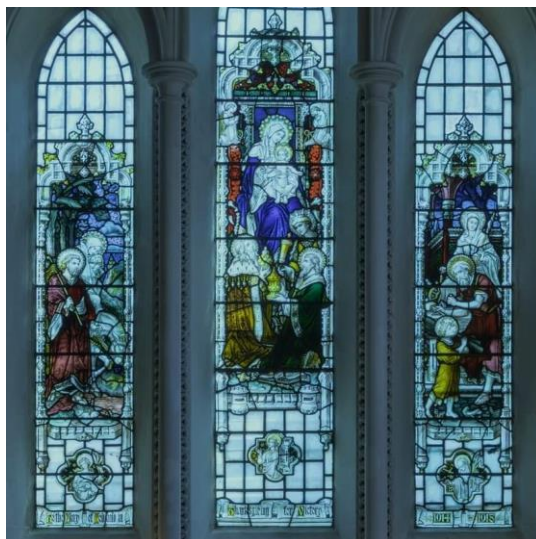


# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024



*Epiphany Window- Southwark Cathedral*

**Dear Everyone** – Hoping you are all well and keeping warm at this time. There is a lot of news and information this week so please note all that interests you, especially the:

On-line event from St Paul's Cathedral with our new **Bishop of Edmonton in discussion with Paula Gooder on "Jesus in the Margins" on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February between 7.00 and 7.45pm. \***

More details are given at the bottom of this newsletter.



**Jesus on the Margins**

**Anderson Jeremiah**

**Premieres online on Tuesday 6th February, 7.00-7.45pm**

**Listening to God:** During the Sunday service, Kamran reminded us that we will be approaching Lent in the next few weeks, a season which seems to be upon us very quickly this year having just celebrated Christmas. However, the theme for the next few Sundays will be, "Listening to God"; especially noticing how we hear God through other people with whom we come in contact. He emphasized how God speaks to us in many different ways, in a variety of circumstances and through many different people, whoever they are, so we always need to be listening and aware.

**Listening to God through other people:** We started off with Jenny who gave a moving Testament about her Father who, while suffering from Alzheimer's, unexpectedly stood up at a function and spoke to those present, clearly and lucidly. Jenny has written about it for the newsletter so it can be shared with those who were not present and remind those of us who were there of what he said.

**Meditation in a troubled world:** In his intercessions on Sunday, Tony talked of the importance of silence in prayer and meditation and to listen to what God might be saying to us. He gave us time to do just that. It was indeed peaceful and meditative and maybe something we need to do more of. He read psalm 8.

As there is so much strife and warfare taking place at the moment, at so many levels, and while we are all praying constantly for peace and Justice, it carries on regardless. There is a great deal of discussion about our need to be peaceful in ourselves and towards each other and to take the practice of mediation seriously to set a background of peace for the world as well as ourselves.

Below is a synopsis of some writings taken from Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations that a number of us receive each day and ponder on. Richard is a Roman Catholic Franciscan priest, Ecumenicist, writer on spirituality based in New Mexico. He founded "The Centre for Action and Contemplation" and has a world-wide following through his and his teams daily writings on prayer and especially the importance of Love. You might find these snippets helpful and thought provoking.

**The wisdom of the Holy Spirit:** Following on from "Meditation in a troubled world", these wise words printed below were recently spoken by Pope Francis who talks about the "Wisdom of the Holy Spirit". He in his wisdom and compassion echoes what so many others of different denominations and Faiths are saying and speaking with one voice.

**Bible Study:** As we are approaching Lent, Kamran would like to hear from you if you are interested in joining in with some Bible Study sessions to take place during the 6 weeks of Lent. Please let him know.

**Future Events – Ideas:** It has been suggested it would be a good idea if we, as a church family, planned a variety of events, paced throughout the year, that we could join in together. Events such as, perhaps, a picnic on Hampstead Heath with a visit to the newly renovated Kenwood House; A retreat with an inspiring speaker; re- engaging with the St Alban's Abbey Festival Day in June, that we used to attend each year; perhaps a visit to Canterbury Cathedral and a guided tour round the Cathedral; another barbecue in the vicarage garden with our Asian congregation that was so successful last year. These ideas arose from our Wednesday morning coffee group. There are many things we could do and would like to hear what you think. Could you give it a thought and let Kamran know, talk about it over Sunday coffee or write ideas down on a paper provided on the table at the side of the church. We need to share our ideas.

