

05 October 2022



Dear Everyone – How good to welcome the Revd Nigel T to be back with us to take the service on Sunday and preach. His sermon is printed below.

Wouldn't it be good to be able to say what an excellent week it has been and how everything is going really well in the Country and elsewhere? One thing that we are always talking about is living in Hope and, at the moment, it is one thing we can do, need to do – and pray that things will improve.

There is acute anxiety about so much; our finances; the rising cost of our fuel bills; the number of food banks expressing concern about the increasing numbers of families needing food and that the donations to support their work are dropping because of the usual donors own financial situations; the feeling we are not being listened to by government and the increasing gulf between the haves and have nots. We face, too, news of the continuing war in the Ukraine, that while there seems to be hope that they are regaining ground, it is a hard on-going war with no clear realistic out-come. So many countries are suffering from the results of climate change that even the most cynical cannot deny seeing the floods, famine, and homelessness it is producing. My goodness how very depressing. What can we do?

What we can do is not give into a council of despair throughout all these events that have been happening. We see this is nothing particularly new from our reading of the psalms with people pleading for help from God and getting very cross at what seems to be their lack of help, while at the same time ending with the expression of hope that God is always with us. Hope in God is key to our Christian heritage and belief, that we are never alone. I love the part of one of our prayers that says, *“We may at times forget you. But we know you do not forget us. Encourage us in our struggles to be what you would have us be, and work for justice, love, and peace in your name”*.

As well as Hope we can pray for peace; peace for Ukraine and countries suffering from war and upheavals that disrupt their lives. Below is a prayer by RS Thomas, who was one of the leading poets of Wales. His poems can often be hard to understand but they are filled with compassion, love, doubt, and irony and focus on the surrounds and hard lives of those in his parish. His poem, *“Pact”* below reflects on Peace and Hope even when there are differences between us. That is something active we can pray for in our lives.

One other thing we can do to take our minds away from turmoil for just little periods of time, is turn to nature; look around us at the colours of Autumn that are beginning to show and enjoy them. We can see the shiny brown chestnuts appearing, rather early, but are there

all the same; the gradual turning of the leaves to the reds, oranges and golds and be lifted up by them. Different types of fungi in their weird and wonderful shapes and, Oak trees, bursting with acorns, so many this year that they fall heavily in bunches (and scare my little dog when he runs under them at Kenwood, and they fall on his head!).



Nature can give us such joy and hope in the knowledge that we are all linked with it, that God made it and “saw it was good”. We badly need time to step back from the anxieties we individually and collectively feel, breathe deeply, and focus on one thing, one memory that brings us joy and be thankful for it. It lifts our hearts, and we remember too - we do have each other.

During this week, the Feast of St Francis, many people’s favourite Saint, was celebrated in a number of churches. Francis was a kind and loving man towards all. He had a great love of animals who naturally gravitated towards him. Many stories were told about him that children especially love, one being about, “The *Wolf* of Gubbio, who, according to the stories told, terrorized the Umbrian city of Gubbio until he was tamed by *St. Francis* and the citizens were no longer afraid of him. His highly faithful, aesthetic life set a pattern for monastic orders and others who followed his way of life and still do today.

Continuing the theme of Peace, below is the “The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation,” that is familiar to you as it has been in past newsletters. I cannot help feeling it is so right for this time and applies to every situation, anywhere there is war and destruction. The cross below the litany is from Dresden, that stands in the Church of St Mary’s there, when, after the city was razed to the ground, it was pulled from the ashes and now stands as a reminder of Hope and Forgiveness.

With Love and Good Wishes - Sally

This Week’s Edition Includes:

- ✚ **Sermon – Revd Nigel T;**
- ✚ **Nehar’s celebration of Son’s Wedding;**
- ✚ **Saint Francis of Assisi – 1226;**
- ✚ **“Pact” a Prayer for Peace - R. S. Thomas;**
- ✚ **The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation;**
- ✚ **Toddlers Club;**
- ✚ **How We Are;**
- ✚ **Prayers with Kamran;**
- ✚ **Church Bulletin;**
- ✚ **Church Rota;**
- ✚ **Prayer List;**
- ✚ **Links to Service**

Sermon – Revd Nigel T

FAITH AND HUMILITY – LUKE 17: 5-10

Aim: To show my hearers that the faith needed is faith in a great God, and that the disciple's attitude must be one of humble service.

Do you ever feel inadequate as a follower of Jesus? You try to pray each day, but other things get in the way – work, family, shopping, etc. You hear that little voice inside – the Accuser – telling you that you are not a very good Christian, and you listen to that voice rather than the voice of God who says in scripture – “There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.” Or you pray for something to happen, and don't see much answer to prayer.

Well, if that is ever you – it is always me! – take heart! The gospel reading is for us today! It comes in a chapter in Luke's gospel where Luke is stringing together a number of different sayings of Jesus. And at the beginning of chapter 17 Jesus warns about leading little ones to sin, and the judgement that it would be better for that person to have a mill stone tied around their neck and be thrown into the sea! There are encouragements to warn people about sin, but also to forgive seven times a day if someone who has sinned against you repents. This is all rather demanding, that you can understand why the apostles say to Jesus, “Increase our faith!” They are realising that following Jesus is demanding!

