Part one; is “Praying with the Seasons” with prayers for morning, midday, evening, and night prayer throughout the seasons of the Christian year. Part two; is “Praying with the Elements” that resonate with the stages of life and seasons. It is written to help us connect with the unconditioned, incarnate grace of God that is everywhere present in creation.

### **A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues by Martin and Margot Hodson**

The Hodson’s suggested this was a good gift to give at Christmas, but now this time has passed perhaps we could consider it for a New Year’s read. It is a great follow up for churches after COP26.

**A Rocha UK’s CEO Andy Atkins has written the forward and there is a story from across the A Rocha family in every chapter.**

“A valuable resource to help understand how we can live together for the good of all creation on this one planet with its finite resources. Drawing together in accessible ways scientific evidence, biblical reflection, and practical ideas it will provoke you to better think, act and pray for the renewal of creation,” comments The Rt Revd Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich, and lead bishop on the environment for the Church of England.

There are also accompanying videos and questions for reflection and discussion, making it suitable for small Church groups as well as individuals.

Why not support online Christian bookshops and buy them from one of these:  
<https://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/gift-books/christian-poetry-books/hearts-time/>, or  
<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/heart-s-time-pb>, or  
<https://shop.northumbriacommunity.org/product/the-hearts-time/>



**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=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/>