

16 March 2022



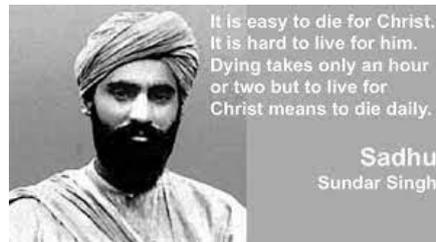
Dear Everyone

I wonder if we share feelings about the news at the moment. We don't want to look at, or listen to it only to hear more horrors about which we can do so little, but at the same time feel compelled to turn it on to find out what is happening next, hoping perhaps there is a gleam of light - finding there is none. We see only more atrocities against innocent people wanting to live in peace. The bombing of a maternity home was one act, among many, that was pure evil against mothers giving birth and new born babies. Mercifully, courageous citizens searched for the babies and mothers in the hospital wreckage carrying them to shelter. The picture of an elderly woman at night walking, bewildered and alone along a winding, empty road, with just a carrier bag in her hand, not knowing where she was or where she was going, etched itself indelibly on my mind. Mercifully she too was picked up and taken to some kind of safety by a lorry load of soldiers. In among all the acts of terror are acts of bravery, self-sacrifice and love showing humankind's never-ending compassion for each other by those willing to give their lives for others. For them we pray and long for the war and its ever reaching consequences to end.

The thought of all this can be paralyzing but it is clearly not and will not be. Millions of people across the world are showing their concern by performing acts of goodness geared to saving fellow human beings whoever they are. So much is being donated in different ways and through a variety of means in a determined effort to prevent starvation, keep medical supplies coming, people sheltered and warm. Hovering over all this evil is human goodness where love and concern reigns and will win in the end. We can only hope it will be soon. In a letter sent to a group of us who are members of a contemplative community, the writer said, "*We are not powerless. We are electors of a democracy that can make key choices about how to respond. We are part of the communion of saints that binds us to Catholic and Orthodox Ukrainians and dissident and disempowered Russians. When we pray, we connect with the truth at the heart of the universe that will bring judgement on those who have done terrible wrong and healing in the fullness of time. We can connect with agencies that work in the region to bring sanity and sanctuary into a scene of chaos and fear. Church is a community where we rediscover our power – in God, in one another, in the things and relationships we find ourselves engaged in beyond anything we alone could have known. This is a time not for handwringing or armchair punditry, but for practical actions of love and solidarity*".

In the light of this Jenny has written an article below giving us suggestions for some things we can do according to what we feel is appropriate to us. Many will be doing some of these things already, but here are a number of ideas that all of us might find helpful.

Kamran talked in his sermon of an extremely interesting man, called Sadhu Sundar Singh, who he referred to as an Indian St Paul. It would be so good to learn and read more about this faithful Christian who went through so much. Below is Kamran's sermon with his story.



I have written a piece about the Anglican-Lutheran Society to which I belong and the communications and activities we do ecumenically across Europe, the United States and other countries, where Lutherans and Anglicans live and worship together. It is particularly apt at this time as we are only too conscious of the suffering of many in the Baltic States who are keeping in touch with us.

At the end of the newsletter is the prayer of Reconciliation from Coventry Cathedral which we badly need at this time. We continue to pray and not lose heart.

Love and good wishes - Sally

#### In This Week's Issue

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- ✚ **Prayer for Reconciliation;**

## Kamran's Sermon – Luke 14 v 25-33 Discipleship

Jesus in our today's passage teaches us that we have to weigh the cost of following Him because it will cost us everything.

The context of Luke 14 highlights that Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem. A huge crowd was following Jesus; some of them were his disciples, some looking for his attention; pleading for his healing touch; anxiously waiting for the next miracle; and pledging to follow Jesus wherever he was going.

Jesus was aware that he is on his way to Jerusalem; and this journey will end up on the cross. Only Jesus knows what horror lies ahead. But Jesus knows exactly what following him will mean, as he will be rejected, those who will follow him will also be rejected and persecuted.

As we read in the book of Acts, many of Jesus' disciples were rejected by authorities, persecuted and some even got killed; so he asks the crowd to think carefully before they follow him any further. In other words, Jesus is plainly saying that being his disciples is not all easy and happy, and it involves a real cost.

Jesus wants us to make a well informed and well considered decision of becoming Christian.

### Sadhu Sunder Singh

I would like to share the story of Sadhu Sunder Singh who I believe was St Paul of 19th Century. Sadhu Sunder Singh was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1889, in the village of Rampur in the state of Patiala, in India, a land of many traditions and religions.

He was born in a strict and devoted Sikh religious family. He attended Ewing Christian High School, Ludhiana, to learn English. Sunder Singh's was sent to be a disciple of a Hindu sadhu, an ascetic holy man, who lived in the jungle some miles away from his home.

