

19 July 2022



“The Heavens Declare the Glory of God” Psalm 19

***Taken from the recently published James Webb Space Telescope
of the deepest image of the early universe***

Dear Everyone: Many greetings to you all. We start off with two really welcome messages from Tony and Nehar. Such good news.

Kamran’s Bicycle - Tony

“As most of you may know, a few weeks ago Kamran’s bicycle was stolen whilst he was attending a meeting in Camden. It was such a great loss as he used it to get around visiting people and attending to affairs on our behalf. So shortly afterwards a collection was started to fund a new bicycle for Kamran. We are grateful to Rose for setting this off. This morning at our service, which Kamran lead and shared with us how our Father, the Lord God Almighty, was working in his recent illness and time in hospital we made our presentation to him of £600 which you gave. We want to thank you for this great gift, which will enable Kamran to get a new bicycle. Thank you to all who gave and thank you Lord for your precious gift to us!”

The Soup Kitchen – Nehar

“We are starting our soup kitchen on Tuesday 19th at our church at 6.30pm. It will happen every Tuesday. Posters have been sent to Homeless Action in Barnet and All Saints church.

All Saints run a food bank and we hope they be able to tell people about the soup kitchen- at present we do not know how many people will come.

But we know it is God’s work and we leave it in His capable hands. We step out prayerfully in faith. May our Lord use this opportunity to share His love and may people who come be fed not only physically but also spiritually.”

Happy Birthday to Sheila



How lovely to celebrate Sheila's birthday last Sunday. Being surrounded by her church family she was given lots of good wishes for a Happy Birthday and many more to come. Sheila has been and is one of the most faithful and hardworking members of our congregation over many years. She has run the Guides and Brownies, the Over 60's club, arranged endless outings to different places which have brought pleasure to so many. She has served on the Church council and as Churchwarden and supported so many people in countless ways. It is in the service of faithful people like Sheila that the Church of England depends. We have so much to thank her for. Some photos to enjoy taken by Nwando.



Last week the **Church of England's General Synod** took place in York. It meets twice a year when those representatives who are elected from the Dioceses meet up to discuss key aspect of the Churches life and future. It is a highly, well organized week which demands a great deal of preparation and work from GS members. There is an expectation that everyone will listen with courtesy whatever views they take. It is an object lesson to Parliament on how things should be conducted. It is also an opportunity to meet and mix with Christians of all

sorts and beliefs across the country. For several years I attended as a representative of Women and the Church (WATCH) and made some lasting friendships.

One of the key debates, which I have reported on below, was a motion making a commitment regarding how those with disabilities are treated in our churches. The motion was, ***“to work towards the removal of all remaining barriers to full participation for disabled people in the life and ministry of the Church”***. This motion was passed unanimously by those present and will have an effect on all churches. For years, many Christians who are disabled in a variety of different ways have voiced feelings that they are not fully included in the life of their churches, many have just given up. It is never just about putting a ramp by the steps so they can have access, it is far more and deeper than that. Most dioceses are now recognizing this and are appointing paid disability advisers to support churches in considering ways they can be more inclusive to those who have a variety of disabilities – London being one of the first. I have taken the main points of the debate, below, (from “The Church Times,” who reported it fully), highlighting the voices of those who led and spoke in the debate from lived experiences. It is ironical that it has been the pandemic and lock-downs that opened up this key issue more fully as, not having full access to churches, many found that it was through Zoom they could take part in worshipping in their homes and, that the extra “coffee time” churches had for discussion afterwards, brought them in touch with others so, consequently they experienced less isolation with an opportunity to express their feelings and have a voice. You might like to read a book that is about to be published by, Dr Naomi Lawson and Emily Richardson, titles, ***“At the Gates: Disability, Justice and the Churches”*** (Available from any good bookshop). The book contains the voices, thoughts, and experiences of a large number of those with a variety of disabilities. Both authors are highly experienced researchers in the area of disability, who write and broadcast in this area.

Thank You Church Family

Finally, I would like to thank you so much for your kindness in words, advice, and prayers while I am in the throes of Covid. They have been much appreciated. You are such a lovely family. Along with many friends and my daughter, I cannot seem to shake it off. The symptoms seem to be different for each person; they go and then come back! So many good wishes and health to those of you who have it now, who have had it and recovered but, please, continue to take care. One thing I have been warned about by a number of friends is that the after-effects can be just as debilitating so I think we must not be hard on ourselves and take it easy, especially in this heat. Our Area Dean Julie G has herself been hard hit by it for some time and we send her our love and good wishes for a complete recovery. “Long Covid” as it is termed is no fun!

With Love and Good Wishes – Sally



"Holy Family"
statue by Zimbabwean artist
Bernard T. Sakarombe

This Week's Edition Includes:

- ✚ Disability and the Church: General Synod Debate**
- ✚ Toddlers Club;**
- ✚ How We Are;**
- ✚ Prayers with Kamran;**
- ✚ Church Bulletin;**
- ✚ Church Rota;**
- ✚ Prayer List;**
- ✚ Links to Service**

Disability and the Church: General Synod Debate

Below are comments from a number of speeches given at General Synod by those who led the debate on "Disability and the Church." They did so from their heartfelt experiences of a wide range of disabilities. They may feel challenging to read, as indeed they are, but important to hear and think about from the perspective of those who are deeply affected as well as from ours who learn much from their lived knowledge.

The debate was opened by Canon Timothy Goode (Southwark) who is himself disabled. He began by quoting the baptismal liturgy in *Common Worship*: "In God we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life." The motion sought to hold the Church to its baptismal promise by focusing on the "Cinderella of marginalised groups," he said. "Diversity, equity, and inclusion had become central to both society and the Church, but, while gender, race, and human sexuality were all important, "a very important community has largely been missing from that conversation." To include the disability community was both a "justice issue and a gospel imperative," because no one was exempt. He went on to say that "Disabled people had for too long been unable to participate fully in the life and worship of the Church, which was "not a safe place for disability to flourish," because of fear of discrimination."

“Disabled people are all too often misrepresented as passive and devoid of personal agency,” and continued to face “physical, spiritual, and educational access” alongside “attitudinal barriers,” which were “reinforced by often outdated or nuanced theology or anthropology, hermeneutics, ecclesiology, and eschatology.”

During the first pandemic lockdown, when churches had been forced to close, the Church had been faced with the exclusions of access which disabled people had experienced first-hand, Canon Goode continued. “With that first-hand experience, the Church can no longer ignore the cry of disabled people that is coming from the margins.” “The Church has not missed disabled people and, therefore, this relationship lacks trust and lacks dignity.” The focus was not to help some “marginalised others,” he concluded, but the one body of Christ. Beginning the debate, Fiona MacMillan (London), welcomed the motion as a step towards greater inclusion. St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, was now known for its work to include disabled people, since a group had been established to listen to the needs of the community, who were often marginalised by experience or geography, Ms MacMillan said. “Unless we listen, how do we know what the barriers are?” People who had been met with “the constant drip of what’s not possible and why” would not wait for change, she warned. “Accessibility is not an act of charity, but an act of justice.” “As long as we are excluded in practical and thoughtless ways, disabled people will continue to ask: ‘What does the Church stand for?’”

Canon Rachel Mann (Manchester) spoke compellingly of the “precarious and sacred thing, the scarred and wounded body,” which was her own, reminding the Synod that not all disabilities were visible. She was candid about the realities of her “vulnerable body” and said: “If Christ’s glorious risen body bore the wounds of his vulnerability into heaven, why should not mine?”

The Bishop of Warrington, the Rt Revd Beverley Mason spoke of the hurts of being excluded, including the “psychological torment” surrounding self-worth. She praised the charity Changing Faces, which campaigns for individuals with facial differences who had experienced discrimination — for example, during job interviews that were “awkward or cut short.” “People with physical and mental difference or disability are and remain in the image of God,” she said. The Lord desired a neurodivergent leadership: greater awareness, deeper understanding, and financial support of this. “Everyone should be able to find their place in the room and at the table.”

Revd Jackie Doyle-Brett (York) spoke of the experience of a newly ordained priest, Darius, who was in the gallery, who had cerebral palsy and communication difficulties. He had been praised for his work and ministry, and had said to her that, while “doors have opened for everyone,” he had also come across challenges. Some churches had prayed for his healing without his permission, and he had faced discrimination. He thought that the proposals did not go far enough, she said: a culture change was needed. It was about more than wheelchair access.

Canon Valerie Plumb (Oxford) suggested that every diocese should support a lead person on disability issues. This had been proposed 15 years previously, but only two dioceses — her own and London — had a salary. This amendment was a reminder of the promises made in 2007, including a pooling of resources and renewal of that commitment.

Rebecca Chapman (Southwark) also welcomed the motion and amendment. The disability brief was huge, she said. Her mother had bipolar disorder, and her nine-year-old was autistic. She had experienced difficult responses from church people and leaders over the years. Time

was needed to listen and support all forms of disability, she said. The Church must go further than simply inclusion.

Temitope Taiwo (London) said that, while he was a young disciple, one view that he had been taught was that disability was a problem to be solved. Later, as a youth worker, he had lived with a family who differed from him in many ways, in race, class, and wealth. Their teenage son had had a disability. “What I saw and experienced and felt for this young man was not problematic, but powerful,” he said: “not an issue to be solved but an individual to be celebrated.”

Sarah Tupling (Deaf Anglicans Together), through a BSL interpreter, said that deafness was very much a hidden disability. She was one of very few deaf Readers in the UK, and she was concerned that deaf clergy and lay ministers were not being replaced when they retired — “a huge travesty” — and that specialist training was needed for people to take up these ministries. In some churches, a sign-language interpreter was presented as the solution, but the Church needed to go further, she argued. “If we want to be simpler, humbler, and bolder, we need to start by being bolder rather than simpler and move things forward in a much more progressive fashion.”

The Revd David Tolhurst (Durham) said that the previous night, he had attended the Synod fringe workshop, “More than lifts, loops, and loos.” In a “previous life,” he had once worked for the Department of Work and Pensions as the disability employment adviser for Dover, advising on adjustments in the workplace based on the Disability Discrimination Act. He had met his wife, Sarah, who was born with cerebral palsy. She had been “looked down upon and swept side,” and often people had offered to pray to cure her, to which she always responded: “No, thank you. I am God’s child; but can I pray for you?” This motion was not about access, but inclusion and belonging, he said; nor was it about adjustment; it was about culture. He asked the Synod to support the motion through prayer also.

Responding, Mr Goode thanked all the contributors for a “special and moving” debate, and for understanding and endorsing the approach taken.

The motion was carried unanimously in a vote by Houses: It read:

That this Synod, affirming disabled people (with hidden as well as visible disabilities) to be fearfully and wonderfully made in the image and likeness of God, and mindful of the progress already made in removing some of the barriers which disabled people, clergy and lay, face; commit to working towards the removal of all remaining barriers to full participation for disabled people in the life and ministry of the church, and, in initiating that process:

Loving God, we pray for all disabled people across the world.

May all disabled people know your love.

May your Church recognise and value the gifts and skills of disabled people.

Together, may we worship you freely, serve you willingly,

and be truly your Church in all our diversity.

Amen.



***In England this is an Agapanthus;
in Australia it is a Star of Bethlehem;
in New Zealand it is a weed!
I know which name I prefer.***

How We Are

Please continue to pray for Myfanwy's sister, **Yvone S**, who is very frail and 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 has improved from 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 continuously of Festus and family, Ann, Gideon and family and Edmund Onochie 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. It is so important we remember and pray for them. Please look after yourselves and keep as cool as you can.



Prayers with Kamran

- ❖ from Mondays to Thursdays, Kamran will be in church at 9.00am for a short time of prayer with anyone who would like to join him. This does not have to be compulsory; you are welcome to stay home and pray for the church and the parish each day for 15-20 minutes;
- ❖ he will also be in church each day for those who would like to visit and talk with him. Please consider making an appointment to ensure that he will be available to meet with you;
- ❖ Wednesday evening prayer time takes place in church at 7.00pm The prayer meeting will take place both in person and via Zoom. Please see the link below.

Topic: Church Wardens' Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0xDaDhY2paUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: J4FbKf

One tap mobile

+442034815240,,8585545365#,,,,*400416# United Kingdom

+442039017895,,8585545365#,,,,*400416# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6591 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6592 United Kingdom

+44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: 400416

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aemYT2pIYY>

Songs of Worship:

No one like Jesus - Thrive worship

<https://youtu.be/11l4s7L0Gg>

Natalie Grant - To God Be The Glory | Andraé Crouch

<https://youtu.be/jYRXN2WeAKc>

The Parish of Golders Green
Parish Notices: 17/07/2022

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 soon. Please keep this in your prayers.

The Soup Kitchen will start on 19 July. Please keep in your prayers.

The Toddler Group has now closed for the summer and will reopen on Tuesday 6 September. Volunteers wishing to help in September should contact the office.

PCC Meeting on Sunday 24 July at 12 pm. Pray for all PCC Members.

South Asian Monthly Service – will start on Sunday 17 July at 4 pm. The South Asian Service will primarily but not exclusively draw people from local Pakistani and Indian communities within the parish and beyond. This service will be offered in a variety of languages including Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, and English, as well as a variety of Eastern and Western musical styles.

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 M 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 24 July:

Reader: Cynthia **Intercession:** Nehar

Hospitality: Naila **AV Desk:** Thomas

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873

Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

Golders Green Rota July 2022

Date	Reading	Readers	Intercession	Hospitality Steward	AV (Audio Visual) Desk
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

The Toddler Group Update:

The Toddler Group has now closed for the Summer.

The last four months has seen many families come through our doors getting to know each other and feeling happy in a welcoming and friendly environment.

Come September, we will need more volunteers to help if possible. Two hours a month on a Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am will be great. Please contact the office for more info.

We will **reopen on Tuesday 6 September** and hope to see many of you then.

Have a good Summer.

The Toddler Group Team

TODDLER GROUP

@ GOLDERS GREEN CHURCH



Meet weekly on
Tuesdays 9.30-11.30am/Term Time Only

£3.00 Entrance Fee

Held in the church

More details contact the office

020 8455 1873

Golders Green Church

West Heath Drive NW11 7QG

Now closed for the Summer & will reopen on
Tuesday 6 September 2022.

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/>