This is one of only six occasions when the disciples are called “apostles” in this gospel. Forty-four times they are called disciples. Why called apostles here? Disciple means literally “follower”, learner, pupil, usually of a rabbi, in this case Jesus. But the disciples were also called apostles, literally “sent ones” because they are to go out and preach the gospel. Jesus sent them out twice in Luke's gospel – as the twelve, and then the seventy. At the end of their mission they came back and said even the demons submit to us in your name. They had seen great works of God through their own ministry. Sent to preach. And now these apostles are recognising that following Jesus is hard. They need more faith, even though that had been involved in setting captives free! What an encouragement to us; if they saw their need of more faith, then so can we!

But what makes us feel inadequate as a follower of Jesus? We face situations where we realise we are not as strong, not as brave, not as believing, not as godly, as we would like to be. The problem is we are looking at ourselves, and seeing our failures we end up listening to the Accuser who will twist the knife, and tell us just how badly we are doing. When the apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith, they were looking in themselves for something. And Jesus partly plays into their self-absorption. He replies: ‘If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, “Be uprooted and planted in the sea,” it would obey you.’ What on earth is Jesus going on about here?

The apostles have already seen demons submit to them in Jesus name. What has happened since? They have forgotten the one they were to focus on: the question is not about having enough faith, but about where their faith was focused; not on themselves, but on a great God. They had lost sight of the fact that *God brings things into being by his Word*; he delivers from demons by a word; he expresses his power by a Word. And what about mulberry bushes? By all accounts they are hard to uproot, but the idea of uprooting something and throwing it into the sea is all about not letting it be able to take root again. I've not seen a mulberry bush being uprooted by a word, but I have seen in people's lives the tentacles/roots of bitterness,

unforgiveness being uprooted and cast away so that unforgiveness, or bitterness, or jealousy is not able to take root again. When we pray for people, do we pray for the obstacles, the things that grip into them, in their lives (the equivalent of mulberry bushes) to be uprooted? It may be for spiritual blindness to be banished, for the hardness of heart to be uprooted and softened, to change the metaphor! But “increasing our faith” begins with having a bigger view of God; he is in control, we are not, because He is God, and we are not! Is our focus on God, or have we let it drift into being on ourselves, whether intentionally or not?

And that focus on God is unwrapped further in the story about the servant. It seems quite harsh. Jesus says, “*Who among you would say to your slave, who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table?’ Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So, you also when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘we are worthless slaves, we have done only what we ought to have done.’*”

If we often feel **inadequate** as Christians, the other danger we can slip into is to feel **entitled**. Think how easily we can slip into thinking, “I’ve done all these things for God, I’ve given generously to God’s work, I’ve spent such and such a time in prayer, I’ve served on that committee at church, I’ve made so many sacrifices, surely God will reward me, surely God owes me a break, a blessing?” ***I’ve done all these things, I deserve something good...!***

But the problem with that attitude is twofold; we think there is a principle in the Kingdom of God that good deeds get rewards, and we deserve them. Wrong! God’s blessings are all a result of his grace, his undeserved favour to us, and not a matter of us earning them! And secondly, we are again focused on ourselves rather than on our Maker, our Redeemer, our Master, and our King. We think the world revolves around us, when it revolves around Him! Both these stories that Jesus tells about mustard seeds and about slaves is about who we are focusing on; we can so easily lose sight of God, and that He is wanting to draw us into a deeper relationship with him, and that we might see more people being set free from what ever mulberry bush has put its roots into peoples lives, if we but believed in the power of God, and believed in the power of words to set free in the name of Jesus.

Where is God gently reminding you of a need to keep your eyes on him, and not on yourself? Where is God encouraging you to be humble before him and to recognise you are not the Messiah – Jesus is! Where do you need to learn to say to God, “*We have only done what we ought to have done?*” Or to follow Paul’s example in his second letter to Timothy where we need to have confidence to declare with him, “*I know the One in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to Him.*” That is faith, especially when like Paul it came despite pressures, imprisonments, beatings, and all manner of harsh circumstances. He knew the one in whom he had put his trust; he was focused on God, not his own circumstances. This autumn we are all as a nation, as a world, going through hard times, economically, spiritually, but we keep our focus on Him, not on ourselves. To God be the glory, now and forever. Amen

**Nehar's reception for her son Daniel to Katherine who married a week ago.
Congratulations to both of them and a Happy Birthday to Nehar too!**



Saint Francis of Assisi - 1226



The 4th October was the Feast day of Francis of Assisi, who was a thirteenth-century Italian whose greatest honour was to be known as “il Poverello”, “the little poor one of Christ.” He grew up in a very wealthy family and seemed to have not a care in the world until he was twenty years old, when a chance encounter with a leper left him appalled by his own uselessness. Soon afterwards he heard Jesus speaking to him from a painting of the crucifixion over the altar of a local church. He threw away his wardrobe and renounced his father’s wealth in order to care for the poor and the crippled. In 1208 he heard the commission which the risen Lord gave to his apostles, “Go, make all nations my disciples,” and knew that it was also addressed to him. Francis began to train his followers for the task of making Jesus truly known and loved among the ordinary people of Italy. Out of this movement developed the Order of the Lesser Brethren, commonly called the Franciscans.