**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.

**Tim's Father, Cecil, is celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 21<sup>st</sup> January. Tim's brother Chris is inviting everyone to a scheduled Zoom meeting at 3.30pm on that day.**

**Please join the zoom meeting if you can wish Cecil a Happy Birthday.**

**Details below.**

Topic: Cecil's Centenary

Time: Jan 21, 2024 03:30 PM London

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82326019901?pwd=CSata2aJRU8iv2gP6HRBiqBCFoOFjk.1>

**Meeting ID: 823 2601 9901**

**Passcode: 8SLgxw**

**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.

**URGENT MESSAGE RE The TODDLER GROUP: Do to unforeseen circumstances there were only 2 adults to run the Toddler Group last Tuesday.** The group went ahead as planned but there should have been more adults present. We do desperately need more volunteers to help on Tuesdays if the group is to continue. If you feel able to help with this or know anyone who would like to do so, please let Kamran or

Tracey know on 020 8455 1873. It need not be every Tuesday but if we could get a Rota of people that would be so good.

**A Rocha's Eco-Church Monthly Eco Tips:** You may remember that we are signed up to A Rocha's Eco-church award scheme; their and our aims are important regarding conservation and ecology. Before Lockdown, we did achieve a Bronze Award, but our participation has slipped since then. To help and encourage churches they have produced a calendar for 2024 which contains twelve 'eco-tips' for the year, with an easy idea every month to inspire each of us to aim for a greener lifestyle. **Small actions can make a big difference, especially if lots of us do them.** The eco tip for January is printed below and another will be given for each month. See what you can do in trying to develop some of the ideas.

**Margaret Morgan:** We have just been informed by Margaret's brother, John Maberley, that Margaret died on 15<sup>th</sup> January at her nursing home in Kent. She died peacefully with her family around her. Rex was present to give her the Last Rites. Her funeral will be on 13<sup>th</sup> February at St Peters and St Paul's Church, Saltwood, Hythe, Kent. Margaret was a great and loyal member of Golders Green Church. She was church warden for many years, and Health and Safety officer among many other things. She gave a great deal of her expertise and energy to the church and was loved and respected by all in the congregation and in the Edmonton Area. She was missed when she left. We will remember her with much love, gratitude and affection as we did Hugh her husband when he died.

**With love and good wishes – Sally**

### **Listening to God through other people - Jenny**

This is a shortened version of the testimony I shared in Sunday's service, which I hope was an encouragement to those who heard it – and will encourage those who are reading this!

I described something that had happened more than 15 years ago but which left a huge impression on me and is still talked about by some of those who were there.

I was leading an informal Christmas service at my previous church and was thrilled that my parents were able to be there. I started by referring to a wedding I'd been to recently, where the bride's sister had started the prayers with "Wow, God!". I wondered whether we'd lost the "wow" factor in our approach to Christmas, and hoped that this service might help us recover it. Little did I know!

I'd asked the oldest member of our congregation, Margot, who was 95, to say a few words about how her attitude to Christmas had changed over the years. She spoke beautifully and movingly about her experience of Christmas at different times in her life, and some of the themes she found particularly important.

After that I opened the floor to anyone who wanted to comment on what had just been said, or to develop it – I hadn't planned to do this, but it just seemed like a good idea at the time. To my enormous consternation Dad immediately stood up and began to speak. My consternation was enormous because he was well into dementia, unable to concentrate or follow what was going on, had lost much of his memory, and was altogether rather unpredictable.

What he said was astonishing in its coherence, relevance and authority. He began by introducing himself as a visitor who only knew a small number of those present. He commented on what Margot had talked about, saying it was clear the Holy Spirit had been at work in her life, and she was an example of how God could work in all kinds of people, of any age. He said that he'd been involved in church all his life, and that going to church was important, but what was even more important was how we behaved the rest of the time. We have always to be open to the working and guidance of the Holy Spirit: we need his presence in our lives all the time. It doesn't matter if we don't like people or don't get on with them, we have to follow the leading of the Spirit regardless.

