

# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 16th May 2024



*Jesus and His Mother Mary by Iconographer Kelly Latimore*

**Dear Everyone** – Greetings to you all.

**Church Family News:** What a joyous service we had on Sunday. There was so much to give thanks for. More of our church family have returned from extended stays in Nigeria. We were so pleased to see Rose back to join the others and with Sisi visiting us from Darlington; Marlies was celebrating the birth of her first grandson, Onyx Olutunde Allan; Kamran and Naila gave thanks for and celebrated both son's successes; one, Solomon, passing his final medical exams and is now a doctor, his brother, Joel, having been appointed to a very good job. Congratulations to them both. Naila provided delicious refreshments for everyone after the service which were much enjoyed. During the service Naila, sung psalm 136 in Urdu (*"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures for ever"*) which was beautiful and much appreciated. Kamran preached on "Thy Kingdom Come" (see report below) and reminded us to pray daily for all the people living and working in our parish as we go round its streets. The Sunday School children, who grow in confidence week-by-week, fed back to the congregation about what they had learned with such zest they were all applauded. We also welcomed baby Zehra, her parents and friends. How good it is to be with everyone in our church family in worship and celebration. **Please note** that Kelly took so many excellent photo's at the celebratory lunch that I couldn't select so I have added them to an attached page. Enjoy! Thank you Kelly. Thank you Naila for the delicious food





**Okey Nwandu:** One sad piece of news was to hear of the unexpected and sudden death of Okey Nwandu at his home in Nigeria. He was a faithful member of our congregation when he was in England and a great shock as felt at hearing the news. We send our condolences to his family, friends and remember him in our prayers.

**Bishop Anderson Jeremiah Welcome:** A joyous evening was held at St Pancras Church on Thursday 9th May to welcome the Rt Revd Dr Anderson Jeremiah as the 7th Bishop of Edmonton. It was a beautifully designed service at which +Jeremiah preached on the importance of hospitality and inclusion. I hope his sermon will be published for a much wider audience to read, ponder on and absorb. How wonderful to meet many friends from across the Edmonton Area. It was particularly heartening, to see so many women clergy present, including younger ones, alongside the men, all who bring such hope to the Church. It was good to meet +Jeremiah's wife, Rebecca, who is herself ordained and hope that when the bishop comes to visit us Rebecca will come too so that everyone can make her welcome. We, at Golders Green, are looking forward to welcoming our new bishop and his family.

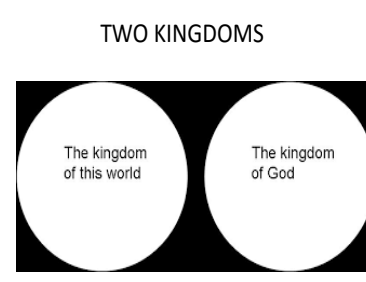


**Baptism and Confirmation Service Date:** having just said how we hope Bishop Jeremiah will visit us soon, Kamran has just announced that he will be coming on **Sunday 22 September 2024**, when he will be baptising and confirming our candidates at the 10.00am service. Please put this date in your diaries so you can all come and join in the celebration of our family members and meet our bishop.

**Kamran** preached on “Thy Kingdom Come: Light up the World in Prayer” for the second week. He asked us to remember its aims and carry out the main points, given as reminders, on the charts below as well as thinking of the message that Jesus gave us on the Sermon of the Mount. We remember we are not alone, we are joining daily with others in our parishes, our country and across the globe, which gives us Strength and Hope.

1. Pray for those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world,
2. Pray for the justice and peace of God
3. Pray for yourself,
4. Eschatological hope, or the future hope

1. The kingdom of God refers to the reign and rule of God over all creation.
2. It is a central theme in the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament.
3. The kingdom of God is seen as both a present reality and a future hope for Christians.



**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 19<sup>th</sup> Bring and Share Lunch:** Please note that the lunch is on this **Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> May**, and not the end of the month. All contributions are welcome.

**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.

**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:** Please remember Christian Aid week is from 12<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> May. The relief and development work they do to support sustainable development, eradicate global poverty, support civil society and provide disaster relief in South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia is of key importance. 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. 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>

**Julian of Norwich**, whose feast day is the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, was a 14<sup>th</sup> Century English anchoress, visionary, mystic and theologian. On the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1373 she received the first of a series of sixteen visions, that she described and interpreted in her writings, the "Revelations of Divine Love". She is sometimes known as Mother Julian or Lady Julian. She was an English Mystic of the late fourteenth Century, living as an anchoress in Norwich. Her life as an anchoress, was an inspiration for many during lockdown as she found Christ in isolation, where he transfigured that isolation into a communion of love, Her 'Shewings', or Revelations of Divine Love, a series of mystical visions of and conversations with Jesus, remain a source of profound wisdom and a gift to the church, present and future. Below is a poem for her by Malcolm Guite, well known to readers of this newsletter.

