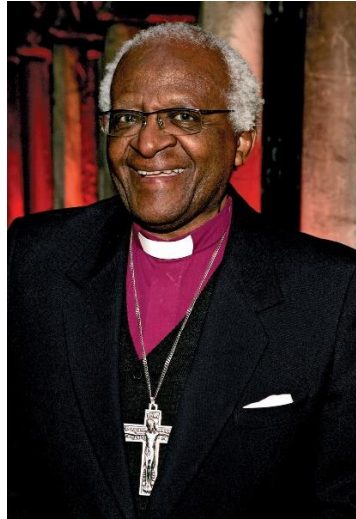


12 January 2022



Greetings to everyone. This week's edition is our tribute to Archbishop Tutu, a much loved man throughout the world for his deep and uncompromising faith demonstrated in all situations by his passion for Justice, Equality, Action and above all Love. For us at Golders Green he is very special as it was here he served as a curate in the 1960's was welcomed, cared for and loved by the congregation and those he met. He loved us too from the comments he made about his stay here. This was shown too by the fact he came back at times when he visited in London especially in 2008 when he took an evensong to which so many came there had to be an overflow in the hall.

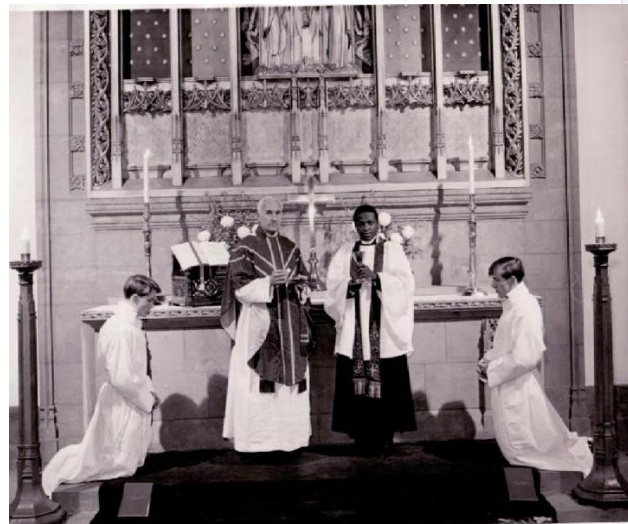
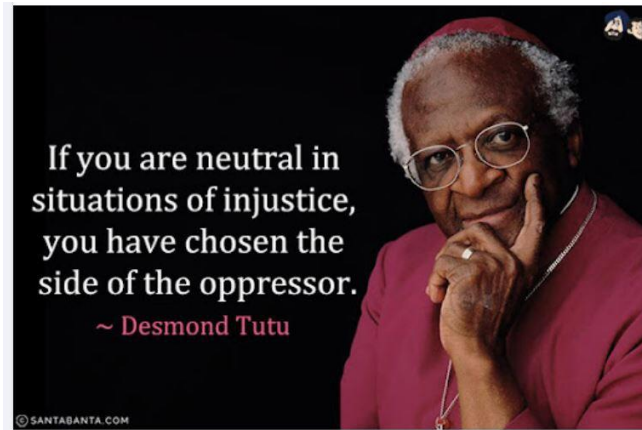
This edition contains memories and tributes of those who met him and remembered his visits. I would like to say thank you to everyone who contributed and to Jennifer and family for helping with the design. I am very grateful.

Rex, who invited and hosted him on that notable day in 2008 has sent us a detailed article about the occasion; one we will not forget. Thank you Rex and good wishes to you and Sarah. it is good to hear you are settled and happy.

As Rose said, "It is sad to say a final goodbye to such a great and hugely inspiring man of faith; a strong and fearless campaigner against apartheid and injustice! Our church is indeed privileged to have him as Curate at the very beginning of his Ministry! May his dear soul rest in perfect peace with the Lord"

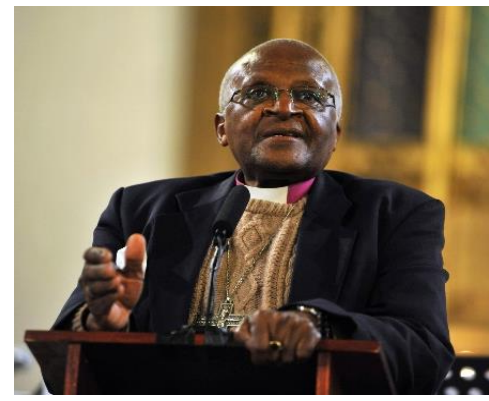
With Love and Good Wishes - Sally

This photo was sent in by Marlies



From Simon taken in 2008





"We may be surprised at the people we find in heaven. God has a soft spot for sinners. His standards are quite low."

