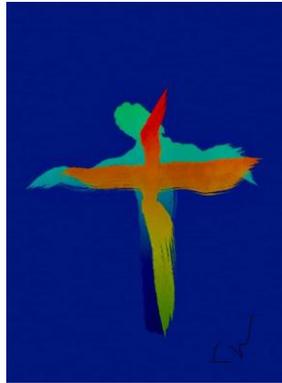


Golders Green Parish Church – Newsletter

29 September 2022



Dear Everyone – How good it was to welcome the Revd Ryan , Pioneer/Missioner Curate from St Paul’s Mill Hill, to be with us on Sunday, to take the service and preach. Much comment was made about the appropriateness of the two readings after the budgetary news we had heard during the week (Luke 16:19-31 and 1 Timothy 6:6-19) which were the focus of Ryan’s sermon.



Ryan’s sermon is printed in full below to read and reflect on. Many appreciative comments were made about his words, which were more than apt, after hearing the news of the budget that made so many gasp and was set against so much of Jesus’s teaching on caring for the poor and needy. Warnings about the consequences of not doing so are now coming from many quarters; last week it was the Archbishop in his sermon at the late Queens funeral; this week the Pope has spoken out clearly. In the spirit of Ecumenism his words are printed below. When people defend the poor and needy at the coat of the wealthy, particularly religious people, they are often accused of being “political”, and there is an uproar, when those criticizing have clearly have not read the Hebrew Bible or the Gospels, especially the words of Jesus in the Beatitudes, his condemning of the Pharisees, his parables and sayings, the people he mixed with who were outside the norms of “acceptability”, giving us a clear lead on what our lives and Faith are about- hard though it may be to keep to them. Mary his mother, in the “Magnificat” showed us God’s will for God’s people. It is clear that we are all going to have to be watchful in many practical ways for those who are being further hurt by an economy that damages them even more and link with others who are supporting them through foodbanks,

helping in their homelessness and, for those with expertise, with financial advice. We in our way have started a soup kitchen, will continue with the Night Sleepers project, and have supported food banks at other churches. Getting together with others and knowing organisations that help on a wider scale is important - we never do anything on our own, there is always strength in working together with prayer and action.

What a joyous time we had after the service on Sunday celebrating Donald N's birthday. Again, how good it is to be here as a family to share food- what delicious food- and just to enjoy being together. Happy Birthday Donald, Photos below.

Jennifer has written about how she queued up with her family for 13 hours to be able to pay her respects to the late Queen. What an amazing experience she and Kevin have given of a step-by-step account of the movement of the queue, slowly passing all the familiar landmarks, and how they felt through the long hours of waiting and walking until they finally got to Westminster Hall. Thanks to Jennifer and Kevin for their account of stamina, love, and respect for her late majesty

If you walk along the South Bank during the next couple of weeks, you will come across an amazing and beautiful sculpture by one of our leading artists, ES Devlin, commissioned by Cartier, called a "Choral Sculpture", highlighting the need to protect the 243 species on London's priority list. Not only does it stop you in your tracks, but it has recordings of the different bird songs playing alongside it which are uplifting to hear. I came across it when I was walking past the Tate on Thameside during the week and stopped for a while to take it all in and think about the need we have to conserve our birds, animals and all the richness of nature. A picture is below.

With this in mind, Jenny has written a piece on the "Season of Creation" which runs from 1st September to 4th October with details about it and how it came about.

