

# NEWSLETTER

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026



*Jesus Christ" by Armenian artist Albert Karoyan*

**Dear Everyone - Greetings to you all**

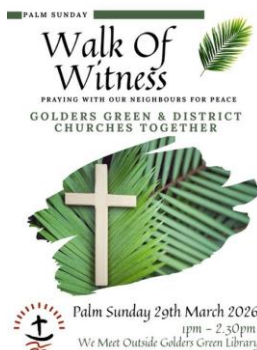
**Palm Sunday Service:** This is a day when we commemorate Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when the crowds were crying out, "Hosanna to the Son of David" (Matthew 21:9). They seemed to be welcoming him as a King, but, what sort of King were they expecting? One of dominance, force, control and the expectation of obedience? Instead he showed through his short life, his authority came from acts of Service, Love, Healing mentally and physically, to all people whoever they were. As our former Archbishop Rowan said in a recent lecture, the one thing Jesus did that made people remember him was that he acted with Authority consistently, but it was an

Authority of Service. In doing so he messed up people's ideas about what it meant. "Jesus took his authority and made a difference, and when he spoke he changed things. They liberated people and changed things". Perhaps that is one of the many aspects of his life and actions that made him such a threat to those in Authority as they saw it. The joy and excitement of the fickle crowd on that day changed to condemnation that led to the Cross. We see it today still in elements of crowds demonstrating and chanting against groups of people in our midst wishing them harm. As Rowan said, "Things can change by our attention and availability by putting ourselves at the disposal of our neighbour. We can be who we are by pushing against the death-dealing patterns of power and setting ourselves and others free as Jesus did. Our freedom to serve is absolutely bound up with our Authority to change things". If anyone would like me to send them Rowan's talk on "Service", "Silence" and "Sacrament" that was given at a Lenten retreat, please let me know on What's App.

In our service, we processed around the outside of the church singing and holding up our Palms. During the Service we had African chants that brought us joy and praise.

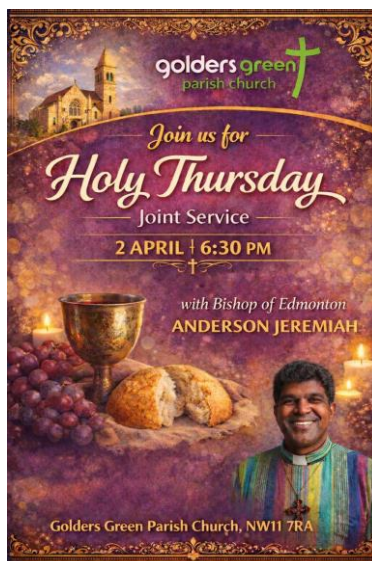


**Walk of Witness:** After Church congregations from "Churches Together" gathered to make the "Walk of Witness" from the Library in Goldres Green Road to our Church.



**Intercessions:** Jenny prayed some powerful intercessions that were commented on by a number of people. She wove together the important events of the week reflecting on Jesus's entrance into Jerusalem, and reflected on his humility though footwashing and then went onto the enthronement of Archbishop Sarah Mullally, praying for her and the work she has in the future. Her intercessions are printed below.

**Holy Thursday Service This Evening:** Please do not forget that this evening (Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April) a joint service will be held in church at 6.30pm with the Asian and Ugandan church members. Our Bishop, Anderson Jeremiah will be joining us.



**Good Friday and Easter Sunday Services:** will be held on 11.00am for the Passion Service and 2.30pm for the Stations of the Cross (Good Friday) and 10.00am Easter Sunday for the Parish Communion Service. This will be a joyful service giving thanks for the Resurrection of `Jesus Christ.



**Revd Dr Tarjei Park:** We were sorry to hear the news that the Revd Dr Tajei Park, who was our vicar from 2001-2006, died this week at the Sue Ryder Hospice in Cheltenham. We send our condolences to his wife Pam and their children. May he rest in peace.