Rex and the Archbishop – A Tribute

It was a wonderful occasion; a day I will never forget. the day Archbishop Desmond Tutu came for tea. I was aware even before I moved to Golders Green that The Archbishop had spent some time living in St Albans Close in the 1960s, without doubt our most famous clergyperson! So, I thought why not invite him back, I do not know what I thought would happen when I sent that rather hopeful invitation, but I am sure I cannot have imagined the day we had.



His reply told me, he would love to come and visit us, he would arrive in the afternoon and would be very happy to speak at the evening service. The only advertising, I remember was a poster outside the front of the church. What became clear as the day drew near is word had certainly spread and spread far and wide. The church alone was not going to be big enough to fit everyone in. So, Mark and James (our tech team) got in touch with some of their friends and begged and borrowed enough equipment to create an overflow into the church hall, which was very wise, the church was full to capacity before the service started (I seem to remember people queuing to get in an hour or so before), but I am getting ahead of myself.

My wife Sarah had discovered that The Archbishop liked Redbush tea with lemon and she had everything ready in the vicarage by the time he arrived. The first thing that struck me was how kind a man he was, he was also much smaller than I expected. It seems great courage can come in small guises. I remember immediately being put at my ease, he seemed to speak to me as you would a valued friend.

By the time I had introduced him to our PCC and a few family guests, the press had arrived, he was very happy to meet with the local newspaper reporters and answered with great patience their questions about advice he would give to the new President Obama (this was 2009). He knew only too well that good relationships with the press would be invaluable to me in the future, and he was quite right (the first of many lessons I learnt that day).

Tea consumed, the press happy, I saw another side of The Archbishop. He asked if we could sit in the church for a while and so we went into the quiet church to pray, I remember vividly how he sat quietly and still before his God, clearly prayer was at the centre of his life and all that he did.

I saw him pray again a little later, this time just for a few moments, as the church began to fill up we had returned to the vicarage, a message was passed on to us, two young Palestinian women had travelled to London when they heard the Archbishop was going to be with us, they asked could they speak to him, I dutifully passed on the message. He closed his eyes for a moment, then, answered, "yes, I will meet them." They came into the vicarage so excited, but what struck me as he listened to them and asked them questions, was, this kind and gentle a man of prayer, also clearly understood in great detail the very complex situation in the Palestinian territories. I now was in the company of Archbishop Desmond Tutu the international statesman. I had learnt so much and the service had not even begun. When it came to introduce him to the full church and by video link to the hall the anticipation was palpable, and he certainly did not disappoint. He was funny and profound, he challenged us to live better lives, of how our action now could affect future events. He, spoke of how the welcome he received in Golders Green had helped him in the fight against injustice. For the first time white people treated him with respect.

Before I knew it the evening was over, and over far too soon.

All of those memories came flooding back of when Archbishop Desmond Tutu came for tea when on the feast of St Stephen, I heard of his death.

My prayers are for his family of course, they will miss him terrible I am sure most of all, but my prayers are for us too, for the world will miss this man who prayed and spoke with the courage of a Biblical prophet, called our disordered world back to justice and truth, a man who dared to be kind and to love others into better lives. I am in no doubt that Sarah and I hosted a Christ centred holy man for tea that day and we were the richer for it. Rest in Peace Dear Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Anita :

For a number of years Rex came to Garden Suburb Junior School during Black History Month to talk to all 90 children in Year 3 about Desmond Tutu, about his time at Golders Green Parish Church as the curate and why he was such an influential figure as a champion for equal rights and against apartheid. This is now part of the curriculum.

He always used to tell the following story as an illustration...

Desmond Tutu arrived in Britain in 1962 with his wife and his three eldest children. They moved into the Curate's flat at St Albans Parish Church in Golders Green. The Tutu family would spend the next three years there, with Desmond working as a part time curate for the church while he was studying for his degree. While the family lived there, they had a baby girl called Mpho.

Desmond Tutu and his wife Leah didn't like British weather very much, but they fell in love with the country! They could not believe how much freedom people in Britain had – or how polite everyone was to them.

Once Desmond Tutu was standing in a bank when a white man pushed in front of him in the queue. The bank clerk told the man he would have to wait, as Desmond was in front of him. Desmond could not believe that as a black man he was respected as much as a white man. It would have been very different in South Africa. Whenever the family was walking about in London and saw a policeman they would cross the road to ask him the way - even if they were not lost - just to hear the policeman call them "Sir" and "Madam"! In South Africa they would have been abused; here they were treated with dignity and respect.