Francis cared deeply for his new Order, but he also grew restless as it became an established institution of the Church and began to be wealthy. He distanced himself from its day-to-day life and eventually went his own way as he strove to imitate Christ’s total obedience to God. Two years before his death he was granted a sign which manifested this desire. One

September day in 1224, he had a vision of the Crucified borne on the wings of a seraph. As the vision withdrew, the wounds of Jesus appeared in Francis's own flesh — the scars like nail-wounds on his hands and feet, and in his right side a scar like a spear-wound. These marks, called the stigmata, remained on Francis's body until his death two years later.

With thanks to the Revd Richard Cattley, writer of Saints and the Monarchy of Britain.

Prayer for Peace: R. S. Thomas .

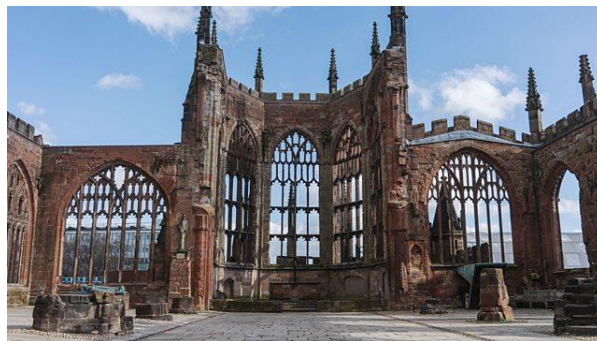
“Pact”

This is my child;
that is yours. Let
peace be between them
when they grow up.

They are far off
now; let it not
be through war
they are brought
near. Their languages

are different. Let them both
learn it is peace
in the hand is the translation
of peace in the mind.

The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation



One aspect of being renewed is to know that we are forgiven – this can also release us. After the bombing of Coventry Cathedral, the Provost had the words ***Father forgive*** (and not *Father forgive them*) inscribed on the ruins. He did not seek revenge; rather, he acknowledged that we have all sinned and need forgiveness.

The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation gives a structure for recognising sin, individually and corporately, and asking for forgiveness. This can be helpful at any time but particularly during times of war between nations. Importantly, we can be assured of God's forgiveness so that we can be renewed and released, and therefore be more fruitful in God's service.

The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

Father, forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,

Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

Father, forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.



How We Are

Please pray for **Alice** who is being cared for at home by **Alex**. We pray that she is surrounded by God's loving Care. We continue to pray for Myfanwy's sister, **Yvone S**, who is very frail. We pray as we always do for **Simon and his father** and wish for strength for them and their family. We pray for **Tony** and hope he is making a good recovery. We send all those who are sick 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.

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=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:

Worthy Is Your Name (Exalted) [Live] || COMMUNITY MUSIC

<https://youtu.be/o4a1ubulPPo>

Chris Tomlin - O Lord You're Beautiful (Lyric Video) feat. Steffany Gret...

<https://youtu.be/N1DMlraqVXI>

The Parish of Golders Green

Parish Notices: 02/10/2022

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.

Sunday School – will be starting on 16 October. More info to follow soon.

World Homeless Week – 9th - 16th October. Please pray for those struggling with their housing that they may find peace & strength.

The Coffee Morning will be starting soon. Please keep in your prayers.

The Toddler Group – 13 children and their families attended this week. Lots of fun had by all. Volunteers wishing to help should contact the office.

Baptism & Confirmation – If you want your child to be baptised or young person to be Confirmed, please speak with Rev Kamran after the service.

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

Rota for Sunday 09 September:

Reader: Sam

Intercession: Annie

Hospitality: Silvia

Eucharist Minister: Sally

AV Desk: Elizabeth

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,

Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

Golders Green Church Rota: October 2022

| Date | Reading | Readers | Intercession | Hospitality/ Steward | AV (Audio Visual) Desk | Eucharistic Minister |
|------------|---|---------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 09/10/2022 | 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19 | Sam | Annie | Silvia | Elizabeth | Sally |
| 16/10/2022 | 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8 | Cynthia | tbc | Sheila | Tony | Ify |
| 23/10/2022 | 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14 | Friday | Nwando | Nwando | Shaniv | Tony |
| 30/10/2022 | 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10 | Onyenka | Jenny | Silvia | Thomas | Nehar |

The Toddler Group:

We had 13 children with their families this week. Another great week. Lots of messy play with playdoh, reading in the book corner & singing at the end of the session.

Volunteers needed. Please contact the office to find ways to help.

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

Please join

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/>