

NEWSLETTER

20th June 2024



Dear Everyone – Greetings to you all.

Welcome back Archdeacon John to be with us while Kamran is recovering from his stay in hospital. Kamran is likely to be away for a couple of weeks to make sure he has really recovered and is told he is fit for work. We miss him but want him to get fully well.

Archdeacon John preached a really fine sermon on the importance and value of the little, seemingly insignificant things in life and nature that, given time, in themselves make a big difference. Thinking of the mustard seed, (taken from the Gospel reading, Mark :30-32), the smallest of seeds, He particularly emphasised the parable of the mustard seed; how this tiny seed grows into a huge tree providing shelter to birds and animals. He made the following points:

- the farmer sows the seed but how it germinates and grows 'he does not know'. God works through our not knowing, and that should produce humility in us;
- 'when you've sown the seed don't meddle too much!'
- we must contrast the surrounding culture of success, growth, reward with the humility we as Church should be living. All we can do is sow the seed - 'let go and let God do the work'. Do not dig it up to see how it is growing;
- throughout everything, there is the theme of trust, which brings life;

John made the analogy with Mother Julian of Norwich who marvelling at the small Hazelnut she held in her hand said:

- God has made it
- God loves it
- God keeps it

See below, Julian's saying. (Thanks to Jenny for noting down the main points above)

Sunday School Father's Day: Just how wonderful are our Sunday School children, who had a practical lesson on love and gratitude by making some cakes for everyone in the congregation for this important day.



The wonderful smell of cooking coming out of their room made us wonder what was going on – we didn't know - but they were finished in time and brought out to share with us all; and how delicious the cakes were. Thank you so much to all our excellent cooks and to Ifey and Modupe for the recipe and delicious inspiration. Congratulations to all involved.



Sir Edmund Oche: It is so good to hear from Ifey that her dear father has had his operation this week and it was successful. He is now recuperating in hospital. We send him our prayers and good wishes and look forward to seeing him back with us fit and well.



Manifesto's: The news is dominated, unsurprisingly, by manifesto's from all Parties standing for election. We, in our turn, are being encouraged to think deeply about what and who we intend to vote for that are in keeping with the principles of our Faith. There are many voices assailing us promising Utopia when we know that anything offered will take a long time to lift the country and people into a healthy place that enables the flourishing of those around us. We pray for Wise and Just discernment. Jenny sent us a comment by Sophie Sanders, the Marketing & Communications Lead, LICC, who expresses her feelings about being bombarded by it all. Jenny put it on WhatsApp, but, from a number of favourable comments made, it is reproduced below for us to think about.

Nehar's Intercessions: Sophie Sander's comments inspired Nehar to think about what she said on. "getting informed, thinking wisely and prayerfully about which issues and policies will direct our votes".

so she based her intercessions on them. They were appreciated as well as giving food for thought. They are below.

“Pray Your Part”: Just a reminder booklets containing daily prayers, **“21-day journey of prayer and reflection”**, for us to use in the run-up to the Election are on the side table in Church. Each day explores a different theme, with a short Bible reading, reflection and prayer for a different aspect of our common life. You can get your own pack sent directly to you by emailing the Church House website at: [Pray Your Part \(chpublishing.co.uk\)](mailto:chpublishing.co.uk).

John Wesley’s Manifesto: As if we haven’t had enough of manifesto’s, I came across one compiled by the Methodist Historian and Theologian Gary Best who extracted clear aims from John Wesley's writings and preaching (Founder of Methodism in mid-18th century), which he put them in a form of a Methodist Manifesto for people to live by. They read as well for now as they did in the 18th century. I have put them below and would be interested in what you think.

Bible study: Our Bible study group will continue this **Thursday 20th June** from 6.30pm. Unfortunately, no zoom will be available. We continue to read Paul’s letter to the Romans, chapters 5&6 if you would like to prepare. 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. One good thing about having the church open, as on Wednesday mornings, is the opportunity it provides for visitors to come inside, look round and have a coffee and chat with those present. This Wednesday two visitors, Mr and Mrs White. came in who told Kamran they had been married in this church on 25 March 1967. How good it was to meet them, but also, that they could look round the church and bring back memories of their wedding day.



