

NEWSLETTER

9th October 2025




Our Next Archbishop of Canterbury
the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE.

Dear Everyone

Bishop Sarah's appointment: History has been made with the appointment of the first female Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE. This has taken place only 31 years after women were ordained in 1994 with the first female bishops following 20 years later in 2014.

Bishop Sarah was a nurse, originally working in The Royal Marsden Hospital specialising in oncology. She rose to be Director of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. From there she went on to become the Chief Nursing Officer for England; the youngest person to hold this position. She was ordained priest in the Church of England in 2015 and served in London Churches before she went on to serve as a Canon at Salisbury Cathedral, later being appointed Bishop of Crediton (Devon) in 2015. She, with Rachel Treweek (now Bishop of Gloucester), were the first female bishops to be consecrated at Canterbury Cathedral. She became Bishop of London in 2017. On her appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury she will be Primate of All England and metropolitan bishop of the Province of Canterbury. Sarah is a woman of deep faith, compassion, skills and ability. As Archbishop of Canterbury, she has, what everybody recognizes, a range of demanding and arduous tasks to face in steering the Church of England and overseas Provinces through complex and often divisive issues. We congratulate her in the role she will take up in March 2026, and pray that she may be given strength to carry it out with wisdom, infinite patience and insight, and, the support of many prayers to guide and uphold her with the love of God.

Bishop Sarah is married with two children.



**A PRAYER FOR
THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY**

Almighty and everlasting God,
the only worker of great marvels,
send down upon your servant Sarah,
called to be Archbishop of Canterbury,
and all who are committed to her care,
the spirit of your saving grace,
and that they may truly please you,
pour upon them the continual dew of your blessing.
Grant this, O Lord,
for the honour of our advocate and mediator,
Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Harvest Service:



Thank you to all who contributed non-perishable goods for our Harvest Service. They will be delivered to All Saint's Childs Hill for their food bank. The food bank serves an increasing number of families who are struggling to provide sufficient food and other products to sustain them. We do welcome donations every week as well and thank everyone who provides the goods.

Nehar's Birthday Celebration: What a fabulous and joyous celebration it was after the Sunday Service for Nehar's 70th birthday. We not only had cake but Nehar provided a delicious lunch of chicken, rice and many other delicacies. Happy Birthday was sung and prayers said for a future year of happiness and fulfilment. So many photos were taken that showed how much members of our congregation were enjoying themselves, that a selection of them are included below. Thank you Sima and Nehar for the photos.



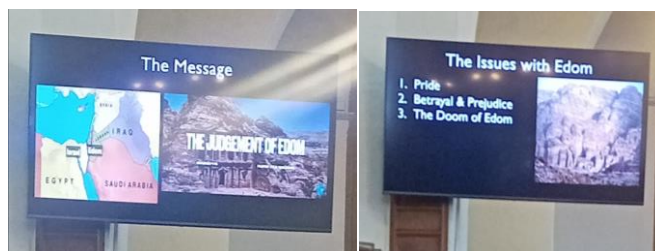


Cecil Nurse Funeral: The funeral of Cecil, Tim's father, will take place in our church on Thursday 16th October at 2.00pm. All those who would like to come and support Tim and his family are welcome to attend. It would be appreciated if you could let us know by, either indicating on the church WhatsApp, or, ringing the church, 020 8455 1873 and leaving a message.

Invitation from the North Finchley Synagogue: This to a Sukkat Shalom this Sunday afternoon from 1.30-4.00pm. Please sign up if you are coming. Information below.

