

15 June 2022



Greetings to everyone. The splendid and famous icon (above), by the Russian iconographer Andrei Rublev (15th century), is considered the most famous of all Russian icons. It is a representation of the three angels who came to visit Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 18) to bring them the news that they would have many descendants. But over the years the icon has come to be a representation of the Mystery of the Trinity. Many books have been written and lectures given on its deep symbolism. Last Sunday was Trinity Sunday when we reflected on the Oneness of God as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, three in one, who is always with us. We may find this hard to grasp as did the Early fathers and theologians who grappled with its meaning, finally encapsulating it in our creeds. Indeed, it is hard but one perhaps we are best not trying to define in words but accept with our senses. Kamran, in illustrating the Trinity, gave us a picture to reflect on showing the ancient Celtic symbol of a Trinity knot, which you will see carved on many stones, stained glass windows and manuscripts representing the equality of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



St Barnabas: Below is a piece on St Barnabas, whose saint's day was on 11th June. Barnabas accompanied St Paul on part of his journey. Barnabas is often a saint who takes the back seat when compared with Paul, but in fact was a man of great influence, perseverance and support in the Early church who worked tirelessly to spread the news of Christianity.

Rose has written an article about her visit to St John's Church Upper Holloway, to hear Bishop Karowei preach and have a time of friendship with him and Mosun, his wife, who she taught at the Federal Government Girls College Benin in Nigeria. Several of us will remember him coming to Golders Green for Rose's 80th birthday.

Nigerian Violence: While we continue to pray for the devastation that is taking place in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria and other countries, it is so important not to forget the massacres that are happening to Christians in Nigeria. Only this week we heard about the killing of many worshippers at a Roman Catholic church in Owo, Onso State, of people engaged peacefully in prayer. It is a truly terrible atrocity. All our sympathy goes to the families and to those of

you who have relatives and friends who may have been involved in this and other actions that have been taking place.

Rwanda Transportations: The Bible, Hebrew and New Testament, is full of messages of the need to care for the stranger, those who need protection, need help and are lost. If we were to go through all the passages it contains it would take many pages of references. But all this is being ignored by the government intent on transporting asylum seekers to Rwanda because they have come to this country, after persecution, through what are being called, “Illegal” routes. The fact that most “safe” routes are closed to them seems not to be mentioned. At last many prominent voices are being lifted against this cruel action. Our Bishops in the House of Lords have spoken out strongly against it and now are joined by Prince Charles and others from different denominations and faiths. Many of us have spent time writing to those who should have influence in stopping this. You may have seen that Archbishop Justin, along with the Archbishop of York and the other bishops that sit as Lords Spiritual in the House of Lords, have written an open letter (published online Monday evening and in print in Tuesday’s “Times”) denouncing the plans on the eve of the first scheduled deportation flight: [‘Immoral’ Rwanda policy shames Britain, say archbishops | News | The Times](#)

Both Archbishops, along with many other faith leaders, have expressed grave concern by proposals to send migrants overseas. In response to a letter I sent to the two Archbishops they affirmed that, *“We will continue to speak out against these plans on moral and ethical grounds”*.

Please think about and pray for all those threatened with deportation and those who have been active in protesting. Most of all please pray that the mind of the government is changed. One of the most apt of comments is from the Revd Steve Chalke MBE who is a British Baptist minister and former United Nations' Special Adviser on Human Trafficking and a social activist, who said, *"250 years ago we transported people to Australia because they were vulnerable enough to steal bread. Today we've decided to deport others to Rwanda because they are vulnerable enough to seek safety. How we choose to respond to the need of others **IS** the mark & judge of our humanity!"*.

Refugee Week will take place from the 20th – 26th June. The theme of this year’s Refugee Week is ‘Healing.’ With people set to fly to Rwanda as part of the Rwanda plan, and the UN announcing that the number of displaced people at its highest on record, this Refugee Week is an opportunity for action and reflection on this theme and how we can be a part of that ‘healing’ process. Please visit the Refugee Week [website](#) to access many fantastic events, both online and in-person.

“Together in Barnet”: Please note this Summer Social is being held at our church on July 3rd. If you are interested in helping, please see Nehar and find out what help she would like from us.

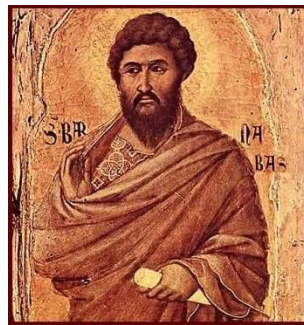
Bring and Share lunch will be at the end of the month, 26th June. The last one was great. Please let Ify and Sylvia know if you are bringing food but come anyway. It was such a lovely social time and there was more than enough for everyone (and anyone passing by too!!)

