

## Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023



Dear Everyone

Greetings and hoping you are all well. In spite of the cold there is a scent of Spring in the air at last. In my garden there is one small brave primrose peeking its bright, yellow flower out of the soil. It is the only sign of spring at the moment and looking at it makes me smile. Soon there will be buds on trees and bushes, flowers blossoming, lifting our hearts with hope and joy at the sign of them.



And we do need hope don't we. It has been such a week of dreadful news that quite a few people are saying they really do not want to listen to or see the news on Radio or TV. The tragedies are world-wide, as well as at home, as anger escalates with wars which show no signs of abating – quite the opposite- with racist, appalling killings in the US; the escalation of aggression between countries bringing many deaths and misery for more families while celebrating their festivals, on Remembrance occasions and while at worship as in Pakistan. So much anger, injustice and division – will it never end. It is to be wondered why leaders of all countries do not realise that the more aggressive and punitive they are the more those who they harm will press back with equal vigour and so escalation gets worse. But power, control and the need to dominate are clearly strong aphrodisiacs and many miles away from the peace by which Jesus lived his life with the alternative way of living he offered us. On Sunday Kamran preached on the **“Sermon on The Mount”** outlining how Jesus was showing us the way to live. Unless these sayings are adopted the world will never be at peace or calm.

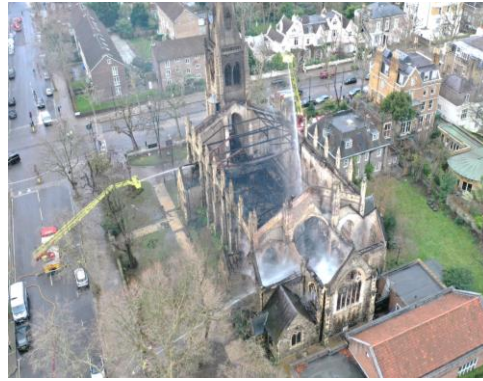
Our Sunday School children talked about what Jesus wanted us to learn from the **“Beatitudes/ Sermon on The Mount”** and what they mean for us. They made a decoration of each of the sayings. The Beatitudes are at the end of the newsletter.



**St Marks, Hamilton Terrace:** Nearer to home for us was the terrible news of the burning down of St Mark's, Hamilton Terrace, near to St John's Wood. The pictures of the church completely engulfed in flames were shocking.



*Before*



*After*



*Resilience*

St Mark's was a beautiful, historic church building with many valuable paintings, marbles, mosaics stained glass windows and artifacts. A church Donald and I knew well. Watching it burn was deeply traumatic for Kate Harrison and her congregation, which devastated them. But, it is people who are the Church, and they are a very resilient and inclusive congregation with a long history of welcome for everyone. I do not doubt they will carry on continuing their work and bringing faith to the Area albeit differently. Kamran contacted our Bishop and Area Dean straight away asking if there was anything that we could do for the St Mark's people. As a congregation we sent messages of condolence to them and flowers expressing our sorrow and prayers at what has happened. The Revd Kate sent this message in reply to us: *"Thank you so much for your kind words. We are, of course, heartbroken. There is one amazing thing you could do for us ... please continue to keep us in your prayers. That is the most powerful task I could ask of you. With love and every blessing, always"*. Mthr Kate Harrison, Vicar, St Mark's, Hamilton Terrace

**St Paul:** The 25<sup>th</sup> January was the celebration of the Conversion of St Paul; said to be the second only to Jesus giving birth to Christianity. This was the moment when on the road to Damascus, on his way to persecute more Christians, he was struck down by a blinding light and heard the voice of Jesus asking him, "Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?". From this time on his life was turned round and he became one of the greatest preachers, letter writers, teachers and defenders of the faith. An article about St Paul and his letters is below.