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: Again, 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.

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



Nehars Intercessions

“I came across this reflection recently and it really spoke to me”.

“When the carols have been stilled; when the star-topped tree is taken down.
When family and friends have gone home; and when we go back to our busy schedules.

The work of Christmas begins

- To bring the light and life of Christ to a perishing world
- To welcome the refugee and the foreigner
- To feed the hungry
- To build bridges of trust and not walls of fear
- To share the gifts God gives us
- To heal a broken planet
- To seek justice and peace for all people.....

We think about all these in the light of the forthcoming election.



Sophie Sanders

Marketing & Communications Lead, LICC

(London Institute for Contemporary Christianity)

Politics is dominating the headlines. No surprise, really, because there’s a General Election in just a few weeks’ time.

But I’ve got a confession to make. I’ve been scrolling past these headlines on the hunt for topics that are more up my street: think health, fitness, wellbeing, relationships. It’s a coping mechanism, an avoidance tactic, and an escapism strategy. Because, if I’m honest, I feel supremely underqualified to make a decision about who to vote for and totally disillusioned with all the manifestos.

I’m speaking to myself when I say it’s important to return to the fundamentals. Whether you’re loving the election coverage or wish you could fast forward through the next few weeks, it’s a privilege and a

responsibility to have the right to vote. As followers of Jesus, it's a way in which we join in his redemptive work, pursuing a means of governance that reflects his kingdom values and enables the flourishing of those around us. And that means we need to get informed, thinking wisely and prayerfully about which issues and policies will direct our votes.

What God cares about is what we should care about. And his priorities transcend left-versus-right party politics. He commanded humankind to 'work' and 'take care' of the land (Genesis 2:15), to 'administer true justice', 'show mercy and compassion', and to 'not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the foreigner, or the poor' (Zechariah 7:9–10).

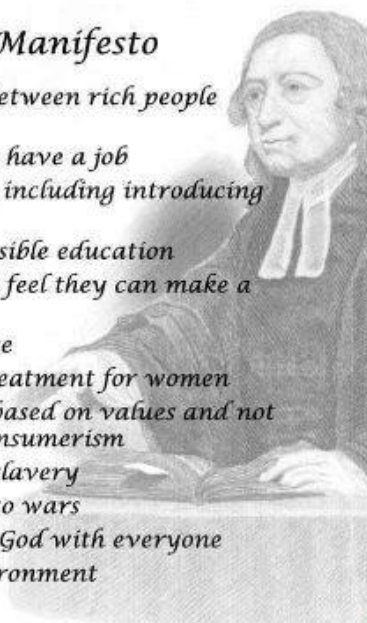
Even though election coverage is pretty far down my watchlist, I know I need to think about these issues. Which policies will best align with God's pattern for human flourishing by celebrating good, punishing evil, pursuing peace, and protecting the oppressed? And which leaders would we be wise to submit to? Because ultimately, unless it directly contradicts biblical commands, we're called to obey and honour human governance (Romans 13:1–2).

In the coming weeks, you'll likely engage in conversations about the election with neighbours, friends, colleagues, and family members – some of whom will have reached different conclusions about where they'll cast their vote. Let every conversation be seasoned with grace. Avoid tribalism. Be open to hearing other perspectives. Because, under Christ's rule, there's no place for militant arguments with your mates or political slurs in the office.

Finally, join me in praying for the new government – for wisdom in decision-making, for stability in our land, for good and honest governance, and policies that enable the flourishing of all.

