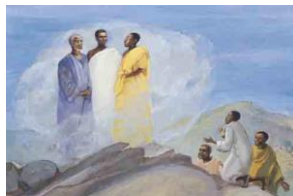


# NEWSLETTER

**Newsletter 22nd February 2023**



*Jesus Mafa*

*a painting transcribed from a photograph  
by a Christian community in the Cameroons*

Dear Everyone

Last Sunday was the commemoration of the Transfiguration, when Jesus went to the mountain top with the disciples, Peter, James and John and was transfigured before them in robes of dazzling white, standing between Moses and Elijah, showing them what was to come. They must have been amazed as well as terrified – as we would have been. The main points of Kamran’s sermon on Sunday is given below. There are countless images of this scene. The painting above is particularly beautiful from a Christian community in the Cameroons.

**Sunday School:** Every week the children of our Sunday School tell us what they have been learning. They are so confident and clear. This week they have showed us some of the work they have been doing after their story and discussions. Thank you so much.

**Memorial Service for Alice Najjemba:** Please note the memorial service for Alice, a much loved member of our congregation, will be held on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February at Golders Green Church**, starting at **10.30am**. Please see attached invitation.



**Ash Wednesday and Lent:** Ash Wednesday is on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. There will be a service in church at 7.00pm for the receiving of the ashes and prayers to sustain us during the next 6 weeks.

**Lent Reading:** for those of you who like to read a book throughout Lent, there are four I can recommend listed below to join Jenny’s suggestions of last week. If you would like to borrow one that might interest you, don’t hesitate to ask me. You can also order any book that is recommended from, “The Church House Book Shop, 31 Great Smith St, SW1P 3BN, phone for mail orders, 0845 017 6965 or Email: [bookshop@chbookshop.co.uk](mailto:bookshop@chbookshop.co.uk)

**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.

**Bring and Share Lunch:** This will take place after the confirmation. Please let Nehar know what you are bringing. She will be very grateful.

**Word Day of Prayer 2023:** As mentioned last in last week's newsletter, 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, it will be well supported by members of our own congregation. Donations of food for refreshments are welcome. Many thanks.

**Royal Foundation of St Katharine's Retreat:** Last week I went on a retreat for two days at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine's, Limehouse. What an oasis of peace it was in the middle of such a busy, noisy part of London. The theme of the retreat was "Nazareth: The Way of the Heart". It was organized by the Revd Richard Carter and his team from St Martin-in-the-Fields, for the Companions of Nazareth in preparation for Lent. We had addresses, meditations, bible readings and group discussions as well as time to walk alone and just be. We also had very good food and the opportunity to talk with each other, renewing old friendships and making new ones. The history of St Katharine's is fascinating, as well as a chequered one, starting from its foundation by Queen Matilda in 1147 with oversight for its work handed down to each generation of Royal women right to the time of our Queen. Below are some photographs of the chapel, the grounds and the Yurk which serves snacks and drinks for anyone who is living in the vicinity or just passing by.

**The Night Shelter Project:** will be starting every Tuesday from the 28th February - 18 April 2023. If anyone wishes to help please get in touch with Nehar on [neharbird@gmail.com](mailto:neharbird@gmail.com) or at the Sunday Service.

**Wednesday morning coffee:** Finally, please come and join us for coffee, cake and chat in a warm church on **Wednesday mornings from 10.30am -12.30pm**. It will be so good to see you.

All good wishes and love

Sally

### **Transfiguration: Points from Kamran's Sermon Standing on the shoulders of Giants**

While in Theological college, I read a phrase, "Standing on the shoulders of Giants", which means using the understanding gained by major thinkers who have gone before in order to make intellectual progress". This metaphor is quite ancient. John of Salisbury, one of the 12th century theologians and author used a version of the phrase in Latin in 1159. *"We are like dwarfs sitting on the shoulders of giants. We see more, and things that are more distant, than they did, not because our sight is superior or because we are taller than they, but because they raise us up, and by their great stature add to ours."* I feel the whenever the bible talks about the mountain top experience, it is bit like standing on the shoulders of giants.

I firmly believe that God's presence is everywhere. But, in the Bible, there are a few passages where The divine presence is witnessed on or around a mountain. That pattern held true for the likes of Moses, Elijah, and Jesus. God called Moses to Mt. Sinai and gave him the 10 Commandments.

The prophet Elijah had his share of mountaintop moments as well. Remember, it was on the top of Mt. Horeb, Elijah experience God's presence in the sounds of silence. Jesus, in Matthew 4 -7, delivers the greatest sermon of all times, "The Sermon on the Mount".

Jesus is once again climbing a mountain with his three closest disciples, Peter, James, and John.

The background of the passage is that Jesus in previous paragraph 8:31 predicted about his death and suffering to his disciples. which causes them great distress.

On the mountain, Jesus was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, shining, so it was a spiritual state.

So what is happening there? And why is Jesus' transfiguration experience important for his disciples

and also for me and you.

### **First Reason**

Jesus gives these frightened men a glimpse of the future. In previous chapters, three times Jesus predicted his death, which had caused a great distress in the disciples. And now Jesus knows that he is heading to Jerusalem where he will be rejected and suffer the cross. But he doesn't want to leave them wondering what is the future of Jesus, and his mission. But before any of this happened, Jesus is trying to show his disciples what lies beyond the cross. By leading them to the mountain Experience he was showing them that he will be exalted in glory. It is a great hope all of us too. The Christ you serve, the kingdom you are investing your life in, is not some lost cause, it is not going to dwindle away into the failure. You are the part of the kingdom that will never end. Disciples needed to see this glimpse of future. Before they face the cross, they need to see the glory. We who are serving in this parish, in this country, people who are serving in different parts of Europe and in whole world need to see this vision.

When you see Jesus rejected, when you hear people say that we don't want to know Jesus, or the bible is irrelevant, don't ever think that is the end. Be assured that this is not the end, because the end will begin with Jesus' glory.

### **Second reason**

In addition, Jesus gives his disciples and all of us a hope, a living hope; Hope of resurrection. Seeing Moses and Elijah is the evidence of resurrection.

The disciples not only seeing the glory of Jesus, but now they are seeing two men sharing this glory with Christ. That is the promise of the bible, after this life, we will be sharing the glory of Son Paul in 2 Thessalonian 2:14. Through the gospel God has called you so you may share the glory of Jesus Christ.

Apostle John who was there at the mountain recall that event later in his letter 1 John 3:2. When we will see him we will be like him for we will see him as he is. Me and you will be sharing the glory of Jesus Christ.

In the transfiguration, Jesus let his disciples see a glimpse of his future glory. Their sadness was overcome with the joy.

### **Third reason**

Finally, in transfiguration, disciples, begin to realise the true identity of Jesus. They witnessed Jesus' human and divine natures, humanity meets divinity. The presence of God is strongly realized and felt on Earth. 2 Peter 1:16. Peter in our first reading confirm when he says that, *"We had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." "We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain"*. There is something wonderful going on here. Notice when cloud comes and envelope the disciples, they react as any human being would react in that situation, in the presence of God. They are terrified. Which is a natural human reaction? In Exodus 19, when Moses encountered God on the mountain, the bible tells us that Moses and all people were trembling with fear. At the transfiguration, when disciple encounter God's presence, they couldn't stand and they fell with their faces to ground, as the presence of God passes over them. Through Christ, we can stand in the presence of God. Jesus came to these terrified disciples and touched them and he said get up, don't be afraid.

Don't you think they must have feel profoundly grateful that Jesus was with them when they enter in the presence of God? In all the terror of the presence of this holy God, Jesus came and touched them and says to them "Don't be afraid".

The day will come for every one of us in this church, when we will enter in the presence of God and this story tells us something very important about the future, that if Jesus is with you, you will be able to stand in the presence of God with nothing to fear,

The question to think about is, "If that is the future, how should you prepare for it in living today?"

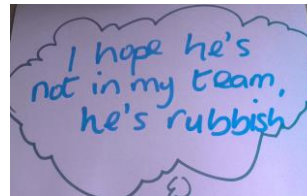
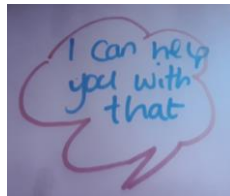
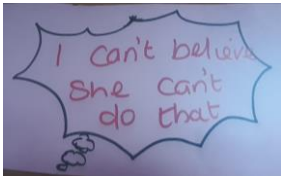
## World Day of Prayer – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 2.00pm - Sheila

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.

