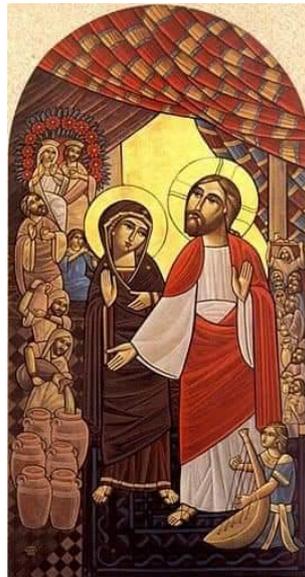


18 January 2022



Icon - Water into wine

Greetings to everyone. We can all be hopeful now that there are signs of Spring and new beginnings around. Walking on Hampstead Heath last week I saw buds beginning to appear on some trees and felt so uplifted. The birds were singing their hearts out and the little Robin in my garden just doesn't stop from early morning to the evening. I remember last year you sent in some beautiful photos of blossom in trees, bushes and spring flowers in their full beauty near your homes. While it is a bit early for this yet please keep your eyes open and when you see something you want to share send it in so we can all enjoy it. Nature and its creative beauty keeps us going no matter whatever else is happening in the world. And there is a lot happening that is far from good in this country and elsewhere, which makes us angry, distressed, despairing and disappointed and often totally impotent to know what to do about it. We have to be honest about all these things, how we feel and face them. However, while we cannot completely prevent so many things, we can do what we can to try and alleviate them and, as Archbishop Tutu said, "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." So let us do just that, in our different ways, and "overwhelm the world" to make a difference.

For us at Golders Green, our new beginning is our future Action Plan that Kamran spoke about on Sunday. He asked us to pray and think about what it is we want for our church? What we want it to be? What kind of people do we want to become? How will people know we are followers of Jesus who live by his example and role model? How do we want us, as a congregation, to look and feel to those who do not come through our doors so they want to come and feel welcome and accepted? So many things to ponder and think about.

Below there is a form to help you think about these things and give your ideas. If you did not receive one through our WhatsApp or when they were handed out in church, please use this one at the end of the newsletter and sent it in to the office as quickly as you can as Kamran is collating all our responses for is to look at next Sunday, 23rd January, and for the PCC away-day on Saturday 29th January. It is so important you as a member of the congregation give your input though your ideas and thoughts. Every idea and thought is welcome.

One of the differences we are trying to make is through the Community project to welcome a family of refugees. There is an article below giving you the background to what is about and what is required from all of us who are involved to make it happen. Please give a thought to what you might like to offer to help and if you want to discuss it get in touch with Kamran or myself.

Please can you all remember that on Saturday 22nd January at 6pm , a service of the song will be held for Mrs Florence O – All are welcome to attend the service.

Love and Good Wishes - Sally

This week's edition includes

- ✚ **Supporting a Refugee Family: Background and Update;**
- ✚ **WATER - A Poem by Stephen Shakespeare;**
- ✚ **Nationality and Borders Bill: Action by Bishops in the House of Lords;**
- ✚ **Epiphany Icons and Painting from Different Parts of the World;**
- ✚ **Vision Action Plan Questionnaire;**
- ✚ **Church Notices and Bulletins;**

Supporting a Refugee Family: Background and Update – Sally



Just to remind everyone, our church was invited to join the, “Housing a Refugee Family” Project by Fr Tony C from St Edwards over two years ago. He wrote to churches and community groups in the locality asking us if we would like to join in.

This is a well-established Nationwide initiative being run by many boroughs across the country. Hampstead Parish church for example have now successfully housed two Syrian families and we learnt on their experience for advice and help when we started.

