

NEWSLETTER

22nd January 2026



Dear Everyone - Greeting to you all

Week of Christian Unity: "One body and one Spirit": This week is crucially important at this time when the world is in a state of flux and upheaval. The week runs from 18-25 January and will be observed by Christian traditions worldwide. This ecumenical initiative invites Christian traditions to pray for the unity of the Church and to reflect on Jesus' prayer 'that they may all be one' (John 17:21). This year's theme is inspired by Ephesians 4: "There is one Body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling". Below is an article explaining in detail its history and importance to all of us.

Churches Together Service: On Sunday 25th January, there will be a Service for the Week of Christian Unity held at **St Jude's Church, Hampstead Garden Suburb at 5.00pm**. It will be good to see all those who can attend coming together to pray for Unity across all our churches at home and the world.

Pope Leo XIV on Unity: In keeping with the theme of Christian Unity, Pope Leo, speaks on why we should work towards Unity. He views Christian unity as a journey of "walking together," "praying together," and "serving together," emphasizing harmony in diversity, not uniformity. He says, "Go forward, the spirit of our God has called you", and ends by quoting a prayer of Saint Clare of Assisi. The article and prayer are below.

Simon's Intercessions: Last Sunday Simon's intercessions were much commented on, especially as he included Nazanin's comments on the situation in Iran which is affecting her and our Iranian family members. His prayers are printed below that can be used for our own daily prayers. Thank you Simon.

World Day of Prayer: Please put this date in your diaries. The annual "World Day of Prayer" is taking place on, **Friday 6th March at 2.00pm in our church, Golders Green**. This year the service is compiled by the women of Nigeria and it couldn't be held in a better venue. The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. The theme is, "I Will Give You Rest". The 2026 materials bring us a powerful invitation drawn from Matthew 11:28-30. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God.

Rose is our committee member for this service and invites you all to come and take part.

Listening and Learning, Bible Study: The date of the next session is Thursday 29th January at 6.30pm

PCC Study Day: This will be held on Saturday 24th January at Edgware Abbey. We are asked to pray for members of the PCC as they plan for the future of our church. Kamran asked on Sunday, if any of us have any suggestions and ideas we would like to be considered to please let him know before Saturday. Either ring (020 8455 1873), email (Kamran@gg-pc.co.uk), or, put on WhatsApp.

What is your special word for the year? In the newsletter of the 8th January, Jenny’s intercessions were printed. They focused on the word “**Now**”, which was particularly apt. In the same edition there was an article by Bishop Marriann Budde, who wrote in her Christmas letter a response to the numbers of people who asked her, “**Bishop, what gives you hope?**”, something we all must be asking. Part of her response was to say, “To be people of **hope**, we need to tap deeper spiritual wells to find the source of hope that enables us to **persevere**. The deepest, most lasting hope doesn’t depend on us alone; it comes as a gift to receive and to share”. Two words that jumped out of her response, and she comments on a great deal in her response, are “**Hope**” and “**Persevere**”.

After thinking on this, I asked you what your particular word would be for the year? A word to reflect on, meditate about, live by and guide you. I received several words which I am sharing, with permission. I am sure there are more from others. These are what have been offered so far: **Please share yours.**

- Keith - **Faith**
- Ash - **Patience**
- Rose - **Love**
- Sally - **Perseverance**
- Jenny - **Hope**
- Simon - **Fortitude**

Coffee: As usual our coffee morning is from 10.30am-12noon. Do come and enjoy coffee, cake and a chat.

Toddler Group: The Toddler group has resumed after their Christmas holidays. We badly need more helpers for this group. If you are willing to give some time to help between 9.30 and 11.30am on Tuesdays, please contact Kamran. (Kamran@gg-pc.co.uk)

January’s eco-tip from A Rocha - Bird Watch: Please remember **The RSPB’s Big Garden Birdwatch (Friday 23-Sunday 25 January)**. As said last week, this is the world’s largest garden wildlife survey in which, last year, nearly 600,000 people took part and over nine million birds were counted. If you enjoy bird watching and are willing to take one hour counting the birds you see in one location – your garden, balcony or a local park, please do so. Find out more at: rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch. For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK’s Wild Christian email: arocha.org.uk/wild-christian. As last year we talked a great deal about the seasons of creation and valuing nature; this is one way of doing it.