With Love and Good Wishes – Sally

This Week's Edition Includes:

-  **Sermon - Revd Ryan ;**
-  **Donald N's Birthday Celebrations;**
-  **Queen Elizabeth II: Lying in State - Jennifer and Kevin;**
-  **Sculpture for Protecting London's Biosphere;**
-  **Season of Creation - Jenny;**
-  **Comment by The Pope**
-  **Toddlers Club;**
-  **How We Are;**
-  **Prayers with Kamran;**
-  **Church Bulletin;**
-  **Church Rota;**
-  **Prayer List;**
-  **Links to Service**

Sermon – Revd Ryan
Luke 16:19-31
New Testament for Everyone

The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

19 'There was once a rich man,' said Jesus, 'who was dressed in purple and fine linen, and feasted in splendour every day. 20 A poor man named Lazarus, who was covered with sores, lay outside his gate. 21 He longed to feed himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 'In due course the poor man died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 As he was being tormented in Hades, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 "'Father Abraham!" he called out. "Have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue! I'm in agony in this fire!"

25 "'My child," replied Abraham, "remember that in your life you received good things, and in the same way Lazarus received evil. Now he is comforted here, and you are tormented. 26 Besides that, there is a great chasm standing between us. People who want to cross over from here to you can't do so, nor can anyone get across from the far side to us."

27 "'Please, then, father," he said, "send him to my father's house. 28 I've got five brothers. Let him tell them about it, so that they don't come into this torture-chamber."

29 "'They've got Moses and the prophets," replied Abraham. "Let them listen to them."

30 "'No, father Abraham," he replied, "but if someone went to them from the dead, they would repent!"

31 "'If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets," came the reply, "neither would they be convinced, even if someone rose from the dead." '

Introduction - who am I?

After the week we've had it is very interesting that this text would appear in the lectionary!

Many people often look at this parable and think that it is saying something about the nature of hell and judgement, when in actuality it is building on a local mythology/folk story and using it as a means of speaking about God's *justice*.

The word 'righteousness' is used a lot in our English translations of the Bible, and I can't help but feel it is used because of the lack of an appropriate word in English or if some of the interpreters wanted to neuter the potency of the meaning of the Greek

δικαιοσύνη • (*dikaíosýni*) f (uncountable) (law) justice. (capitalised): Justice (the law personified) justice (impartiality, fairness)

Indeed, even the OT Hebrew term means the same: tzadikim [tsadi'kim] צדיקים *ṣādiqim*) is a title in Judaism given to people considered righteous, such as biblical figures and later spiritual masters. The root of the word *ṣādiq*, is *ṣ-d-q* (צדק *tsedek*), which means "justice" or "righteousness".

The best way to put the New Testament's idea, in my opinion, is to speak of the *justiceness* of God.

God's very character and nature is centred on justice and love - according to the scriptures.

This is most fully realised and seen in the person of Jesus Christ - the justiceness of God incarnate/enfleshed/con carne!

So, when we come to texts like this, it is important to read it with that in mind

So, what does this text say about Jesus? What does it say about God's justiceness?

Richard Bauckham's excellent article from 1991 (New Testament Studies 37 [1991] 225-246).

First, the parable has traditionally been used by many to describe the true nature of the afterlife because the parable is from Jesus — “what he describes here is because he knows what goes on there”. However...

- This parable shares important folkloric motifs/ideas from Egypt, Rome, Greece, and the Land of Israel.
- In other words, while there does not appear to be any direct parallel, or at least any parable from which Jesus borrowed, the motifs were common enough to have been familiar to Jesus and his hearers when he told the story.
- The motifs are folkloric, and they are not descriptive of the actual nature of the afterlife.

Second, the major motifs of this parable are Reversal of life's conditions, the attempt to gain information from someone who is dead about the afterlife, and the refusal to let that kind of revelation occur.

Third, the parable does not explain the whys of the reversal.

- In other words, unlike other folkloric stories like this parable, there is no moralising.
- The rich man is not condemned for any reason; the poor man is not exalted for any reason — it is not that the rich man refused to help while the poor man was good and honest and a man of good deeds.
- For Bauckham it is that the conditions of this life — one marked by great inequity and inequality and therefore of indulgence and suffering — will be reversed. Justice will come someday.

