

27 April 2022



"Appearance to the Disciples"
by Ukrainian iconographer, Ivanka Demchuk.

Greetings to everyone hoping you are all well and getting out more now that Spring is full of growth, blossom, and promise. It was so good to see more in church on Sunday and to welcome Archdeacon John. He is such a good friend to our church. Several people commented on his sermon which is printed in full below. He picked up on several strands that I know have been in our minds over the past months; of the events that have overcome us and made us wonder what life is really all about, with the diminishing and loss of life through illness, war and so much hatred; addressing directly the question that many of us have been asking, “How can we celebrate Easter in all this?”. While facing the question head on, he gave us a sermon offering evidence of so much Hope and not being crushed by past or present but “to believe in Gods promise to work in the future is more important than what God has done in the past; not to dismiss the past, or withdraw from the world with a hope that somehow a better world will evolve”, but by our, “active participation in the world to speed the coming of that better world. “It is with the gift of the Holy Spirit from the once crucified Lord that will make this possible” he said. With our active involvement we can make a difference no matter how long it may seem to take. We do have Hope and we cling to that in our prayers and our daily lives.

Thinking of the Ukraine, which is never far from our minds, some images are likely to stay with us that, in many ways, exemplify that Hope in their poignancy and defiance. For me these have been the musicians, young and old, who have been photographed singing or playing their instruments among the bombed-out homes and buildings around them. In this total desolation, their music has risen above it all and reaches out to others. Surely this is the Holy Spirit dancing among them using their gifts to strengthen and bring flashes of Hope to those who can hear it.

I have always loved and collected Icons. Below I have written a piece about a young Ukrainian Iconographer, Ivanka Demchuk, whose contemporary Icons bring much prayerful pleasure to many. Three of which are in this newsletter. It would be interesting to hear what you think of them.

There is a notice about requests for foodbanks requirements with a list of goods that are most welcome.

Please note the date of the concert being put on by the Quakers in aid of refugees.

It would be so good if anyone would like to write something for the newsletter. Anything that you would like to offer would be very welcome. You have written some lovely things in the past, such as reminiscences of childhood or a happening that made an impression on your life, your thoughts, ideas, poems, prayers, or a favourite book you would like to share. Please send them in to Jennifer at the office: Jennifer@gg-pc.co.uk

Finally, it was sad to hear about the death in Nigeria of Ann's oldest brother, Azu . We send our condolences to Ann and her family and many prayers on their bereavement. Also, we are so sorry to hear that Eunice was taken ill after the Service and had to be taken to A&E. Lots of prayers dear Eunice for a good recovery and keep us in touch with how you are.

With Love and Good Wishes – Sally

This Week's Edition Includes:

- ✚ **Sermon from Archdeacon John;**
- ✚ **Donations for Food Banks;**
- ✚ **Invitation to Quaker Concert;**
- ✚ **Icons – by Sally;**
- ✚ **How We Are;**
- ✚ **Prayers with Kamran;**
- ✚ **Church Bulletin;**
- ✚ **Church Rota;**
- ✚ **Links to Services;**



“He breathed on them” John 20.22 - Sermon Archdeacon John

Breathe on me, breath of God: fill me with life anew,
that I may love as you have loved and do as you would do.

This morning in our gospel we are reminded of that moment when human life began and taken into that moment where human life will become renewed and fulfilled, that moment when all life came into being and the moment of hope that all life can last forever.

Just as God in a garden tool clay breathed into Adam, so that he might become a living being, so it in that upper room at that First Easter God in Christ appears and breaths the resurrection life into his disciples and into our word to fill it with life anew.

And so, as we celebrate the joy of Easter, proclaiming Alleluia Christ is Risen we acknowledge that it is by his breath alone that we live:
by his risen breath we are given the opportunity to renew, refresh and reimagine this gift of life to make ourselves free from all that seeks to destroy and diminish life.

I wonder as we see the constant images of death and destruction in the Ukraine:
Streets with lifeless bodies lying where they were killed or the uncovering of partly buried bodies of people that only a few weeks ago were like us alive and breathing – I wonder How we are able to celebrate Easter with this reality and what this breathing of Christ over his disciples means?

And as I reflect on the scene on that second week of Easter in a room with the door shut that a week earlier has been locked for fear, I cannot but be reminded of that street in Minneapolis two years ago where a man for 9minutes and 30 seconds cried out “I cannot breath.”

I remember in the light of this death and the response of tens and hundreds of thousands of people across the world, in the midst of a global pandemic came together to cry out **We too cannot breath:**
we too want to live free of all that takes our breath from us, the divine breath that was gifted to humanity from the beginning of time: the breath given by God to each one of us at the beginning of our time.

