

# NEWSLETTER

12<sup>th</sup> March 2026



*Icon of the women in the New Testament \*  
by Heather MacKean*

**Dear Everyone - Greetings to you all**

**World Day of Prayer Service:** What a fabulous, well attended service for the World Day of Prayer that was held last Friday afternoon. How apt it was for us to host it as it was compiled by the women of Nigeria and we have so many Nigerian members in our family. The service was great and very moving. We had dancing, choruses sung in different Nigerian languages, a display of Nigerian costumes, artifacts and food. After the service we had a real feast of different types of rice, chicken and many other dishes provided by members of the congregation - just delicious – and thank you. It was so good to come together with members of neighbouring churches and have time to talk and eat together. Thank you to the organising committee and especially Rose who did so much to make it a success in a joyous Nigerian way. Lots of photographs and videos were taken, many of which have been put on WhatsApp. Because of space I can only put a few on just to give you the flavor of the afternoon.





**Birthdays:** What a splendid Sunday of rejoicing and happiness there was for the birthdays of Daniel, Belem and Odete. It was Daniel's special birthday celebrating 70 fulfilling years. Happy Birthday to all three. Prayers were said, songs were sung and after the service there was a delicious spread of food supplied by Ezim and family. I know Kelly posted a lot of excellent photos of the occasion on WhatsApp, but here are a few to give the flavor of the morning for those who are not on it.





**London Fashion Week:** Cynthia joined a number of her sisters to take part in the London Fashion Week modelling clothes with an influence from the Philippines. London Fashion week is always a vibrant and exciting occasion. How good to see a Philippine influence there.



**International Women’s Day:** March is Women’s History month; so, to celebrate, here is a photo of six female Anglican Bishops at their first ever meeting in Kenya. They came together to reflect on their ministries and responsibilities. They produced at the end of it a communiqué reflecting on five key principles in “Re-defining the Church”. A further report is below. They do not mention, Power, Authority or Control, but instead an aim to care for the people in their communities who need support, nourishing through faith, and the ability to sustain themselves. How refreshing. Please read and reflect on their wise and caring words.



**Stones into Bread. Reflection for Lent by Maggi Dawn:**



Below is an article for Lent by The Revd Professor Maggie Dawn who is a priest in the Episcopal Church (USA) and a professor of theology, having taught at Cambridge and Durham in the UK, and Yale University in the

USA. She is the author of five books, including **Giving It Up**, a series of daily readings from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

**Holy Week:** Please note the dates of the services taking place in Holy Week. On Holy Thursday we are holding a joint Service with the South Asian and Ugandan churches that will be attended by The Bishop of Edmonton, The Rt Revd Anderson Jeremiah. The Service starts at 6.30pm. It will be so good to see everyone.



**Anita:** How good is it that Anita is able to be up, out and coming to church again after the operation on her back. We wish her well with lots of prayers and hope progress continues.

**Rose Ocwada:** Many of you may remember Rose Ocwada who was a faithful and active member of our congregation for a number of years before she returned home to Kenya. Our Rose and myself have kept in touch with her. We were very sorry to hear this week that the cancer she had and seemed to be recovering from has returned and she is now very ill waiting for an operation. The saddest thing is that she was supposed to have an operation next week but it has been postponed as her insurance company would not cover her medical care 100% which she needs. Please pray for her and that the problems she is facing will be quickly resolved.

**Listening and Learning, Bible Study:** For Lent, Bible Study is taking place on each Thursday at 6.30pm. It will be held in church as usual but also on Zoom to enable those who cannot get to church to join in. The link is: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81391462394?pwd=Iw9o8zKMnoUjEx2TwGmOlnwUm21F2V.1> Meeting ID: 813 9146 2394 Passcode: 226547 --- One tap mobile +12532050468,,81391462394#,,,,\*226547# US +12532158782,,81391462394#,,,,\*226547# US (Tacoma) Join instructions <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/81391462394/invitations?signature=9LDb9LImnxkAbxeBXA-gdH3xLiUglFvqZ2iPFwUE8ys>

**Exciting New Course for our Youth:** Starting from the 28<sup>th</sup> February Kamran is starting an 8 week Alpha Course on Christianity for our youth. Please let your young ones know about this so they can join up. They can attend in person or on-line by zoom. Please let Kamran know by getting in touch with him on [Kamran@gg-pc.co.uk](mailto:Kamran@gg-pc.co.uk) or by the church WhatsApp.



**Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM):** This is an important meeting during which we go over all the events and happenings of the year. Reports are given, questions are asked and issues discussed. It is a time when church wardens are elected and members of the Church council too. Please put the date in your diaries and make a point of attending. **The date is: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May** after the morning service.

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

**Toddler Group:** The Toddler group is meeting this week. **We badly need more helpers for this group.** If you are willing to give some time to help between 9.30 and 11.30am on Tuesdays, please let Kamran know on Sunday or contact him on: Kamran@gg-pc.co.uk or the church WhatsApp.

**Articles, Thoughts, Poems, Reminiscences:** As mentioned last week, when the newsletter was started it was at the beginning of Covid. Churches were closed and we could not get together. The purpose of it was to communicate to each other passing on our messages, tips, thoughts and comments saying how we were getting on. When Covid passed it was thought, a good idea to continue with it, having contributions from members of our congregation, with your thoughts, comments about issues you would like to share, your reminiscences, photographs, poems and/or books with our newsletter reflected what you wanted to say. Keith read this and contributed his thoughts, on the newsletter, who said, *"I am happy how the newsletter is; I particularly enjoy the articles that are in it and come from a wide range of sources such as "St Paul's Cathedral", "The Church Times", The London Diocesan Letter" and other articles of interest. They give us a wider view of the Church which many of us would not be aware of. They make you think and encourage discussions of other points-of-view"*. Thank you Keith. Other thoughts from you on anything would be welcome. It is your newsletter after all.

**With love and good wishes- Sally**

### **Icon of Female Followers of Jesus\***

The Icon at the top of our newsletter, created by the artist, Heather MacKean, depicts 58 women, including the very first female followers of Jesus in the gospels (Joanna, Salome, Mary, etc), as well as preachers and church leaders like Junia, Thekla, Syntyche, and Euodia. When she began the work MacKean thought there might be a dozen women in the New Testament but the more she read the more she realised there are hundreds of women doing the work of the apostles, hosting home churches, caring for the poor, becoming unmercenary healers, suffering martyrdom, and preaching the good news. Think of it, 58 women, spreading the teaching of Christ in their communities, which is what women have continued to do along with countless others mostly unnamed, from then on to the present day.

## Six Female Anglican Bishops meet in Kenya.



The female bishops pictured above, came together to hold their first ever meeting in Kenya. Their meeting was not about Power, Control, being Exclusive or Status, but an attempt to re-define the Church and its Moral and Ethical Leadership. They focused on the silence of the Church in many areas of clear need especially the Triple Threat of, **Gender-Based Violence, Teenage pregnancies, and HIV/AIDS**. All issues to do with their communities, the families in them and their known needs; all to be ministered through Service and Love of Christ. **In their communiqué they stated:**

“For far too long, the voice of the Church has been silent on gender inequalities that have been worsened by endemic cases of gender-based violence (GBV), teenage pregnancies and HIV/AIDS. We note that the affected are our congregants who could be described as perpetrators and survivors of the aforementioned triple threats and demand of us to intervene.”

The bishops also reflected on **Women Leadership Empowerment and Climate Justice**, emphasising the need for the Church to respond actively to pressing social challenges affecting communities across Africa.

### **The Bishops are:**

**Bishops Filomena Tete Estevão** (Diocese of Bom Pasteur, Angola),  
**Dr Emily Onyango** (Diocese of Bondo, Kenya),  
**Elizabeth Awut** (Diocese of Rumbek, South Sudan),  
**Dr Vincentia Kgabe** (Diocese of Lesotho, Southern Africa),  
**Rose Okeno** (Diocese of Butere, Kenya)  
**Dalcy Badeli Dlamini** (Diocese of Eswatini, Southern Africa)

How refreshing to read of their decisions based on service and care. We wish them well in all they do.

**Source: Anglican Communion News Service**

## Reflections for Lent from Maggi Dawn

“The tempter said to Jesus, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written, One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ (Matthew 4:1–4)

Throughout the scriptures, ‘40 days’ symbolises a time of preparation and transformation. During his 40-day fast in the wilderness, Jesus faced the temptations that come to anyone involved in ministry or public service. The fact he was tempted shows that he was truly human – not just God in a human costume, but real flesh and blood. It hurt when he got a splinter, he knew what it was like to grieve for a friend, and when his friends let him down it was as devastating for him as it is for you and me. And this first temptation concerned the basic physical need for food. His reply to that temptation, ‘One does not live by bread alone’ is a reminder that we are physical beings, but also more than merely physical.

Christian belief continues to claim that life has meaning and purpose that extend beyond the purely physical and material, but at the same time, we cannot transcend our humanity. We are not spirits clothed inconveniently in bodies; we are bodily creatures. The early Christians rejected as heresy the idea that the

spirit was superior to, and separate from, the body. Jesus, through His incarnation, demonstrates the wholeness and unity of human existence.

Jesus, in a moment of extreme hunger, refused to use his spiritual power to overcome his physical being. And, in a culture that is both overindulgent and excessively body-conscious, perhaps we too need to learn that body, soul, mind, and spirit are not meant to be put in competition with each other, but lovingly and respectfully held together. Our spiritual journey includes learning to be comfortable in our own skin.

### **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.

We send our love and prayers to Ruth, Thomas and Elizabeth and the rest of her family. Ruth is at the moment caring for her mother after the death of her father.

We pray for Anita who is recovering after an operation on her back. We pray for a complete recovery for her and send our love to her and Simon.

We pray for Rose Ocwada, a former member of our congregation, now home in Kenya, whose cancer has returned that she may receive good treatment and be made well again.

We pray for Daniel, for Keith, Relia and Myfanwy; for Chuba Agbim, for Eunice Adiele, recovering from an eye operation, for Gideon Onwutalu, Sir Edmund Onochie, Rose Ochwada. Please keep Kelly's father John in your prayers.

We hold all the above in our hearts that they may be filled with God's healing and, if bereaved healing in their grief.

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](mailto: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=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0x0aDhY2paUT09>

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](http://www.gg-pc.co.uk)

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	AV Desk	Wardens on duty	Service leader	Preacher
15/03/26	Exodus 2:1-10 Colossians 3:12-17	Poppy Keith	Sunday School	Naila	Ifeyinwe/ Onyeka	Shaniv	Ifey/ Shaniv	Jenny	Rev Ibezim
22/03/26	Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11	Sohail Dozie	Kai	Silvia	Nehar/ Nwadi	Ruth	Nehar/ Sohail		Jenny
29/03/26 <b>Bring &amp; Share</b>	Psalm 118:1-2,19-29 Matthew 21:1-11	Sam Daniel	Jenny	Cynthia/ Chinwe	Tim/Naila	Onyeka	Tony /Bilan		Rev Ibezim
05/04/26	TBC	Nwenna Abi	Nwando	Alexis	Sally/Tony	Daniel	Nehar/ Sohail		
12/04/26	TBC	Cynthia Guy	Tony	Bilan	Daniel/ Ezim	Onyeka	Tony/ Bilan		
19/04/26	TBC	Conny Sim	Nehar	Christina	Ifeyinwe/ Onyeka	Shaniv	Ifey/ Shaniv		
26/04/26 <b>Bring &amp; Share</b>	TBC	Dozie Andrew	Rose	Cynthia/ Chinwe	Nehar/ Nwadi	Ruth	Nehar/ Sohail		