

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 2nd May 2024



Dear Everyone – Greetings to you all and hoping all is well. Now we are at the beginning of May, let us hope for better Spring-like weather with less rain and more warmth and sunshine.

Church Family News: Such good news for **Anita and Simon** on the birth of their fourth grandson; a healthy baby boy to Max and Sophie. He is named Mack Keith Houghton, after both great grandfathers. (Many of you will remember Mack, Anita's much loved father who was a great long-term supporter of our church). As Simon said on Sunday, they will, in time, have enough for a 5-side football team!

Picture posted with permission from the parents



Myfanwy: after having a nasty fall at home and damaging her hip, Myfanwy is making a good recovery from her operation in the Royal Free. She is being well taken care of in the Royal Free and has received a visit from their chaplain. Myfanwy sends her thanks to everyone who has sent her many good wishes and prayers and loved her card signed by so many.

How good to see **Sir Edmond** back with us on Sunday and to know **Ifey and Nwando** have returned too. I wonder how everyone returning, from what sounds extreme Nigerian heat, is coping with our colder and wet weather – what a contrast! Anyway, it is good you are back.

The APCM went well on Sunday when all aspects of church life were covered (You all had full reports sent to you by WhatsApp or email). It provided a good opportunity to look back on all the many events and gatherings of the last year as well as looking to the future. There was time to ask questions and to give thanks for all that has taken place. Many thanks of appreciation were made to all those who have lead and

participated in Teams that make such a difference to the smooth running of the church. Special thanks was made to our two re-elected church wardens for the huge amount of work they had undertaken throughout the year and to Kamran for his encouragement, support and leadership in so many areas of our lives; also to Naila who has been a great support to Kamran and to all of us in church life. Special mention was made to the leadership she gives to the Asian church congregation that meets regularly for services in church. A PCC and other officers were elected; details of which are at the bottom of this newsletter. At the end of the newsletter is the list of PCC members. If you have any questions about anything you would like to ask for example, proposed building works, church finances, etc, please ask the church wardens. The minutes of the APCM are available to you on request if you wish to read them. Please ask Kamran or contact Tracey on: Tracey@gg-pc.co.uk

Bible study: Our Bible study group continues fortnightly on Thursdays from 6.60pm, We are reading our way through Roman's and discussing what each chapter has to say to us in our present time. Please do join us, the discussions are always interesting and illuminating. The next bible study will be held on 23rd May.

Ascension Day Service Thursday 9th May. The service will take place at 7pm

Bishop of Edmonton - The Revd Canon Dr Anderson Jeremiah:



Kamran and the Bishop of Edmonton



Our bishop with the Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson-Wilkin and the Revd Dr Kelly Brown Douglas, who preached

On Thursday 26th April, Kamran, with large numbers of others across the diocese, attended the consecration of our new Bishop of Edmonton, The Revd Canon Dr Anderson Jeremiah, at Canterbury Cathedral. From the photographs sent and many comments made, it was clearly a wonderful and joyful occasion. Bishop Anderson is a man of many gifts. From his life's experience it can be seen he has much to offer from his insights which are so relevant to all of us, not just for our Area, but for the whole of the London Diocese. Formerly he was Associate Dean (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and People) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Lancaster University, and Associate Priest at St Paul's Scotforth, in the Diocese of Blackburn. He is Canon Theologian of Blackburn Cathedral and has been a member of the Committee for Minority Ethnic Concerns, the Archbishops' Anti-Racism Task Force, General Synod, the Faith and Order Commission and the Ministry Council. He has also been widely published for wide-ranging academic and theological research. In his role he will draw on this experience as the holder of the racial justice portfolio in the College of Bishops. All this is such good news, for our Area, the London Diocese and Church generally who will have much to learn from him. Bishop Anderson's wife, Rebecca is also ordained and we welcome her with Anderson and their children. We look forward to meeting them all at Golders Green.

Finding Sanctuary: Recently, through Lent and beyond, we have been talking, praying and learning about, listening to God and what God might be saying to us. We have been doing this through our Bible reading and

prayers, but also thinking about our everyday lives and experiences. We have been encouraged to reflect and become more conscious of the everyday things around us that maybe we have not paid much attention to in our rush to get, “things” done, so, what we need to hear is missed. Thinking about the increasing importance of the state of our Earth through days like “Earth Day”, learning about the devastating effects of climate change and what we are losing across countries in terms of habitats and animals, food production and floods and much more, has made us more aware of what we have that is precious in our own lives, areas and environments and treasure them. We need to pay more attention to our own personal wellbeing in these anxious times. Do we give ourselves permission to stop, listen and look at what we see around us and what God might be saying to us about all that we have? It is noticeable that Jesus gave himself permission to withdraw from times of great busyness by finding his sanctuary places, by going into the mountains, by the sea, to the desert to rest, reflect and meditate. If he shows us the importance of this to gain more strength for his ministry, then so should we too follow his example. There are mentions of his doing so throughout the Gospels. Look them up and find them and think what this might mean for our own practice.

