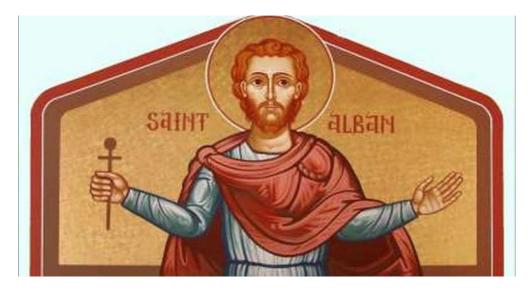
Golders Green Parish Church – Newsletter

29 June 2022



Greetings to everyone. How good to see Kamran back and taking the service on Sunday after his operation. He will still have to take care and not undo the good work the surgeons carried out on his ankle.

We had an enjoyable bring-and-share lunch on Sunday to which many stayed. It was such a good social time. It is hoped that this Sunday will continue the social mixing at our, "Together in Barnet" Summer Social in the grounds of the church.

June 22nd was the feast day of St Alban, after whom our church is named. In the past we used to attend the festival and historical enactment of his life in the grounds of St Alban's Abbey, perhaps something we could think of taking up again. It was always a wonderful day with huge puppets, enacting his story, processing round the grounds of the Abbey with school children dressed in clothes of the time joining the long and colourful procession. It was a major family and church day out. One year it was attended by Bishop Tutu. III though he was at the time, he processed all the way round the grounds, preached an amazing sermon and shook hands with as many people as he could afterward - unforgettable. A friend of mine, the Revd Canon Richard Truss preached on St Alban in the week, relating his own experiences of being with a persecuted people as St Alban was in trying to save a hunted Christian soldier which cost him his life. Richard kindly sent me his sermon knowing our church is St Alban's. It is published below as a timely one for Refugee Week.

Last week, mention was made of making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land; this week Jenny, taking up the theme, has written about a pilgrimage with a difference, entitled, "Walking to Egypt". Jenny, for those of you who may not know, is a Senior Church Advocacy Adviser, for Christian Aid. We are so fortunate to have her keeping us well informed of the concerns of the world and what is being done to support them.

Just to remind you that Kamran has updated our church website considerably making it bright and user-friendly. Please link into it and see what you think and let him know. There is more information about it below.

Jennifer and Kevin's daughters, Sophie & Kirsty are busy with exams of different kinds. It was good to see them on Sunday. Their brother, Robert who is an army cadet, had a passing-out ceremony on Saturday and was recovering, but Jennifer brought a beautiful photograph of him looking very smart in his uniform.

Jennifer, Kevin, and I went to Geoffrey's recital in aid of Ukrainian Refugees held at Burgh House in Hampstead last Friday. It was a beautiful evening in all senses, in just the right place. We listened to music by Beethoven, Bach, Reger and Yseye, played with such accomplishment by Geoffrey on the Piano and his friend and colleague, Rupert Bawden on the violin – a gem of an evening.

With Love and Good Wishes – Sally

This Week's Edition Includes:

- Feast of Saint Alban Sermon by Revd Canon Richard Truss;
- "Walking to Egypt" Jenny;
- The Church Website;
- "Together in Barnet" Summer Social;
- Robert's Passing Out Cadet Ceremony (Jennifer's Son):
- Bring and Share Lunch Pics;
- Toddlers Club;
- How We Are;
- Prayers with Kamran;
- Church Bulletin;
- Church Rota;
- Prayer List;
- Links to Service

Feast of Saint Alban - Sermon by Revd Canon Richard T;

"I have a fond spot for St Alban as I was many years ago a St Alban's diocese ordinand. St Alban was the first British martyr, put to death in the early third century. Legend has it that he sheltered a fugitive priest and when the legionaries came to Alban's house searching for the priest, Alban donned the priest's robes himself and was beheaded. The result of this supreme act of sheltering a stranger and then of dying in his stead, has made Alban the patron saint of refugees and asylum seekers. I other words his act has something to say to our situation and our national policies here and now.

Some twenty years ago, J. from Sierra Leone started coming to our church. J. had fled the country which was then in turmoil with gangs and militias running riot, killing almost at random. J's husband had been killed, her two sons "disappeared," and she herself had been beaten up and raped. She had a sister in Southwark, and she went to live with her in her flat but was not allowed to work though she is a trained teacher, and every so often was subject to a dawn raid from the immigration authorities and three times was carted off to the Yarlswood detention centre. Each time she was eventually released after pressure from members of the church and from our local M.P. On the final occasion her case was taken to the High Court, and a few of us were permitted to speak on her behalf. The result was that she was at last given permission to stay, and this was confirmed some years later.

J. is not an exception in facing a hostile reception, despite all she had endured which drove her to come. In fact, today it is much worse. It seems you are deemed guilty, undeserving of any civilised welcome, unless you can somehow prove otherwise though a lengthy, tortuous legal process.

Christianity foundationally has a commitment to welcoming the stranger. In fact, you might say it is the litmus test of a genuine Christian faith. Celtic Christianity, for instance, has many stories about welcoming the stranger and in so doing welcoming Christ, and at the heart of the New Testament we find "when I was a stranger you welcomed me" and "Do not forget to show love to strangers for thereby some have entertained *angels unawares.*"

But some will say, "How can we cope with these people? There are pressures on housing, on the health service, on our schools." But then I remembered the Michel Quoist prayer which he pictures all the needy crowding in to his place and his life, overwhelming him, but finishes: "I can't do anything anymore; as they come in, they push the door, and the door opens wider... Lord! My door is wide open! I can't stand it anymore! It's too much! It's no kind of life! What about my job? My family? My peace? My liberty? And me? Lord, I have lost everything, I don't belong to myself any longer; There's no more room for me at home. Don't worry, God says, you have gained all. While they came in to you, I, your Father, I, your God, slipped in among them."



Together in Barnet Summer Social

What fun this is going to be. We are hosting this event and hope it will be sunny so everyone can enjoy being outside as well as in the church. There will be lots of stalls and offerings from people who are performing their gifts of singing, dancing, face painting and more. Come along and enjoy a couple of hours in good company.

Fancy a walk to Egypt? - Jenny

Don't worry, you don't have to do the whole 3327 miles!! Jenny's Mum's church in Bridlington (Christ Church) has had a great idea to help people connect with the next meeting of world leaders, in November, where they'll discuss the climate crisis and (we hope!) agree the necessary action to stop it getting any worse. The last such meeting was in Glasgow last November, and this time it's in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el Sheik, in Egypt. Christ Church's 'Green Dean', Oli, is organising a virtual pilgrimage, or prayer walk, from Glasgow to Sharm el Sheik. The idea is that you go for a walk (or run), using the time to pray and reflect on the glory of God's creation and what a mess human beings are making of it, and praying for a good outcome from the Egypt negotiations. All the miles that are walked or run are then added up towards the total distance between Glasgow and Sharm el Sheik.

Oli is very keen to get as many people joining in as possible, not just from Christ Church. He's provided prayers with which we can begin and end our walks, which are at the bottom of this article. Each walk or run can be as long (or short) as you like, and you can do as many as you like between now and November. It can be just you, or a group of family or friends. You might already be doing a regular 'fitness' walk round the park, in which case you could easily change that into a prayer walk, or you might do a one-off (or more) with or without other people.

You then add up the distance and log it online here:

<u>https://forms.gle/uuicVUWGsGIBbTKUA</u>. Oli has produced more information which you'll find below below. If you'd like to know more, please have a word with Jenny, and please do think about joining in – it's good for you and good for the world, and fun!!! Pilgrimage to COP27

Working together to walk and pray all the way to COP27. Raising awareness of the climate and ecological crisis, praying as we journey, and treasuring the beauty of creation all around us - God's good gift, our shared home.

"Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly" (Micah 6:8)

You can do more than just walk for this challenge - walk, run, ride, or roll to help us reach our collective target - to cover the 3,327 miles from Glasgow to Sharm el Sheik. We are doing this as a pilgrimage - a shared journey (in lots of little bits!) to talk and pray together as we travel.

The COP (Conference of the Parties) gatherings are where the United Nations makes decisions about how to best care for our World together - especially in light of the Climate and Ecological Crisis. COP26 was held in Glasgow in November 2021, and COP27 will be in Sharm el Sheik (on the Red Sea coast of Egypt) in November 2022. Between these two gatherings we hope to work together to cover the distance (walking, running, riding, or rolling...) between the two locations while talking and praying together for the world: our shared home.

Pilgrimage is an ancient way of journeying together. It is often about travelling towards a special place - which for us is about moving towards the healing and restoration of our world, caring for creation. Pilgrimage is a prayerful journey - sometimes praying before you start, when you pause, or while you travel.

For some simple prayers that you could say, conversation starter ideas, or to find out more about our Eco Church journey, see the Christ Church Bridlington website: www.ccbn.org.uk/eco-church

Two prayers that you might like to use are:

A prayer for before you set off

Father of Creation, thank You for Your good gift, our shared home. Lord Jesus Christ, You call me to follow You, and I choose to walk with You today. Holy Spirit, as I walk this pilgrimage breathe in me the breath of God. Holy God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Open my eyes and heart to see where You are at work already and give me the grace to join with You to treasure, protect and renew all of creation. Amen.

As you walk notice the beauty around you. What are you grateful for? What are your hopes or fears for our world?

A prayer for when you arrive

Father of Creation, as this pilgrimage time comes to an end, I take a moment to rest in Your love. (Pause) Jesus, help me to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with You. By Your Spirit help me to treasure, protect and renew this world. Amen

The Church Website

Kamran has updated the church website with two new features.

- I) They are a, "What's on" page. https://www.gg-
- pc.co.uk/Groups/379327/Whats_On.aspx
- 2) A live Twitter feed has been added to the main page.

Our website is so much brighter, livelier, and easier to follow. Please link onto it and see how well you can find your way around it, shareit with your friends and let us know what you and they think.



Bring and Share Lunch



Songs of Worship:

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

Son of Suffering| The Worship Initiative feat. Aaron Williams and Davy F... https://youtu.be/umkNx0eHJRk

The London Oratory Cadets



Robert has now fully enrolled into the Oratory Cadets, and it was a joy to see him in his uniform standing to attention with the others at the passing out ceremony. He also recently helped at his school fete putting out tables and manning various no go areas. It was a long day but a good one and enjoyed by all the family.

How We Are

Kamran is making good progress and was able to take the service on Sunday. We were so pleased he is able to do this but also hope that he takes great care when he is walking! **Myfanwy** is feeling much better and thanks everyone for our prayers. Please continue to pray for her sister, **Yvone S**, who is wonderfully cared for by Florence who keeps Myfanwy regularly updated on her sister's progress.

We pray as we always do for **Simon and his father and for Anita** who now has succumbed to Covid. This is a difficult time for the family. We send them our love.

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 O 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.

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 Toddler Group Update :

The Toddler Group is going from strength to strength, and we are continuing to see parents returning again and again as well as new parents who have found out about us via the Golders Green Website / Newsletter/ word of mouth.

If you can volunteer two hours a month on a Tuesday morning, please contact the office. Your help will be much appreciated.

The Parish of Golders Green Parish Notices: 26/06/2022

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.

Warden Commissioning Service – 29 June 2022 at 7:30 pm. Kindly let me 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. Volunteers are needed. Contact the office if you can help.

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

PCC Meeting on Sunday 17 July. Pray for all PCC Members.

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 Houghton, 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 3 July: Reader: Abi Hospitality: Sheila

Intercession: Jenny AV Desk: Thomas

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

Golders Green Church Rota July 2022

Date	Reading	Readers	Intercession	Hospitality Steward	AV (Audio Visual) Desk
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: <u>https://arocha.org.uk/prayer-diary/</u>

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/