

NEWSLETTER

30th April 2026



Artwork by Imani Nadia Gray
African American Artist

Dear Everyone - Greetings to you all

Words of our Children: Sometimes it is good to hear the words of our children in Sunday School who tell us what they have learnt from their lesson with Ifey and Modupe. Last Sunday they had read John 10, as we had, where Jesus, was preaching to the Pharisees, who did not understand what he was telling them. Jesus used the metaphor of himself as the “Good Shepherd”, and how he is “the true gate” who provides safety, freedom and life to the full for the sheep.

“The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him and the sheep listen to his voice...” “Jesus said, *“verily I am the shepherd... whoever enters the gate will be saved”*. Unlike the Pharisees who did not understand, our children explained the meaning with clarity. **Wanneka** told us, “Jesus is the gateway to life. He is the shepherd; we are the sheep. Jesus is the one who comes to save those who enter the way of the gate”. **Poppy** said, “Jesus is the gateway who protects us and helps to lead us not into temptation”. **Sam** said, “Jesus protects us, gives us our life and protects us from all bad things in the world”. Thank you Wanneka, Poppy and Sam.

Nwando: We hold Nwando constantly in our prayers. She remains seriously ill. We send her much love in the hope that God’s healing hand will be on her. It was good to see her daughter, Tanwa, and son-in-law, Joe in church last Sunday and to be able to say how much we miss her being with us. We think of her two sons, Jaiye and Bolaji, who are keeping their vigil by her bedside with Tanwa and Joe.

Violence in Golders Green: It was with some horror that we heard on Wednesday of the stabbing of two men in Golder’s Green High Road, by the shops and a Synagogue. Kamran has already made a statement which he has put on WhatsApp and Facebook and sent to the local synagogues. Here is one from the London Diocese and our bishop Anderson Jeremiah.

Diocese of London and Anderson Jeremiah

“We are deeply saddened by the stabbing of two members of the Jewish community in Golders Green. Our prayers are with the victims and their families. We stand in solidarity with our Jewish neighbours and reject all forms of hatred and violence”.

The Right Rev Dr Anderson Jeremiah, Bishop of Edmonton, said:

“I am deeply shocked and saddened that, yet again, two of our Jewish neighbours have been targeted and stabbed by an individual driven by hatred and violence. While I am immensely relieved to hear they are currently receiving medical attention, the fact that such an atrocity has occurred in our community is devastating.

“As a resident of Golders Green, I am appalled by this ongoing cycle of violence fueled by antisemitism. Just an hour ago, I was walking down the very street where the attack took place”.

“This was not just an attack on individuals, but on the safety and spirit of our entire neighbourhood. In the face of such darkness, our community must stand firm. We must respond with unwavering resilience and a commitment to the kind of love and unity that overcomes bigotry”.

“My prayers are with the victims and their families, and I stand in solidarity with the Jewish community. We will not be defined by those who seek to divide us, but by our collective strength and support for one another.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury and Pope meet: The Archbishop of Canterbury met with Pope Leo XIV in Rome this week, reminding us that our journey of faith is one we share. “Together in prayer for peace and justice.”



Listening and Learning, Bible Study: The Bible Study will continues to take place each Thursday at 7.00pm pm. It will be held in church as usual but also on Zoom to enable those who cannot get to church to join in. The link is: **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81391462394?pwd=Iw9o8zKMnoUjEx2TwGmOlwU>

[m21F2V.1 Meeting ID: 813 9146 2394 Passcode: 226547 --- One tap mobile +12532050468,,81391462394#,,,,*226547# US +12532158782,,81391462394#,,,,*226547# US \(Tacoma\) Join instructions https://us06web.zoom.us/meetings/81391462394/invitations?signature=9LDb9LImnxkAbxeBXA-gdH3xLiUglFvqZ2iPFwUE8ys](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81391462394)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM): This important meeting is getting nearer. **The date is: Sunday 10th May** after the morning service. During the meeting all the events and happenings of the year are reported on, questions are asked and issues discussed. It is a time when church wardens are elected and members of the Church council too. Please put the date in your diaries and make a point of attending.

Please also be sure to sign up to the Parish Electoral Role. There is a list of names at the side of the church. If your name is not already on it you can sign on the forms which are on the table or ask Alexis who is our electoral role officer.

Coffee: This enjoyable time takes place each Wednesday from 10.30am – 12 noon when we then have a short communion service. Everyone is welcome – cakes and conversation.

Toddler Group: The Toddler group will be back this week after their Easter 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 let Kamran know on Sunday or contact him on: Kamran@gg-pc.co.uk or the church WhatsApp.

Message from A Rocha: Support pollinators. A new month- a new message from A Rocha, who have sent us an invitation to think about our Bees. They are warning us that their numbers are in decline, that we should be aware of them and take action to save them. Bees are so important to us as they are the great pollinators. These precious pollinators are declining due to habitat loss, climate change and agricultural intensification. Wednesday 20 May is World Bee Day, so look around to see how you can improve habitats for bees and other pollinators". Read more about bees, butterflies and habitats that support them in our Target 25 resources at: arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/target-25. Sow a pollinator- friendly seed mix, make or buy a bee hotel, let wild flowers grow in your garden, and don't use pesticides. Pray that our pollinator populations will increase. For more about World Bee Day visit: awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/world-bee-day/



This is my Bee House in my garden. If you do not have a garden you can attach them to a windowsill or balcony. The bees will make good use of it.

Fr Richard Rohr: many of us receive daily messages from Fr Richard Rohr who is a Franciscan friar and ecumenical teacher. He bears witness to the deep wisdom of Christian mysticism and traditions of action and contemplation. He is based in America and is the Founder of the “Center for Action and Contemplation”. He teaches how God’s grace guides us to our birthright as beings made of Divine Love and is read widely. His daily writing help with many aspects of the Christian faith, such as prayer and contemplation, dealing with inner tumult and reflecting on the relationship between anxiety, fear, and faith.

He is the author of numerous books and speaks at many conferences and retreats.

This week I was particularly taken with one of his reflections in the light of what he has called “the age of anxiety”. I could not think of a better term for what the world is going through.

Below is his article, **“Do Not Be Afraid Trust in God”**

The Revd Peniel Rajkumar is an Anglican priest who serves as Director for Global Mission and Theologian for the Anglican mission agency USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel). Peniel also teaches in Ripon College Cuddesdon and is honorary canon theologian for York Minster and Worcester Cathedral. The article from him below was sent by St Paul’s Cathedral. In his reflections, he talks of, “On becoming Agents of 'Respair’”, Respair not despair. In it he explains what he means, citing a passage in Isaiah which speaks about bringing good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, and sight to to the blind.

Jesus identifies his own ministry in terms of solidarity with the oppressed and affirms that transcending borders in our own service are signs of the presence of God’s Spirit. Jesus makes important use of stories. At the end of his article, Peniel, asks us an important question, **“What are the stories of solidarity that inspire us?” “How can our stories of solidarity inspire others?” What are your stories?**



With love and good wishes – Sally

Do Not Be Afraid: Trust in God by Richard Rohr

Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God. Have faith also in me.” —John 14:1

Our time has been called the age of anxiety, and I think that’s probably a good description. We no longer know what or where our foundations are. When we’re not sure what is certain, when the world and our worldview keep being redefined every few months, we’re going to be anxious. Understandably, we want to get rid of that anxiety as quickly as we

can. I know I do. Yet, to be a good leader of anything today—a good pastor, manager, parent, teacher, or even a good citizen, we have to be able to contain and patiently hold a certain degree of anxiety and fear. Greater levels of leadership require leaders who are capable of holding greater anxiety. Leaders who cannot hold anxiety will never lead us any place good or new.

That’s probably why the Bible says “Do not be afraid” almost 150 times! If we cannot calmly hold a certain degree of fear and anxiety, we will always look for somewhere to expel it. Expelling what we can’t embrace gives us an identity, but it’s a negative identity. It’s not life energy, it’s death energy.

Can we recognize how different the alternative of faith and trust is? Faith can only build on a totally positive place within, however small. God just needs an interior “Yes” to begin, a mustard-seed-sized place that is *in love*—not fear—that is open to grace. [1]

One could sum up the Bible, and our lives, as an interplay of fear and faith. In general, people are obsessed and overpowered by fears; they fear what they cannot control. God is one of our primary fears, because God is totally beyond us and totally beyond our control. The good news is that God has breached that fear and become one of us in Jesus. Through Jesus, God says, in effect, “You can stop being afraid. It’s okay. You don’t have to live in chattering fear of me.”

The opening chapter of Luke’s Gospel presents Mary as the archetypal Christian because God comes into her life and proclaims the divine presence within her, immediately telling her through the angel, “Do not be afraid” (Luke 1:30). Through the same divine Spirit, God comes into our lives and announces the divine presence within each of us. All we are asked to do is be present and open. Only after God calls Mary beyond her fear does God give the message of her calling.

