

# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023



Dear Everyone

What a joyous Service we had on Sunday for the baptism and confirmation of a number of our young people by Bishop Rob. It was so good to welcome their parents, Godparents and friends, to see them confirmed, to hear the Sunday School children singing lustily and see them taking part in the proceedings by presenting those being confirmed with candles and gifts so they have a permanent reminder of their special day (Pictures are below). This was followed by a bring-and-share meal with a variety of delicious food. The lunches are so important as, apart from enjoying the different dishes people have brought for us to enjoy, they give us an opportunity to talk to each other.

**Bishop Rob:** Our Bishop is leaving us soon to take up a very responsible post as the new Group Chief Executive of the Church Urban Fund, a Christian Charity.

His role will be to expand upon its work of tackling poverty and exclusion across England.

We wish him well in this huge role

and give many thanks for his kindness

and the pastoral care he has shown to Kamran

and our congregation. Since his appointment in 2015, Bishop Rob has changed the face of Edmonton by making it a far more inclusive and welcoming Area; one that many of us are proud and grateful to be part of. Gifts were given to him on Sunday in thanks for all he has done for our church. We send him many prayers as he takes up his new post.



**Word Day of Prayer 2023:** As mentioned last in last week's newsletter, this year's WDoP is being held at our church this **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Donations of food for refreshments are welcome. Many thanks.

**Fairtrade Fortnight:** the next two weeks are "Fair Trade Fortnight" when we are reminded of the importance of buying produce from producers in countries where farmers are supported by getting a fair deal for their produce and better working conditions. In church our coffee, tea and sugar are all Fair Trade goods. If you cannot see them on the shelves of our supermarkets it is often a good idea to ask where they are – it does remind their staff produce is on the shelves! Jenny has written an article about it below.

**Nigeria:** We continue to pray for Nigeria as the country currently goes through elections to choose new leaders. We pray for peace and tranquility and God's blessing and hope for unity and harmony in the country.

**Ukraine-One year on:** The war in Ukraine seems never ending. It is a threat to peace for the people of that country but also peace for the world. We continue prayers for those fighting; those who are made refugees by the bombing of their homes and have lost so many of their loved ones. We also pray for the people of Russia; that for them the war may end and they may experience freedom and peace from tyranny. We know there are many who are unwilling to fight are against the war and who have lost their sons from fighting and grieve for them. We remember Christ's words, "Blessed are the Peacemakers for they are the children of God".

**Turkey and Syria:** and of course we do not forget the terrible situation in Turkey and Syria where so many thousands have been killed by the earthquake and made homeless. Charities have combined together to ensure life-saving work is coordinated under the title of Disasters Emergency Committee [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk)

**New Church Administrator:** It was announced last week that we have a new church administrator who has started her role. Her name is Tracy Sommerville. We welcome her, hope she will be happy with us and look forward to meeting her soon.

**The Night Shelter Project:**

started on Tuesday 28th February and continues until 18 April 2023. It is not too late if anyone wishes to help. Please get in touch with Nehar on [neharbird@gmail.com](mailto: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 from 10.30am -12.30pm. It will be so good to see you.

All good wishes and love

Sally

**Confirmation and Baptism Pictures**





## Fairtrade Fortnight - Jenny

This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March. It's a time when we're encouraged to think about the choices we make when we're shopping. The range of Fairtrade products is amazing and keeps on expanding. You can buy all kinds of food and drinks, fruit and vegetables, and clothes, flowers, beauty products - even gold if you're in that market!! Buying products with the Fairtrade mark means we can be sure the producers get a fair deal, and have decent working conditions. The way the world trade system works tends to discriminate against producers in low-income countries, so if we buy Fairtrade goods it makes a big difference to some of the poorest people on the planet.

At GGPC we committed a while ago to buying Fairtrade products whenever we can – in practice that's mostly tea, coffee and sugar, but we look out for other opportunities as well.

If you'd like to know more, do have a look at the Fairtrade Foundation website: [www.fairtrade.co.uk](http://www.fairtrade.co.uk).

