



## Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022



*Ascension Day*

**Greetings to everyone.** We had a beautiful Service on Sunday for Ascension Day, to celebrate the ascension of Jesus into heaven leaving the disciples to carry on his message and work in the world. It is such an important Church festival in the Christian year but one that so often goes by without the attention of Christmas and Easter, as being 40 days after Easter, it ends up on a Thursday when everyone is working as there is no special holiday for it. In many churches and cathedrals where they can, the choir and clergy, with some members of their congregation climb up to the tower at dawn and sing an ascension-tide hymn of welcome. They did this at Southwark Cathedral, for example. In my old parish at St Peter's, Belsize Square, we have a beautiful stained glass window at the West end of the church. On Ascension day we would turn towards it at the end of the service and sing, "Hail the Day that sees Him rise" (Charles Wesley), or other appropriate hymns. It was always joyous and moving. Below is a prayer, sent by the World Council of Churches for Ascension Sunday from Archbishop Thabo Makgoba of the Anglican Church of South Africa



*Stained Glass Window of the Ascension, St Peter's Church, Belsize Square*

What we did as a congregation this Sunday though was to learn a hymn in Urdu that Kamran and Naila taught us. Kamran played the Harmonium and Naila sang. We learnt it very quickly and sung it joyfully. Everyone was encouraged to say the Lord's Prayer in our different languages to emphasise the universal and inclusive nature of Christ's message to the world. We are all his people.



Next Sunday is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee when we will be celebrating and giving thanks for her long reign of faithfulness and stability. Sheila is letting us know the form it will take and it is hoped as many of you will be able to come and join in.

Jenny told us about a 13 mile walk she took part in around London on Saturday for Alzheimer sufferers. She has written a piece about it and why she felt it important to think beyond our immediate environment to support wider issues and organisations in our lives - which many do. It would be such a good thing to hear from you about the charities and organisations you support and why.





Tim has written a reminder to us about other ways of financial giving to the church that has been created by the diocese. It is a quick and easy way to contribute our giving so he is updating us about it in case anyone would like to join in.

I have written a piece about St Saviour's Church in Riga, Latvia, that is close to my heart and a festival they are holding to which our church has contributed; so I thought you should know about it!

You will see a number of photographs of our lunch and the enjoyment it so obviously brought. Thank you to Sylvia and Ify for organising it and to those of you who contributed the delicious food.

With Love and Good Wishes – Sally

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

-  **Queen's Platinum Celebrations – Sheila;**
-  **Walking for Alzheimer's – Jenny;**
-  **Diocesan Giving Scheme – Tim;**
-  **Ascension Sunday Prayer from Archbishop Thabo Makgoba;**
-  **Postcards for St Saviours Riga – Sally;**
-  **End of the Month Lunch: Photographs;**
-  **How We Are;**
-  **Prayers with Kamran;**
-  **Church Bulletin;**
-  **Church Rota;**
-  **Prayer List;**
-  **Links to Services;**

### **Queen's Platinum Celebrations – Sheila**

This coming Sunday, along with other churches, we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Hoping that the weather is dry we will have some tables and chairs outside and be serving teas and coffees with cakes and biscuits in front of the church for which passers-by will be welcome to join us. This will take place after the service between 11.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. Do come along and we can celebrate together.



## Walking for Alzheimer's – Jenny

Last Saturday a friend and I took part in a 13-mile trek round London in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. It's a charity that's very close to my heart, as Dad lived with Alzheimer's for many years, during which time Mum was his sole carer. I've therefore seen at first-hand what a destructive illness it is, and what a toll it takes not only on the person living with it but also on their family.

I'd not done anything like this before, and it was inspiring to be among the 1000 trekkers setting off from a park in Stockwell, some like us to do 13 miles, others more intrepid doing 26. The route (signposted with pink arrows) took us over Hungerford Bridge, past Covent Garden, through Bloomsbury to Euston Road and then around the northern perimeter of Regent's Park. We were provided with sandwiches and snacks at that point, and then continued down to Baker Street, Park Lane, Buckingham Palace, Parliament Square, and then along the river, across Vauxhall Bridge and back to Stockwell to be presented with a glass of Prosecco as we crossed the finishing line!

There are a couple of reasons why I'm telling you this. The first is that I'm very proud of having completed a 13-mile walk on London's (very hard!) pavements, and to have supported such a brilliant charity by doing that!

