

24 March 2022



Greetings to everyone. While the weather is certainly brightening up and lifting our spirits, which is on the positive side, the news coming from Ukraine is not; it is terrible, cruel and so bad it never quite leaves our thoughts and frustrates so many about knowing what we can do to help. In last week's newsletter Jenny gave some helpful websites to contact if you do wish to help. There is also the government's new scheme called "Sanctuary" which was not fully launched but is now. Ruth has written a piece asking us what we can do as a church, along with others churches, and has mentioned "Sanctuary". It is so important that we as a Christian community take action and work together on this. When we decide what to do, we are then linking action with prayer which is the best combination. At the same time, we do not forget the plight of those in Afghanistan, the Syrians, the imprisoned Saudis, the Rohingya and so many other countries where people are living in unjust and repressive regimes. War and oppression, that takes so many lives, that prevents the full flourishing of people in being what God wants them/us to be, is demonic and we keep praying for a release.

I am following a zoom Lent course on, "The Meaning in the Miracles", based on a book by The former Dean of St Albans, Jeffrey John. The course asks for a great deal of concentration and input from those who participate. Each week a theme, based around clusters of the miracle of Jesus, is the focus along with reading the chapters relating to them. We consider their meaning in the context of the past and present, with explanations from different theologians and authors. We reflect in our groups to reflect on the meaning for each of us. At the end of each session we are given a suggested exercise which involves thinking about issues that have meaning for ourselves. I enjoy it, it is stimulating, certainly challenging in the way it makes you think and forces you to give it time. Last week's exercise of reflection was one that really got to me. I thought I would share it with you to see if you would like to think about it too and how you might respond:

"For this Lent season, ask yourself, can we live out our calling to enable others to be more fully alive? Can we replenish our own dignity and restore the dignity of others? We might not have the power to perform miracles, but we do have the ability to be the body of Christ together and to help others be transformed and restored, so that we might all become more alive in our world today. I wonder what part of the body of Christ you are and what action you can offer this Lent to help strengthen the whole body".











Below, I have followed on from last week's information about the Anglican-Lutheran Society and the theme of, "Climate Emergency: Connecting Faith and Community", with an outline of Canon Giles Goddard's talk on his work in this area, as it is in line what we hope we will cover in our Action Plan.

It was a real privilege to attend the "Songs of Praise" in Enfield for Dorothy; to be with her family and so very many others who attended last Friday. The love for her, the faith and joy expressed for so many aspects of her life, was incredibly moving as well as affirming. It was so good to be able to greet Festus, Fiona, Kelechi and family, be with them and give them our love. Dorothy's funeral will take place on **Thursday 24th March at 9.30am at Golder Green Church**. Everyone is welcome.

With Love and Good Wishes – Sally



This Week's Edition Includes:

-  Churches Response to Refugees – Ruth;
-  Climate Emergency: Connecting Faith and Community - Sally;
-  Co-friendly Cups! – Jenny;
-  Request for Psalm for Ukraine – Chief Rabbi of Ukraine;
-  Updated Links to Services;
-  Prayers with Kamran
-  Church Bulletin;
-  Church Rota;
-  Links to Prayers, Hymns and Songs;
-  Litany of Reconciliation;

Sanctuary Foundation: Churches Response to Refugees – Ruth

I've felt so angry and ashamed of the Government's response to the Ukraine refugee crisis. The new scheme is a step in the right direction, but not everyone has a spare room to offer to host a family.

So instead, I've signed up to the Sanctuary Foundation, who are collecting pledges of support from individuals, communities and churches, and are organising practical help. There's more information on their website www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk.

We can pledge our support collectively as a church, to show the Government that we want to do more to welcome refugees into our hearts and our community. Over 1700 churches have already signed up.

Potential ways you could be involved include:

- Welcoming a Ukrainian family to live in your community
- Finding and possibly furnishing suitable accommodation
- Raising of support funds (in previous sponsorships this has been £1k - 9k per family)
- Befriending and integration support through volunteering your time

The campaign has the backing of lots of church leaders, including our very own Bishop Rob. There's a webinar on Wednesday at 2pm giving more information on how churches can play a role. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-churches-can-sponsor-ukrainian-refugees-tickets-300903208597>



Icon of St Joseph caring for Jesus

Climate Emergency: Connecting Faith and Community – Sally



Last week I mentioned the theme of the A-LS AGM day when their focus was on the emergency we face regarding the climate. We had two speakers; both well known for the work they do in different ways but with the same aim. One was Canon Giles Goddard, Vicar of St John's, Waterloo; the other was the Revd Helen Burnett, Vicar of Chalden in the

Southwark Diocese, who actively demonstrates, walks and speaks to draw people's attention to the disaster we are facing. She with numbers of people walked from London to Glasgow for the COP 26 meeting up with others en-route with their banners, stopping to talk about why they were walking, sleeping in host churches and village halls. Helen and Jenny met up and had a discussion at the conference. Next week I will write about Helen Burnett's talk and why she believes in Direct Action.