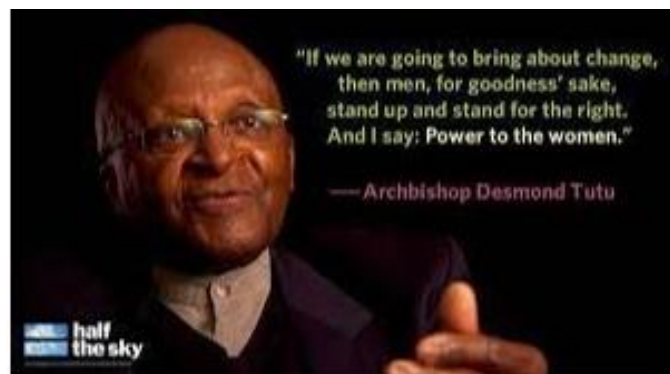
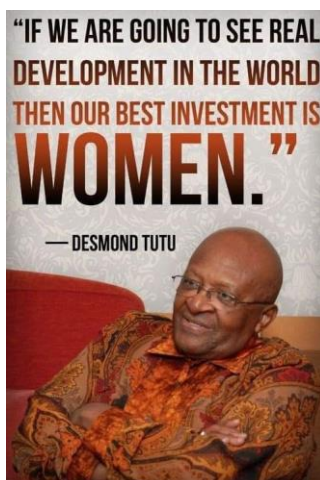
During the presentation to the children, Rex would bring in a number of artefacts for the children and he also dressed up some of the children in robes. He explained that these garments and artefacts would also have been used by Desmond Tutu when he was a curate at our church.

After their session about Desmond Tutu, the children would write letters in their English lesson, sharing their own views. A few times Desmond Tutu would respond with an email to Rex and this would be passed on and read out by the teachers to the class.

Archbishop Tutu along with many who suffered from discrimination, loss and the devastating effects of Apartheid knew about despair and the grief it brings but never gave up with Hope.

“Despair can come from deep grief, but it can also be a defense against the risks of bitter disappointment and shattering heartbreak. Resignation and cynicism are easier, more self-soothing postures that do not require the raw vulnerability and tragic risk of hope. To choose hope is to step firmly forward into the howling wind, baring one’s chest to the elements, knowing that, in time, the storm will pass.”

Tutu was a man who believed in equality for all. He believed and preached that developing the gifts and abilities of women would enhance the world.



He was full of Joy, Happiness and Love



Tutu greeting the former Archbishop of Central Africa, Donald Arden, who came to hear him preach at evensong. They had known each other for years.



His joy was infectious in spite of the many trials he had faced.
He always showed love and preached forgiveness.

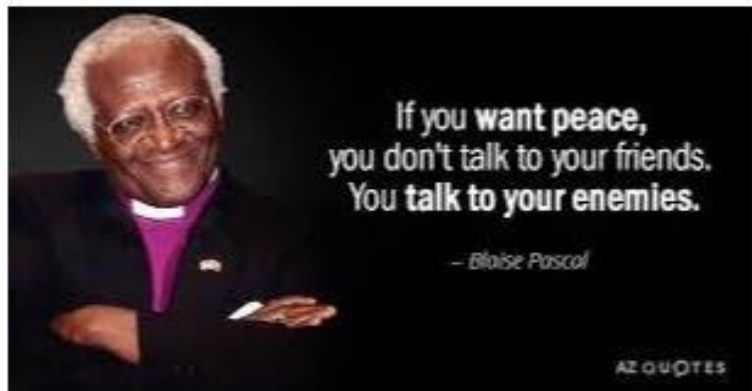


Eunice Adiele

The death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu is a very painful one indeed. He was such a good man, a very humble man with a very genuine personality. History will always remember him very favourably on the part he played to dismantle apartheid in South Africa and his subsequent role in The Peace And Reconciliation Commission of South Africa which he chaired. He lived a life of self sacrifice and a life of the good of humanity. Desmond Tutu was a gift to humanity. I wish I have here with me the nice picture I took with him when he visited our church in Golders Green about 21years ago. May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace Amen.

Nwando Edu

Archbishop Tutu was a true servant of God who witnessed his faith in his service to bring justice & peace to his nation, South Africa. He served with humility & will be remembered as a peace maker & a Priest with a great sense of humour. His legacy of "The Truth & Reconciliation Commission" has been a model for others. May his soul rest in peace. ☹️



Myfanwy

When Archbishop Tutu came to Golders Green I was walking past the side entrance to the church just as Rex was coming out with him. He introduced me and I had the honour to shake his hand. It was a cold frosty night and when I got home I met a Jewish neighbour in the front hall. He asked me where had I been because my eyes were sparkling I told him and he said had he known he would have come to church himself.



