

NEWSLETTER



*Wall painting from St John's Church Waterloo
by German-born Jewish artist Hans Feibusch in 1951*

Newsletter 26th April 2023

Dear Everyone - Greetings to you all

What a joyous service we had on Sunday with more people in church. We were joined by Archdeacon John who took the Service in Kamran's absence. It was so good to see him. His sermon is below.

Our children in Sunday school are always so keen to tell us what they have learnt and so articulate. It is a real pleasure to listen to each one of them. Ifey and Modupe teach them so well, along with Elizabeth, who is taking more of a lead now.

Elizabeth and Thomas: are having a musical time this week when they are both performing at different venues. Ruth has written a piece about what her gifted two are doing.

Kamran is away: enjoying a very well deserved rest. We send our love and good wishes to Him and Naila for an enjoyable and relaxing cruise.

Night Shelter: Nehar has written below about the Night shelter and how well it went. It has now come to an end but we will be running it again next year.

Bring and Share Lunch: This coming Sunday 30th April will be the bring and share lunch. Please bring some dishes to share. They are always so enjoyable and thank you in advance.

Climate Change: "The Big One March": From Friday to Monday there was a series of marches protesting about climate change and the need to stop using Fossil Fuels. Jenny and I both went on the Friday march which was memorable. An article is below with pictures.

Stephen Lawrence Anniversary: a memorial service for Stephen took place on Saturday at St Martin-in-the Fields at which the former Archbishop of York preached a hard-hitting sermon. He lamented Stephen's murder and how we all need to do all we can to prevent the racism that is still endemic in our society and for those whose lives have been so pointlessly ended by violence. The Service at St Martin's was broadcast on Sunday and can be heard by going to the bbc iPlayer. A poem for Stephen is below.

Love and good wishes - Sally

Archdeacon John's Sermon – Luke 10. 1-20

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth"

The theme for today is that of the sent church - mission

I doubt that there is anyone here for whom the word does not conjure some sense of anxiety.

There is the worry that I may demand or exhort you to go out and stand on a soapbox in the middle of Golders Green high road or take up position at the tube and bus terminal and start to evangelise the shoppers and commuters? Hand out tracts or simply shout at them as they pass by as some feel compelled by God to do in Oxford Circus.

For others the word conjures the worst of European churches engagement with the world beyond their borders in the 18th and 19th century. forced conversion, culture imperialism and colonisation in the name of God.

Just over a 100 years ago, 1910, at a gathering of the world missionary agents in the UK at Edinburgh those young men and women were told that the existence of other faith traditions would be soon a thing of the past. There were even people who following the patterns of evangelism and conversion in the 19th Century predicted that by the 1960's the world would be completely Christian.

Maybe the story of a bishop and a politician could serve as a useful warning to the folly of such human presumption:

An old bishop once urged a newly elected politician to go out into the pouring rain and look heavenward. "It will bring you a revelation," he predicted.

The politician did as bidden, and came back soaked to the skin. "Look at me," he wailed. "I didn't get any revelation. I only felt like a blithering idiot."

"Not bad," chuckled the bishop. "Don't you think that was quite a revelation for a first try?"

However just because we have got it so wrong in the past does not in itself mean that we have to abandon the whole enterprise completely. The lessons of the past missionary activity of the church in these islands at least have in part been learnt. Today the work of our missionary agencies is more to do with partnership and support in the 2/3rds world where incidentally the church is growing at an extraordinary rate as well as developing new ways of living along side people of different faith traditions.

But what about us?

What does mission mean to you living in Golders Green?

How are you as a congregation to understand the words of Jesus in our gospel this morning?

In chapter 8, of Luke's gospel Jesus himself goes through towns and villages, curing people, and gathering huge crowds to hear his stories and see his miracles. Then, in chapter 9, it is the turn of the Twelve, who are given instructions very similar to those in today's reading, but without that sense of impending crisis. When they return, they spend some time alone with Jesus, "debriefing".

Now it is the turn of a larger group of disciples to try their hand. But what is interesting about all of these stories is how little attention is paid to the result of the missions. We hear hardly anything about the numbers of converts made, the preaching techniques, the misunderstandings, and abuse.

In today's reading, when the disciples return, tired and exhilarated, bursting with stories about what they have done, Jesus deflects them. His words to them are oddly grim, "Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In other words that fact that you tried, that you put your hand to the task is what is remembered rather than the result of that attempt.

This is deeply counter cultural to a church today that is obsessed with numbers – people and amount of money in bank account. The source of our hope, our joy and yet our dignity is in the effort the task. The fruit of that work is not ours in which we can take credit but God's.

Amidst the richness of the gospel text this morning I want only to turn your attention to two points.

Firstly:

It is important to note that Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs. Jesus in his ministry called each person individually. But he never asked the 5000 to follow him, after he fed them with the loaves and fishes. While Jesus called individuals to follow him he never sent the disciples out alone.

There are only two incidents in the gospel when a disciple went out alone: one was to betray him the other was to deny him.