In our intercessions on Sunday I included this prayer, which appeared on the website of the Fairtrade Foundation and is inspired by Amos 8: 4-7. I'm setting out that passage as well. You probably recognise it. It challenges us to reflect on how the world does trade, and what God thinks about it. And, definitely speaking to myself, on how I can try not to be complicit in unjust practices.

Hear this, you who trample the needy  
and do away with the poor of the land,  
<sup>5</sup> saying, "When will the New Moon be over  
that we may sell grain,  
and the Sabbath be ended  
that we may market wheat?"—  
skimping on the measure,  
boosting the price  
and cheating with dishonest scales,  
<sup>6</sup> buying the poor with silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals,  
selling even the sweepings with the wheat.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord has sworn by himself, the Pride of Jacob:  
"I will never forget anything they have done.

**This is the prayer: I love the idea of the God of the upside-down kingdom!**

Tilt the scales, O God of the mustard seed:  
that the poor shall see justice.  
Share the feast, O God of Eden's abundant garden:  
that each crop may fetch a fair price.  
Upset the tables, O God of the upside-down kingdom:  
that the least can benefit from their trade.  
Open our eyes, O God of life in all its fullness:  
that we may learn to walk the way of your son tilting, sharing, upsetting this world  
Not satisfied until the products we bring to our table give a better deal to all who hunger for one.

## One-year Anniversary of the Invasion of Ukraine – Jenny

24th February was the one-year anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Churches across Britain and Ireland were invited to join together in an act of solidarity to pray for Ukraine on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February, for an end to the conflict and for all those affected by the terrible impact of war. National services on the

24th were organised by Churches Together in Britain & Ireland and the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. With colleagues from Christian Aid I attended the London service at The Cathedral of the Holy Family which was very moving. The congregation was a mixture of Ukrainians and representatives of UK churches, and songs were sung by children of St Mary's Ukrainian School. Images were shown of some of the thousands of Ukrainian military who have died since 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022, and 461 paper angels were suspended from the ceiling, representing the children killed in the conflict.

The following prayer was written by the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church especially for the anniversary, and was circulated to churches across the UK with the encouragement to use it in their services. I began our intercessions on Sunday by reading it: here it is:

Almighty and Great God, accept our gratitude for your boundless mercy towards us.

Hear the supplication of our afflicted hearts for the land and people of Ukraine, as they confront foreign aggression and invasion.

Open the eyes of those who have been overtaken by a spirit of deception and violence, that they be horrified by their works.

Grant victory over the powers of evil that have arisen and bless Ukraine with your gifts of liberty, peace, tranquility, and good fortune.

We implore you, O Merciful God, look with grace upon those who courageously defend their land.

Remember the mothers and fathers, the innocent children, widows and orphans, the disabled and helpless, those seeking shelter and refuge, who reach out to you and to their fellow human beings looking for mercy and compassion.

Bless the hearts of those who have already shown great generosity and solidarity, and those who prepare to receive their Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Ukraine's greatest time of need.

Bring us together as your children, your creation, and instill in us your strength, wisdom and understanding. May you be praised and glorified, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

### **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.

**Sheila:** We send our prayers and love to Sheila who is unwell. We hope she gets better soon and is back with us.

**Sylvia:** We also send our love and prayers to Sylvia who is unwell and hopes she recovers soon.

We pray for Alexis grieving for her mother Alice.

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](mailto: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.

**Night Shelter Project** – 28th February - 18 April 2023. our church is 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 on the loss of their mother Alice. Please continue to pray for Sheila, Sylvia, Tony, Mike Houghton, Eunice and Naila for God’s healing.

**Rota for Sunday 05 Feb 23**

**Contact details:**

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873, Website: [www.gg-pc.co.uk](http://www.gg-pc.co.uk)

**GGPC Rota Feb 2023**

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	Av Desk	Service leader
<b>05/03/23 Worship</b>	TBC	Cynthia	Sally	Rose/Ezim	Tony	Thomas	Jenny
	<u>John 3:1-17</u>						