So just as Easter is the celebration of Christs triumph over all obstacles, all that seeks to deny life
to destroy life
to take life
to negate life
Easter is the moment when Jesus breaths on his disciples and he gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit that will forever change them and the world.

For now, because of Easter, our hope is no longer rooted in wishful thinking or shallow optimism but is rooted by the feet and held in the hands that bear the scars created by those who deny life and attempt to steal the breath of God from his children.

Just as John begins his gospel with the beginning of all things so at the beginning of our Easter celebration, of all that will be the rest of our lives, it is the Word of God, Jesus himself that

speaks to us this morning, whether in our churches, or celebrating the Eucharist, whether we are in our homes and in the open bible by our bed in which we read the Word of God. In this Word is the source of our Hope – not our optimism, not our ambition not our aspiration **but our hope**. A hope that is as rooted in the pain and loss of Good Friday as it is in the emptiness and despair of a tomb on Holy Saturday.

A hope that is **now ours** as we join together with the women in new light of that first Easter and the disciples in an upper room.

They like we are crushed and defeated by the past: fearful of what the future might hold. It is here that Jesus breaths upon his disciples and with his breath within them, un-masks their fear drawing near to them in their isolation and with a still small voice- gifting them the Holy Spirit.

Here at Golders Green as you attend to the task of rebuilding your life following the loss of the last two years you will inevitably hear the fears and words of the past but my friends I urge you not to be confined to what has been, what you have lost but be filled with the Holy Spirit that Jesus breaths on you and me this morning
It's a new dawn
It's a new day
It's a new life for me
And quoting Nina Simone, "I'm feeling good"

In his seminal work "Theology of Hope" Jurgen Moltmann reminds us that every Christian is a person of hope. Moltmann believes that Gods promise to work in the future is more important than what he has done in the past. The implication of this is not to dismiss the past or withdraw from the world with a hope that somehow a better world will evolve. No there is to be an active participation in the world to speed the coming of that better world. It is with the gift of the Holy Spirit from the once crucified Lord that will make this possible and in turn that gift of the Spirit comes from the one who drew breaths as human child, could no longer breath in the suffocating pain of the cross and with his first new breath of Easter speaks our name.

We are people who must be impatient with the current state of our world. In the heart of hope is eschatology, best expressed in the words of St Peter in his first letter chapter 1.3 *"Praise be to God the father of our Lord Jesus Christ in his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*

It is hope that changes us
It is hope that changes the world
It is the expectation that the promises of God are already in the process of fulfilment through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead...
That spurs us on with our Easter celebration,
living as we are in the midst of not one but three global pandemics
– an environmental extinction event that will touch all life given by God on this planet
- the impact of racism across our world
-the death loss and despair created by Covid-19

As we celebrate this Easter we dare to hope for a better future, not for the one but for all:

One where Jesus is with us and every breath we take: in every step we make for he is watching over us

Icons – by Sally

I have always loved and collected Icons. I find them the most inspiring and helpful way to help meditation and prayer. They are an ancient form of creating what, Iconographers call “windows into heaven”. They have strict rules in their creation which is a long and complex process involving much prayer by the iconographer and the specific use of material. They are viewed as sacred and are used in religious worship especially by the Russian, Greek, Armenian and all other branches of Orthodox Churches. They have become increasingly popular over the recent decades in Anglican and Roman Catholics Churches. St Paul’s Cathedral commissioned two magnificent, large Icons which can be seen near the altar. One, shown here, is of St Paul with a bird on his shoulder, the now-extinct New Zealand wattlebird, in “St Paul and the Huia” by New Zealand-Maori artist-priest Regan O’Callaghan.



One of my most favourite Iconographers is a young Ukrainian woman, called Ivanka Demchuk. I came across her work several years ago, well before the war, and was struck by the way she portrayed many of the key Christian festivals. Her work is light, translucent with spare use of colour, which highlights her use of space around her subjects, inviting you into the scene. My particular love is her portrayal of “The Annunciation” with the Angel peeping round the edge of Mary’s room waiting to tell her God’s news and, I like to think, wondering what her answer will be. I have this on my study wall.



Another is one of the Holy Trinity.



Because her Icon style is so clear and uncluttered it leaves plenty of room for the viewer to enter into the scene portrayed and reflect. She effectively marries the ancient art of Iconography with contemporary meanings, Christian symbolism and events, as in, “The Road to Emmaus”, with its lonely and isolated feeling, that she has dedicated to “Praying for all those displaced people "on the road", trying to flee violence, that they may be accompanied by the Risen Christ speaking truth and hope to their hearts”.



Ivanka is a Ukrainian Catholic. It is not known whether she is still in Ukraine or is elsewhere carrying on with her paintings as the musicians are carrying on with their music. We can only hope she and they are safe with their God-given creativity that brings so much beauty, art and hope to so many people across the world.

