

NEWSLETTER



Coventry Cathedral

Newsletter 22nd March 2023

Dear Everyone - Greetings to you all.

How good that **Mothering Sunday** went well and joyfully. Pictures below taken by Rose and an article written by her with thanks.

Bring & Share: Please remember to bring food for our bring & share lunch on Sunday.

Remember that the clocks go forward 1 hour on this Saturday 25 March!

Peace and Reconciliation: I have written a piece about the work for Peace and Reconciliation carried out by Coventry Cathedral that I learnt a great deal about when I visited for a weekend. The Cathedral is full of space, light and beauty, recreated beside the debris of bombing in WWII and consecrated in May 1962. The photo above is of the huge altar piece of Christ in Glory. It was designed by Sir Graham Sutherland, installed at the north end of the new Cathedral, as a focal point to the nave. It was unveiled in March 1962, shortly before the Cathedral was consecrated. It was, once, considered highly controversial, but time has passed and it is now much admired. Sutherland insisted the tapestry was to be woven in one piece, which is probably why it took 7 years to be completed by weavers in France. The stained glass windows are quite stunning, designed by John Piper and made by Patrick Reyntiens, their symbolism being a “Burst of Glory” which they truly are.

Asylum Seekers Legislation: During the past week a number of us, who belong to a group called “The Public Square”, sent a letter to the Church Times, which was published last Friday, objecting to the proposals contained in the legislation to detain and Asylum Seekers coming by small boats and hold and deport them to another country, for example Rwanda; women, children and men. Apart from the fact it is virtually impossible to come by “legal” means as most of them are closed to those wishing to escape persecution, what is suggested is cruel, inhuman and against Christian and Jewish teaching to care for the stranger. It was good to see so many leaders of Faiths making their voices known. Below I have put in some extracts from

the letter we wrote. In our group there are human rights workers, maritime lawyers and those who actively work with refugees and asylum seekers. While we all know there are no easy answers, what is suggested is not the way to go about helping a distressed people.

Our Lent Course: started on Thursday evening 9th March from 6.30pm in church and by zoom throughout Lent and is going well. Details of the content are below.

Pakistan and Malawi: On Tuesday evening a large earthquake of 6.5 magnitude hit Pakistan and parts of the border with Afghanistan destroying buildings and forcing people out into the streets. Malawi and Mozambique were hit by devastating floods leaving homes underwater and covered in Mud. This was caused by a tropical storm, which is said by the Meteorological office to be the longest lasting tropical cyclone. Please pray for all those in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Malawi, and Mozambique, who have lost their loved ones and homes in these tragedies.

Nigeria: We continue to pray for Nigeria after the elections to choose new leaders. We pray for peace and tranquility and God's blessing and hope for unity and harmony.

The Night Shelter Project: started on Tuesday 28th February and continues until 18 April 2023. Nehar reported on Sunday that it is going well. It is not too late if anyone wishes to help. Please get in touch with Nehar on neharbird@gmail.com or at the Sunday Service.

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

All good wishes and love

Sally

Mothering Sunday: Celebrating all Mothers - Rose



Traditionally celebrated throughout the Anglican Communion world-wide in honour of mothers, Mothering Sunday usually falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent in the Christian church calendar.

Our Mothering Sunday service, last Sunday, 19th March 2023; went very well indeed.

Rev Kamran gave a very moving sermon on the theme of love which is selfless and caring; a love that is absolute; gives freely, shares freely and binds together in oneness of heart as exemplified by the Apostles at the very beginning of the church of Christ in Acts 1-2. A mother's love, he said, often reminds us of that type of true love which is expected of the church as a body of Christ. Later in the service, in what I thought was a remarkably warm gesture, Kamran came down from the altar and gave an opportunity for members of the congregation to share something they cherish or consider most memorable about their mothers. Keith, Thomas, Daniel, Nwando and Kamran each shared wonderful and very moving personal reflections. Also, our lovely Sunday school children, led by Elizabeth, Nwanneka and Sam, went round and presented flowers to all mother-ladies in the church, while the congregation joyfully sang the familiar Mothers' Day chorus;

"O how can I thank my mother

Who suffered pain at my birth?
 Almighty God, O bless my moving mother,
 O my mother, dearest mother”

As a mother, I personally felt deeply touched and humbled by all the kind expressions of appreciation and all the prayers said for mothers on this occasion. And I believe all mothers present were truly moved. After the service, during refreshments, everyone had a piece of the special, delicious Mothering Sunday cake as we chatted and socialised.

On behalf of all mothers in our congregation. I would like to thank our Golders Green Parish Church family for their love and prayers for us and for other mothers all over the world. Above all, we give all the honour, glory and praise to God from whom all blessings flow!

May these blessings continue to be with us and keep us all in His love and peace. Amen.

Rose

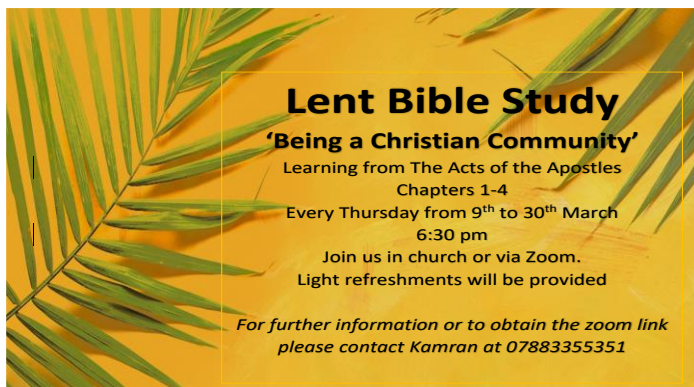


Holy Week at Golders Green

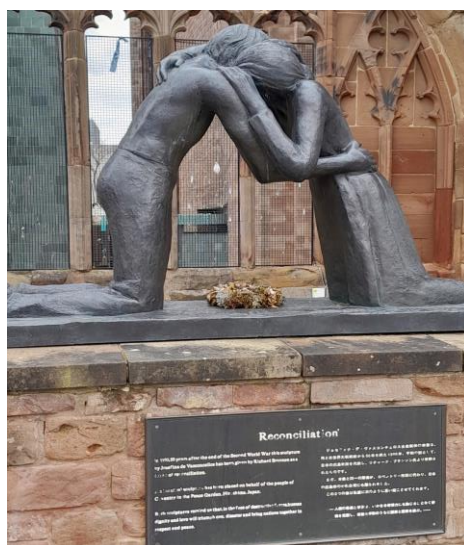
HOLY WEEK			
 Palm Sunday	 Maundy Thursday	 Good Friday	 Easter Sunday
Services Times			
Palm Sunday 2 April Parish Communion 10 am Walk of the Witness 12:30 pm			
Maundy Thursday 6 April Holy Communion Service 5 pm Rahe – Calvary - Asian Holy Week Service 6:30 pm			
Good Friday, 7 April The Service of Lord’s Passion at 11 am 14 Stations of Cross – 2:30 pm – 3 pm The church will be open until 3 pm for private prayers and meditation.			
Easter Sunday, 9 April Easter Sunday Holy Communion at 10 am			

Our Lent Course

Kamran is taking one aspect in turn each Thursday of the diagramme set out below with opportunities to discuss questions and issues that arise.