Community support is essential to living the gospel. This is in part why we gather together on a Sunday, rather than say our prayers at home or on the train as in the rest of the week - in order to draw strength and support from each other as well as to experience the effect of the Holy Spirit in worship with others around us as opposed to alone in the privacy of our homes.

Secondly:

Jesus told the disciples "I am sending you out like lambs amongst wolves".

This does not sound very encouraging! The disciples had a choice. They could conform to the world and preach a message that made people more comfortable in their complacency OR they could preach the message of Jesus that was bound to be opposed as it calls for fundamental change in our lives.

We can take comfort in the fact that we may feel unequal to the task ahead, we may feel that the odds are stacked against us when it comes to finding ways of communicating our gospel to those among whom we live, but if this is how we feel then we are no different to the disciples. However the challenge to you and me from the disciples of old is that just because we feel inadequate or fearful is no reason not to have a go!

We are all called to witness, but we not **all** are called to the same ministry for there are many ministries each according to the Holy Spirit as there are many gifts of the Spirit but they are not all given to one person. Most of us would die of embarrassment if we were called to stand in the middle of Brent Cross and preach to the shoppers. We can all witness however through the example of our lives. **Christianity is about attracting rather than about convincing. Faith is often caught not taught**

The words at the end of the gospel to day are addressed to each one of us. Jesus does give us his power. And remember my friends it is his not mine or yours, his grace by which we live and love and understand forgiveness, not my approval of that of your fellow Christians.

We are empowered to do his work, and to work in his name. He is calling us to come and see and to witness to the love that is revealed through the cross and resurrection so that through him each one of us can have a place with him. He is calling us to have a go, to get involved, to put our hand to the plough and not turn back

We are living in a time of great turmoil and potential division in the Church of England – AGAIN yes this is not the first time there has been division and threat of division within the life of Christ's Church or indeed the CofE. But in our time we are struggling with how to engage with a world, our context here in the UK is a society based upon increasingly secular values. For some the church is called and sent out by God in Jesus Christ to stand in clear contrast, divine opposition to the values that many in our communities now take as acceptable and normal but are interpreted as being contrary to a biblical understanding of order and creation. For others the church is called to engage and show in word and action the love of Jesus Christ as the embodiment of God who "so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." Jn 3.17.

With all that is set to divide and distract us the call by the crucified, risen and glorified Christ remains constant. For what we do here today, for when we encounter the love of Jesus Christ this morning in broken bread and wine outpoured in the reading of divine scripture cannot and must not remain with you and me the few gathered here this morning.

It cannot remain within the walls of this church

But must be taken to the those who are outside the walls of this church. Those who have yet to understand that as a child of God created in Gods image they, as we, are loved with a love that will not let us go, are loved by one who forgives and transforms life.

"I have given you authority and nothing will hurt you.

Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

The Night Shelter – Nehar

“The Night shelter ran from 28 February to 18 April. During this time our church was host to 9-10 homeless people. We also hosted them on 2 evenings in April. They said how nice it was to be in the same place two nights running.

It was a truly international community with guests from Afghanistan, Algeria, Iran, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania and Ukraine.

The church’s table tennis table was a place of great fun for the men who enjoyed great friendly games there before and after their meals with a lot of laughter and banter!

It was a lovely way to be able to provide hospitality, a warm place to sleep and above all God’s love to people who have lost so much.

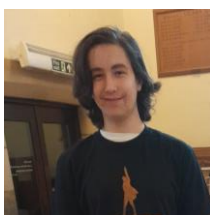
By the end of the time some of the homeless (17 at the start of the programme in November) had been found accommodation but there were still around 9 for whom still no place was available.

Thank you for the support you all offered - particularly Daniel who helped transport the sleeping bags to the next church; Ash who came some evenings and chatted with the guests; and Jenny who volunteered in the evening shift.

Please continue to pray for the overall work of Homeless Action in Barnet (HAB) and Night Shelter as they continue to raise funds for their work among the Homeless which continues throughout the year.

We thank God for using us as a vessel of His love in this ministry”.

Making Music: Thomas and Elizabeth by Ruth



At his choir concert in St John’s Friern Barnet on Sunday, Thomas brought the house down with his solo performance of You’ll Be Back (from Hamilton). With the rest of the FCMG Chamber Choir, Thomas also performed Tea for Two, and Vivaldi’s Magnificat. It was wonderful to listen to such a talented group of young musicians.

And not to be outdone on the musical theatre front, on Tuesday Elizabeth is singing and dancing, performing as Catherine Howard in an extract from the musical Six at her school talent concert. It promises to be a superb evening!

Marching for the Planet: Christian Climate Action

From Friday 21st to Monday 24th a series of marches took place in and across London supported by thousands of people, from all the organisations that care about Climate Change and want a reduction in the use of fossil fuels. Jenny and I went on the Friday march to join Christian Climate Action, Christian Aid and other groups held at St John’s Church, Waterloo. Jenny was there with Christian Aid. In spite of the numbers assembling we still managed to bump into each other. Christian Climate Action met together at St Johns at 11am for a service at 12 noon. It started off by being wet but that didn’t last for long. By the time the Service started the rain had stopped. We piled into St John’s which was standing room only for the whole of the service. There were so many up in the balconies and down in the body of the church that another service took place in the gardens of the church to accommodate everyone who could not get in.

