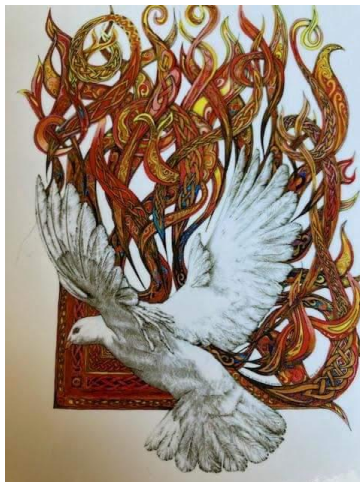


NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 22nd February 2024



Dear Everyone – Greetings to you all.

We welcome Archdeacon John who took the service on Sunday while Kamran and Naila are on a well-earned holiday. How good it is to see him again. We are always pleased when he comes to us.

Lent Bible Study: our weekly discussion on the “Letter of James”, started last Thursday. It takes place at 6.30pm in the church room (where the Sunday School meet) or, for those who find it easier, by zoom. Because there are 5 chapters in all, reading one a week will see us through Lent. Taking it in turn to read a few verses each of chapter 1, we had time to ponder on his message and think about our reactions. Jenny took the notes a couple of us made and has turned them into a full coherent piece so that you can see what was discussed and think of your own reactions. Thank you Jenny.

Do come if you can and join us, either, in person or by zoom.



Kamran has also suggested that for our personal daily Lent reading, the Gospel of Mark, which takes us through much of the earthly ministry of Jesus and his death and resurrection is a gospel for reflection. Mark is said to be the gospel upon which the others gospels have been based.

Birthday Celebrations: At the end of the Service we celebrated the birthdays of Ezim and Ash. We prayed for them, wishing them a good year ahead and sung Happy Birthday. And, of course, there was a delicious array of cakes.



A Service of Lament, Longing and Love: Jenny attended a service at St John’s Waterloo, co-organised by a wide range of churches and Christian organisations, including Christian Aid. It marked the start of a 10-day continuous prayer vigil for climate justice, located outside Parliament. Below is an article she has written about it.

“What Peace Looks Like”: below is a remarkable painting by a young 13-year-old girl from Slovenia who entered a competition depicting a piece of art that showed, what “Peace Looks Like” and won.

Sunday School Sponsoring: We had the most excellent report at the end of the Service from members of the Sunday School about their decision to sponsor the RNIB (Royal National Institute of the Blind). The congregation was engrossed by what each had to say. Elizabeth, Poppy, Nwanneka and Sam wrote out the decisions that had made about being sponsored and why and spoke with conviction and enthusiasm. They then invited us to support them in their sponsorship of the RNIB, and, also put any used stamps we receive in the box provided at the side of the church; as Jenny wrote last week about this, the RNIB raise money from the sale of used stamps.



A Rocha’s UK Easy Eco Tips: As published in previous newsletters, A Rocha has made a monthly calendar of tips for us to carry out and enjoy to encourage the healthy development of nature and to improve our lives and the lives of others. The tip for February is printed below. What other ideas do you have?

Nehar’s sponsored walk for the Night Shelter: Carrying on with the theme of sponsorship; Nehar, as you know, has organized and run the Night Shelter work, in partnership with Alyth Synagogue for some time now. She does this with a team of volunteers from our church and Alyth. It has always been very successful. **On 2nd March a sponsored walk is taking place** to raise money to provide more funds for this important work. It is a 4.5 mile walk. People could either, join her on the walk, or, sponsor her. Nehar suggests we could also enter as a church family. Would you let her know what you think and how you would like to support

this important venture? Details of the route, which is local, and sponsorship forms, will be available next week at the Service or given on the church WhatsApp.

The Toddler Group: Resumes after half term and thank you to those who responded to the appeal to have more help for the Toddler group. It is important that we have the right number of adults helping each week. It need not be every Tuesday but if we could get a Rota of people going, for what is 2.5 hours in the morning.. If you feel able to help, or know anyone who would like to do so, please let Kamran or Tracey know on 020 8455 1873.

Diary of Yearly Service Celebrations: Attached to the newsletter, as an extra page, is a time-line of Services and Events that are taking place throughout the year. It will be helpful as an Aide-Memoir to put on your Kitchen notice board or in your mobile phone.

Baptism/Confirmation classes: Please let Kamran 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 great to have him confirm members of our church family.

Wednesday Morning Coffee: 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.

With love and good wishes – Sally



Lent Discussion Notes on Letter of James chapter 1

On Thursday 15th we had our first Lent group gathering, when six of us joined Kamran to read and share our thoughts on chapter 1 of the letter of James to the Jewish diaspora (the ‘twelve tribes’ in v1).

Over the next four weeks we’ll be looking at the remaining chapters of the letter. It’s not too late to join us, either in church or on Zoom, for what has already proved to be a helpful and thought-provoking conversation. It’s such a treat to be able to listen to and learn from each other, and we had a super evening!

By way of background, the James who wrote this letter is thought to be the brother of Jesus. We remarked on the humility in the way he wrote, not referencing that he was brought up with Jesus and could therefore claim special status. Instead, he refers to Jesus as Lord, and himself as a servant of God. He’s very direct in his writing style, which was probably appropriate in his culture but took us a bit of getting used to.

Our discussion ranged widely. These were some of the main themes that we touched on:

- ✚ We have to learn to listen – this is so important (v 19 “Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger”).
- ✚ We may have firm beliefs but need to be open to other views and to the possibility of changing our thinking as a result (not being dogmatic or rigid but flexible). We should always ask ourselves ‘What

if the opposite is true?' We referred to our recent sermon series on listening to God, including through other people.

- ✚ Love and truth have to go together
- ✚ Love and action have to go together
- ✚ The letter is counter-cultural, and turns normal expectations and assumptions upside down (like the Sermon on the Mount)
- ✚ Some of us struggle to feel joy in trials – we tend to see trials as negative, asking 'where is God in all this?'. It's hard to understand why awful things happen, but James assures us that they help us become mature and complete. We acknowledged that God doesn't *cause* bad things to happen but does use them to help us develop.
- ✚ Doubt can be a big issue, and most of us have been through dark times where we've questioned where God is, or even if God is there at all. At such times we need the support and prayer of other believers. The liturgy can help us as well – the words are there for us when we have no words ourselves.
- ✚ Linked with that, we acknowledged that the communion service is "Christianity in a nutshell". The essence of our faith is all there. Communion strengthens us, however we're feeling. We need to remember that God is always there and faithful even if we are not.
- ✚ Worshipping with a gathering of people, however diverse and different, does bring us all together and that's incredibly important. (Though we are many we are one body')

We finished by each identifying one point or action which we would take away from the discussion, these were:

- ✚ Be slower to anger. Reflect on why I'm angry.
- ✚ Learn to be more joyful, especially when times are hard. Find things to be joyful about.
- ✚ Try to have more 'meaningful' conversations with people to discuss the things that are on our minds. E.g. over coffee after church service, Wednesday coffee morning
- ✚ Don't hold views rigidly, but be open to other ways of seeing things.

Notes compiled by Jenny

"What Peace Looks Like" – Painting by Anja Rozen



This drawing is by Anja Rozen, a 13-year-old primary school student in Slovenia. She was chosen from 600,000 children around the world to create a piece of art to show what peace looks like. She is the winner of the international Plakat Miru competition.

Anja said, "My drawing represents the land that binds us and unites us."

"Humans are woven together. If someone gives up, others fall. We are all connected to our planet and to

each other, but unfortunately we are little aware of it. We are woven together. Other people weave alongside me my own story; and I weave theirs".

Service for Lament, Longing and Love – Jenny

On Ash Wednesday I took part in a service of lament, longing and love, hosted by St John's Church Waterloo and co-organised by a wide range of churches and Christian organisations, including Christian Aid. It marked the start of a 10-day continuous prayer vigil for climate justice, located outside Parliament.

As the climate crisis wreaks havoc, the intention is to bear witness to its impacts and pray for transformation. Prayer is powerful. It can bring transformation, even in the midst of injustice. Lent offers us a season both to lament the failure to address the climate crisis and the hope of change as we approach the resurrection transformation of Easter. The gathering is brought together by A Rocha, Cafod, Christian Climate Action, Green Christian, JPIT, Operation Noah, the Salvation Army, and Tearfund. Together we are praying for creation, for our global neighbours and for bold climate action from the UK Government.

The vigil comes soon after the UK government issued licences for the right to drill for oil and gas in [24 new areas](#) across the North Sea. This decision is in direct contrast to advice from the International Energy Agency which outlines that there can be no new fossil fuel projects if the world is to stay within the 1.5°C limit on global warming.

The vigil has three asks of the government:

- **Make the UK's biggest polluters pay for climate action, through taxing fossil fuel giants.**
- **Deliver and build on the UK's international climate finance pledges and pay into the UN's Loss and Damage Fund.**
- **Ban new UK-based fossil fuel projects.**

The vigil is supported by senior church leaders from many denominations. For instance, **former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams said:**

"Every day that passes increases the urgency of action on the climate crisis, for the sake of our whole human family. In Lent, Christians remember that they are part of creation, not lords of creation, and that their life and salvation depends on being willing to turn away from pride, violence and greed in order to receive what God longs to give to all. This vigil calls us to renew that vision and respond to that invitation."

Rev Helen Burnett, vicar of St Peter and St Paul's Church in Chaldon, and member of Christian Climate Action, commented:

"For the first 10 days and nights of Lent we will be praying for an end to new oil and gas licences. Lent is associated with giving something up. Our politicians can keep their chocolate. What they need to do is give up their obsession with extractivism, and create a just transition to renewable energy sources. This would benefit the poorest households, whose fuel bills would get cheaper. Jesus' message was always for the poor. This vigil is for the poorest homes in the UK, and for the poorest countries of our world, who have contributed least to the climate crisis." –

Christian Aid offers this reflection and prayer:

We lament that climate breakdown is destroying lives around the world, Communities suffer floods, fires and drought. People lose their homes, livelihoods and loved ones. We grieve their losses. We bear witness to the vast profits of fossil fuel giants who push us deeper into climate chaos. We recognise and repent of our broken humanity that has embedded patterns of inequality. We bow our heads.

Amen

If you'd like to know more about the vigil, or to sign up to join it for an hour or more, please have a look at Christian Aid's website: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/climate-change/nfiff-lent-vigil-climate-justice>.



Sunday School Sponsorship

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips



These snippets are for you to **copy and paste** into your church's newsletters, orders of service or any suitable communication. Please add the following text after any eco tip you use:

[Insert eco tip] **For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email at: arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian**

Or for a smaller space we suggest:

[Insert Eco tip] **For more eco-tips, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email at: arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian**

FEBRUARY

Go Green(er) for Lent. The weeks leading up to Easter are a great time to start or give something up that benefits nature and helps address climate change. Is there a change you can make to better care for creation and improve our lives and the lives of others through healthy, eco-friendly and sustainable living?



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.

Diane (Turpe) had a nasty fall while out shopping last Saturday and hit her head. She was taken to hospital where she was treated, looked after and then sent home. She has been told to rest and is feeling a little better. Please pray for her and for a complete recovery. We send her our love.

Modupe's brother: It was with deep sadness that we heard of the death of Modupe's brother, **Oluwale Odulana**, in Nigeria. We send love, condolences and prayers to Modupe and her family on her loss.

Kelly's Father, John Rudge, is continuing to make very good progress at home after his operation. Kelly sent this lovely message of thanks to everyone for all the prayers that have been offered for him. *"Please thank everyone in church for dad and me; their prayers have been phenomenal. The love and support I've felt makes me the richest poor person ever. I thank each and every person in church for playing a part in his journey xxxx"*

Sisi and Afi: It is so good too to hear that Sisi has recovered well after her operation and Afi has recovered after being ill. We pray for them both and Rose, giving thanks after an anxious time.

We keep in our prayers **Sheila Grodzinki, Anita and Simon, David Agbim, Chuba Agbim, Eunice Adiele, Gideon Onwutalu, Annie Bwanaope, Modupe Odulana 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 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=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0xDaDhIY2paUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: J4FbKf

GGPC Rota Feb – Mar 2024

		February 24 – March 24						
Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	AV Desk	Duty Managers	Service leader
25/02/24	2 Corinthians 1:18-22	Abi	Jenny	Nehar/Chinwe	Tim/Naila	Ruth	Chinwe	
Bring & Share	Mark 2:1-12							
03/03/24	2 Corinthians 3:1-6	Keith	Nehar	Ezim	Nwadi/Nehar	Shaniv	Alexis	Alexis
	Mark 2:13-22							
10/03/24	Eph. 2:4-10	Kool	Tony	Bilan	Ifeyinwe/Onyeka	Onyeka	Florance	
	John 3:14-21							
17/03/24	Hebrews 5:5-10	Poppy	Nwadi	Cynthia	Sally/Tony	Dozie	Tim	Nehar
	John 12:20-33-							
24/03/24	Phil. 2:8-9	Nwennaka	Sally	Silvia	Tim/Naila	Ruth	Chinwe	
Palm Sunday	Mk. 11:1–15:47							
29/03/24	Philippians 2:5-11	Andrew	Nwando		Nwadi/Nehar	Shaniv	Alexis	
Good Friday	Mark 14:1-15:47							
31/03/24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Khan	Jenny	Ezim/Daniel	Ifeyinwe/Onyeka	Onyeka	Florance	Alexis
Easter Sunday Bring & Share	Mark 16:1-8							

Services and Event dates for GGPC 2024

Services

- World day of pray - 1st March (venue to be confirmed)
- Maundy (Holy) Thursday – 28 March 5 pm ???
- Asian Lent Service - 28 March 6 pm
- Good Friday - 29 March at 10 am
- Stations of the cross ???
- Easter Sunday – 31 March 10 am
- Ascension Day (Thursday) 9 May at 7 pm
- Pentecost Sunday – 19 May
- Trinity Sunday – 26 May
- Harvest Sunday - 22 September
- All Saints' Day – 1 November
- Christ the king Sunday - 24 November
- Carol Service – 22 December

Social Events

Ideas

1. picnic on Hampstead Heath with a visit to the newly renovated Kenwood House;
2. A retreat with an inspiring speaker.
3. re- engaging with the St Alban's Abbey Festival Day in June
4. perhaps a visit to Canterbury Cathedral and a guided tour round the Cathedral.
5. Joint BBQ - 21 July (Sunday)