

25 May 2022



**Greetings to everyone.** What an excellent Annual Parochial Church Meeting we had on Sunday. It was clear that those who attended had read all the reports as there were plenty of questions and discussions. Kamran thanked everyone who had taken part in so many aspects of church life and all those who had contributed throughout the year. There was a real feeling of being part of an interested and involved family. The Action Mission Plan, that will set the direction of the church for the next 5 years or so, was passed. If anyone has not seen it, a copy can be obtained from Jennifer at the office, [Jennifer@gg-pc.co.uk](mailto:Jennifer@gg-pc.co.uk) or 020 8455 1873.

The Plan had been thoroughly worked on, discussed and revised, not just by the PCC but also by members of the congregation who had been kept involved and consulted over the time of its planning. While Kamran had thanked all those who had contributed, it is important to say how it was his supportive way of overseeing its development, stage by stage, encouraging different viewpoints and ideas, listening and making a gradual build-up of each area that made it a completed document with clear sections to be worked on. It was a classic example of how to involve everyone, without dominating or pressuring, so people felt free to express their thoughts and ideas without feeling there might be something they should not be saying. Personally, I would like to thank Kamran for freeing up thought and giving confidence. Now as the work begins it is hoped that gifts and expertise will be offered to take forward the areas of interest and we can work together.

This week's edition includes the intercessions given by Jenny which covered so many of the crises we are facing across the world, and in this country. They are all on our minds and we are aware that they are causing so much hardship, confusion and devastation, mentally, physically and financially for many. While focusing on Christ's words of Peace she asked us to think of the questions that arise for us that show a disconnect between the words we read, what is actually happening and what we can do – remembering the words in the letter of St James's about, faith/prayer without action being dead (James 2:17). They are helpful thoughts to ponder on in our daily meditations and prayers.

I don't know about you, but this piece of art is how I feel when I think and pray about all the issues of the world and need to find some peace and resolution. Whoever created this sculpture got it just right!



Included is a prayer for, “Black Lives Matter”, from Christian Aid. This week is the anniversary of the murder of George Perry Floyd Jr. an African-American man murdered in full sight by a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota, during an arrest in 2020. This terrible action gave rise to demonstrations across many countries and resurgence of the “Black Lives Matter” movement which started in the States in 2013. If we truly believe we are all made in the likeness of God none of us can countenance such appalling, unjust actions or ways of behaving, in this or any country, that diminishes or prevents whole groups of people from being what God intended everyone to be. As the prayer says, “we who hope believe change will come” must do all we can to make sure it does.

In his sermon Kamran mentioned Lydia (Acts 16) and her importance, as a wealthy business woman, who was converted by hearing St Paul and led her family and friends to be the first Christian community. A short profile of her is below.

Please remember the Bring and Share lunch for this coming Sunday. There is bound to be a great variety of delicious dishes. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

With Love and Good Wishes – Sally

#### **This Week’s Edition Includes:**

- + Lydia the Business Woman – Sally;**
- + Intercessions from Sunday - Jenny;**
- + Christian Aid Prayer – Jenny;**
- + How We Are;**
- + Prayers with Kamran;**
- + Church Bulletin;**
- + Church Rota;**
- + Prayer List;**
- + Links to Services;**

## Lydia the Business Woman



**Lydia**

Lydia was a wealthy business woman from Thyatira who had her own business trading in purple cloth. Paul and others, Silas, Timothy and Luke in Philippi, had come to rest by a river and were talking to a group of women. Lydia, known to be a Gentile, a God Fearer – one who believed in God – listened to his words and, having heard what he had to say, “her heart was opened by God”. She asked to be baptized with her whole household and subsequently offered hospitality to Paul and his party. It is thought that Lydia by doing this created one of the first house churches in Europe.