Giles focussed on how he started a group from very small beginnings which were, to connect faith with the community to be aware of the issues of Climate Change. As he talked he reminded me of the story of the Mustard seed (Mark 4:30-32), growing from the tiniest seed into a huge tree that sheltered the birds in its branches. From small beginnings a large organisation has been formed with National links and has grown, recognised by the National Church who discuss the issues they raise at General Synod.

The organisation is embedded in Biblical teaching. Giles started by quoting some of the texts about creation and care that we cannot ignore. **Genesis 1** *"God formed humans, dirt from the ground, and breathed into them the breath of life"*;

Job 12.7-10, *"But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being"*. **Isaiah 24.3 – 7** *The earth shall be utterly laid waste and utterly despoiled; for the Lord has spoken this word. The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers; the heavens languish together with the earth. The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant". **Luke 4.16 – 19** *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."* He also quoted the parable of the sower **Mark 4.1-9** ending with, *"And he said, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"**

Giles then focused on three main issues which were for The Church of England to concentrate on:

People: Encouraging lifestyle changes; Encouraging reflection and action; Protest.

Churches: Joining EcoChurch; Political engagement; Protest.

The Institution: Change through, General Synod (the Church's parliament) Bishops & political engagement;

Being aware of and working to change our Investments.

He asked, if we take on the aims of Faith for the Climate; what is our vision and our purpose? "What can we do?" He stated how important it is to have a vision and purpose; to envisage a world where people across all faiths work together to tackle climate change. We need to come together to do this, to build bridges and encourage people of different faiths to work to protect our shared environment, so we can bring about greater impact in tackling climate change. We cannot do this alone ignoring the needs of the wider world. We, collectively, need to find ways of modelling good interfaith working. His organisation tries to live up to all these aims. I was thinking as he spoke how these aims are essential for all our interactions in any part of our lives- "working together across boundaries", "modelling good practise", "encouraging others to know about and adopt them". As the poet, Blake said, "No-one is an Island". (Actually he said, "No man..." but I have adapted him for our time!!)



He talked of how tackling climate change is about justice and putting pressure on governments, the financial sector and individuals to help the poorest people survive climate chaos. The poorest people in the world are the ones who suffer the most from the impacts of climate change, but they've done the least to cause it. Climate justice means those who are more responsible for causing climate change doing more to tackle it. It means those having contributed taking responsibility for our actions: including churches in the Global North. COP 27 is in Egypt in November.

Among our main tasks are to tackle, **Climate finance**, and end public subsidy and private investment in new fossil fuels; to recompense poorer nations for the **loss and damage** they are experiencing.

To help he encouraged our engagement with the following organizations who do so much towards mitigating climate change.

Christian Aid - <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/our-prophetic-journey-towards-climate-justice> -As highlighted in Christian Aid's landmark "Black Lives Matter Everywhere" report, Black and brown people in Africa, the Caribbean, India and other parts of the global south are facing the brunt of the impacts. Here in the UK, 50% of Black Christians don't think that the environmental movement is racially diverse enough, and are keen for their churches to stand up for justice.

Hope for the Future - <https://www.hftf.org.uk/>

Hope for the Future is a climate charity which works to equip communities, groups and individuals across the country to communicate the urgency of climate change with their local politicians. Its vision is to see communities and their elected representatives across the UK come together to take decisive action on climate change.

Tearfund - <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/climate-campaign> - whose climate campaigning focuses on tackling the injustice of the poorest people being hit the hardest threatening to push millions more into poverty. This is not God's plan.

Faith for the Climate - <https://faithfortheclimate.org.uk/> - who exists to encourage, inspire and equip faith communities in their work on climate change. Climate change is the biggest and most urgent challenge facing humanity.

Christian Climate Action - <https://christianclimateaction.org/> - a community of Christians supporting each other to take meaningful action in the face of imminent and catastrophic anthropogenic climate breakdown, inspired by Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Local initiatives such as: **Transition Towns** - <https://transitionnetwork.org/>



Co-friendly Cups! From Jenny



Those of you who are coming back into church will have seen that we're still using the single use cups that we bought when the church started opening up again, and when using disposable cups was regarded as good practice. Although we're hoping soon to be able to start using the reusable (and dishwasher-proof) cups that you'll remember from pre-pandemic times, until that happens can we encourage you to bring your own reusable cup if you're staying for refreshments after our services? Over the last two years the volume of single use plastic and other materials that's been generated and ended up in landfill or in the oceans has increased hugely. That's terrible for the environment and wildlife, and very wasteful. It's particularly bad because before Covid the use of disposable cups and other things was, wonderfully, going down dramatically as people realised how much damage was being caused just for human beings' convenience. As restrictions relax, now's the time to do our bit and break our addiction to single use stuff!

PS, don't forget that in many coffee shops, you get a discount if you take your own reusable cup!

Request from the Chief Rabbi of Ukraine for people of all faiths to say the 31st Psalm

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;
be my rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me.

³ Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

⁴ Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,

for you are my refuge.
⁵ Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.
⁶ I hate those who cling to worthless idols;
as for me, I trust in the Lord.
⁷ I will be glad and rejoice in your love,
for you saw my affliction
and knew the anguish of my soul.
⁸ You have not given me into the hands of the enemy
but have set my feet in a spacious place.
⁹ Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress;
my eyes grow weak with sorrow,
my soul and body with grief.
¹⁰ My life is consumed by anguish
and my years by groaning;
my strength fails because of my affliction,^[b]
and my bones grow weak.
¹¹ Because of all my enemies,
I am the utter contempt of my neighbors
and an object of dread to my closest friends—
those who see me on the street flee from me.
¹² I am forgotten as though I were dead;
I have become like broken pottery.
¹³ For I hear many whispering,
“Terror on every side!”
They conspire against me
and plot to take my life.
¹⁴ But I trust in you, Lord;
I say, “You are my God.”
¹⁵ My times are in your hands;
deliver me from the hands of my enemies,
from those who pursue me.
¹⁶ Let your face shine on your servant;
save me in your unfailing love.
¹⁷ Let me not be put to shame, Lord,
for I have cried out to you;
but let the wicked be put to shame
and be silent in the realm of the dead.
¹⁸ Let their lying lips be silenced,
for with pride and contempt
they speak arrogantly against the righteous.
¹⁹ How abundant are the good things
that you have stored up for those who fear you,
that you bestow in the sight of all,
on those who take refuge in you.
²⁰ In the shelter of your presence you hide them
from all human intrigues;

you keep them safe in your dwelling
from accusing tongues.

²¹ Praise be to the Lord,
for he showed me the wonders of his love
when I was in a city under siege.

²² In my alarm I said,
“I am cut off from your sight!”
Yet you heard my cry for mercy
when I called to you for help.

²³ Love the Lord, all his faithful people!
The Lord preserves those who are true to him,
but the proud he pays back in full.

²⁴ Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the Lord.



Pablo Picasso, Dove of Peace, 1949

*Picasso's first Dove of Peace was chosen as the emblem for
the First International Peace Conference in Paris in 1949*

Litany of Reconciliation

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.



Updated Links to Services from Jenny

If you're looking for online prayer and worship opportunities, here are some suggestions:

Daily worship:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online>: including

- Prayer for the day
- Services of daily prayer
- Time to pray app and podcast

<https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/whats-on/?category=204> livestreamed daily services and some one-off services on particular themes and issues.

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/> Pray as you Go (a short service each day in the Jesuit Tradition)

The following links take you to prayers and reflections on particular themes:

Covid: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/coronavirus-covid-19-liturg-and-prayer-resources>

Mental health: some short reflections to support good mental health:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/mental-health-resources/supporting-good-mental-health>

Ukraine: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-crisis-appeal>

Climate justice: www.climatesunday.org

Environmental issues: <https://arocha.org.uk/prayer-diary/>

The world's poorest communities and those affected by emergencies and conflict:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/faith-resources/prayer-library>

The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) offers a series of prayer journeys which you can sign up to here: <https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/prayer-journeys/>

Daily Bible readings:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/daily-bible-readings>

LICC also offer e-mailed 'Word for the Week' each Monday. You can sign up here:

<https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/word-for-the-week/>

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=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>

Songs of Worship :

Consuming Fire | Israeli Worship

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

Golders Green Church Rota March to April

Date	Reading	Readers	Intercession	Hospitality/Steward	AV (Audio Visual) Desk	Preacher
27/03/2022	2 Corinthians 5.16–end Luke 15.1–3,11b–end	Keith	Sally	Sheila	Tony	RKB
03/04/2022	Philippians 3.4b–14 John 12.1–8	Tatyanna	Anne	Sally/Silvia	Shaniv	RKB
10/04/2022	Psalm 118:19-24 Luke 19:28-40	Alexis	Tony	Nehar/Nwando	Thomas	RKB
14/04/2022 Maundy Thursday	1 Corinthians 11.23–26 John 13.1–17, 31b–35	Ifeyinwe	Nwadi	Alexis/Naila	Tony	RKB

**The Parish of Golders Green
Parish Notices: 20/03/2022**

Mothering Sunday Service: 27/03/2022 at 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.

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

The Church 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.

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: Keith

Hospitality: Sheila

Intercession: Sally

AV Desk- Tony

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,

Mobile: 0788335535 | website www.gg-pc.co.uk

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

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=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/>