

19 October 2022



Dear Everyone

How lovely it was that our **Sunday School** started with Ifey and Modupe leading it. At the end of the service the children came in with their drawings and talked about what they had been doing. It was so good to see them and hear them singing lustily. We all wish Sunday School much success and know it will grow as weeks go by.

Nwando's Testimony: During the Service we had a Testimony from **Nwando** who had a bad accident in North Finchley outside Waitrose. She talked movingly of the kindness of strangers who helped her. Her account is printed in full below. We pray with gratitude and thanks for her recovery and for those who stopped by and helped her.

Foodbank collection: Please note that next Sunday we will be collecting goods and/or donations for the foodbanks near to us. We already have some goods which will be displayed in church as our Harvest contribution to those that need them. All donations will be very welcome, especially tinned, dried foods and toiletries such as, shampoo, shower gel, soap, nappies, toothpaste, deodorants, period products. Thank you in advance.

Night Shelter appeal: **Nehar** reminded us that we are part of hosting the Night shelter project, which we have been involved in for a number of years. We are partnered with Alyth Synagogue who provide the food and we provide the accommodation. For the last few years, because of the pandemic, guests have been accommodated in a local hotel. From this month, they will be hosted in churches and synagogues as usual, each taking a turn to host for one night per week. While our turn doesn't start until the New Year Nehar would be very grateful, if anyone who would like to help with this, could contact her, learn more about it and offer to volunteer. Please speak to her after the Sunday Service.

Floods in Nigeria: What terrible news reaching us about the floods in Nigeria that have caused so much devastation, death, and destruction. They have been called an "overwhelming disaster" which they clearly are. So many houses have been swept away, families killed and many left homeless, crop destroyed and all that means for food production. Yet another example of Climate Change that is causing so much tragedy across the world. We send our prayers to those who are caught up in it, bereaved and without help. If you have relatives and friends in this dreadful disaster, we send lots of prayers to you and them. If there is any way, we can help please let us know on Sunday or by WhatsApp.

London events: There are two visual events taking place in London and Southwark at the moment that you might like to visit. One is a new statue on the 4th plinth in Trafalgar Square by the distinguished sculptor, Samson Kambalu, unveiled on 28th September, called Antelope. The sculpture is of the Baptist preacher and pan-Africanist John Chilembwe with his friend, the European missionary, John Chorley. John Chilembwe a brave man of Faith who fought against slavery and racism. A small part of his story is below.

At **Southwark Cathedral** for a few weeks only is display of **Gaia**; a huge sculpture of our planet, suspended from the roof, slowly, quietly, and gently revolving over our heads. One of its aims is to reflect on the wonder and beauty of creation, to think of the Earth how priceless it is and its value to us. There is an article on it below.

Great Granddaughter: Just to let you know a bit of family news. My grandson, Max, and his Partner Rachel had a beautiful little girl on Sunday, 6lbs 5oz, (sorry I cannot cope with metric weight!). She hasn't been named yet other than to say her middle name is "Akosua" Ghanaian for Sunday. I am coming to terms with being a great grandmother and looking forward to giving her lots of cuddles.

Persistence: On Sunday **Kamran** talked of the Gospel story of the persistent widow who kept on at a selfish judge, who did not want to hear her, until he got tired of her determination to be heard and granted her request. He emphasized the importance and value of being persistent in our lives, in our prayers and Faith.

It is so important that we hang on to Persistence, Hope and Faith especially in the midst of the turmoil we are experiencing here and, in the world, around us with all its uncertainty, insecurity, fear and the abuse of power that damages so many. Bishop Baines, diocesan Bishop of Leeds wrote a blog of a speech he gave in the House of Lords about just that. It is important that a bishop is heard to speak out for those who are suffering because of the acts of others. His speech has received some publicity but deserves to be more widely read. I cannot print it all as it is too long but, talking about the corrosive misuse of power he says: "it matters when those with power throw integrity and virtue to the winds while enriching or protecting themselves. This is utterly corrosive of public ethics and the common good. Corruption happens when integrity is reduced to expediency and principle to mere pragmatism. to the abuse of language, the 'normalisation of lying', the 'corruption of the public discourse'. Virtue received a nod while those in the highest power in our land sought to ignore both the claims and consequences of corruption. Because corruption is not primarily about systems; rather, it is about character. Individual and corporate..... All this is in plain sight. If we choose to ignore what is evident, we incur ethical judgment on our neglect. This is not incidental. If democracy and the rule of law are to mean anything, if integrity in public life is something to be honoured and not mocked, if public virtue is not to be shrunk into political or economic pragmatism or expediency, then this parliament must clean up its own act, pay attention to its use of language, show an example of transparent accountability in its vital work, and demonstrate the power of humility in setting a public culture". I couldn't help but think, when I read it, that Jesus and St Paul in the Gospels said as much, frequently in their time and in their way to those in power.