With Love and Good Wishes - Sally



Hope for Spring

Intercessions – January 18 2026 - Simon

We begin this morning with a verse from the Book of Micah, chapter 6 verse 8:

...what does the Lord require of you but to seek justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Let us keep in mind those three commands as we pray for the world today...

Seek justice, love kindness, walk humbly.

Tomorrow we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day, whose speeches remind us of the continuing racism here and elsewhere in the world which does not reflect the love and peace to which you call us. We ask that you help us, Lord, to bring these calls to act into the rest of the year so that we might better reflect *your* justice in *your* world.

Seek justice, love kindness, walk humbly.

As we contemplate the violence and suffering in Gaza, Venezuela, Ukraine and in other countries, we pray that you will instill in all your peoples a willingness to be kind to all. We ask for your presence and your love to overshadow such immense hate and lead us towards justice in your broken world.

Seek justice, love kindness, walk humbly.

Above all this week we bring before you in prayer the people of Iran, both those who are in that country as well as those here and elsewhere in the world. I have no direct experience of such a situation, and so I am deeply grateful to our sister Nazanin for allowing me to pray using her own words. She said this...

“The situation in Iran right now is deeply painful and heartbreaking. The violence and killing of innocent people, especially my fellow Iranians inside the country, has truly broken my heart.

I’ve also been unable to get any news from my family in Iran, and this uncertainty has made everything even harder for me.

Faith and prayer are my only refuge right now. I humbly ask you to keep the people of Iran in your prayers — especially those living inside the country under fear, violence, and injustice. Please also remember my family and all families who are living in worry and uncertainty”.

Let us pray for an end to this bloodshed, for peace, for the protection of innocent lives, and for light, justice, and healing to come to Iran.

Lord, in your mercy *All* Hear our prayer.

We pray for our country, our city and our community...

At a time when the political landscape of our country seems to be in turmoil and those who represent us seem to struggle to remember why they were elected, we pray this morning for a return to sanity and moderation in our national life. We pray, dear Lord, that the needs of our people and our country will eclipse personal ambition and the pursuit of power.

We remember all those in our city and our local community who are less fortunate than ourselves. We bring before you all those in our community who struggle with old age, debt, lack of employment, domestic violence, mental health issues or other forms of hardship.

Gracious God, we pray for peace in our community this day. We commit to you all who work for peace and an end to tensions, and those who work to uphold law and justice. We pray for an end to fear and for comfort & support to those who suffer.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church...

Throughout the world, this Sunday marks the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and so together we pray for the church of Christ, that we may all be one. We also pray for reconciliation across all major world religions; in the Kitab-i-Aqdas it is written that *"the earth is but one country, and mankind it's citizens"*.

Here in London we thank you for the ministry of Sarah, Bishop of London and the Archbishop of Canterbury designate; Anderson Jeremiah, Bishop of Edmonton; as well as John our Arch Deacon, Julie our Area Dean, Kamran our Vicar and Ibezim our Curate. Give them all we pray those qualities that you demonstrated to us in the ministry of your own Son Jesus Christ.

To live as your people in the world we need a community around us; for every place of worship that nurtures faithfulness; challenges allegiance to lesser truths; and reaches beyond its walls in mission and faithfulness, we give thanks. We give you thanks and praise for the support, love and fellowship we experience in this church. We thank you for all those who contribute to the life of this parish church in ways both large and small.

We know that wherever true Christian community is found, you are at its heart. So grant, we pray that we might be kind to one another – tender hearted and open to the movement of your spirit calling us to be one in faith and action.

Lord, in your mercy **All** Hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick...

A woman who had been sick for twelve years came up to Jesus, saying to herself "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment.