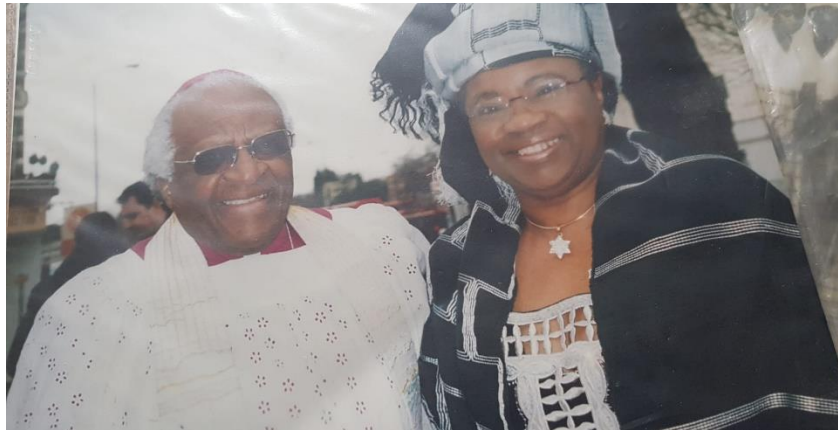
Simon Houghton

Without a doubt the highlight of my time as church warden was my involvement in organising the visit of Desmond Tutu to the church in 2008. I can't deny that it was immensely stressful, and the numbers probably broke some Health and Safety rules(!), but he was every bit as charismatic, electrifying and mesmerising that night as everyone expected. Having tea (Redbush in his case!) with him that afternoon was humbling and a memory I will treasure for the rest of my life.



Abi Rotifa

**A man of peace has gone to rest. May his dear soul continue in rest. What a good opportunity for little Archie Windsor to have met and shared afternoon tea with his parents with this "Man of Peace" and His daughter in South Africa. Pity I didn't have that opportunity but he will always be on my mind
Sleep well, till all the faithfully departed meet at Jesus feet - Amen**



Rose Omu

Archbishop Desmond Tutu on one of his visits to Golders Green Parish Church about 21yrs ago. Desmond Tutu served as Curate in this church about 60 years ago and lived in Flat 1- the flat above my present flat! He visited again during our church 's centenary celebration and drew a crowd of over 500 people that spilled into the church hall .He gave a very moving sermon. Our Golders Green Church will always remember him fondly. We cherish his association with the church as well as his exemplary life in the service of God and humanity. May his soul rest peacefully with the Lord whom he served so faithfully.



Sally Barnes: Having tea with Archbishop Tutu and a chance to talk with him was one of the best invitations I ever had. It was a real privilege. My late husband, Donald, vicar of St Peter's, Cricklewood during that time, met Tutu on several occasions when he was curate at St Albans, as it was known as then. He often talked about him with a great deal of admiration hearing what he had been through. We both followed his challenges and work against Apartheid over the years, little knowing our youngest son would eventually meet and marry his wife whose own family had suffered under the regime and had to leave the country.

Rose's son's Brother-in-Law said - I just want to say a massive thank you for inviting/enabling us to listen to the late great Archbishop Desmond Tutu, when he came to give a talk at the church in 2009. I remember him being a great orator with an important message. He spoke about what he learnt in the past and how we could all use those learning for the future. It was a beautiful experience that I will always remember.

**The Parish of Golders Green
Parish Notices: 09/01/2022**

Sunday Service: 10 am - After the service, Prayer ministry is available for anyone who wishes to receive prayers.

Weekday Events - Wednesday 7 pm prayer group in church and by zoom. All welcome.

New COVID guidelines for the Sunday Services are on the notice board.

Future Events :

Saturday 22 Jan 6pm – A Service of the Song will be held for Mrs Florence Onyekachukwu Onochie – All are welcome to attend the service.

Sunday 23 Jan 10 am – In this service, we will pray together as a church for our church's vision day, which is scheduled for the end of January.

Saturday 29 Jan 2022 - PCC vision day. Can I request you to continue to pray for Church vision day.

Toddler Group

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

For your prayers:

Please continue to prayer for Dorothy, Simon, Margaret, Rev Kamran & Naila and for those who are grieving for their loved ones,

Pictures for the 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.

90th Birthday

Diana sends many thanks to everyone for her card and flowers on the occasion of her 90th Birthday

Rota for Sunday 16 Jan 2022:

Reader: Shaniv

Intercession: Nwando

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Rev Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,

Mobile: 07883355351

Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

Wednesday evening prayer time will now take place only via zoom this week at 7.00pm (please note the change in time). Please see the link below :

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>

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=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.licc.org.uk/>

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