

NEWSLETTER

16th May 2025



*Front face of Duccio's Maesta
Siena Cathedral 1300-11*

Dear Everyone

Sheila Grodzinski: It was with great sadness that Kamran informed us of the death of Sheila. She died in the Royal Free last Sunday Her husband, Peter, was by her side, and her children, Sacha and Natasha, who had been with her while she was in hospital. We pray for her grandchildren who she loved a great deal. Sheila was a much loved, devoted and a long term member of our church. She is a great loss to us and to the many she was associated with over the years. Sheila ran many clubs, such as the Guides, Brownies, the over 60's, arranging outings and making sure we always had flowers for everyone on Mothering Sunday and decorations at Christmas. She was a churchwarden for many years. She cared for and looked after members of the congregation when they were unwell. She was devoted to her family and loved family gatherings with her grandchildren. It is hard to pay her proper tribute as she did so much for such a long time. It is clear how much she was valued by the many tributes that were posted on the church WhatsApp, that showed the love and appreciation everyone had for her. Details of her funeral will be

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM): took place on Sunday. It was a full and detailed account of all that has been achieved throughout the past year showing how much work had been carried out by so many in the church. It was good to see that our electoral role has gone up and that our congregation numbers are rising. All those who have contributed in so many ways were thanked for everything they had done. Particular note was made of how the children in our Sunday School are flourishing and becoming confident in relating what they have learned to us on Sundays. Ifey and Modupe were thanked for their work that has produced such success. Naila was thanked for the work she does in so many ways, often unseen, and as a vicars wife is always there to help. Those who run the Toddlers Group were similarly thanked for their faithfulness in always turning up and making it possible for the children and their career to enjoy their mornings. Thank you particularly Keith, Nwando, Ifey, and Rose; Jenny for her work serving on the deanery synod and producing full reports of what is done. Geoffrey playing music for the services of variety and giving us such pleasure and those that sing in the choir. Those who serve on our various teams, keeping every aspect of the church in good order and planning for the future to make sure the church is safe and, as a building for good use and financially secure. Thanks were given to our Philippino members who do so much

in hospitality and provide such delicious refreshments at the end of the service. Thanks were given to Tim, our treasurer, Tracey and Sylvia for the new finance system, Shaniv and the building team who have much to plan for and particularly Tony and Nehar, our church wardens for all the many things they do. The work of Kamran was acknowledged and appreciated and how he welcomes all in our diverse congregation, from so many cultures with love that has made our church such a real pleasure to belong to. It was noted with pleasure that we are making closer links with our Asian church and will have more events together including a joint service in the summer. It was noted with pleasure that we are making closer links with our Asian church and will have more events together including a joint service in the summer. It must never be forgotten not to thank our PCC who attend meetings, consider and make plans for the church and its future and bring their different expertise. **Tim took the minutes of the meeting**, so if I have left anything or anyone out, the fault is mine and I apologise, but you can read a full account in the APCM minutes.

Bernard Bwanaope: In case you missed it last week, just to say we were so sorry to hear that Bernard has had to return for good to Malawi. This was at very short notice but, being in the diplomatic service he was only here for a given length of time, which was extended because of Annie's illness and death. He was so sorry not to be able to say goodbye to us as we were to him. He sent us a loving message from Malawi which was read out on Sunday during the service. But I am sure we will send him a message of our love and appreciation of all he and his family brought to us. This means, of course that Cairo has had to return with him. She will certainly be missed by the Sunday School and ourselves as she was such a bright and articulate young girl, always so keen to let us know what she had been learning. We will miss them very much and hope they settle back well in Malawi.

Okechukwu Nwandu: During the service this Sunday, there was a memorial to Oke who died last year. His relatives joined us to pay their appreciation to and, love for, him, as we did. Thanks was given for all he brought to us as a member of our church family. It was so good to see his family.

Birthday Greetings: Happy Birthday to Mehl and one of our guests who came for Oke. Prayers were said for them and Happy Birthday sung. A beautiful chocolate cake was shared with everyone.



Continuing the Old Testament. We have now reached, **The Book of Judges:** After Moses and Joshua died, the Israelites were continuously called by God to be faithful to the Law and Covenant. God, who expected them to be a Holy People saw them fail time and time again. They went on a downward spiral and behaved like the Canaanites. They became corrupt, disobedient, immoral and worshipped false Gods. Judges is not a book to be read by the faint hearted, it contains episodes of great cruelty and sadism, especially to women. Judges, were appointed to lead them, and, apart from Deborah, the only woman who was strong, principled and brave, the other judges, fought foreign oppressors, restored peace for a time and then went back to their own dissolute ways. The Judges period ended with Samson who led the Israelites for twenty years and, finally, to victory over the Philistines, but losing his life. The book of Judges, hard though it is to read, is

a testament to God's faithfulness to a people who constantly break the rules they have been given and, although they do repent from time-to-time, they repeatedly go back to breaking them. They are forgiven each time again by God showing God's grace and faithfulness and love for the people. The book, in many senses gives us hope, while showing the inadequacy of human leaders and highlighting the need for a permanent just and righteous ruler. It can't help but be seen as a book for our time.



Raising funds for the Winter Night Shelter: On Saturday 10 May, there was a sponsored walk between some of the venues that support the night shelter across Barnet. This is to raise funds for the coming Winter Night Shelter – a vital resource for those experiencing homelessness during the colder months. We would be grateful if you could donate towards this important event. **Please get get information on Sunday from Nehar. Thank you.**



Christian Aid turns 80 this year! This week, starting on Sunday 11th May, Christian Aid Week begins, when we are asked to support their work by donating what we can for everything they do across the world for people in in greatest need. Please donate to this important charity that has given so much to those who are suffering from war, hunger, natural disasters and many other horrors that people face.