Lord Jesus, we ask that, if it is your will, that you will relieve the suffering of those we know and those we love. We particularly pray today for:

Daniel, Keith, Relia, Myfanwy, Anita, Chuba, Eunice, Gideon, Sir Edmund and Rose

Give them relief from their pain, support as they heal and the strength to deal with their afflictions.

Lord, in your mercy **All** Hear our prayer.

We pray for the departed...

John wrote "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life". Lord we live in sure and certain hope that through your Son Jesus Christ there *is* new life after death, yet losing those close to us is never easy. Give strength we pray to all those who mourn the recent loss of a loved one or friend. We pray today for those for whom the anniversary of their passing falls in this coming week. Rest eternal grant them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Lord, in your mercy **All** Hear our prayer.

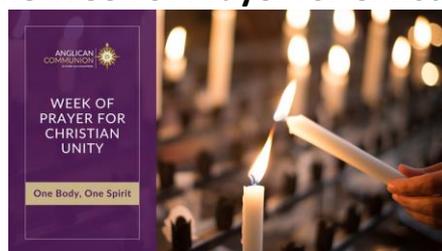
Finally Lord we commend ourselves to you with this prayer:

God's faithfulness endures forever. God forgives, renews, and restores.

God's mercies are new every morning, and as God's people, we are called to seek the restoration and healing of our world. Go out into the world with the good news that God loves you deeply and calls you into new life every day.

Merciful Father Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

What is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity?



This ecumenical initiative invites Christian traditions to pray for the unity of the Church and to reflect on Jesus' prayer "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). This year's theme is inspired by Ephesians 4: "There is one Body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will run from 18-25 January and will be observed by Christian traditions worldwide.

Why is Christian Unity important?

Ecumenism (from the Greek *oikoumene*, meaning 'the whole inhabited world') is the name of a movement that promotes the recovery of Christian unity and works towards the vision of one, undivided Church.

The vision includes the search for visible unity of the world's Christian Churches and the move to make this goal the concern of all Christians. This task is important for all Christians as part of God's reconciling mission in fulfilling the call of Jesus' prayer in the gospel of St John, chapter 17, verses 22-23:

"The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."

Who is behind the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity?

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been encouraging prayer and reflection on Christian harmony and collaboration for decades. Resources are devised through an international ecumenical collaboration that involves both local input and global refinement. A different ecumenical group from a different region or country is invited to draft the initial liturgical text and a biblical theme each year. The resource is then reviewed and published by an international editorial team composed of representatives from the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity (DCPU – from the Roman Catholic Church) and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches (WCC).

This year, Armenian Churches have played a central role in the development of the 2026 prayer resources, which are available online. Combining an ecumenical worship service and daily prayers and reflections, the resource demonstrates the importance of putting divisions aside, fostering mutual respect and working together as servants of Christ to make a difference in the world, even in challenging contexts.

How can Anglicans get involved with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity?

Around the Anglican Communion, many churches will mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity as an expression of their ongoing commitment to the importance of ecumenism. In support of guiding Christians through meaningful prayer and reflection, there is a downloadable digital resource from the Dicastery for

Promoting Christian Unity, Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. The resource combines an ecumenical worship service, daily prayers and reflections.

Other ecumenical organisations, such as the World Council of Churches and Churches Together, will be releasing regular content throughout the course of the week. Some churches and organisations may choose to hold prayer meetings or special services in honour of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The Anglican Communion Office will also be sharing daily content on social media platforms to help Anglicans reflect on the significance of the journey to Christian unity: Facebook, Instagram.

Taken from the Anglican Communion News Service

Key Themes of Pope Francis on Unity



"What you hold may you always hold. What you do, may you always do and never abandon. But with swift pace, light step and unswerving feet, so that even your steps stir up no dust, Go forward, the spirit of our God has called you. Prayer of St Clare of Assisi

Pope Francis views Christian unity as a journey of "walking together," "praying together," and "serving together," emphasizing harmony in diversity, not uniformity, achieved through prayer, dialogue, and conversion of heart, driven by the Holy Spirit for the common mission, recognizing shared roots and the need for mutual love and forgiveness. He stresses that unity is a gift from God, essential for Christian witness, and requires overcoming internal divisions and external conflicts through God's grace and humility.

