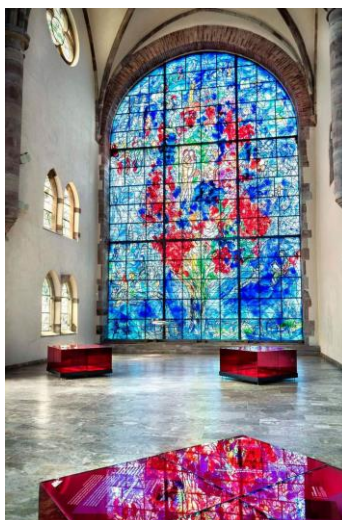


NEWSLETTER

13th June 2024



Marc Chagal - Peace Window

Dear Everyone – Greetings to you all.

It was so good to welcome the Revd Philip Davison, Rector of St Mary's-at-Finchley, who took our service in the absence of Kamran on Sunday and to be able to have time after the service to talk with him. He kindly sent the main points of his sermon for us to read on the consequences of rivalry and division, they are printed below.

How pleasing it is to hear that Kamran is home from hospital. He will be away for at least two weeks as he is having to recover and rest after the procedure he went through. We all miss him very much and pray for a good recovery and return to full strength. We send our love to him and to Naila, Solomon and Joel.

General Election Hustings 2024

Please note this important date is an invitation which will take place on Thursday, 27 June, 19:30.

The Venue: Golders Green Parish Church

This event is in collaboration between Alyth Synagogue and Golders Green Parish Church. We are delighted to host a special multi-faith general election hustings for the Finchley and Golders Green Constituency. There will be an opportunity to hear from the candidates about their vision, and to grill them about their proposals. The evening will be chaired by Alyth member, Michael Skapinker (*Contributing Editor at the Financial Times*).

Alex Deane (*Conservative*), Sarah Hoyle (*Liberal Democrat*), and Sarah Sackman (*Labour*) have all so far confirmed their attendance.

[Click here](#) to let us know you are coming – you can also submit a question to the candidates when you sign up.

Light Refreshments will be provided.

Happy Birthday: to Christian and Constance. We said prayers for them and sung Happy Birthday wishing them a good year ahead. We did enjoy the delicious cakes as you can see in the photographs, many of which have been put on our church WhatsApp by Kelly.



Photographs: Just to remind you that Kelly is taking photographs of each member of our church family to go on the notice board, which badly needs updating. She is doing this after the service each Sunday. If you do not want your photo taken that is fine; if you would rather send one in, that is fine too. Please send them to Tracey at Golders Green Church, St Albans Vestry, West Heath Drive, NW11 7 QG, or attached to an email to, tracey@gg-pc.co.uk

Sam's sponsored fund raising: after doing so well in his support for "The Sanyan School" in Gambia, and writing such an informative article about it for last week's newsletter, Sam raised over £450. Many congratulations. How good it would be if we could help him reach £500 before the sponsorship is closed. There has been a great deal of publicity in the media this week on how people are showing service for others and Sam has been a fine example of this.

"Pray Your Part": Just a reminder about the letter from the two Archbishops of Canterbury and York, that was in last week's newsletter, asking everyone to think about how we all can play our part both as voters and, more broadly, as citizens in this election. To help us, a pack has been devised containing daily prayers, "**21-day journey of prayer and reflection**", for us to use in the run-up to the Election. Each day explores a different theme, with a short Bible reading, reflection and prayer for a different aspect of our common life.

I have ordered copies of the pack which will be on the table by the entrance on Sunday. if more are required I will order them or you can get your own pack sent directly to you by emailing the Church House website at: [Pray Your Part \(chpublishing.co.uk\)](http://chpublishing.co.uk)

Bible study: Our Bible study group will continue on **Thursday 20th June** from 6.30pm. Unfortunately, no zoom will be available. 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; coffee, cake and a chat – and it is fun - so do come and join in. the 12noon communion will restart when Kamran is back with us.

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**

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 at 1.00pm**, followed by a birthday party at, Holy Cross and St Michaels Hall, along Golders Green Road.

Food Bank: Thank you to those who have contributed so generously to the food bank. Your donations are much appreciated by the volunteers at All Saints who run it and especially by the families who make good use of all you provide.

“Reflections for the summer” from Gemma Simmonds CJ: Each week St Paul’s Cathedral sends out a newsletter which contains reflections from different members associated with them. This week’s is by Sr Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ who is a Senior Research Fellow and Director, Religious Life Institute, at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge. Dr Simmonds gives us an invitation to take a more contemplative approach to the life of our senses, noticing more acutely the world as it comes alive all around us. She sees Summer as a season that reminds us of, “the insane generosity of God” with its abundance of everything. Let us hope we actually get a Summer. We do however, have to be mindful of the context in which Sr Gemma is writing this reflection, as there are many other countries that do not experience a summer of the abundance of good things we are fortunate to experience. Climate change is having a devastating effect on them and we pray that we do what we can to mitigate the changes they are experiencing.

Marc Chagall Window for Peace; The picture of the stained glass window at the top of this newsletter is created by by Marc Chagall, called “The Tree of Life”, “The Peace Window”. It can be seen in the Chapel of Cordeliers of Sarrebourg, France.