With Love and Good Wishes – Sally

This Week's Edition Includes:

- ✚ **Feast of Saint Barnabas the Apostle;**
- ✚ **Bishop Karowei – Sunday Worship at St John's Church Upper Holloway – Rose;**
- ✚ **“Together in Barnet” Summer Social;**
- ✚ **Toddlers Club;**
- ✚ **How We Are;**
- ✚ **Prayers with Kamran;**
- ✚ **Church Bulletin;**
- ✚ **Church Rota;**
- ✚ **Prayer List;**
- ✚ **Links to Service**

Feast of Saint Barnabas the Apostle



Barnabas was a learned man, a Jew of the tribe of Levi and therefore well-educated in the Holy Scriptures.

Barnabas was filled with faith. Though he had roots in Cyprus, he knew that Jerusalem was where he needed to be. His future lay with this small but growing group of converts who followed the instructions of Jesus the Christ.

Barnabas surveyed his land, sold it, and brought the proceeds to the apostles. He was sincere and generous and shared all of his profits, knowing his contribution would be distributed to anyone in need.

When the early Church began to form in Jerusalem, Barnabas was there. This was a time of dramatic and exciting growth in the early Church. Awe-inspiring and faith-affirming events were happening regularly!

People were healed of physical impairments they'd had since birth. Apostles, wrongly accused, were released miraculously from prison. Many additional signs and wonders were being reported, and God continued to bless the early Church with dynamic growth, faith, and power.

We can surmise that Barnabas was likely among the disciples in Jerusalem during this time, no doubt encouraging the apostles and brethren with words of wisdom and faith and serving as needed.

This man of uplifting words, faith and generosity was originally named Joseph, but the apostles gave him the nickname Barnabas, which means “Son of Encouragement.” He seems to have been gifted with knowing what to say and when to say it.

Barnabas was a “people person” and diligently served the early church members with no selfish motives. It must have brought him great joy to serve and encourage others! This appears to have been part of his personality and his consistent pattern of behaviour.

During this time of growth in the Church, there was also persecution. One particular individual avidly persecuted the church members by stirring up riots, bursting into homes of believers, and carrying off both men and women to prison. This man's name was Saul, and though he was a devout Jew, he was not yet a believer of what had come to be known as "the Way."

But God chose to do something extraordinary with Saul. While Saul was on a journey, Jesus Christ confronted him and performed a miracle in which Saul was struck temporarily blind. That got his attention! From then on, a radical transformation began to occur in Saul's heart. He regretted his previous actions of persecution, he was baptized, and he began learning from the disciples in Damascus.

The disciples in Jerusalem, however, were wary of Saul's so-called conversion. Was he being genuine, or was this just another trick to send more of them to prison? They were afraid of him, and many wrongfully thought he should suffer for his earlier crimes.

But Barnabas had quietly been studying Saul and determining his motives, collecting information and discerning his actions. Barnabas believed Saul had experienced a genuine change of heart and could be trusted.

Because of his level of education and his many useful skills, Saul could be of value in furthering the efforts of the Church in preaching the gospel. After all, Saul had been preaching valiantly in Damascus, defending the new faith and the ministry of Jesus Christ. When Saul desperately needed encouragement and a friend, Barnabas was there. It was Barnabas who first recognized that God had chosen Saul for a purpose. Barnabas brought Saul safely to the apostles in Jerusalem and declared his support for the man who had previously been an enemy. Clearly the apostles had great trust and confidence in Barnabas to accept his testimony. It is likely that a strong friendship built on mutual trust and unity of purpose began to develop between Saul and Barnabas from then on.

Soon God began to call non-Jews into the Church. A group of believers began to form in Antioch (in Syria), and Barnabas was sent there from Jerusalem to help develop the growing group. Persecution against the Church was still happening, and these members needed encouragement. When the brethren of Antioch needed faith-building reassurance, Barnabas was there. He praised their efforts and urged them to continue in their devotion to the faith.

Discerning what God was doing, Barnabas saw a need that could best be filled by a man with Saul's strengths and abilities. He travelled to Tarsus, where Saul had been serving since his introduction to the apostles in Jerusalem and brought Saul back to Antioch to assist in teaching and serving the brethren there. They remained there for an entire year. It was while they were there in Antioch that members of the Church were first referred to as "Christians" (Acts 11:26).

During this time, when news of a need of the Judean brethren was brought to their attention, church members in Antioch organized a relief mission, and Barnabas and Saul delivered the goods and materials. When the Judean brethren were in need, Barnabas was there.

After they returned from their relief trip to Judea, Barnabas and Saul—now called "Paul"—were chosen by God for a special series of journeys to encourage the early Church. They set out and travelled to Barnabas's homeland of Cyprus and took his cousin John Mark with them.

After spending time teaching on the island, they travelled north, back to the mainland. Unfortunately, John Mark left the group of travellers and returned to Jerusalem, which would later lead to a sharp disagreement between Barnabas and Paul.

The matter of gentiles becoming converted to the new faith caused great joy for some brethren and great concern for others. Some ardently believed that to become members of the new Church the gentile converts needed to be circumcised according to the Jewish tradition originally given to Abraham. This matter was being discussed in Jerusalem, and Paul and Barnabas were chosen to travel there and find resolution on the matter with the other apostles and elders.

Barnabas and Paul gave an account of their journeys, describing how God had enabled them to work miracles and many wonders in the company of the gentiles, and that many of them had converted to the new faith. The apostles Peter and James also gave moving testimony in support of the gentiles.

After much and sometimes heated discussion, the matter was decided, and circumcision of the new converts was deemed unnecessary. Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch to the church members there with a letter from the council containing the encouraging news. Sadly, the friendship between Barnabas and Paul in time became strained. Paul had decided to return to the cities he and Barnabas had previously visited, and he asked Barnabas to once again join him.

Barnabas was adamant they take his cousin John Mark with them. Paul disagreed. The two apostles were unable to resolve their quarrel, and they chose to part ways. Clearly the two had strong differing opinions about John Mark. Barnabas must have felt strongly that his cousin deserved another opportunity, but Paul wasn't eager to take him since he hadn't completed the first journey with them. Paul left for his journey with Silas instead, and Barnabas travelled with John Mark back to Cyprus.

Sometimes people disagree - perhaps even over seemingly trivial matters - but even in this account of division, there is encouragement to glean. Paul later wrote about John Mark that "he is useful to me for ministry" (2 Timothy 4:11). And Paul and Barnabas did travel together again on a journey to Jerusalem (Galatians 2:1).

It is encouraging, therefore, to find that Paul eventually saw the potential in John Mark that Barnabas had seen all along, and it is equally encouraging that Barnabas chose to once again travel with Paul, despite the previous dispute.

Barnabas served the early Church effectively during a time of great change and need. After the book of Acts, there is little recorded of him in Scripture.

What we do know about him speaks volumes. When the early Church began to form in Jerusalem, Barnabas was there. When the apostles needed comfort during trials, Barnabas was there. When Saul desperately needed encouragement and a friend, Barnabas was there. When the brethren of Antioch needed faith-building reassurance, Barnabas was there. When the Judean brethren were in need, Barnabas was there. When Paul was stoned by jealous multitudes and left for dead, Barnabas was right there to help him continue on. When the matter of the gentile converts was discussed, Barnabas was there. And when the time was right and Paul once again requested his friend to travel with him, Barnabas was there.

Barnabas was a man full of the power of the Holy Spirit, full of faith, and full of encouragement and generosity for others

With thanks to Richard Cattley for giving me permission to use his article in our newsletter.

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH; UPPER HOLLOWAY WITH BISHOP KAROWEI (Bishop of Woolwich,) MINISTERING - From Rose

Last Sunday – 12 June 2022, I worshipped at St John's church Upper Holloway where Bishop Karowei Bishop of Woolwich, had been invited as Guest Preacher. Not having seen them since Sept 2019 when they both attended my 80th birthday celebration here in our church, I thought I should seize the opportunity to re - unite with the Bishop and his lovely wife (a Consultant Child Psychiatrist, who was my student at Federal Government Girls College Benin; Nigeria where I was Vice Principal in the early/ mid 70s.)

It was a lovely service with the current Vicar, Revd Comfort, living up to his name, by ensuring the comfort and hospitality which we all enjoyed. The Praise and Worship leader was spectacular as she led her team and the congregation in joyous songs with beautiful musical accompaniments including- (would you believe it?), Bishop Karowei at the drums! An experienced drummer, he played his drums here in our church 22 years ago, as some of you may remember; during my mother's 80th birthday service when he was Vicar of St John's, but I wouldn't dare to ask him to play at my 80th as I imagined that, being a Bishop he may have outgrown that! How wrong I was.

Even more delightful yesterday was Bishop Karowei's heart- warming sermon based on Isaiah 40 - a chapter which he referred to as 'very comforting'. He began with a reflection on the awesomeness of God and His inexplicable divine nature. It was a message of joyful assertion of the unrivalled supremacy of God, the Almighty, which he said St John the Baptist re-echoed later in Mark 1 v 7:

"After me comes one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie '.

