

NEWSLETTER

26th March 2026



Dear Everyone - Greetings to you all

Enthronement of Sarah Mullally as the Archbishop of Canterbury: History was made on Wednesday 25th March in Canterbury when Sarah Mullally was consecrated as the first woman Archbishop of Canterbury. There was much rejoicing by many who have hopes of a new chapter in the Anglican Communion. Dame Sarah, in preparation for her enthronement went on a pilgrimage from London to Canterbury, stopping at different venues on her way. From all the photographs that were taken, she clearly enjoyed every step and those who came out to see her in great numbers enjoyed meeting her and wishing her well.



Lord Jesus Christ, inspire and equip us to go and make disciples of all nations. May our ministers baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May we all play our part in teaching new disciples to obey everything you have commanded us.

(Taken from Dancing to the heartbeat of God, The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2026)

A prayer as we
continue our
pilgrimage



The service itself was flawless and beautiful. Each part flowed into the other, starting with young people greeting Sarah as she entered the Cathedral. The Prince and Princess of Wales attended, and so did the Prime Minister. The Service continued with long, impressive processions which always for some reason reduce me to tears, with joyful music, greetings by different denominational and faith members who sat together in their different colourful robes, and representatives from parts of the Anglican Communion. The dancers from South Africa were stunning to look at and hear, singing a traditional song for her. Sarah, as our new Archbishop kept a calm, warm, joyful and a focused presence throughout. After her election she said "She would strive to carry the care and compassion that shaped my vocation as a nurse into everything that I do". It was a truly joyful and hopeful occasion; a day of promise and purpose. May she and all she does be blessed as she take us forward as a Church filled with the love of God. How appropriate too, that the service was held on the Feast of the Annunciation/Lady Day.



Anti-Semitism attack in Golders Green: We were saddened to hear of the attack on four ambulances run by the Jewish community early Monday morning. This was a shameful act in a peaceful and diverse community. The ambulances were paid for and used by the Jewish community in a voluntary capacity for anyone who needs them. Mercifully no one was hurt, although houses were damaged and people nearby had to evacuate their homes. Acts such as these do no good to anyone, only generate more anger and hate. Violence is never the answer and what a pity those leaders who have instituted the escalating violence are not able or willing to realise this.

Kamran issued the following statement, speaking on behalf of our Church community in support of the Jewish community:

As a church, we are deeply saddened by the recent anti-Semitic attack in Golders Green. We stand in prayerful solidarity with our Jewish neighbours and with all those affected. We reaffirm our commitment to peace, dignity, and the rejection of all hatred and prejudice”.

The Reverend Kamran Bhatti - Parish Priest of Golders Green

The following comment was issued by our Bishop of Edmonton, Anderson Jeremiah: Bishop Anderson visited the site of the attack and spoke to the President and Chair of Machzike Hadath Synagogue, whose congregation sits right next to the charity where the ambulances were recently set ablaze—a sobering reminder of the challenges we face. He emphasized,

“There is absolutely no place for antisemitism in our community. We must stand firm against the fringe elements seeking to sow fear. We stand in solidarity with our Jewish neighbors. Let there be peace”.
Quote from the Diocese of London Edmonton Episcopal Area.

As art so often does, this creation says it all.



***Detail taken from Sister Paul Marie Bock's (Sisters of St Francis) powerful
"The War Goes On,"
A part of their U.S. Province's collection of the sisters' artwork.***

Birthdays: Happy Birthday greetings in song and prayers were given to Geoffrey, who relinquished the piano to Sam, so we could sing to him, and to Beryl, Jenny’s mum who joined us for her special birthday weekend. It was good to see her looking so well.



Sam: special congratulations to Sam, who is becoming a fine musician. He brought his, “Certificate of Excellence” to show us, awarded by the, “North London Conservatoire”, for his achievement in playing the piano. We are very proud of you Sam.