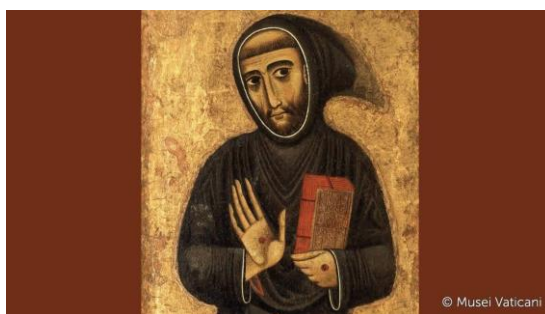


Obediah: Continuing with the books of the Old Testament. This week it was the book of Obediah, which is the shortest book in the Old Testament. It is thought to have been written shortly after the fall of Jerusalem in 586BC before the exile. It is based upon Obediah's prophetic vision of the fall of Edom whose founding father was Esau, twin brother of Jacob whose descendants were the Israelites. The quarrel between them had a profound effect on their descendants for decades. The Edomites had helped the 'Babylonians loot Jerusalem when they were being sieged and Obediah condemned Edom for their betrayal, prejudice, cruelty and sins committed against God and Israel. He said that God/Yahweh would wipe out their house forever. Obediah stated that, "The Lord is the Lord of ALL nations", and what happens to them shows how God confronts the pride of them all. "The day of the Lord is near for all nations", he said, and warned them "As you have done, it will be done to you, your deeds will return to your own head". The meaning of his prophesy is that all nations who act like Edom will face God's justice as God is God overall. It is thought that Obediah, like other OT prophets is pointing down the time from Abraham to Jesus; that God will not forsake those who he has placed his favour on and will bring redemption.



St Francis: The 4th October was the celebration of the Feast of Francis of Assisi, the thirteenth-century Italian whose greatest honour was to be known as il Poverello, “the little poor one of Christ.” This is an apt time of year for his celebration being the “Season of Creation” as he is the patron saint of animals and ecology. His love and passion for nature and animals led to many stories told of him speaking to animals and taming them. Having served as a soldier he became ill and started questioning his life which led him to his path of poverty.

I recently went on a peace pilgrimage to Italy following the steps of St Francis. We went to his home town of Assisi and saw the house where he was born, to the church, San Damiano where he had his vision and the magnificent Basilica where his remains are buried, as well as the hermitage in the rocks where he spent time for peace and prayer. His life inspired so many great artists to paint his story and the most amazing murals painted of the gospel stories. It is doubted that he would have approved of all this adoration as he took himself from his order to live a life of great simplicity and poverty. A brief outline of his life written by the Revd Richard Cattley is below.



Safeguarding message from Florence: Please take note of this message from Florence. PCC members, have you undertaken your MANDATORY Training for safeguarding, (*If not please let her know when you are doing so or have taken it as she needs to keep a record*). Perhaps a way of doing it together could be found. Please read the piece Florence has written below about Safeguarding Sunday, which will be taking place in our church and all other churches on **16th November 2025**.

Listening and Learning, Bible Study: The date of the next session is Thursday 30th October at 6.30pm

Coffee: As usual our coffee morning is from 10.30am-12noon; coffee, cake and a chat followed by a short communion service at 12noon. Do come and join us.

Toddler Group: The Toddler group started on 9th September. It would be much appreciated and welcomed if you could think of helping out, or know anyone who might like to do so.

With Good Wishes and Love – Sally

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally gives her first address as Archbishop-Designate at Canterbury Cathedral

Posted on: October 3, 2025 4:12 PM



The official address given at Canterbury Cathedral on October 3rd 2025, by the next Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE.

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith, active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Today, as I respond to the Call of Christ in this new ministry, I remain rooted in my first calling: to follow Christ, to know him – and to make him known to the world.

Reflecting on the experiences which have prepared me for this role, I am deeply thankful to the people, the churches and communities of the Diocese of London. It is my deep privilege to have shared ministry with you for almost eight years. In discerning this step, it has not been easy to accept that I will be leaving you. Washing feet has shaped my Christian vocation as a nurse, then a priest, then a bishop. In the apparent chaos which surrounds us, in the midst of such profound global uncertainty, the possibility of healing lies in acts of kindness and love.

With humility and grace, we uphold and support those in need of our help. We do this to the best of our ability, in small ways and big, according to our own very particular gifts. That too is the service which I offer to the Church today.

Given the many struggles of our Church and of societies here and around the world, I am often asked where I see hope. I have the privilege to see hope in communities, chaplaincies and churches in the Church of England and across the wider Anglican Communion.

In parishes across this nation, I see faithful clergy and congregations worshipping God and loving their neighbours. I see thousands of churches running food banks and homeless shelters. I see hospitals and prison chaplains caring for people and families in times of desperation. I see Church of England schools educating a million children across this country.

I hear parishioners ringing bells and inviting people to pray. I hear the quiet hum of faith in every community, the gentle invitation to come and be with others, and the welcome extended to every person. In all of this, I see hope – because I see the person of Jesus Christ, reaching out to us all.

Last summer, I found myself in three Anglican churches—in three different countries—in rapid succession. In Brazil, Canada and Barbados.