Several meetings took place to learn about what was involved and what might be required. On one Sunday meeting, held at St E's, a number of our parishioners came along with others from the Quakers, local synagogue and St Edwards to see what would be asked of us. A whole host of specific areas were required and we were asked to think about which ones we could take on according to our specific abilities, expertise and knowledge. No one was expected to do more than they were confident about doing, as with all things, if each volunteered within their own expertise it would mean everything was likely to be covered. You will see below the areas required by the Home Office to make sure we were qualified to house the family allotted to us and to ensure they would settle in in the area. If you are interested in volunteering for any of them, please do let me know.

You will be aware of the vast suffering that is happening in Syria and Afghanistan and the massive dislocation of people that these crises have created so we are keen to do what we can. We are required by the Home office to show proof that we can provide proper housing, care and funding for the family. At the time, and remember this was before the pandemic and the first lockdown, a flat had been lined up for the family with a landlord who was happy to rent it. (The rent is covered for two years which would be the length of the lease required by the HO). Every community group planning to house a family is required to raise at least £12,000 to ensure the rent and other areas are covered. We decided, to be secure, we would try for £15,000 between all of us in any way we felt able. Our biggest aim is to fund-raise which is where everyone comes in. Different kinds of ways and suggestions have been made about how we can do this. Any ideas will be gratefully received. Then, of course, along came the pandemic and lock-downs and everything closed down. We lost the flat as the landlord couldn't wait until things were clear and are looking for another one.

We are now looking to kick start the community sponsorship program and are meeting and planning again.

Our aim is to provide a very practical way that we as community can actively provide assistance by helping a refugee family to relocate into our community.

The government guidelines list the types of requirements from the community.

These are:

Meeting the family at the airport

Providing a warm welcome

Providing housing

Supporting access to medical and social services

English language tuition

Support towards employment and self-sufficiency.

Finding schools and helping the children settle in.

If you feel you could help with any of these please let me know and we can talk about it.

Community Sponsorship consists of two phases:

Phase 1 will focus on getting our application ready to be sent to the Home Office who has a list of families waiting for acceptance. To do this we will need to show we have the resources to support and the accommodation available to receive the family.

Finding the accommodation is a huge priority for us. We are now looking for landlords in the community who might have a property that they might rent for the local authority housing allowance. If you are not that person but know someone who might be please let me know

- Raising enough funds to support the family in their transition to becoming fully sustainable is also extremely important. We are targeting £15,000 to make sure all the family's needs are covered. All provisions of finance or helping raise the finance will be gratefully received

Phase 2 starts when the Home Office approves our application and our family is selected from one of the refugee camps. We then must prepare to welcome the family and deal with the practicalities of a family moving to London from the first time (and many of us did just that). **We are looking for people who can help or advise on matters such as:**

- getting access to doctors/dentists/etc
- getting access to schools

- teaching English as a foreign language
- help with employment
- we will need people who have befriending experience.
- helping the family utilise the benefits system.

We need volunteers to help with all of these in order to make sure the family receive the warmest welcome and are set up to succeed as well as they possibly can when they arrive. If you are interested and want to know more please contact me, Sally Barnes, and I will answer any questions you have.

WATER

A Reflection by Stephen Shakespeare



Glory to the God in the lifting air
 Glory to the God in the heat of the sun
 Glory to the God in the waters flow
 Glory be to God in the darkness of earth
 Glory to God in all creation.

We long for transformation,
 your compassion for all who thirst

Water changed into wine
 Creation received as a miracle and delight
 Deserts blooming and bursting into song
 Wilderness received as spirit and freedom

The tree of life planted by the river
 The cross received as healing and hope

We long for transformation
 Your compassion for all who thirst

Nationality and Borders Bill Action by Bishops in the House of Lords



*Migrants arrive in the Port of Dover in the middle of last month
after a coastal-rescue operation in the English Channel*

Writing above, as I have, about each doing their little bit of good, it is so welcoming to read of several of our bishops doing more than that by speaking out in the House of Lords against the Government's plans to tackle the asylum-seeker crisis. Those of us who have read the full proposals and opposed so much of them are totally supportive of the bishops. Please read through their critique (taken with thanks from the Church Times who reported on the debate fully). It is important for us to understand how cruel these proposals are towards other suffering human beings and that, far from having a wide number of "Safe Routes out for them, many have been shut down. This is never mentioned and people are forced into attempting to escape by smugglers.

