

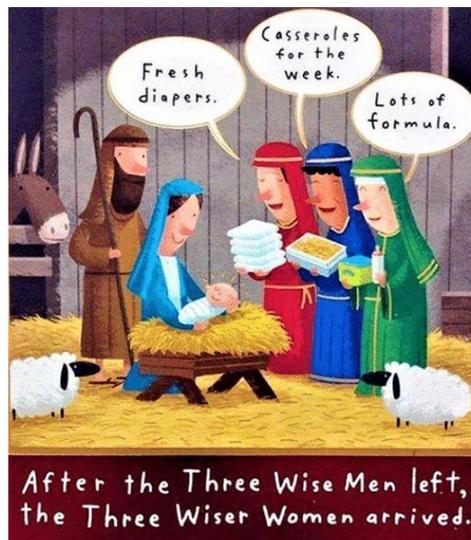
Newsletter 11th January 2023



Dear Everyone

Epiphany Greetings to you all. Last Sunday was the, “The Feast of Epiphany”, which is celebrated 12 days after Christmas and celebrated by the Orthodox as their Christmas. This season celebrates the revealing of God in human form, with the visit of the Magi (or wise men) who brought gifts to the infant Jesus; each gift having its own significance; Gold – as a symbol of Kingship; Frankincense as a symbol of Deity and Myrrh, which is an embalming oil, as a symbol of Death. The word “Epiphany” comes from the Greek word “epiphaneia”, which means “appearing” and continues until 2nd February. The kings/wisemen/magi, are described in Matthew 2:1-11; “ *On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.* Included is a poem on Epiphany by Malcolm Guite.

Just a thought; I wonder what gifts we would have brought if we had had the opportunity.



Science and Faith: In this edition, Jenny writes about Kamran’s sermon on the Magi and the importance of the connection between science and faith. So many people see these two key areas as incompatible - but are they? There are many scientists who are Christians and much debate is taking place about this now to which they are joining in. One excellent podcast, which over 200 people joined in, took place last week from St Paul’s Cathedral, between Lay Canon Paula Gooder and the Roman Catholic, Brother Guy Consolmagno, an astronomer and the Director of the Vatican Observatory,. It was superb and if you get the opportunity to listen in to this please do so. The link is : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V6lsUnuRRA>
It lasts for 40 minutes but is well worth the time.

Supporting our community: We continue to support the food bank distributed by All Saints Child’s Hill. Thank you so much for your generosity in bringing in provisions and by making financial donations. You know who you are and people are benefitting. Another delivery will be coming from us during this week.

Coffee mornings: Please join us on Wednesday mornings from 10.30am - 12.30pm for coffee, cake, conversation and a warm place to be. It is very enjoyable. Please spread the word so others know about it.

Night Shelter Project will be starting at our church in partnership with Alyth Gardens Synagogue, on **Tuesday 28th February – 18th April**. There is a note from Nehar, below, who would welcome volunteers particularly anyone who could serve breakfast on Wednesday mornings from 7.00 am.

Thinking of Night Shelters, what shocked me last Sunday, when I went to our old Parish of St Peter's Belsize Park to attend the farewell service for their vicar, was seeing a number of small tents up against the wall in the church grounds containing people who were homeless. It really brought home to me the state we are in as a country regarding homelessness and the lack of affordable homes available to people, especially the young, that have so little chance of owning or often renting their own place to live. The average life expectancy of people sleeping on the streets is around 34 years old. As the Epistle of St James says, "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (James 2:17) James takes it for granted that believing in Christ will move us to feel compassion for and act to help someone in need. Some urgent action has to be taken about this and our MPs made far more aware of this through letters and emails.

Sadly, **Anita's brother Chris Chaytor** passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, the 4th of January, at the age of 59. He is survived by his wife, Sharmini, and two children in their 20s. He had been suffering from Multiple Sclerosis for many years. We pray for Chris, his wife, their two children as well as Anita, Simon and family.

If anyone would like to contribute an article, a favourite poem, prayer, artwork or reminiscence, please send it to me for the newsletter. It is always interesting to hear from you and makes the newsletter truly yours which it was always meant to be when it was started three years ago.

I do hope you have a good and perhaps a little warmer week.

With much love and many good wishes. Sally

Other Articles and Notices Include;

-  **Faith and Science from Jenny**
-  **Epiphany – Malcolm Guite**
-  **Night Shelter Project – Nehar;**
-  **Food Bank Reminders;**
-  **Toddlers Club;**
-  **How We Are;**
-  **Prayers with Kamran;**
-  **Church Bulletin;**
-  **Church Rota;**
-  **Prayer List;**
-  **Links to Service**

Faith and Science from Jenny



Jenny writes: Those of you who were at church on Sunday or who joined the service online will have heard Kamran's super sermon on the story of the Magi in Matthew 2: 1-12. I was particularly struck by

the approach Kamran took to the debate that's been going on for centuries about whether science and faith are compatible. I'd not thought about that in the context of the Magi, and I found it really helpful to hear Kamran describe the Magi (translated 'wise men') as scientists - astronomers. For me that puts another slant on the debate - here are three scientists using their reason and intellects to follow a star but demonstrating great faith at the same time. 'I rest my case', as lawyers would say.

