

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 29th February 2024



*St Martin-in-the-Fields East Window
Designed by Shirazeh Houshiary in collaboration with architect Pip Horne
installed in 2008.*

Dear Everyone – Greetings to you all.

As wars and skirmishes wage in so many places at huge cost to so many innocent lives, particularly the children who pay the price for such aggression, we pray daily for peace and a sense of healing and calmness to come over the world. No one wins as a result of all this, other than the arms manufacturers and their allies who profit from their gains. We are bombarded with it all on the news and in the media. It is not surprising that we feel a deep sense of impotence and despair. In amongst all this it is important to remember, or learn about, those organisations who do not get the same publicity as those who create wars; organisations who have been working and are working determinedly for Peace. One such is the Corymeela Community that started in Northern Ireland by one man, who lived the words of St James, whose letter we are studying on Thursdays, that, “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by works, is dead”(ch 2v17).

Listening about the work of this amazing and courageous Christian community, as I have often done at conferences, it reminds me that there are so many people who believe in and act on Christ's words, “Blessed are the peacemakers for theirs is the Kingdom of God”. I have written a short piece below about this Christian community which is very active in working among many people of all faiths for peace and reconciliation. We are also reminded too that there are many others in the UK and across all other countries who join in unity in their deep belief that peace is the only way to create a world worth living in.

Learning Together: Lent Course. Jenny wrote, “We had another super Lent group gathering on Thursday, with six of us getting together to share our thoughts on chapter 2 of the letter of James. As in our first session we shared many different insights and it was a joy to learn from the experience of others, all with their own particular perspectives which made for a truly enriching evening.

Below are some of the points that emerged as we listened to and learned from each other”.

Next Thursday evening we will be looking at chapter 3, and sharing our thoughts as we have done in the previous two sessions. It is never too late for you to come and join in in person or attend by zoom. It is so good to hear everyone's thoughts. (And - by the way - for those who attend in person we have some very nice sandwiches!)

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

St Paul's Cathedral Conversation: On Tuesday evening Canon Paula Gooder had a conversation with, Dr Selina Stone, a lecturer in Theology at Durham University. The theme of the conversation was, **"Tarry Awhile: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for People of Faith"**. Dr Stone has written a book of the same title that has been recommended by the Archbishop of Canterbury for this year's Lent reading. The conversation was excellent, engrossing, full of insight and wisdom. After hearing her, which opened up so much for me, I ordered her book. Dr Stone gave a clear and loving insight of her faith, beliefs and practices from her background as a black Pentecostal woman, from which much was learnt. I do urge you to listen to this session which is only 45 minutes long (and could have been longer). You can go to it by clicking on the link: <https://youtu.be/IlkiC7Kcuel> and the film will start immediately.

Birthday Celebrations: At the end of the Service we celebrated the birthday of Natasha with prayer and singing Happy Birthday. Hope you had a lovely day Natasha.



Sunday School Sponsoring: members of the Sunday School recently gave us the most excellent report about their decision to sponsor the RNIB (Royal National Institute of the Blind). Elizabeth, Poppy, Nwanneka and Sam on behalf of the Sunday school gave their decisions about why they chose to sponsor this excellent charity. They spoke with conviction and enthusiasm and the congregation was engrossed by what each had to say. We were invited to support their sponsorship of the RNIB, by bringing any used stamps we receive and putting them in the box provided at the side of the church. At some point the RNIB is sending a display of posters with other ideas of how we can help them further.

Nehar's sponsored walk for the Night Shelter on Saturday 2nd March: She is doing this in partnership with all the other volunteers from churches, synagogues and organisations who run the Night Shelters. We partner Alyth Synagogue and have done so successfully from the start. This event is to raise money to provide more funds for this important work. The walk is about 4.5 miles. People could either, join her on the walk, or, sponsor her on Sunday or when convenient. **More information is at the bottom page of the newsletter.**

Bring and Share lunch – Sunday 3rd March: We will be having our Bring and Share lunch this coming Sunday 3rd March after the Service. Offerings of food will be appreciated. The food is always delicious and a time of good fellowship. All are most welcome.

The Toddler Group: How good to hear that the Toddler Group is increasingly well attended as more people tell their friends. While parents and carers stay with their little ones through the session, it is still important that we have the right number of our adults helping each week. It need not be every Tuesday but if we could get a Rota of people going, for 2.5 hours once a week in the morning it would be so good. 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.

APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting): Please put this important date in your diaries and come to the **APCM on Sunday 28th April**. This will take place after the service. We will have a chance to look back on all the events and gatherings of the last year, read the report and ask questions.

