

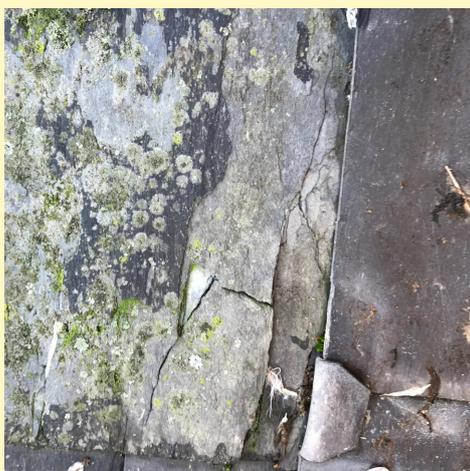
@St James'



Issue 38: December 2016

The Roof Over Our Heads

It became apparent during a recent wet period that the flower vestry roof had sprung a leak! The flat roof was certainly showing signs of wear and any repairs were likely to be temporary. So the decision was made to have the surface completely replaced. The new roof is in place (photo below top) and a number of cracked tiles on the main roof (photo below bottom) were also replaced at the same time. So hopefully St James' is now weather proofed for the winter!



Text Giving Facebook, Twitter and now Text Giving! Look out for the new information in Church on giving by text. This is becoming a popular way of making donations and we hope that visitors to St James' may be encouraged to make a donation.

Open Presence

Harriet Maunsell, of St Mary's in Upper Street, came to the November meeting of the PCC to share her experience of leaving the Church open throughout the day. Prior to opening the Church, the building was open for services and Bible study only, though it was noted that whenever the Church was open, people would come in to explore. The congregation knew it would be a big change and they sought help from a number of different sources. Initially, a pilot was tried with volunteers present during opening times, but a lack of volunteers made this unworkable. So they took a deep breath, and opened the Church anyway. Harriet said initially they were scared of the damage to the Church but it has taken time to realise that St Mary's is God's Church and there to be shared with all. Encouragingly St Mary's has gained a small number of new members of the congregation from people who came to them through open Church. St Mary's has now been open for 3 years and there have been only a small number of minor issues. Fr David Addison also gave the PCC his experiences and views of having a Church open, his perspective being from a more rural setting. The PCC will now consider the possibility of opening St James' early in the New Year.



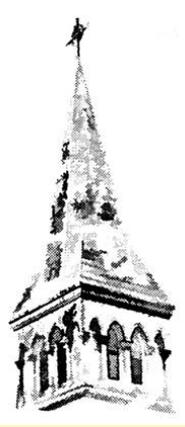
Pack-Up

A big thank you for all of your generous donations for the Pack-Up Christmas boxes. Over 30 boxes were filled and beautifully wrapped and decorated by Toni Parker to be given out at the Christmas lunch. They look fantastic under the tree in Church!

Christingle

Christingle was celebrated with an All Age Mass on the first Sunday of Advent (December 4th). Young and old alike tackled oranges, ribbon, cocktail sticks, dried fruit and sweets to make the traditional Christingles.





Carol singing for Pack-Up

Well done to our group of carol singers who ventured out on Friday 9th December - they managed to raise a fantastic £334! The singing must have been good!

Diary Dates

Sunday 18th December ADVENT 4
Masses at 8am and 10am.

Monday 19th December 12.15-1.30pm Pack-Up Christmas Lunch
in the Church Hall.

Tuesday 20th December Richard Cloudesley School celebrate Christmas in Church.

Saturday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE
6pm Children's Crib Service,
11.30pm Midnight Mass.

Sunday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY Mass at 8am (Fr David), 10am All Age Family House Party Mass

Sunday 1st January NAMING OF JESUS Masses at 8am and 10am.

Wednesday 4th January 7.30pm Proms Committee meet at the Vicarage.

Sunday 8th January EPIPHANY Masses at 8am and 10am to include the baptism of Theo Williams.

Wednesday 11th January 7.30pm PCC Meeting at the Vicarage.

Sunday 15th January EPIPHANY 2 Masses at 8am and 10am.

Saturday 21st January 1.30pm 'Insiders Tour' of St Paul's Cathedral with members of St John's Duncan Terrace.

Sunday 22nd January EPIPHANY 3 Masses at 8am and 10am.

Music and more....

St James' continues to be a popular venue for music and recently the Church has also been used for filming. The photos below give just a taste of what goes on in Church other than our services.



Clockwise from top left: Music in Church - Turkish; and French; filming a 'wedding'; filming a rehearsal by Samsung Romania.



67 YEARS MARRIED! After a quick week-end trip to the UCH., Jim Baker was back in Mildmay Park on Tuesday to share this very special day with Rose. Before the flood of visitors arrived it was good to be able to take them communion and to bless their new home. May God give them many more happy years!

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