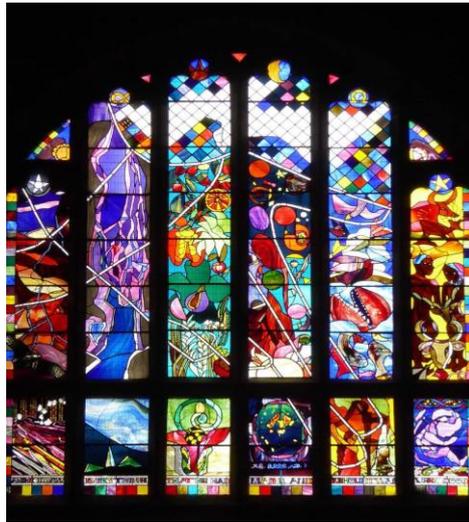


Newsletter 15th February 2023



*Creation Window Chester Cathedral by Ros Grimshaw 2001
"And God saw everything that he had made and behold it was very good"*

Dear Everyone

This last week has been a very tragic and difficult one to come to terms with, all over the world hasn't it. The devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria of apocalyptic proportions, taking thousands of lives far beyond our comprehension, making us lost for words with horror for the people who suffered. Then, in the UK, we had the totally unacceptable, racist incident in Ashford in which a young black girl was attacked outside her school, making many of you who have already commented ask, "what is happening in this country?", a 16year old girl stabbed in a park in Warrington. This was followed at the weekend, by the attack on a refugee hostel by out-of-control groups, bent on destruction and hate, many of whom did not come from the area. An act which many Liverpuddlians have protested at, saying, "This is not Liverpool". Having many contacts in Liverpool, a city I love, I know that to be true. Neither are these isolated incidents. The churches in Liverpool may have a lot of healing, reconciling work to do but, so do all churches, up and down the country, to change hearts and minds of those who want to destroy, hate and be violent towards others. Which leaves us with the question, "What can we do as Christians to bring about a change of mind and attitude?", We are, after all, "One in Christ". A difficult question to answer but in our different ways we can try in hope. The stained glass window at the top of the newsletter, from Chester Cathedral was designed to remind us that "God saw everything he has made and behold it was very good". Perhaps we can find our ways of making it, "very good", too.

Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria: Related to all this, Jenny has written a piece on the earthquakes and the appeal by charities working together (DEC) and given links to it and Christian Aid for those of you who would like to donate if you haven't already.

Racial Justice Sunday: Jenny, rather aptly at this time, has also sent us a letter written by the former Christian Aid's CEO, Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, asking how far we have progressed in bringing justice to everyone regardless of colour of skin and heritage. She focuses on what is happening in the USA but what she says applies just as much to the UK with all our many examples.

Tributes for Dorothy: Last Sunday a moving Service was held for Dorothy, to which many of her family and friends came. It was so good to see Festus, Fiona, Ernest, Arielle and Dorothy's sister, Ethel. It was such an appreciative, loving tribute to her from everyone. She was a person of endless faith and love who gave so much to all of us in the church who knew and loved her too. Fiona's tribute to her mother spoke of the love, strength, wisdom and devotion, she gave to her and all the family. She moved everyone who heard it. Pastor Jide gave his tribute and prayers; The Messiah Choir sang joyous songs of praise, and Rose, with friends from the congregation, sung African choruses. A number of photos are below.

Guy Onochie: Guy, a member of our Sunday school wrote a piece on how he feels about coming each week. Thank you Guy. It is appreciated. Next week we will have another voice from our young people.

Memorial Service for Alice Najjemba: Please note the memorial service for Alice, a much loved member of our congregation, will be held on **Saturday 25th February at Golders Green Church**, starting at **10.30am**. Please see attached invitation.



Ash Wednesday and Lent: Ash Wednesday is on 22nd February. There will be a service in church at 7.00pm for the receiving of the ashes and prayers to sustain us during the next 6 weeks.

Lent Reading: Many of us often choose a book to read throughout Lent on which to ponder and meditate and sometimes discuss it with others. Jenny has offered two books that she finds particularly helpful. They are listed below. During Advent I read, "Sleepers Awake: Getting Serious About Climate Change", written by the former Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, who, until he retired was the Church of England's lead bishop for the environment. In his book he encourages the reader to address issues of climate change from a biblical point of view, to recognise our uniqueness and complete unity with all of creation. Thomas, who has a copy of the book, is going to write a review of it in Lent, giving his thoughts arising out of the insights Bishop Holtam offers us. It will be good to hear from a younger member of our congregation - a generation who will be more affected than many of us.

Confirmation and Baptism -Sunday 26th February: This will be a great day of welcome to our Bishop of Edmonton, The Rt Revd Rob Wickham, and all those who are to be baptised and confirmed. Please come and support them and their families; it will be a time of rejoicing.

Word Day of Prayer 2023: AS mentioned last in last week's newsletter, this year's WDoP is being held at our church on **Friday 3rd March at 2.00pm**. It is always an enjoyable and interesting service created by groups from different countries. Everyone is invited and it is hoped, as we are the host church this year, it will be well supported by members of our own congregation.

The Night Shelter Project: will be starting every Tuesday from the 28th February - 18 April 2023. If anyone wishes to help please get in touch with Nehar on neharbird@gmail.com or at the Sunday Service.

Wednesday morning coffee: Finally, please come and join us for coffee, cake and chat in a warm church on **Wednesday mornings from 10.30am -12.30pm**. It will be so good to see you.

All good wishes and love

Sally

Articles and Notices Include:

- ✚ Photographs of Tribute to Dorothy;
- ✚ Thoughts from Guy Onochie;
- ✚ Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria – Jenny;
- ✚ Prayer for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal;
- ✚ Racial Justice Sunday - Former Christian Aid's CEO Amanda Khozi Mukwashi;
- ✚ Ideas for Lent Reading –Jenny;
- ✚ Toddlers Club;
- ✚ How We Are;
- ✚ Prayers with Kamran;
- ✚ Church Bulletin;
- ✚ Church Rota;
- ✚ Prayer List;

Dorothy – A Tribute





Thoughts from Guy Onochie

During Sunday school, I have gained a lot of knowledge about Christ and even had fun doing other activities. I have made so much memories that I will cherish forever and made many new friends that are benevolent. I hope to make more amazing memories and learn more about the bible.



Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria - Jenny

All of us will have been appalled by the devastation caused by the catastrophic earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, with the relentlessly increasing toll of victims. It's impossible to imagine what the survivors, their friends and relatives, and the search teams and aid workers are going through. People have been left without shelter in freezing winter conditions, with humanitarian needs expected to grow in the coming days. Access to clean water will likely be a challenge, bringing the risk of cholera and other diseases. DEC charities and their local partners are among the first responders, working with locally-led relief efforts in Turkey (now known as Türkiye) and Syria. Immediate priorities are search and rescue, medical treatment for the injured, shelter for those who have lost their homes, heaters for spaces and winter kits with blankets, and warm clothes, and ensuring people have food and clean water. Many of us will have been moved to respond by praying and perhaps by giving to support the emergency relief efforts. Christian Aid and 13 other major aid agencies are part of the DEC appeal, which you may have seen was launched last Thursday. Money raised through this appeal will be shared between all 14 participating agencies. If you would like to give, doing so through the DEC is a safe and efficient way of ensuring good use of every donation, however small. The Government has matched the first £5 million received by the appeal. You can give online via this link: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/dec-turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>, or in person at your local Post Office. You can find out on the DEC website more about how DEC members are responding: <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>. Thank you. Whatever else you are able to do, please pray. You may like to use this prayer written by a colleague at Christian Aid:

Prayer for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal

God of time and space, we cry to you for your children - our neighbours - in southern Turkey and northern Syria, following the earthquakes that have devastated hundreds of lives.

Only they and you know what it is like to experience such trauma in the middle of the night.

We give thanks for the aid that is already being given and for the promises of help that have been made by many nations.