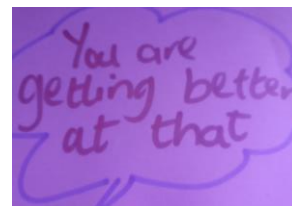
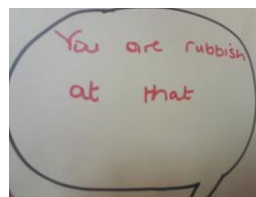
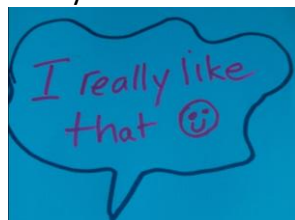
The service will be conducted by representatives from eight local churches using the service booklet provided. Although this is produced by a committee of women anyone is welcome to attend the service. There will be a collection during the service; gift aid envelopes are enclosed in the service booklets 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.**

### Sunday School Voices



The Sunday School children were learning about how Jesus was teaching people how they should be careful with their thoughts and feelings, as well as with their language. He helped them to see that saying things that are not true, thinking things that are unfair, unkind or breaking promises does wrong to other people. Thoughts and choices can be wrong as well as actions. They read Matthew 5. 21-37. After reading what Jesus had said, they were asked for ways people could either be encouraged or discouraged. These are some of the comments they made that showed the difference. They had many more and showed how important it was to be supportive of others, even if they were struggling, as words of encouragement help improvement as well as lifting spirits. Which would you rather someone said to you and how would you feel??? Thanks to all of you.



### The Royal Foundation of St Katharine: London Docks



*On the floor of the chapel pointing in all directions symbolizing the range and extent of God's Love.*



*The garden of peace & tranquility with a carpet of snowdrops leading to the chapel*



*The way to the Yurt for refreshments*



## More Suggestions for Reading in Lent

### “The Hour is Come: Passion in Real Time”

Andrew Nunn Dean of Southwark Cathedral.

In Christ’s Passion in real time, Andrew Nunn takes the reader through the events that Jesus experienced through the last week of his life with his disciples and followers. The book is divided into chapters each with an account of what takes place, the timing, a reflection and prayer. It is an excellent book to read from the start of Lent, through to the end, taking the reader through the long journey. It is expressively and clearly written in Andrew Nunn’s engaging style.

### Meeting God in Matthew

Elaine Storkey

Elaine Storkey takes us into Matthew’s Gospel with fresh eyes, teaching us about the context in which it was written and how how Matthew helps us understand more about Jesus, his life and teaching. Each chapter contains questions and reflections for the reader to think about and discuss independently and/or with others.

### Sleepers Wake: Getting Serious About Climate Change

Nicholas Holtam, former Bishop of Salisbury.

While this book was originally written for Advent, it is highly suitable for Lent. Bishop Holtam invites the reader to take very seriously the issues of Climate Change. He does not do so in a didactic way but through scripture, art, his personal recollections of nature and how precious it is, as we are. He talks of our unity and uniqueness with all Creation – our unbreakable bond – and asks us some serious questions. Each chapter contains a prayer and an opportunity for meditation.

### Journaling the Psalms by Paula Gooder

Lay Canon of St Paul’s Cathedral

This is for those of you who like the psalms and/or are intrigued by them. It is more of a journal to be kept by the reader than a straight-through read. It is one in which Paula takes us through 15 of her favourite psalms. Each chapter, devoted to one psalm, contains its history and context, with an invitation to ponder on it for ourselves, enjoying the expressive language, and finding what has meanings for us. At the end of each chapter there is an opportunity to mull over the questions given and to write down on the blank page given, any thoughts and insights that arise

## Transfiguration – Malcolm Guite





*Transfiguration painting by Rebecca Merry*

For that one moment, 'in and out of time',  
On that one mountain where all moments meet,  
The daily veil that covers the sublime  
In darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.  
There were no angels full of eyes and wings  
Just living glory full of truth and grace.  
The Love that dances at the heart of things  
Shone out upon us from a human face  
And to that light the light in us leaped up,  
We felt it quicken somewhere deep within,  
A sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope  
Trembled and tingled through the tender skin.  
Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar  
Eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.

### **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.

**Sheila:** We send our prayers and love to Sheila who is unwell. We hope she gets better soon.

**Annie Bwnaope:** We were sorry to hear that Annie's mother died in Malawi. We send our prayers and love to all the family.

**Sylvia:** We also send our love and prayers to Sylvia who is unwell and hopes she recovers soon.

We pray for Alexis grieving for her mother Alice, whose funeral is this coming Saturday, at 10.30am, in church.

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=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0x0aDhY2paUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: J4FbKf

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: 19/02/2023**

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

**Ash Wednesday Service** – 22 Feb. 7 pm with imposition of ashes

**Funeral Service for Ms Alice Najjemba** – Saturday 25 Feb. at 10:30 am.

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

**Night Shelter Project** – 28th February - 18 April 2023. our church will be hosting 17 homeless people.

**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:** Friday

**Intercession:** Jenny

**Hospitality:** Nehar/Chinwe

**Eucharist Minister:** Ezim

**AV Desk:** Tony

**Contact details:**

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>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><a href="#">John 3:1-17</a></u>						