**A Rocha's April Tips:** As usual A Rocha sends us a tip for each month. Whether you have a garden or a window sill it is still possible to grow something that will bring pleasure and food! For April they suggest: Celebrating new life this Easter and have a go at growing something! April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible or, if you are a seasoned

gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags.

For indoor space, try 'micro-greens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open)

For greenhouses, try sowing salad leaf seed mixes.

For outdoors, beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant so can all be planted outside in April. As you sow, **thank God for the opportunity to grow food**, and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.

**Reflection on the Psalms:** Taken, with permission, from, "Richard Rohr's Daily meditations". The distinguished theologian and scholar Walter Brueggemann, describes in the article below, how praying with the Psalms can be an act of solidarity with our universal humanity. He writes that, when in exile, as so many people are now, the psalms become "Songs of Solidarity", but they are just as relevant too for those of us who are not exiled and it is that that brings their solidarity with ours and the recognition of our "Universal Humanity", one with another.

I wonder if what he says in his article rings true to members of our church family who are exiled from their countries, through no fault of their own, and whether they find some consolation in any of the psalms.

**Our Common Humanity - Ten biblical quotes from the Revd Sam Wells**, (vicar of St Martin-in-the Fields). Following on from, and linking with, the above piece from Walter Brueggemann on our need to show, "Acts of solidarity with our common humanity", Sam Wells has identified 10 biblical quotes showing Christian traditions and values that are required of us. He shared them because he wanted to make it clear just what the bible says about how we are expected to treat others, often regarded as unlike ourselves. He did this in the light of the way some individuals, groups including politicians, were supporting their divisive and racist views **by misrepresenting** Christian and Jewish teaching, when it was doubtful that

they had actually read the Bible at all. The ten biblical quotes are printed below. Thanks to Sam Wells for doing this on behalf of all of us.

**Listening and Learning, Bible Study: After Easter** The Bible Study will continue 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 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:** We had a great coffee morning on Wednesday when a walking group from St Monica's RC Church Parson's Green, called in on us for coffee and a chat. It was a real delight to see them and hear all about how their group developed. They were on their way to visit Golders Hill Park so the chance to join us gave them some respite from their walk. We do hope they come again when they are passing.



**Toddler Group:** The Toddler group will be having a holiday for Easter and will be meeting again on????

**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](mailto:Kamran@gg-pc.co.uk) or the church WhatsApp.

**With love and good wishes for a Happy Easter - Sally**

**Intercessions Palm Sunday 29 March 2026 – Jenny**

I'll begin with a reflection on Palm Sunday:

On Palm Sunday...

They did not see Him coming. Not Him. They saw hope re-kindled, an end to their injustice, and an easier path to follow.

They waved their palm offerings and laid down their finest clothes, but they saw only a temporary king, not a Suffering Servant.

On Palm Sunday...

They sang alleluia from the depths of their hearts and would have crowned Him there if they could. But they didn't understand.

They didn't see Jesus. Son of God. Messiah. Soon and Coming King. They misunderstood: His kingdom was not of this world.

On Palm Sunday...

Jesus knew. Astride on the back of a donkey, He knew why He had come.

The Son of God humbled Himself, set aside royalty, and exchanged Heaven's robes for a towel and a basin of water.

He received their praise that day, but He saw their hearts, young and old alike.

And He wept for them.

And then He died for them.

Pause for silent reflection .....

(Written by Rebecca Barlow Jordan:

<https://www.rebeccabarlowjordan.com/palm-sunday/>)

Bishop Sarah Mullally was installed as Archbishop of Canterbury on Wednesday. We pray for her as she begins her challenging new ministry, using words of the Most Revd Marinez Bassotto, Primate of Brazil and Bishop of the Amazon:

‘May God protect Archbishop Sarah and ever increase within her the love, strength and courage necessary to lead the church in the times we are living through. In this society, fragile and burdened by exclusion, hatred, and war, may she be a sign and instrument of our unity, and also our voice in the midst of the world. God bless Archbishop Sarah Mullally and strengthen her in her ministry and in her life.’

Amen

Archbishop Sarah is committed to the full ministry of women in the Church and to challenging sexism wherever it is found. We pray, Lord, for every woman in the Church who has been minimized, who feels unheard, overlooked, or devalued, that they will see themselves as you see them, precious and honoured. We pray for the Archbishop, asking that you will fill her with your grace, courage, compassion, pastoral sensitivity and wisdom as she models something new in the church. Help her to stay confident in her calling in the face of the opposition that she’s already experiencing.

In her sermon on Wednesday the Archbishop spoke about the annunciation, when the angel told Mary that she’d been chosen to be the mother of Jesus. The angel reassured her that: ‘... nothing will be impossible with God’

When we look at the world today, we need those words more than ever. God, there’s so much conflict, division, hostility in the world and it just seems to be getting worse all the time. We know that nothing is impossible with you, and so we pray yet again for all those affected by the war in Iran, the wider Middle East and the Gulf, in Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar, and so many other places. Everywhere we look there’s so much loss of life, of livelihoods, of homes, of dignity and hope, and your

heart must be breaking. Will you send your Spirit to break through the greed, the arrogance, the self-interest, the hatred, the egos, everything that's keeping these wars going and blocking peace. Will you transform the hearts and minds of the politicians and other leaders around the world who have the power, if they choose, to end all the suffering and bring a lasting and just peace.

We think of all those affected by the horrific incident in Derby last night when a number of pedestrians were struck by a car, and pray for them and for people known to us who need to know God's peace, because of abuse, stress, fear, guilt, mental or physical illness, financial worries, relationship breakdown, bereavement, redundancy. We can bring all of those issues and absolutely anything else to God, confident that nothing can shock him or make him turn away from us, but that he loves each of us more than we can possibly imagine, and that nothing is impossible with him.

..... a moment of silence when we can each pray silently for people we know.....

God our provider and healer, we hold before you everyone we've just prayed for. May they know your loving presence surrounding and accompanying them.

Like Archbishop Sarah, we pray: May we have the audacity to believe in the promises of God: for with Him, nothing will be impossible.

Amen



## The Psalms: Songs of Exile -Songs of Solidarity – Revd Professor Walter Brueggemann



The Psalms, with few exceptions, are not the voice of God addressing us. They are rather the voice of our own common humanity—gathered over a long period of time, but a voice that continues to have amazing authenticity and contemporaneity. It speaks about life the way it really is, for in those deeply human dimensions the same issues and possibilities persist. And so when we turn to the Psalms it means we enter into the midst of that voice of humanity and decide to take our stand with that voice. We are prepared to speak among them and with them and for them, to express our solidarity with this anguished, joyous human pilgrimage. We add a voice to the common elation, shared grief, and communal rage that besets us all.... When we do, we shall find that the words of Scripture bring power, shape, and authority to what we know about ourselves.

Exiled from Cuba, theologian Ada María Isasi-Díaz (1943–2012) found solace in Psalm 137:

When I first read Psalm 137, I remember resonating with most of what the psalm says; I remember feeling it could appropriately voice the pain I was experiencing being away from my country against my will. After the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 I realized that my absence from Cuba was to be a long one. Shortly after there came a day when my visa status changed from “tourist”: I became a refugee. Psalm 137 became my refuge: “By the rivers of Babylon we sat and we wept when we remembered Jerusalem” (137:1).

I recall vividly the day I dared to mention to a friend how much I identified with Psalm 137. Jokingly she answered me, “Are you going to hang your guitar from a tree?” ... They were incapable of understanding the sorrow of being away from la tierra que mi vió nacer (the land that witnessed my birth). At times, my friends would ask me to talk about Cuba. Those around me could not figure out why I, who love to sing, always seemed reticent about singing “Guantamanera,” the song that uses for its verses poems from the father of my country, José Martí. One of them says,

Yo quiero cuando me muera  
Sin patria pero sin amo  
Tener en mi tumba  
Un ramo de flores  
Y una bandera.

I want when I die  
without country but without master,  
to have on my tomb  
a bouquet of flowers  
and a flag.

So I kept saying to myself, “How can we sing Yahweh’s song in a foreign land?” (137:4)

Brueggemann concludes: The psalms are not used in a vacuum, but in a history where we are dying and rising, and in a history where God is at work, ending our lives and making gracious new beginnings for us. The Psalms move with our experience. They may also take us beyond our own guarded experience into the more poignant pilgrimages of our sisters and brothers.

Have you a favourite Psalm that helps and consoles you in times of difficulty or lifts you in times of Joy?



*“Christ Breaks the Rifle”  
by Kelly Latimore  
kellylatimoreicons.com*

**Our Common Humanity - Ten biblical quotes from the Revd Sam Wells:**

Dr Sam Wells has become increasingly concerned about the divisiveness shown shown by individuals commenting and demonstrating against faith groups praying and offering hospitality to all in Trafalgar Square, right outside St Martin-in-the-Fields church, especially saying so in the erroneous name of Christianity. He commented, “In such conversations it’s common for people to refer to Christian traditions and values, especially if they wish to portray those as under threat. But it’s less common to articulate what those traditions and values are. So I thought I might note ten”. Here they are:



Love your neighbour as you love yourself. (Mt 22:39)



Do to others as you would have them do to you. (Mt 7:12)



I was hungry and you gave me food. (Mt 25:35)



Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so, some have entertained angels without knowing it. (Heb 13:2)

- ✚ Jesus asked, 'Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' The lawyer said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.' (Lk 10: 36-37)
  
- ✚ What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)
  
- ✚ You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. (Deut 10:19)
  
- ✚ The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Gal 5: 22-23)
  
- ✚ Jesus said to Simon the Pharisee, 'I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair.' (Lk 7:44)
  
- ✚ Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you ... and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. (Jer 29:7)

### **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 pray for the family of the Revd Dr Tarjei Park, our former vicar, who died this week. We send them our condolences. May he rest in peace.

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

**AV Desk:** 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	Warden on duty	Service leader	Preacher
05/04/26	Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-18	Nwennaka Abi	Nwando	Alexis	Sally/ Tony	Dozie	Nehar/ Sohail	Rev	Rev Ibezim
12/04/26	Psalm 61 1 Peter 1:3-9	Cynthia Guy	Tony	Bilan	Daniel/ Ezim	Onyeka	Tony/ Bilan		Rev Kamran
19/04/26	Psalm 1:16:12-19 1 Peter 17-23	Conny Sim	Nehar	Christina	Ifeyinwe/ Onyeka	Shaniv	Ifey/ Shaniv	Alexis	Rev Kamran
26/04/26 <b>Bring &amp; Share</b>	Psalm 23 1 Peter 1:9-25	Dozie Andrew	Rose	Cynthia/ Chinwe	Nehar/ Nwadi	Daniel	Nehar/ Sohail	Jenny	Rev Ibezim
03/05/26		Sam Daniel	Jenny	Nora	Tim/ Naila	Onyeka	Tony/ Bilan		Rev Kamran
10/05/26		Sohail Dozie	Nwando	Silvia	Sally/ Tony	Dozie	Ifey/ Shaniv	Nehar	Rev Kamran
17/05/26		Cynthia Guy	Kai	Naila	Daniel/ Ezim	Shaniv	Nehar/ Sohail	Alexis	Rev Kamran
24/05/26		Conny Sim	Nehar	Alexis	Ifeyinwe/ Onyeka	Onyeka	Tony/ Bilan	Jenny	Rev Ibezim
31/05/26 <b>Bring &amp; Share</b>		Keith Elizabeth	Rose	Cynthia/ Chinwe	Nehar/ Nwadi	Ruth	Ifey/ Shaniv		Rev Kamran