What is special about this story is the number of points it makes about the position of women in the Empire. It is so often not what we have been led to believe. It was not uncommon for women in the ancient world to have their own businesses and take on the role of patrons and benefactors to Jewish and other immigrant communities especially the travelling merchants and artisans in the Greek cities. Lydia was clearly one such woman; she had authority, was thought to be a free woman, a widow of intelligence, who could clearly hold her own in that market. She was respected, generous and is known to be the founder of the first house church to which many would come. Her story is told down the ages and much respected by different churches. The Orthodox church for example names her as “Equal to the Apostles”. Other denominations have their own feast day for her. But she is not the only woman, not an exception to the rule. She is akin to the many other women in the Bible who St Paul mentions, honours, recognises their faith, relies on them for support, sends them on journeys to deliver his letters (such as Phoebe who he entrusts his letter to Rome) and acknowledges what he has learnt from them. So many accounts are documented in Romans especially Chapter 16. I often think St Paul, who clearly had his cantankerous moments, was probably not the easiest person to get on with, is misunderstood as a misogynist, when he acknowledges the wide number of women who were responsible for developing the early church, who worked with him in so many different ways and clearly trusted them to teach others. We, as women in the present day, have Lydia as one of our role models, along with many others of her biblical sisters, with our own careers, faith, hospitality, gifts, family responsibilities and care as well as supporting the Church in many different ways. We continue on down the long line of History and Faith as they did.



**Rhododendrons in full bloom – Kenwood, Hampstead Heath**

**Intercessions 22 May 2022 - Jenny  
(end of Christian Aid Week, APCM)**

When I was preparing these prayers, I was drawn to the words of Jesus at the end of the Gospel reading – ‘peace I leave with you, my peace I give you.’ I need that reminder more than ever, with all the terrible things going on in the world. Maybe it’s helpful to you as well, so I’m going to begin our prayers with a moment for us all to reflect on those words. Later, to acknowledge that this is the end of Christian Aid Week, I’m going to use words from a prayer produced by colleagues.

Let’s start with those wonderful words of Jesus:

*Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid.’*

A moment of silence to let these words sink deep into our hearts .....

God, we know you’re a loving God, and that Jesus came to bring peace, shalom, total wellbeing, to bring life in all its abundance. But sometimes it’s hard to see that – we look everywhere in the world, and this country is not exempt, and we see conflict, poverty, environmental devastation, inequality, extreme climate events, greed, injustice, and so much more.

We see the terrible disconnect between what you want for your beautiful creation, and what we human beings have done with it. God of love and peace, we come to you with our distress, confusion, regrets and anxiety. Sometimes it feels like all we can do is cling to you by our fingertips, hanging on to the fact that that you haven’t gone away even when it feels as if you have. We cry out to you:

For how long will the stomachs of children be empty?

For how long will temperatures rise beyond record?

For how long will clouds fail to give rain, and crop fields turn to dust?

For how long will so few live with far too much, while so many are denied even the basics?

For how long will injustice and suffering, wars and conflict, persist?

Lord, how long before the healing of nations? How long until your kingdom comes?

Loving creator God, we bring to you, our impatience. We long for a time when we and all people can know the abundant life that Jesus offers, but sometimes that feels like an impossible dream. We all need you, God, so much.

May we listen well to you. Show each of us what we can do, wherever we are, whatever our situation, and then give us the strength, courage, joy and determination to do it.

We pray this too for this church as part of the Body of Christ in Golders Green. As we hold our Annual Parochial Church Meeting this morning, we thank you so much for the way you've brought us as a community through the worst of the pandemic and are opening up so many opportunities to serve you in this part of London, to bring the love and peace of Jesus to our neighbours. Thank you for bringing Kamran to us, for his love, vision and leadership as he takes us forward into this new phase of our church's life. Please protect him and Naila from anything that is not of you and affirm and encourage them in every aspect of their lives.

We pray for the annual meeting and ask that it will be a time of encouragement and affirmation as we look back and look forward. Thank you for everyone who has contributed in so many ways to the life of this church over the last year, and for those who will be contributing in this next year. We offer to you with gratitude and hope our new mission action plan, trusting that you will use it and us to bless this part of North London, and the wider world. Make us partners in your mission. Pour out your Spirit on this church, so that we become more and more open to what you want us to be and to do. Make us a truly welcoming and diverse Christian community, sharing God's love with everyone. May your Spirit fill us, enthuse us and flow through us, and may Jesus be glorified in all that we do. **Amen**



**Dear Lord,**

If the world insists that the black lives on the margins are weak,  
Remind us that in your kingdom those at the margins are seen as strong.  
If the world tells us that the fate of the just must be dictated by the unjust  
Remind us that in your kingdom the unjust are transformed by the just.

If the world declares that racial terror does not exist,

Remind us that in your kingdom truth joins hands with justice.

If the world believes there is nothing more to hope for,

Remind us that your kingdom is built by those who hope and believe change will come.

Amen

Jenny Brown  
Senior Church Advocacy Adviser  
Christian Aid

### **How We Are**

We are all so pleased to hear that **Kamran's** sister, **Humera** and **Naila's** mum, **Maryam** are both much better now. This is such good news and we pray that they continue to be in good health.

We keep **Simon and his father** in our prayers. **Simon** is making good progress after being unwell for some time but his father is not at all well. This is a difficult time for the family. We send them our love and prayers.

Please continue to pray for all those who have been unwell that they may gain in strength and good health as well as those who are grieving because of a loss of a loved one; we think especially of Festus and family and Ann, Gideon and family.

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.



## 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>

## **The Parish of Golders Green**

### **Parish Notices: 22/05/2022**

**Sunday Service:** 10 am - After the service, Prayer ministry is available for anyone who wishes to receive prayers.

**Weekday Events – Mid-week Communion Service.** We are hoping to restart the midweek Communion Service and Bible study in the near future. Please keep this in your prayers.

**Annual Church Parochial Meeting (APCM)** will be held today after the service. All welcome.

**Bring and Share** will take place straight after the service on Sunday 29 May. All welcome to bring a dish to share. Contact Silvia (07913446002) or office for more info.

**The Toddler Group** takes place, every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am during term time. We had twelve children this week & it was a joy to have so many. Please continue to join us. Owing to the school half term approaching, there will be no toddler group on 31.05.2022. We will resume on 07.06.2022.

**GGPC Rota** If for some reason you are unable to do your duties on the rota, please contact Rev Kamran or Jennifer to find cover.

#### **For your prayers:**

Please continue to prayer for Mike H, Eunice, Margaret and for all those who are grieving for their loved ones, especially for Ann and Gideon, and for Festus, Fiona, Kelechi and the entire family.

#### **Rota for Sunday 29 May:**

**Reader:** Sheila

**Hospitality:** Sheila

**Intercession:** Nwando

**AV Desk:** Tony

#### **Contact details:**

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873, Website: [www.gg-pc.co.uk](http://www.gg-pc.co.uk)



## BRING AND SHARE- GOLDERS GREEN PARISH CHURCH - SILVIA



In the last few months due to Covid restrictions, the church has been providing food on the last Sunday of the month.

Since, we are slowly moving back to normality, we hope to start **“Bring and Share Option”** to reflect and celebrate the diverse multicultural community within our parish.

Therefore, on the **29<sup>th</sup> of May**, we hope you will be encouraged to share the richness of your cultural cuisine via the **“Bring and Share Option”**, in turn the church will provide plates, cutlery, drinks, paper napkins, tea and coffee.

See below some of different food options. It would be great if you could email the office with what you would like to bring. **Let us eat together!!**

Meat Dish		Fish Dish		Vegetable /Salad Dish		Sweets/Desserts	
Dish Name	Prepared by	Dish Name	Prepared by	Dish Name	Prepared by	Dish Name	Prepared by
•	•	•	•	e.g., Spanish Omelette	• Silvia	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

## Church Rota from May to July 2022

Date	Reading	Readers	Intercession	Hospitality/ Steward	AV (Audio Visual) Desk
29/05/2022 Ascension Sunday	Acts 1:1-11 John 17.20-end	Sheila	Nwando	Sheila	Tony
05/06/2022 Pentecost	Acts 2.1–21 † John 14.8–17 [25–27]	Alexis	Nehar	Nwando	Shaniv
12/06/2022	Romans 5.1-5 John 16.12-15	Tim	Nwadi	Silvia	Thomas
19/06/2022	Galatians 3.23-end Luke 8.26-39	Silvia	Rose	Nehar	Tony
26/06/2022	Galatians 5.1 13-25 Luke 9.51-end	tbc	Anne	Naila	Shaniv
03/07/2022	Ephesians 2.19-end John 11.1-16	Abi	Sally	Sally	Thomas

### Toddler Group at Golders Green Parish Church:

It was a joy to recently see 12 children attend the Toddler Group. They had fun and enjoyed playing with the various toys, eating fruit along with singing & story time at the end. Please continue to join us. The Toddler group will be **closed** for one week on Tuesday 31 May owing to the school half term but will **resume** on Tuesday 7 June. We look forward to seeing you then.

## 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](http://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/>

**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=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/>