

30 August 2022



*Let mutual love continue.
Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.
Hebrews 13: 1-2*

Dear Everyone – Welcome back to the newsletter after a short break over the summer holidays. I hope you have had a rest yourselves, enjoying the weather, if it hasn't proved too hot for you.

We have had some thoroughly enjoyable events in church during August. Last Sunday the theme and readings were about hospitality (Hebrews 13). Kamran preached on the importance of opening our doors and lives to others whether we know them, like or disapprove of them or not. He talked of John 13:34 and Christ's imperative to love one another. We are all God's children. It was an appropriate theme for us, as at the end of July we had a great Bring-and-Share lunch provided by our members, Cynthia, April, and Norah from the Philippines, who also performed a dance for festivals and church services and prayed the Lord's prayer in Filipino. The food, pictured below, was so delicious. It was a joyous occasion, and we thank them for all they provided and taught us about Phillipine traditions and dance.



Last Sunday we had another fantastic lunch. This one provided by members of our Nigerian congregation. It was delicious with such variety and hospitality. The Nigerian hymns and choruses during the service in the many different languages of the country were great. How generous too that each of us was given a gift which is, we were told, the tradition of Nigerian entertainment. Thank you! The quiz about Nigeria and the talk, with our own models, on different Nigerian clothes and traditions was so interesting as well as the demonstration on how to create the stunning hats women wear. Loved every minute of it and thank you to all of you who spent much time organizing it so brilliantly. What a great morning of worship, food, and friendship, getting us all happily together across our rich diversity. Lots of photos were taken and here is just a small selection. More have been put on the Church WhatsApp - Enjoy!



The **South Asian Monthly Service** was held in church to which a good number attended. It was taken by Kamran with Naila singing the hymns and songs. This is a regular service at 4.00pm and will take place on every third Sunday of the month at 4.00pm. All are welcome to come and take part.



What a lovely surprise to see Neliya back in church again after so long an absence. Marlies picked her up from her home and brought her to us. We were all so pleased that she was here and hope she will be able to come again



Hope?

It would be good to be able to say that things are much better Nationally, but it is not so. We are in a time of anxiety and uncertainty on so many levels; especially regarding the rise in fuel bills, the effect that is going to have on so many people and the even greater need for more food banks as families and individuals find it hard to manage – not to mention our polluted waterways. What can we do? What can be done? Such hard and complex questions. Because of this I have been pondering on the question of “Hope,” especially with regard to Paul’s words in Romans 5 about “Faith, Hope and Love” and the important part Hope plays in our lives as Christians towards each other. Hope is not meant to be separated from Faith and Love as a distinct entity, the three are all intertwined. Hope is not meant to be thought of in the vague, inconsequential way we tend to use it, such as, we “hope it rains,” but rather how

“Hope” can be put into practice in our lives in such a way to make an active change for the better.

While I was thinking on this, by coincidence I was sent an account of a conference I was supposed to have attended in Norway with the Anglican-Lutheran Society, called, “A Pilgrimage Towards Hope.” I couldn’t attend it as it involved quite a lot of walking which would have been a challenge and, as I succumbed to Covid, I couldn’t have gone anyway. But the Senior Norwegian Bishop, The Most Rev Olav Fykse Tveit, who opened the conference, focused his address on “Hope, as a Christian.” In his talk (and I have abridged it a little as it was so long) he said, *“Christian hope is more than a general optimism. It is stating what we believe to be possible against what we see. But we should focus that hope in the way we believe, in the way that we work – providing signs of hope that enable people to believe and to love. He quoted Paul in Romans 5, “Hope does not disappoint us because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.”* He went on to ask the question, *“Should the Church involve itself in discussions about hope? Should the Church say something that has political implications? Isn’t that the task for others? What does it mean in a democracy when the Church says something that relates to the realm of politicians?”* He continued, *“These are very strange questions because in our work we constantly ask if there is any way of being Church without facing issues of suffering, conflict, injustice, exclusion, discrimination and so on. We are not here as Churches for our own interests or purposes. We are here to create hope for the world. Ours is a service – a service in prayer, a service in action, a service that shows our confidence in God, and our confidence to serve and to share it accordingly. It is about the reality that we all live in. Therefore, when we talk about hope, the ecumenical task of advocacy becomes central. The Church has a voice and must speak up for those who need a voice, must speak up for those who need a theological reflection into a world that needs something other than cynical words, something other than self-orientated discussions.”* His words spoke to me profoundly and answered much of what I had been thinking. What do you think?










Jenny’s intercessions on Sunday were so apt to our time and, as she has just come back from the Lambeth Conference, I have included them in full, perhaps to use in our own prayer time in the week. They are below.