The second is that the experience got me thinking. The benefit of our participation wasn't just for the Alzheimer's Society, though that of course was key. I, unexpectedly, gained a lot as well. It was very special to do something with other people who shared my motivation, the desire to support a worthy cause, and were prepared to give their time and energy (and risk blisters!) for that. I bonded with fellow walkers, hearing their experiences and being able to share mine. It turned out to be about building and being in community.

That's why I want to tell you about the trek. A lot goes on when you join with other people in a shared project, with shared interests and aims. I chose to support the Alzheimer's Society because that was particularly relevant to me, but we all have our own passions, contexts, and experiences and there are bound to be charities out there to match those – maybe small local ones, or huge global ones, or ones in between. Why not think about what you could support? Maybe there's something in our own Mission Action Plan that catches your imagination – the toddler group, the proposed soup kitchen, or supporting refugees or the homeless, for instance? Maybe it's something completely different. There are lots of ways, small as well as big, you could get involved. You could *pray* – all of us can pray and it's a great place to start! Some of us might be able to *give money*; some might like to *do* something – campaigning for change, volunteering, even doing a sponsored walk!! All of those will make a difference, so take your pick!! Like me on the trek you'll find that it's deeply satisfying (and fun) to join with other people in supporting something that matters to all of you, and to know that together you're making a difference where it's needed. There's a whole world out there, and some amazing people to join with and learn from – where will you start??



PS, and if anyone would like to contribute to the brilliant work of the Alzheimer's Society, you can find out more about them at [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk), and give through our trek JustGiving page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Anne-Fletcher5> . Thank you!

## Diocesan Giving Scheme – Tim

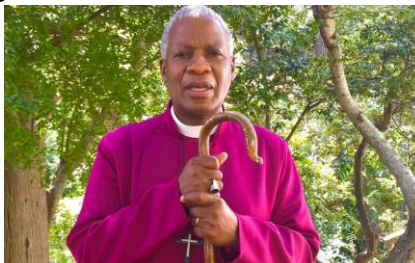
### Financial Update

It was good to see many people at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) last week, where I had the privilege of presenting the Annual Report and Accounts for 2021. This is an important document since, as well as informing church members, it is part of the returns to the Charities Commission and the Diocese, so is available to the public. In brief, the church is in a sound financial position overall, which means we can look to deliver the mission action plan, making improvements to the church building and other projects with confidence.

However, we are increasingly reliant on the rental income from the nursery school that uses the church hall, which is not ideal. The resumption of collections in church did go a small way towards improving the balance, but this is not convenient for many of us. In these difficult times, we are extremely grateful to those who have been able to continue their giving by standing order / online or through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) – the preferred method, as it allows the church to benefit from any Gift Aid quickly. If you would like to know more about PGS, please visit the Parish Giving Scheme home page [parishgiving.org.uk/home/](http://parishgiving.org.uk/home/). From there you can find out more about the scheme and how to join.

The direct link for Golders Green Parish Church is [parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/golders-green-parish-golders-green/](http://parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/golders-green-parish-golders-green/) You can also join by phone by calling **0333 002 1271**, Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm and quoting our **Parish Code 230623302**.

## Prayer for Ascension Sunday from Archbishop Thabo Makgoba Anglican Church of South Africa



Archbishop Thabo Makgoba issued an Ascension Day prayer for peace in Africa, Europe & the Middle East. He urged people to pray for peace on Ascension Day and has issued a special prayer for parishes and Dioceses to use. The Archbishop appealed to everyone "to give peace a chance wherever we are and in whatever we do." He added: "In our communities, in our country and the world let us end the resurgence of conflict and war. As we look towards the Ascension, let us continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia, for those in South Sudan, Mali and Ethiopia, for those in Yemen,

Palestine and Israel, that social justice and the peace that flows from justice will prevail." He published the following Ascension Day prayer today:

**Loving God,  
Your Son Jesus Christ has ascended in glory  
and called many to witness of his resurrection:  
Guide us and make us new that we may work for peace and unity in the world;  
For you live and reign in the unity of the blessed Trinity  
One God, now and forever  
Amen**

### **Postcards for St Saviour's Riga**

I have written before in the newsletter about my connections with St Saviour's Riga, Latvia; this is through my long involvement as trustee of the Anglican-Lutheran Society. St Saviours is part of the Anglican Diocese of Europe which, for many years, has had a Lutheran Pastor as its chaplain appointed by the Anglican Bishop of Europe. This is possible because ordained Anglican and Lutherans are interchangeable through the Porvoo agreement signed by both churches in 1992 establishing full communion between Anglicans and Evangelical Lutheran Churches. Lutheran women in Latvia are refused ordination (one of the very few countries where Lutheran women are not ordained but are working hard to change that). To support the women, the Anglican diocese of Europe appointed an ordained Lutheran woman to St Saviour's as their chaplain (priest-in-charge) in 2009. This was Bishop Jana Jeruma-Grinburga, who is herself a Latvian, ordained in the UK in 1997, and was the Lutheran Bishop to the UK in 2014 for 5 years. When her 5 years in the UK ended Jana went back to be with the women and support them with their challenge for ordination and was appointed chaplain (priest-in-charge) to St Saviours. She invited me over on several occasions to talk at conferences to take them through the work of WATCH (Women and the Church) and possible steps to inclusion. I made many friends among their very diverse congregation, not so different from ours at Golders Green. When Jana retired her place was taken by The Revd Eliza Zickmane who for several years had been pastor to the Lutheran congregation at St Anne's Church in the city of London. So there has always been strong connections and interchange between Anglicans and Lutherans in Latvia and the UK. Eliza and I, as with Jana, are good friends and meet up through zoom and when they visit the UK. It is good to know something of the background of the relationships between our two denominations. It is important at this time when the Ukraine war is causing great anxiety, especially among the older generation, many of whom have strong memories of the occupation of the Russians which only ended in 1994 and caused much suffering among them – Eliza's mother being one of them. I write this, as I ask you to pray for all in Latvia as you do for Ukraine. The knock-on effect of the war is having serious problems for the people in Latvia at many different levels, practical as well as emotional. This year, each Anglican Diocese across the world asked their churches if they could send a postcard with greetings and a message of support to the churches in Latvia so they could be displayed on their notice boards over this particular weekend. This is for an event called "Baznicu Nakts" (Night of churches) that takes place annually in all Latvian churches. Each one puts on different events, concerts, art displays, special services and people visit each other's churches. At Golders Green, we do not have our own postcard as many churches do (something we should think of having perhaps), so I took a photograph of our church, mounted it and sent it to St Saviours with good wishes and many prayers. To date they have received well over 200 cards, from Anglican churches in virtually every country - lots from the UK - which are displayed for everyone to see and more arriving. They need to know they are not alone and to be encouraged. Their church warden, Jo, sent back such a warm greeting of thanks and hope. Photo's below. It is so important that we keep wide connections with other churches, not just with those in this country, but also in countries where many are suffering in ways we cannot imagine at this time. I wish I were there to celebrate and take part with them. At least they have our postcard and picture of our church alongside those of many others.



*Golders Green Parish Church*



*St Saviour's Anglican Church Riga*



*Postcards from across the world*

### **Church End-of-Month Lunch**

A very good time was had by all at the end-of-month lunch after the service. We enjoyed such a wide variety of delicious dishes. There were choices of tender meat, a variety of vegetables and rice dishes. Having the opportunity to sit eat and chat with each other was so good. The pictures below are examples of people getting together and enjoying themselves.





### **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/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0xDaDhY2paUT09>

### 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.

### Message from Nehar

I am a trained councillor. If anyone would welcome a chat on anything you would like to talk over and discuss, in confidence, please don't hesitate to give me a ring and we could fix up a time. This would be in a voluntary capacity.

My phone number is 07377583860 or email: [neharbird@googlemail.com](mailto:neharbird@googlemail.com) Please get in touch.

## Church Bulletin

**The Parish of Golders Green**

**Parish Notices: 29/05/2022**

**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)** A big thank you for all those who attend and actively participated in our last week APCM meeting.

**Queen Platinum Jubilee** – All are welcome to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next Sunday. For further info, please speak with Nehar, Sheila, or Kamran

**The Toddler Group** takes place, every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am during term time. We had 12 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.

**Pray for the Church ministry and mission:**

Please pray for the Senior Circle about to start soon. The Soup Kitchen & all those who will be involved. For the ongoing Church Maintenance issues. Pray for the Church Choir, Children Ministry & The Toddler Group, Pray for the Monthly Asian Service and for the Mission of the Church.

**For your prayers:**

Please continue to pray for Mike Houghton, Eunice, Margaret for God's healing. Please also pray 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 05 June:**

**Reader:** Alexis

**Hospitality:** Nwando

**Intercession:** Nehar

**AV Desk :** Tony

**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)

## 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/>