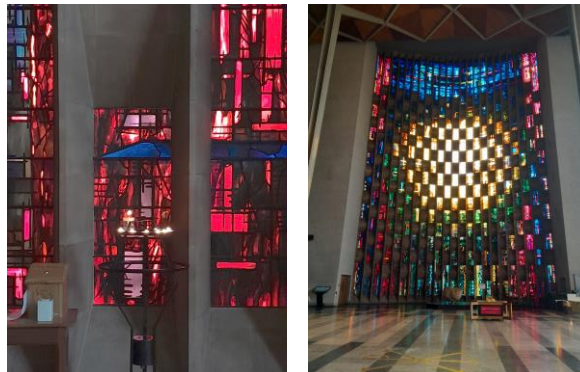
Working for Peace – Sally



Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Recently, I went to Coventry Cathedral to take part in the Anglican-Lutheran Society AGM with the theme of, "An Ecumenical Response to the Violence of War". This was chosen as it was particularly apt at this time when so many wars are taking place, or threatening to, not just in Ukraine. Members joined together from all over Europe and also on zoom if they were not able to come in person. It was organized at Coventry because of the peace work carried out by this cathedral from the second world war onwards. Coventry was blitz with many houses, industries destroyed and huge loss of life. The cathedral was raised to the ground. In retaliation the city of Dresden was completely obliterated. (*My godfather was a navigator in that raid and never got over it; what he had taken part in never left him for the whole of his life*). We had three notable speakers; the Revd Frank Dieter Firschback, Head of the NW Europe desk of the Evangelical Kirche in Deutschland (Protestant church in Germany with Lutheran, Reformed and United Congtrgations) who focus on peace in the protestant churches and peace ethics; Canon Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation at the Cathedral and Matthew Carter, CEO of DEpaul International who has recently returned from Ukraine. Matthew has worked for over 20 years in most trouble spots across the worked organizing

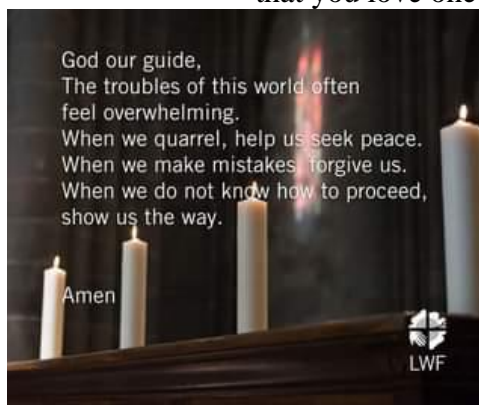
relief to besieged people. All the addresses gave us much to think about. Each one challenged us deeply. We were forced to reflect on our preconceived opinions, biases and question them. I would love to share many of the points they made, the challenges they faced in their work, but it was hard to take notes and listen carefully to what they were saying. However, one, Canon Mary Gregory, talking about the long-term work for peace conducted in the Cathedral resonated with me having taught in the past so many children from areas of conflict and known their parents. The points she made about the “Wounds of History”, made so much sense in terms of individuals and groups being helped to recover from the wounds of violence, that not only affect us in the present day on many levels, but in the wounds we carry from our societal and family histories long before we have been born. She talked about how the wounds play-out in the present day, prevent healing and reconciliation. I was thinking, as she talked of the long conflict in North and South Ireland, the hostility and pain that remains still among groups today – the unwillingness to let go. Mary instanced the bitter, painful Miners’ Strike in 1984 that has left an inherited divide, even now, between groups and families. She talked of the background history of Ukraine and why they voted for independence because of the famine imposed on them by Stalin in 1931. Then she talked about the long held scars of the Russian people who also bear historical wounds deep in them; wounds that go round and round, again and again, telling the same story. She said, to start the healing we need to shy away from simplicity and embrace the complexity that attending to the wounds of history create. To do this is really important even after peace has officially been declared as the wounds long remain. Words and feelings are passed down from Grandparents to their children onwards from one generation to another. It is so important to try and find ways of breaking the mold and helping people to recognize their own stories but also the stories of those on the the other side, to reach out by a kind of Peace and Reconciliation effort that was worked through in South Africa. I was wondering, as she and the others spoke, especially with Ukraine and Russia, at what point is it at all possible to start a peace and reconciliation process and who would do it, how long would it take. Mary talked of what many of us know, that the power of telling stories together is cathartic, important and powerful, being involved together in creativity though art, music and drama too.



