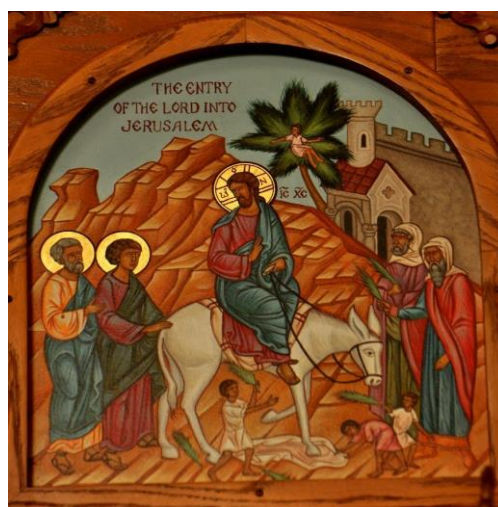


# NEWSLETTER



## Newsletter 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Everyone - Greetings to you all.

We are now in the middle of Holy Week, the most sacred week in the liturgical year when we think of all that Jesus went through on his way to his crucifixion and their implication for us as Christians as well as the joy of his Resurrection after his great suffering. There are many opportunities to take part in the services during this week, which are listed below as well as rejoicing together on Easter Sunday.

**Palm Sunday “Walk of Witness”:** To join with our friends from “Churches Together”, in procession along the High St, was such a joyous occasion. It was a good time to be together and know that while we all may belong to different denominations we are, as Christians, all one body. The short Service on the green by the station was a joy, with Kamran leading the opening prayer, Elinor Delaney, from St Jude’s reading the lesson from Luke 19:18-40, Fr Paul from St Edmunds RC Church, giving the homily, and intercessions being led by Fr Vasileios Papathanasiou, from the Greek Orthodox church. There was a great feeling of friendship which started our Holy Week well.



**Asylum Seekers Intercessions:** As the treatment of asylum seekers is very much on our minds, Jenny focused her intercessions on this subject, praying for them and for a more compassionate understanding and action by the Government, remembering that these are men, women and children who are fleeing from violence, persecution and many other actions against them and their communities. Her prayers are below for us to ponder on and pray for God’s help on all this as well as our own actions that could help make a difference.

**Sunday School:** Each week our Sunday school students tell us what they have been learning. Each week they are getting more confident and knowledgeable and we enjoy hearing them share what they have learnt and

applaud them in their understanding. Last Sunday Elizabeth took the whole session and so obviously did a good job. Congratulations Elizabeth – we are all proud of you.



**St Jude’s Church Priest -in -Charge:** We have received an invitation to St Jude’s Church, Hampstead Garden Suburb, for the Licensing of the Revd Emily Kolltvelt as Priest-in-Charge of the parish. This will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. All are cordially welcomed to attend.



**Visit to the Houses of Parliament:** On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March, the clergy of our Area and guests, were invited by our MP, Mike Freer, to a reception held at the House of Commons. The aim was to have a chance to meet him, to be taken round the Commons, learn a little of its history, see where the debates take place and visit the House of Commons’s chapel. It was so good to meet up with a number of local clergy and friends, some we knew and others we hadn’t met before and get to know each other. We were pleased to be introduced to the new Priest-in Charge of St Jude’s, the Revd Emily Kalltveit, and, Elinor Delaney, a PCC member. Among guests were clergy and lay from St Barnabas, Finchley, St Mary’s Finchley, Fr Mina and his daughter from St Mary’s Orthodox church, Temple Fortune, and, the ministers from the Unitarian church, Hoop Lane.



**David Hockney Stained Glass Window at Westminster Abbey:** Last week I went to Westminster Abbey to see the stained glass window by David Hockney, commissioned by the then Dean, The Very Revd Dr John

Hall, to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's reign. I also wanted to visit the Queen's Gallery that had been moved from the cloisters, where it originally was as a museum, to the upper galleries in the Abbey.

I went with a friend, Lorna Casey, who is a professional stained glass window artist. Lorna had a much sharper eye and more acute understanding about how it was made and the effect of placing it where it was. I found her more astute way of looking at it fascinating and made me look at it differently than if I been on my own. I asked Lorna to write a short piece on the window and the difference between stained glass and painted windows which has always puzzled me. I hope you enjoy her piece. It would be worth visiting the Abbey and seeing it for yourself and also going to the Queen's Gallery.

**Safety for countries beset by disasters:** We continue to pray for safety for those countries that have been beset by disasters. We think of Pakistan, parts of Afghanistan, Malawi, the South and Midwest of the United States. We hope that they receive all the support they need that will help them recover so they are able to pick up their lives again. We pray too for the women of Iran, that they may achieve their freedom and, the girls. We pray for the girls and women of Afghanistan that they are able to receive the education they are entitled to and take up their careers and professions so that they can be fulfilled and be the people God intended them to be.

**The Night Shelter Project:** continues to go well and goes on until 18 April 2023. It is not too late if anyone wishes to help. Please get in touch with Nehar on [neharbird@gmail.com](mailto: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 every Wednesday morning from 10.30am -12.30pm. It will be so good to see you.