The Bishops of **Chelmsford**, **Durham**, and **London** in the House of Lords criticized the the proposed Nationality and Borders Bill for its failure of in its attempt to stop criminal gangs and increase the fairness of the asylum system. The **Bishop of Durham**, the Rt Revd Paul Butler, said that the Bill failed. **The Bishop of London**, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, expressed concerns about its effect on in its attempt to stop criminal gangs and increase the fairness of the asylum system on victims of modern slavery. **The Bishop of Chelmsford**, Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, who herself was a refugee fleeing from Iran after the killing of her brother and threat to the life of her father, gave a unique perspective of the case as a person who fled to Britain in 1980.

Bishop Butler said that the Bill would make the asylum system "more complicated and cumbersome, be less fair, provide fewer safe routes, and be more expensive". The proposed different treatment of refugees, depending on how they come to the UK, caused him "very deep concern". He said, "The Government's underlying premise in this approach is that the harder we make it for asylum-seekers in the UK, the less they will come. **We have seen no evidence to support this approach.** Indeed, if making conditions harder for asylum-seekers had the desired effect, we would not be faced with this Bill today. We have an asylum system which is set up to establish the veracity of an asylum claim. Let us rely on that, not on the method of entry."

The Bill proposes "safe routes" to Britain, but provided no detail, he said. "We will not put criminal gangs out of business without expanding safe alternative routes. Reuniting families is a vital safe route, but, under the Bill, family reunion would be in effect, non-existent.

"I am proud that the UK has been a global leader in refugee resettlement since 2015. However, sadly, this is no longer the case," he said. "Only 1163 people resettled to the UK in the first nine months of 2021, compared with the 28,000 people arriving across the Channel.

We must build on our proud history of resettlement for the future. We need an ambitious yet deliverable target of at least 10,000 places per year.

“The Bill should be an opportunity to create a **fair, compassionate, and effective** asylum system that works for the taxpayer, communities, and those seeking asylum. Sadly, on many counts, I fear that it does not work. I fear that the Bill fails the Home Office’s own values; **it certainly fails to uphold the UN Convention on Refugees and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.**”

Bishop Mullally said that while several aspects of the Bill were welcome additions in the fight against modern-day slavery, others “seem troubling. . . The more there is a lack of safe and legal routes, the more criminal gangs fill the vacuum to bring the desperate people here. Indeed, the harder we make it to arrive with ever more militarised and securitised approaches, the more the only available options are via sophisticated criminal gangs and support from alternative, illegal sources.”

“The Government, she said, believes that existing modern slavery provisions are open to abuse, and are being used to prevent people being removed from the country. “We must be cautious that, in seeking to counter abuse, we do not sacrifice the real victims,” she said. **“Modern slavers thrive on exploiting destitution and fear among asylum-seekers and migrants. They capitalise on gaps in government provision, and enmesh the vulnerable in their enterprises. Contrary to the intention of the Bill, there is much that might exacerbate modern slavery, not reduce it.”**

Dr Francis-Dehqani told the House: “Often, I see asylum-seekers presented either as victims who require help but have no agency, or as chancers seeking to abuse generosity — criminals, even. Neither approach is helpful. **How different discussions might be if we reframed the debate in terms of the best way to work with potential future citizens, neighbours, and friends.**” She continued: **“We need a policy framework that gives future citizens the chance to contribute in meaningful ways.** The opportunity to work, particularly for those facing long delays in the asylum process, would be one such chance, but it is absent, sadly, from the Bill. Indeed, there is much in the Bill that does not meet the tests of providing for agency, dignity, and a chance to be heard. **“I am concerned that the provision to remove citizenship without notice is a denial of the right to be heard, and one that has wider implications that seem to be unacknowledged. I am concerned, too, that the proposed differential treatment of refugees, depending on how they have arrived, is an example of learning the wrong lessons from the hostile environment.**

These are long-held and well-made points that many of us have been making since the Bill was proposed. The Hostile Environment that has been propagated for so long is not a Christian concept or way of behaving. It encourages racism across the board, not just towards asylum seekers. Large numbers of the refugees and Asylum seekers have professions, skill and abilities that we need and used and welcomed in this country. Let it be hoped that more people among us follow the lead of the bishops. We thank them for speaking out as they have.

Songs of Worship :

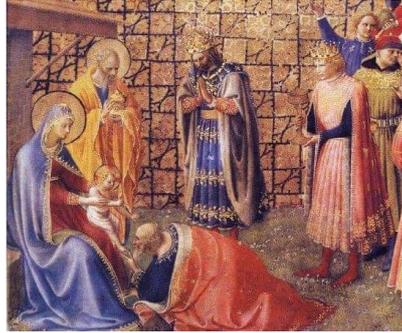
The Great Exchange/The Girl Who Broke the Alabaster Jar - Sarah Liberman...

<https://youtu.be/BNq5eymiNik>

Martin Smith - Our Eyes Are On You (feat. Elle Limebear) | Official Video

<https://youtu.be/tco4zmPPq8l>

Epiphany Icons and Painting from Different Parts of the World



Vision Action Plan Questionnaire - January 2022

Golders Green Parish Church

Our Desire

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Our (prayerful) Inspiration “Why are we doing this?” “Why we attend Golders Green Parish Church”</p> | |
| <p>Our Strengths “Isn’t it good that...”</p> | |
| <p>Our Gaps “Isn’t it a shame that...”</p> | |
| <p>Concern/Threats “We will end up being church”</p> | |

The Parish of Golders Green
Parish Notices: 16/01/2022

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.

Vision for our Church:

1. Please keep Church's vision in your daily prayers
2. Please return the questionnaire by email or WhatsApp to Kamran by Tuesday, 18 January
3. **Sunday 23 January 10 am** - We will be having a brief communion service followed by a short presentation of questionnaire and a time of prayer together as a Church family.
4. **Saturday 29 January**, the PCC will be going away for the vision day. I would request you all to pray with and for your PCC.

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

Sunday 13 February 10 am – A Service of Hope and Healing: A memorial/thanksgiving service for all those grieving the loss of a loved one.

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.

Rota for Sunday 23 Jan 2022:

Reader: Keith
Intercession: Nehar

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Rev Kamran Bhatti
Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,
Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

Golders Green Parish Church Rota January – March 2022

| Date | Reading | Readers | Intercession | Hospitality /Steward |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 23/01/2022 Epiphany 3 | 1 Corinthians 12.12–31a Luke 4.14-21 | Keith | Nehar | Anne / Bernard |
| 30/01/2022 Epiphany 4 | Psalms 48 Luke 2:22-40 | Thomas | Sally | Nehar/Nwando |
| 06/02/2022 4 before Lent | 1 Corinthians 15.1–11 Luke 5.1-11 | Silvia | Jenny | Alexis/Naila |
| 13/02/2022 3 before Lent | A service of Hope and Healing | Tatyanna | Annie | Shaniv/Silvia |
| 20/02/2022 2 before Lent | Psalms 65 Luke 8.22–25 | Alexis | Rose | Nwando |
| 27/02/2022 1 before Lent | 2 Corinthians 3.12–4.2 Luke 9.28–36 [37–43a] | Sheila | Tony | Sheila |
| 02/03/2022 Ash Wednesday | 2 Corinthians 5.20b–6.10 Matthew 6.1–6, 16–21 | Abi | Nwadi | Sally |
| 06/03/2022 Lent 1 | Romans 10.8b– 13 Luke 4.1–13 | Tim | Nehar | Anne /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 update 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/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/>