**Church Cats:** Julian's Icon often shows her with a cat which, it is said, she was allowed in order to keep the vermin away and, perhaps, kept her company in her cell. She is therefore known as the patron saint of cats as well as contemplatives. I have noticed how many Cathedrals and Abbeys have kept cats over the centuries, especially to keep out the mice and rats. Mediaeval cat doors can still be seen in some cathedrals. Southwark Cathedral, to this day, has had cats that have become very famous and have quite a following. Their present one is named "Hodge", after Dr Samuel Johnson's (the compiler of the first dictionary in English 1775) cat in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Hodge certainly treats the cathedral as if it his "place" roaming all over and settling where he feels most comfortable. Below I have included a piece about a very famous cat, "Gracie", that lives (I should rather say "owns"), St Saviour's Church in Riga, Latvia. A church I know well. The chaplain of St Saviour's Church, Eliza Zickmane, has visited us on numerous occasions, and I never fail to get a full report on "Gracie" when Eliza stays with me. The piece below is written by her churchwarden, Michele A Birdy, who describes Gracie as a "little apostle". I thought that too when I was there seeing how she is loved, looked for and made a fuss of by young and older. She makes people feel better, is welcoming, goes out in the streets around where she is recognised and they sometimes come into the church to look for her. She is in fact a role model of pastoral care.

**Parish Giving Scheme:** If you still need information about the “Parish Giving Scheme”, that our treasurer, Tim, talked about at our APCM, I have left his article with all the information at the end of this letter. Please contact Tim and discuss with him if this is something in which you would like to join.

### **Mother Julian – Malcom Guite**



Show me O anchoress, your anchor-hold  
 Deep in the love of God, and hold me fast.  
 Show me again in whose hands we are held,  
 Speak to me from your window in the past,  
 Tell me again the tale of Love's compassion  
 For all of us who fall onto the mire,  
 How he is wounded with us, how his passion  
 Quickens the love that haunted our desire.  
 Show me again the wonder of at-one-ment  
 Of Christ-in-us distinct and yet the same,  
 Who makes, and loves, and keeps us in each moment,  
 And looks on us with pity not with blame.  
 Keep telling me, for all my faith may waver,  
 Love is his meaning, only love, forever.

*From the Amhurst Manuscript of Julian's showing*



**Gracie, our Little Apostle**  
**by Michele A Berdy**  
**Church Warden of St Saviour's Riga**



Gracie (who answers to her name in a multitude of languages) is our church cat. Well, maybe the better way to put it is this: Gracie decided to live with us. We have several cat doors around the church, so she comes in and out as she wishes, and always finds a bowl of food. She likes people very much, so she comes in for our services and concerts. She likes to curl up in a congregant's lap and purr, so one of the rules of St. Saviour's is that if Gracie is in your lap, you don't have to stand during the service.

Our church is in the Old Town of Riga, just two houses away from the President's Palace, but the beauty of Riga is that there are plenty of yards and flower beds and cobblestone alleys to wander safely. Once when we had a kind of open house on a Saturday some diplomats from the neighboring Danish Embassy stopped in. While we were chatting and showing them around, Gracie came in. "That's our cat!" they exclaimed. That's how we found out she liked to visit their Embassy during the day...

Another time someone put up a photo of Gracie sitting in front of the church on Facebook. "Look at this poor cat!" the person wrote. "She is a stray." Scores and scores of people wrote in. "Are you kidding? That's the most famous cat in Riga – and the most coddled and best fed! She lives in the church! Everyone knows her!"

The best — and most amazing quality — of Gracie is how much she loves people. Once a French tourist was looking at the church when Gracie wandered up. I told him she was our "church cat," so he petted her and told her how lovely she was. "Do you think I can have a picture with her?" he asked. I said, "Sure!" So he sat down on the cobblestones (this was summer so they were warm), Gracie jumped in his lap, and I took photos.

On Latvian Independence Day (November 18) tens of thousands of people walk along the river embankment past our church. Last year it was cold and rainy on the holiday, so our Chaplain, Elīza Zikmane, thought we should open the church and have hot tea and cookies for people. Hundreds and hundreds of people streamed in, and hundreds of them — mostly children — wanted to meet Gracie. Gracie — who just wanted to take a warm nap — let every single one of them — all those little hands and sticky fingers and excited squeals — pet, cuddle her, and tell her how lovely she was.

Everyone smiles and feels happier, more content, when they see a cat (or dog or other pet). Gracie makes everyone feel welcome and loved at St. Saviour's. She is our little Apostle.



*Revd Eliza Zickmane with Gracie*

## 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/](https://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/](https://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.

## 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: **Myfanwy Khan, Anita and Simon Houghton, 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.

Pray for **Okey Nwandu**, who died suddenly. May he be in the loving arms of God and his family richly consoled.

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

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### **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: Nwennaka

Hospitality: Florance

AV Desk: Dozie

Intercession: Tony

Eucharist Minister: Sally and Tony

Duty Manager: Tim

#### **Contact details:**

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873, Website: [www.gg-pc.co.uk](http://www.gg-pc.co.uk)

# Sunday 12th May Celebratory Lunch