All these things work towards healing the body, mind and spirit. This work takes place from the Cathedral in schools, colleges and different groups all based on Christs words, “A new commandment I give unto you that you love one another as I have loved you”. It is so very hard isn’t it. I sometimes I think almost impossible when people have experienced so much trauma. Where do you start and how, after all you have suffered as a people, as a nation, as an individual, are you willing even to think of taking part? We all left the day with so much going round our heads, questions unresolved and often unanswered, as time was limited for discussion, but they are still with me and the knowledge that however difficult and impossible peacemaking is, it has to start somewhere.



A new commandment I give unto you
that you love one and other. . .



Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

This is said every Friday in the Cathedral for Peace and Reconciliation at their midday service.

The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,
God of Peace Forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,
God of Peace Forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,
God of Peace Forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,
God of Peace Forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,
God of Peace Forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,
God of Peace Forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,
God of Peace Forgive.

Asylum Seekers Proposed Legislation – Extracts from Letter in the Church Times

“It was heartening to read Bishop Paul Butler’s statement (*In the House of Lords*) that “We must not abdicate our legal and moral responsibility to some of the world’s most vulnerable people by simply treating asylum-seekers as a group not to be welcomed or integrated but detained and returned. We must do and be better.” The Church Times Leader was equally challenging, reinforcing Bishop Paul’s message and reminding us of the UN 1951 Refugee Convention and the European Convention of Human Rights, both of which Britain helped to frame. Then, last weekend, apart from news coverage on the views of Gary Lineker and others well known in the media, Archbishop Stephen Cottrell came out condemning the Government’s intentions. There is also a challenging article on the Modern Church website written by Interjit Bhogal, a former President of the Methodist Conference and Founder of the City of Sanctuary network and movement. He opens by saying, “Applying for ‘asylum’ is not a crime, but criminalising people for even trying to a safe place is a crime against humanity. Detaining and deporting them without even considering their story and claim is immoral and unethical.”

It is worth remembering that Christian Aid was founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches in order to help refugees and asylum seekers following the Second World War. There are probably as nearly as many refugees and asylum seekers today. Apart from Ukraine, there are refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Myanmar, to name but a few. The Church of England has also been in a covenant relationship with the Methodist Church since 2003. Perhaps we could work together for a more humane approach to refugees and asylum seekers. We could make an even greater impact working with other churches and faith communities in Britain, and, as the Church Times Leader's conclusion implies, we must urge our Government to make it a priority to work with other countries for a global solution to the refugee crisis.

As Christians we are challenged by words of Jesus in the 'Parable of the Sheep and the Goats', "When I was a stranger you welcomed me"

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 makes a good recovery.

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

Please continue to pray for **David Agbim, Sheila, 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 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/u/aemYT2p1YY>

Church Bulletin

The Parish of Golders Green Parish Notices: 12/02/2023

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.

Night Shelter Project – 28th February - 18 April 2023. our church is 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 on the loss of their mother Alice. Please continue to pray for Sheila, Sylvia, Tony, Mike Houghton, Eunice and Naila for God's healing.

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

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

Church Rota

GGPC Rota March 2023

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	Av Desk	Service leader
05/03/23	Isa 2:1-5	Cynthia	Sally	Rose/Ezim	Tony	Thomas	Jenny
	John 3:1-17						
12/03/23	Rom 12:1-3	Sam	Nehar	Catherine	Tim	Onyeka	
	John 14:15-27						
19/03/23	Acts 4:32-36	Nwennaka	Nwadi	Naila	Daniel	Shaniv	Alexis
	John 13:33-35						
26/03/23 Bring & Share	1 Cor 12:12-20	Tbc	Rose	Nehar/Chinwe	Nwadi	Elizabeth	
	Mark 12:28-34						
02/04/23 Palm Sunday	Isaiah 61:1-3;	Dozie	Jenny	Nwando	Tony	Tony	
	Matthew 21:1-11						
07/04/23 Good Friday	Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	Keith	Alexis	Bilan	Naila	Thomas	
	John 18:1-19:42						
09/04/23 Easter Sunday	Colossians 3:1-4	Abi	Annie	Ezim	Ifeyinwe	Onyeka	
	John 20:1-18						