



# St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

*Confidently sharing the love of Christ*

## **Readings and Notice Sheet** **4th Sunday of Creation Season 2021** **26th September 2021**

***From September 1 to October 4, much of the Christian family celebrates the gift of creation. This global celebration began in 1989 with the Ecumenical Patriarchate's recognition of the Day of Prayer for Creation and is now embraced by the wide ecumenical community. Prayer is a powerful experience and tool to raise awareness and foster transformational relations and ministry. This year the theme is A Home for All? Renewing the oikos of God. It is our hope to work together to acknowledge the wisdom from countless sisters and brothers helping all to renew our world as an interconnected and interdependent global beloved community. You can read more at [www.seasonofcreation.org](http://www.seasonofcreation.org)***

*On this Sunday we are invited to reflect on PRAYING FOR OUR HOME PLANET & ITS PEOPLE – how are we caring each other and our natural environment in a way that reflects the whole of creation*



### **The Collect**

Heavenly Lord,  
you long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Old Testament reading—**

*The story of Esther is a tale about the survival of diaspora Jews in the context of the empire of Persia, and one of its narrative functions is to give an etiology of the Jewish festival of Purim. Christian readers in the global North should be vigilant to remember that their social location in the cultural majority gives them more in common with King Ahasuerus than with Esther, a minority orphan who is trafficked into child concubinage. This is a Jewish text first, and a text about cultural survival in diaspora second.*

*Though this small selection for the lectionary reading does not emphasize it, the story of Esther is a satire of bureaucracy, in which the plot unfolds for hapless innocents by the grinding mechanisms of "official business."*

A reading from the book of Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my

kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.’ Then Queen Esther answered, ‘If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.’ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, ‘Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?’ Esther said, ‘A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!’ Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, ‘Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.’ And the king said, ‘Hang him on that.’ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

### **New Testament Reading**

*We live in a world where suffering abounds. From the lingering impacts of COVID-19, to ongoing wars and forced displacement of children and families, to devastating wildfires, earthquakes and hurricanes, and throughout the world are experiencing suffering like never before. So as the reader comes to the end of the letter of James, a letter filled with ethical teachings and moral admonitions, it is encouraging to find these timely teachings about prayer. This closing section of the letter is signaled in verse 12 by the expression “above all else” (pro panton de), a common marker for highlighting the end of an ancient letter. After this declaration and encouragement to use words carefully (Let your “Yes” mean yes and your “No” mean no), James raises a series of questions, which build up to what may be considered the climax of the letter in verses 13-14: the power of prayer for the faithful people of God.*

A reading from the letter of James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner’s soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

## **The Gospel reading from Mark**

*Today's passage from Mark is not easy to read, and can be quite challenging. Mark 9:38-10:31 presents this Gospel's most concentrated cluster of moral teaching: vignettes of discipleship expressed within the believing community (9:38-50), the family (10:1-16), and a larger social sphere (10:17-31). This Sunday Mark considers the church's boundaries and internal responsibilities. The radical character of discipleship is focal, consistent with last Sunday's mandate that each of Jesus' followers become "last of all and servant of all" (9:35).*

*Mark 9:38-41 encourages a broad-minded attitude toward those who provide relief but operate outside the disciples' circle: "Whoever is not against us is for us" (9:40). Here Jesus commends in strongest terms ("truly I tell you"; see 3:28; 8:12; 9:1) the reward due anyone who quashes diabolical forces in his name (3:23-27)—whether or not they are "following us" (9:38: our way of being church)—or another who offers a simple cup of water to disciples "because you are Christ's by name" (9:41, my translation). Adhering to the spirit of 9:35-37, 9:38-41 stresses gracious reception of anyone whose action, bold or modest, genuinely conforms to Jesus' character.*

### **Mark 9:38-50**

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

### **Intercessions**

Let us pray to God our creator,

Loving God,

we give thanks for the fellowship of the Church, for its worship and its teaching, for all who support us now in our discipleship of Christ and for all who have been an inspiration or companions in the past.

By your Spirit give your Church humility to hear your word, courage to work for your justice, grace to share your peace with the earth, and the faith to live and proclaim the gospel.

We pray for Archbishop Justin, Bishop's Sarah and Pete. We pray also for the Willesden Episcopal area as it discerns who might be our new Bishop

God of life,  
**Hear our Prayer.**

God, creator of all, we bring to you our concerns for the earth, its life and its people. We give thanks for those who are willing to take on the responsibilities of government among the nations. And we pray for them.

Particularly, we pray for our leaders in our local and national community; may they always make their decisions with regard for the future of the earth and the needs and rights of those who are poor; give them the humility to work together and the wisdom to make the best decisions in the face of complex problems.

God of life,  
**Hear our Prayer.**

We give thanks for the work of international bodies and non-government organisations working to combat climate change and bring peace and relief amidst violence and turmoil.

Give them the insight, strength and determination they need as they work on behalf of some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

God of life,  
**Hear our Prayer.**

We give thanks for all that we enjoy in life, our communities and friendships, freedoms and laughter. Give us a continual sense of wonder amidst your creation; compassion to respond to the needs of others; courage to take what action we can for justice in your world; and wisdom to choose ways of living which are good for the climate; the needs of future generations; and the health of the earth.

God of life,  
**Hear our Prayer.**

We ask you to hear us, good Lord as we pray for all who are on our hearts, including Ruth, Megan, Michael Ngo, Kay, Michael, Comfort, Joyce, Fr Robert, Jean, Isobel, Peter, Pearl, Rute, Ron, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth. Nurture in each of us life and hope.

God of life,  
**Hear our Prayer.**

Creator of all wisdom, Help us to rejoice with all your whole creation, that we may praise you eternally. We give thanks for those whom we have loved and see no more; for their lives and the mark they have left on ours. Amongst them we remember Takashi Kitahara, Eddie Wright, Ernest Reed, Daphne Macaulay and Lily Turner.

In the stillness of this moment we lift our owns before God. ...(*allow a time of silence*)

Lord of all Creation,  
as we have received the bread and wine,  
Fruits of the earth and tokens of salvation,  
so with joy we celebrate your goodness  
And commit ourselves to serve you on your earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
who taught us to prayer saying:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### Notices



#### **Confirmation**

It was wonderful to have Bishop Pete with us last Sunday, and to confirm Ardalan, Layla and Adam.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a special day. It was lovely to celebrate together afterwards.

#### **Refreshments after Church**

We are now resuming opportunity to share in refreshments after church. It would be helpful if you **could bring your own cup/mug**. We will be provide tea and coffee—but we have less volunteers who are happy to wash up; and we do not have a dishwasher (yet) - and the PCC felt that one way to manage this would be if we each bought our own cup and took it home again each week. Thank you for your patience while we trial this.

**Creation Season**— will be celebrated each Sunday in September in the lead up to **Harvest Festival on 3rd October**. Creation Season is a time when we focus on the gift of God creation and our need to care for it.

From September 1 to October 4, the Christian family celebrates the good gift of creation. This global celebration began in 1989 with the Ecumenical Patriarchate's recognition of the Day of Prayer for Creation and is now embraced by the wide ecumenical community. Prayer is a powerful experience and tool to raise awareness and foster transformational relations and ministry. ***This year our theme is A Home for All? Renewing the oikos of God.*** This year this will also include contributing to a visual display of prayers for our environment. (see <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate->

change/season-creation).

(The PCC also agreed earlier this year that to complete the paperwork to allow us to be part of the **Eco-Church movement**. As a congregation we have always been committed to this, but we wanted to make this more formal). If you would like to see more now—<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

### **As part of Creation Season we are inviting the congregation to participate in the Prayer Boat for Climate Change**

This project being organised by Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) and Christian Aid. Environmental change impacts most often on the most poor and vulnerable in the world. This project invites us to join together in prayer, folding prayer boats and adding our prayers. We will display our pray boats in the rotunda from Harvest. You can read more here—and more details will be in church. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/get-involved/rise-moment-activity-pack>

Instructions for folding origami boats can also be collected from the back of church. Please use old paper that needs recycling if you can!

### **Harvest Supper and Harvest Festival.**

**Saturday 2nd October starting at 6pm** there will be Harvest Supper and Quiz night.

There is a sign up sheet at the back up church or you can email Mo C if you would like to come. To allow for catering we need to know final numbers by the 28th September.