There are similarities in Sadhu and Paul. In his youth, he used to persecute the Christians but his life changed after a lifesaving encounter with Jesus. Hearing the news of his conversion to Christianity, His father officially rejected him, and his brother Rajender Singh attempted to poison him. He was poisoned not just once but a number of times. The locals were also intent on killing him, but a nearby British Christian saved him from further mistreatment. Sunder Singh made multiple missionary journeys from India (Jerusalem) to Tibet, Nepal (Samira), and the Far East, and the West (ends of the earth), preached to local, national and international audiences, broadly to both Christians and non-Christians. There is a tradition that suggests that Sadhu Sunder Singh had written the well-known song, "I have decided to follow Jesus".

He understood the cost of following Jesus. He was rejected and persecuted by his own family and local community, he renounced his family, his identity, and his inheritance. So he understood the cost of following Jesus.

He understood the meaning of what Jesus said in Luke 14:26-27. Jesus highlighted three things:

1. **v26 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes, even their own life – such a person cannot be my disciple.**

Others may disagree, but I feel that this is a poor translation of the passage. The original Greek word *miséo*, which means hate, can also mean “love less.”

I don't feel Jesus is teaching us against the fourth Commandment (Respect your parents. Exodus 20). Jesus doesn't want us to leave everything and everyone we have, our families, possessions and go to lonely places, in jungles and live in isolation and worship their God. But Jesus' love should supersede the love of our family and friends. Like Sadhu, we can also face opposition and even rejections from our loved ones. Our family members may not always understand why we do what we do or believe. Sometimes they will not support us and may even do things that hurt.

**2. Jesus also says whoever does not bear his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple.**

Sadhu must be thinking about the cross of Jesus when he was writing the the second verses of the song:

The world behind me,

The cross before me.

No turning back, No turning back

Carrying the cross is about living a sacrificial life. It cost Jesus everything he gave up his life.

Shouldn't it cost us something as well?

**3. The third part of discipleship, whoever does not forsake all that he has, cannot be my disciple.**

It seems to me there is no middle ground on these things. We have to love him with all of our heart, soul and strength. And then we have to show that love for God that we have in a tangible way by loving our neighbour as myself.

Forsaking all we have, simply means not to trust in our own works, efforts and self-righteousness, but live our life on absolute and total trust

Proverbs 3 tells us “trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding, but in all of your ways. acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight”.

I think we should thank God that we are living in a more tolerant and modern country in which everyone has the freedom to choose.

There are other parts of the world where following Jesus means isolation, rejection and persecution.

Billy Graham rightly said that Salvation is free, but discipleship costs us everything.

**So, What is the cost of discipleship to Jesus?**

Tim Keller rightly emphasis that ‘Discipleship is not an option’ that we can opt out. Jesus says that if anyone would come after me, he must follow me.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book the Cost of Discipleship coined the phrase ‘Cheap Grace’. Since the grace of God is freely given to us, it costs us nothing, so often we take our faith, and love of God for granted.

When we place Jesus at the centre of our lives, before every relationship, even before ourselves and our possessions, we begin to see our relationships, our families and ourselves with new lenses which Jesus gives us; so ultimately, we become more loving and caring as Jesus was. Amen

## Jenny Writes: Ukraine Support



As the situation in Ukraine gets ever worse, and becomes even more unimaginably horrific, many of us will be wondering what we can do to help. Here are some ideas.

One way, of course, is to pray, and it's good and important that we include prayers for Ukraine and all those affected by the war, including for the Russians - I would add, specifically for President Putin.

Another way is to give to humanitarian agencies that are doing such an incredible, and incredibly challenging, job of supporting the refugees who are being forced out of their country and into utter vulnerability and dependence on the goodwill of others. You may have seen the publicity for the DEC appeal, which is on behalf of 15 major aid agencies including Christian Aid. You can give online via this link:

<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>, or by phone using this number: 0370 60 60 900. The website gives you more information about how your donations will be spent. All 15 agencies are coordinating very effectively in the region, which ensures that the money is well used.

A third way is to put pressure on our government to respond urgently, generously and with compassion to the needs of Ukrainians who are in such huge danger. You could add your name to this petition set up by Freedom from Torture, demanding that the government:

- Develops a comprehensive humanitarian response that matches the scale of the crisis unfolding in Ukraine and in neighbouring states
- Removes clause 11 of the Nationality & Borders Bill which will severely punish Ukrainian refugees and other people seeking asylum who are forced to take irregular journeys to find safety in the UK
- Creates a global resettlement programme to help bring a minimum of 10,000 refugees to safety in the UK every year \*

This is the link: <https://www.change.org/p/borisjohnson-and-ukhomeoffice-help-ukrainian-refugees-helpukrainianrefugees>.

At the time of writing well over two million people, people like you and me, have already been forced to leave their homes, jobs, loved ones and possessions and seek safety outside their country, not knowing what the future holds and whether they'll ever be able to go

back - and if they do ever go back, not knowing what they'll find.

I find it almost unbearable to try to imagine myself in their position, having to choose between leaving everything behind and seeking safety and a totally uncertain future somewhere else, and staying with the possibility of life under a vicious occupying force or even of loss of my life and that of family members. If I had to make that choice, what would I do? If I decided to leave, whom and what would I take with me - and whom and what would I leave behind? Where would I go? How would I travel? There are so many questions that most of us, like the Ukrainians, have never had to answer, but now they're a brutal and terrifying reality for millions of innocent people.

If you'd like to know more about the situation and what you can do, have a look at Christian Aid's website: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-crisis-appeal>.

*\*while this is not what Jenny has requested in her last point, the Government has just announced a scheme for Ukrainian refugees to be housed by British Citizens in their homes.*

*In the meantime we are being encouraged to register our willingness to help. We can do this through the Sanctuary Foundation. We can register as individuals. It is also open to churches, businesses and schools to register as community sponsors. This is **not** a scheme to house refugees – that will be the government's responsibility. It is about being willing to be the Community Sponsor for a refugee family: e.g. to meet them at the airport, befriend them, and help them access services and support as they settle in or near o parish. It takes 30 seconds to register, and you can do so here: [www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk](http://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk)*



### **Brother Alois of Taizé**

'Risen Christ, as we remain in silence before you, we let this ardent prayer rise up: may the firing of weapons in the land of Ukraine cease! Welcome into your love those who are dying from violence and war, console the families in mourning, support those who have had to take the road of exodus. Faced with incomprehensible suffering, we still believe that your words of love and peace will never pass. You gave your life on the cross and you opened a future for us, even beyond death. So we implore you: give us your peace. You are our hope'.

Jesus,  
in the face of confusion  
may we be discerning  
in our judgement,  
in the face of danger  
may we be steady  
in our purpose,  
in the face of conflict  
may we be compassionate  
in our responses  
just as you were. Amen

### **Ecumenism – Joining Together in Friendship: The Anglican-Lutheran Society by Sally**

Considering the state of the world at the moment and the need to come together in unity, I thought it was an apt time to tell you something about a society I have belonged to for years of which I am a trustee.

I am writing about this for two reasons; one, I want to tell you about what it is, what we do and why, the connections we make, the understandings we develop and the friendships we have as a result. The second, is because the sessions we have at our meetings are often relevant to what we, in our church of Golders Green, are interested in and aiming for in our action plan; a recent one being on “Climate Emergency: Connecting Faith and Community” I will write about that next week. This initial article is by way of an introduction.

It is not such a well-known fact that the Church of England, with the Lutheran Church, are linked together through what is known as the “Porvoo Agreement”. This was agreed and signed in the City of Porvoo, Finland, after several years of negotiation in 1996; a remarkable act of ecumenism between Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran churches in Europe. The Agreement established full communion between and among us in which our ordained ministers are interchangeable and can serve in each other’s parishes, in our churches with our congregations receiving communion together. There are a number of Lutheran churches in the UK, usually where Lutheran’s have settled as a result of persecution, who set up their industries, e.g. the sugar merchants from Germany who brought their trade and skills with them and settled in Whitechapel in the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> centuries, who intermarried and stayed. Across Europe and the United States there are many Lutheran congregations. We have, in the ALS, a membership from 37 countries. Our contacts and friendships are wide reaching. This is especially crucial at this time as we are in contact with those in the Baltic countries from whom we are receiving messages that are both sad and alarming. We hear of desperation from the Anglican Church in Moscow, for example, where their their priests and congregations are having to leave as it is not safe for them to stay. Bishop David Hamid, Suffagan Bishop of Europe, who is our co-moderator (with the Revd Professor Jaakko Russama from Finland), has sent us a letter from the Anglican priest of St Andrews Moscow. It is courageous, desperately sad but full of faith and strength. It is far too long to print here but if anyone would like to see it I will send it to you. All Anglican churches across Europe are overseen by the Diocese of Europe who works in close dialogue with Lutheran congregations. A great deal of work and negotiation is carried out on many levels. with regard to bringing different denominations together for the sake of Unity, between people and

churches, through discussions, conferences and just plain friendship. Every two years the A-LS organizes a conference in a different country when many of us come together around a specific theme, exploring the country concerned and learning more of its history. Each year we hold an AGM in London, to which a number fly in and meet up. This year in spite of the difficult situation because of Covid and War several came - others joined in by zoom. It is so important we keep ourselves up-to-date with how things are and support as much as we can our membership and friends. That is a potted history of the Society and why it exists. It is important we know more about what is going in our Church and beyond our boundaries in spite of our differences as we are, after all, ultimately, "All one in Christ". We need each other. You might want to read a more about us by going to our website: <https://www.anglican-lutheran-society.org>

### **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.

### **Topic: 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>

## How We Are

How good to see **Ify and Ezim** in church on Sunday, back from Nigeria, looking so well. It is so good to hear that their mother's service went so well and both had felt uplifted by everyone's support and love.

