

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 11th January 2024



*Our Lady of Lament
Icon drawn by Janice Nihill*

Dear Everyone - Greetings to you all for this new year, hoping it will be a kinder more peaceful one than last year.

In this newsletter we show pictures of Testimonies from members of our congregation shared during last Sunday's service, speaking of their thanks and gratitude to God for what has happened to them during the last year; for their joys as well as their challenges. How good it is to hear how they have kept faith in challenging times and give us hope too.



Amaka giving thanks for her young grandchildren



Keith giving thanks for coming through much illness and paying tribute to the NHS



Nwando telling her story of thankfulness that she came through so many hospital cancellations and disappointment, praying hard that things would change and they did in time to fly home to Nigeria fit and well.

Kamran's Birthday: We also had a birthday celebration for Kamran, wishing him a Very Happy Day;



Pictures of our church family taken over Christmas too good to leave out!



Epiphany: The Feast of the Epiphany falls on the 6th of January. It is a time of celebration of the arrival of the three wise men (or kings) at the manger in Bethlehem and has a special mystery and joy to it. **Malcolm Guite, priest and poet**, as always, writes compellingly of this festival. His poem is below. He makes some interesting points about how we, as humankind are all including in the story through the wise men. How these three gentiles arrive and bring us, from all over the world with them as gentiles, to the Christ Child. I quote what he says, as always, with his permission:

“Until now the story of the coming Messiah has been confined to Israel, the covenant people, but here suddenly, mysteriously, are three Gentiles who have intuited that his birth is good news for them too. Here is an Epiphany, a revelation, that the birth of Christ is not one small step for a local religion but a great leap for all humankind. I love the way that traditionally the three wise men (or kings) are shown as representing the different races and cultures and languages of the world. I love the combination in their character of diligence and joy. They ‘seek diligently’, but they ‘rejoice with exceeding great joy’! I love the way they loved and followed a star, but didn’t stop at the star, but rather let the star lead them to something beyond itself. Surely that is a pattern for all wise contemplation of nature whether in art or science.” Malcolm Guite

Prayer of Pope Francis sent by Jenny: This is a prayer published in the Pope’s encyclical *Laudato Si’*.

May it serve as a north star for all of us in this new year, guiding our hearts and actions. We cannot but be reminded every day of the horrors of war that is blighting those in so many countries, killing and wasting many innocent lives, bringing grief to so many mothers and children particularly, denying them fullness of life. We pray unceasingly for those in Palestine and Israel that this misery may cease, that peace and justice be regained for Ukraine and their suffering. How reconciliation and healing may be achieved is anyone’s guess, but we pray in hope.

Contemporary Icon - Christ Born in the Rubble:



Artist, Kelly Latimore of @kellylatimoreicons, partnered with a group called "Red Letter Christians", got together to create this new icon, "Christ in the Rubble," which illustrates the prophetic message that if Jesus was born today, he would be born "under the rubble."

Kelly, who is a contemporary and increasingly popular creator of Icons, wants his art to be a '**holy pondering**' a process that potentially brings about a new way of seeing.

Their hope is that this icon, "Christ in the Rubble" will create more dialogue among Christians (in the United States and other countries) during this holy season about the ways our beliefs and actions - or lack of them, contribute to the violence we're currently witnessing in Gaza. He asks, "*How can we shape a culture of Christianity where love truly has no boundaries? How do we create a world where our poor, homeless, refugee, Palestinian Savior - born to a teenage mother and later condemned to death - would be cherished had he been born today*"? Such vitally important questions. What do you think? Not only think of this icon, (and others that have been put in our newsletters), but what he says about our own pondering and meditations. How does this one speak to you? How can it change how we see things?

Night Shelter: Our hosting of The Night shelter has come to an end. Other churches and synagogues are taking their turn now. Nehar and her team with those from Alyth Synagogue ran successful sessions from 30 October till 2 January. The guests who came were well looked after, well-fed and had a warm church to sleep in. Thank you so much to all who supported the Shelter in so many different ways, with the work involved and the friendships made. We look forward to taking this up in the Autumn as we have done for several years now.

Homeless Action Barnet (HAB): As the days and nights are getting so much colder, those who sleep in the streets and shelters need blankets etc for warmth. HAB continues to ask for donations of bedding resources for those who need them. Please, either take them to HAB (36B Woodhouse Rd, N12 0RG) or, bring them to church and they will be taken there. Thank you.

Baptism/Confirmation classes: Kamran is starting classes soon for those wishing to be confirmed. Please let him know if you, or any member of your family, would like to be confirmed. Now we have a newly appointed Bishop of Edmonton (Revd Canon Dr Anderson Jeremiah) it will be so great to have him confirm members of our church family.

Wednesday Morning Coffee: Resumed **from** 10.30am-12noon. Our time of gentle exercise is going well followed by coffee and a chat – and it is fun so do come and join in. At 12noon we have a short communion service.

The Toddler Group: resumed on Tuesday 9th January. More volunteers are always welcome. Please let Kamran or Tracey know on 020 8455 1873 if this is something you would like to do.

Loving Joseph: I thought you might enjoy seeing this mediaeval painting from Italy of Joseph giving weary Mary a break and welcomed sleep from nursing Jesus. It is one of my favourites, showing Joseph, who is so often ignored, taking the caring, fatherly role. How much many nursing mothers have welcomed that break!



With love and good wishes – Sally

The Feast of the Epiphany – Malcolm Guite



Epiphany

It might have been just someone else's story,
 Some chosen people get a special king.
 We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
 We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.
 But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
 Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
 A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
 A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.
 They did not know his name but still they sought him,
 They came from elsewhere but still they found;
 In temples they found those who sold and bought him,
 But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
 Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
 To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

A Prayer For Our Earth

By Pope Francis

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe

and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,

that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live

as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,

help us to rescue the abandoned

and forgotten of this Earth,

so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the Earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize

that we are profoundly united with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle

for justice, love and peace.

Amen

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.

Please keep **John Rudge, Kelly's dad**, in your prayers as he is awaiting urgent treatment for a cancer. We think of Kelly and her family.

Paula, Sylvia's mother, died recently in Italy. Sylvia was with her and Sanjiv flew out to be with her. We send our love and prayers to them.

We keep in our prayers **Sheila Grodzinki, Anita and Simon, David Agbim, Chuba Agbim, Eunice Adiele, Gideon Onwutalu, Annie Bwanaope, Rose Ochwada and Tony Nwanodi**. 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. 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=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0xDaDhY2paUT09>

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

GGPC Church Rota

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	Duty Managers	Service leader
14/01/24	1 Samuel 3.1-10	Kool	Tony	Bilan	Ifeyinwe/Onyeka	Tim and Dozie	Alexis
	John 1:35-42						
21/01/24	Psalms 19:1-6	Poppy	Nwadi	Cynthia	Tim/Naila	Chinwe and Ruth	
	John 1:1-5						
28/01/24	Acts 17:26-27	Nwennaka	Sally	Nehar/Chinwe	Nwadi/Nehar	Shaniv & Alexis	Nehar
Bring & Share	TBC						
04/02/24	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Khan	Jenny	Naila	Ezim/Daniel	Cynthia and Tony	
	Mark 1:29-39						
11/02/24	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Elizabeth	Alexis	Silvia	Sally/Tony	Onyeka & Florance	
	Mark 9:2-9						
18/02/24	1 Corinthians 9:24-27	Sam	Anne	Sally	Ifeyinwe/Onyeka	Tim and Dozie	Jenny
	Mark 1:40-45						
25/02/24	2 Corinthians 1:18-22	Abi		Nehar/Chinwe	Tim/Naila	Chinwe and Ruth	
Bring & Share	Mark 2:1-12						
03/03/24	2 Corinthians 3:1-6	Keith	Nwando	Ezim	Nwadi/Nehar	Shaniv & Alexis	Alexis
	Mark 2:13-22						