In Isaiah 40 v 28 He is described as "the everlasting God; the Creator of the ends of the earth, whose understanding no one can fathom. "

It was a message of assurance of our unique positions of honour as children of this Almighty God- the supreme and most high God. He described as an illustration, the immense pride and joy which the Queen's honours awards such as the OBE etc usually bring to recipients who celebrate and proudly display their titles. Desirable and enviable as such titles are, Bishop Karowei maintained, coming from lesser beings, they cannot in any way compare with God's superior title "Children of God " (CG) given to us as joint heirs to his kingdom; a prestigious title which he said we as Christians should be proud to wear or display visibly in all our actions, thoughts and words that should point to the legitimacy of our claim.

It was also a message of love, hope, perseverance and strength for through God's amazing love and grace those who wait upon Him / hope in the Lord, shall:

renew their strength;
soar on wings like eagles;
run and not be weary;
walk and not faint.

At the end of his sermon following his offer to come round and pray for anyone who would truly like to receive Christ for the first time or to rededicate themselves to Christ, the response was simply overwhelming. For close to 20 minutes both the Bishop and Rev Comfort prayed for long queues of worshippers at the back of the church with solemn music in the background. And for hours after the service Bishop Karowei continued to pray for and minister to people out in the Church Garden while we were all treated to a delicious bring

and share lunch. I was deeply touched by the incredible rapport the Bishop and his wife Mosun had with their former parishioners at St John's, and the amazing love and affection they received yesterday including flowers and other gifts.

Even though they were so busy that I didn't have a chance for a good chat with them, we were very happy to be reunited and I thoroughly enjoyed the service and the Bishop's message as well as the warm hospitality of St John's church family. I told them they were very much like our church family here in Golders Green where so much love is shared.



Mosun (Bishop's Wife) and Rose Bishop Karowei of Woolwich and Rose

“Together in Barnet” Summer Social

Please ask Nehar what help we can give to make this a successful Social



Songs of Worship:

"ABOVE ALL" in Hebrew, Arabic & English (Live Worship, Jerusalem)

<https://youtu.be/LtcxE4xF5So>

Worthy Of It All / Digno De Adorar - Joseph Espinoza, Paz Aguayo, Aaron...

<https://youtu.be/qTegWPPzWbw>

"Mary and Baby Jesus Painting"
by Mexican artist Bernardo Ramonfaur



How We Are

How good it was to see **Edmund O**, Ezim, Ify and Onyeka's father, back in church on Sunday after so long an absence after the sad loss of his wife Florence - Welcome back.

We hope that Kamran's operation on his ankle is successful, and he is able to walk more comfortably when he has recovered. Lots of prayers for his full recovery.

We still need to keep **Simon and his father** in our prayers. 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. How lovely it is to see Festus with us again and those whose illnesses and poorly bones are improved or better. It is good to see you.

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/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0xDaDhY2paUT09>

The Parish of Golders Green

Parish Notices: 12/06/2022

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.

Father's Day – 19 June – Any suggestions to plan Father's Day.

Sunday 26 June – Bring and share will take place straight after the service. All welcome to bring a dish to share. Contact Silvia , Ifey or office for more info.

Warden Commissioning Service – 29 June 2022 at 7:30 pm. Kindly let me or the wardens know if you like to attend the service.

The Toddler Group takes place, every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am during term time. Please join us.

Prayers 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 and for the Mission of the Church.

For your prayers:

Please continue to prayer for Mike H, Eunice, Margaret for God's healing. Please also prayer 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 19 June:

Reader: tbc

Hospitality: Naila

Intercession: Rose

AV Desk : Tony

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,

Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

Church Rota from June to July 2022

19/06/2022	Galatians 3.23–end Luke 8.26–39	tbc	Rose	Naila	Tony
26/06/2022	Galatians 5.1, 13–25 Luke 9.51–end	Silvia	Annie	Sally	Shaniv
03/07/2022	Ephesians 2.19–end John 11.1–16	Abi	Sally	Sheila	Thomas
10/07/2022	Colossians 1.1–14 Luke 10.25–37	Thomas	Jenny	Nwando	Tony
17/07/2022	Colossians 1.15–28 Luke 10.38–end	Sam	Nwando	Silvia	Shaniv
24/07/2022	Colossians 2.6–15 [16–19] Luke 11.1–13	Cynthia	Nehar	Naila	Thomas
31/07/2022	Colossians 3.1–11 Luke 12.13–21	Friday	Nwadi	Sally	

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

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/>

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=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/>