

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 9th May 2024



Dear Everyone – Greetings to you all and hoping all is well.

Church Family News: **Nwando, Marlies Ifey, Madupe, Onyeka**, have all returned from Nigeria and we are so pleased that they are back. They have been missed.



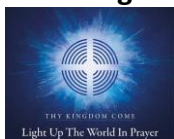
Myfanwy: is making good progress after her operation. She remains in the Royal Free at the moment. She is being visited by members of our congregation and many prayers are being said for a secure recovery.

Birthday Greetings: Happy Birthday was sung to **Chinwe, Khan and Kohl** and prayers were said by the congregation for a good year ahead.)



photos taken by Alexis

Your Kingdom Come:



Kamran drew our attention to this multi-denominational event which is part of a global prayer movement. The aim is to create a body of prayer that includes all people, wherever and whoever they are, in all countries that they may be brought to Faith. It is initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and will take place, as it has each year, from Ascension day to Pentecost; this year it is the 9th – 19th May. During these ten days we are asked to pray specifically, each day, that all are touched by the love and spirit of God, for a peaceful world, for the care and nurturing of creation, for our neighbourhoods. Kamran has provided a list, which can be found at the side table in church, of all the streets in the parish, so that we can go on a prayer walk in those streets nearest to us, praying and thinking of the families and individuals that live in the houses, flats and offices. It is hoped that the entire parish will be embraced by prayer during this special week.



Ascension Day Service will be taking place on **Thursday 9th May at 7.00pm**. Please do come, it will be so good to see everyone. It is an important day in the Christian year, commonly called “Holy Thursday”, when the commemoration of Jesus's victory over death and the Good News for us all is celebrated. It is when, as told in the New Testament, Jesus brought his apostles to the Mount of Olives, where he ascended back into Heaven forty days after his resurrection (Acts 1:1-3). Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter celebrations



Ascension Window

St Peter's Belsize Square

Bible study: Our Bible study group continues on Thursdays from 6.30pm but, **please note**, the next one is on **Thursday 23rd May**. We are reading our way through Paul's letter to the 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

MAY 19th Bring and Share Lunch: Please note that the 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.

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.



Week: Christian Aid, as you know, is the relief and development agency of 41 Christian churches in the UK and Ireland. It works to support sustainable development, eradicate global poverty, support civil society and provide disaster relief in South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. They work with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to. Our own Jenny works for them and promotes their work. This year Christian Aid week is from 12th- 18th May. They are appealing to us to support their work through donations to help those countries who are often not mentioned in the media at this time but whose needs are great. To find out more, please go their website on:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

Parish Giving Scheme: For those of you who were at the APCM last week, you will have heard Tim, who is our treasurer, giving a detailed overview of our church finances (a full report can be found in the APCM booklet available in church). During it he spoke of the "Parish Giving Scheme" through which a number of us donate to the church. Later he was asked about it by some who hadn't heard about it. Below is a piece by Tim explaining how it works and the positive benefits for the donor and receiver. Please contact Tim and discuss with him if this is something in which you would like to join.

Revd Canon Roxanne Everseley: During the 9.00 am morning service at Southwark Cathedral, by daily link, I particularly enjoy the short homilies given on the New Testament readings. They are always reflective, insightful and often connected with issues we are dealing with in the present day. I was particularly taken with the homily given on Friday 3rd May, by the Revd Canon Roxanne Eversley, on Luke 6.1-11, (Jesus being challenged by the Pharisees for healing a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath and thereby breaking the law). In her homily she talks of Jesus encouraging us to discern with love and in love, when it might be appropriate to break/ bend the law in a time of meeting a need.

This is something many of us struggle with at times of great injustice and hurt to others- "How and when to challenge an unjust authority?". How do we do it while managing to keep within the laws of the land, where in some countries it is impossible as Laws are made to prevent any challenge and are often at the cost of courageous lives. We can name many examples. What would we do if we lived in any country that denies their citizens/us freedom to speak, worship and challenge? I hope you enjoy Canon Roxanne's homily printed below.

As we have been encouraged during the past weeks, remember to look around and enjoy the beauties that exist in our everyday lives that we may not have noticed. Our streets, green areas and parks are full of trees in blossom with the verdant green of their leaves. The birds are full of song early in the morning, greeting the day and lifting our hearts. Let us take time for ourselves to reflect, meditate on and enjoy what we have, even if it is just for 10 minutes each day and give thanks for it all.