Coventry Prayer for Peace and Reconciliation: We constantly Think of Peace and the countries in turmoil that we pray for every day. At the end of the newsletter, is the liturgy for Peace and Reconciliation from Coventry Cathedral that is prayed there every Friday and we can pray too.

CORRECTION: Please note that the date I gave for “The Donald Barnes Memorial Lecture” by the Revd Richard Carter, is on **Wednesday 25th September** – not the 23rd - a careless slip - my apologies.

Much love and good wishes – Sally



Passing by on my morning walk with the dogs

Points taken from Fr Philip’s Sermon on Mark 3: 20 – 35 **“A Kingdom divided against itself”**

The D-Day anniversary in the news was notable for those who were there – and those who were not.

German Chancellor Scholtz (former enemies), No Putin (former allies);

It was notable for the universal values of the veterans (freedom, democracy) not vs Germany;

All can recognise loss and positive vision, but there was sadness of Russian absence – the division of our time. Divisions bring downfall – the Gospel is a good example;

“If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand”. This does not just apply to us; it applies even to Satan.

And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come.

The Genesis lesson (Gen 3) shows the Temptation of Adam and Eve and then their hiding from God (separation);

Division is bad because the truth is we are in it together;

Gospel reading - starts with healing but brings division (irony), but his Family attempts to reclaim Jesus as their own and they receive a seemingly harsh repudiation;

Jesus asks, “Who is my mother brother sister? Whoever does will of God”. Jesus is not smashing his family but expanding it!

This is a Trinitarian theology– to see Jesus is to see God our Father. This is God’s plan from the beginning. God sees all as good;

Humans are made in God’s image – eternal relationship – nothing outside – giving and receiving;

We look at things the wrong way round. We are chosen before we have done anything - we are chosen – it is not what we do. We are Predestined – not because of our goodness;

It is not about us but about God’s love for us. The ultimate fait-accomplis is the love of God;

Israel was chosen to show us what it is to be chosen – God’s covenant, loving mercy;

We are chosen, not because others are not, but to highlight God’s love for us which is unbreakable;

God so loved the world that we are saved through Jesus - not one by one but together;

This is a guide for us; we are not saved apart from family, friends, neighbours, strangers, or enemies even;

How do we act? The sooner we discover that love, the sooner we are truly free, and the only way to love, to find that freedom is relinquishing the hatred and bitterness and discrimination that disfigures our society and our planet.

A Spirituality of Summer

Reflections for the summer

Gemma Simmonds CJ

*a Senior Research Fellow and Director, Religious Life Institute,
at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge*



The liturgical life of the church tells us that times and seasons matter. Our whole cycle of life as Christians expressed in liturgy and sacrament offers embodied signs of the presence around us of the incarnate God, alive within our own bodies, in the bodies of others and within the whole of creation.

Liturgically, summer is 'ordinary time', when, after the Ascension, we begin to come to terms with the absence of Jesus' earthly body and get the measure of what 'This is my body' might mean in day-to-day terms.

Of course, it has a specific meaning in connection with the Eucharist and Jesus' words at the Last Supper. But part of what we might call a 'spirituality of summer' is an invitation to a more contemplative approach to the life of our senses, noticing more acutely the world as it comes alive all around us.

Summer reminds us of the insane generosity of God. Trees and plants flower and fruit in a way that can seem almost criminally wasteful. Neither animals nor humans can eat and use all the fruit that emerges from the trees and bushes. If a spirituality of summer tells us anything, it is that the fruition of the earth, the fruit of time spent contemplatively going about our daily tasks, is always going to be more than we can calculate and make use of in obvious ways.

A sense of 'the sacrament of the present moment' can liberate us from the tyranny of time, dominated by market forces and the idolization of work and of productiveness as value. The God whose times and seasons are full of generous wastefulness invites us in the summer, perhaps more vividly than at other times, to hear 'this is my body' as an invitation to savour the beauties of creation.



Extraordinary Nature

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 sick, that God's healing hands may be upon them.

We keep in our prayers: **Kamran for a return to full health, for Myfanwy Khan, Anita and Simon Houghton, Eunice Adiele, Gideon Onwutalu, Annie Bwanaope, Sir Edmund Onochie, Rose Ochwada and**

Sheila Grodzinsky who is back in hospital. We wish her well and many prayers. 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

Coventry Litany for Peace and Reconciliation

This litany is based on the seven capital sins. It was written in 1959, and since that year it has been recited every Friday at noon before the Altar of Reconciliation in the sanctuary of England's old Coventry Cathedral.

Prayer of the Community

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The hatred that divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

Father, forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own.

Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth.

Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonors the bodies of men, women and children,

Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves, and not in God,

Father, forgive.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you.



Statue in the grounds of the ruins of Coventry Cathedral.

Topic: Church Wardens' Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

June 24 – July 24								
Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	AV Desk	Duty Managers	Service leader
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	Jenny	Cynthia/Chinwe	Daniel/Ezim	Dozie		Sunday School
Bring & Share	Luke 10:38-42							
07/07/24	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Ash	Tony	Florance	Nwando/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		