**Tony** is looking after his mother **Judy**, who is in the UK and not so well at the moment. He and his sisters are meeting to discuss in the week what care might be best for her and asked for our prayers.

**Songs of Praise for Dorothy:** A "Service of Songs" will be held in memory of Dorothy on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March starting at 6.30pm sharp. Please contact the office for further information.**

**All church members are invited to attend. Please let Kamran know if you are coming and would like a lift from the church. We will be leaving at 5.00pm in order to get there in good time. If there are many, cars will be ordered so it is important you let him know as soon as possible, Kamran 07883 355 351.**

**Please also note that Dorothy's funeral will take place at Golders Green Parish Church on, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March, at 9.30am. All are welcome to come and support Festus and family.**

**Live streaming will also be available. Please use the normal zoom link below.**

**YouTube - Worship Videos of the week:**

**Consuming Fire | Israeli Worship**

<https://youtu.be/eCz-dllgOFc>

Consuming Fire | Israeli Worship

<https://youtu.be/eCz-dllgOFc>

**The Parish of Golders Green  
Parish Notices: 13/03/2022**

**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.

**Annual Church Parochial Meeting (APCM)** will be held on 22 May 2022 at 12 pm after the Sunday Service.

**Mission Action Plan Meeting – Sunday 3 April 2022.** A meeting in the church to discuss the Mission Action Plan. A light lunch will be served before the meeting. All are welcome

**Toddler Group**

Martha's Toddler group started back on 8 March. It was a success and children enjoyed play, songs, reading & fruit. We do however need Volunteers to assist with this. If you can help, please let Kamran know. Please keep in your prayers.

**Service of Songs of Mrs. Dorothy N – Friday 18 March at 6:30pm. For details , contact the office.**

**Kindly contact Kamran or Tony ASAP if you need transport to attend the service of the songs of Dorothy or if you are driving and can offer a lift.**

**Funeral Service of Mrs. Dorothy N – 24 March at 9:30am.** All church members are welcome to attend both Service of Songs and Funeral service.

**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.

**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.

**Rota for Sunday 20 March :**

**Reader:** Elizabeth

**Hospitality:** Anne / Bernard

**Intercession:** Jenny

**AV Desk-** Thomas

**Contact details:**

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,

Mobile: 07883355351

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



**All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.**

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,  
God of Peace FORGIVE

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,  
God of Generosity FORGIVE

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,  
God of Mercy FORGIVE

Our envy of welfare and happiness of others,  
God of Tenderness FORGIVE

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,  
God of Compassion FORGIVE

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,  
God of Honour FORGIVE

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God  
God of Love FORGIVE

**Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ  
forgave you.**

## Church Rota

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Intercession</b>	<b>Hospitality/Steward</b>	<b>AV (Audio Visual) Desk</b>
20/03/2022	1 Corinthians 10.1–13 Luke 13.1–9	Elizabeth	Jenny	Anne/ Bernard	Thomas
27/03/2022	2 Corinthians 5.16–end Luke 15.1–3, 11b–end	Keith	Sally	Shaniv/Silvia	Tony
03/04/2022	Philippians 3.4b–14 John 12.1–8	Tatyanna	Anne	Sally/Sheila	Shaniv
10/04/2022	Luke 22.14— end of 23 or Luke 23.1–49	Alexis	Tony	Nehar/Nwando	Thomas
14/04/2022 Maundy Thursday	1 Corinthians 11.23–26 John 13.1–17, 31b–35	Ifeyinwe	Nwadi	Alexis/Naila	Tony
15/04/2022 Good Friday	Hebrews 10.16–25 John 18.1— end of 19	Sheila	Nehar	Shaniv/Silvia	Shaniv

# **TODDLER GROUP**

## **@ GOLDERS GREEN CHURCH**



**Meet weekly on  
Tuesdays 9.30-11.30am**

**£3.00 Entrance Fee**

**Held in the church**

**More details contact the office**

**020 8455 1873**

**Golders Green Church**

**West Heath Drive NW11 7QG**

**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](mailto: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=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/>