Donations for Food Banks

Just to thank those of you who have so generously contributed goods and money towards the needs of the foodbanks in our areas. Last week's food and toiletries were taken to the Colindale Foodbank where the manager told me that they were getting increasing demands for their services. This week's will be delivered to All Saint's Childs Hill Food Bank. All donations will continue to be welcome. Please bring your gifts to the church on either Sunday or when Jennifer is in the office on a Wednesday or Thursday. Thank you in advance for goods to come and to those who have already donated. You are very generous.

URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

TINNED FRUIT
TINNED VEGETABLES
TINNED FISH
NAPPIES (3/4/5)
PASTA SAUCE
RICE PUDDING
SUGAR - SMALL PACKETS (VERY URGENT)
COFFEE
JUICE
CRISPS / SNACKS
BISCUITS
COOKING OIL

NON-FOOD ITEMS

WASHING UP LIQUID
TOOTHBRUSH
TOOTHPASTE
TOILET ROLLS
SHOWER GEL
DEODORANT
SHAMPOO
NAPPIES - SIZE 3,4,5 & 6
WIPES
WASHING POWDER

**HAMPSTEAD QUAKER MEETING, 120, HEATH STREET, HAMPSTEAD NW3
1DR**

“HOPE IS POWERFUL”

**We have been invited us to a concert being held at the Quaker Meeting Hall in
Hampstead High St.**

**This is a fund-raising concert in aid of Ukrainian and other refugees and will be
held on
Saturday, 18 June at 3pm**

Children, adults, and friends of the meeting will come together in music and words, reaching out in love and support to all those who currently seek refuge and help here and in other countries.

We hope to fill the meeting house so please come and bring family and friends.

Donations will be welcome on the day. All the money raised will be divided equally between the following charities: **Unicef's work with Ukrainian children, The Refugee Council and Polska Akcja Humanitarna (Polish Humanitarian Action).**

Precautions: the room will be well ventilated, and we hope that you will wear a mask.

Travel: 210 bus, 46 bus, Hampstead Underground, parking (charged) in East Heath Car Park, East Heath Road.

How We Are

We were so sorry to hear that, after the Sunday Service, **Eunice** was taken ill and had to go to A&E Dept at the Royal Free. We hope she is now making a good recovery. We send our prayers and many good wishes.

It was also very sad to hear that **Ann's** oldest brother had died in Nigeria. **Ann**, we send our condolences and many prayers to you and your family at this sad time.

It was so good to see David back in church, with his wife Uche, after being so ill for some time. Welcome back among us and we pray for continued strength.

Archbishop Emmanuel C has been unwell and receiving treatment in London. We wish him strength, many prayers, and a good recovery. It was so good to see him and his wife in church on Sunday.

Please continue to pray for **Margaret, Simon, Marlies** and all those who have been unwell that they may gain in strength and good health.

Glad too that **Jennifer** has recovered from Covid. She does so much for us so please take care.

We hope that **Tony** is feeling much better and more rested. We miss you **Tony** and wish you well and much strength with lots of prayers.

It would be so good if you could let us know either by WhatsApp, the Newsletter, phone, or email about anyone who is not well, bereaved or would appreciate our prayers. In this way we can keep our thoughts and prayers, individually and communally for members of our congregation. Please either ring the church office, **020 8 455 1873** or email: Jennifer@gg-pc.co.uk who will pass your messages on. With many thanks.

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 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/aemYT2pIYY>

Songs of Worship:

[Leat Sabbah feat. Shai Sol - Let it Rain \(Cover\) 4K!](#)

<https://youtu.be/RJWF4SM5v8A>

[An Easter Hallelujah Cassandra Star & her sister Callahan](#)

<https://youtu.be/dszpVNJkIM>

Links to Services

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-liturgy-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/>

Church Rota for April & May 2022

Date	Reading	Readers	Intercession	Hospitality/Steward	AV (Audio Visual) Desk	Preacher
01/05/2022	Revelation 5.11–end John 21.1–19	Sam	Jenny	Nehar/ Nwando	Tony	RKB
08/05/2022	Revelation 7.9-end John 10.22-30	Friday	Anne	Alexis/Naila	Thomas	RKB

The Parish of Golders Green Parish Notices: 24/04/2022

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. All welcome.

Toddler Group - The group has now started back. The times are from 9.30am to 11.30pm. Please see the poster attached.

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 all who are unwell.

Please also prayer for all those who are grieving for their loved ones, especially for Festus, Fiona, Kelechi, and entire family.

Rota for Sunday 1st May :

Reader: Sam

Intercession: Jenny

Hospitality: Nehar/Nwando

AV Desk- Tony

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,

Mobile: 07883355351

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

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

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/>