Finally, the parable contrasts with the arrangement of similar motifs in the other accounts in such a way that we see meaning in differences — it is surprising there is no communication from the realm of the dead since that happened in other stories. As such, the parable lays great weight on Jesus' own judgement: *injustice will be made right someday.*

I would argue there is some moralising: the rich man does not respond to the poor man's begging.

- Jesus lays that man at the rich man's feet and the rich man does not respond.
- Furthermore, the improper uses of riches are at work in the beginning of this text, and even if one doesn't want to say they were in the “historical” context of this parable, they are at work in the text of Luke and they are at work in the larger context of Jesus' own ministry.
- So, Yes, injustice reversed but Jesus seems to lay blame on the rich for not responding to the poor.

The poverty and suffering of the poor are intolerable.

Who is to blame?

For this, the rich.

That seems to me to be a kind of moralising and a kind of call to repentance, not unlike Zacchaeus.

For those who do not listen to the poor and needy - there is a call to repentance

A call to align with the justiceness of God

A call to share and befriend, not to feed our privileged interests

When we have heard a budget announced this week that benefits the wealthiest in our nation whilst the poor struggle more than ever.

Googling 'how many children in the UK live in poverty'. It's 4.3 million.

That's a huge number - about 30% of all children in the UK - and surely about to get bigger...

There is no trickle-down economics at play in the gospel - only the audacious, generous grace upon grace of God as revealed in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen and ascended - interceding for us right now

There is only a radical sharing of the Holy Spirit to all flesh, uniting, empowering, and encouraging us

God condemns injustice, just as the OT prophets did, because it goes against his very person - his justiceness/righteousness

The text we heard from 1 Timothy can say this a lot better than I can:

1 Timothy 6:6-19
New Testament for Everyone

6 If it's gain you want, though, there is plenty to be had in godliness – if it's combined with contentment. 7 We brought nothing into the world, after all, and we certainly can't take anything out. 8 If we have food and clothing, we should be satisfied with it. 9 People who want to be rich, by contrast, fall into temptation and a trap, into many foolish and dangerous lusts which drown people in devastation and destruction. 10 The love of money, you see, is the root of all evil. Some people have been so eager to get rich that they have wandered away from the faith and have impaled themselves painfully in several ways.

11 But you, man/woman of God – you must run away from all this. Instead, chase after justice, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. 12 Fight the noble fight of the faith, get a firm grasp on the life of the coming age, the life you were called to when you made the noble public profession before many witnesses. 13 I give you this charge before God, who gives life to all things, and King Jesus, who made the noble profession before Pontius Pilate: 14 be undefiled and blameless as you keep the commandment, until the royal appearing of our Lord King Jesus, 15 which the blessed and only Sovereign One, the King of kings and Lord of lords, will reveal at its proper time. 16 He is the only one who possesses immortality; he lives in unapproachable light; no human being has seen him or can see him. To him be eternal honour and power, Amen!

17 What about people who are rich in this present world? Tell them not to think of themselves too highly, and to set their hopes, not on something so uncertain as riches, but on the God who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous and eager to share. 19 That way, they will treasure up for themselves a good foundation for the future, and thereby come to possess the life which really is life.

I wonder - what might the Holy Spirit be saying to us today?

What might the Holy Spirit be stirring in us?

What are we being called to repent - turn away - from right now?

And what - or who - are we being called towards?

To serve? To love? To offer God's grace?

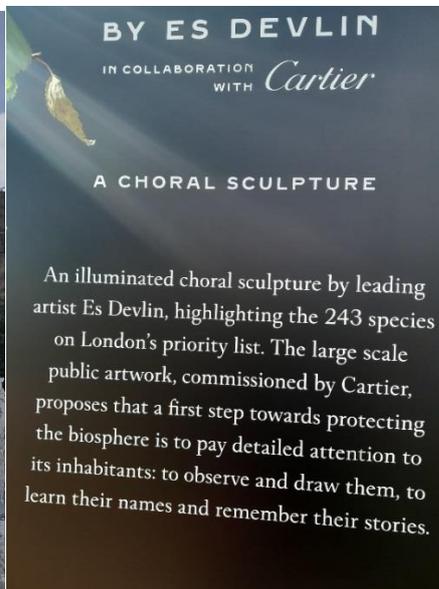
Donald N's Birthday Celebrations

A very Happy Time was had by all.





Sculpture for Protecting London's Biosphere



This amazing creation is in front of the Tate Britain. It will be there for a couple more weeks and is truly worth seeing. The sight of it and the sounds of all the bird songs we hear in London, cannot fail to make us aware of the wide range of nature we have in our city and how it needs to be protected and conserved.

Queen Elizabeth II Lying in state 13-hour Queue - Jennifer and Kevin

The weather was sunny as we started our 13-hour queue to see the Late Queen lying in state. We started off in Southwark Park at 1.30pm. We began talking with the people near us, but little did we know how long we would actually be with them.

The queue led us to the Thames, and we walked along the river Thames and passed Tower Bridge. At this point at 6.30pm we got our wristbands. This was our evidence that we had a place in the queue and our guarantee to be let into Westminster Hall.

It started to get dark as we approached London Bridge at 8.30pm. We went past HMS Belfast and a replica of the Golden Hinde. We as a group were getting hungry and all started sharing the food we had as well as popping into the local shop for water and for some something stronger! There were porta loos available although very basic.

We got to Southwark Bridge at 8.30pm and went past the Globe Theatre & the Tate Modern and went under Blackfriars Bridge at 9pm & then continued past the OXO building & the National Theatre. We were beginning to feel cold & tired with all the stopping & starting and were desperate to sit down but no chance of that. We had to stay in the queue and keep going. As a group, we began looking after one another giving strength to those in need.

We got to Waterloo Bridge at 10.10pm & walked along past the Royal Festival Hall and eventually got to the London Eye. Here we stopped for quite a while and then got to Westminster Bridge at 11.30pm and then walked down the river opposite the Houses of Parliament near the Covid Wall.

We crossed the river at Lambeth Bridge and got to the gardens of the Houses of Parliament at 12.30am. We faced lots more queuing and then through to security & then into Westminster Hall to pay our respects to the Queen lying in state. We observed the changing of the guards which occurred every twenty minutes. There was silence whilst all paid their respects. We finally left at 2.30am and headed home.

By the end I could barely stand with exhaustion but the following morning I soon forgot about the pain and just spoke of the joy to be there to honour the Late Queen.



Season of Creation - Jenny

We're more than halfway through this year's Season of Creation, which runs from 1 September to 4 October. It's an opportunity for Christians around the world to celebrate and renew our relationship with Creation and to join in prayer and action for our common home. It was instituted by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I, who in 1989 declared 1 September as a day of prayer for creation. The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending it until 4 October, appropriately the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. Since then, Season of Creation has become a feature of the Church's calendar in many parts of the world, for Christians of many denominations.

This year's theme is 'Listen to the voice of creation', an opportunity to connect through our common prayer and action with our sisters and brothers around the world, listening for the voices of those who are silenced. In prayer we lament the individuals, communities, species, and ecosystems that are already lost, and those whose livelihoods are threatened by habitat loss and climate change. We listen to the cry of the Earth and the cries of the poor, we repent of our own complicity in their suffering, and we are motivated to seek their wellbeing in prayer and action.

"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge...their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the Earth, and their words to the end of the world." (Psalm 19: 1-4)

Each Season of Creation has a symbol, and this year's is the burning bush (Exodus 3: 1-12). In so many parts of the world, including the UK, we've recently been seeing unnatural fires, signs of the devastating impact that climate change is already having on the world's most vulnerable communities and habitats. Creation cries out as animals flee, forests are destroyed, and people are forced to migrate – injustice is everywhere.

