

Golders Green Parish Church – Newsletter

14 December 2022



Dear Everyone

Greetings for the third Sunday in Advent commonly known as “Gaudete Sunday”. “Gaudete”, being Latin for “Joy”, expressing the joy of anticipating the birth of Jesus. This Sunday we certainly had much Joy during our Service. Our ever-flourishing Children’s Church presented us with the story of the crib. Each one had a part to play in telling the story which they all told so well and singing the Advent hymns with fervor. They were confident, clear and happy, with their obvious enjoyment spreading to the congregation. How lovely too to see the much younger ones joining in in their way investigating the crib and reorganizing the figures! It was also good to see the children and young people round the altar with Kamran for the preparation of Communion. As Kamran said at one point, when he was thanking them, “I don’t think I am really needed”. They are such a splendid group led and encouraged by Ifey and Modupe. Thank you for the work you are doing. I hope you enjoyed your Christmas gifts given at the end of the service. Happy birthday too to Modupe and Alex.



All Saint's Christmas Tree Fair: Rose, Maia and myself went to the fair last Saturday and had a thoroughly good time. There was mulled wine, home-made refreshments, raffles, music, and all kinds of goods for sale. What was particularly attractive were the Christmas trees standing along the aisles decorated cleverly by local businesses and shops. The locksmith, for example had decorated their tree with silver wrapped keys, the library with books, the chemist with pill boxes and packets (imitation ones of course) and many more.



On the subject of Christmas festivities, the list for everyone to enjoy is below. Please come along when you can.

The Wednesday morning coffee mornings are enjoyable. Apart from coffee and croissants it is also a place in which to be warm for a few hours. Please invite your friends and neighbours, they might enjoy the company and chat.

Food Bank: Please note the information about the Food Bank collections which we are continuing in our church on a permanent basis. You kindly donated a large amount of goods last month. We will be delivering what we collect to the **Food Bank at All Saints Childs Hill** which will be the central hub for collection and dispersal of goods sent from us and other churches. It is good for us to work in collaboration with them and help support those families and individuals who are in great need. There will be a table at the side of the church for your donations and a list of what would be welcomed will be on the table. In the meantime, I have added a list near the end of this newsletter to help as a guide. The demand for food and toiletries has risen sharply - other food banks are reporting the same. So please, it would be appreciated if you could bring in resources whenever you can and leave them in church, or they can be fetched from your home. Thank you so much in anticipation.

Rough sleepers phone number: in past editions of the newsletter the phone number for Rough sleepers plus full details of St Mungo's, (0300 500 0914 <https://www.mungos.org>) have been published. If you see someone who may need help do ring this number. There is also helpful information re Energy, Water Bills and Free Broadband. Please keep them to hand and let others have them as you never know when they might be needed - It is so terribly cold at the moment and people are suffering.

Now for something a bit more serious - but hopeful too. I have been made increasingly aware of the numbers of people who are suffering from depression, constant worry, emotional unrest and an inability to let go of past events in their lives they regret. Maybe it is an after-effect of Covid and/or the general unrest in the country and how it is negatively affecting their/our lives. Having been reflecting on this I was completely stopped in my tracks by a passage in Elaine Storkey's newly published book, "**Finding God in Matthew**. Elaine is a respected theologian and writer who brings an understanding of how Matthew's Gospel links the Old Testament and its prophecies, to the coming of Jesus, recognising his central role in Jewish and human history. But what I want to take from her book in this instance is what she says about the implications, Matthew brings out in the Gospel, for our personal lives and our understanding of how God's Grace can work for any of us whoever we are; can free us if we let it.

Elaine kindly gave me permission to include her observations in the newsletter, just as they are, and I have put them below for you to read and see what you feel. If anyone wants to borrow her book, please ask, or it can be purchased from SPCK and is on their website, <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/meeting-god-in-matthew>

Hope you keep warm and be careful on the very slippery roads.

With Love and Good Wishes – Sally

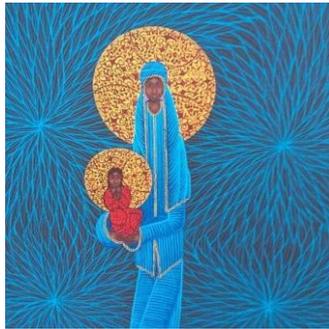


Image of Madonna and Child by an unknown Haitian artist

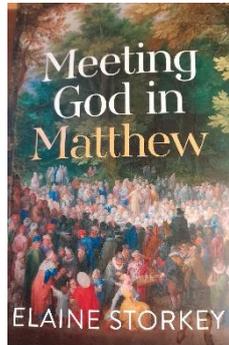
This Week's Edition Includes:

- ✚ **Meeting God in Matthew- Elaine Storkey;**
- ✚ **Christmas Services;**
- ✚ **Coffee morning;**
- ✚ **Food Bank Requirements;**
- ✚ **Toddlers Club;**
- ✚ **How We Are;**
- ✚ **Prayers with Kamran;**
- ✚ **Church Bulletin;**
- ✚ **Church Rota;**
- ✚ **Prayer List;**
- ✚ **Links to Service**

“Meeting God in Matthew”: an extract on God's Grace - Elaine Storkey

Referring to the generational history of Jesus's ancestors listed at the beginning of Matthew, Elaine observes they were not the most spotless of people, many far from it. She goes on to say, ".....Matthew lets us see the implications of all this for our personal lives. Jesus's generational history can confirm that God's Grace can work through any of us, whatever our past or present, and bring his purposes to fruition. This list of forebears brings us face-to-face with the fact that the God we meet in Matthew is not a God who blesses us because because of our impeccable ancestral heritage or our devout grandparents. We are blessed because of God's own love for us whoever we are and whatever our background. The realization that God calls us out of any context deepens our understanding of God's power over our former lives. If the past is one we regret, we can face it with God, knowing that we can be forgiven for any sin we have committed in it. If our personal history is so damaged that we feel crippled by it and wake in the night with memories that hurt, God is the one who can release and heal us. The past does matter but it need never have the final word. God's love can bind up our

wounds, restore our spirit and send us out in freedom with renewed steps. So, although the genealogy was to reassure Matthew's Jewish contemporaries it can also lift up our spirits today. It can remind us that the God who wrote the beginning with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines and some of the lines are our own lives and witness. Even more it helps us see that no one needs to live with the failure of the past when Jesus offers us peace in the present and hope for the future". **Ch 1. P8/9**



2022 Christmas Services

The dates of the Christmas services are as follows:

- **Sunday 11th December - Crib Service at 10.00am**
- **Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December time - Spreading Christmas Cheer at Golder's Green Tube Station**
- **Sunday 18th December - Nine Lessons and Carols at 10.00am**
- **Christmas Eve 24th December- singing Carols outside the church at 4-5.00pm**
 - **Midnight Communion at 11.00pm**
 - **Christmas Day communion Service at 10.00am.**



Coffee Morning
Every Wednesdays
Come & join us
**Enjoy a Cup of Coffee, Cake and
Warmth in Church**

Community Coffee Morning

Starting 23 November

All welcome



Come Join us for coffee, cakes and socialising

at Golders Green Parish Church

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Every Wednesday

Address - West Heath Drive, London NW11 7QG

Eucharist Service to follow straight after



Food Bank Requirements

The following items make up a typical food parcel. They are the best items to donate:

Non-Perishable food items

Cereal

Soup

Pasta

Rice

Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce

Lentils, beans and pulses

Tinned meat

Tinned vegetables

Tea/coffee

Tinned fruit

Biscuits

UHT milk

Non-food donations

Toiletries

Deodorant

Toilet paper

Shower gel

Shaving gel

Shampoo

Soap

Toothbrushes

Toothpaste

Hand wipes

Tissues

Household items

Laundry liquid detergent
Laundry powder
Washing up liquid
Kitchen roll
Sink scourers

Feminine products

Sanitary towels
Tampons

Baby supplies

Nappies
Baby wipes
Baby cream

Please leave donations in church or ring to have them collected. 020 8455 1873. Thank you in advance

How We Are

We send all those who are sick our love. Please continue to pray for all who have been unwell that they may gain in strength and good health as well as those who are grieving because of 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, pray for them and do not leave anyone out.

Please pray for **David Agbim, Gideon Onwutalu** and **Rose Ochwada**. We hold them in our hearts that they may be filled with God's healing love.

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 Michael** and wish for strength for them and their family.

We pray for **Tony** and hope he is back with us soon.

Toddler Group

We had few children at the Toddler Group this week. This was because of the heavy snow the night before plus many families have now gone away for Christmas.

The children played with the toys that were put out whilst the parents enjoyed a hot drink & chatted with one another.

We were pleased to hear that many from the Toddler Group joined the Crib Service last Sunday. Some said it was a wonderful experience and the kids learnt a lot about Jesus.

Parents/Carers were reminded that this was the last Toddler Group for the year, and we will resume on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

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=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0x0aDhY2paUT09>

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/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0x0aDhY2paUT09>

The Parish of Golders Green
Parish Notices: 11/12/2022

Sunday Service: 10 am - After the service, Prayer ministry is available for anyone who wishes to receive prayers.

Sunday School – please continuously keep our children and team in your prayer.

The Community Coffee Morning – Started on Wednesday 23 November from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Communion Service will follow straight after.

The Toddler Group – Every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am. This week saw the last session for the year. We will resume on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

Advent Season Services – You are welcome to share the Advent program with your friends and family. Pick up a leaflet as you head into church.

Christmas Cheer – 13 & 14 December starting 7:30 – 9:30. Golders Green Churches & District together will be holding the Christmas Cheer at Station.

Volunteers List – Christmas Cheer, Hospitality, Readers for 18 December 9 Carols and Lessons.

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 remember Myfanwy in your prayers as she is grieving the loss of her sister. Please continue to pray for Tony, Mike H, Eunice and Naila for God's healing.

Rota for Sunday 18 December:

Reader: Tatyana

Intercession: Nehar

Hospitality: Sally

Eucharist Minister: Ify

AV Desk: Elizabeth

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873

Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

Golders Green Rota December 2022 to January 2023

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister (Chalice)	AV Desk	Service leader
18/12/22 Carol Service	Isaiah 7:10-14	Tatyana	Nehar	tbc	Ify	Elizabeth	Alexis
	Matthew 1:18-24						
24/12/22	Isaiah 9:2-7	Onyeka	Sally	Sally	Sally	Onyeka	
	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)						
25/12/22	Isaiah 52:7-10	Ifeyinwe	Rose	Rose	Sheila	Tony	
	John 1:1-5, 9-14						
01/01/23	Galations 4:4-7	Cynthia	Annie	Nehar	tbc	Thomas	
	Luke 2:16-21						

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 note our last session was on Tuesday 13 December. We will then close for Christmas and return on Tuesday 3 January 2023

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/>