With Love and Good Wishes – Sally



**Sculpture from St Mary’s Church,
Holy Island, Northumberland.**

Also Included in this Week's Edition:

-  **Intercessions 28 August 2022 - Jenny**
-  **A Day of Action in Support of Refugees - 23rd September - Jenny**
-  **Donald Barnes's Memorial Lecture**
-  **Toddlers Club;**
-  **How We Are;**
-  **Prayers with Kamran;**
-  **Church Bulletin;**
-  **Church Rota;**
-  **Prayer List;**

Intercessions 28 August 2022 - Jenny

As some of you know I attended the Lambeth Conference at the beginning of August, as part of a small team from Christian Aid. In 'normal' times Lambeth happens every ten years, but the last one was back in 2008, so this one was long overdue and, as it turned out, very definitely worth the wait! It's a gathering of bishops from across the Anglican Communion—there are Anglicans in 165 countries, and most were represented at this year's Conference. It's not a decision-making gathering; the point is far more about enabling connection and relationship through prayer and Bible study, and simply spending time with each other, sharing their joys, challenges and even despair. This was the global church, the Body of Christ, in action, and it was wonderful to see.

I was blessed to be able to meet bishops from (it felt like!) everywhere, from the Canadian Arctic to Melanesia, Panama, the Philippines, India and Japan and all countries in between! I heard some of their stories, and have been personally challenged by their resilience, grace, and persistent faith despite overwhelming difficulties. For instance, I met a bishop from South Sudan, who responded to my question 'what are the main challenges you have to deal with in your diocese?' by saying: 'Well, my cathedral was bombed, my home destroyed, my congregations have no homes, no food and no water, and their livestock have died.' He paused, pointed heavenwards, and added: 'but I trust God..' I've thought a lot about that conversation and am humbled and inspired in equal measure.

There were so many equally humbling and inspiring conversations, with women and men who show almost incredible grace and faith as they lead their dioceses and provinces. As the Conference drew to a close the bishops I spoke to were celebrating how well it had gone: even on issues where there was never any possibility of agreement across the Communion, there had been good and honouring conversations, listening to each other's contexts and experiences, and agreeing where necessary to disagree respectfully. To me as a mere observer, this was a success, and bodes well for the Anglican Communion and the wider global church.

On Sunday I chose four countries on which to focus our intercessions – these had featured significantly in my conversations at the Lambeth Conference, but I could just as well have chosen any of the others, as they all need our prayers, as we need theirs. I've included the prayers here.

Nigeria

God of love, peace, and unity, we lift to you the Christians of Nigeria as they face continuing persecution, discrimination, and violence, we pray against all powers and principalities and all political and spiritual influences and movements which are not from you, and which aim only to divide and destroy. Will you intervene to stop the activities of extremist groups and armed bandits, and put an end to their impunity? Give your people the strength to hold onto you. May they know that you are with them in their suffering, and that you will never leave them nor forsake them. May your Holy Spirit break through the brutality and destruction and bring your peace, the peace that the world very clearly cannot give.

Lord, in your great compassion and mercy - *Hear our prayer*

Pakistan

Loving God, we think now of the people of Pakistan, of the millions affected by the devastating floods we're now hearing about, the hundreds of thousands who've lost their homes and can only wait - for the rains to stop, the water to recede, and for help to come. God, it seems so unfair that so many people, who had so little to start with, have lost even that. We pray for them – please don't let them lose hope as well as everything else. We pray for generous giving in response to their desperate need. We pray also with gratitude for those who are trying to provide help in such an incredibly difficult situation. Will you keep them safe and direct their efforts, and bless everyone who's involved in rescuing, rebuilding, and strengthening the communities who are suffering so terribly.

Lord, in your great compassion and mercy - *Hear our prayer*

South Sudan

Compassionate God, we think of the people of South Sudan, a new country formed with such hope only 11 years ago and whose people are struggling to survive unimaginable difficulties. So many have been forced to leave their homes because of the war, the extreme drought has killed their livestock and made it impossible to grow food or find water. They are starving, and the world doesn't seem to notice or care. We pray for your guidance and encouragement for the bishops and clergy as they lead and support their communities. We pray for wisdom and courage for the political leaders, and generosity and a sense of urgency from the international community. Jesus, will you bring the people of South Sudan food and water, and hope, and peace, and dignity?

Lord, in your great compassion and mercy - *Hear our prayer*

Ukraine (using words written by a colleague from Christian Aid)

Lord of all people and all nations, we lift before you the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia, Each girl and boy, each woman and man living in fear of what tomorrow might bring. We long for the time you spoke of through your prophet Isaiah, when weapons of war will be beaten into ploughshares, when nation will no longer lift up sword against nation.

We cry out to you for peace. Protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security and safety. Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones. Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression. Fill world leaders with great wisdom to find paths to peace.