Below are some observations by well-known poets (**Mary Oliver**), spiritual writers (**Shannon K. Evans**, taken from Richard Rohr’s daily messages sent out from his monastery) and **Saint Catherine of Sienna** who talk of the importance of withdrawing to contemplate, to look at the beauties of nature and ponder/ reflect on them for the sake of our spiritual and mental wellbeing. From what each is saying, we see the different ways they express what they see and feel, as we would. Perhaps we should ask ourselves, **“Where are our places of withdrawal and Sanctuary? How do we feel about those things we see that speak to us”**

St Catherine of Sienna: was an amazing saint who had great influence on the church of her time, on Literature and on politics, as she could not bear the corruption, fights and quarrels in Church and State. Because she was so scholarly, holy, and travelled extensively she was listened to by ordinary people but most importantly by the most powerful made a difference in her determination. She packed so much in her short life (she died at 33 years old). Her legacy has lived on to the present day. The short piece on her life, below, is sent by the Revd Dr Jo Jan Vandenheede, Lutheran pastor in Belgium, with thanks.

Shannon K. Evans: Below is a reflection taken from one of Richard Rohr’s daily message a number of us receive. It is written by the spiritual writer Shannon K. Evans, who asks, “How the Divine might be communicating through the natural world?”. **It is something we at church have focused on during Lent and after. She has something to say to us when she talks** about what we have been considering when looking at the world around us and seeing its beauty in the everyday things we are aware of. Her writing is helpful as are her suggestions about how we can take time to observe and just be.

Mary Oliver- poet: frequently writes on reflecting about the world around her and acknowledging what it is saying if we try to hear it. The countryside around her home in the US is her sanctuary from a difficult life, from which she gains much consolation and hope. She expresses her thoughts in poetry. Below, she is asking, **“What Can I Say”**, about the many things in nature she reflected on as a child, and now, as an older woman her thoughts are just the same. **What can we say, I wonder, about what we see now as adults that we perhaps did not see as children or have forgotten about?**

MAY 19th Bring and Share Lunch: Please note that the Bring and Share Lunch will be on the 19th May and not the end of the month.

Wednesday Morning Coffee: from 10.30am-12noon. Our time of gentle exercise is going well (you can do exercises sitting down!) followed by coffee, cake and a chat – and it is fun - so do come and join in. This is followed by a short communion service at 12noon.

Local Elections on Thursday 2nd May: When you get this newsletter on Thursday it is voting day for London. It is hoped you have already voted but, if you haven’t, please do cast your vote it is so important. Please

remember too to take identification with you so that you can vote. At the end of the newsletter is a list of acceptable Identification Documents (IDs).

Much love and good wishes – Sally



An historiated initial from a set of Gospels, written and illuminated in Exeter by Geraldine Tuke in the 1920s.

Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)



"Be who God created you to be and you will set the world on fire."

Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) Catherine of Siena was born into a world ravaged by the Black Death, the 100 Years War, and deep-seated political corruption in the church. From a young age, Catherine witnessed profound visions of Jesus. Despite her parents' wishes, she refused marriage and spent most of her time in prayer and contemplation in the family basement. Catherine re-emerged at age 21, having been commanded by the Lord to enter public life. At first, this command meant reengaging with family members and caring for the poor. Soon, Catherine became a prophetic voice on political, social, and church matters. Through a unique style of bold conviction and humility, she spoke out against clerical corruption, put an end to insurrectionist political movements, and called for aid for Christians suffering in the Middle East. She wrote letters to kings, queens, and bishops, boldly calling on them to reform. In the 14th century, Popes of Rome resided in Avignon, France where for 70 years they enjoyed political favors and protection. Catherine worked to end this long "Babylonian captivity" of the Papacy. She journeyed to Avignon and confronted Pope Gregory XI, convincing him to return to Rome. Catherine spoke before cardinals and bishops, urging them to preserve the integrity of the church and to put an end to a season of corruption and confusion. She died at age 33, exhausted from her rigorous service to the Lord. Her life disproves the clericalist assumption that only ordained clergy can speak boldly within the Kingdom of God. Catherine is now considered a Doctor of the Church, the first laywoman to bear this prestigious distinction. Almighty God, you gave your servant Catherine of Siena special gifts of grace to understand and teach the truth revealed in Christ Jesus: Grant

that by this teaching we may know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Catherine of Sienna.

“Start being brave about everything,
driving out darkness and spreading light as well.
Don't look at your weaknesses,
but realize that in Christ crucified you can do everything”.



