

NEWSLETTER

11th June 2026



*15th Century Russian Icon
The Trinity - Andrei Rublev*

Dear Everyone - Greetings to you all

Trinity Sunday: Faith as a means of Grace: Last Sunday Ibezim preached about Faith as a bedrock of our prayer (Hebrews 11v1), and the assurance of what you are hoping for being certain of what you have seen; something that you did not deserve but got by divine assistance. Grace is God's path; Faith is a response to God's promise. Faith makes us strong even when we are not able to do it ourselves. Ibezim talked about the Tax collector Mathew, who everyone hated because of his work, but Jesus saw him and said 'follow me'. Jesus went to Matthews house. Jesus selected him and brought salvation and trust. Matthew did not deserve it but Jesus had compassion and love. Faith was also the moving Grace for the leader of the synagogue, whose daughter was dead. He believed in Jesus to save her, as did the woman who was bleeding for many years, she believed by touching his robe she would be cured and in her faith and she was, as was the leader of the synagogue's daughter. Ibezim said, "Whatever your problem is today God will offer you a solution. Do not give up or surrender to your problems, pack them with Faith; faith and grace will work together. Have faith, he can bring help to assist you Do not give up.

Birthdays: We celebrated Keith's birthday at the end of the Service with congratulations and prayers. Much was said about his faithful attendance and support for our church family and

the fact he is always there at all events which is much appreciated. Happy Birthday Keith and thank you for the delicious chocolate cake.



Onyeka's Walk to raise money to support Diabetes UK:



This is Onyeka's story, "WALK347 Gower 100km Challenge – In Loving Memory 💚"

On 18 July 2026, I'll be taking on one of the toughest challenges of my life — walking 100km across the Gower Peninsula as part of the incredible WALK347 team.

But this year, it's more than just a challenge. It's deeply personal.

Why This Means So Much to Me

I live with Type 2 diabetes. It's something I manage every day — something that affects not just me, but so many families. This walk is for two women who meant everything to me:

💚 My mum, Ogbueshi Nwanyi Florence, who lived with diabetes before she passed

💚 My aunty, Nwando Edu, who we very recently lost

Their strength, their love, and their resilience stay with me every single day. When I take on those long miles, the pain, the fatigue — I'll be thinking of them.

This is for them. Always.

Why Your Support Matters

This year, through WALK347, we are raising funds for a cause that changes lives — one that supports people, families, and communities facing real challenges every day.

Every donation is more than just a number. It is:

- Support for people who need it most
- Hope for families going through difficult times
- A way to turn loss and struggle into something meaningful

Your support helps transform this challenge into something bigger than any one of us.

My Journey So Far

This isn't my first WALK347 challenge — and each step along the way has been powered by people like you:

- 2016 – London to Brighton (100km) → £8,000+ for Mind
- 2018 – Cotswold Way → £5,000+ for Mind Mid Herts
- 2021 – Peak District → £4,000+ for Amudo UK
- 2023 – London to Brighton (again!) → £12,000+ for Prostate Cancer UK

Together, we've raised nearly £30,000 — and this year, we go again.

The Challenge Ahead

100km is not easy.

There will be moments where my body wants to stop.


Moments where the distance feels impossible.


But I'll keep going — for my mum, for my aunty, and for everyone this charity supports.

Please Support If You Can

If you're able to donate — no matter the amount — I would be incredibly grateful.

You are not just sponsoring a walk.

You are:  Walking this journey with me

 Honouring the memory of two amazing women

 Helping make a real difference to others

Thank You - From the bottom of my heart — thank you for your support, your encouragement, and your kindness.

This one means everything. Onyeka 

https://www.justgiving.com/page/onyi-onochie?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Loving Beyond the Boxes Fr Richard Rohr: At a time when there are certain groups who seek to divide us Father Richard, in one of his daily messages, affirms God's desire for us to know and welcome all of ourselves and others. He states that, "God is clearly more comfortable with diversity than we are, that God's final goal and objective are much simpler. God and the entire cosmos are about two things: **differentiation**, that people and things becoming themselves,

and **communion**, where we live in supportive coexistence He states, that it seems Physicists and biologists to know this better than theologians and clergy. (Article below}.