Much love and good wishes – Sally

Revd Canon Roxanne Eversley



Roxanne, who I have met on previous occasions, was ordained in June 2009. Prior to her installation at Southwark Cathedral, was Priest-in-Charge of three churches in a united benefice. She has recently been commissioned by the Bishop of Southwark as Canon Librarian and first Dean of Cultural Diversity. Roxanne is the first person to be appointed to the new role of Dean of Diversity following the launch of the Southwark Anti-Racism Roxanne. Originally from Guyana, where she was an accountant before coming to the UK and studying at Mirfield, she has had many other roles and a wide range of experiences which will be of great benefit to all those who she serves. - Sally

Reflection on Luke 6.1-11, Morning Prayer, Southwark Cathedral, Friday 3rd May 2024

In one of his speeches, the civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King Jr reminded people that cowardice will always ask the question 'Is it safe?'; expediency will ask 'Is it politic?'; and vanity will ask 'Is it popular?' Only conscience will ask 'Is it right?'

When Jesus is approached about what he and his friends think they are doing, behaving as they are on the sabbath, Jesus uses the example of David and the bread of presence, although that action didn't take on the Sabbath, to appeal to their (the Scribes and the Pharisees) deeper sense of what matters: 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath?' (v.9).

The religious authorities were furious with Jesus, because with his question, he trumped any of their questions about religious or traditional correctness. After all, Jesus is 'lord of the sabbath' and so responds with compassion.

We are told that Jesus looks around at them all before asking the man to stretch out his withered right hand. I was learning that in that culture, the right hand was the 'public' functioning hand. So, we can imagine how the man must have felt as if his body, his heart, all felt withered.

This 'public' right hand reminded me too of the elders in my own community who would say especially of their children who were their support, in and out of season, 's/he is my right hand' and 'what am I going to do without him/her'.

Jesus in this familiar place could see that the hearts of the Pharisees, Scribes and others gathered around are just as withered and unfit for purpose like the man's and theirs needed to be outstretched towards human need just as Jesus is doing – regardless of it being the Sabbath or not, or regardless of what people will say.

Jesus' disciples, in rubbing the heads of grain in their hands were doing something similar to harvesting and all work is forbidden on the Sabbath, though it was necessary to meet their need of hunger.

So, Jesus is encouraging us to discern with love and in love, when it might be appropriate to break/ bend the law in a time of meeting a need – healing in the man's case or meeting the need of hunger in the case of David (and the bread of Presence) and his disciples (and the heads of grain).

As we go about our daily lives, we too are called to act with love, to show God's grace and mercy as we adhere to the laws of our land, our church and even our family traditions.

Amen.

Parish Giving Scheme - Tim

The Parish Giving Scheme is a charity set up for the benefit of both churches and church members that wish to manage their donations in a simple and secure way.

Anyone who is already a member of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and opted to increase their donation in line with inflation, will be familiar with the annual notification email. Based on the CPI data for December 2023, the annual increase for 2024 is 4.00%. From 2019 to 2022, the average increase was 2.2%. Everyone has the option to change their preferences at any time for any reason by phone or email to adjust the direct debit value: *"we want to reassure you that your giving is always totally in your control so you can give what is right for you"*. The cost of living increases pose challenges for us all, not least the church. As we face the challenges of growing our ministry amidst rising costs, our giving is a vital lifeline that helps secure the work of the church in delivering to the local community and congregation.

If you would like to know more about PGS, please visit the Parish Giving Scheme home page parishgiving.org.uk/home/. From there you can find out more about the scheme and how to join. The direct link for Golders Green Parish Church is parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/golders-green-parish-golders-green/. You can also join by phone by calling 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm and quoting our Parish Code **230623302**.

Other ways of Giving: You can also give by:

Standing Order - forms are available on the information table near the Lady Chapel entrance. If you are a UK Tax payer then you can increase the value of your giving by completing the Gift Aid declaration.

The weekly Envelope Scheme - where envelopes are available to put your donation into the collection basket, writing your name on the back, again allows us to identify your donation and claim the Gift Aid.

A Prayer for those Affected by Conflict: by Catherin Gorman CAFOD

Shared by Sheffield Parish Church, from their newsletter, with permission

God of refuge, the rock in whom we trust,
watch over our sisters and brothers in all countries ravaged by war.

Bring comfort to those who grieve,
shelter to those who are homeless,
and sustenance to those who hunger and thirst.
God of mercy, open our hearts to your grace,
so that we are filled with compassion and a generosity of spirit,
and inspire us to take action.
Spirit of love, pour out your peace like a healing balm,
which brings hope in place of despair.



Bronze sculpture in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral

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

Contact details: Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti
Office Tel: 020 8455 1873, Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

GGPC Rota May 24

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	AV Desk	Duty Managers	Service leader
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							