Golders Green Parish Church – Newsletter

22 June 2022



By Ukrainian Iconographer Ivanka Demchuk

Greetings to everyone. On Sunday it was Father's Day when we give thanks for and remember all fathers, past and present, who have lovingly supported their families near and far. I came across this beautiful carving from Italy, of St Joseph, giving Mary a well-earned rest and just couldn't resist sharing it. On this day we think of St Joseph, described in the Bible as a "righteous man," who cared and protected Mary and Jesus from the dangers they faced after his birth. We, in our turn, give thanks to all fathers who are righteous, loving, encouraging and caring men.



How good it was to welcome back the Revd Nigel T to take our service on Sunday, standing in for Kamran who is recovering well from his foot operation. In his sermon, taken from St Luke 8. 26-39, Nigel talked about Jesus healing the man possessed by many demons, giving him back his health and sending him away to tell all he came across what Jesus had done. He talked about what the man must have suffered in so many ways because of his illness; his isolation, his fear, his torment. He touched upon the issue so many have with mental ill health and stress, especially at this time, and the importance of not bearing it alone, feeling isolated and apart when there are many who can help. His sermon is printed below.

During the week, a priest friend who had served in the Solomon Islands for many years, talked of the problem of feeling isolated. He told us of a saying the Solomon Islanders frequently use and firmly believe, that we are never alone. It is, "We are held together by the unseen chain of God's love". Something so important to remember especially if we feel low for all kinds of reasons.

In connection with the above, this week is Refugee Week (20-26th June). The theme is "Healing" and is a week of celebrating community, mutual care and the human ability to start again, which so many refugees face under dreadful circumstances. If you are interested in reading more about it and perhaps joining in with some of the activities go to: <u>www.refugeeweek.org.uk</u> where there are all kinds of events and activities in which you can join.

On Monday Rose, Nwando and I went to St Martin-in-the-Fields to take part in the "London Churches Refugee Fund" event, "A Home for Everyone." A short piece is included below. I hope you can open the links provided to Dr Sam Wells talk. It was excellent.

"Together in Barnet": Please note the Summer Social we are hosting for "Together in Barnet" at our church is on July 3rd. Nehar has written a piece about it and how we can help – and enjoy being together with our neighbours.

Bring and Share lunch will be on Sunday on 26th June. The last one was great. Please let Ify and Sylvia know if you are bringing food - but come and enjoy - it was such a lovely social time and there was more than enough for everyone.

Golders Green Church now has a new Twitter account organised by Ruth who has written about how you can use it – if you are a twitter user that is!

With Love and Good Wishes - Sally



St Frances of Assisi sculptured by Frank C Gaylord. Chicago USA; Photo by Jim Frazier.

This Week's Edition Includes:

- Sermon The Revd Nigel T;
- **4** St Columba of Iona;
- So Many Kinds of Wrong Revd Dr Sam W
- Alerting Twitter Users Ruth;
- "Together in Barnet" Summer Social;
- Toddlers Club;
- \rm How We Are;
- Prayers with Kamran;
- Church Bulletin;
- 🕹 Church Rota;
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Jesus and the Tortured Soul - The Revd Nigel

When did you last face a situation that filled you with fear? Maybe a situation where you felt out of control, and where you didn't hold all the cards. We all know the reality. It may be some of us are facing fears right now, or we know the reality of panic attacks, for which do see your doctor.

But in this gospel reading about Jesus' encounter with the demonised man everyone is full of fear apart from Jesus. Let's look at each of the characters in turn.

First there is the community in Gerasa itself, though there is some dispute over exactly which town it was: this is the east side of Galilee, in the region sometimes called the Decapolis; it was a Greek/Gentile region, and the fact they are not averse to keeping pigs, unclean to the lewish community, confirms this. And they are afraid of this demonised man and have kept him under guard and bound with chains outside their city, because they don't know what to do with him and want him out of their way. SO, there is fear in the community caused by this uncontrollable man. Then there is the man himself; when he encounters lesus the demons within him say "DO not torment me!" at the top of his voice; he is afraid of Jesus power, and is afraid of being tormented. Then there are the disciples who have followed Jesus from the boat; but we must remember the context of this story: they have just crossed the Sea of Galilee during a storm, and were terrified they were going to drown, until they woke up Jesus asleep in the boat and he stilled the storm; but now they are silent as they observe their master approach this man. And where would you have stood if you were with Jesus on that day? I know I would have been right behind lesus right shoulder; with enough of a view to watch, but I would have probably been wanting to make my way straight back to the boat! Even a storm at sea is more appealing than confronting someone who has been demonised. And then there are the community who are so afraid of Jesus after he heals the man that they want Jesus to leave their region. They have never seen power like it, and instead of seeing the demonised man as liberated from what bound him, they want to avoid lesus, who doesn't fit into their mental framework of what a good man is like.

Do you get the picture? All these people filled with fears, for different reasons. Are you aware of those things that at the forefront of your mind, or maybe in the background, are causing you to be afraid, are affecting your decisions, to avoid certain situations, to hold people at arms' length?

The thing I wonder about this story is whether Jesus knew why he was crossing the sea of Galilee, and when he stilled the storm, it was because the devil was – through the storm - trying to thwart him setting this man free. We don't know, but the two episodes show how Jesus stills a storm in the weather, and then stills a troubled soul in the demonised man. The two episodes are mirrored in each other.

And Jesus asks the man a question. What is your name? It is the only time he asks anyone their name in Scripture. Did Jesus not know? More probably he is getting the demons to name themselves, so he can then take authority over them. Interestingly the passage suggests Jesus had already commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man before he asks the man his name. It is then revealed that it is not one demon but a legion. A legion in the Roman army consisted of between 3-6000 men and was a huge number; at this time in Judea there was probably only one legion, but by 72AD that had increased to three or four legions. But for someone in Galilee in Jesus time the idea of being tormented by a legion of demons would

have been as oppressive and more so than the whole country at the time under Roman occupation. And the impact of this demonisation is shown in a number of symptoms

- Disregard for personal dignity by nakedness
- Social isolation
- Retreat to a wild place
- A morbid interest in death by being in the cemetery
- Unnatural strength
- Shouting out
- Recognition of who Jesus was before others

And what strikes me about Jesus is he has no fear. He gets out of the boat to meet this man. He walks head on into a potential conflict – how unlike us! And once the demon has given his name as legion - it was the demon speaking rather than the man - they begged Jesus not to order them to go back into the abyss. The abyss was the Old Testament abode of the dead, and the place where disobedient spirits were kept, and is sometimes it is translated as the depths, so could be associated with the sea, which of course is ironic given the location of this event next to the Sea of Galilee. Here is this man tortured by many demons, and facing one man, Jesus, who has true authority and power, and not a hint of fear. Jesus gives the demons the permission to enter the herd of pigs, and they rush headlong down the hillside into the Lake. What is interesting is that Jesus is more concerned for the wholeness, the wellbeing, of one man, than the economic losses of the herd of possibly thousands of pigs. But the community can't cope; they come out to see what has happened and see "the man clothed, and in his right mind" – and they are afraid. Maybe they realised Jesus might take from them more than just their pigs. And when the man asks if he can follow lesus, it is the only time Jesus refuses - but because he has a better job for him; return to your home and declare how much God has done for you." And he goes off and declares how much Jesus has done for him. Here it is clear he realised that Jesus was doing God's work and was God. And he prepared the way in that community for when the full gospel would be preached there after Jesus death and resurrection. What had Jesus done for him? He had set him free! Free from bondage, free from oppression by tormenting spirits.

We may not be in the same situation as the man, but we can be like those around who are trapped by fear; fear of circumstances, fear of people, fear of the unknown, fear of economic hardship. Each of those fears can get a grip on us. But with Jesus at the centre those fears don't stand a chance. What is troubling/tormenting you at present? Do you realise that Jesus isn't afraid of those things, and with him living within you, walking beside you there is nothing you need be afraid of; yes, we must be wise, we must work with others, but whatever is trapping us in fear has to loosen its grip when Jesus is around. Have you brought your fears to God? What does Jesus think about your fears? He won't belittle you, but he doesn't see them as something that should limit your life, or prevent you being a courageous disciple.

But the second message of Jesus was to the man to stay and tell others what God had done for him. Have you told those among whom you live what God has done for you? What difference Jesus has made to your life? We need wisdom in how to do that with our families, because we cannot force the gospel on them, but sometimes they will notice how we respond calmly in a crisis and can tell them this story, and how we know Jesus is with us. Maybe we can begin by praying that God would give us opportunities with those we live and work amongst who don't know Jesus, that we might share what he has done for us. Jesus loves to bring liberation, to the Jew and also here the Gentile; it may be dramatic for the demonised man, for many of us it will be liberation from those fears that assail us at odd times of the day and night. Let us acknowledge Jesus as the one who has set us free and give him the glory. Amen!

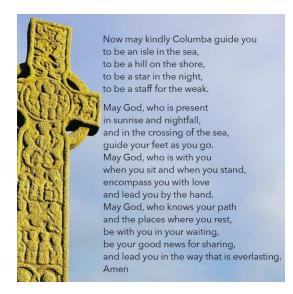
LUP Loving Lord Jesus thank you that on that day in Galilee you went right into the heart of danger to meet this man; and rather than seeing him as a problem you saw him as a tortured soul whom you wanted to set free. Thank you that you did not fear, and you set him free from what had trapped him. Set us free from our fears, and whatever traps us, and open our lips to declare your praises, and to share with other the good things you have done for us, for we pray this for the extending of your kingdom, and for your glory. Amen.

St Columba of Iona

Alex raised the subject recently that we might think of taking a parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land - maybe next year. Quite a few people thought what a good idea - and it is – it would be something to look forward to. Several of us have been in past years and found it, not only enjoyable, but a deeply spiritual as well as an historical and informative journey to make; certainly, one not to have been forgotten.

Nearer home there are many places of pilgrimage that have become increasingly popular and sought after, as the UK is rich in history and shrines to saints who landed here and founded monasteries from which Christianity was spread. One such was Saint Columba; whose feast day was June 9th. He arrived from Ireland in 563 AD and settled on the Island of Iona. Columba was an Irish abbot and missionary evangelist who spread Christianity, in what is now Scotland, and far beyond. He founded an important abbey on Iona, which became an influential religious and political institution in the region for centuries and is flourishing today.

Because of Columba the island developed into a central focus for prayer and retreats reaching out to many people. The Iona Community was formed on the island in 1938 by the Revd George MacLeod, who was himself a visionary and social reformer driven by a belief that faith is grounded in action. The Iona Community is now an international, ecumenical Christian movement dedicated to working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. Many people from all over the world make pilgrimages to the community, to pray, work and worship together. The staff of the community publish many books, prayers and liturgies, of which the prayer below is one, taken from the "Iona Abbey Worship Book." If you are interested in finding out more go to: https://bit.ly/3H9otgl which shows the books of prayers, hymns and the story of Iona and Columba. Their "Wild Goose" publications are used by many churches and worship-groups for intercessions, meditations, prayers and hymns. Church groups go on pilgrimages to Iona throughout the year. Maybe this is something we might consider doing in the future and stay on this beautiful island where people say, "The air is very thin."



So Many Kinds of Wrong - Revd Dr Sam W

On the first day of refugee week, St Martin-in-the-Fields hosted an event organised by, "The London Churches Refugee Fund." In the afternoon musical entertainment took place in the courtyard - in the sun- how lovely! It was great to be able to sit and be entertained by a number of stunningly gifted musicians from different countries. This was followed by an evening event when the Revd Dr Sam W (Vicar of St Martin-in-the -Fields) spoke on, "So Many Kinds of Wrong." He gave a clear, sharp and, what was in fact an excoriating, analysis of the government's actions regarding transporting asylum seekers to Rwanda, as well as other aspects of how refugees are treated generally. I asked him afterwards if he would be publishing his talk. He has done so on the St Martin's website and on YouTube. Here are the links: **e:** <u>https://stmartins.digital/so-many-kinds-of-wrong-20-06/</u> and the St Martin's website: <u>https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/</u>.

But he also kindly sent me his script so if you would rather have a hard copy, please let me know. This is such an important address highlighting so much of the injustice and bad treatment of an already persecuted people that it needs to be given the widest coverage. It is the best analysis, in Christian and humane terms I have heard, exposing this government's actions and their reasons for doing so. Sometimes it hurt to hear. We cannot, as a supposedly Christian country, allow this to continue to happen to any people who are in distress as they are in many countries. It was inspirational and what Christian thought and action should be. Afterwards Rose commented, "That talk was so good; everyone needs to hear it! God bless him for speaking the truth so passionately regarding the government's outrageous plan to send refugees to Rwanda!".

It was also so good to be out for the evening in the company of Rose and Nwando. Thank you for coming.



Alerting Twitter Users - Ruth

@ChurchGolders

As part of our mission action plan, we have just relaunched our church Twitter activity to publicise upcoming events and services.

We had to create a new account, so if you used to follow us, you'll need to follow the new account: **@ChurchGolders.**

Please do follow us (and tell your friends) and help amplify our messages by liking and retweeting.

Once we've got Twitter established, we'll expand to Facebook, Instagram, and maybe even TicToc to reach as many people as we can!

So please follow @ChurchGolders and help us spread the word.

Songs of Worship:

DANCE WITH ME/GLORY COME DOWN: JEWISH & GENTILE artists worshipping Jesu... https://youtu.be/TEt6pEYKvbE

Don Moen - Goodness of God https://youtu.be/OXXrk1IXluY

Come and Enjoy the "Together in Barnet" Summer Social The Night Shelter Fundraiser – 3 July 2022 12.30 – 16.00



Together in Barnet (TiB) the charity which organises the Night shelter work in the winter do so on the basis of grants – some from the government and some from funds they raise. The money allows 17 homeless people who register with the Homeless Action in Barnet to be housed over the winter months. This has been very much needed over this pandemic as people could no longer be housed in churches and synagogues which had partnered in this work.

TiB is organising a summer fundraiser on **3 July** which is being hosted by our church. It will start at **12.30**. You will see people beginning to set up around 11.45 in the church. Some decorations will be put up on Saturday evening. They will have stalls selling cakes, face painting, some people practising their musical talents and other such things.

On behalf of our church, I was wondering if we could have a multicultural table where we can sell African and Asian food. We hope all proceeds can go to the charity, but it may be possible for some reimbursement towards the ingredients to be claimed. All ideas are welcome. Please grab me on Sunday if you have any questions or wish to help.

Please stay behind if you can for a little while and see what is on offer. The monies spend will go to a good cause. With love in Jesus – Nehar

How We Are

We are so glad that the operation on **Kamran's** ankle has been successful. He is home now but has to walk on crutches for a few weeks. While it must be frustrating for him, we know that taking it very carefully will be the best treatment so that he will be fully healed and able to walk with ease. Lots of prayers for him. What was not so good was to hear that, while attending a meeting, his bicycle was stolen even though it was locked for safety! What a wretched thing to happen.

Myfanwy has not been too well and has been in hospital for a couple of days. She is home now and feeling a little stronger. She asked that we would pray for her, which of course we all will, and that she will regain her strength. At the same time Myfanwy asks for prayers for her sister, **Yvone Sterenborg**, who is very frail.

Yvone lives in Frome, Somerset, and is wonderfully cared for by Florence who keeps Myfanwy regularly updated on her sister's progress. May, Myfanwy, Yvone and Florence, (for her caring), all be given strength.

We 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, Ann, Gideon and family and Edmund Onochie who came back to church on Sunday after so long an absence after the sad loss of his wife Florence -Welcome back.

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. It is so important we remember and pray for them.

Toddler Group Update:

I am pleased to say that in recent weeks, we have seen numbers attending the Toddler Group increase. This week we had fourteen children and thirteen children the week before. In order to keep the toddler group going, we desperately need volunteers. If you can spare two hours a week even once a month on a Tuesday morning will be of an immense help to us. Having a pool of volunteers will then allow other volunteers to have a week off and we can then open with the correct ratio of adults with children & volunteers. Please contact the office if you can help. Thank you.

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=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0xDaDhIY2paUT09 Meeting ID: 858 554 5365 Passcode: J4FbKf

> One tap mobile +442034815240,,8585545365#,,,,*400416# United Kingdom +442039017895,,8585545365#,,,,*400416# United Kingdom Dial by your location +44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom +44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom +44 208 080 6591 United Kingdom +44 208 080 6592 United Kingdom +44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom +44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom +44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom Meeting ID: 858 554 5365 Passcode: 400416 Find your local number: https://zoom.us/u/aemYT2p1YY



The Parish of Golders Green Parish Notices: 19/06/2022

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.

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 Kamran or one of 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. Sheila will be away for two weeks, so if you can help, please let us know.

The Soup Kitchen will start on 12 July. Please keep in your prayers.

Together in Barnet Summer Social - 3 July 12:30 – 4pm. We are hosting Together in Barnet Summer Social to raise fund for the Night Shelter project. All welcome.

Prayers for the Church ministry and mission:

Please pray for the Senior Circle about to start soon. The Soup Kitchen starting in July. 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 26 June: Reader: Silvia Hospitality: Sally

Intercession: Annie AV Desk: Shaniv

Contact details: Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti Office Tel: 020 8455 1873, Website: <u>www.gg-pc.co.uk</u>

Church Rota from June to July 2022

Date	Reading	Readers	Intercession	Hospitality/ Steward	AV (Audio Visual) Desk
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	Jenny	Sheila	Thomas
10/07/2022	Colossians 1.1–14 Luke 10.25–37	Thomas	Sally	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	tbc

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

<u>https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/whats-on/?category=204</u> 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: <u>https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources</u>

Mental health: some short reflections to support good mental health: https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/mental-health-resources/supporting-goodmental-health

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

Climate justice: <u>www.climatesunday.org</u>

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: <u>https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/prayer-journeys/</u>

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

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/prayerand-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-andprayer-resources Go On-line to "ps://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/coronavirusprayers 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/