



@St James'

Issue 68: March 2020

Coronavirus

Like all churches we are taking sensible precautions to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. There will be no shaking of hands at the Peace and we will receive communion in one kind only. There is lots of hot water available in Church and plenty of paper towels etc. But we will continue to worship together as often as we can. Please come as you always do so that we redouble our spiritual support for those in need. IF THE VIRUS prevents us from holding services and letting out our buildings we will continue to keep in touch by text and email. God does not take holidays!

Ash Wednesday

On one of the coldest and windiest mornings of the winter, the new pop-up banner was (somehow) erected outside the Angel tube station on Ash Wednesday. Whilst there was less take-up than last year, the impact of seeing a priest publicly offering to pray with people in the street is not to be underestimated. It is good that we at St James' are taking out place in what is a growing practice around the country.



First Holy Communions

There were over 150 in Church for the latest celebrations when nine of our members were admitted to their First Holy Communion. Once again there were both adults and children involved and parallel classes started at the beginning of the year. We hope the adult group will continue to meet occasionally as they really enjoyed their sessions. Please ask if you would like to make your First Communion; this can happen at any time of the year.



Second Sunday Choir

The Second Sunday Choir was joined by composer John Crothers in March. John is Director of the RSCM in France and has written a number of short pieces including the anthem 'Here, O my Lord'. John was very moved to hear it sung at St James' and was complimentary about the standard of the singing too!



Kerry Sabine

After six very busy years, Kerry Sabine is to retire as PCC secretary. She has been an outstanding support for the PCC, not only keeping careful notes of the meetings, but also dealing with the huge demands for facts and figures from the Diocese. She will continue to help Adam Dickson, our Administrator, who will take over the role in May.



Diary Dates

March

Sunday 22nd LENT 4/MOTHERING SUNDAY Masses at 8am and 10am.

Saturday 28th 7.30pm Cantallini concert CANCELLED.

Sunday 29th LENT 5/PASSION SUNDAY Masses at 8am and 10am.

April

Sunday 5th PALM SUNDAY Mass at 8am. 10am All Age Liturgy of the Passion and Parish Mass.

Thursday 9th MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday 10th GOOD FRIDAY

12 noon Ecumenical Service for Islington starts in St Mary's Gardens, Upper Street.
2pm Liturgy for Good Friday, in Church.

Sunday 12th EASTER DAY Masses at 8am and 10am.

Sunday 19th EASTER 2 Masses at 8am and 10am.

Tuesday 21st 7.30pm Bishop Joanne attends Deanery Synod.

Wednesday 22nd 7.30pm North London Cares screening of Romeo and Juliet, in Church.

Sunday 26th EASTER 3 Masses at 8am and 10am.
11.15am 2020 Annual Parochial General Meeting.

Organ Project

Several objections were received after the 28 public notice expired at the end of February. Richard Hastings from the Diocesan Registry has now written to each of the Objectors asking them if they are content to allow the Chancellor, Nigel Seed, to decide whether the project can go ahead or whether they wish to defend their Objections at a Consistory Court. While this is taking place the Registry also issued a costs warning, which is new. This details the amount of money the parish will have to pay for legal fees, something that was formerly covered by the Common Fund. At this moment it is impossible to estimate how much these might be.



Stewardship

March 8th was the first day of our 2020 Stewardship Renewal campaign, the first for over three years. With so many new members in the congregation it is increasingly important that we are aware of how the Church manages to break even each year and to ask everyone for help to keep St James' open. At the presentation, Isabel Nisbet and our new Stewardship coordinator Nieve Goodwin (photo left) showed how the hire of the Hall and the Church now pays for over a third of our costs. Grateful as we are, this depends entirely on volunteers to open and close the buildings so we can never take that income entirely for granted. We hope everyone will read the documents sent out to every household in the congregation and will respond generously.



Hall Hire

The Hall Management Group has worked very effectively this year to increase income from the use of the Parish Hall and has been rewarded with an increase of over £5,350 this year! Many thanks to Susan Sorensen and Maria Burniston, to the backroom cleaning staff, Linda Dyche and Brian Higgins, and to our part-time administrator Adam Dickson.

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