

@StJames'

Issue 29: February 2016

Yellow Questionnaires

PHASE 2, our new five year Mission Action Plan, was launched on Sunday 7th February. 22 members of the congregation stayed behind to listen to a short presentation explaining how the new plan would be put together. Key to its success are the yellow forms which are available at the back of Church. Everyone is invited to contribute their ideas about the future using the forms as a basis for comments. Please take advantage of this opportunity to think what we might do together in the future but please return the forms to church by Sunday March 6th so that the results can be analysed in time for the PCC meeting on March 16th.

Electoral Roll

Vera Taggart is currently sending out Invitations to a large number of newcomers who have joined St James' over the last year. Joining the Electoral Roll is a sign of commitment to the work of the parish and gives members the chance to vote at the Annual General Meeting. We very much look forward to receiving forms back before the deadline on Sunday 13th March.

Open Church

Sadly we have had to postpone the visit of Simon Harvey of St Mary's in Upper Street to our PCC. Over the last two years Simon has pioneered the practice of leaving his Church open during daylight hours and he will be an important witness in the debate to keep St James' open as an oasis for private prayer. We hope to re-schedule his visit after the AGM on April 10th.

He's behind you!



Some of the 16 members of St James' who went to see Jack and the Beanstalk at the Peacock Theatre, Holborn on Saturday 23rd January.

Big Issue

Each year the 'Big Issue' team sponsor a walk through London for both sellers and their supporters. This year one of the pit stops will be St James' and we will host about 300 walkers in the very early hours of Saturday morning, 12th March. In fact the organisers were so impressed that they plan to use the Church for a sleep-over later in the year, both events designed to raise awareness for the rough sleepers in our capital city. See page 2 for more information about the London walk.

Aerials

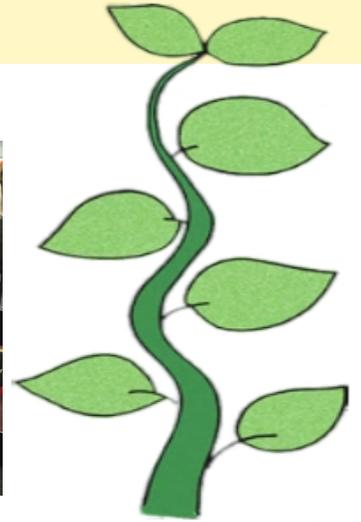
The erection of mobile aerial masts in the Church Tower is due to begin about now although the technical team have discovered a number of new difficulties resulting from the small size of each of the access points. It seems likely that the ringing of our bells will have to be suspended for a number of weeks, possibly including Holy Week and Easter.

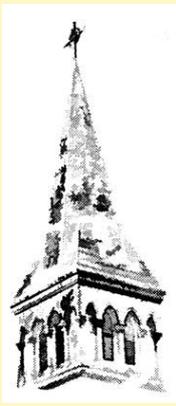
Holy Land

Fr John and Maria are very much looking forward to their first visit to the Holy Land which will take place between 27th February and 3rd March. Flying into Tel Aviv they will spend time in Galilee before travelling south for three days in Jerusalem, to include an afternoon in Bethlehem, a trip to Masada and the chance to float in the Dead Sea. We suspect there will be a lot of photographs taken! Hopefully we can persuade them to share some of the best bits with us in March's @StJames'.

End of our 140th Year

All being well, the re-ordering of the Church will be completed in good time for us to hold a Thanksgiving Mass to coincide with the end of our 140th year on Sunday 15th May. The PCC has agreed to move our Parish Mass to 11am to allow some of our further flung friends to join us, both for the Mass and for a party on the grass outside afterwards. More details to come but please mark the date now!





Upcoming Concerts

Saturday 5th March

7.30pm Occasional Concert: 840 (contemporary music) Ensemble.

Friday 11th March

7.30pm Occasional Concert: Liskka/Pink Bird Productions.

Saturday 12th March

7.30pm Islington Prom 1: Cantallini - Duruflé Requiem and Michael Tippett's Five Spiritual Songs.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 17th February

7.30pm PCC Meeting in Church - guest speaker the Chair of the Richard Cloudesley Charity.

Sunday 21st February

LENT 2 Masses at 8 and 10am. Beginning of the period for the addition of new names to the Electoral Roll.

Tuesday 23rd February

7.30pm Deanery Synod.

Thursday 25th February - Thursday 3rd March Fr John and Maria in the Holy Land.

Sunday 28th February

LENT 3 Masses at 8 and 10am. (Fr Stephen Taylor).

Sunday 6th March LENT 4/MOTHERING SUNDAY

Masses at 8 and 10am.

Wednesday/Thursday 9th-10th March RE Week at Richard Cloudesley School.

Friday 11th March 11.30pm-3.30am 'Big Issue' London Walkers arrive at St James' for a pit stop.

Sunday 13th March PASSION SUNDAY Masses at 8 and 10am. Deadline for receipt of new Electoral Roll forms.

Wednesday 16th March 7.30pm PCC Meeting in Church - final meeting before the AGM.

Sunday 20th March PALM SUNDAY Mass at 8am and All Age celebration for Palm Sunday at 10am.

Big London Night Walk

The Big London Night Walk, now in its 6th year, is one of The Big Issue Foundation's flagship fundraising events. So far nearly 2,000 walkers have taken part in the The Big Issue Foundation's Night Walk events and raised in excess of £390,000 to support Big Issue vendors. This year, we are hoping to raise £60,000 to support more homeless and vulnerably housed Big Issue vendors across the county.

This event will have 300 participants and involves them walking through the capital along a twelve mile route, whilst learning more about the work of The Big Issue Foundation across the City. Every year, this event helps to raise much needed funds to help support Big Issue vendors on their own journeys away from homelessness.

Participants walking the route through central London will get the opportunity to hear from Big Issue vendors and organisations joining in the fight against homelessness at each of the 4 rest stops along the 20 kilometre route. The other rest stops are: Beaconsfield, Vauxhall; Samaritans, Soho and Shoreditch Town Hall.

A night walk holds particular resonance for The Big Issue Foundation because of the way it illustrates a difficult reality for those who find themselves sleeping rough. The city's streets can be a dangerous place to bed down overnight. Those who are new to the street often choose to keep moving and sleep during the day, when it is safer.

The Big Issue Foundation strives to support 2,500 vendors across the country throughout the year. For more information about the Big Issue Foundation click [here](#).

Pancake Tossing!

You can never be quite sure what Fr John will have in store for his sermon. From the 10am on the last Sunday before Lent, the photo on the left stars Ruth de Wynter and Nino Gouzalez preparing to hurtle around Church tossing pancakes! Ruth won.



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