APCM 28th April 2024

You are all welcome to join the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The meeting starts at 12pm–2pm

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 (you can do it sitting down!) followed by coffee, cake and a chat – and it is fun - so do come and join in. This is followed by a short communion service at 12noon.

Spring: This lovely season is bursting to come through in spite, or maybe, because of the constant rain fall we have had. Jenny took a number of photos in Golders Hill Park including one of a mother duck with her ducklings, which she said she was surprised to see hatched so early. I noticed too, the trees in the streets around are full of beautiful blossom and thought, “aren’t they a bit early?”. I think our unpredictable weather is making the seasons confused. If you have any pictures you would like to offer for the newsletter, please send them to me, as they really help to cheer everyone up.

With love and good wishes – Sally



Listening and Learning Together: Letter of St James Chapter 2 - Notes by Jenny.

- The huge importance of the principle that ‘faith without deeds is useless’ (v 20). If our faith is a living one good deeds will follow naturally as evidence of our faith. There’s no point having faith if our lives don’t reflect our faith.
- God looks at the rich and poor very differently from the way the world does (vv 5-7). The world works in favour of the rich and powerful. The Gospel’s approach is the opposite (we talked in the first week about how it is counter-cultural). Jesus turns the world upside down! We referred back to the Sermon on the Mount on this point.
- There is no place for favouritism, in the church or anywhere else, and we mustn’t judge by appearances (vv 1-4). We talked a lot about this and acknowledged how easy it is to give preferential treatment to certain people because of their power, wealth, appearance, ethnicity, or any other characteristic. We have to be aware of our unconscious biases and then take steps to overcome those.
- We wondered whether it was better to talk about ‘discrimination’ rather than ‘favouritism’ as the former emphasises the seriousness of the behaviour.
- We thought about how the ‘baby’ Christian communities who heard the letter read to them would have reacted in their respective contexts. They were probably poor and many would be living on the margins of their societies, so it could have been the first time they’d felt affirmed and valued – perhaps even more so for the women. This was, as we have seen, a radical and counter-cultural message and we could imagine them feeling shell shocked! Should we be more shocked by the message ourselves?

Do have a look at James’ letter and see what you think. Let us know your thoughts.



Corrymeela Community

Studying the Letter of St James, there are times when the instructions about living a Christian life just jumps out at you. Particularly his words that..... It made me think of the communities and groups I have come across who show this in the most challenging of places and situations. To recognise that, if the will is there, ways can be found to work for Peace and Reconciliation which could be supported from the top rather than thinking of so many ways of killing innocent people. One that sprang to mind (among so many) is the Corrymeela Community that was founded in Northern Ireland 1965 by Ray Davey, John Morrow and Alex Watson to help individuals and communities who suffered through the violence and polarization of the Northern Irish conflict with the aim of bringing reconciliation between the two conflicting sides. There are comparisons to be made in the warring situations we see happening now where people and groups are working similarly and with such courage at a great cost to their lives.

Corrymeela began with the idea of the importance of "Community" (something we talked about after reading James, in our Lent group), with individuals, inspired by their Christian Faith, agreeing to be in respectful relationship with each other as an example of how people can live well together. They seek to work with others, locally and internationally, to be a centre of international understanding, to develop practical faith and inter-fairg reflections about reconciliation. From their Ballycastle Centre, their inter-cultural meeting place, they deliver many programmes for a wide range of people of all faiths and none (rather similar to the work of Coventry Cathedral and the Reconciliation Centre). Each year over 6,000 participants take part in programmes at their Corrymeela Centre. Every year they support around 7,500 people who are mainly from marginalized communities, to explore difference and discover ways to live well together. They support mothers who have struggled to parent their young people in the face of challenges such as drugs and para-militarism in West Belfast. They work alongside people from youth and social groups, family and community organisations, faith communities and political parties. They run group sessions using dialogue, experiential play, art, storytelling, mealtimes and shared community to help groups embrace difference and learn how to have difficult conversations. They also exhibit artwork with themes of peace and reconciliation for Northern Ireland. In 2007, it exhibited The Linen Memorial, a piece made from almost 400 Irish linen handkerchiefs listing almost 4000 names of those killed in the Northern Irish conflict. Visitors left mementos and tokens beside names of those killed, making it an interactive and evolving artwork. In 1997 they were awarded the Niwano Peace Prize, in honour of "its contribution to significantly to interreligious cooperation, thereby furthering the cause of world peace."