With Love and Good Wishes – Sally



Autumnal Trees in the Ridgeway Golders Green

This Week's Edition Includes:

- ✚ Nwando's Testimony;**
- ✚ 4th Plinth Statue – The Revd John Chilembwe;**
- ✚ Gaia – Southwark Cathedral;**
- ✚ St Theresa of Avila;**
- ✚ Toddlers Club;**
- ✚ How We Are;**
- ✚ Prayers with Kamran;**
- ✚ Church Bulletin;**
- ✚ Church Rota;**
- ✚ Prayer List;**
- ✚ Links to Service**



Autumnal Trees in Cheshire and a local park in Finchley from Jenny

Nwando's Testimony



“Last Sunday, I had no idea I was going to give my testimony at Church. Nehar engineered it. On our way to Church, I told her what had happened to me. As we arrived at Church, she informed Kamran that I have a testimony I should share with the Church. I could not say no, because it's a privilege to tell others what God has done for one & to encourage the hearers in their time of need. It agreed to tell my story, as it was the right thing to do. We witness & glorify God when we acknowledge that He has shown us mercy.

This testimony is given to express my gratitude for God's loving deliverance & to give glory to His name.

I had this nasty accident on Saturday, 8 days ago, outside Waitrose supermarket in North Finchley. As I walked to the Bus stop there, I had the most horrendous experience I can ever recall. I tripped on the pavement, stumbled & wasn't able to break my fall. I fell down hitting my head with a big bang to my skull on the concrete pavement & bruised my face. The crashing sound as my head hit the ground was so frightening that I feared for the worst. I cried silently & said, " oh my God, is this the way You want to call me Home?" I was afraid to open my eyes, not knowing what to see, I just lay there, believing I had fractured my skull.

Then I soon felt my hand held & being gently stroked by someone. I opened one eye & saw a young lady looking at me with concern & that reassured me greatly. I asked her if there is any bleeding, but she said none.

I then noticed there were 2 other ladies around me, trying to reassure me that help is on its way. To me they were 3 Samaritans, sent to be there at the time of my fall to help me. One of them is a Romanian Doctor & she ensured I was awake & not to be moved or given any drink. One of the ladies phoned the Ambulance & gave them required information she got from my Bus pass to confirm who I was & where we were, & information concerning my state of consciousness. The other young lady chatted, made jokes that made me chuckle. They did their best to ensure I was warm & comfortable. They were Angels on assignment. They showed me great care & concern.

They spent their valuable afternoon to sit & wait with me, sacrificing their afternoon for a total stranger they didn't know. They were selfless helpers to someone they did not know.

They have restored my faith & belief that there are still many good & caring people around. After over 2 hours wait for the ambulance that didn't come, they reluctantly left, as my family & a friend have come to help.

My family took me to the A& E. where I was seen as a priority to check on the head injuries. After various checks, I was discharged home with excruciating pain, swelling & bruising around my left eye but without any serious effects from the fall.

I thank & praise God for His saving grace & for rescuing me from serious injury.

I also want to thank all who have given me words of encouragement & prayed for my healing. May God bless you all.”

