

NEWSLETTER



6th June 2024

Dear Everyone – Greetings to you all.

It was such a shock to hear that Kamran had become unwell and had been taken into hospital for a procedure to his lungs. Thank goodness it was successful. He will be in hospital for a few days. We all pray for a good recovery and return to full strength. We send our love to Kamran and to Naila, to Solomon, who had just come down for a visit and how good he was there, and to his brother, Joel. Please Kamran have a good rest and make time to recuperate.

Archdeacon John: How good to see and welcome Archdeacon John back with us again. He is a great friend to our church.

In this week's newsletter there is a miscellany of articles. Each one focussing on important aspects of our lives today and picking up on the threads of those areas on which we have been reflecting. Thinking about them in the context of our faith, they are:

- ✚ **"How we can show service for others?"**, a fine example of which is Sam's sponsored fund raising support for a school in Gambia, to go towards supplying the pupils with education and essential amenities. He has written an article for us (below) describing the fund raising day and giving information about schooling in Gambia. Thank you Sam. You are a star!
- ✚ **"How we can pray deeply about present issues that affect our country?"**, from the Diocese of London regarding the forthcoming election;
- ✚ **"Creation care in a climate crisis"**, an article sent by Jenny;
- ✚ **"Discovering gifts through disability"**, my great niece, Sarah, and Icons
- ✚ **"Discovering Prayer beyond our churches"**, by the Revd Richard Carter, Associate Vicar for Mission, St Martin-in-the-Fields, who is giving "The 13th Donald Barnes Memorial Lecture" in September.

Baptism and Confirmation Service Date: Remember that Bishop Jeremiah will be visiting us on **Sunday 22 September 2024**, to baptise and confirm our candidates at the 10.00am service. **Please put this date in your diaries.**

Bible study: Our Bible study group continues on **Thursday 6th June** from 6.30pm. We continue to read Paul's letter to the Romans, discuss our thoughts, consider the context of the time and what his letter has to say to us now. Please do join us, the discussions are always interesting. Sandwiches and coffee/tea are available.

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.

Birthday Party Invitation: Please remember that we have all been invited by Zehra Alliana's family to her Christening held in our church on **Saturday 29th June**, followed by a birthday party at Holy Cross and St Michaels Hall (as on the invitation below)



Food Bank: Thank you to those who have contributed so generously to the food bank. Please keep the donations coming as food and other resources are in great demand. They are much appreciated by the volunteers at All Saints who run it and especially by the families who make good use of all they provide.

Much love and good wishes – Sally



Blooming in the church grounds

Fund Raising for Gambia by Sam



AFRICA DAY - 25th May

I attend a Saturday school - Westside and Lewisham. It is a Young Leaders Academy, where young boys and girls are taught life skills for the future in addition to provision of additional help with lessons on History, English and Mathematics. This year, the school partnered with a school in Gambia called Sanyan School, to raise funds to support children's education as well as provision of basic amenities such as drinking water through building of a borehole for the school. Education and basic amenities we can easily take for granted in the western world.

Do you know that it costs £40 to educate a child in Gambia? The minimum wage in Gambia is €13.6 per month. The school's aim is to raise £4000 towards this cause. My goal was to raise £300 towards this.

To raise this fund, my school sponsored a walk for children in Hyde Park on the 25th May. I'm proud to report that I completed approximately 4 miles and so far have raised £400. I couldn't have done without the great moral and financial support given to me by my Golders Green Church family. I am amazed and delighted with the response from the church and since Sunday have had more pledges of financial support.

I want to say a big THANK YOU to all of you. May God continue to aunties, uncles, Rev Kamran and the whole entire church congregation.

All my love Samuel

Thanks

Thoughts on the Election: London Diocesan Letter

News of the General Election came very suddenly. From the point of view of each of us and the future of our young ones it is important that we play our part, whatever our views. Our political system and the guidance that underpins it has a strong base in Christian teaching and, however some people might think politics and religion cannot, or, should not, be mixed, neither can they be separated. As Christians we have guidance from the Gospels and Letters in the New Testament. As a Nation too we have what are called "The 7 Nolan Principles or, "Seven principles of public life", for those who govern and work in any public office to abide by and for us to measure the outcomes of governance by. Together they stand together well with what we are taught as Christians. I have put them below for you to see what you think.

Pray Your Part: Letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

This week's **London Diocesan Newsletter** includes a letter from the two Archbishops of Canterbury and York asking us to think and pray deeply about the forthcoming election. They have invited all of us to dedicate our prayers towards the nation and think about how we can play our part as voters and citizens by taking

part in a daily programme for 21 days called, “**Pray Your Part**”. This is an invitation to encourage prayer and participation in the life of our nation and communities, both as voters and as citizens.

This **21-day journey of prayer and reflection** is designed for us to use in the run-up to the UK General Election. Each day explores a different theme, with a short Bible reading, reflection and prayer for a different aspect of our common life. If you are interested in receiving the “Pray your part” prayers please let me know and I will give you the information on how to receive them.