John Wesley's Manifesto

1. *Reduce the gap between rich people and poor people*
2. *Help everyone to have a job*
3. *Help the poorest, including introducing a living wage*
4. *Offer the best possible education*
5. *Help everyone to feel they can make a difference*
6. *Promote tolerance*
7. *Promote equal treatment for women*
8. *Create a society based on values and not on profits and consumerism*
9. *End all forms of slavery*
10. *Avoid getting into wars*
11. *Share the love of God with everyone*
12. *Care for the environment*



Mother Julian and the Hazelnut



Julian was an anchoress who lived in the middle ages. She lived in permanent seclusion in a cell in Norwich. Her writings, known as, “The Revelations of Divine Love”, are the earliest surviving English language works by a woman and an anchoress. From her cell window in Norwich, she witnessed the many upheavals of her time; the Black Death, the Peasants Revolt and the Suppression of the Lollards. She gave advice and spiritual help to many who came to her cell. It was written she was, “*enclosed and yet exposed, hidden and yet visible. She prayed for others and interceded....*”

She had, as a young woman, been gravely ill and it was thought she would die but when ill she experienced 16 revelations of Christ, which she received on May 13, 1373 and recounts in her book. Among the many sayings she gave she talks of the Hazelnut that she held in her hand and said:

*“And in this he showed me a little thing, the quantity of a hazel nut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed. And it was as round as any ball. I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding, and thought, ‘What may this be?’ And it was answered generally thus, ‘It is all that is made.’ I marveled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly have fallen to nothing for littleness. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. And so have all things their beginning by the love of God. In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is **that God made it.** The second that **God loves it.** And the third, that **God keeps it.**”*

(Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love).



Invitation to the Hustings at Alyth Synagogue

Please note this important date, which is an invitation to the General Election Hustings 2024 will take place on Thursday, 27 June, 19:30.

The Venue: Alyth Synagogue. Alyth Gardens, NW11

This event is in collaboration between Alyth Synagogue and Golders Green Parish Church.

There will be an opportunity to hear from the candidates for the Finchley and Golders Green Constituency about their vision, and to grill them about their proposals. They are, Alex Deane (*Conservative*), Sarah Hoyle (*Liberal Democrat*), and Sarah Sackman (*Labour*) who have all so far confirmed their attendance. The evening will be chaired by Alyth member, Michael Skapinker (*Contributing Editor at the Financial Times*).

[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.

How We Are

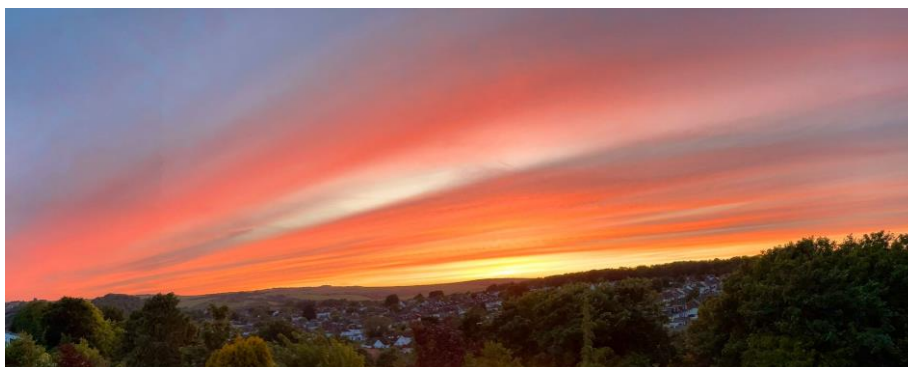
We send all those who are sick our love. Please continue to pray for all who have been unwell that they gain in strength and good health as well as those who are grieving because of loss of a loved one.

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



Nature and scenic photos by Alison Barnes

Topic: Church Wardens' Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0x0DaDhY2paUT09>

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 ROTA

		June 24 – July 24						
Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	AV Desk	Duty Managers	Service leader
23/06/24	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Kool	Jenny	Bilan	Tim/Naila	Shaniv	Alexis	
	Mark 35-41							
30/06/24	Colossians 1:15-28	Nwennaka	Nehar	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		