In each one I was able to follow the liturgy without hesitation: Morning Prayer, the Eucharist, collective prayers for the people; the rhythms of Anglican worship echoed with familiar grace. I saw something deeply distinctive, coupled with mutual understanding: a shared inheritance of history, of family of worship, Sacrament and Word—made real in global diversity. Anglican Churches and networks around the world working together in mission, joining their voices in advocacy for those in need.

In an age that craves certainty and tribalism, Anglicanism offers something quieter but stronger: shared history, held in tension, shaped by prayer, and lit from within by the glory of Christ. That is what gives me hope. In our fractured and hurting world, that partnership in the Gospel could not be more vital.

Hope is made of the infinite love of God, who breathed life into creation and said it was good. Hope shimmered in the courage of Abraham and Sarah and the challenging call of the prophets. Hope resounded through Mary's 'yes' to God's call to bear His Son. Hope is found in Christ's triumph over sin and death.

Hope doesn't skip over grief, pain and messiness of life but enters into it, and tenderly tells us that God is with us.

Across our nation today, we are wrestling with complex moral and political questions. The legal right of terminally ill people to end their own lives. Our response to people fleeing war and persecution to seek safety and refuge. The pressures on communities who have been overlooked and undervalued. The deep-rooted question of who we are as a nation, in a world that is so often on the brink.

Mindful of the horrific violence of yesterday's attack on a synagogue in Manchester, we are witnessing hatred that rises up through fractures across our communities. I know that the God who is with us draws near to those who suffer. We then, as a Church, have a responsibility to be a people who stand with the Jewish community against antisemitism in all its forms. Hatred and racism of any kind cannot be allowed to tear us apart.

In every church you will encounter Jesus Christ, and his teaching to love one another: our source and our standard. This is both gift and responsibility. Jesus Christ is the life-changing hope that brings us together as church, even in our own brokenness and messiness – and sends us out into the world to witness to that Love. I long for that same hope for all those around the world caught up in war. For those living in extreme poverty. For those on the front lines of the ever-worsening climate crisis. For our Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters, and all the peoples of the Middle East. For the people of Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Myanmar and the DRC. May God end the horrors of war, comfort those who mourn, and bring hope to those living in despair. And I pray especially for Anglicans in those places, as they suffer alongside the people they seek to love and care for.

The Christian faith is unwavering in its teaching that we are all made in the image of God. Each one of us deserves to be treated with dignity, compassion and respect. Christ commands us to love God, and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

In living in the service of others, we must also confront the dynamics of power— an issue brought into sharp focus by the recent safeguarding reviews and reports. As a Church, we have too often failed to recognise or take seriously the misuse of power in all its forms.

As Archbishop, my commitment will be to ensure that we continue to listen to survivors, care for the vulnerable, and foster a culture of safety and well-being for all.

This will not be easy. Our history of safeguarding failures have left a legacy of deep harm and mistrust, and we must all be willing to have light shone on our actions, regardless of our role in the Church.

Since my ordination, I have witnessed a significant professional and cultural shift in safeguarding. I know the National Safeguarding Team continues to work tirelessly alongside diocesan professionals and countless parish volunteers, to ensure that we are a Church that not only prevents abuse, but responds well when it is reported.

Safeguarding is everyone's business. But for those of us in senior leadership, it carries an added weight of accountability.

The role of the Archbishop of Canterbury is complex and challenging. But there is also something very simple about it. Along with my colleague bishops, I am called to share the hope that we have found in Jesus Christ – and what it means for us all as individuals, and as a society.

The role that I will take on next year is one that can only be done together. I look forward to sharing my ministry with the Archbishop of York, with Bishop Rose, the wider College of Bishops, and with Primates and Bishops across the Anglican Communion.

I will share it too with the clergy, congregations, schools and people of Canterbury diocese. And I am especially grateful to the students of Archbishop's School. Thank you for being here today as we begin this new chapter together.

Our ministry, our ministry as Christians is always shared. The proverb tells us if we want to go fast, go alone, but if we want to go far, go together.

I'm told that there will be much talk today of this being an historic moment – and a joyous one for many. I share with you in that joy – not for myself, but for a Church that listens to the calling of God and says: yes, we will follow you.

Some will be asking what it means for a woman to lead the Church of England, and to take on the Archbishop of Canterbury's global role in the Anglican Communion. I intend be a shepherd who enables everyone's ministry and vocation to flourish, whatever our tradition.

Today I give thanks for all the women and men – lay and ordained; deacons, priests and bishops – who have paved the way for this moment. And to all the women that have gone before me. Thank you for your support and your inspiration.

