

# NEWSLETTER

5<sup>th</sup> June 2025



JESUS MAFA

by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa.

(see explanation of this painting below)

Dear Everyone - Greetings.

**Invitations:** We have quite a few invitations to a variety of functions listed below to which you are all invited. June looks as if it will be a busy and enjoyable month. Please note them all and see which ones you would like to attend.

**Our Ascension Day Service** on Thursday went well and several of your favourite hymns were sung. It was a small affirming service and one Kamran would like to hold, with your favourite hymns included, on Thursdays at the end of each month. Please give a thought to the hymns you would like for this service and write them on the paper at the side of the church.

**Ascension Day** is such an important day in the Christian year and yet it doesn't always get the recognition it merits. It occurred to me of the importance of art in recognizing the meaning of the day, to convey the story in wide and varied forms to impress meaning to the onlooker through sight and not just words. Sight, and the way what is seen, can hit the senses powerfully through our looking, interpreting and meditating. It is so important. We don't always need words. Paintings, Icons and sculptures have been a vital way of conveying faith and stories by artists, in their different styles, contexts and cultures down through the ages. Below I have put some of the different ways artists have created images. Firstly I have included, "The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth", which was customarily celebrated this week, but then of "The Ascension" to show how the same story is portrayed so differently depending on the century, the perception of the artist and the different style of the cultures. There are so many that I could only select a few, but what strengthens my faith, is the thought that throughout centuries, to the present day, from countries and cultures of the world important Christian stories are being depicted by artists of faith, to be seen, shared and reflected on by people everywhere. I cannot remember where I got this comment from but I thank the author for saying it as s/he puts it so clearly, *"Wishing you a blessed Feast of the Ascension! Today is Ascension day. Christians all round the world mark this incredible holy day when Christ ascended into heaven. Christ is the one who took fragile flesh and dwelt amongst us. Who loved and suffered and died. Who was raised, wounded and transformed...and who continues to transform us"*. May we be continuously transformed.

**Pentecost:** This Sunday is day of Pentecost which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem. These events are described in the book of Acts. In the UK, Pentecost is also called “Whitsunday” or “Whitsun” and takes place on the 50<sup>th</sup> and final day of the Easter season. We will be celebrating this important day with members of our congregation showing how it is celebrated in their different cultures and languages. Do come and join in.

**Continuation of the OT Story:** This week we have reached the Book of Kings 1 and 2, originally one book. They tell the story of the long line of Kings that came after David, most of whom failed to live up to the promise made to God. Initially, Solomon, who followed David, asked for wisdom and built the Temple in Jerusalem, but failed in his intention miserably. As a result of the actions and corruptions of those who followed, Israel was run into the ground and split into two rival nations, Judah in the South and Israel in the North. The story tells how God tries to prevent the increasing corruption by sending a long line of Prophets, the most famous being Elija and Elisha, to warn Israel to turn from idolatry and injustice. The prophets constantly reminding them of their calling to be a light to the nations by obeying the commands of the Torah, but their challenge to repent and follow their God was not heeded. The people refused to listen so God allowed them to face the consequences of their decisions. Despite Israel’s exile into Babylon, a hopeful remnant suggests that God has not abandoned his promise to David. The two books are a long and fast moving account of how appointed Kings fail by leading their people into all kinds of corruption. Reading them it is like a racy novel with every kind of injustice and cruelty being conducted for the sake of the Kings’ ego and power. Nothing much changes! What we do though is to look for the Kingdom of Christ who will rule with Justice, Love and Authority in the way God intended.

**Feedback:** At the side table of the church, Kamran has left some feedback forms so you can give your views on how you feel about the videos of the OT series. He would be grateful if you could fill them in giving your opinions. You do not have to put your name on them; they can be very short or longer - just say what you think. Many thanks.

**Wednesday Morning Coffee:** As usual our coffee morning is from 10.30am-12noon; coffee, cake and a chat. Afterwards there is communion at 12noon. Do come and join in.



**Listening and Learning, Bible Study:** The date of this next session will be on Thursday 5 June at 6.30pm.

**Toddler Group:** The Toddler group is going well. If anyone would like to help our volunteers, please talk to Kamran or Ifey. Thank you for those who help with it; the support you give is much appreciated.

**Day Outing to St Alban’s:** Please sign up for the Annual Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral. This will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June. **Kamran and Tracey need to know by 8<sup>th</sup> june for a place** to be booked. We do need to know the numbers coming, as if there are quite a few of us, a coach can be organized. There is a signing up sheet on the far table of the church for you to enter your name.



**Invitation to Zehra Ellianna's 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Party:** We are all invited by Zehra's parents to her Birthday Party on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June from 3.00pm. It will be held at Holy Cross and St Michael's Hall, Golders Green Road, NW11 8HL.



**We are invited by Dr Jeyda Korusoy, Prevention and Wellbeing Coordinator** (Childs Hill, East Finchley and Hampstead Garden Suburb) Communities, Adults & Health Directorate) **to a FREE community event on 12<sup>th</sup> of June at 2pm – 3:30pm, Homefield Gardens, East Finchley** with Adult Social Care, Age UK, Debt support service and IT and computer support. Refreshments provided by Homefield Gardens 😊



**Invitation to a Crafts Event at The Inspire Centre St Judes, Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb NW11 7AH.** This is also from, Dr Jeyda Korusoy. Jeyda has invited those of us who enjoy making different crafts to this event. [www.heritagecommunitycrafts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecommunitycrafts.org.uk) You could bring your own materials or Crafts Materials are supplied. **Date: Thursday 26th June 2025. 6pm - 8pm. Entry: £3 Ages: 14+**

**Annual Joint Service and Barbecue: On Sunday 20th July at 11.00am** (Please note the change of time) the morning service will be a joint one with our Asian Congregation of friends followed by the annual barbecue in the vicarage garden. This is always such an enjoyable event and great fun. Please put the date in your diaries and come along. Let us hope the sun shines and the rain stays away!

## Thy Kingdom Come - Light up the World in Prayer:



This initiative, that takes place this week, is a global prayer movement that originated with the Church of England. It encourages those who join in to deepen their own faith, pray for loved ones, seeking the Holy Spirit's power for effective witness. It was inspired by the disciples prayerful waiting for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit after Jesus' Ascension. We are asked to pray especially during the week of 29<sup>th</sup> May – 8<sup>th</sup> June, to join in globally with all others who are praying together. Some churches undertake all kinds of projects, such as, keeping prayer diaries, praying for specific people to come closer to Christ and holding special services linked up with other churches across denominations. An example from one church is below. What would you like to do to be part of this initiative and promote the important part of the Lord's Prayer that states, "Thy Kingdom come?"

**With love and many good wishes – Sally**



## Thy Kingdom Come - Light up the world in Prayer:

Relating to the above, I remember last year we undertook, that when we walked around our parish, or wherever we were, to pray in the streets for those who live in them, for the shops, and bus/train stations, and, if we were in or near a hospital for all patients and staff who care for them. We prayed that their faiths may become stronger and they may be blessed to live good and faithful lives. The world is in such a desperate state of war and aggression it would be so good if there was a stronger power of prayer to bring about more peace and a calmer way of living and deepen the faith of people. Examples are sent each day from different churches, showing what they are doing in response. Below is one from Revd Canon Jean Kerr; asking us to pray for 5 people to discover God's guidance for them.

**DAY 5**

**GIVE US TODAY  
OUR DAILY BREAD**

Reverend Canon Jean Kerr

Our daily bread is Jesus Himself  
providing daily care.  
Bread in our hands now ready to give,  
This Jesus appearing, longing for  
others to live.  
Fill us again, Bread of heaven within,  
that others might taste your Kingdom  
come in.

**Pray for Five:** Pray for your five people to discover  
that God wants to provide for them every day, whatever  
their circumstances.



## Faith Conveyed Through Art

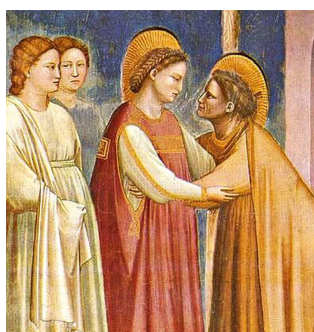
### The Visitation, (May 31<sup>st</sup>) Ethiopian Icon



And Mary said:  
“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.”

### Giotto; Arena Chapel, Padua

31st May: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



A predella panel (tempera on panel, c.1409)  
by Lorenzo Monaco (c.1370-c.1425).  
Courtauld Gallery, London





From the Rabbula Gospels - a 6th century manuscript of the Gospels



Revd Clare Amos who served in Beirut, Jerusalem and Cambridge, teaching Biblical Studies, wrote, "One of my favourite pictures of the Ascension of Christ. From the Rabbula Gospels - a 6th century manuscript of the Gospels, written in Syriac - and of course with illustrations such as this. There are some intriguing threads in the picture. I like the way that there are angels with the disciples below as well as angels with Christ above. It reflects how the Ascension brings heaven and earth together. And I think it is really 'neat' that St Paul is among the disciples waving Christ off. You can recognise him as the figure on the left side with a beard and a copy of his yet unwritten letters. (St Peter is on the right holding his keys.) Even though Paul was (according to Acts) busy persecuting the church for the next 8 chapters, he still manages to get into this picture at the Ascension".

### "The Ascension"

*By Jamaican artist Carl Abrahams*



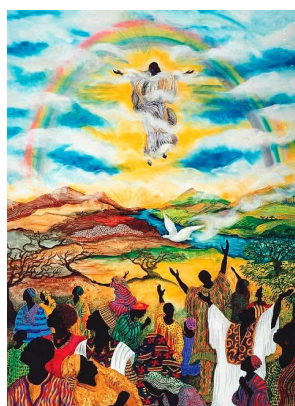
© jesusmafa.com  
*Jesus Mafa- Cameroons*

This painting of the Ascension JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings. In this beautiful rendering of the ascension, Jesus holds out his hands in blessing as he begins to rise to the heavens. The disciples, among whom is one of the women, gaze up at him. Their faces express mixtures of adoration, amazement, curiosity, fear, sadness, and joy. The disciples are finally beginning to realize and understand Jesus' mission. May we too realize that we can embody the risen Christ in the world—loving extravagantly, living abundantly, and promoting justice and peace for all peoples. JESUS MAFA. (*The Ascension, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN and with thanks to Andy Raine from the Northumbrian Community who sent this to me*).

**by mixed race (Native American and African-American) artist Frederick J. Brown**



**"If My People" by African-American artist Kathleen A. Wilson**



**The Ascension carved on a stone pulpit at Brinkburn Priory Northumberland**



## 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. Pray also for those who are grieving because of the loss of a loved one. We remember and pray for Sheila Grodzinsky's husband, Peter, and her children Sacha and Natasha and her grandchildren. May she rest in peace.

Please continue to pray for Keith, and for Myfanwy; for Anita Houghton, Chuba Agbim, Eunice Adiele, Gideon Onwutalu, Sir Edmund Onochie, Rose Ochwada.

We hold all the above 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

### Topic: Church Wardens' Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0x0DaDhY2paUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: J4FbKf

Reader:

Intercession:

Hospitality:

Eucharist Minister:

**AV Desk:**

**Contact details:**

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti Office Tel: 020 8455 1873 Website: [www.gg-pc.co.uk](http://www.gg-pc.co.uk)