Fear can keep us from hearing what is really being said. Mary’s spirituality is focused on trusting. She said, “Let what you have said be done to me” (Luke 1:38). She doesn’t try to explain or understand. She just says, “I trust you, God. Do with me what you will. Let it be.”



On becoming Agents of 'Respair'
Reflections from Peniel Rajkumar
'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because...' (Luke 4:18a)



Jyothi Sahi (Oil on board. Painting at Ecumenical Centre, Whitefield, Bangalore, 1980) Available in the public domain.

The different dimensions of solidarity find resonances in the passage popularly known as the Nazareth Manifesto. This is the passage in Luke 4 where Jesus, having returned to Nazareth, reads from a Scroll in the Synagogue. He cites a passage in Isaiah which speaks about bringing good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, and sight to the blind. Jesus identifies his own ministry in terms of solidarity with the oppressed and affirms that transcending borders in our service are signs of the presence of God's Spirit. However, Jesus learns the hard way that solidarity with people who are outside of our own communities (those who are 'on the other side of our history') is not everybody's preference. In Luke 4, Jesus references two stories of solidarity across difference; the stories of the widow of Zarephath in Sidon (*who fed Elijah with her last handful of bread and oil in a famine and was miraculously sustained by God - 1Kings 17*) and Naaman the Syrian (*Cured of his leprosy by Elisha after taking the advice of a captive Israel slave girl. 2 Kings 5*). The moment he speaks about them in this context, people want to push him off a hill.

I find Jesus's references to the widow of Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian fascinating. They bring out the importance of storytelling in Jesus's life and ministry. We are shaped by the stories we hold. Jesus's own reaching out to people beyond his own is linked to other stories - the unnamed widow of Zarephath shows radical hospitality in trusting and feeding Elijah, a stranger, during a severe famine. And the story of Naaman is incomplete without the story of the unnamed slave girl who tells him about Elisha. We see many borders being transcended here.

By retelling these small narratives in a way which explains his own ministry of radical solidarity, Jesus teaches us that the small stories matter, because they can contribute to a larger story – of love, liberation and life. We know from history how small actions count towards a larger change. Rosa Park's defiance on a Montgomery bus became a catalyst for one of the most influential civil rights campaigns in history and was an inspiration for Martin Luther King Jr.

A world like ours needs 'respair' – a fresh hope which allows recovery from despair.

Becoming instruments of **respair** involves becoming part of those narratives of solidarity, small or big, which can make Jesus' promise of life in all its fullness more possible. **What are the stories of solidarity that inspire us? How can our stories of solidarity inspire others? What do you think of the use of his word, "Respair"**



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 for Nwando who remains very ill and in hospital. We send her our love, our strong thoughts and many prayers for God's healing hands to be upon her.

Please also pray for Festus who is home after having been in hospital for a second operation on his knee. We do hope he makes a good recovery and is back with us soon

We pray for Anita who is unwell. We pray that she is sustained with God's Love and our prayers. We pray for Simon and the care he gives her.

We pray for Daniel, for Keith, Myfanwy; for Chuba Agbim, for Eunice Adiele, recovering from an eye operation, for Gideon Onwutalu, Sir Edmund Onochie. 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 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: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0x0aDhY2paUT09>

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
03/05/26 5th Sunday of Easter	Psalm 31:1-5	Sam	Tony	Nora	Tim	Onyeka	Tony	Alexis	Rev Kamran
	1 Peter 2:2-10	Daniel			Naila		Bilan		
	John 14:1-14								
10/05/26 Sixth Sunday of Easter	Psalm 66:13-20	Sohail	Alexis	Silvia	Sally	Dozie	Ifey	Nehar	Rev Kamran
	1 Peter 3:13-22	Dozie			Tony		Shaniv		
	John 14:15-21								
14/05/26 Ascension of the Lord	Psalm 47	TBC							
17/05/26 Seventh Sunday of Easter	Psalm 68:1-10	Poppy	Kai	Naila	Daniel	Shaniv	Nehar/Sohail	Rev Ibezim	Rev Kamran
	1 Peter 4:12-14,5:6-11	Cynthia			Ezim				
	John 17:1-11								
24/05/26 Day of Pentecost	Psalm 104:24-34,35b	Conny	Nehar	Alexis	Ifeyinwe	Onyeka	Tony	Jenny	Rev Kamran
	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	Sim			Onyeka		Bilan		
	John 20:19-23								
31/05/26 Trinity Sunday Bring & Share	Psalm 8	Keith		Cynthia	Nehar	Ruth	Ifey	TBC	Rev Kamran
	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Elizabeth		Chinwe	Nwadi		Shaniv		
	Matthew 8:16-20								