Coming home, I remembered that I'd seen publicity for one of the 'Conversations' held periodically by St Paul's Cathedral, which took place last Thursday. It features Brother Guy Consolmagno, an astronomer and the Director of the Vatican Observatory (I had no idea there was an observatory at the Vatican!!), and is entitled 'The heavens are telling the glory of God: Faith,, Science and Astronomy'. I've just watched it and it's so relevant to what Kamran was talking about, and so accessible, that I wanted to share it in case any other church members with access to Youtube would like to watch it as well. This is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V6lsUnuRRA>. It's 40 minutes long, and absolutely fascinating!

This is what the advance publicity said about it:

'Br Guy Consolmagno says that science is an important way to get to know God. In this conversation with Paula Gooder about his role as director of the Vatican Observatory, they explore what meteorites tell us about God; why science and faith are more compatible than people imagine and the importance of story-telling to both science and religion. Thinking of the season of Epiphany, they also touch on the Magi and what star they might have seen at the time of Jesus' birth.'

Br Guy emphasises how God communicates through scientific enquiry, and suggests that he cheers when scientist makes a discovery, saying 'isn't that cool? Now let's find something else to discover'. Like so many believers Br Guy experiences God as he looks into the skies - the awesomeness of God the creator, and at the same time God's love for each individual. He also points out that scientists can't operate in isolation, and need a community to challenge and encourage them, share insights and celebrate big events. He goes on to say that it's exactly the same with religion - we need community for precisely the same reasons.

I could go on, but this would turn into a very long article!! Do watch the Conversation if you can, it's fascinating and contains some incredibly helpful insights and a lot of humour. I wouldn't have got round to watching it myself if Kamran hadn't preached the way he did on Sunday - so thank you Kamran!!



Image from the "Jesus Mafa" paintings (Cameroon)

The First Sunday of Epiphany by Malcolm Guite

The season of Epiphany is an invitation to reflect on the many little 'epiphanies', glimpses of how things really are, which are vouchsafed us in the Gospel. The first Sunday of Epiphany (January 8th) is a time to reflect on the moment when 'the heavens opened' at Jesus' Baptism and we were given a glimpse of Father, Son and Holy Spirit at the heart of all things. This sonnet is a reflection on that mystery.

It might have been just someone else's story,
Some chosen people get a special king.
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,

We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.
They did not know his name but still they sought him,
They came from elsewhere but still they found;
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

Night Shelter Project – Nehar

Our church will be hosting the **Night Shelter Project** every Tuesday from the 28th February - 18 April 2023. We will be hosting up to 17 homeless people who will arrive around 6.30pm. The food will be cooked and brought to our church by volunteers and served to guests by volunteers. We could do with more volunteers from our church who will be very welcome especially to help serve the breakfasts at 7.00 am before they go.

If any one feels called to serve the Lord in this ministry, please email me on neharbird@gmail.com

Toddlers Club

The Toddlers club is on every from 9.30-11.30am. It is held in church. There is a £3.00 entrance fee. For further details contact: 0 208 455 1873

How We Are

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

We pray for:

Anita's Brother Chris who died last week. Chris has been ill for many years. We pray for his wife, Sharmini, his children and for Anita and family;

Rose and the sudden loss of her friend, **Mrs Patience Emonena Ogbo**. Rose spent time with her when she was in Granada three months ago and is so grateful for the fact she was able to visit and see her before she died.

Please pray for **David Agbim, Gideon Onwutalu** and **Rose Ochwada**. We hold them in our hearts that they may be filled with God's healing love.

Please continue to pray for **Alice** who is being cared for at home by **Alex**. We pray that she is surrounded by God's loving Care.

How good it was to see Tony back with us. We have missed him a great deal and hope he feels well enough now to be able to take part with us again.

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

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;

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>

Church Bulletin The Parish of Golders Green Parish Notices: 08/01/2023

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

Sunday School – please continuously keep our children and team in your prayer.

The Community Coffee Morning – All welcome. Every Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Communion Service will follow straight after.

The Toddler Group – Every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am. Please join us for song, laughter, play, reading, crafts, tea & coffee, biscuits & fruit.

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, and the Mission of the Church.

For your prayers:

Please remember Anita as she is grieving the loss of her brother, Rose grieving for her friend, Myfanwy grieving for her sister. Please continue to pray for Alice, Tony, Mike Houghton, Eunice and Naila for God's healing.

Rota for Sunday 15 Jan 23

Reader: Dozie

Intercession: Annie

Hospitality: Rose

Eucharist Minister: Ezim

AV Desk: Elizabeth

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873, Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

GGPC Rota January 2023

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister (Chalice)	Av Desk	Service leader
08/01/23	Acts 10:34-43	Sheila	Nehar	Sally	Nwadi	Shaniv	Alexis
	Matthew 3:13-17						
15/01/23	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Dozie Chidozie Onwuama	Annie	Rose	Ezim	Elizabeth	
	John 1:29-42						
22/01/23	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Nwanneka	Jenny	Nehar	Ifeyinwe	Thomas	Nehar
	Matthew 4:12-23						
29/01/23	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Abi	Alexis	Silvia	Daniel	Tony	
	Matthew 5:1-12						
05/02/23	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)	Sam	Sally	Sheila	Nehar	Onyeka	Ify