Bishops in the House of Lords: You may wonder what our bishops who are in the House of Lords do. Each bishop is responsible for some aspect ofThe Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Rev'd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, for example is Lead Bishop for Housing as well as a strong spokesperson for Refugees and Immigrants (having been a refugee herself from Iran). On the 20th May she spoke in a King's Speech Debate on Health, Transport and Housing. Bishop Guli is a compelling speaker. Her speech was focused on Housing. A subject of which many of us are concerned about for the lack of affordable housing from so many, especially the young who are struggling and those with no housing at all and are often on the streets. She talks about, The housing affordability crisis. Her speech is printed below. **How do you feel about the cost of housing and the crisis we are in?**

St Paul's Cathedral Newsletter to London Churches: The article below is written by **Sophia Jones on**, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" and how we, living in an age of war and conflict, and in our churches, pray for peace and for all who suffer its effects. She asks, "How do we say yes to peace in daily life?".

Sophia has worked as a Communications professional for over 30 years for some of the leading international humanitarian charities including Christian Aid, World Vision and the International Rescue Committee where she led Communications in east Africa for six years. On her return to the UK she led Communications at Mothers' Union and was then Director of Communications at the Diocese of Southwark. She is currently Interim Director of Communications Engagement and Fundraising at the Anglican Mission agency USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel). Sophia is also a student on the Church of England's Elizabeth Pathway. Sophia has written



Listening and Learning, Bible Study: The Bible Study will continue 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=Iw9o8zKMnoUjEx2TwGmOlwUm21F2V.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/join/81391462394/invitations?signature=9LDb9LImnxkAbxeBXA-gdH3xLiUqIFvqZ2iPFwUE8ys>

Church Prayer Group: Ibezim has started a church prayer group that will be taking place every Wednesday at 7.00-7.45pm. The aims are, “to pray for: the Church; our members; ourselves; encouraging of communal prayer; building ourselves spiritually. Jesus told his disciples, Luke 18, “They should always pray and not give up”. This is open to all.

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 is on holiday this week for half term. **We still 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.

Monday 15th June from 6.00 – 7.15pm in church: Just to remind you we are holding a session on all aspects of advice on drawing up, Wills, Powers of Attorney, Inheritance Tax, Trust Planning, planning for the next stage of our lives and so much more. This will be led by **Rabeya**, who is a highly qualified financial planner of many years standing. She is a fully accredited member of the Society of Later Life Advisers, and **local** Care Fees Planning Specialist. She will be partnering with Anne, from Curwin’s Solicitors, who will be advising on Wills, and answering any questions you may have.

This session will be highly highly informative in making your way through what can be a complex maze of issues. Quite a number of you have signed up to attend and it will be so good to see you. We have invited members of Churches Together to Join us.

It will last about an hour and a half with coffee/tea and refreshments.

A Friday Fish and Chip Lunch: Sarah Pratt, the Home Services Advisor at Magnolia Court Care Home, has also invited us to a **Fish and Chip Lunch at 1.00pm on any Friday we are interested in.** If you would like to come they can take up to 12 guests. If we look at our diaries and agree a Friday date we could all go together and enjoy the chip lunch. Please let me know if you are interested by WhatsApp or email me on: sally.barnes3@btopenworld.com

Please note two dates for your diaries:

Festival Day at St Alban’s Cathedral for St Alban: This will take place on St Alban’s Day **Saturday 20th June.** Several people went last year and thoroughly enjoyed it. If we have enough lifts by car that will be great but, if a large number would like to come, Kamran will order a coach. If you would like to go please sign up as soon as possible and let Kamran know.

Donald Barnes Memorial Lecture: Please put **Tuesday 20 October at St Peter's Church, Belsize Square NW3 4HJ at 6.30pm** in your diaries. This year’s Memorial address. It will be given by, Dr Claire Gilbert, Visiting Professor at King’s College London and Lay Canon at Norwich Cathedral. Claire has agreed to give the lecture on a theme based around Julian of

Norwich and ecological consciousness. Claire is the author of the recent book *I Julian* (acclaimed by Rowan Williams among others).

With love and good wishes – Sally



Loving Beyond the Boxes Fr Richard Rohr

Father Richard affirms God's desire for us to know and welcome all of ourselves and others:

God is clearly more comfortable with diversity than we are, and God's final goal and objective are much simpler. God and the entire cosmos are about two things: **differentiation** (people and things becoming themselves) and **communion** (living in supportive coexistence). Physicists and biologists seem to know this better than theologians and clergy.

Religious people who use the scriptures to condemn or exclude others seem to have different goals and objectives from those of God or Jesus. Their arguments generally have to do with very secular concerns: power and control, fear of the other and the unknown, and idealization of a family unit that Jesus himself neither lived nor idealized. Check the Gospels if you don't believe me.

Institutional religion tends to think of people as very simple; therefore, the law must be very complex to protect them in every situation. Jesus does the opposite: He treats people as very complex—different in religion, lifestyle, virtue, temperament, and success—and keeps the law very simple in order to bring them to God:

A legal expert put him to the test: "Teacher, which commandment in the Law is the greatest?" He replied to him, "'You are to love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind.' This is the first and foremost, and the second is like it: 'You are to love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hangs everything in the Law and in the Prophets" (Matthew 22:35–40).

Jesus takes the risk of allowing people the freedom to be themselves and to love God according to the shape of their own heart, soul, body, and mind! Religion developed for the sake of social

control, but Jesus doesn't give us much grist for the social control mill. Jesus is asking a different set of questions, ones that take away our private agendas and remind us of the ways we have not yet begun to love. For Jesus, it is all about union—union with God, others, and *what is*, however it presents itself. We cannot let labels trip us up. We all belong, but how cleverly our moral pretenses prevent us from struggling with what is right in front of us! How ingeniously our ego protects itself from compassion and understanding.

Author Jen Austin considers how God invites us to move beyond neat categories:

It is part of the human tendency to put everything into a neat little category.... However, categories also allow us to include and exclude people based on characteristics that are unfamiliar to us or that we don't understand. Black or white, gay or straight, we spend a lot of time and waste a lot of energy creating and adhering to labels in our culture, quite often at the expense of basic human dignity and common sense.... God is bigger than all our little boxes. God's love transcends the lines we draw on earth. [2]



*American Icon 21st century
The Trinity by Kelly Latimore*

Saying Yes to Peace - Sophia Jones

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” He calls us to be people of peace and reconciliation. For those living under Roman oppression, this must have been hard to hear. Many were simply trying to survive—paying taxes, raising families, working, and worshipping—while waiting for the Messiah to come and overthrow Rome.

They must have been confused hearing these words of peace coming from Jesus. They must have been thinking, “Why, if this man is the Messiah, is he talking about peace and making peace?” “Why is he telling us to love our enemies?”

We live in an age of war and conflict, and in our churches, we pray for peace and for all who suffer its effects. This week (2–4 June), the Anglican Communion’s mission agency, USPG, held its annual conference, “For Christ is our Peace,” rooted in Ephesians 2:14, to explore the Church’s role as an agent of peace in a time of global uncertainty. Speakers from across the Anglican Communion shared their experience and insight.

How do we say yes to peace in daily life? I think it begins by finding peace within our own hearts. For me, that happens in my garden—pottering about in my shed, or among the flowers and plants. It is my haven: a place of joy, prayer, reading the Bible, and deep peace.

The passage in Ephesians speaks of Christ being our peace and that he has broken down the dividing wall and the hostility between us. It is Christ, our Prince of Peace, who proclaimed peace to those of us near and far. We should always say yes to peace because Christ not only commanded it, but he IS our peace.

Let's start with ourselves and trust Christ to guide our prayers for peace in our communities and the world. We can also act—campaigning, showing solidarity, and supporting groups that promote peace and reconciliation. As children of Christ, let's say yes to peace.

On 20 May, the Bishop of Chelmsford and Church of England Lead Bishop for Housing, the Rt Rev'd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani spoke in a House of Lords King's Speech Debate on Health, Transport and Housing.



My Lords, as the Church of England's lead Bishop for housing, I want to commend the measures in the Gracious Speech that will improve different parts of our housing system. The housing affordability crisis threatens to unravel the unwritten social contract: that if you get a decent education and then work hard, you should be able to earn enough to save for a deposit and buy a home, get married, start a family and provide stability for your children until they can do likewise. While these proposed bills are important and worthwhile, I urge the Government to use this forthcoming legislation to address the most acute part of the housing crisis: the affordability of homes, whether for rent or purchase.

The Social Housing Renewal bill represents an opportunity to build more decent, affordable homes. Will the noble lady the minister consider allowing councils access to low interest, long term development finance on the same favourable terms as those given to Housing Associations?

It's important to complete the legislation in the Leasehold Reform Bill, and get it right, so that it delivers a fairer system and justice to those leaseholders who suffered gravely at the hands

of unscrupulous freeholders. At the same time, we need to recognise that legislative nuance may yet be required to preserve the heritage value of certain historical estates.

My Lords, there is a fundamental moral case for correcting the imbalances, distortions and injustices in our housing system.

Firstly, the growing inequality between those with housing equity and those without^[1]. The former have seen their unearned housing wealth grow inexorably, whereas those whose income is derived solely from their labour watch the bottom rung of the housing ladder slowly receding from their grasp.

Secondly, the lack of labour mobility. People struggle to relocate to where new jobs are emerging, which puts a drag on economic growth, productivity and incomes.

Lastly, the long term damage is even more insidious: prolonged high housing costs delay family formation, and fewer children are born. Would-be parents can't afford to stop work to raise a family unless one of them is a high earner. The consequences of demographic decline can be severe, including a shrinking workforce, a growing old age dependency ratio, and severe pressures on health and social care provision for an ageing population.

My Lords, the second point I want to make is that there is a real danger that vital qualitative aspects of the housing that we need will be sacrificed in pursuit of arbitrary numerical targets.

I would encourage the Government to promote the language of building homes not units, creating communities not developments, and places not housing estates. We also need to ensure the foundational infrastructure is delivered in a timely way. Good design also creates the shared green spaces where both nature and residents can thrive. The report of the New Towns Taskforce underscored these priorities; can the noble lady the minister provide assurance that the New Towns Unit is giving as much emphasis to the qualitative aspects of delivering new towns as the quantitative?

The Church of England is ready to support the 'soft' relational side of placemaking, as we strive to offer a Christian presence in every community. In new towns, we can provide schools, social housing and management of community centres. Our network of volunteers can offer a welcome, and attend to the spiritual and social welfare of the residents. Together with other grassroots charities and faith organisations we can help build the relational networks that shape the character of any new community.

I hope that we won't allow the pressure for action – acute though it is – to deter us from creating a housing system that our children and grandchildren will thank us for.

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 Festus who has a second operation on his knee. How good to see him back with us.

We pray for Anita 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. We especially think of Nwando who died after being ill for a few weeks. She is a great loss to those of us who loved her. We pray specially for her family in their grief and all of her friends who feel her loss keenly.

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=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0xDaDhIY2paUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365 Passcode: J4FbKf **AV Desk:**

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 | Wardens on duty | Service leader | Preacher |
|---|---------------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|---------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| 14/06/26 Second Sunday after Trinity | Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7 | Connie | Nehar | Christina | Ifeyinwe | Daniel | Nehar | Jenny | Rev Kamran |
| | Romans 5:1-8 | Sim | | | Onyeka | | Sohail | | |
| | Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23) | | | | | | | | |
| 21/06/26 Third Sunday after Trinity | Genesis 21:8-21 | Andrew | Rose | Nora | Tim | Onyeka | Ifey | Rev Ibezim | Rev Kamran |
| | Romans 6:1b-11 | Dozie | | | Naila | | Shaniv | | |
| | Matthew 10:24-39 | | | | | | | | |
| 28/06/26 Fourth Sunday after Trinity Bring & Share | Genesis 72:1-14 | Sam | Jenny | Silvia | Sally | Dozie | Tony | Rev Ibezim | Rev Kamran |
| | Romans 6:12-23 | Daniel | | | Tony | | Bilan | | |
| | Matthew 10:40-42 | | | | | | | | |
| | | Elizabeth | | Chinwe | Nwadi | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |