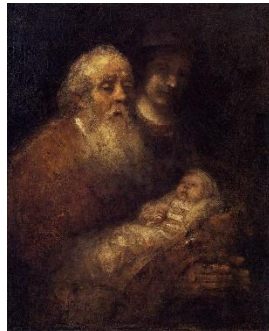


## Newsletter 8th February 2023



Dear Everyone

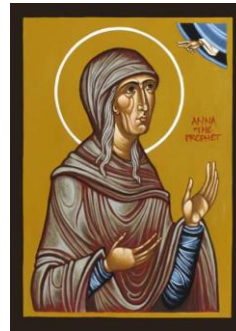
Greetings and hoping you are all well. What a joyous Candlemas we had last Sunday for the presentation at the Temple of the baby Jesus, held in his mother's arms, recognised by Anna and Simeon as the one sent by God for the saving and healing of all nations.



*Simeon's Song of Praise, 1669*

*Rembrandt van Rijn (1606 – 1669)*

*National Museum, Stockholm*



*Anna – The Prophetess*

*Painted by a Nun*

*of the Benedictine Community*

*at Malling Abbey*

It was so good that our young people were serving as welcomers at the beginning of the Service, handing out candles and making sure everyone had a hymn book. Their bright and lively contributions to our church community are a real asset and so uplifting. Thank you Ifey and Modupe for all you do in taking Children's Church and making it so interesting for them.

**Children's Church:** Because our young people are so articulate and clear in telling us what they have been learning about, I thought it would be a good idea to have a section in the newsletter called "Young Voices" for them to contribute their thoughts, views, art work & ideas. Ifey discussed it with the group and, as a result, we have three offers to do so. I hope next week we will start with a contribution from one of them.

**Epiphany reflections:** St Paul's Cathedral's Learning Unit frequently sends messages relating to events they are holding, as well as reflections from different people, focusing on festivals and issues that they have been thinking about. This week a "Reflections for February" was sent from Canon Jessica Martin, a Residentiary Canon at Ely Cathedral, who oversees the Cathedral's learning work. It is printed below with permission of the St Paul's Learning Unit. If you would like to subscribe to St Paul's events you can do so by going to <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/explore-christian-life-and-faith>. You can also sign up to their newsletter by scrolling to the bottom of the website page. St Paul's does hold some very interesting events, some of which you can link into and enjoy from home.

**Word Day of Prayer 2023:** This year's WDoP is being held at our church on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 2.00pm.**

It is always an enjoyable and interesting service created by groups from different countries. Everyone is invited and it is hoped, as we are the host church this year, we will be well supported by members of our own congregation. Sheila who takes an active part in organising it has written all about it.

**Dorothy:** Next Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, during the Service, we will be holding a celebration of the life of Dorothy, a very much loved and faithful member of our congregation for many years. All are welcome to attend, to be with Festus and family, to remember her with love and rejoice at her life so well lived.



**Confirmation and Baptism -Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February:** This will be a great day of welcome to our Bishop of Edmonton, The Rt Revd Rob Wickham, and all those who are to be baptised and confirmed. Please come and support them and their families; it will be a time of rejoicing.

**Space the Universe and Everything:** Last week I attended a brilliant and creative Son-et-Lumiere at St Martin-in-the-Fields. It was constructed with the aim of focussing on our relationship with our planet Earth and beyond. I have written a piece, below, and included some pictures which do not do it justice but will give you an idea of the colours and shapes that were included.

I do hope you have a good week.

With much love and many good wishes. Sally

#### **Futher Articles and Notices Include:**

- ✚ Candlemas: Reflections for February from Canon Jessica Martin;
- ✚ Women's World Day of Prayer Hosted by Golders Green Parish Church
- ✚ Space the Universe and Everything;
- ✚ 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;

## Candlemas

Reflections for February from Canon Jessica Martin

Canon Jessica Martin is a Residentiary Canon at Ely Cathedral,  
overseeing the Cathedral's learning work.

Her latest book is [\*Holiness and Desire: What makes us who we are?\*](#)



Yesterday we celebrated the feast of Candlemas, which is one name for the Feast held at the end of Christmas's forty days' season. Sometimes it's also called 'The Presentation of Christ in the Temple', recalling the day Jesus was brought by his parents to be dedicated to the service of God, recounted in the second chapter of [Luke's Gospel](#).

In Ely Cathedral, Candlemas is celebrated as an evening eucharist. The dark nave flickers with clusters of small flames; around them the shadows seem particularly, smokily thick. The roof space all but vanishes; the altar, by contrast, with its tall, exactly spaced array of lights, blazes gold. All who come are given a candle: these are lit and then blessed from the font at the service's end. These are blessings to take away into the dark world's wraths and sorrows.

That strange mixture of shadow and bright flame, danger and hope, suffuses the story of Christ's presentation. Simeon, the old man awaiting the coming Messiah, will find the fulfilment of his vigil in the sight of the baby. With it he will also find his death. He is not afraid. The death forms part of the fulfilment: 'Lord', he prays, 'Let your servant depart in peace: my eyes have seen your salvation'. He has nothing left to long for: this is a life complete.

The prophecy Simeon speaks has as much pain in it as joy. The child is a sign 'that will be opposed', bringing conflict as well as peace. He is a light rising upon the turmoil of the nations. And he – the light of his mother's eyes – must wound her heart: 'a sword will pierce your own soul', the old man tells her. When the bright face of God blazes into the shadows, they look all the thicker for it. Light your candle of blessing, and take it, with your courage, in your hands.

### **Women's World Day of Prayer Hosted by Golders Green Parish Church – Sheila**

This year Golders Green Parish Church is hosting the World Day of Prayer, called the Women's World Day of Prayer until a few years ago. An annual event, this is to be held in church on **Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March starting at 2.00 p.m.** and lasting approximately an hour after which there will be light refreshments. The service is written by women telling their stories of life in the country represented. This year's country is Taiwan. Around the world this service takes place from 2.00 p.m. local time on the first Friday in March which means that it runs for 24 hours.

The service will be conducted by representatives from eight local churches using the service booklet provided. Although this is produced by a committee of women anyone is welcome to attend the service. There will be a collection during the service; gift aid envelopes are enclosed in the service booklets where there is a list of grants given previously on a back page.

We would welcome a couple of volunteers to provide the hospitality of hot drinks, the committee members will provide cakes and biscuits.

## Space the Universe and Everything



The Son-et-Lumiere held at St Martin's for a week, was an invitation to come and explore the colour, movement and sound of our planet Earth in the context of the Universe. The intention of the event, was for those of us taking part to reflect on and marvel at our relationship with Earth and beyond; to think of the link between the divine and science, to do so by taking us on a journey through space to see galaxies emerge, and acknowledge humanity's ambition for adventure and exploration which is an essential part of ourselves.

The outside of St Martin's building was adorned with sound and light, picturing our exploration of space. It also drew us into being more aware of the splendid architecture of the church on to which it was reflected.



Inside the building the projections continued. We walked down into the crypt which was transformed by visions of the night sky with hundreds of stars reflected on the arches and ceiling accompanied with music especially composed for the event.



We then went up into the main body of the church into darkness and were suddenly immersed into a wide and stunning scenario of spectacular colours, shapes and sounds, one after the other, shooting out from the windows, from the walls and ceiling. These showed footage of the first rocket launch to explore the creation story and the Big Bang, on to viewing stars and planets and their reflected light, to the final image of Earth, as if looking back from space under a galaxy of stars. It was mesmerizing. It hit the senses in such a way that we became completely immersed into a full awareness of the beauty of sound, colour and movement in the Universe.



Certainly this event filled us with a sense of awe and wonder at the vastness and infinite variety of Space and how small we are. It couldn't but help remind us of the link between science and faith and humanity's desire to explore, to create, as well as to worship. The artist, Peter Walker, (with, "Luxmuralist", who designs these spectacular events for Cathedrals and Churches across the country) commented, *"We are all responsible for this small planet that we started to explore in the 1960's. The artwork is about reflecting inwards as much as it is about reflecting outwards, and about how we take care of our small piece of the Universe."* A thought for many of us to take away as we went home under the night sky.

### **Supporting our community**

Your contributions for the food bank are delivered each week to Child's Hill.

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. So any food that can be cooked in a microwave would be very welcome. Thank you so much for your generosity in bringing provisions and leaving them on the table in church as well as 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.

### **Night Shelter Project – Nehar**

Soon our church will be hosting the **Night Shelter Project** every Tuesday from the 28th February - 18 April 2023. We will host 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 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 especially for Alexis grieving for her mother Alice, Anita grieving for her brother Chris, for Catherine and her family grieving for her sister whose funeral was held in Uganda recently.

Please continue to pray for **David Agbim, Gideon, Rose and Eunice**. 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;

### Topic: Church Wardens' Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0xDaDhIY2paUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: J4FbKf

## The Parish of Golders Green

### Parish Notices: 05/02/2023

**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.

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

**Bring and Share Service with Baptism and Confirmation by Rt Revd. Rob Wickham** – 26 February at 10 am. All welcome

**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 12 Feb 23

**Reader:**

**Intercession:** Rose

**Hospitality:** Silvia /Bilan

**Eucharist Minister:** Ifey

**AV Desk:** Shaniv

**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>12/02/23</b> <b>Dorothy's 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> <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Psalm 51	Florence	Nehar	TBC	Naila	Shaniv	
	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18						
<b>26/02/23</b> <b>Confirmation &amp; Baptism Service</b>	Romans 5:12-19	Friday	Jenny	Nehar/Chinwe	Ezim	Tony	
	Matthew 4:1-11						
<b>05/03/23</b> <b>Worship</b>	TBC	Cynthia	Sally	Rose/Ezim	Tony	Thomas	Jenny
	<u>John 3:1-17</u>						