

Newsletter 18th January 2023



Baptism of Christ: Window Southwark Cathedral

Dear Everyone

This Sunday, the second in Epiphany, we celebrate the **Baptism of Christ**, when, according to the Gospel of John, he, seeing Jesus pass by, said, *“I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “He on whom you see the spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit”*”. In Matthew (3:13-17) it was said that, a voice from heaven was heard saying, *“This is my own dear son with whom I am pleased.”* When this was completed the Heavens opened and the spirit of God descending like a dove alighted on him.



This tells the importance of our own baptisms, joyful occasions of family and friends coming together to witness us being baptised into Jesus the Son of God, receive the Spirit and know that we too are God’s beloved children. A real symbol of the Trinity in our lives of, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The symbolism of the Dove is very strong for us, often beyond Christianity, speaking of Peace that we so badly need in the world today. Something we pray constantly for.

Malcolm Guite, whose poem on “Epiphany” was in the newsletter last week, has written another on **“Christ’s Baptism”**, which is printed below. Sometimes the poet’s different way of using words makes things clearer to us and gives rise to new insights and thoughts. See what you think.

Alice - We are sad to hear that Alice died on Wednesday 18th January after a very long illness, lovingly cared for by Alexis and family. We send our prayers and condolences to them. Alice was a faithful member of Golders Green Church who gave much to us. We all remember her kindness and friendship.

Dorothy – celebration of life – this will take place during our Sunday service on 12 February 2023 at 10 am. All are welcome to attend and support the family.

St Paul’s Cathedral Lectures: Last week, Jenny wrote about an on-line discussion that was held at St Pauls’ Cathedral between Canon Paula Gooder and Brother Guy Consolmango on the connection between Science and Faith which so many people think are incompatible. It was a fascinating and illuminating discussion which a number of us linked into. If you would like to hear it, it is still on the St Paul’s website, lasts for 40 minutes and can be reached by the link : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V6lsUnuRRA>

I have written a piece about the St Paul’s lectures below that one or two people have expressed an interest in. There are good benefits of being able to join in from home too!

Life's Anecdotes: I don't know how you have felt about this past week, the weather and the news. I know I am not the only one who has felt low and envy animals who hibernate. However, after a conversation with a friend that made us both laugh and laugh, I started to think, "What is it that actually makes me happy, amused or laugh out loud from things that have happened? I wonder if you have any anecdotes you would like to share with us from any episodes in your life that make you smile, feel happy or cared for by the kindness of strangers. It is so good to be cheered by those happenings that could cheer others.

If anyone would like to contribute anything, please send it to me for the newsletter. If you would rather dictate over the phone, then please do. It is always interesting to hear from you and makes the newsletter truly yours which it was always meant to be when it was started three years ago. I will start off by a sharing a story (below) of something that happened to me several years ago that makes me smile now, though not at the time, which, through the thoughtfulness of others helped me out more than I could have imagined

Supporting our community: We continue to support the food bank distributed by All Saints Child's Hill. Thank you so much for your generosity in bringing in provisions and by making financial donations. You know who you are and people are benefitting. Another delivery is going this week. Here are some of the goods.















Coffee mornings: Please join us on Wednesday mornings from 10.30am - 12.30pm for coffee, cake, conversation and a warm place to be. It is very enjoyable. Please spread the word so others know about it.

Night Shelter Project will be starting at our church in partnership with Alyth Gardens Synagogue, on **Tuesday 28th February – 18th April**. Nehar, would welcome volunteers particularly anyone who could **serve breakfast on Wednesday mornings from 7.00 am**.

I do hope you have a good and perhaps a little warmer week.

With much love and many good wishes. Sally

Other Articles and Notices Include;

-  **St Paul's Learning Centre**
-  **The Baptism of Christ – Malcolm Guite**
-  **Carting a Carving – Sally**
-  **Night Shelter Project – Nehar;**
-  **Food Bank Reminders;**
-  **Toddlers Club;**
-  **How We Are;**
-  **Prayers with Kamran;**
-  **Church Bulletin;**
-  **Church Rota;**
-  **Prayer List;**
-  **Links to Service**

St Paul's Learning Centre

St Paul's Cathedral runs some extremely interesting, thought-provoking sessions on a variety of areas of interest often lasting for 40 minutes in early evening. They are run through their Adult Learning department at the Cathedral which explores Christian life, ethics and spirituality. Their programmes are open to all and includes online events, public debates, reflective study days, meditative services, retreats,

workshops and talks. All are welcome and bursaries are available if the cost of the event is prohibitive for you. **Their on-line events are free.** If you would like more information do get in touch with them by emailing: adultlearning@stpaulscathedral.org.uk for more information. You can also receive their future programmes and get on their mailing list at: St Paul's Cathedral, The Chapter House, St Paul's Churchyard London, EC4M 8AD

The next session will be on-line and will take place on **Tuesday 21st March, 6.30-8pm** from the Cathedral. There is no charge for this lecture. I will post the link nearer the time. It will be on: **A History of the Bible: The Book and its Faiths, by Professor John Barton**, who is one of the great Biblical scholars of our time. His definitive book, **"The History of the Bible"**, is the culmination of a lifetime's work. Professor Barton will explore the Bible's long evolution, how much good translations matter, and what contemporary scholarship reveals about the Bible, including how we understand its place at the heart of our faith.

The Baptism of Christ – Malcolm Guite

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;
The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,
The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son
Reveal to us the single loving heart
That beats behind the being of all things
And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.
The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings
'You are beloved, you are my delight!'
In that swift light and life, as water spills
And streams around the Man like quickening rain,
The voice that made the universe reveals
The God in Man who makes it new again.
He calls us too, to step into that river,
To die and rise and live and love forever.

Carting a Carving – Sally

I have always loved carvings, particularly those created in wood. About 8 years ago when I was staying in Northumberland at a retreat house called Shepherds Dene, one of my favourite places, an exhibition of wood carvings was on show all over the house. They were created by a retired priest who was a very gifted sculptor. Outside my bedroom was a smallish statue made of Yew, called the "Music of the Spheres". It had a globe rising from a mound, with a score of music from Handel's Messiah "The Heavens Declare the Glory of God," carved into its back. I kept passing it, looking at it and decided I really wanted it. It was about 2ft 6inches high. I thought I could easily carry it back on the train on top of my suitcase. But when I enquired about it I found that someone had got there before me and had bought it. Not to be deterred I spoke to the sculptor who said he would make me another one that would be similar but I would have to wait until he had found some wood that "spoke" to him regarding the theme. We agreed I would wait, that he would contact me when he had completed it and I would fetch it. I told him that I didn't drive as far as Northumberland and would come by train. All was well – I thought. I had to wait several months until he had found the right wood and completed the carving. I went up to fetch it staying in a hotel in Hexham for a night. He kindly fetched me and drove me to his home, a converted old school, way out in the beautiful Northumberland countryside. His wife made tea and seemed surprised when I said I was going to take it back by train. It was my turn to be surprised, not a little shocked, when he brought it from his studio, to see it was huge by comparison with the original - bigger than a small child and certainly weightier. I could barely lift it and was frantically wondering how I was going to get it back to London. We resolved the question of wrapping by putting it in strong brown paper and securing it with rope. I had brought a large carrier bag! He drove me back to the hotel and lifted it into the entrance. The kindly receptionist called a porter who took it to my room. I did not sleep that night thinking how on earth was I going to get it to the train and home from Kings Cross. There

was no way I could lift it. But, this is where a miracle happened through the kindness of others who recognized my problem and helped with their Northern kindness which I have experiences on other occasions. The receptionist, thinking about it, told me I would be better calling for a taxi to take me direct to Newcastle, the journey wouldn't be that expensive, which I did. The taxi driver was a delight. When I got to the station he lifted it out of his cab and called a porter who put it on a trolley to the train; someone else lifted it in to the train and there it stayed, looking like a corpse, for the rest of the journey – no one asked any questions. On the journey I rang my son, Simon, who was mercifully able to meet me at Kings Cross, take me home and carry it indoors. So, my sculpture got back to London without me having to lift a finger; how lucky was that - but- my goodness, I haven't forgotten the anxiety I felt during that time and will always in future, make sure I make the measurements and weight very clear if I ever have anything like that made for me again. I couldn't help thinking though that there is something to be said about looking helpless and pathetic when necessary!



"Music of the Spheres"
Sculpture in Yew by Michael Chamberlain

Night Shelter Project – Nehar

To remind you, our church will be hosting the **Night Shelter Project** every Tuesday from the 28th February - 18 April 2023. We will be hosting up to 17 homeless people who will arrive around 6.30pm. The food will be cooked and brought by volunteers and served to guests. We could do with more volunteers from our church who will be very welcome especially to help serve the breakfasts at 7.00 am before they go.

If any one feels called to serve the Lord in this ministry, please email me on neharbird@gmail.com

Toddlers Club

The Toddlers club is on every from 9.30-11.30am. It is held in church. There is a £3.00 entrance fee. For further details contact: 0 208 455 1873

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.

We pray for:

Anita's Brother Chris who died recently. Chris has been ill for many years. We pray for his wife, Sharmini, his children and for Anita and family;

Rose and the sudden loss of her friend, **Mrs Patience Emonena Ogbo** who passed away on 4th January 2023. Rose spent time with her when



she was in Granada three months ago and is so grateful for the fact she was able to visit and see her before she died.

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.

How good it was to see Tony back with us. WE hope he makes really good progress and feels stronger.

Please continue to let us know of family members and friends who are sick and would welcome our prayers, either by WhatsApp, email, Kamran@gg-pc.co.uk or by phone, 020 8455 1873

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;

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/u/aemYT2p1YY>

Church Bulletin

The Parish of Golders Green Parish Notices: 15/01/2023

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.

Monthly Asian Service – A well-attended service continues on the third Sunday of every month

Service of Christian Unity – 22 January 3 pm - The Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross & Archangel Michael

Address- Golders Green Road, London, NW11 8HL

The Community Coffee Morning – All welcome. Every Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Communion Service will follow straight after.

The Toddler Group – Every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am. Please join us for song, laughter, play, reading, crafts, tea & coffee, biscuits & fruit.

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 Anita as she is grieving the loss of her brother, Rose grieving for her friend, Myfanwy grieving for her sister. Please continue to pray for Alice, Tony, Mike Houghton, Eunice and Naila for God's healing.

Rota for Sunday 15 Jan 23

Reader: Nwanneka

Intercession: Jenny

Hospitality: Nehar **Eucharist Minister:** Ifeyinwe **AV Desk:** Thomas

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873, Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

Rota

GGPC Rota January 2023

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister (Chalice)	Av Desk	Service leader
22/01/23	I Corinthians 1:10-18	Nwanneka	Jenny	Nehar	Ifeyinwe	Thomas	Nehar
	Matthew 4:12-23						
29/01/23	I Corinthians 1:18-31	Abi	Alexis	Silvia	Daniel	Tony	
	Matthew 5:1-12						
05/02/23	I Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)	Sam	Sally	Sheila	Nehar	Onyeka	Ify

Prayer List