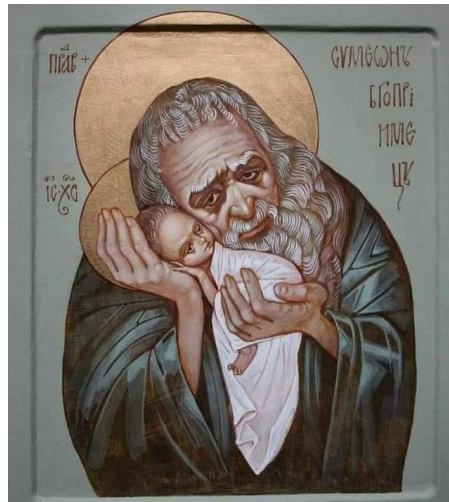


01 February 2022



Presentation of the Christ Child at the Temple

Greetings to everyone. I don't know about you, but I have to confess January, for me anyway, has been the worst most depressing month. I didn't want to get up in the morning, (if it wasn't for my two dogs I probably wouldn't). I didn't want to go out even for shopping and even meeting friends for coffee was an effort! Everything had to be forced. I don't know whether it was just the dull, dreary, damp weather that seemed to drag on or the effects of low spirits that have accumulated because of the pandemic, the mixed messages we are getting about it, the dire political climate and news of deaths and illness among friends and acquaintances. I wanted to hibernate. Several friends have said they have felt the same. One, brightened my day by sending this poem that made me feel better and smile as I knew I wasn't alone.

Here it is by Brian Bilston:

*“Thirty days has September,
April, June and November.
Unless a leap year is its fate,
February has twenty-eight,
but all the rest have three days more,
excepting January,
which has six thousand,
one hundred and eighty-four!*

Goodbye January and let us hope from February onwards we have an uplifting year that will take us forward with more positive expectations. Jenny sent us a picture of a solitary Celandine she saw in her garden that heralds Spring with more trees and plants budding and bursting into blossom.







As Kamran said on Sunday, the PCC had an excellent and creative day at, St Peter's Bourne Retreat House. We spent time looking at all your responses from the questionnaire that so many completed and had obviously given so much thought to. They were gathered into groups and themes which showed a high level of agreement among you about what you saw was your vision for our church and community. We spent the day in a mixture of small groups, discussing primarily what our vision statement could be that would encompass so much of the key aims we had, then feeding back to the whole group to share what we had said. We also had space to ponder and pray on our own walking around the grounds or sitting in the spacious and warm lounge, reflecting on what we had heard and what more needed to be added. The whole process took time, and this is just the first stage. One of the hardest things is going from what each group had written to reducing them to the essence of what we want them to mean that will be clear to everyone. One of my bosses always used to say to us when we were writing our Inspection reports was, "throw away your darlings". It took a while to understand what he meant but he was right. I think this was something we all had to do on Saturday and did so with much listening and consideration of each other. It was so encouraging and supportive to work together, each giving their ideas and perception, and eventually coming to an agreed statement. Kamran will be telling you more about it next Sunday, but I do want to pay tribute to him and the way he organised the day that gave us time to think and talk openly with no feeling of pressure- quite the opposite. A day like that, to be successful, depends upon the preparation made beforehand and leadership that is encouraging and open. It was so good too, to have Jennifer with us to take down the notes and comments that were made and support the general organisation of the day. She is a real gem to us. Thank you, PCC friends - it was a real pleasure working with you.

Message of Sadness: As I was sending off the newsletter the message came in from Rose that our much-loved Dorothy passed away on Monday night. It is hard to know what appropriate things to say at such a time of loss for her family; Festus, Fiona, and Kelechi and for us in Golders Green Church. Dorothy was such a loving strength to all of us in her faith and faithfulness. We will miss her more than we can say. So many messages of condolences are coming in that perhaps we could have a tribute to her from all of you in next week's newsletter when the news has sunk in a bit more. In the meantime, as everyone is saying we will be holding her in our hearts and her whole family in our prayers with much love.

With Love and Good Wishes – Sally

This Week's Edition Includes:

-  **Florence Li Tim Oi;**
-  **Welcome Friends;**
-  **Church Bulletin;**
-  **Church Rota;**

Florence Li Tim Oi



Listening on Sunday to the Chinese Church in Manchester celebrating the Chinese New Year, I remembered a very remarkable woman who many of us met when she was invited by “Woman and the Church” (WATCH) to special celebrations we held in London. No one looking at her would possibly guess that this tiny, modest, gentle woman was one whose history was so full of incident that it had taken the Church of England by its heels during the second world war and caused, for some, much controversy and outrage. Her crime was being a woman who became ordained by Bishop Ronald Hall, in war torn Macao, at a time when it was forbidden to ordain women. In her part of China, because all the male priests had been imprisoned or barred from entering that part of the country, there was no one to minister to the people. Florence was ordained by Bishop Edward Hall, because he saw the great need people had and the amazing quality of her work. He predictably got himself into a great deal of trouble for his actions. Reading the documents and letters of the time show the prejudice and fear of women as priests that was put above the needs of the besieged Christian communities who wanted her service and care. The letters in the Church Times from those exploding with anger are worth looking at at that time. Florence was valued by her parents at a time when when baby boys were preferred. Her parents were forward looking people determined to challenge prejudice against girls. Their chosen name for their child “Li” means *much beloved daughter*. She joined the Anglican Church, chose “Florence” as her English name after Florence Nightingale and studied for four years at theological college. On Ascension Day, 22nd May 1941, she was ordained deaconess at St John’s Cathedral, Hong Kong. The role of deaconess was as far as women could go at that time. She carried out a ministry of such distinction that it was noticed by Bishop Hall. During the second world war the Japanese occupied Hong Kong and parts of China. It was made impossible for Anglican priests to get to neutral Macau. When a priest could no longer travel to Macau to preside at periodic celebrations of the Eucharist, Bishop Hall asked Florence Tim-Oi to meet him in unoccupied territory in Free China. On 25 January 1944. There he ordained her a priest. He knew this was a momentous and controversial step. He knew there would eventually be resistance to her service as a priest and trouble for him, but he put the needs of the people who wanted her above the then rules of the Church. In his mind, he resolved that he was not ordaining Florence Li Tim-Oi but instead merely confirming what he and many others witnessed, that Li Tim-Oi had the gift of priestly ministry and that she was already ordained by God for this service. In a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, Hall explained the extraordinary act he was about to do. He stated, *“Her work has been remarkably successful. My judgment is that it is only exceptional women who can do this kind of work. But we are going to have such exceptional women in China and such exceptional need. Moreover, working as a minister in charge of a congregation, Deaconess Li has developed as a man-pastor develops and has none of that frustrated fussiness that is noticeable in women who having the pastoral charisma are denied full*

exercise in the ministry of the church". She served faithfully and well until the end of the war. Because of all the fuss in England about her "illegal" ordination and to defuse controversy, in 1946 Tim-Oi surrendered her priest's license, but not her Holy Orders, the knowledge of which carried her through Maoist persecution. This was an act of extraordinary generosity on her part. However, she later resumed the practice of her priesthood in Toronto, Canada which was one the first provinces of the Anglican Communion to ordain women to the priesthood. On her retirement in 1981 she was awarded Doctorates of Divinity by General Theological Seminary, New York, and Trinity College, Toronto. Florence Li Tim Oi is regarded by many of us as a saint for her work, ministry, and deep faith. We feel privileged to have met her when she came to England more than once and took strength from her example and deep faith. Bishop Hall's son, Christopher, established the Li Tim Oi Foundation in her memory in 1994 to enable Anglican women in Africa, India, and other areas where it is hard for women to support their training, to receive financial support to do so. In the past 26 years, the Foundation has given grants to over 500 women for training in a variety of ordained and lay roles. So, the Ministry and memory of Florence Li Tim Oi continues through many women to this day across the world.



*On Ascension Day, 22nd May 1941,
ordained deacon at St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong.*

**With thanks to the Li Tim Oi Foundation for information about her life and the picture of her ordination.*

Welcome Friends

How lovely to see people coming back in person to church again. The Pandemic has meant many churches have taken a real hit because of it and, apart from those who have joined in through zoom, which has given us the opportunity to worship together and keep in touch, it is good to meet up face-to-face- or perhaps I should say Mask-to-Mask! We have missed each other. How good to have Ruth, Thomas, and Elizabeth back with us with Thomas resuming much of what he did before the Pandemic; reading, but also singing in our developing choir and, I think, supporting Tony with the technology which is a mystery to most of us.

Gerald and Nicole came with seven-month-old Alana - all smiles – and enjoying being the centre of attention, to join us on Sunday. It was so good to see them again with the beautiful addition to their family.

A further surprise, and so unexpected, was the flying visit by Adaora who arrived from California where she now lives with her husband and gorgeous 2-year-old daughter Jayanna who enjoyed exploring the church while her mother and a group of us caught up with her

news. Adaora, who belonged to this church for several years, made many friends so she didn't want to miss the opportunity to come and say hello to us before flying out again. It was so good to catch up.

Songs of Worship:

By the Grace of God — Gas Street Music, Tim Hughes

https://youtu.be/Pf1zHtMrJ_4

Yours — Gas Street Music, Zo Chilengwe | Live at Team Night

<https://youtu.be/ZclrUIMxL9Y>

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 take place in church and via Zoom at 7.00pm. 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/aemYT2p1YY>

Golders Green Parish Church Rota February – March 2022

Date	Reading	Readers	Intercession	Hospitality /Steward
06/02/2022 4 before Lent	1 Corinthians 15.1–11 Luke 5.1–11	tbc	Jenny	Alexis/Naila
13/02/2022 3 before Lent	A service of Hope and Healing	Tatyanna	Annie	tbc
20/02/2022 2 before Lent	Psalms 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

The Parish of Golders Green
Parish Notices: 30/01/2022

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.

Sunday 13 February 10 am – A Service of Hope and Healing: A memorial/thanksgiving service 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.

Vision for our Church

Shaniv will be sharing the updates from vision day.

For your prayers:

Please continue to pray for Simon, Margaret, Rev Kamran & Naila and for the sad loss of Mrs Dorothy N.

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 06 Feb 2022:

Reader: TBC

Intercession: Jenny

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Rev Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,

Mobile: 0788335535 |

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/>