Have a Joyous Easter weekend

All good wishes and love

Sally

### Holy Week Services

<b>HOLY WEEK</b>			
 Palm Sunday	 Maundy Thursday	 Good Friday	 Easter Sunday
<b>Services Times</b>			
<b>Palm Sunday 2 April</b> Parish Communion 10 am Walk of the Witness 12:30 pm			
<b>Maundy Thursday 6 April</b> Holy Communion Service 5 pm Rahe – Calvary - Asian Holy Week Service 6:30 pm			
<b>Good Friday, 7 April</b> 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.			
<b>Easter Sunday, 9 April</b> Easter Sunday Holy Communion at 10 am			

## Intercession: Palm Sunday – Jenny

In the last two weeks there's been a lot in the news about controversial new government policies on refugees and asylum-seekers. I've been very preoccupied by what's proposed, and felt it would be good to pray around these issues, asking God to show us his perspective.

To start with I'm going to use a poem by a Jesuit writer, Cameron Bellm, based on the story of Abraham and Sarah welcoming strangers who turned out to be angels.

When Abraham welcomed the angels,  
 They, too, were on a journey,  
 And he begged them not to pass him by.  
 How is that we miss the holy image of God  
 In our sisters and brothers,  
 Traveling perilous distances  
 In the baking sun, the drenching rain?  
 How is it that we do not run from our tents  
 To welcome and deeply embrace  
 All who flee from violence and poverty,  
 Seeking the ever-distant horizon of hope?  
 May we, like Abraham,  
 Run to gather the very best  
 Of what we have to offer  
 And lay it out lovingly  
 On the holy table of hospitality.  
 Amen

Welcoming God, we think of our sisters and brothers travelling perilous distances, many on foot, or in small boats, fleeing from violence and poverty, desperate for freedom and dignity and hope and safety and life. Like us they bear your image, but so often we treat them as 'other', and we fear them, and avoid them.

God, it's so easy to do this, and we know it's not how you want us to respond. We get so distracted by our own immediate concerns, and insulated by our relative comfort and wealth, that we forget to care. We don't even try to imagine how desperate they must have been to leave everything behind and throw themselves on the mercy of complete strangers, thousands of miles away, in an unfamiliar culture. God, will you break through our indifference.

We pray for an end to the wars, poverty, human rights abuses and climate crisis that drive desperate people to become refugees in the first place. Guide the world's leaders, and give them your wisdom as they make the decisions that for so many people are a matter of life and death. Inspire them with your Spirit so that they act out of mercy and compassion and not out of fear or in their own political interests.

We pray for our government. Will you inject them with compassion, grace and a sense of justice so they see that so many of the people they want to exclude have experienced unimaginable trauma, and need support and kindness, not suspicion and rejection, so that they can begin to rebuild their lives and achieve the potential you've created in them.

Give us the confidence and the words to challenge our government and our MPs, when we need to, to speak prophetically when we see cruelty, injustice and political expediency, and to say 'this is not in my name'.

For ourselves we pray for the grace to welcome asylum-seekers and migrants with generosity of spirit, to meet their needs, to show your love for them and to celebrate the gifts and skills they bring. Show us what

each of us can do, perhaps offering practical support and advice, perhaps challenging policies that dehumanise them, perhaps supporting agencies that work to bring justice, dignity, and hope in their countries of origin. Keep us always reminded that they are just as much your children as we are. Stop us passing by on the other side.

Loving God, there are so many parts of the world where natural disasters are causing suffering beyond what most of us can imagine. Today we lift to you those whose lives have been devastated by the floods in Malawi, the earthquakes in Pakistan and in Syria and Turkey, drought in East Africa and tornadoes in the United States.

Will you sustain and protect all those who are working to rescue survivors, provide what victims need to get through the disasters, and help communities rebuild their lives. May all of us be generous in our response to appeals for support so that we can be part of your answer to this prayer.

And we pray for those we know who need to know the healing, renewing, comforting, hope-bringing encircling of your Holy Spirit. We'll have a moment of silence in which we can each name silently before God anyone who needs to know that they are surrounded by your amazing love, and that you haven't given up on them.

Loving God, we place in your presence everyone we've just prayed for, trusting in your love for them which is beyond knowledge.

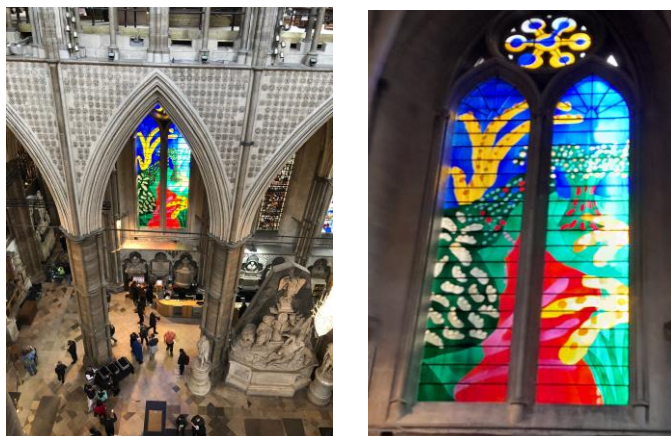
We offer all our prayers to you, our God, knowing you are able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, in the precious name of Jesus our saviour and king, and confident in the power, compassion and mercy of your Holy Spirit.

### **Westminster Abbey: David Hockney's Stained Glass Window**



The Queen's window is located in the north transept of The Abbey. It stands next to other more traditional stained glass windows and is in great contrast to them being vibrantly coloured. You really cannot miss it. The then Dean of Westminster, The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, wanted to commission something to celebrate the reign of Elizabeth II, as the United Kingdom's longest-reigning monarch. In 2016, he asked David Hockney, one of the most influential British artists of this reign, if he would undertake the commission to design a stained glass window in a space where there was only 19th-century blank glass. David Hockney accepted the commission although he had never previously worked in stained glass. (He is a Royal Academician who has exhibited all over the world and has been recognized with an Order of Merit and as a Companion of Honour). He designed the window originally on his iPad, creating a country scene, set in his beloved Yorkshire featuring hawthorn blossom, using his distinct colour palette of yellow, red, blue, pink, orange and greens. It was intended to reflect The Queen as a countrywoman and her widespread delight in

the countryside. The design was then taken to the stained glass artists and craftspeople at, Barley Studio, using traditional techniques, working with the artist to translate his vision into glass. Barley Studio is a leading stained glass studio of over forty years based in York.



### **Making Stained Glass Windows – Lorna Casey**

The Queen’s Window by David Hockney was unveiled in the autumn of 2018. Hockney’s window divides opinion. It shouts its presence in strong colours and in contrast to all other stained glass windows in the Abbey has no painted images. So, is it stained glass?

We know that early civilisations had windows made with small pieces of coloured glass. By medieval times coloured glass was made in red, green, blue, yellow and a lilac-purple and in the C14th development in colouring glass produced the only real ‘stain’ in making a reliable yellow.

“Stained glass” is a term used to refer to the structure but also to the process of making the image.

Therefore the purpose of this architectural glass is the telling of stories with large-scale imagery, created by painting metal oxides fired onto the surface, changing a translucent material and modulating the quality of light entering the interior.

We have inherited centuries of this tradition of stained glass in our churches and to see Hockney’s brightly coloured window in contrast is a shock. The lack of religious and royal imagery is also controversial. Hockney looked at other stained glass and greatly admired Matisse’s window, “The Tree Of Life”, in Chapelle du Rossier in Vence, France. It consists of blue, yellow and green shapes. “There’s one moment where the sun comes in and all the effects are yellow and blue. It’s a fantastic effect. That was pure colour. “Matisse used just colour.” (Hockney) Therefore Hockney is not the first artist to have created controversy.

Simon Jenkins, writing in “The Times”, noted the general timidity of cathedral authorities towards modern art and said that ‘anything that brings ecclesiastical artistic patronage up to date is to be welcomed’. Professional stained glass artists might have more to say about the placing of the window, in that as an inexperienced practitioner of glass, Hockney did not know that the key is in using the ready light successfully, hence half his window sits in shadow. Hockney had not visited the site and had decided on his design early on, that of his Yorkshire landscape with his favourite hawthorn blossom, seeing it as reflecting his sense of the “Queen’s own delight in the countryside”.

### **Toddlers Club**

The Toddlers club is held on every Tuesday 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. The club will not be meeting for the next two weeks.

### **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 prayers and love to Sheila who is recovering and how good to see her back in church.

**Sylvia:** How good to see Sylvia back with us and **Eunice** too. Many prayers of thanks for the good recovery of both of them.

Please continue to pray for **David Agbim, Sheila, Gideon and Rose**. 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=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0xDaDhY2paUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: J4FbKf

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: 400416

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0xDaDhY2paUT09>

### **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.

#### **Rota for Sunday 05 Feb 23**

#### **Contact details:**

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

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

## Church Rota

GGPC Rota March 2023							
Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	Av Desk	Service leader
<b>05/03/23</b>	Isa 2:1-5	Cynthia	Sally	Rose/Ezim	Tony	Thomas	Jenny
	John 3:1-17						
<b>12/03/23</b>	Rom 12:1-3	Sam	Nehar	Catherine	Tim	Onyeka	
	John 14:15-27						
<b>19/03/23</b>	Acts 4:32-36	Nwennaka	Nwadi	Naila	Daniel	Shaniv	Alexis
	John 13:33-35						
<b>26/03/23 Bring &amp; Share</b>	1 Cor 12:12-20	Tbc	Rose	Nehar/Chinwe	Nwadi	Elizabeth	
	Mark 12:28-34						
<b>02/04/23 Palm Sunday</b>	Isaiah 61:1-3;	Dozie	Jenny	Nwando	Tony	Tony	
	Matthew 21:1-11						
<b>07/04/23 Good Friday</b>	Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	Keith	Alexis	Bilan	Naila	Thomas	
	John 18:1-19:42						
<b>09/04/23 Easter Sunday</b>	Colossians 3:1-4	Abi	Annie	Ezim	Ifeyinwe	Onyeka	
	John 20:1-18						