***Stained glass window of Black Christ
in 16th Street Baptist Church,
Birmingham, Alabama.***

Step outside - Shannon K. Evans

“What would it look like for you and me to open ourselves to hearing the earth ask us to reclaim something? Could the trees really have a story to tell us about the work of the Holy One on this planet? Could mountains draw us deeper into divine presence? Could the animal life scampering around us breathe renewal into our souls if we stop to watch? Most of us have probably had a revelatory moment in nature once or twice in our lives. Maybe we assume such things are rare flukes, an occasional happenstance to treasure but not to expect. But what if we can expect them? What if the lines between the material and the spiritual were never meant to be inflexible? If I told you that were you to step outside your door right now there would be a message from God for you, would you go?...

The earth is alive with Spirit, and there is something for you every single day out that door. Maybe not lightning from heaven, but a movement of Spirit that speaks in that still, small voice inside you. The earth is inviting you to discover incarnation.

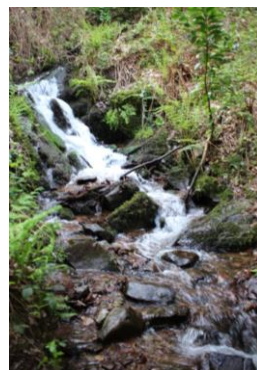
Evans suggests:

- + Carve out time to spend in nature, free of agenda. It might be your own backyard for half an hour or it might be a weekend camping trip at a national park.... What is one element of nature that I feel drawn to today? An animal, tree, body of water, wind?
- + Perhaps that drawing/*painting* I feel is because it has something to say to me.
- + How might God be answering a quandary in my life through this engagement with nature?
- + What do I feel in my body?
- + Practice active listening. Expect to be shown new ideas, thoughts, or realizations”.



“What Can I Say” – Mary Oliver

What can I say?
 What can I say that I have not said before?
 So I'll say it again.
 The leaf has a song in it.
 Stone is the face of patience.
 Inside the river there is an unfinishable story
 and you are somewhere in it and it will never end until all ends.
 Take your busy heart to the art museum and the chamber of commerce
 but take it also to the forest.
 The song you heard singing in the leaf when you were a child is singing still.
 I am of years lived, so far, seventy-four, and the leaf is singing still



How We Are

We send all those who are sick our love. Please continue to pray for all who have been unwell that they gain in strength and good health as well as those who are grieving because of loss of a loved one.

We continue to pray for a return to health to those who are unwell and that God's healing hands may be upon them. We keep in our prayers: Myfanwy Khan, David Agbim, Chuba Agbim, Eunice Adiele, Gideon Onwutalu, Annie Bwanaope and Rose Ochwada. We hold them in our hearts that they may be filled with God's healing love.

Please pray for a full return to health for Tony. We pray that God's healing spirit may come upon him and help him make a good recovery.

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

Natash



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. 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

Reader:

Intercession:

Hospitality:

Eucharist Minister:

AV Desk:

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

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

Voting preparations for Thursday 2nd May

What types of ID are acceptable?

Voters are required to show one form of photo ID at the polls, and it does not need to be in date so long as it is recognisable as the person at the ballot box.

However, it must be the original version – not a photocopy – and the name on the ID should be the same as it appears on the electoral register.

Acceptable forms of voter ID are:

Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country (including an Irish Passport Card)

Full or provisional driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state

A Blue Badge

Any identity card bearing the Pass (Proof of Age Standards Scheme) hologram

Any of the following travel passes:

Older person's bus pass funded by the Government

Disabled person's bus pass funded by the Government

Oyster 60+ card funded by the Government

Freedom pass

GGPC PCC Members Tony Nanori, Nehar Bird, Tim Nurse, Silvia Rodriguez, Shaniv Muttiah, Keith Thompson
Ifey Onochie, Jenny Brown, Festus Nwagwu, Thomas Yiannikou and Alexis
Bwebale.

GGPC Rota May 24

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	AV Desk	Duty Managers	Service leader
05/05/24	Acts 10:44-48	Kai	Alexis	Ezim	Nwadi/Nehar	Shaniv	Alexis	
	John 15:9-17							
09/05/2024	Acts 1:1-11	Keith	Nehar	Naila	Naila/Nehar	Shaniv		Alexis
Ascension of the Lord	Luke 24:44-53							
12/05/24	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Kool	Nwadi	Bilan	Daniel/Ezim	Onyeka	Florance	
	John 17:6-19							
19/05/24	Acts 2:1-21	Nwennaka	Tony	Florance	Sally/Tony	Dozie	Tim	Jenny
Day of Pentecost Bring & Share	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15							
26/05/24	Romans 5:1-5	Ash	Sally	Cynthia/Chinwe	Tim/Naila	Ruth	Chinwe	
	John 16:12-15							
02/06/24	2 Corinthians 4:5-12	Andrew	Nwando	Silvia	Ifeyinwe/Onyeka	Shaniv	Alexis	Nehar
	Mark 2:23-3:6							
09/06/24	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:	Khan	Rose	Nehar	Nwadi/Nehar	Onyeka	Florance	
	Mark 3:20-35							