**The 4th Plinth: John Chilembwe
and European missionary John Chorley
by Samson Kambalu**



When you pass Trafalgar Square, you will see on the 4th Plinth, a new Statue. It was created by Samson Kambalu and was unveiled on 28th September, called Antelope. The sculpture was taken from a 1914 photograph of the Baptist preacher and pan-Africanist John Chilembwe and European missionary John Chorley, who were close friends, at the opening of Chilembwe's new church in Nyasaland, now Malawi. Chilembwe was trained as a minister in the United States, returning to Nyasaland in 1901 and was an early figure in the resistance to colonialism in Nyasaland. He opposed both the treatment of Africans working in agriculture on European-owned plantations and the colonial government's failure to promote the social, educational, and political advancement of Africans.

Chilembwe is seen wearing his hat showing his defiance of the colonial rule that forbade Africans from wearing hats in front of white people. On the plinth, Chilembwe is larger than life, while Chorley is life-size. The sculptor, by increasing the scale of Chilembwe compared to that of John Chorley has done this deliberately to depict his story which is courageous in his stand in fighting for the underrepresented peoples in the history of the British Empire in Africa, and beyond. Chilembwe provoked confrontation in defiance of the Estates owner, Alexander Livingstone Bruce (nephew of David Livingstone), by building a number of churches on the land of Livingstone-Bruce who held the view that educated Africans had no place in colonial society and opposed their education. He had a great dislike for Chilembwe who was a highly educated and considered all African-led churches as centres for agitation – which of course they were – and had them burnt down. The churches became a natural focus for agitation, and Chilembwe became the spokesman for African tenants on the Bruce Estates.

Chilembwe was vigorously and cruelly opposed as were many of his followers. He held an uprising against colonial rule but in spite of his courage he was killed in action in 1915 with the church he had built being destroyed by the colonial police. Today, the recognition of Chilembwe as a great fighter for freedom, as well as preacher, is celebrated as a hero of independence, and John Chilembwe Day is observed on 15th January in Malawi which gained independence in 1964, changing the name from Nyasaland to Malawi.

Chilembwe is considered to have influenced several figures of black liberation, including Jamaican political activist Marcus Garvey, and John Langalibalele Dube, the founding president of what went on to become the African National Congress (ANC) in South Africa.

The statue is imposing, beautifully constructed and worth visiting to learn more about this courageous man.

Luke Jerram's Gaia on display at Southwark Cathedral



Another new event that started last week was the display of Gaia* at Southwark Cathedral. If you can get to Southwark during the next couple of weeks do go in and see it if you can. It is beautiful and overwhelming to see this huge sculpture of our planet, suspended from the roof of the Cathedral, slowly, quietly, and gently revolving over our heads. Gaia, is a touring artwork by Luke Jerram. It is a stunning replica of our planet, created using 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface. The sculpture provides an incredible opportunity to view Earth as it might be seen from space floating in three dimensions. It has been on tour to many cathedrals for observers to see the beauty of the Earth, how priceless it is and to think of creation and its value to us - plus many more aspects that we become aware of when we stand and reflect on it. By standing 21m away from the artwork the observer will be able to see the Earth as it appears from the moon.

*It was called **Gaia** after the Greek goddess of Earth, mother of all life, similar to the Roman Terra Mater (mother Earth) reclining with a cornucopia, or the Andean Pachamama, the Hindu, Prithvi, "the Vast One," or the Hopi Kokyangwuti, Spider Grandmother, who with Sun god Tawa created Earth and its creatures. She as Earth, is universal to all cultures who have their different stories about her.

Since the 1970s James Lovelock developed the Gaia hypothesis. As originally conceived, the 'Gaia' concept envisages the Earth as a super-organism that operates to regulate its own environment, principally temperature, to keep it habitable for the biosphere.

Unlike the moon which we have been gazing at for millennia, the first-time humankind got to see the Earth in its entirety, as a blue marble floating in space, was in 1972 with NASA's Apollo 17 mission. At this moment our perception and understanding of our planet changed forever. Hanging in the black emptiness of space the Earth seems isolated, a precious and fragile island of life. From a distance the Earth is just a pale blue dot.

If you have time do go and see it. It is a remarkable creation that makes you think about our world, whether as a scientist, geologist, or artist, it has a real impact. (Entry to Southwark Cathedral is free, they have a cafeteria and a cat called Hodge who roams around the cathedral and as cats do, goes wherever she wants).

With thanks to Southwark Cathedral for the information about Gaia.

Saint Teresa of Avila



Teresa of Avila, whose feast day is 15th October, was a Spanish nun of the sixteenth century whose visions of Christ and gifts as a spiritual director have placed her among the greatest of all Christian mystics.

She was the only daughter of a minor nobleman who was a knight in the royal court; a strict man whose real aim, it is said, was to get her married off. But Teresa had other ideas and, after her mother died, at 16 years old she entered a convent. At 21 she left her convent with thirteen other nuns to observe the primitive constitutions of the Carmelite Order in Avila. Over the next two decades she endured many illnesses, one of which left her paralyzed, and also a nagging sense that in her prayers and devotions she was doing nothing more than “treading water.” Then, in answer to her despair, she began to have visions and hear “interior voices. She was a complicated and yet deeply profound individual; a contemplative but at the same time a very practical woman who managed to get a great deal achieved; a mystic yet still grounded in reality, gentle and compassionate but tough as nails who often spoke the truth to those in power who did not want to hear it. In time she led a reform of her community, focusing on prayer and poverty, towards which there was a great deal of resistance. She was even at one time called before the Inquisition. But in spite of all this she was known as someone who had a deep spirituality. She was recorded as being so often deep into her ecstatic meditations that she would levitate. Her strength of purpose, her intelligence and drive, her passionate love of God combined with her shrewd understanding of what made people tick and her humour, often won over opponents.

Teresa is regarded by many as a perfect guide to contemplation for those who wish to learn more about contemplative prayer. Her letters are full of wisdom. For many she is thought to be a very great saint; not because she was fervent, full of Zeal but, as her friend and mentor, St John of the Cross wrote, but, “because she loved her God and fellow Human Beings much”.

He said “it is because of the quality of our loving we should be judged”. In the midst of all her other concerns Teresa also found time to write a number of books, which reflected her holiness, wisdom, and sense of humour. It is through them she has become one of the most widely loved saints in the Church, attractive even to those who have not shared her Spanish catholicism or her monastic vocation. Here is one of her prayers that is so apt for us today in the midst of so much tribulation.

Let nothing disturb you,

Let nothing frighten you,

All things are passing away:
God alone never changes.
Patience gains all things
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.

How We Are

Please continue to pray for **Myfanwy's sister, Yvone S**, who is very frail and facing many difficulties at this moment that are of concern to Myfanwy.

Please continue to pray for **Alice** who is being cared for at home by **Alex**. We pray that she is surrounded by God's loving Care.

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 and for **Nwando** that she is much recovered after her fall.

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.

Toddler Group

We had a fun packed Toddler Group recently with thirteen children with their families & carers in attendance. They all played with the toys, some did drawings whilst others read in the book corner. They then had fruit & water and we then closed with singing. A busy session had by all. Please note we will be closed for half term on Tuesday 25 October and will reopen on Tuesday 1 November. If you can volunteer a few hours a month on a Tuesday, please contact the office.

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>

GGPC Rota for October 2022

Date	Reading	Readers	Intercession	Hospitality/ Steward	AV (Audio Visual) Desk	Eucharistic Minister
23/10/2022	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14	Friday	Nwando	Silvia	Shaniv	tbc
30/10/2022	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10	Onyenka	Jenny	Silvia	Thomas	Nehar

Songs of Worship:

In Christ Alone | Anchor Hymns (ft. Sandra McCracken & Antoine Bradford)...

<https://youtu.be/5nJsYMeT-wA>

Gadol Adonai (Great is the Lord)

<https://youtu.be/6n6cqWUimY>

The Parish of Golders Green

Parish Notices: 16/10/2022

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.

PCC Meeting – will be on Sunday 23 October after Sunday Service. Please keep all members in your prayers.

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

The Toddler Group – Every week on Tuesdays from 9.30am to 11.30am. Term time only. We will be closed on Tuesday 25 October for half term & reopen on 1st November. All volunteers greatly welcomed.

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

Rota for Sunday 23 September:

Reader: Friday

Intercession: Nwando

Hospitality: Silvia

Eucharist Minister: tbc

AV Desk: Shaniv

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

**We are closed on Tuesday 25 October for half term.
Reopening on Tuesday 1 November.**

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/>