Lord, in your great compassion and mercy - *Hear our prayer*

And we now pray for ourselves

Loving, compassionate, merciful God, please teach us more about what it is to be part of the global Body of Christ, and what it is for all of us, wherever we are, to be dependent on each other. Show us how we can reflect that glorious interconnectedness. Give us a spirit of compassion, hospitality, and generosity even when everything around us feels like it's going bad. Show us how to pray for our sisters and brothers in the Body of Christ, and how to encourage and practically support them, and show us how we can all be the voice and hands and feet of Jesus to transform your world.

May your will be done here, on earth as it is in heaven. We offer these prayers to you, our God who is able to do so much more than we can ever ask or imagine. In the name of Jesus our saviour.

Lord, in your great compassion and mercy - *Hear our prayer.*

Amen

A Day of Action in Support of Refugees - 23rd September - Jenny

Dear Friends,

Being loud and visible as a movement is needed now, as much as it ever has been, in our work to end the government's cruel policy to send people seeking protection in the UK to Rwanda without ever having their claim heard here. That is why we are busy working up plans for the next Together with Refugees Day of Action.

Please put Friday 23rd September 2022 in your calendars as an opportunity to bring the power of our collective voices to the campaign against the Rwanda scheme.

With the court hearings on the Rwanda scheme taking place across September and October, the announcement of the new Conservative leader on 5th September, Labour Party Conference kicking off on 25th September and Conservative Party Conference on 2nd October, this will be a crucial period for us to raise our united voice to press for the new Prime Minister's government to make a decisive move away from this cruel and unworkable policy.

We will be in touch with further details and tools to support you to build and deliver a creative, engaging, and impactful Day of Action!

Best wishes,

The Together With Refugees Team

Jenny B

Senior Church Advocacy Adviser Christian Aid

THE DONALD BARNES MEMORIAL LECTURE

St Peter's Belsize Park
Belsize Square, London NW3 4HY

Wednesday 7 September, 8.00pm

Revd Jonathan Aitken

will speak on

Prison Life and Ministry and the challenges of Offender Rehabilitation

Jonathan Aitken is a Prison Chaplain at HMP Pentonville. He is a former Cabinet Minister and served as a Member of Parliament for 24 years. His books include political biographies, two volumes of autobiography (*Pride and Perjury; Porridge and Passion*) and several books of Christian writing. His most recent book, co-authored with Edward Smyth, is *Doing Time: A Spiritual Survival Guide*. **Free admission – retiring collection**

Toddlers Club

The Toddler Group will start back on Tuesday 6 September from 9.30am to 11.30am. If you can spare some time to volunteer during the session will be great. Please contact the office.

How We Are

Please continue to pray for all those who have been unwell with Covid and other debilitation ailments. We are so pleased that **Connie** recovered from being unwell. Continue to pray for Myfanwy's sister, **Yvone Sterenborg**, who is very frail and wonderfully cared for by Florence. We pray as we always do for **Simon and his father**. This is a difficult time for the family. We send them our love.

We pray that all those we know 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 after so long an absence after the sad loss of his wife Florence.

It would be much appreciated 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.

Songs of Worship:

Your loving kindness

<https://youtu.be/JhjJeuyGHx8>

Lord, you have been good to me

<https://youtu.be/fnbQF8rb9Q8>

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/aemYT2p1YY>

GGPC Rota for September 2022

Date	Reading	Readers	Intercession	Hospitality/ Steward	AV Desk (Audio Visual)
04/09/2022	Philemon 1:1-21 Luke 14:25-33	Tim	Nwando	Sally	Tony
11/09/2022	I Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10	Silvia	Naila	tbc	Shaniv
18/09/2022	I Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13	tbc	Nehar	Nwando	Thomas
25/09/2022	I Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31	Abi	Nwadi	Sally	Tony

The Parish of Golders Green

Parish Notices: 28/08/2022

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.

Bring & Share on Sunday 28 August will take place straight after the service. All welcome to bring a dish to share. Contact the office for more info.

The Donald Barnes Memorial Lecture will be held on Wednesday 7 September 8 pm. For further details please speak with Sally.

The Soup Kitchen started on 19 July and will continue every Tuesday from 6.30pm to 8.00pm for the time being. Please keep in your prayers.

The Coffee Morning. 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.

Prayers for the Church ministry and mission:

Please pray for the Senior Circle about to start soon. The Soup Kitchen which started in July. For the ongoing Church Maintenance issues. Pray for the Church Choir, Children Ministry, The Toddler Group, and the Mission of the Church.

For your prayers:

Please continue to prayer for Mike Houghton, Eunice, Margaret & Sally for God's healing.

Please also prayer for all those who are grieving for their loved ones.

Rota for Sunday 04 September:

Reader: Tim

Hospitality: Sally

Intercession: Nwando

AV Desk: Tony

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,

Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

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

It 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/>