Unity is a process, a "path" that matures through movement, walking together, and mutual service, reflecting the synodal process.

Harmony, Not Uniformity: Unity means a "harmony among the diversity of charisms," not sameness or compromise, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Prayer as Foundation: Prayer for unity, especially during times of hardship, is crucial, acknowledging our need for God's change of heart.

Service & Mission: Unity is for the mission; Christians must bear witness together, not apart, serving God and neighbor.

Shared Roots & Love: Recognizing shared Christian roots, like ancient olive trees, and seeing others as brothers and sisters to love, overcoming prejudices.

Overcoming Division: Fighting against the devil's work of sowing discord by magnifying faults, and promoting peace and reconciliation.

Examples of Action: He promotes ecumenical initiatives like joint prayer, visiting other Christian communities (WCC, Orthodox Churches), and joint pilgrimages for peace (South Sudan with Anglican and Reformed leaders).

In essence, Pope Francis calls for a dynamic, Spirit-led unity built on shared faith, humble prayer, and active service, essential for the world to believe.

Taken from Vatican News Letter



Prayer of St Clare of Assisi

What you hold may you always hold.
 What you do, may you always do and never abandon.
 But with swift pace, light step and unswerving feet,
 so that even your steps stir up no dust,
 Go forward, the spirit of our God has called you.

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.

Please pray especially for Keith who has been taken back into hospital after experiencing a recurrence of the illness he had last week.

We think of Ruth, whose father's funeral took place in Wales on Thursday 15th January.

Ruth is caring for her mother. We send our love and prayers to Thomas and Elizabeth and the rest of her family.

We hold in our prayers, Marlies, whose brother died suddenly on January 4th- a terrible shock to her and her family. We send our condolences.

We give thanks for the recovery of Festus from his knee operation and is walking well.

We pray for Daniel, for Keith, Relia and Myfanwy; for Anita Houghton, Chuba Agbim, for Eunice Adiele, recovering from an eye operation, for Gideon Onwutalu, Sir Edmund Onochie, Rose Ochwada. Please keep Kelly's father John in your prayers.

We hold all the above in our hearts that they may be filled with God's healing in their health and, if bereaved healing in their grief.

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

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

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	AV Desk	Warden on duty	Service leader	Preacher
25/01/26 Bring & Share	Psalm 27:1,4-9 I Cor 1:10-18	Nwennaka Dozie	Kai	Cynthia/ Chinwe	Sally /Tony	Daniel	Nehar/ Sohail		Rev Kamran
01/02/26	TBC	TBC Sim	Jenny	Alexis	Daniel/ Ezim	Dozie	Tony/Bilan	Nehar	
08/02/26	TBC	Dozie Andrew	Nwando	Silvia	Ifeyinwe / Onyeka	Daniel	Ifey/Shaniv		
15/02/26	TBC	Sohail Elizabeth	Tony	Bilan	Tim/ Naila	Onyeka	Nehar/ Sohail	Alexis	
22/02/26 Bring & Share	TBC	Cynthia Guy	Nehar	Cynthia/ Chinwe	Nehar/ Nwadi	Shaniv	Tony/Bilan		
01/03/26	TBC	Conny Sim	Rose	Christina	Sally/ Tony	Ruth	Ifey/Shaniv	Nehar	
08/03/26	TBC	Andrew Abi	Alexis	Nora	Daniel/ Ezim	Onyeka	Nehar/ Sohail		
15/03/26	TBC	Keith Elizabeth	Simon	Naila	Ifeyinwe / Onyeka	Shaniv	Tony/Bilan	Jenny	
22/03/26		Sam	Kai	Cynthia/ Chinwe	Nehar/ Nwadi	Daniel	Nehar /Sohail		