



@StJames'

Issue 47: December 2017

First Holy Communions

After weeks of preparation it was good to be able to welcome eight new communicants at the end of November.



Christmas Tree

The tree was bigger than ever this year and it took four men and some steel wire to raise it on to the table and keep it there! But it looks magnificent and has been the backdrop for more and more event in Church this Christmas. The tree was then decorated with new lights and decorations by Dave Collins and Toni Parker.



Pack-Up Christmas Dinner

The Pack-Up Volunteers really have got this down to a fine art now and 35 members of the street community sat down to a fine turkey dinner with all the trimmings before leaving with carrier bags full of presents donated by



the congregation at St James' and others further afield. Thank for your generosity and thank you to the Pack-Up team who did such a great job.

Carol Singing

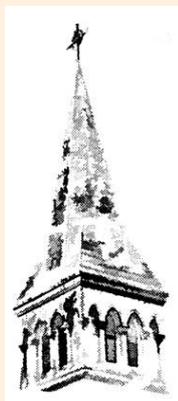


While the singing group was smaller than in previous years we were warmly welcomed at the Narrow Boat, the Duke of Cambridge, the Plaquemine Lock and the Charles Lamb and we sang carols in Packington Square and on Islington High Street too. The total raised was £250 - plus the odd euro and Danish krone!

Looking Forward

We have just received an invitation from Mgr Seamus O'Boyle from St John's Church in Duncan Terrace to take part in a guided tour of Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 20th January. This follows the highly successful joint visit to St Paul's Cathedral in the Week of Prayer for n Christian Unity last January. The your starts at 2pm.





One thing leads to another

Our good friend Giles Ridley, the Director of Cantallini, has a wide series of contacts and one of those has led to University College adopting St James' as their regular concert venue. They performed twice in December with a full house for their carol concert and a rather smaller one for their Chamber group.

Celebrations

During the month we were delighted to take Communion to Jim and Rose Baker celebrating their 68th wedding anniversary, to welcome the safe arrival of Benjamin Sabine to Kerry and Chris on December 8th and to take part in the wedding of Peng and Lenka Chou of the 8am congregation who were married at Islington Town Hall on Friday 15th before a religious ceremony in Malaysia on the 19th.



Diary Dates

December

Sunday 17th December ADVENT 3

Masses at 8am and 10am,

Tuesday 19th December 2pm New North Road Primary Academy Christmas Service in Church

Sunday 24th December ADVENT 4

Said Mass at 9am only

CHRISTMAS EVE

6pm 'Glow in the Dark' Crib Service with collection of Smartie Tubes for the children in Bonda, Zimbabwe.

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Monday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY Mass at 8am and 10am **All Age House Party Mass**

No weekday services on Tuesday and Wednesday this week.

Sunday 31st December NEW YEAR'S EVE Masses at 8am and 10am.

January 2018

Sunday 7th January FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY Mass at 8am. 10am All Age Mass with the traditional Gallette du Roi.

Sunday 14th January EPIPHANY 2 Masses at 8am and 10am

Saturday 20th January 2pm Ecumenical Tour of Westminster Cathedral (see page 1)

Sunday 21st January EPIPHANY 3 Masses at 8am and 10am

Monday 22nd January 7.30pm PCC Meeting at the Vicarage.

Christingle



Over 50 of us shared the annual 'sticky finger' experience on Advent Sunday, building Christingles out of fruit, jelly babies cherries and the usual candle and red ribbon. This year we also welcomed the formation of our first Junior Music group with Will Parry on violin, Sam Lewis and Luca Falcioni on trombone and George Freeman on guitar. With Adam's transposing help they played Silent Night - though in different keys! They rightly got a great round of applause afterwards.

Schools at Christmas

In addition to the annual music concert by students from COLA-I it was good to be able to welcome for the first time groups of year 2 children from New North Road Academy who came to hear the Christmas story. The new sanctuary meant that they could all sit on the carpet around the crib and each group dressed up in costumes long stored in the Vicarage for such occasions. On the 19th the whole school will come to St James' – again for the first time – for a Christmas Service of Music and readings.