

NEWSLETTER



*Pentecost Window from Taize
Photo by Revd Rosalind Rutherford*

Dear Everyone – Greetings to you all. We had such a good and joyous service on Sunday, celebrating the Feast of Pentecost; one of the most important days in the Church. Some call it the birthday of the Church when the Holy Spirit was sent to the disciples, and others with them, giving them strength and power to go out into the world to proclaim the love of God to everyone- for everyone. In Acts 2: 1-13, the scene is graphically described for us. It is said they began to speak in many different tongues so all those bewildered listeners understood what was being said but couldn't understand how this happened. They thought the disciples must be drunk!

Kamran blessing with oils.



I wish everyone could have heard our Sunday school children telling the story in their own way and in great detail, it was wonderful to hear and one we certainly won't forget. The significance of this account is so important for us because what took place at Pentecost it is meant for everyone not just a chosen few. The Revd Dr Sam Wells from St Martin-In-the Fields, talking about this day could not have put it better, when he said, *"The Spirit rests on a multicultural mix of saints old and new. Pentecost proclaims that the work of reconciliation was not only the work of Jesus, incarnate among us, but is the central work of the church in ministry and mission. The church has no deeper work than reconciliation: its work is to reconcile people to God, to creation, to one another and to themselves."*

Congratulations Sam and Waneka: for their awards of certificates of achievements from their schools. It is so good to see members of our Sunday School doing so well.

Wessex Gardens Primary School: It was a pleasure for us to welcome the children from Wessex Gardens Primary School to our church last Monday, so they could learn about Christianity and worship. We had approximately 45 students and 8 adults.

Diocese of London Letter: All of this mentioned above, is reflected in the May Letter from the Diocese of London, excerpts of when are printed below. Emphasis is made on the variety of the richly diverse members in our churches and the importance of truly representing the body of Christ in all that richness to grow healthily. Please do read this letter with all the aims and information developed by the Diocese towards achieving this.

Below is a poem by **Malcolm Guite** reflecting on Pentecost and the action of the Holy Spirit who talks of how. *“The right words come today in their right order And every word spells freedom and release”*. Malcolm refers to the Holy Spirit as “her” as in Hebrew she is referred to as “Ruach” as well as “Wisdom” which is used for the Feminine.

Prayer Walks: I wonder how our Prayer Walks in context of the “Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Journeys”, have been going during the 11 days between Ascension and Pentecost? How have we been doing them? Perhaps, while we are shopping, walking to get the train or bus to work, walking the dogs, going round the nearby Parks. Have you found, too, that they have fitted in well with the focus we have had over the past weeks on noticing the beauty of creation around us more acutely? **Below is a poem by EE Cummings**, an American poet, author and playwright, who captures, as so many poets do, the essence of what we can experience, if we really look at nature in a way that opens our eyes and ears more fully. Do you feel as he does, *“Now the ears of my ears awake and now the eyes of my eyes are opened”*?

Floods: Nehar has alerted us to the devastating floods in the city of her birth in Nairobi where her son works. People there have lost so much. There are also floods taking place in many other countries too, depriving people of their homes, livelihoods and lives. Nehar has suggested that we, as a church family, might consider raising some funds to send to those who have lost everything to bless them with God’s love. Perhaps, she thought, the Red Cross who provides emergency aid to areas struggling after natural disasters, or any other organization who provide similar support, would be good to donate to. Please discuss this with her.



Photographs sent by Nehar’s Daughter-in-Law

Daniel: The Dennis Memorial Grammar School Reunion: This coming Sunday, 26th May at 12 noon, following our Service, there is going to be a “Rededication Reunion Service” for the Dennis Memorial Grammar School Old Boys. Daniel who is organising it says that, “This was the first Secondary Grammar School founded in 1925 in East Nigeria, by CMS and named after Archdeacon Dennis. Its principles and curriculum are based on the Christian Faith, Discipline, Scholarship and Excellence”. Each year a rededication Service is held by old boys of the school who come from all over the UK and Ireland. We, at Golders Green are very privileged to be the host for this service at which many old boys and their families will be attending. We welcome them all.



