

15 February 2022



Greetings to everyone. What an excellent and cathartic Service of Hope and Healing it was on Sunday remembering family and friend members who have died over the past years. It was a time of recognising what and who we have lost, of acknowledging their lives and what they meant to us. A time to ponder and pray. The photographs that were sent in were beautiful and a poignant tribute seeing once again all those loved faces. Reading out their names one-by-one and thinking of them helped us recall the part they had played in our lives and in our congregation too. It was very moving.

The sermon by Professor Pastor Beber, was so helpful and extremely consoling. Professor Beber has had many years of experience working in hospices and hospitals, as well as carrying out grief counselling. She recognised the anxiety and grief so many felt during the Covid period when it was not possible to be with loved ones who were dying. She talked about how a dying patient was never left alone and how the nursing staff of all faiths would care for them at their end. “No one was left alone”, she said. It was a consolation to know that and made us aware of how grateful we are to those tireless people, who themselves gave so much to nurse their patients, who were also our relatives and friends. The main points of her sermon are below. We thank her so much for all she said.

Last Sunday was Racial Justice Sunday, a time when we acknowledge the prejudices and inequalities that blight human relationships. While we held our special service, we were not ignoring the importance of this day which in fact is a topic rarely far from our thoughts. It is to be doubted that this is not what God intended when human beings were created in God’s image – all of us in our astonishing and wonderful diversity. We are asked to think that each of us has a responsibility to work in any way we can to end injustice, racism, and ignorance through action and prayer. It is an indictment on our society at this time that there is still so much racism, antagonism and violence aimed at different groups that some are afraid to go in the streets. It is to our shame and those of our leadership, whose perpetual actions developing a Hostile Attitude and Environment has been encouraged over the years. As Christians we can stand up and protest in any way possible if not for ourselves but for others. Below are some thoughts on this subject and prayers for racial justice.

Sheila has written a reminder of The World Day of Prayer which takes place on **Friday 4th March at Trinity Church** at 2.00pm. Trinity church is at the junction of Rodborough and Hodford Roads. Sheila has been our representative for years for the WDofP, working to organise and take part in the service. Please come and meet others from the local churches and enjoy tea afterwards.

There is a short piece on the prophetess Anna who, with Simeon, recognised the baby Jesus as the one they had been waiting for when Mary and Joseph brought him to the Temple.

At the weekend I am going on a retreat in Somerset taken by Revd M Guite on “A Poetic Journey Through the Psalms”. He is a sensitive and brilliant poet who is also using his book “David’s Crown”, about which I have written below.

With Love and Good Wishes - Sally

This Week’s Edition Includes:

- ✚ **Key points from Professor Pastor Beber’s Sermon;**
- ✚ **Racial Justice Sunday;**
- ✚ **World Day of Prayer – Sheila;**
- ✚ **Anna – The Faithful Widow;**
- ✚ **Revd M Guite: Retreat on the Psalms;**

RETURNING TO THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE WITH JESUS... SUMMARY SERMON NOTES with Love, Prayers & Blessings +

Pastor K Beber
Advent Ministries
February 2022

SUNDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2022

- Come into the Garden of Gethsemane with me this morning. Here we are together in Jerusalem, and taking that narrow pathway to enter the gate of the Garden... Out of interest, how many here have been to Jerusalem and to the Garden...?



- As we allow the Matthew’s Gospel 26: 36-44 to come alive for us again let us ponder now on what scholars and translators describe as the ‘agony’ of Jesus in the Garden. There He is, waiting and praying – and we are told - in total agony as the disciples (minus the betrayer) slept soundly. Jesus knows what is coming ...and what is to follow. This we too will revisit in the coming season of Lent. Can you imagine that agony? I know I can.

- As we gather as the GGPC family today for this Special Service of Hope & Healing, we may understand in our lives how the agony of Jesus in that Garden summarises that same ‘**agony**’ best describes our personal journey of the Covid19 Pandemic season and the unbearable and lengthy Lockdown restrictions in operation not only in the UK but across the globe.
- Come back again to Jerusalem, outside of Gethsemane to what is called the **Via Dolorosa** – that long road of suffering and pain which Jesus took carrying that heavy Cross leading to Calvary and where we as believers are led in Lent to come...
- We too have been on that same Via Dolorosa as Jesus... We know that “**agony**” of shaking, of aloneness, fear, shock, and trauma and for many people the ricochet of Covid19 bringing sickness, disease and losses leading us to our Service of Hope & Healing today for our blessed Church families.
- For others, the agony of Covid 19 & Lockdown over these past two to two and a half years brought into the light our past hurts, memories, and wounds, persecuting memories of past bereavements and huge losses during our earlier and younger years.
- Today, I want to share 3 important points with you, and I pray they will bring new hope and gladness to your hearts and peace to your souls...

Number 1: One of the Promises of God in Matthew 5:4 tell us ‘*Blessed are those who mourn ... for they shall be comforted.*’ I believe that Promise of God is true for you and me today.
- **Number 2:** I wish to rebut the inappropriate reporting by our UK press & TV media during Lockdown seeking to manipulate the fears and pains of our people claiming that ‘Covid 19 patients died alone.’ These are and were shameful lies were confounded by the reality not only of the healthcare teams on active duty under stressful circumstances but also in every hospital, every care home, every nursing home, every rehab centre, every prison hospital and indeed every Accident & Emergency Unit plus every Emergency Service Ambulance, no seriously ill person ever died alone. It is distressing that loved ones and family were not present but be sure please that all patients were attended to the point at which they ended the race they fought so bravely. I thank God for His promises in Romans 8:38-39 (NKJV) where nothing will separate us from the love of God.
- I can assure you not only from my pastoral and professional experience in healthcare & education and at Advent Ministries but also from first-hand accounts of staff working within healthcare contexts. To suggest otherwise is shameful.
- Sadly, I can attest to the truth of this within our own family and I share this brief testimony ...In such a time as this, voices will be heard sharing truth to honour loved ones ...
- Our children and young people have been impacted during Lockdown by sudden death of family and friends. Please understand that they often understand the pathways of death more readily than we do. They discuss the fact of death in education and among their friends.
- I chose Psalm 23: 1-6 today because these words are often the prayers said with those who are seriously ill. Yes, they will be led by God near to restful waters in their journey. How beautiful is that...



Number 3: I pray that each of us receives the greatest gift of God's love to us, that is, His freedom to grieve and in grieving our loved ones, to find meaning restored into our living. In God's perfect time for you and me too, that grieving leads us back into healthy living. I want to share with you short extracts from three beautiful poems as Reflections of Hope & Healing for those who mourn together, as follows:

DON'T BE TOO SAD (By an Anonymous Writer ...)

I've lived my life
I've tried my best
The memories I hold dear
Are experiences I have known
Of happiness and tears
The love of my family
The care of my friends
The good times I've shared
Right to the end
I've travelled life's byways
Seen children grow up
Experienced life's living
And drunk from love's cup
I leave you with memories
With thoughts of you all
I'm no longer with you
But your mind will recall
The good times we shared
The laughter we had
Please cherish these memories
And don't be too sad.

WE REMEMBER THEM (Rabbis Sylvan Kamens & Jack Riemer)

At the rising of the sun and at its going down, We remember them.
At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, We remember them.
At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring, We remember them.
At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer, We remember them.
At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn, We remember them.
At the beginning of the year and when it ends, We remember them.
As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.
When we are weary and in need of strength, We remember them.
When we are lost and sick at heart, We remember them.
When we have joy we crave to share, We remember them.
When we have decisions that are difficult to make, We remember them.
When we have achievements that are based on theirs, We remember them.
As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

Lastly, this simple **Prayer Reflection** called simply,
FOREVER LOVED (Extract Copyright © Advent Ministries & Pastor K Beber, 2022)

You walked with me & I walked with thee...
We walked together over years, rarely apart from the day we met and wedded one
another...
Sharing so many hopes & dreams, tears and screams, trials and battles, adventures, and
travels...
We worked hard You & I...
But in Lockdown God came – God came as never before into our worlds and our lives were
changed forever...
Bringing us such unison and unity of souls who can stand together, pray together, bless one
another and work side by side...
We shared the tears and fears of a crazy world, crazed by pandemic warfare, stressed by
daily reports, overwhelmed by sudden and unexpected loss and detrimental losses...
Yet, we held on together, we laughed and cried together and in the urgency of those fearful
and terror-filled hours, we found hope together...
We lit candles daily to keep out the dark, to welcome God into every part of our weary,
pandemic war-torn lives and believing that His victory would overcome this pandemic evil of
ungodly man...
I hold on to that day, as God called you home knowing you were ready, witnessing how you
fought that great fight ... and gained the freedom for your soul...
I thank God that, in your rest, for I am not alone, I am so comforted knowing how He holds
you safely while I continue my race...
Give me Your Grace Lord God to witness your love to those who are abandoned and lost;
bereft and alone, in tears and brokenness, hurting and wounded, suffering, shocked and
tyrannised, even stateless, and homeless
Death is not The End ... for in God
You and I are Forever Loved. **AMEN**

Racial Justice Sunday

Proverbs 31:8-9

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.

Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy.



The work to end racism requires a collective response from all of us and with all sections of the Church fully engaged in this task. We cannot say we are a diverse family and proud of it, which we are, without thinking about how we can actively take a stand against racism. It is something that can and does destroy people lives, self-images and self-confidence at many levels, especially children who are vulnerable from a very early age and affects their growing up for good and bad.

This is very much a call for all Christians to engage in the struggle for racial justice because it is everyone's business. In both books of the Bible, the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, there is a lot to say about justice because it reflects God's heart for justice. Also in the Koran, which we hear less about. It can be argued that we should love justice because God does! Racism and racial discrimination are justice issues because they deny basic justice and human dignity to women, men, and children, all of whom are made in the image of God. We can challenge it in so many different ways; by writing to our Member of Parliament when, for example, Legislation is being proposed that damages whole groups of desperate people and makes their lives a misery if they do manage to get here - as in the Nationality and Borders Bill that is being debated this week for the second time*** - our Bishops in the House of Lords have spoken strongly against the measures proposed; we can talk to those who make racist comments and try and challenge them in a way that helps them to listen; we can stand alongside those of faith and community groups in different projects that demonstrate that, as well as believing in the work we are engaged in together, show we are in solidarity and friendship with them; we can make sure the images we portray in pictures and literature show the variety of God's creation, in our Bibles and books, and listen to the views of those who have a different point of view of suffering institutional racism in Church and State. There is so much we can do in big and small ways- all are important.

*** **Nationality & Borders Bill.** *Information on the bill can be found on the Scottish Faiths Action website sent to us by Jenny which gives clear ideas about what we can do regarding action we can take: <http://www.sfar.org.uk/get-involved/call-for-change/action-on-the-nationality-and-borders-bill/>*

Prayer for Justice

Mighty, and everlasting God.
As Your people come into your presence,
We are thankful for your graciousness, your mercy, and your love.
To comfort and to heal; to sustain and be reconciled, one with another.
We remember all those who are hurting, disadvantaged,
and impacted by racial prejudice.
We also remember all those who have suffered at the hands of injustice,
May your Holy Spirit be present with them,
To comfort and to heal; to bring justice and reconciliation,
one with another.

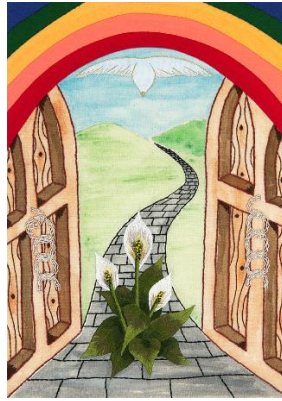
Faithful God, we commit this service into your hands,
We pray for every participant and every listener,
That you will empower them with your strength,
That they might be courageous to say and do what is right and just,
and that your good and glorious, magnificent, and righteous name might be praised.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022 from Sheila

This year's World Day of Prayer service is to be held at 2.00 p.m. in Trinity Church on Friday, 4th March. Until a few years ago this annual service was called the Women's World Day of Prayer because it is written and led by women although the service has been open to all. Each year the service is planned by a different country, this year it is England, Northern Ireland, and Wales. Traditionally services start at 2.00 p.m. so that it is heard around the world for 24 hours. The service lasts about three quarters of an hour with refreshments afterwards. Donations are welcome to help with the work of the World Day of Prayer in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland and to give grants towards the projects run by Christian charities around the world.

The church is situated at the point where Rodborough and Hodford Roads (NatWest bank on the corner) meet with the former not being so steep a path as Hodford Road. Representatives from local churches have arranged this service for Golders Green so please come along and join in with singing, praying, listening, and socialising.



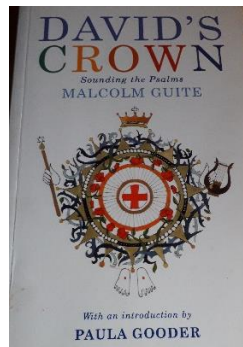
Artwork for World Day of Prayer created by Angie Fox using a combination of embroidery, appliqué, and metalwork, depicts key words such as, **Freedom**, represented as an open door to a pathway across an endless open vista; **Justice**, represented by broken chains; God's **Peace and Forgiveness**,

Anna in the Temple



Two weeks ago, churches celebrated the presentation of Christ in the Temple. In the newsletter we had an icon of Simeon carrying the baby Jesus in his arms brought by Mary and Joseph; immediately Simeon recognised that this was the baby he had been waiting for. At the same visit Anna, a prophetess, was also there; she too was waiting faithfully to see the Christ child she knew was coming. Anna is mentioned in the Gospel of Luke 2:36–38, who, tradition has it, was an elderly woman of the Tribe of Asher who prophesied about Jesus at the Temple of Jerusalem. She was very old; the Bible tells us she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow for eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to Mary, Joseph and the baby at that very moment, Anna gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. The Icon of Anna is offered now so we do not forget this faithful woman. We give thanks for both Anna and Simeon for their waiting, faithfulness, and recognition.

Revd M Guite: Retreat on the Psalms



Next weekend I am going on a retreat held at a centre called Ammerdown, near Bath, in Somerset. It is a place of rest, learning, meditation, meeting new people and renewing friendships with those we have met there before. The food is good too! The retreat is being led by the priest/poet M Guite, whose poems I sometimes put in the newsletter. The topic is, "A Poetic Journey Through the Psalms". I have always been fascinated by the psalms and am looking forward to hearing him talk about them and his book, "David's Crown", where he has created a poetic response to each of the 150 psalms.

Malcolm writes in his preface, "The psalms are great poetry and so rich in their imagery that they nourish the imagination and become a source from which our own prayers can be formed and enriched. The psalms express human emotion with disarming honesty; all of life with its blessings, its times of despair and shame, are found in them. Voices of thanksgiving mingle with pleas for help, cries for justice and outpouring of inhibited anger". I am so looking forward to hearing his insights and his poetic response.



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 takes place in church at 7.00pm. The prayer meeting will be place in person and via Zoom. Please see the link below.

Topic: Church Wardens' Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0x0aDhY2paUT09>

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>

Worship songs of the week:

Lead me Lord (in your righteousness)

<https://youtu.be/XLtlylXJ3V4>

Great and Marvelous | Gdolim Venifla'eim - Official Video[SUBTITLES]

<https://youtu.be/3JWB6eYVOHI>

Golders Green Parish Church Rota February to March 2022

20/02/2022 2 before Lent	Psalm 65 Luke 8.22–25	Alexis	Nwadi	Nehar
27/02/2022 1 before Lent	2 Corinthians 3.12—4.2 Luke 9.28–36 [37–43a]	Bernard	Tony	tbc
02/03/2022 Ash Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5.20b—6.10 Matthew 6.1–6, 16–21	Abi	Rose	Sally
06/03/2022 Lent I	Romans 10.8b–13 Luke 4.1–13	Tim	Nehar	Anne /Bernard

The Parish of Golders Green
Parish Notices: 13/02/2022

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.

Toddler Group

We are planning to start back Martha's Toddler group on Tuesday 8 March, 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 Simon, Margaret for God's healing. Please also prayer for all those who are grieving for their loved ones, especially for Festus, Fiona, Kelechi, and entire family, and for Sally (and her family) whose nephew in law Lord recently passed away.

Pictures Board is here

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:

Reader: Alexis

Intercession: Nwadi

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,

Mobile: 07883355351

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@ggpc.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/>