Comfort, we pray,
those who are trapped in collapsed buildings;
those who have lost loved ones;
those who wait for news and
those digging through rubble to save others.

Grant the gift of hope so that those caught between life and death know that you are with them and that others are ready to support them as they seek a future that overshadows the experiences of today.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus, who endured so much for love of them.

Amen

Racial Justice Sunday - Former Christian Aid's CEO Amanda Khozi Mukwashi

Intro by Jenny - Last Sunday, 12th February, was Racial Justice Sunday. It's an annual opportunity to acknowledge, among other things, how far we still have to go in achieving justice for everyone irrespective of the colour of their skin or their heritage. I was reminded of this article, written by Christian Aid's then CEO Amanda Khozi Mukwashi on why the George Floyd tragedy ought to make us all angry. It was first published in the Times Red Box on 8th June 2020, shortly after the murder of George Floyd. Nearly three years later, it remains tragically all too pertinent.

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi writes:

"It has been difficult to absorb the story of the death of George Floyd at the hands of police officers in the US last week. The pain of black America is palpable. Watching the killing of a human being imprints an image that is hard to forget.

Watching custodians of safety and protection casually squeeze the life out of an unarmed man angers and frightens. Black America has the right to be angry. Anyone who is on the side of humanity, regardless of colour, ought to be angry.

In an article for *Times Red Box* yesterday, Mercy Muroki dismissed such a view as the spread of "racial panic" and "racial hysteria". I disagree. When people take to the streets with such intensity, calling for justice, it is because they feel they have no other way to express their outrage.

Blatant disregard for human life diminishes us all and robs us of our dignity. As a black African woman leading a British charity whose mission is to reach out to those suffering from extreme poverty and experiencing immeasurable injustice, I cannot disconnect myself from the pain of what is happening.

Because this is not just about the US; it is about racial injustice everywhere. Beyond the injustices that are the immediate focus of my organisation, I must use my voice to call out institutional failure to address racial oppression.

In my work, I have travelled to many countries, and stood with some of the world's poorest people: those suffering injustice, displacement and exclusion. Globally, black people are at the bottom of the food chain. Black lives seem to be considered cheap and easily dispensable. It would be easy to look at the US, seeing the injustice in this state-sanctioned brutalisation of black people, condemn it and think that is enough.

But black lives matter everywhere.

Look at Covid-19 deaths on both sides of the Atlantic. The disproportionate number of black people dying has at best been met with a muted response from those in power.

Their inaction speaks to a malaise that has infested humanity. It is a sickness that drives us to think of others as less human and less deserving of dignity.

In the case of George Floyd, four officers were present. Most of us would push the offending colleague off to save a life. Similarly, when those in power, mandated to serve and protect, remain silent or do the barest minimum, they might as well sign the execution papers.

Globally, our economic systems exploit the poorest. The face of a person in poverty usually belongs to a black person.

We are comfortable talking about lending a hand to the poor, but are not upfront about how we exploit their resources and corrupt their politics to generate billions for the richest economies, leaving them in further distress and living off crumbs.

The international rules that allow for tax havens and tax avoidance, for example, are set up to protect the wealthiest at the expense of the most vulnerable. Even though we know this is wrong and will lead to deaths, it doesn't seem to matter.

Last month the G20 rolled over some of the unpayable debts of the poorest countries until the end of the year. We applauded them, like this was a great favour.

It is the same with climate justice, where black and brown people are already bearing the brunt. While others deny that it is happening, those who accept that it is are looking for ways to save some lives while other lives are already being lost. This is what injustice looks like.

Every society seeks to explain away, if not justify, its discrimination. In the past few years we have seen the re-emergence of a more naked discrimination, the kind that leads to a policeman putting his knee on a man's neck and watching him die, as his colleagues look on.

The effects of this brutal approach are visible everywhere I go in my work. But I continue to have hope, because of all the people who believe that there is only one side: the side of dignity, respect and humanity. As one human family, we are all connected. It is those people who make me believe that a time is coming when we each need to take a stand."