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: This date of this next session will be put on the WhatsApp.

Toddler Group: Toddler group has started after the Easter Holidays. If anyone would like to help our volunteers, please talk to Kamran or Ifey.

Day Outing to St Alban's: Please sign up for the Annual Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral that will take place on Saturday 21st June. Kamran and Tracey need to know by 18th May for a place t be booked on the coach. There will be a list on the far table of the church for you to enter your name.

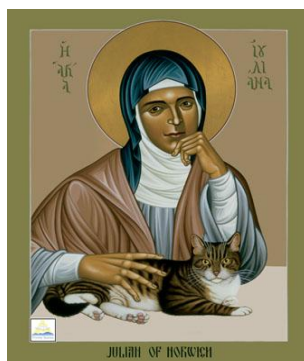


Julian of Norwich: The 8th of May was the feast day of Julian of Norwich, sometimes known as Mother Julian or Lady Julian. She was an English Mystic of the late fourteenth Century, living as an anchoress in Norwich. Malcolm Guite has written a poem for her which is below. Note that she is often portrayed with her cat, which apart from being important for catching the many mice that were around, it was a loving companion for her in her isolation.

St Paul's Cathedral: Last week was a celebration of VE Day, heralding the end of the second world war in Europe. To mark this event St Paul's included in its mailing to us reflections from the Revd Adèle Rees, who is an Army Chaplain, who has been part of the Royal Army Chaplains Department for the past 5 years. Adèle is an iconographer and narrow-boating enthusiast. She has called her reflection, "Wait for the Lord, Keep Watch, Take Heart"

With love, good wishes – Sally

Icon of Julian with her Cat
by Br Robert Lentz OFM –



A Sonnet for Julian of Norwich – by Malcolm Guite: "Julian lived Her life as an anchoress, finding Christ in isolation, and then finding that Christ transfigured that isolation into a communion of love. She has been an inspiration for many, especially when we lived through lockdown. Her 'Shewings', or Revelations of Divine Love, a series of mystical visions of and conversations with Jesus, remain a source of profound wisdom and a gift to the church, present and future".

Mother Julian.

Show me O anchoress, your anchor-hold
Deep in the love of God, and hold me fast.
Show me again in whose hands we are held,
Speak to me from your window in the past,
Tell me again the tale of Love's compassion

For all of us who fall onto the mire,
How he is wounded with us,
how his passion Quickens the love that haunted our desire.
Show me again the wonder of at-one-ment
Of Christ-in-us distinct and yet the same,
Who makes, and loves, and keeps us in each moment,
And looks on us with pity not with blame.
Keep telling me, for all my faith may waver,
Love is his meaning, only love, forever.

This comes from my book, "The Singing Bowl" published by, Canterbury Press, 2013.



Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart
Reflections for May from Adèle Rees



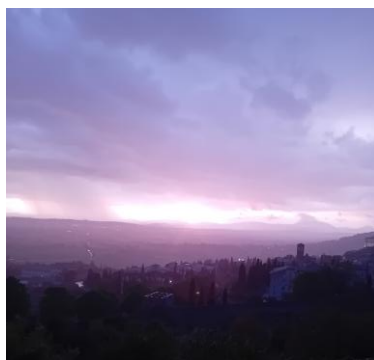
I've discovered many 'armyisms' in my 5 years. 'Hurry up and wait' is probably one of the most commonly used. There is always an enormous push to be ready as quickly and as soon as possible, usually followed by what seems to be an interminable wait, with people ending up 'sitting on their bergans' (an item known in civilian life as a rucksack). My units so far have been at high readiness, with some people living with the need to be ready to deploy on active duty in as little as 24hrs. Bergan packed for all possible situations.

As Christians we are told to be ready for Christ's return in every moment of life, 'for you do not know the day or the hour'. That kind of waiting can be both exhausting and profoundly boring. It can leave us with a powerful desire for action, yet forced to contain ourselves. In that kind of waiting space we can begin to think that nothing will ever happen, that we are just being messed about. Perhaps, in our frustration, we find ourselves blaming those around us and above us when our time would be better spent fostering generosity.

Generally I'm a great fan of idleness, I think the constant demands of modern life are quite unhealthy. Idleness can be a space for creativity, think of all those amazing pieces of wartime art made out of tins and bullet casings, I doubt they were knocked out in a few snatched moments. Rather I think they were lovingly

carved to pass the hours whilst soldiers thought of home, and family. There is a far greater amount of 'hanging around' in warfare than you might imagine.

The sitting and waiting involved in army life always brings to mind the response of a congregant in my curacy parish, when I was (once again!) late to meet her. 'Oh, no, it's fine, such a wonderful opportunity for prayer...' These spaces in between are places of grace for Chaplains, in the waiting space we can open up a conversation about life and faith. We can bring levity, prayer, morale. This last usually being sweet shaped. We wait for the Lord, watching over those entrusted to us, taking heart that there is always enough time for us and for them to be ready. For Christ or for war, whichever comes soonest.



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 pray especially for Sheila Grodzinsky, whose loss we feel keenly. We remember her 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 who is back in hospital.

We pray 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

Revd Kamran is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Sunday Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81350278858?pwd=aKZwFZ4TUE0GMvqJb5zQYjk51af69Q.1>

Meeting ID: 813 5027 8858

Passcode: 677319

Reader: Cynthia

Intercession: Rose

Hospitality: Cynthia/Chinwe

Eucharist Minister: Tim/Naila

AV Desk: Shaniv

Contact details: Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti Office Tel: 020 8455 1873 Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk