



@StJames'

Issue 27: December 2015



Happy Christmas!



Christingle and Carols

Our annual Christingle Mass took on a slightly different atmosphere this year as the congregation moved around to the tables laid out with ingredients for making the Christingles!



Pack-Up



The appointment of Toni Parker as the co-ordinator for the soup kitchen, 'Pack-Up' and it's opening in our Hall in October, is the result of a long term aspiration. Working in close partnership with Natalie Fry, Dan Woodman and the team from Richard Cloudesley School, the Volunteers from both St James' and the wider community have gelled so well together so that, for several of them, Mondays have become a real highlight of the week. It is certainly appreciated by the local street community, one of whom made a very generous donation to Pack-Up recently as a way of saying 'thank-you'.



Left: Toni Parker (Pack-up Coordinator), Megan Kloet and James Gill, Maria Flavius and Ken Thompson : 'Look what I made!'

Below: Norah and Mark Hodge



Above: Grace Joseph and Beryl Lloyd



And we even made and saved one for our PCC Secretary, Kerry Sabine, who loves Christingle and felt very sad when she was deemed to old for one in her home church!

A group of 15 went Carol singing in the evening of 6th December in the local area and collected £150 for Pack-Up, our Monday soup kitchen. Here they are (below) in the Duke of Cambridge bringing some Christmas cheer to the drinkers and diners!



Above: The Pack-Up volunteer team

MOP

A lot of very welcome donations have been received by the local branch of MOP recently as they maintain our support for the orphan children in Zimbabwe. Together with the Chari-tea, held at the end of November, the figure currently stands at £1500. Well done everyone!



Diary Dates December/January

Monday 14th December

6.00pm COLA-I Christmas Concert in Church.

Tuesday 15th December

6.30pm Occasional Concert: The Pallisander Recorder Consort play Renaissance Christmas Music.

Wednesday 16th December

11am Richard Cloudesley School Christmas Service.

Saturday 19th December

10am Cleaning and polishing the Church ready for Christmas.

Sunday 20th December

ADVENT 4 Masses at 8 and 10am, starting our Blue Bucket appeal for 'Shelter from the Storm'.

Monday 21st December

12.30pm Pack-Up Christmas lunch.

Thursday 24th December

CHRISTMAS EVE

6.00pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Friday 25th December

CHRISTMAS DAY Masses at 8 and 10am.

Sunday 27th December St

JOHN Masses at 8 and 10am.

Monday 28th December

12.30pm Pack-Up, Church Hall.

Sunday 3rd January

EPIPHANY Masses at 8 and 10am.

3pm Church Children's Party, Hall.

Monday 4th January

12.30pm Pack-Up, Church Hall.

Parish Priest: Fr John Burniston
1a Arlington Square, N1 7DS
020 7226 4108
email: vicar@stjamesislinton.org
Hall bookings: 020 7354 9170

More pictures from Christingle *Below left: Catherine Daley and Jill Hetherington; Right: Rosemary Ross*



Reflections on the year

It's been a busy year and we have spent much of this year improving our systems and making sure that our administration is as efficient as possible. The following illustrates some of what has been achieved:

- Income from use of the Church Hall and the Church have both increased and our financial position as a whole is positive.
- The Archdeacon's Visitation went smoothly.
- The second toilet in Church and the renovation of the Hall flat are complete.
- We have a volunteer administrative assistant for a couple of hours a week.
- Charity successes include the launch of Pack-Up and school fees for MOP.
- A Second Sunday Choir has been formed.
- We have welcomed several new families to St James' and Sunday School has grown.
- During the year we have responded to scores of requests – even to the point of clearing the contents of a flat in half a day! Being there for people is a vital element of what it means to be a Parish Church.

The churn, the rapid turn-over of those who show an interest in joining St James' but who then move away, has been particularly high this year. And yet while they were with us they have all remarked on the way St James' has been accepting of newcomers, broad in outlook with varied and stimulating worship.

As you know we postponed our autumnal Congregational meeting when it became clear the re-ordering was not going to be completed as planned in August. We are now hoping that we will have the go-ahead to begin work from the Chancellor after Christmas and at that point it would be appropriate to call the parish together to ask what plans we should be making as part of a second 'Five Year Plan'.

Thank you for all you do for St James'. We live in precarious times when we will never be quite sure what the future holds, or what initiatives will work. We live by faith in a God who requires of us very little except that we trust him to create the Kingdom of God in this place "with what we have".

Of course there are things that we could do better but sometimes we have to be content with having done our best to achieve that which is necessary! God grant us the wisdom to know the difference...

Taken from Fr John's Pastoral Report - the full report is available at the back of the Church.