**Harvest Festival** will then be celebrated at 9.30am on Sunday 3rd October; you can start bringing in Harvest goods now and leaving them in the basket at the back of church so we can use them for our display. **Laurence's Larder have requested—Toiletries and tin food like soup, chopped tomatoes, fish or pot noodles would go a long way!**

### **Other dates for your diary!**

**Advent** will begin this year with a Social event on either the 26th or 27th November—we are still confirming details but we are hoping to host an event to mark the start of the new season.

Wreath making workshop will take place on Saturday 11th December.

### **Covid Guidance for Coming to worship**

- ⇒ As soon as you enter the building **please continue to either wash your hands or use the sanitizer provided.**
- ⇒ We would ask, that if you can **please wear a face mask** until you are upstairs and seated in your chair. It is then your choice if you remove your mask, but please do respect those close to you or keep a distance from them.
- ⇒ **Hymn books** will now be available to those who want them, but the screens will also be used. Individuals can choose. Please do return your book to the stand when you leave, please, so no one else has to touch it!  
This will also be the case with service sheets.
- ⇒ The peace may take place. As it is hard to know who would welcome a handshake; the suggestion is that we continue as we are – smiling, waving or bowing.
- ⇒ **Communion** will continue to be administered in the same way, with members of the congregation coming forward, and then everyone receiving together once we have returned to our seats. Mother Christine will continue to wear a mask for distribution, and we would ask you to do the same. However, this is your choice.  
***The Priest receives the wine on the congregations behalf at present.***

## **Laurence's Larder**

You can still leave your donations, tinned fish or any non perishable food in the basket at the top of the stairs.

**Toiletries and tin food like soup, chopped tomatoes, fish or pot noodles would go a long way!**

You can see updates on this work at <https://www.laurenceslarder.org.uk>



### ***Pastoral News and things for our prayers:***

*Congratulations to Megan, Michael and Teddy on the birth of Baby Rory on 14th September. Please continue to pray for them all.*

*Bishop Pete retires as Bishop of Willesden from 30th September. Please pray for him and Sarah as they move into the next phase of their lives.*

*Pray to for the selection committee for the New Bishop.*

*Please continue to pray for Ardalan, Layla and Adam after their confirmation last Sunday.*

***For our prayers***— Ruth, Michael Ngo, Kay, Michael, Comfort, Joyce, Fr Robert, Jean, Isobel, Peter, Pearl, Rute, Ron, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth. We remember those who have died including Takashi Kitahara and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Eddie Wright, Ernest Reed, Daphne Macaulay and Lily Turner.

### **Service this week**

*Mo C is away for the beginning of the week helping to run a training program for Deacons across the Diocese. There will be no morning prayer this week, apart from Friday.*

**Friday 1st October at 8.30am**—Morning Prayer in Chapel

**Friday 1st October—9.30am** My Move Playgroup resumes

**Friday 1st October at 2pm**— Tea and Chat

### **Sunday 3rd October 2021- Harvest Festival**

**8.30am**—Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom

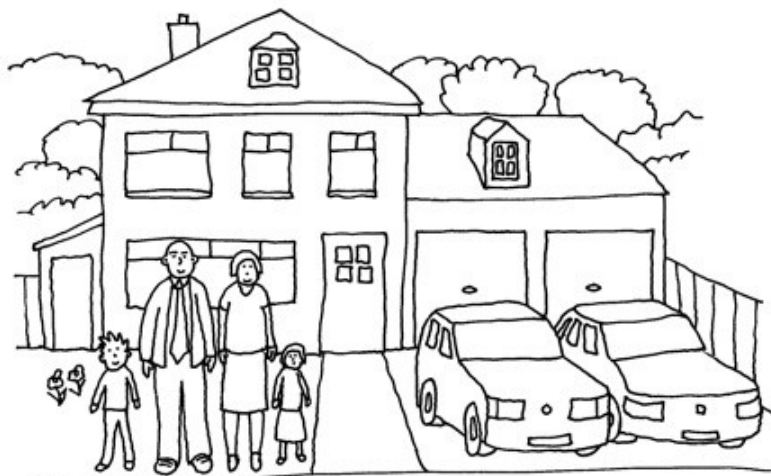
*Thought for the Day on Facebook at some point during the morning.*

**9.30am — Service of Confirmation**—Eucharist in Church with Bishop Pete followed by a Reception

**5pm**—**Service of the Day on Zoom**



# CLIMATE CHANGE



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