As pilgrims of various traditions and beliefs they continue the journey they started, working towards a society/societies whose priorities are Justice, mutual respect, the participation of all, concern for the vulnerable and stranger, stewardship of resources and care for creation. They often call themselves "Frail Pilgrims" but they are there spreading their beliefs and work. The situation in Northern Ireland is by no means a totally peaceful one, it doesn't get the media publicity it used to, but it has improved greatly and this community has done much to influence those in power to support ordinary people who grew up at the worst of times to find ways of living in peace. We need to pray that those working similarly in all the warring parts of the world manage, through their persistence and Faith, have similar influence to stop the senseless and cruel killings and are heard by those who are responsible for such misery. One cannot help thinking though, "How long oh Lord- How long!"

Medieval Carvings

When we visit Cathedrals and ancient churches we cannot fail to be filled with awe and admiration for the skill we see of the work of those who created carvings in stone and wood. They continue to delight us in the present day. One thing that always amuses me, along with some medieval paintings and icons, is the humour the creators portray in their work. They are not held back from showing life as it was and people as they

were. In the choir stalls of Ripon Cathedral, there are many carvings of imaginary creatures that are said to be the inspiration for some of the creatures in Alice in Wonderland. The young Lewis Carroll (Charles Dodgson) knew them when he was young as his father was a Canon at the Cathedral and it is said he drew his inspiration for his well-loved and much read book, from them. This is one of them. Who knew there was so much humour in our Cathedrals and churches to make us smile.



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 well and sent home. She has been told to rest and is feeling a little better but bruised. 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, **Oluwole 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 after his operation. On his recent visit to the hospital he was told there was no cancer in his lymph glands and they were confident they had taken it all as a result of the operation. Such good news and many prayers of thanksgiving.

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 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

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

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

Nehar's Sponsored Walk:

Please see the route:

Start

10:00-10:20 Sha'arei Tzedek Synagogue, 120 Oakleigh Rd N, London N20 9EZ

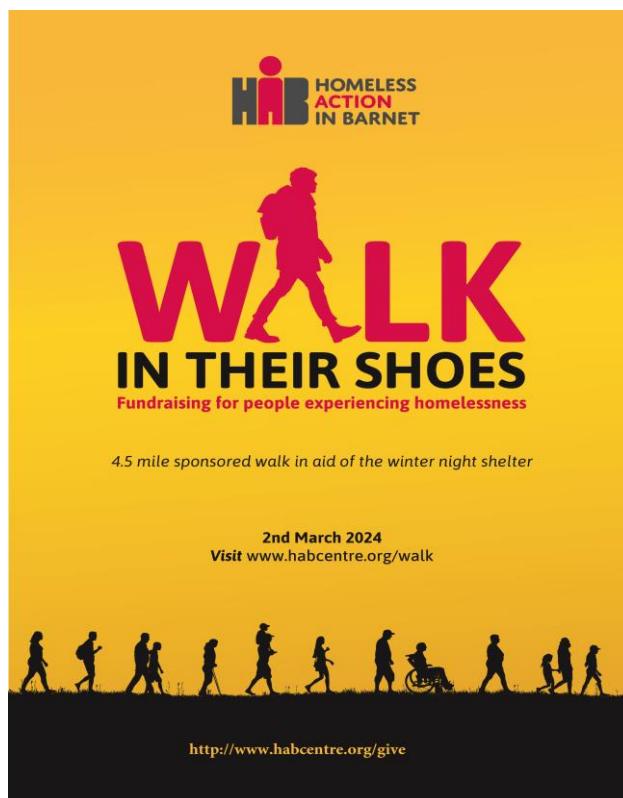
10:50- 11.10- St Barnabas 913 High Rd, London N12 8QJ

11:45- 12.10 - St Mary's Church Finchley Central, 26 Hendon Ln, London N3 1TR (TEA BREAK)

12:30- 12:45 FRS 101 Fallow Ct Ave, London N12 OBE

13:00 – HAB 36B Woodhouse Rd, London N12 ORG

Finish



| | Name | Email | Address | Phone | Amount of Sponsorship | Paid | Gift Aid? |
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Sponsorship form HAB Charity # 1155559

Thank you for sponsoring me to raise money for the night shelter in Barnet. Homeless Action in Barnet, an organisation of local synagogues and churches as well as other faiths and secular groups, is the only shelter for homeless people in Barnet. Made possible through the generosity of local Barnet residents, The Night Shelter receives no government funding. This 4.5-mile walk will take me across Barnet and funds raised will help to run the shelter for the coming season.

GGPC Rota Mar 2024

| March 24 | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|---------|---------------|----------------|
| Date | Bible Passage | Readers | Intercessor | Refreshments | Eucharistic Minister | AV Desk | Duty Managers | Service leader |
| 03/03/24 | 2 Corinthians 3:1-6 | Keith | Jenny | 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)