**Historical Visit to South Sudan:** Jenny has written a compelling article on an ecumenical visit to South Sudan. This is a long-troubled country who has lived in the grip of war and starvation for decades - one hardly mentioned in our media. It is to be visited by the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Pope and Moderator of the Church of Scotland to meet Church and political leaders in order to discuss the deteriorating situation after decades of war. Last week the focus was on the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" and the hope of churches coming closer together. What the three leaders are doing here is the best example of ecumenism in action and unity by going to a country of great need and suffering. Our prayers and hope go with them.

**Dorothy – celebration of life** – Please note that this will take place during our Sunday service on 12 February 2023 at 10 am. All are welcome to attend, rejoice at her life and support Dorothy's family.

**Cecil Nurse - 99 years:** Last week Tim's father, Cecil, celebrated his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. He is a wonderful person to have conversations with and has interesting and many memories of the history and places he has lived in. We all send him many good wishes and congratulations. Next year we must have a big celebration for his 100<sup>th</sup>!

**Night Shelter Project Appeal:** Time is getting near to the Night Shelter project which starts on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February – 18<sup>th</sup> April**. Nehar, who is leading this for us is appealing for a volunteer to make breakfast for our guests on Wednesday mornings at 7.00am. This is a menu of cereal, toast, tea and/or coffee – all provided

**Contributions to the Newsletter:** If anyone would like to contribute anything to the newsletter, please send it to me. It could be a remembrance of things past; of your school or college days; a happening that made

you laugh or surprised you; a kind act by a stranger or friends - anything you would like to share and would interest people. 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.

**Supporting our community:** We continue to support the food bank at All Saints Child's Hill. We are told that more families than ever are making use of the food bank and people are definitely benefitting.

One thing they are appealing for is food that can be cooked in a microwave. Several of their clients are refugees living in local hotels and do not have cooking facilities, but, there are microwave ovens available in which they can heat up food. Donations of these will be very welcome. Thank you so much for your generosity in bringing provisions and leaving them on the table in church and for making financial donations.













**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.

**Candlemas: Next Sunday 6th February** the service will be a celebration of light. The time when Jesus as a baby was presented at the Temple. We will have candles given to us when we come into church which will be lit at different times throughout the Service. If you also would like to bring a candle of your own to be blessed by Kamran for you to take home and use to light your prayers do bring one with you.

I do hope you have a good week.

With much love and many good wishes. Sally

#### **Other Articles and Notices Include;**

-  **St Paul and his Letters;**
-  **Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Peace to South Sudan;**
-  **Night Shelter Project – Nehar;**
-  **Food Bank;**
-  **Toddlers Club;**
-  **How We Are;**
-  **Prayers with Kamran;**
-  **Sermon on the Mount: Beatitudes;**
-  **Church Bulletin;**
-  **Church Rota;**
-  **Prayer List;**
-  **Links to Services;**

### **St Paul and his Letters – Sally**

St Paul was a complex and interesting man of whom many books have been written by theologians and Scholars analysing and explaining the background and context of the letters; why he said what he said, paying attention to the social situations, the complex groups of the time that he was addressing and the contradictions that appear to be in different letters. It can be seen from his writing that he was an interesting, often curmudgeonly man, but one of determined Faith, courage and tenacity. He went through many trials and tribulations, living his life interpreting the message of Jesus and its meaning for how we should see God to guide the way we live. Theologians do not always agree with how they see Paul and the timing of his letters. There is always a little health warning that need to be given when hearing lessons read in church, isolated from their time, with no explanation given. It is important to bear in mind their historical context, to be careful about how they can be interpreted in our so different times. It is helpful to know, as many theologians have pointed out, that of the 14 books ascribed to St Paul, it is thought that only seven were actually written by him, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, 1 Thessalonians, Galatians, Philippians, Philemon; that three, 1 & 2 Timothy & Titus, were written around 100AD, long after Paul died; three, Ephesians, Colossians and 2 Thessalonians, are disputed as being his and are in a different voice to the early Paul\*\*. This accounts for the disparity we notice between the tone, style and messages given, that are often very different, often

containing contradictions with his seven early letters. Read Roman's 16 for example and compare with Timothy 1 - ch2:12 and the contrast between what he is saying about the role of women. The distinguished scholar NJ Wright, commented that some groups in the western church, when it comes to the role of women, for example, have seized on a few verses that seem to promote "headship" and is conveniently used by them as an effort to keep women in certain roles often to their detriment (1Timothy), while ignoring other verses of his (Romans 16) where it is quite clear women were fellow workers in the gospel. For Paul, a woman could be an apostle, an evangelist, and could take many roles. Reading Roman's 16 (thought to be Paul's greatest work - one that he did write) we see the number of women by name who he mentions who have helped, taught and supported him. He valued women such a Phoebe, a deacon, to take his letter to Rome. Wright comments, *"If a woman, can take this letter to Rome, and that probably means she's the first one to read it out and probably means she's the first one to interpret it as well. Paul isn't bothered about that. She's a trusted co-worker. She can do it"*. It is interesting to note that Romans was written by Paul in his life time whereas Timothy was written much later by others who clearly had a much more restricted view of women and what was possible. Paul is the most fascinating man worth exploring more.

**\*The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary behind the Church's Conservative Icon by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan.**

**\*\*Paul: A Biography by NT Wright**

**\*\*\* Phoebe: A Story by Paula Gooder - a worthwhile read tracing Phoebe's journey to deliver the letter.**



## **Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Peace to South Sudan, 3-5 February 2023 - Jenny**

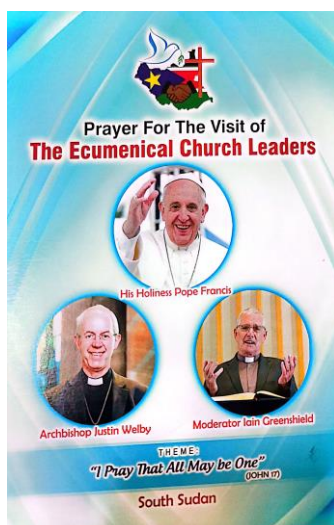
Next weekend something momentous and unprecedented is happening. The Pope, Archbishop of Canterbury and Moderator of the Church of Scotland will make a joint visit to South Sudan. They will meet church leaders and political leaders, as well as people representing the millions who have been forced to leave their homes because of the conflict. The themes of the Pilgrimage are Love, Hope, Peace, Justice, Forgiveness, Reconciliation and Unity. The hope and prayer is that this visit, by demonstrating the unity and solidarity of the three leaders, and by their presence in the country, will catalyse a renewed commitment to and re-energising of the stalled peace agreement .

South Sudan gained its independence from Sudan in July 2011 after a 22-year war. A five-year civil war driven by clashes between supporters of President Kiir and those of Riek Machar and other groups then began in 2013. Though the parties signed a power sharing agreement meant to end the conflict in 2018, fighting has continued, driving an estimated 400,000 deaths, and leaving more than 2 million people displaced.

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan is desperate: this year it is expected that three quarters of the population will need aid. For years the South Sudanese have had to deal with climate-related shocks of repeated flooding and drought; Covid and the war in Ukraine have made their lives even more unbearable. Yet South Sudan is a forgotten, and neglected, crisis. While the UK has been (rightly) generous towards Ukraine and its people, the needs of the people of South Sudan are also huge and our government needs to be reminded that it has responsibilities there as well. And yet in 2021 it cut aid to South Sudan by 59%, just when that country's needs had never been greater. That cannot be OK.



Christian Aid are working with Tearfund and CAFOD to support the Pilgrimage, including by encouraging churches across the UK to pray for the Archbishop, Moderator and Pope and for a just and lasting peace. The churches in South Sudan will be praying before, during and after the visit and will be using a specially-written prayer from the Council of Churches of South Sudan. What follows is that prayer, adapted for use in the UK and elsewhere. Please pray it, knowing that you do so in solidarity with our South Sudanese sisters and brothers. Thank you.



**Our Heavenly Father**, you sent us your son Jesus Christ as our Shepherd and the Holy Spirit to make us one in you.

Bless, guide and protect your servants, His Holiness Pope Francis, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland Iain Greenshields, as they come for the Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Peace to South Sudan.

Look with favour upon your Church in South Sudan, O Lord.

Send your Holy Spirit upon the Faith Leaders, and the entire people of God, and continue the work of renewal and transformation in South Sudan.

Grant political leaders in South Sudan, the spirit of compromise, commitment, wisdom, trust and understanding, to lead your people in the ways of peace, healing, justice, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

Almighty God, may the Ecumenical Pilgrimage of the Eminent Global Church Leaders increase in us the virtue of love, hope, faith, peace, healing, forgiveness and reconciliation, and unity.

We pray this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

## **Night Shelter Project – Nehar**

To remind you, it is near the time when 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](mailto: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:

**Alice** - We were sad to hear that Alice had died on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 with her gentle presence. We all remember her kindness and friendship.

**Anita's Brother Chris** – his funeral is took place last Friday. 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**. Rose spent time with her when she was in Granada recently. Rose was unable to get to her funeral so sent a sent a Eulogy for those to hear who did attend the funeral.

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 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](mailto: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;

## Sermon on the Mount: The Beatitudes – Matthew 5; 1-12

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.

His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## Topic: Church Wardens' Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0x0DaDhY2paUT09>

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>

## Church Bulletin

### The Parish of Golders Green Parish Notices: 29/01/2023

**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.

**The Candle Mass Service** – will be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 10 am.

**Dorothy's Memorial Service** – 12 February – A thanksgiving service to celebrate the life of Mrs Dorothy Chineze Nwagwu - All are well come to attend.

**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.

#### For your prayers:

Please remember Alexis and family who just lost her mother, 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 05 Feb 23

**Reader:** Sam

**Intercession:** Sally

**Hospitality:** Sheila      **Eucharist Minister:** Nehar

**AV Desk:** Onyeka

#### Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,      Website: [www.gg-pc.co.uk](http://www.gg-pc.co.uk)

### GGPC Rota Feb 2023

| Date   | Bible Passage         | Readers   | Intercessor | Refreshments   | Eucharistic Minister | Av Desk   | Service leader |
|--|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------|
| <b>05/02/23</b><br><b>Candle Mass</b>  | Acts 10:34-43         | Sam       | Sally       | Sheila         | Nehar                | Onyeka    | Ify            |
|  | Matthew 3:13-17       |           |             |                |                      |           |                |
| <b>12/02/23</b><br><b>Dorothy's</b><br><b>Thanksgiving</b>                       | Psalm 139             | TBC       | Rose        | Silvia/Bilan   | Ifey                 | Shaniv    |                |
|  | John 1:29-42          |           |             |                |                      |           |                |
| <b>19/02/23</b>  | 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 | Elizabeth | Annie       | Sally/Florence | Sally                | Elizabeth | Nehar          |
|  | Matthew 17:1-9        |           |             |                |                      |           |                |
| <b>22/02/2023</b><br><b>Ash</b><br><b>Wednesday</b>                              | Psalm 51              | Florence  | Nehar       | TBC            | Naila                | Shaniv    |                |
|  | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18  |           |             |                |                      |           |                |
| <b>26/02/23</b><br><b>Confirmation</b><br><b>&amp; Baptism</b><br><b>Service</b> | Romans 5:12-19        | Friday    | Jenny       | Nehar/Ezim     | Ezim                 | Tony      |                |
|  | Matthew 4:1-11        |           |             |                |                      |           |                |
| <b>05/03/23</b><br><b>Worship</b>  | TBC                   | Cynthia   | Sally       | Rose/Chinwe    | Tony                 | Thomas    | Jenny          |
|  | <u>John 3:1-17</u>    |           |             |                |                      |           |                |

### Prayer List