He continued in this vein for 3-4 minutes (I guess, I was too stunned to be aware of time), without any hesitation, repetition, or deviation, before concluding and sitting down. I was distinctly wobbly by then, but got through the rest of the service, just!

Afterwards, a couple of people came up to me to say how encouraged they'd been by what Dad had said. I explained about his dementia, and they were amazed. This was not Dad speaking – it couldn't have been – but the Holy Spirit using him prophetically to speak some important truths into our church. The most significant was the urging to follow the Spirit's leading whether we like people or not – that was unbelievably relevant to our context, and there was no way he could have known that.

As well as being a really important moment for that church, this was a huge learning experience for me personally. God can speak through anyone, irrespective of their age, health, capabilities, or anything else and I hadn't got to write Dad off just because he had dementia. He'd always been a gifted teacher and public speaker and God was clearly using those gifts even in the depths of his decline. Dad was a lifelong follower of Jesus, and even though his human relationships had become very difficult, his relationship with God was absolutely rock solid. Mum was still taking him to their church small group and I knew that his prayers in those meetings were very powerful. He would also read the lesson in church with clarity and authority. I remember too that he would give thanks before meals with profound prayer. All of that was, and remains, a tremendous reassurance and encouragement.

Listening to God through other people isn't only a matter of listening to the 'obvious' voices, but as Kamran said being alert to him speaking through the unexpected ones as well. Wow, God!!



### **The wisdom of the Holy Spirit alive in Pope Francis:**

“You can have flaws, be anxious and even be angry, but don't forget that your life is the greatest business in the world. Only you can stop it from failure. You are appreciated, admired and loved by many. Remember that being happy is not having a sky without storms, a road without accidents, a job without effort, relationships without disappointments.

“Being happy is to stop feeling a victim and become the author of your own destiny. It's going through deserts, but being able to find an oasis deep in your soul. It's to thank God every morning for the miracle of life. It's kissing your children, cuddling your parents, having poetic moments with your friends, even when they hurt us.

“To be happy is to let live the creature that lives in each of us, free, joyful and simple. It's having maturity to be able to say: "I made mistakes". Having the courage to say "I'm sorry". It's having a sensitivity to say "I need you". Is having the ability to say "I love you". May your life become a garden of opportunities for happiness... that in spring I can be a lover of joy and in winter a lover of wisdom.

"And when you make a mistake, start over. Because only then will you fall in love with life. You will find that being happy doesn't mean having a perfect life. But she uses tears to irrigate tolerance. Use your defeats

to train your patience.

"Use your mistakes with the serenity of the sculptor. Use pain to tune into pleasure. Use obstacles to open the windows of intelligence. Never give up ... **Above all, never give up on the people that love you. Never give up on happiness, because life is an amazing show.** "



### A Rocha - Your monthly 'Eco-tip'

As mentioned above "A Rocha" has produced a calendar for 2024 which contains twelve 'eco-tips' for the year, with an easy idea every month to inspire each of us to aim for a greener lifestyle. Small actions can make a big difference, especially if lots of us do them

One of its other projects is called 'Wild Christian'. This is for individuals and families who want to enjoy and learn about nature together, take practical action at home and in their local areas, and join with other voices to have an impact at national level.

That's why the calendar focuses on easy-to-implement tips so that all of us can do something, regardless of our lifestyle or schedule. It encourages us to live more joyfully and sustainably with God's creation. With that in mind, here's January's eco-tip!

**Make 'enjoying nature' your priority. From bird watching, to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or veg or visiting an area of outstanding natural beauty in the UK - be sure to fall in love with nature in a new way this year.**

For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, including the Monthly Tips, sign up to "A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email" at: [arocha.org.uk/wild-christian](http://arocha.org.uk/wild-christian).

**Maybe our Sunday School children** might like to take part in some of the activities, like bird watching, or drawing something they like from nature, for example. They could then show and tell us about what they have done on Sundays in the Service as they usually do so well.



### Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations

The following passages are short synopses of one week's daily writings from Richard Rohr and his Team who are all theologians and writers. Each day they are enlarged upon. You will see they all pick up the common thread that is running through our newsletter, from Kamran's "Listening to God", Jenny's Father's comments, Tony's intercessions, the Pope's reflections all based on the importance of meditation, listening, love, care for selves and others and respect for our environment. We all share such important aspects of Faith and life.

**Here are one week's synopses:**

**"Every day Jesus would follow the same rhythm:** withdraw for solitude, but then come back to engage by healing, feeding, caring, welcoming, binding up the wounds of this world, and implanting in people a vision of resilience, engaging with a world on fire.

—Brian McLaren

**Monday**

Amidst this time of planetary change and disruption, the CAC (The Centre for Action and Contemplation) envisions a movement of transformed people working together for a transformed world.

—Richard Rohr

**Tuesday**

We must allow our imaginations to begin to live within the world that responsible science is telling us will be our fate unless drastic changes are made soon. We must do this so that we can acknowledge where our hope really resides—not with us, but in the power of love and renewal that lives within the universe, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God.

—Sallie McFague

**Wednesday**

We're on a quest to find out how to have an engaged expression of deep spiritual life that makes a difference in a world on fire.

—Brian McLaren

**Thursday**

We need regular quiet time with God in order to have the strength, courage, and vitality required for social action: for moving against injustices, speaking truth to power, and assisting in humanitarian efforts.

—Lerita Coleman Brown

**Friday**

God offers us quiet, contemplative eyes; God also calls us to prophetic and critical involvement in the pain and sufferings of our world—both at the same time. This is so obvious in the life and ministry of Jesus that I wonder why it has not been taught as an essential part of Christianity.

—Richard Rohr".

If you would like to receive daily Meditations from "The Centre for Action and Contemplation", the link is:

<https://cac.org>daily-meditations>



## 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.

**We pray for Margaret Morgan who died this week in her nursing home surrounded by her family. We remember her and all she did for this church for many years with love and gratitude.**

**Kelly's Father, John Rudge**, has been diagnosed with a mouth cancer. He is waiting to hear what kind of treatment he is to receive. Please pray for him, for Kelly and her family and for Gods healing hand to come upon him.

Paula, Sylvia's mother, died recently in Italy. Sylvia was with her and Shaniv 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 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](mailto:Kamran@gg-pc.co.uk) or by phone, **020 8455 1873**

## **Jesus on the Margins - Anderson Jeremiah\***

Online event premiered on YouTube and then available on catch-up.

Anderson Jeremiah and Paula Gooder talk about Jesus in the Bible, in history, and in our lives. They explore his suffering, death and resurrection, how much stories and images of him matter, and how we can live as disciples of Jesus today. We also hear something of Anderson's own faith story, his influences in Black, Dalit and Liberation Theologies, and his journey from Dalit background in South India to his life as a priest and scholar in the UK today.

The Revd Canon Dr Anderson Jeremiah takes up the role of Bishop of Edmonton in the diocese of London from spring 2024. Previous to this, at Lancaster University he has been Senior Lecturer and Associate Dean (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and People) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences while serving as associate priest of St Paul's, Scotforth, in the diocese of Blackburn.

Dr Paula Gooder is Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral, a distinguished New Testament scholar and the author of numerous popular and academic books.

The event is free, but if you are able to make a donation to the continuing learning programme at St Paul's Cathedral when you register for the event we would be very grateful.

[Register now](#)

**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](http://www.gg-pc.co.uk)



## Church Rota January – February 2024

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	Duty Managers	Service leader
21/01/24	Psalm 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
<b>Bring &amp; Share</b>	TBC						
04/02/24	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Khan	Jenny	Naila	Ezim/Daniel	Cyntia 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	
<b>Bring &amp; Share</b>	Mark 2:1-12						
03/03/24	2 Corinthians 3:1-6	Keith	Nwando	Ezim	Nwadi/Nehar	Shaniv & Alexis	Alexis
	Mark 2:13-22						