I was recently asked, if I was called to this role what would my legacy be. I said that I would want to nurture and cultivate confidence in the Gospel—both within individuals and across churches, in the Church of England and in the wider Anglican Communion.

I humbly offer myself, and the gifts and experience that God has given me, in service to God's world and God's Church.

I will not always get things right. But I am encouraged by the psalmist who tells us that, 'Though you stumble you shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds you fast by the hand.'

I trust in the truth of those words for me, for you, for the Church of England, for the nation, for the Anglican Communion and for the world. Held fast by the Lord's hand, please pray for me as I will pray for you.

St Francis - Revd Richard Cattley



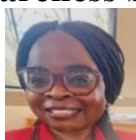
Francis grew up in a very wealthy family and seemed to have not a care in the world until he was twenty years old, when a chance encounter with a leper left him appalled by his own uselessness.

Soon afterwards he heard Jesus speaking to him from a painting of the crucifixion over the altar of a local church. He threw away his wardrobe and renounced his father's wealth in order to care for the poor and the crippled. In 1208 he heard the commission which the risen Lord gave to his apostles, "Go, make all nations my disciples," and knew that it was also addressed to him. Francis began to train his followers for the task

of making Jesus truly known and loved among the ordinary people of Italy. Out of this movement developed the Order of the Lesser Brethren, commonly called the Franciscans.

Francis cared deeply for his new Order, but he also grew restless as it became an established institution of the Church. He distanced himself from its day-to-day life and eventually went his own way as he strove to imitate Christ's total obedience to God. Two years before his death he was granted a sign which manifested this desire. One September day in 1224, he had a vision of the Crucified borne on the wings of a seraph. As the vision withdrew, the wounds of Jesus appeared in Francis's own flesh — the scars like nail-wounds on his hands and feet, and in his right side a scar like a spear-wound. These marks, called the stigmata, remained on Francis's body until his death two years later.

Safeguarding Awareness Sunday – Florence



Thirtyone:eight, a Christian safeguarding charity, has launched its annual safeguarding awareness campaign for churches entitled '**Safeguarding Sunday.**' This year the theme of the campaign is 'Action Speaks Louder' - encouraging churches to not just talk about safeguarding but to take positive action towards creating safer places for children and vulnerable adults.

We are encouraged to not only reflect but also to act on improving safeguarding practices. This year **Safeguarding Sunday is on 16 November** when a portion of the service will be dedicated to safeguarding. The Reverend may decide to hold it on a different Sunday. In that case, the date will be communicated well in time. Kind regards Florence

How We Are

As always, we send our love and prayers to all those who are sick. Please continue to pray for them that they gain in strength and good health; that God's healing hands may be upon them.

Pray also for those who are grieving because of the loss of a loved one. Think of Tim and his dear father, Cecil, who died on Monday 22nd September. We pray for Tim and his family. We pray for Ibezim Okeye and his family mourning the death of his younger sister.

Please continue to pray for Daniel, recovering from a stroke, for Keith, Relia and Myfanwy; for Anita Houghton, Chuba Agbim, Eunice Adiele, Gideon Onwutalu, Sir Edmund Onochie, Rose Ochwada.

We hold all the above in our hearts that they may be filled with God's healing love.

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

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 OCT - NOV

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	AV Desk	Warden on duty	Service leader
12/10/25	Jonah Matthew 12:39-41	Dozie	Nehar	Christina	Tim/Naila	Onyeka	Tony/Bilan	
19/10/25	Micah	Keith	Nehar	Silvia	Ifeyinwe/ Onyeka	Shaniv	Ifey/Shaniv	Jenny
26/10/25 Bring & Share	Nahum	Sam	Kai	Cynthia/Chinwe	Nehar/ Nwadi	Daniel	Nehar/Sohail	
02/11/25	Habakkuk	Abi	Nwando	Nora	Nehar/ Nwadi	Daniel	Ifey/Shaniv	Alexis
09/11/25	Zephaniah	Conny	Alexis	Christina	Daniel/ Ezim	Dozie	Tony/Bilan	
16/11/25	Haggai	Guy	Kai	Naila	Sally/Tony	Ruth	Nehar/Sohail	
23/11/25	Zechariah	Sim	Jenny	Alexis	Tim/Naila	Onyeka	Ifey/Shaniv	Nehar
30/11/25 Bring & Share	Malachi	Andrew	Nwadi	Cynthia/Chinwe	Ifeyinwe/ Onyeka	Shaniv	Nehar/Sohail	