On the contrary, the fire in the burning bush that drew Moses' attention on Mount Horeb didn't consume or destroy it. That flame, of God's Spirit, revealed God's presence and affirmed that he hears the voices of those who suffer and promises to be with us as we work in faith for the end to all injustice. For this Season of Creation, the image of the burning bush encourages us to listen to the voice of Creation, and to respond.

If you go to the Season of Creation website (<https://seasonofcreation.org/>) you'll find a wide variety of information, prayers, and worship resources. These come from ecumenical partners from around the world, including A Rocha International, Anglican Communion Environmental Network and Christian Aid. You can find more such resources and worship ideas on the website of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland: <https://ctbi.org.uk/season-of-creation-2022/>.



During this season (and beyond!) you might like to use this prayer, which comes from Pope Francis's *Laudato si'* encyclical:

A prayer for our earth

*All powerful God,
you are present in the universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with your peace, that we may live
as siblings, harming no one.*

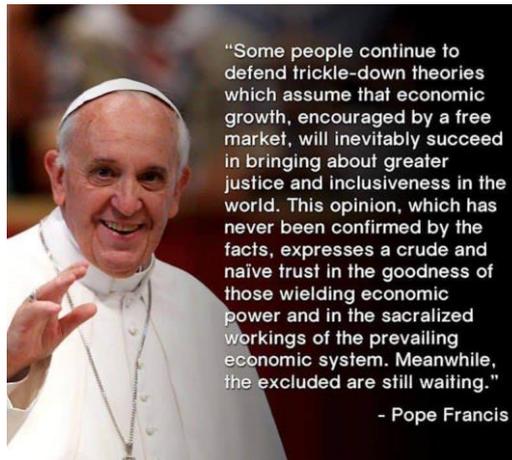
*O God of the poor,
help us to rescue and be in solidarity with the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.*

*Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognise that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love, and peace.*

Amen

Finally, I took part in a Christian Aid webinar a few days ago on how churches can respond to the climate crisis. One of the inspiring speakers was the Anglican bishop of Lesotho, Dr Vicentia Kgabe, and she made the point that we're all part of the climate change problem, *and* we can all be part of the solution. Building on that comment, the way we can best get started is to pray, and the Season of Creation resources are fantastic: do have a look and be inspired!

Words of Pope Francis



How We Are

continue to pray for Myfanwy's sister, **Yvone S**, who is very frail and wonderfully cared for by Florence who keeps Myfanwy regularly updated on her sister's progress.

We pray as we always do for **Simon and his father, Michael**, for Myfanwy's sister, **Yvone**, for **Tony** who we hope is recovering and will be back with us soon, for **Eunice** that her eyes may be healed and for **Alice**, Alex's mother, who has been ill for some time and is being cared for at home by Alex. May they all be surrounded by Gods light.

Please continue to pray for all those who have been unwell that they may gain in strength and good health as well as those who are grieving because of a loss of a loved one.

It would be so good if you could let us know either by **WhatsApp, the newsletter, phone, or email** about anyone who is not well, bereaved or would appreciate our prayers. It is so important we remember and pray for them.



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. This does not have to be compulsory; you are welcome to stay home and pray for the church and the parish each day for 15-20 minutes;
- ❖ he 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;
- ❖ Wednesday evening prayer time takes place in church at 7.00pm The prayer meeting will take place both in person and via Zoom. Please see the link below.

Topic: Church Wardens' Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0x0aDhY2paUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: J4FbKf

One tap mobile

+442034815240,,8585545365#,,,,*400416# United Kingdom

+442039017895,,8585545365#,,,,*400416# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6591 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6592 United Kingdom

+44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: 400416

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aemYT2p1YY>

Songs of Worship:

Martin Smith (Delirious?)- I Could Sing of Your Love Forever (Cover Musi...

<https://youtu.be/CQsorxxRFAI>

Elle Limebear: Lord You Have My Heart feat. Martin Smith (Acoustic)

<https://youtu.be/2Pqs5i3VVEo>

GGPC Rota October 2022

Date	Reading	Readers	Intercession	Hospitality/ Steward	AV (Audio Visual) Desk	Eucharistic Minister
02/10/2022	2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10	Elizabeth	Sally	tbc	Shaniv	Nwando
09/10/2022	2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19	Sam	Annie	Silvia	Elizabeth	Sally
16/10/2022	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8	Cynthia	tbc	Sheila	Tony	Ify
23/10/2022	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14	Friday	Nwando	Nwando	Shaniv	Tony
30/10/2022	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10	Onyenka	Jenny	Silvia	Thomas	Nehar

The Toddler Group

We had 13 children and families with us on Tuesday. It was a joy to see it busy with all having fun. Some did drawings whilst others played with playdoh and read in the book corner. As more families are coming to the toddler group, we are desperate for volunteers to help, please contact the office. If you feel you can help in any way.

The Parish of Golders Green
Parish Notices: 25/09/2022

Sunday Service: 10 am - After the service, Prayer ministry is available for anyone who wishes to receive prayers.

Weekday Events – Mid-week Communion Service. We are hoping to restart the midweek Communion Service and Bible study soon. Please keep this in your prayers.

Sunday School – will be starting on 16 October. More info to follow soon.

Bring & Share – will take place on 25 September after Sunday Service. All welcome to bring a dish to share. Contact the office for more info.

Launch Pad – 4th October 7 – 8:30 pm. An evening to highlight the important of children and young people ministry with Bishop Rob W.

The Coffee Morning will be starting soon. Please keep in your prayers.

The Toddler Group – Returned on Tuesday 6 September. It was good to see all having fun. Volunteers wishing to help should contact the office.

Baptism & Confirmation – If you want your child to be baptised or young person to be Confirmed, please speak with Rev Kamran after the service.

Prayers for the Church ministry and mission:

Please pray for the Senior Circle about to start soon. The Soup Kitchen which started in July. For the ongoing Church Maintenance issues. Pray for the Church Choir, Children Ministry, The Toddler Group & Mission of the Church.

For your prayers:

Please continue to prayer for Mike Houghton, Eunice, Margaret & Sally.
Please also prayer for all those who are grieving for their loved ones.

Rota for Sunday 02 October:

Reader: Elizabeth

Intercession: Sally

Hospitality: tbc

Eucharist Minister: Nwando

AV Desk: Shaniv

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873,

Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

TODDLER GROUP

@ GOLDERS GREEN CHURCH



Meet weekly on

Tuesdays 9.30-11.30am/Term Time Only

£3.00 Entrance Fee

Held in the church

More details contact the office

020 8455 1873

Golders Green Church

West Heath Drive NW11 7QG

Please join us

Links to Services

If you're looking for online prayer and worship opportunities, here are some suggestions:

Daily worship:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online>: including

- Prayer for the day
- Services of daily prayer
- Time to pray app and podcast

<https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/whats-on/?category=204> livestreamed daily services and some one-off services on particular themes and issues.

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/> Pray as you Go (a short service each day in the Jesuit Tradition)

The following links take you to prayers and reflections on particular themes:

Covid: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

Mental health: some short reflections to support good mental health:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/mental-health-resources/supporting-good-mental-health>

Ukraine: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-crisis-appeal>

Climate justice: www.climatesunday.org

Environmental issues: <https://arocha.org.uk/prayer-diary/>

The world's poorest communities and those affected by emergencies and conflict:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/faith-resources/prayer-library>

The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) offers a series of prayer journeys which you can sign up to here: <https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/prayer-journeys/>

Daily Bible readings:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/daily-bible-readings>

LICC also offer e-mailed '**Word for the Week**' each Monday. You can sign up here:

<https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/word-for-the-week/>