Nelyia De Sylva: We were so sad to hear of the death of Neylia. She was faithful member of our congregation for many years; a gentle sweet woman of faith. Her funeral will take place at All Saint’s Church, Childs Hill, on Monday 13th April.



Jenny's Sermon: Last Sunday Jenny preached on how passages from, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 12: 20-33, can help us with our Lent theme of spiritual growth – “Unless a grain dies...”. Thank you Jenny, so much to ponder on.

Reflection for Lent by Maggi Dawn:



Below is a third article for Lent by The Revd Professor Maggi Dawn on “You Shall See my Back”. Maggi, 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 writes, “The nearer we try to see God the more we realise God is beyond human understanding; the closer we get to God, the less clearly we see him. Direct encounters with God may elude us, but we can recognise, retrospectively, when we have been in the presence of the holy”.

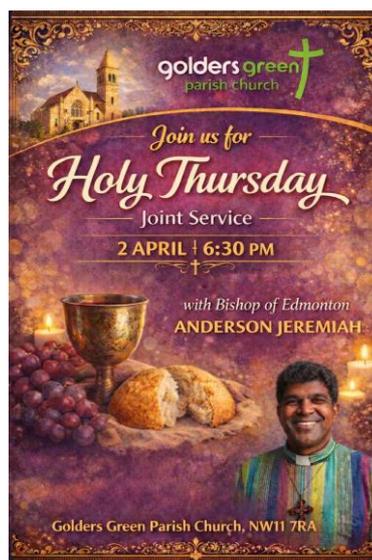
St Joseph: As the Feast Day of St Joseph was on Thursday 19th March, it seemed appropriate to mention St Joseph, while almost invisible in the gospels, played such an important role in the lives of Mary and Jesus. He is

rarely mentioned, other than in the infancy narratives in Matthew and Luke, and by reference but not name, in John and Mark. Yet he is shown as a strong, powerful, faithful figure, always there for both of them; a role model for all men who have children or not. He could, like Mary, have said NO to God, but did not. We should celebrate him more in our churches and prayers for what he brought to the lives of Mary and Jesus. At this time when many children and young people often lack a strong loving guiding figure in their lives, we need more Josephs. The painting below is one created by the Revd Ali Barrett (www.reverendalli.org), Associate Vicar of Great St Mary's, the University Church in Cambridge. She painted it on a retreat showing a strong, loving man gently cradling a baby. Alli is the artist who illustrates Paula Gooder's books that the Sunday school have. The article below on St Joseph is written by Susan Rantisi Barhoumy who is a Christian from the Middle East.



Holy Week: Next week is Holy Week. The poster with the dates showing what is taking place is below. Please note that 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.

On Good Friday there will be a service at 11.00am and, in the afternoon at 2.30pm, the Stations of the Cross will be taking place. It will be so good to see everyone.



Listening and Learning, Bible Study: The Bible Study continues to take place on Thursdays 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=lw9o8zKMnoUjEx2TwGmOlwUm21F2V.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/meetings/81391462394/invitations?signature=9LDb9LImnxkAbxeBXA-gdH3xLiUgIFvqZ2iPFwUE8ys>

Exciting New Course for our Youth: Starting from the 28th 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 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 10th 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER CLOCKS GO FORWARD THIS SATURDAY

With love and good wishes- Sally

Sermon by Jenny

Prayer: based on words from the prayer of preparation for Communion that we use during Lent

“Let’s pray that God will use my words and his word to open our eyes to his presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendor of his love, so that we and many other people may grow closer to him”.

We’re continuing our Lent sermon series, which has been looking at ways in which we can grow in our relationship with Jesus, The words I want to focus on today are from the Gospel reading, where Jesus says: ²⁴Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. It needs a bit of context so we can see how it fits with the bigger storyline.

We’re in the final few days before Jesus is crucified. Earlier in the chapter we read about his entry into Jerusalem, which we call Palm Sunday. The crowds then were jubilant, celebrating because they thought Jesus was going to save them from the Roman occupation. Little did they know that he was going to save them from something infinitely more serious – from everything that was blocking their relationship with God.

Jesus is with his disciples, trying yet again to get them to understand what was going to happen to him. He uses a picture that would be very familiar to them, of a grain of wheat. It’s dead until it gets planted in the ground. Then it comes to life and grows into a new plant that produces many more grains. He was talking about himself, but that was too big a leap of imagination for the disciples. They still couldn’t accept that like the seed he had to die, and then he would be raised from the dead, and because of that everyone, the whole of creation, would be able to experience new life as well.

They’d been with Jesus for three years. Time was running out, and there’s a real sense of urgency in the way Jesus is talking. ‘The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified’, he says. We, from the other side of Easter, know how the story ends but even for us it’s still really big stuff to get our heads round so we shouldn’t be too hard on the disciples

I've been thinking about how this passage can help us with our Lent theme of spiritual growth.

Jesus is clear that although he's specifically talking about his own death and resurrection, his disciples – and therefore we – can't avoid the implications for our own lives. He spells this out in v 25:

²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

At first glance this seems the wrong way round –surely we'll want to keep our life if we *love* it, not if we hate it?

It helps if we read it with the picture of the grain of wheat in our minds. A grain of wheat is effectively dead but in the right conditions it grows into a plant that flourishes and bears fruit. It's doing what God created it to do, but first it has to change, and leave behind its previous nature.

That's the point that Jesus is making to his disciples: if we want to grow spiritually it will involve change, letting go of any priorities, attitudes and behaviours that are blocking our relationship with him. If we do that, and to use his word die to those blockages, we'll be different – we'll flourish and become fruitful.

You might have come across 'No Mow May', when we don't mow our lawns for a month to give the wild seeds buried in them a chance to grow. I do No Mow May, June, July and August and the lawn is so much prettier and more interesting because of that, and better for the pollinators. I now realise that in the past I was blocking the growth of the seeds by mowing so often.

Maybe we should each be asking, is there any lawn mowing in my life that's stopping something beautiful and fruitful growing? Do I need the equivalent of a No Mow May in my life?

Once we've answered that question we can go back to the grain of wheat. The one thing it needs to start it growing is water. I read recently about Death Valley in California. It's one of the driest and hottest places on earth, but they're having the most glorious displays of flowers they've had in years.

It's because last autumn and winter were unusually wet. Seeds that had been lying there for many dry years have responded to the rain by producing an incredible abundance of flowers.

Water transforms a seed that looks dead into something that's very much alive. It releases its potential. That applies to us as well. We can't grow spiritually unless we have the spiritual equivalent of water. A fortnight ago Kamran talked about Jesus meeting a Samaritan woman at a well and offering her living water – that's in John chapter 4. In chapter 7 he explains what he meant: Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me,, rivers of living water will flow from within them.'^[c] ³⁹By this he meant the Spirit.....'.

If we're to grow spiritually, we need the Holy Spirit, living water, in our lives. Just as the seed can only start to grow when there's enough water, we can only flourish when we experience the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Growing spiritually is a process, it takes time and effort. Rowan Williams compared followers of Jesus to birdwatchers – focused, allowing time, and alert ready to spot the bird you're looking for or in our case, the Holy Spirit, The point is the same. Birdwatching, and following Jesus, aren't things you can rush - we have to avoid being distracted and we need to persevere even when nothing seems to be happening.

There are all sorts of ways in which we can be watered by the living water, the Holy Spirit. We can connect with God through reading the Bible and spending time in prayer and meditation. We can do these with other people, such as in church on Sunday, or at our Thursday evening group where we read the Bible and listen and learn together. We're also watered when we spend time alone, reading the Bible, praying, being still and attentive in his presence, like birdwatchers.

There are lots more, maybe less obvious, ways in which we can receive the living water. God's Spirit can speak to us through creation – perhaps using

its beauty and magnificence, its order and connectedness, to show us something more of what God is like. Jesus often used images of the natural world, like the grain of wheat, to make his point.

The Holy Spirit can use other people to water us. Their words, experiences and insights can help us grow by informing, inspiring or encouraging us, or telling us where we're going wrong.

We shouldn't ignore the creative arts – books, poetry, visual art, music, films and television programmes can help us deepen our understanding of God and the world, even if that's not why they were produced. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us discern what is of God in what we're reading, watching or hearing, and we might be surprised at what we receive from God as we do that!

Grains of wheat take time to grow, even when they have plenty of water. Similarly we can't expect to reach our full God-given potential instantly. It takes time and effort. The Psalm that xxx read for us describes someone who's really longing for God – 'out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; My soul waits for the Lordmore than watchmen wait for the morning.' There's a desire and perseverance there that I find deeply challenging. How seriously do I take my spiritual growth? Is it just a nice to have when I can fit it in, or is it central to the way I live? Is anything stopping me flourishing as God intends.

The grain of wheat can't do anything without water. Do I, we, realise how much we need the living water?

In our reading from Romans Paul is clear what difference this living water will make:: if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of^[e] his Spirit who lives in you

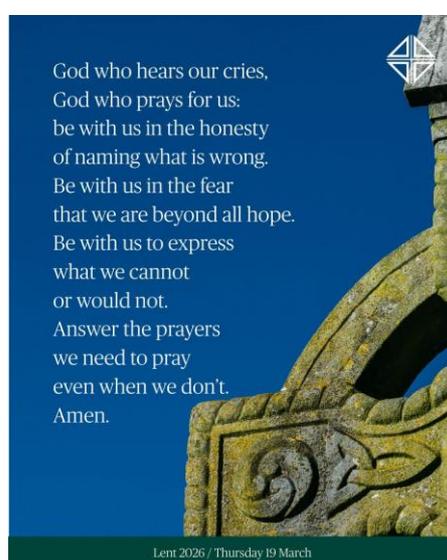
Pray – Holy Spirit, living water, will you fill us with yourself? Will you water our lives so we grow, flourish, become fruitful for Jesus, become fully the

people God has created us to be. Will you make us alert and attentive to what you want to say to us, living in us so that we grow more like Jesus and closer to him. To his great glory, Amen”.

St Joseph – by Susan Rantisi Barhoum

“The name Joseph, or Yousef in Arabic, is close to my heart as it is my son’s name. Joseph was the hidden presence, the quiet support for his family. When God called, he said, ‘Yes,’ not out of certainty, but in faith, trusting that God who called him would continue to encourage and guide him. Faced with what seemed impossible, Joseph didn’t walk away or give in; he responded with trust and hope. A feast day is more than a historical anniversary or religious nostalgia; it is the Church remembering. We remember that faith did not begin with us; we did not invent the Gospel; we received it, passed from life to life, generation to generation, like a flame carried carefully through the centuries. Some carried the faith through persecution, or preaching and teaching, others through prayer, hidden away in monasteries, or feeding the hungry and tending the sick. But many, like Joseph, carried it through quiet faithfulness inside ordinary homes. Feast days remind us that the Kingdom of God is built through lives that often look small to the world: carpenters, mothers, teachers, nurses, farmers, grandparents, people who love, protect, forgive, and serve in ways that rarely draw attention. Joseph reveals the holiness of quiet service, the courage of protecting what God places in our care, the strength of humility, the sacred work of fatherhood, and the grace of a faithful life lived mostly out of sight. He teaches us that God is not only found in the extraordinary, but in the sawdust and sweat, in the quiet exchange between parent and child, in the passing of knowledge, in the shaping of hands and hearts. Joseph stands right at the center of that mystery. He does not draw attention to himself, yet everything depends on his faithfulness, the table he builds, the home he keeps, the safety he provides, and the quiet ‘yes’ he continues to live, day after day. This is what feast days help us see. Not just the dramatic moments, but the long obedience of a life lived in love. May the Lord who

walked the hidden roads of Nazareth guide our steps in the quiet places. May the Christ who honors the unseen strengthen our daily work and our faithful love. May the Spirit who dwells in ordinary moments open our eyes to holiness all around us. May we go into this day, and into every day, with hands ready to serve, hearts steady in love, and spirits at peace, knowing we are held, known, and never alone. Wishing you all a blessed St. Joseph's Day, especially to those who carry the name Joseph and its variants!"



Reflections for Lent from Maggi Dawn

'You shall see my back'

The Lord said to Moses, 'See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock . . . and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.' Exodus 33:12–23

The book of Exodus tells us that God spoke to Moses as a person speaks to a friend. And yet, curiously, the longer Moses lives, and the closer he gets to God, the more it seems that he doesn't really know God at all. Moses

yearned to see God as he really is – face to face. But, in various biblical accounts, we see that even to catch a glimpse of God’s glory was overwhelming – John fell down in a faint (Rev 1:17); Zechariah was rendered completely speechless (Luke 1:22). God made it clear to Moses that, faced with the full revelation of God, a mortal being could not survive the impact – so, by declining Moses’ request, God was saying that Moses’ life was not over yet. But was it any consolation to see God’s back?

Gregory of Nyssa, in his 4th century book *The Life of Moses*, recalls Moses’ early encounter with God at the burning bush where, in the blazing light, he heard God’s voice audibly. But as Moses followed God through the desert, he was increasingly in a cloud, until at last he finds himself on the mountain top, seeing nothing but God’s retreating back.

Gregory, however, takes this not to be a retreat from God’s presence, but a maturing into the knowledge of God. He writes, ‘as the soul makes progress... so much the more does it see that the divine nature is invisible.’ Gregory points out that the more we perceive of God as he is, the more we realise he is beyond human understanding. It seems a little unfair, perhaps, to say that the closer we get to God, the less clearly we see him. But invisibility is not the same as absence. Direct encounters with God may elude us, but we can recognise, retrospectively, when we have been in the presence of the holy. A seeming miracle of human kindness, an act of unbounded generosity, an impulse for self-giving, or a vision of profound beauty – as moments like these pass us by, we realise we have been in the presence of holiness.

To stand in a blaze of light and hear God’s voice is a rarity. Mostly we see the traces of God’s glory in the shadow of his presence as he passes by.

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. It was so good to see Ruth back in church after her long stay in Wales caring for her mother.

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. Rose has had her operation and is recovering at home in the hope her cancer that returned has now been successfully treated.

We pray for Daniel, for Keith, Myfanwy; for Chuba Agbim, for Eunice Adiele, recovering from an eye operation, for Gideon Onwutalu, Sir Edmund Onochie. 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 or by phone, 020 8455 1873

Topic: Church Wardens' Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0xDaDhIY2paUT09>

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

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	AV Desk	Warden on duty	Service leader	Preacher
29/03/26 Bring & Share	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	Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-18	Nwenna aka Abi	Nwando	Alexis	Sally/Tony	Dozie	Nehar/Sohail		
12/04/26	Psalm 61 1 Peter 1:3-9	Cynthia Guy	Tony	Bilan	Daniel/Ezim	Onyeka	Tony/Bilan		
19/04/26	Psalm 116:12-19 1 Peter 17-23	Conny Sim	Nehar	Christina	Ifeyinwe/Onyeka	Shaniv	Ifey/Shaniv		
26/04/26 Bring & Share	Psalm 23 1 Peter 19-25	Dozie Andrew	Rose	Cynthia/Chinwe	Nehar/Nwadi	Ruth	Nehar/Sohail		