Ideas for Lent Reading -Jenny

One of the ways in which many people like to mark Lent is to do some reading as an aid to reflection on our spiritual lives. There are huge numbers of books that can be helpful, and I'd like to suggest two which I've used in previous years and which in their different ways I've found invaluable. I've included the publisher's description of each one to give you a sense of what they offer.

If you want to shop online I've also included links for both books to two options: Eden.co.uk, which sells a wide range of Christian resources, and Hive.co.uk, which supports independent bookshops.

Saying Yes to Life, by Ruth Valerio

This was the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book in 2020.

Saying Yes to Life lifts our focus from every day (and perfectly natural) concerns to issues that are impacting millions of lives around the world. As people made in the image of God, we are entrusted to look after what God has made – to share in the joy and creativity of God in making a difference for good. Ruth Valerio imaginatively draws on the Days of Creation (Genesis 1 - 2.2) in relating themes of light, water, land, the seasons, other creatures, humankind, Sabbath rest and resurrection hope to matters of environmental, ethical and social concern.

Foundational to the book are what it means to be human and, in particular, to be a follower of Jesus during Lent. Voices from other continents are heard throughout, and each chapter ends with discussion questions, a prayer, and specially commissioned art to aid action and contemplation.

<https://www.eden.co.uk/saying-yes-to-life/>

<https://www.hive.co.uk/Product/Ruth-Valerio/Saying-yes-to-life/25516832>

The Heart's Time: A poem a day for Lent and Easter, by Janet Morley

Packed with riches yet highly accessible, The Heart's Time is at its core a series of short, resonant poems for each weekday of Lent and Easter. It will appeal to existing poetry lovers as well as those who want to start exploring how poems can be a resource for our spiritual lives, whether or not they are written with a consciously Christian intent. Poets often address subjects our culture seeks to avoid, and poetry demands that we 'slow down to the heart's time' in order to discover deeper levels of meaning than at first appear.

Janet Morley offers her own skilful and reflective commentaries on a fascinating themed sequence of both familiar and unexpected poems, including works by Margaret Atwood, St Augustine, Charles Causley, E. E.

Cummings, Emily Dickinson, Carol Ann Duffy, Ruth Fainlight, U. A. Fanthorpe, Robert Frost, Seamus Heaney, George Herbert, Elizabeth Jennings, Denise Levertov, Roger McGough, Adrienne Rich, Christina Rossetti, R. S. Thomas and Rowan Williams.

<https://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/easter-and-lent-books/lent-books-for-individuals/hearts-time/>
<https://www.hive.co.uk/Product/Janet-Morley/The-Hearts-Time--A-Poem-A-Day-For-Lent-And-Easter/9010048>



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 especially for Alexis grieving for her mother Alice, Anita grieving for her brother Chris, for Catherine and her family grieving for her sister whose funeral was held in Uganda recently.

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

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=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0x0DaDhY2paUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: J4FbKf

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: 12/02/2023

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.

Bring and Share Service with Baptism and Confirmation by Rt Revd. Rob Wickham – 26 February at 10 am. All welcome

Night Shelter Project – 28th February - 18 April 2023. our church will be hosting 17 homeless people.

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.

For your prayers:

Please remember Alexis and family who just lost her mother, 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 05 Feb 23

Reader: Elizabeth

Hospitality: Sally/Florence

AV Desk: Shaniv

Intercession: Rose

Eucharist Minister: Sally

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

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

GGPC Rota Feb 2023

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	Av Desk	Service leader
19/02/23	1 Corinthians 3:16-23	Elizabeth	Rose	Sally/Florence	Sally	Elizabeth	Nehar
	Matthew 17:1-9						
22/02/2023 Ash Wednesday	Psalms 51	Florence	Nehar	TBC	Naila	Shaniv	
	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18						
26/02/23 Confirmation & Baptism Service	Romans 5:12-19	Friday	Jenny	Nehar/Chinwe	Ezim	Tony	
	Matthew 4:1-11						
05/03/23 Worship	TBC	Cynthia	Sally	Rose/Ezim	Tony	Thomas	Jenny
	<u>John 3:1-17</u>						