The Archbishops write, *“The coming General Election is critical moment in the life of our nation, which will shape our future. This is a time for us all to ask important questions about what kind of country we want to build. The world and our nation face deep challenges – from questions of war and peace, poverty and injustice to the very future of the earth God has given us. Faced with such huge questions, our calling as Christians is to turn first to God in prayer. We are therefore inviting everyone who is willing to dedicate the next few weeks as a time not just to think about the big questions, but also to pray for our nation and our world. We want to invite everyone to think about how we all can play our part both as voters and, more broadly, as citizens. In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray each day, ‘your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven’. This simple and profound prayer is our starting point during the days leading up to the General Election – and all the days beyond. May God’s will be done in our nation and in God’s world.*

The Seven Principles of Public Life

The Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the “Nolan Principles, apply to anyone who works as a public office-holder. This includes all those who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally, and all people appointed to work in the Civil Service, local government, the police, courts and probation services, non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), and in the health, education, social and care services. All public office-holders are both servants of the public and stewards of public resources. The principles also apply to all those in other sectors delivering public services. They are a good guide to measure the progress and outcome of any policy and action. Not many people are aware of their existence. They are:

1.1 Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

1.2 Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

1.3 Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

1.4 Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

1.5 Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

1.6 Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

1.7 Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Quotes taken directly from the Government document, “Committee on Standards in Public Life”

Creation care in a Climate Crisis - Jenny

Jenny sent us this article and said, "I'm sharing this link to the first of a series of reflections from "The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC)", by Sophie Sanders, Market and Communications Lead of LICC, encouraging us to think what each of us can do to care for creation in our particular contexts. Be blessed and inspired!"

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
GENESIS 2:15

"I'm not naturally green-fingered, but I have dabbled in a bit of gardening over the years: think buying a mini trowel with pocket money as a kid, tending to neighbours' tomatoes to earn extra cash in my teens, and spritzing my houseplants – or, as my mum calls them, my 'plant babies' – as a slightly broody 20-something. But creation care isn't just a wholesome hobby, it's part of my God-given purpose – and yours, too.

When God created the world, his intention was that humankind would follow his divinely appointed rhythm of work and rest, cultivating and ruling over the garden so that creatures and communities would flourish. But, since most of us don't hold down agricultural jobs, what does fulfilling the mandate to 'work' and 'take care of' the land look like in our daily life?

To recapture the depth of meaning imbued within this verse, let's return to the original oomph of the Hebrew text. The pairing of the words 'abad' (work) and 'shamar' (take care) is also used when God established the duties of Levite priests in the tabernacle (Numbers 3:8). Biblically understood, tending to the land is an act of worshipful obedience. In other words, as priests of Eden, we're to serve, guard, and protect the dwelling place of God – the whole of creation – because that's the original and ongoing role he's given us. And so, as we serve and safeguard the land, living in harmony with it and cultivating rather than exploiting it, we become more fully human and bring glory to God.

As fallen people, we're all part of the problem of polluting and damaging the world. But we've also got the potential to grow in our work with and care for the environment, especially amid a climate crisis. Many of us already take active steps to cultivate, maintain, and preserve God's creation, whether that's composting food waste, collecting and reusing rainwater, taking a carry-cup when you get coffee on your commute, or being diligent with recycling your lunch packaging in the office. When we see our friends, families, churches, colleagues, or neighbours fulfilling their God-given purpose in this area, let's celebrate and support it. That might look like buying organic produce, taking a moment to thank farmers selling pesticide-free produce at a local market, or gratefully accepting your neighbour's glut of courgettes, making a delicious risotto, and inviting them round for dinner – each a beautiful, God-given glimpse of his kingdom coming to the earth!"



Roses in our church garden

Discovering Prayer Beyond our Churches by Richard Carter, Associate Vicar for Mission, St Martin-in-the-Fields

Richard Carter's comment on prayer coincidentally links in with what we have been exploring as a church family about recognising the beauty of creation and the outside world in which we live. We have been exploring this by looking more acutely when we are out and about, on our daily errands, walking to the park or just going up the road to stretch our legs, becoming more aware of all we see that is part of creation and being thankful. He captures it so accurately when he says:

"Prayer journeying is about discovering that Jesus has gone ahead of us and called us to discover prayer beyond the walls of our churches and out on the streets in the lives of God's people... The very act of walking [or journeying] can still the distractions of our minds and make us more receptive, open and attentive. Our whole bodies thus become our prayer and we enter into each new place recognising that God is already here. It does not have to be a long journey – it can be the journey through the supermarket, or the wait at the bus stop that can become infused with prayer or simply sitting in our own back-garden or local park that can become our sacred space."

