

25 January 2022



**Greetings to everyone.** Hoping you are all well. Last week I mentioned how good it was that Spring might be on its way. This week it seems to have disappeared feeling cold and damp! Let us hope we get it back and we can feel some warmth and enjoy trees budding more fully. To cheer us though, Jenny has sent a picture of a tree blossoming in Golders Hill Park.



On Sunday we had some feedback on the action plan questionnaires you sent in and - my goodness - what a full and encouraging response covering so many areas. It was good to see the vision everyone had for different areas of growth and the ideas for the church community as well as the church building. There were so many that they are going to need sorting into themes to be considered and a timeline agreed. The PCC is going to have its work cut out when we have our away day next Saturday. Please think and pray for us that wise and well considered plans are drawn up. These will be fed back to you for your consideration and approval. If you haven't completed one yet it is not too late. There is a copy of the questionnaire again this week for you to complete if you wish.

On Saturday evening there was a Service of Songs for Lady Florence O, a much-loved member of our church family who died a year ago in Nigeria. She was cared for there by Ify and other members of her family. It was such a joyous commemoration of her life, with worship songs, prayers, hymns, bible readings and many loving tributes given by her sons, daughters, grandchildren, and a niece. Nehar gave a tribute on behalf of members of the church and, Rose, talked of her long friendship with Florence since their school days in Nigeria. Rose wore their school scarf and badge in green and yellow, the school colours, in memory of their days together. We learnt so much about her amazing life and all she achieved as well as her deep

love, care, and expectations for her family members. What a wonderful woman and role model in every respect. She will be missed. But as one of her grandchildren said, in many respects, what she was will always be with them.

During the week I listened to a programme on radio 4 by a professor who had been following the development of the pandemic from the beginning, not the infection, there have been plenty of comments on that, but how he saw the whole thing in sociological terms; how it appeared to be working out for us as people; how we have adapted to it, the good and bad things, but always asking; “How has this changed us and the way we live?”; “Will we go back to “normal”; “What is normal?”; “What do we want to be different?”.

It made me think and also wonder what you feel if you were to be asked? These are such important aspects to ponder on. I have to be honest and say that, while I can list the negative and sometimes terrible things that have affected people so badly, there are many positive things that have developed during this time that I would not want to change at all. Would anyone like to write their thoughts on this to share with us and see if we are thinking along similar lines? It would be so good if you did. Let me know. If you would rather talk about them over the phone, I could take them down and put them in the newsletter. Please don't be shy about this. To have your views is always valuable. I think others will be very interested.






In this week's newsletter there is an article on pregnant women in prison. This arose partly through following the work of the Bishop of Gloucester, the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, but also as a result of listening to, “Thought for the Day” on the Today programme Radio4, by the Revd Michael Banner, Dean of Trinity College Cambridge on this subject. It would be interesting to know what you feel about it.

There is also a short piece on the Week for Christian Unity and an invitation to the Anglican-Lutheran Society's Annual General Meeting where the topic will be, “Climate Emergency: Connecting Faith and Community.” This is something we have been considering in our Church through A Rocha and planning how we can be more sustainable.

Please see the new church rota at the end of the newsletter. If you are unable to do the Sunday allocated to you, please let Kamran know or swap with someone who can change dates with you.

With Love and Good Wishes – Sally

### **This Week's Edition Includes:**

-  **Pregnant Women in Prison;**
-  **Week for Christian Unity;**
-  **Anglican Lutheran Society Annual General Meeting Invitation;**
-  **Pictures: Service of Songs for Lady Florence O;**
-  **The Church Bulletin**

## Pregnant Women in Prison



I listened to “Thought for the Day” on the “Today” programme Radio4 last week. One particularly broadcast attracted my attention. It was given by the Revd Dr Michael Banner, Dean of Trinity College Cambridge, who started off with a comment about a stained-glass window in the college of the the Christian Martyr Perpetua, holding her baby, who accompanied her into prison while she was waiting to be martyred in the colosseum. He said, in the fevered excitement of political events of the week just passed, this window made him think that we may have missed a quieter story of research published by Coventry University outlining the the condition of pregnant women in prison. There are about six hundred pregnant women who enter prisons each year. Fifty expectant mothers are in prison at any one time.

Research by Coventry university included the experiences of twenty-two pregnant women, among them, shoplifting was the most common offence, one committed by a woman who was living in a car park. Whatever the immediate cause of their imprisonment, the women had typically experienced, poverty, homelessness, abuse, domestic violence, mental health issues and/or addiction - the neediest in our society. I would also expect a number had been trafficked too. The initial research was begun following the death of a baby in 2019 whose mother had been left alone to give birth in her cell. I also remember some time ago a woman while in labour was chained to her bed, presumably to prevent her escaping! Dr Banner ended his Thought by saying that, “In his final teaching, Jesus imagines the Son of Man sitting in his glory dividing the people into Sheep and Goats; the sheep called to his right hand are those who have taken in the stranger, fed the hungry and, among other things, visited people in prison. But the word “visited” in translated means a bit more than more than just popping in for a chat, it carries the connotation of checking up on, looking out for the sake of looking after.” He commented that there is a big question whether prison is the best way to deal with women or men who have so often suffered the multiple deprivations and trauma that so often lead to the path of crime. But the more focussed question, he felt, is whether it is ever necessary or right to imprison pregnant women. He said that in her diary, Perpetua, wrote that her worst thing was being consumed with worry about what would happen to her baby. He concluded that, along with Perpetua we should worry about the six hundred pregnant women every year who enter a system that is not not designed to provide care for either them or their children. I would add the effects on the children is also lasting. The Bishop of Guildford, Rachel Treweek, who specialises on prison and its effects on women particularly, said recently in the House of Lords, “While men and women need to be treated with equal justice, equality is not about sameness. Women are caught up in a criminal justice system that

has been designed around men, and there needs to be a gendered lens”. Whatever we may think about imprisoning people, and I do not doubt for some who are violent and a real threat to society, prisons are necessary, but we do have to decide what it is are they really for? We have to ask, are they just for punishment and vengeance, or, to reform and help people turn their lives around so they genuinely do not offend again. I have a strong feeling the latter would be more effective, but the time and cost would be more than society would wish to bear, especially as it would mean looking at what the real underlying cause of women’s imprisonment is and dealing them; issues such as poverty, abuse, homelessness, and domestic violence that creates desperate acts by desperate people. What do you think?



### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th of January. It is an important part of “Churches Together” which takes part in organizing it, disseminating the resources that are produced to support people across our different denominations with prayers, meditations and coming together in services and discussions to get to know each other better. Each year the international resources are adapted by the Britain and Ireland writers’ group and extra material is often written for use during each of the 8 days. Before Covid we used to host a service at Golders Green to which a number of people came from different churches. Perhaps in the future we will be able to do it again. It is so important, particularly at this fractious time, that we do come together with people who worship God, follow and love Jesus, with all our different approaches and talk about, them so that we have greater understanding and friendship. There is always much we can learn from each other. We may have degrees of difference in belief and theology but in the end, we are all one in Christ, following Christ’s words in St John 15, “this is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you”.

### **Anglican Lutheran Society Annual General Meeting Invitation**



Having written about the importance of the week for Christian Unity I wondered if anyone is interested in coming to the Anglican-Lutheran Society Annual General Meeting on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March, at St Mary's German Church, 10 Sandwich St, EC3 5BJ. (In person) or joining in on zoom. I have been a trustee of this organisation for some years and the AGMs are always relevant to different situation countries face and very lively. In the normal run of things members and guests come from all over Europe and occasionally the US. Unfortunately, as with everything to do with Covid, people's visits are restricted now but we have overcome this by having hybrid meetings with a mixture of face-to-face and zoom as this one will be. If you are interested in attending, please let me know and I will give you the details

The topic for the day is "Climate Emergency: Connecting Faith and Community." This is very relevant to us at Golders Green with our interest in Conservation and the Climate Emergency. We have some distinguished speakers, including the Revd Helen Burnett, vicar of St Peter and St Paul's Church in Chaldon. Helen is in the forefront of much climate change activity and led the walk from London to Glasgow advertising the COP26 conference. Along with her will be the Revd Giles Goddard, Vicar of St John's Church Waterloo, co-founder of "Faith for the Climate" the interfaith environmental action group. You will be very welcome.

### **Pictures: Service of Songs for Lady Florence O**





## 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.

### 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>

### Songs of Worship:

#### ADONAI EL ROI ~ Carmen Esther

<https://youtu.be/mf9VpzNgTD4>

#### Your Love Never Fails (One Thing Remains) | City Harvest Worship ft. Ebe...

<https://youtu.be/JcYxnHEKeyw>

**The Parish of Golders Green**  
**Parish Notices: 23/01/2022**

**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**

Saturday 29 Jan, the PCC will be going away for the vision day. I would request you all to pray with and for your PCC.

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

**Toddler Group**

There are plans to start back Martha's Toddler group and we need Volunteers to assist with this. Please speak with Kamran for more info.

**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 30 Jan 2022:**

Reader: Thomas

Intercession: Sally

**Contact details:**

Parish Priest: Rev Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,

Mobile: 07883355351

Website: [www.gg-pc.co.uk](http://www.gg-pc.co.uk)

## Golders Green Parish Church Rota January – March 2022

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Intercession</b>	<b>Hospitality /Steward</b>
30/01/2022 Epiphany 4	Psalm 48 Luke 2:22-40	Thomas	Sally	Nehar
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	Psalm 65 Luke 8.22–25	Alexis	Rose	Nehar
27/02/2022 1 before Lent	2 Corinthians 3.12–4.2 Luke 9.28–36 [37–43a]	Bernard	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



## Vision Action Plan Questionnaire

<b>Our (prayerful) Inspiration</b> “Why are we doing this?”  “Why we attend Golders Green Parish Church”	
<b>Our Strengths</b> “Isn’t it good that...”	
<b>Our Gaps</b> “Isn’t it a shame that...”	
<b>Concern/Threats</b> “We will end up being church”	
<b>Our Opportunities</b> “Wouldn’t it be good if...”	
<b>Two things you would you like to see in the Church in 3 years’ time</b>	1.  2.

**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/>