Representatives from the different Christian groups who organized the service, spoke about the devastation caused by Climate change and how those who suffered most had caused the least damage. One memorable speech, confirming what had been said, was given by Patricia from the Philippines who talked about the harm to the Islands that climate change has caused. How they had lost their farms, livelihoods, crops, homes and members of their families because of floods and storms that washed so much away. The islands are

sinking. While she was talking I was thinking of the Philippine members of our own congregation who worship faithfully with us each week, who are so aware of what is happening to their country. The Service was interspersed by lively music and hymns from groups including the Salvation Army. Children took the intercessions. The former Archbishop of York, Dr John Santamu, gave a heart-felt talk on our responsibility to lobby for an end to climate change and for the government's responsibility to stop fossil fuels that cause so much of it. He spoke with his customary passion and urged us to keep on protesting. At the end of the Service, it took a while to get out of the church so we could start our procession to Westminster, with our banners and a number of dogs, who were as well behaved as those processing.

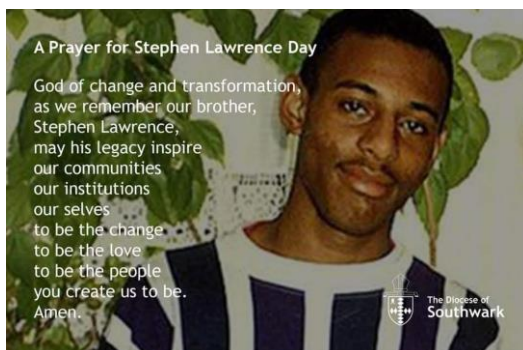
We marched along singing accompanied by the Salvation Army whose music always adds body and encouragement to any march. The demonstration came to a halt outside the Shell building near Westminster Bridge. The Archbishop tried to deliver a letter from us but the door to the building was kept firmly shut, which tells us a great deal about what Shell Directors with their great profits felt about what thousands of people were saying. The Archbishop had a lot to say about their refusal to receive the letter and quoted, Matthew 10. 14, *"whoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when you depart shake the dust off your feet"*, and he symbolically shook the dust off his feet. The march continued across the bridge to Westminster and met up with other marchers who had come from different parts of London. There were thousands upon thousands present.



It was moving and impressive, as well as peaceful and good natured, to see so many all walking with one aim in mind. I must admit by the time we reached the Houses of Parliament at 3.00ish I felt completely done in. It had been a long time since I had taken part in a protest march but felt so strongly about this for the sake of my children, grandchildren and now my precious little great grandchild as well as those of others. I felt this was something I just had to do.



Stephen Lawrence Anniversary: A Poem



Toddlers Club

The Toddlers club, that is held in church every Tuesday from 9.30-11.30am, and has resumed after the Easter holidays. There is a £3.00 entrance fee. For further details contact: 0208 455 1873. Thank you to those who regularly help with the club. If anyone would like to volunteer a couple of hours on a Tuesday morning, please let us know on Sunday after the Service or by calling on the above number.

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.

Nwando: What a shock for Nwando, last Sunday week, when she got home from church and started to feel achy and unwell. She went to A&E and was diagnosed with a Kidney stone and had to have an immediate operation. Mercifully she is home now and feeling much better, but, she would like our prayers for a full recovery. We do indeed send our prayers and good wished and hope she is feeling much stronger.

Ruth: We send our love and prayers to Ruth and all the family on the death of her uncle in Wales.

Sheila: is making a good recovery and continues to improve. It is good to see her back in church.

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

Please continue to pray for **David Agbim, Chuba 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 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; Kamran 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=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0x0DaDhY2paUT09>

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.

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 continue to pray for Sheila, 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

GGPC Rota April - May 2023

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	Av Desk	Service leader
16/04/23	Acts 2:42-47	Tim	Sally	Catherine	Nehar	Elizabeth	Nehar
	Luke 9:57-62						
23/04/23	Act 1:1-11;	Alexis	Rose	Ezim	Tim	Thomas	
	Luke 10:1-20						
30/04/23	I Peter 2:20-25	Elizabeth	Sally	Nehar/Chinwe	Ezim	Tony	Jenny
	John 10:1-10						
7/05/2023	I Peter 2:4-9	Nwennaka	Nehar	Bilan	Nwadi	Onyeka	
	John 14:1-12						
14/05/2023	I Peter 3:15-18	Guy	Nwadi	Naila	Tony	Ruth/Guy	Alexis
	John 14:15-21						
21/05/2023 Ascension	I Peter 4:13-16	Dozie	Rose	Silvia	Naila	Shaniv	
	John 17:1-11:						
28/05/2023 Pentecost	Acts 2:1-11	Sam	Jenny	Nehar/Chinwe	Ifey	Tony	Ifey
	John 20:19-23:						
05/06/2023 Trinity Sunday	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Synthia	Alexis	Sally	Ifeyinwe	Thomas	
	John 3:16-18						