Richard is giving **"The 13th Donald Barnes Memorial Lecture"** on **Wednesday 23rd September at St Peter's Church, Belsize Square, NW3 4HJ at 6.30pm**. I know this is an early notice but it would be great if you could put it in your diaries now and come along. Richard is a notable speaker, retreat director and author. He leads the Nazareth Community and the Companions of Nazareth from St Martin's, to which I have belonged for several years. If you are interested in knowing more about the Community and Richard's work, we have a new website which contains a great deal of helpful information.

Here is the link: <https://www.nazareth.community/>

Discovery through Disability: Icons

I do not usually write about members of my family, but, in this case I am making an exception. Donald's great niece, Sarah, was ordained in 2006, serving as a curate in the UK before going out to the US to become a priest in a parish in Annapolis, Maryland (She had studied at Yale during her training and made many contacts there). Her congregation was diverse, highly creative and receptive to her ministry. She gained a doctorate as well as being elected to a national clergy committee representing her colleagues. Her emails and messages were full of interest and accounts of the Episcopalian Church in the US, its politics and the effect the medical system and the cost it had on the poorer members of her congregation. However, she gradually realised she was getting more and more unwell herself, with acute fatigue, aching bones and asthmatic-like symptoms.

After many tests, (and what a good thing she had insurance as the cost would have been prohibitive) it was discovered she was suffering from ME (Myalgic Encaphalomyelitis) plus other physical symptoms that compounded her illness. To cut a long story short she decided she would have to leave her parish and come back to her family home in Lincolnshire. By this time, she was in a wheel chair and unable to take up work in the church, as the symptoms of acute fatigue caused by ME are debilitating, not to mention the side-effects of the medication she was prescribed. What to do? She was a relatively young, highly intelligent woman, with many gifts that she could not use. She was however a real computer whizz and used that to explore possibilities of what could be open to her. She was determined not to be defeated by her illness and find some way of using her faith, her mind, and her gifts. Two key things happened. She linked in with the Iona Community, through which she could join in the services, discussions and make contacts. While she could not get to Iona, she very occasionally could travel to Glasgow, with the help of her partner, to join members of the community for retreats and meetings. She then became more involved, becoming what is called a “dispersed” member. All these she could do from home when she had less tiring days. The next thing was, she discovered an Icon-drawing class (it is termed Drawing not Painting) that was on zoom with a highly experienced iconographer. It was here she found her gift; one that involved her faith, her meditation and prayer practices and drew on her innate creativity, as drawing an Icon involves a disciplined way of working and praying while it is being created. All these could be carried out at respite times of less fatigue. She has become more confident and skilled over time; from her first attempts to draw one, which took some time, to drawing a whole range of icons. She has had a room converted into a studio (Below) where she can work and harness many aspects of her faith and creativity. My admiration for her knows no bounds. She could have easily given up and sunk into a “Slough of Despond”, and despite, at times, the totally debilitating nature of her illness, she has found a way through to knowing she can contribute and express her faith in a very different but practical way than before.



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 remember at this time, **David Agbim**, a faithful member of our church family who died recently. We pray that he is in the loving arms of God. We send our condolences and prayers to Uche, his wife, and his family. He will be so missed.

We continue to pray for a return to health to those who are sick, that God’s healing hands may be upon them.

We keep in our prayers: **Myfanwy Khan, Anita and Simon Houghton, Eunice Adiele, Gideon Onwutalu, Annie Bwanaope, Sir Edmund Onochie, Rose Ochwada and Janet...** (Myfanwy's former carer). 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

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=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0xDaDhIY2paUT09>

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

June 24 – July 24								
Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	AV Desk	Duty Managers	Service leader
09/06/24	Genesis 3:8-15	Khan	Rose	Naila	Nwadi/Nehar	Onyeka	Florance	
	Mark 3:20-35							
16/06/24	2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 11-13 & 14-17	Keith	Alexis	Ezim	Sally/Tony	Ruth	Chinwe	Alexis
	Mark 4:26-34							
23/06/24	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Kool	Nehar	Bilan	Tim/Naila	Shaniv	Alexis	
	Mark 35-41							
30/06/24	Colossians 1:15-28	Nwennaka	Nwadi	Cynthia/Chinwe	Daniel/Ezim	Dozie		Sunday School
Bring & Share	Luke 10:38-42							
07/07/24	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Ash	Tony	Florance	Nwadi/Nehar	Onyeka	Florance	
	Mark 6:1-13							
14/07/24	Ephesians 1:3-14	Elizabeth	Sally	Silvia	Sally/Tony	Ruth	Tim	Jenny
	Mark 6:14-29							
21/07/24	Ephesians 2:11-22	Poppy	Nwando	Sally	Tim/Naila	Shaniv	Chinwe	
	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56							
28/07/24	Ephesians 3:14-21	Sam	Kai	Cynthia/Chinwe	Ifeyinwe/Onyeka	Dozie	Alexis	Nehar
Bring & Share	John 6:1-21							
		Abi	Jenny	Naila	Daniel/Ezim	Onyeka		