Invitation from, our local MP: Mike Freer, (Golders Green and Finchley) has sent an invitation to all those over 55+ to his “Advice and Information Fayre”. It will be held on **Friday 7th June 2024 from 10.00am- 12noon** at **Golders Green Synagogue, 41 Dunstan Road NW11 8EA**. The aim of the fayre is to give those attending a chance to speak to and learn about the wide range of support of voluntary and and social activity groups available to us. Present will include, Age UK Barnet, Barnet Libraries, Department for Work and Pensions, The Arts Depot, Ventricea, Diabetes UK, Finchley Charities, North London Hospice, Thames Water and Yoga-for-all, plus many others. It looks a good and helpful occasion to attend.



Baptism and Confirmation Service Date: Bishop Jeremiah will be visiting us 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. It will be a morning of great celebration.

Bible study: Our Bible study group continues on **Thursday 23rd May** from 6.30pm. We are reading our way through Paul’s letter to the Romans and discussing our thoughts on his message, considering what he has to say to us and the context of the time in which it was written. Please do join us, the discussions are always interesting and illuminating. Sandwiches and coffee/tea are available.

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.

Much love and good wishes - Sally

Pentecost - Malcolm Guite



Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
 Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
 Today the church draws breath at last and sings
 As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
 This is the feast of fire, air, and water
 Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
 The earth herself awakens to her maker
 And is translated out of death to birth.
 The right words come today in their right order
 And every word spells freedom and release
 Today the gospel crosses every border
 All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
 Today the lost are found in His translation.
 Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.

Icon by Kelly Latimore

London Diocese

Did you know that London is the largest diocese in the Church of England? The Willesden Area alone is larger than 23 dioceses (ranking 18th in size, just behind Winchester, Sheffield, and Blackburn). Did you also know that in London there are over 250 different languages spoken? As mentioned above in terms of Pentecost, “The love of God is proclaimed for all, to and for everyone, each in their own language”. This point is emphasized in the latest Diocesan letter which contains a very strong Pentecost message, “*Only once we are truly diverse can we represent the body of Christ in all its richness – and grow healthily. To reach every Londoner we need to be active in combatting racism and racial injustice. Equality of opportunity, more leaders of diverse ethnicity, fairer selection processes*”.

In the letter, emphasis is put on the importance of having a theological understanding as we begin to tackle the evil of racism within our structures, policies and processes. This is something the Diocese has been developing for some time upheld by a theology that underpins the racial justice strategy within the Diocese of London that is now published. It is called: [striving for racial justice in the diocese of London](#) and reminds us of the significant role we can play in combatting racism in all its forms and how we can collectively journey together with Christ to build a better future for all surrounded by prayer.

The '[Lament to Action](#)' report by the Anti-racism taskforce owns and accepts the legacy of racial inequity within the structures and processes of the church and provides clear actions to enable a culture change to root out the sin of racism from its core in all its forms.

Members of the Racial Justice Priority Group (RJPG) issued [a statement](#) dated 26 April 2021 in response to the anti-racism taskforce report which supports the report and makes clear that there are structural issues that we need to address and culture change that needs to follow.

It is the intention of the RJPG in line with its [terms of reference](#) on behalf of the Diocese of London to pursue a [racial justice strategy](#) that moves forward the 'racially just' priority of 2030 Vision to action the commitment to embody the life of Christ and begin the transformative work that will embed a culture that is intentionally anti-racist. The links to the policies and guidelines have been left in blue for you to follow up and read. It is so good that our new bishop, Jeremiah Anderson, has much experience in these areas and is well placed to help guide us and take us forward.



Daisies growing in our churchyard

EE Cummings to inspire you today.

I thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes
(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)
how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?
(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened).

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.

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

Natash

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: Ash

Hospitality: Chinwe

AV Desk: Ruth

Intercession: Sally

Eucharist Minister: Tim/Naila

Duty Manager: Chinwe

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873, Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk