



ST JAMES' CHURCH ISLINGTON

ANNUAL REVIEW 2020



2019 - ALL ABOUT BREXIT AND THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION

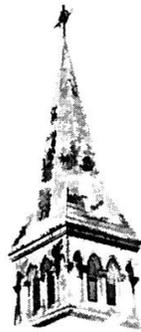


On 2 April 2019, Theresa May announced she would seek a further extension to the Article 50 process and offered to meet Jeremy Corbyn to agree a deal that could win the support of MPs.

On 12 December 2019, the new leader of the Conservative Party, Boris Johnson won a majority in the UK General Election and reaffirmed his commitment to ‘get Brexit done’ by 31 December 2020.

On 2 April 2019, Theresa May announced she would seek...

Who could have imagined that exactly twelve months later schools and so many businesses would be closed, all churches would be shut and Boris Johnson would himself be recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic.



Church of England suspends all services over coronavirus



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Church of England has suspended all services until further notice, saying it must become "a different sort of church in these coming months".

**DUE TO THE CURRENT
OUTBREAK OF COVID-19
ALL CHURCHES IN THE DIOCESE OF LONDON
ARE NOW CLOSED.
PLEASE USE THE PHONE
FOR ALL PASTORAL ENQUIRIES.**

020 7226 4108 | 07989 281123

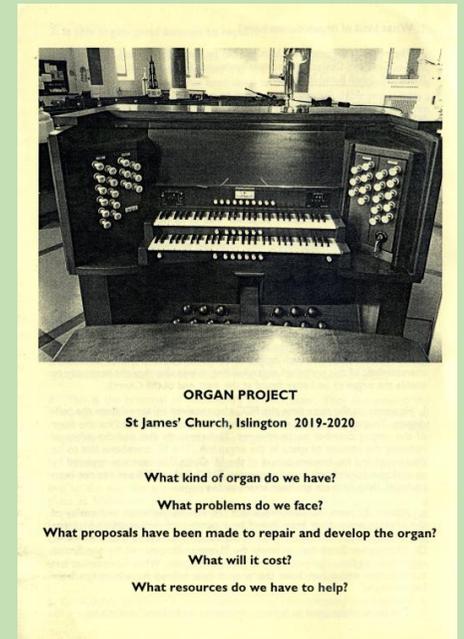
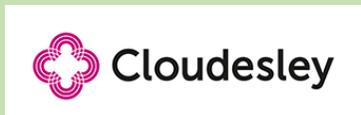
**Please let Fr John know of any who are ill
or in practical need of help with shopping**

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This is the story of 2019, a year in the life of St James' Church, Islington "B.C." – before Coronavirus

At the 2019 AGM the final shape of the Organ Project was discussed. Scaled down from the original design but with plans for a new extension into the south aisle to allow the re-voiced combination (pipe and digital) organ to be better heard in the Church, there was overwhelming support for the project to be taken to the next stage of development at a cost of £207,000.

With £150,000 available via the William Lambe legacy, we were then delighted to hear that we had also been awarded a £50,000 grant from the Cloudesley Trust.



For over three years the PCC and the Organ Project subcommittee had debated whether it might be possible to complete the project by June 21st 2020.

A festival week-end (including 'Lambe's Feast') was designed to mark the 450th anniversary of William Lambe's term as Master of the Clothworkers Company in 1570. It was the Clothworkers who built this Church in 1875 as part of their patronage of St James' (old and new) which lasted from 1580 until 1990.

But this ambitious plan depended on approval by the PCC, the Diocesan Advisory Committee - and any parishioner who wished to object.





As part of the redecoration of the Church four new hanging rails had been installed. The first major art exhibition in 2019 was by Jane Bolden of Coleman Fields. Her private viewing was very well attended. She hopes to return to St James' with three other artists in 2021.

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No sooner was Jane's exhibition completed than four members of the Islington Art Club hung their work as part of the Fringe to the 2019 Islington Proms.



Brian Innes Annie Williams
Margaret Thompson John Olley

St James' Church Prebend Street N1 8PF
Tuesday 14th May – Saturday 15th June 10.30 – 5.00pm
Private View Wednesday 15th May 6.30 – 8.30pm



Margaret Thompson



Brian Innes

Annie Williams



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Our relationship with our local schools led to a third major exhibition over the summer – by students at Richard Cloudesley School and their colleagues at John Dewey College in Wood Green. A number of the pictures were sold.



Our eighth Proms season – and one of the very best!

ISLINGTON PROMS

SPONSORED BY KNIGHT FRANK

A FESTIVAL OF
**Music
Art
Literature**

1-15 June 2019
St James', Prebend Street, N1 8QH

Dame Emma Kirkby...Dowland Works...
Insieme...Pocket Sinfonia...Mihai Ritivoiu...
Yoanna Prodanova...Yalda Davis...
Pocket Sinfonia...Marama Cafe Band...
Nicola Hogg...Margaret Thompson...
John Olley...Brian Innes...Annie Williams...
Paul Hills...Hilly Janes...Terry Stiastry...
Barnaby Phillips *...details overleaf*

www.islingtonproms.com



ISLINGTON PROMS



A compelling depiction of the Life of Christ: Giotto's frescoes in Padua

Illustrated talk by Prof Paul Hills

Emerita Professor of Renaissance Art, Courtauld Institute, London

7.30pm Wednesday 5th June 2019

St James' Church, Prebend Street N1 7DS

Free Entry Drinks available



ISLINGTON PROMS

Meet Three Islington authors
Hilly Janes, Barnaby Phillips and Terry Stiastry discuss recent books
in a conversation chaired by the BBC's Clive Myrie

7.30pm Monday 10th June 2019
St James' Church, Prebend Street N1 7DS
Free Entry Drinks available

We were delighted to welcome into the Church by baptism:



Nylah Lawrence



Pearl Wheatley



Egon Carter



Harley Paige



Evelyn Holtom

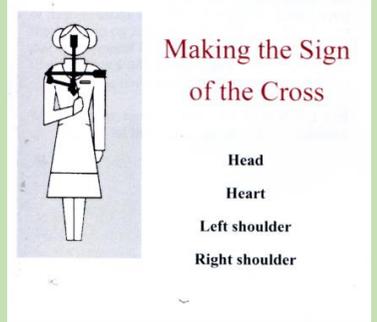


Eve Jean-Baptiste



Kaitlin and Oliver Suksiri

... and to admit 14 adults and children to the Table of the Lord in First Holy Communion



There were some special weddings (home and away) too!

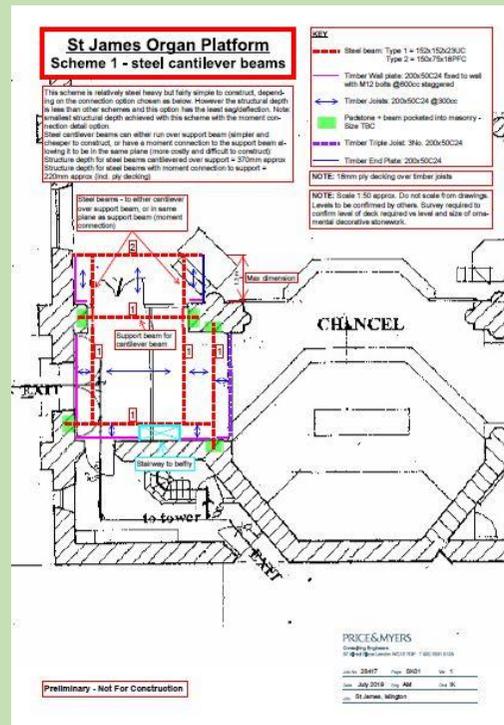




In August we hit some major deadlines for the structural changes that will need to be made in the organ chamber if the pipework is going to be reorientated by 90degrees. The designs were not finally resolved until January 2020.

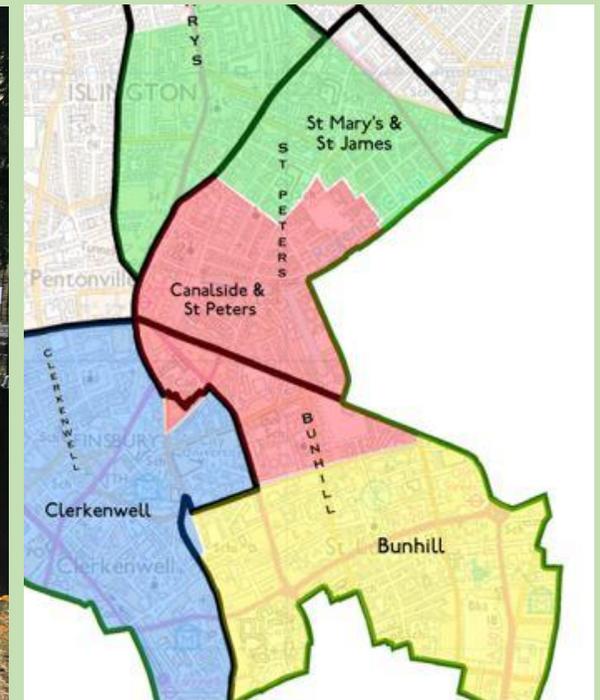
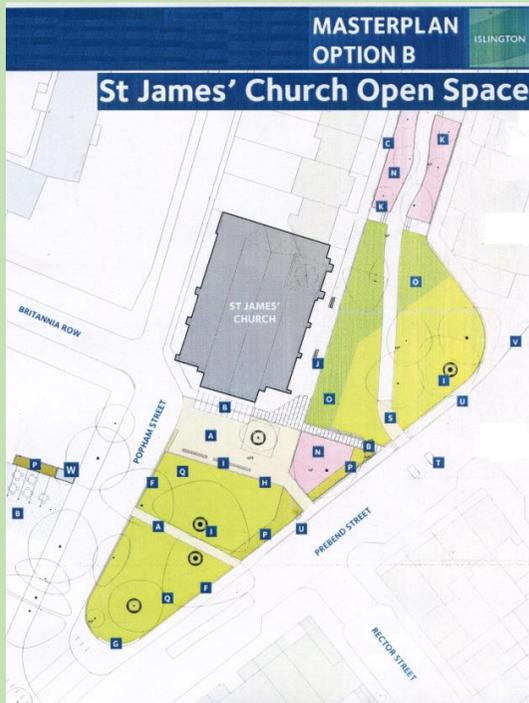


Keith Stone (technical adviser) and Tom Bell (Freehaus Architects)



One project that didn't work out in 2019-20:

For some time there have been discussions about improving St James' gardens. The Council had allocated a small grant towards a major scheme. The General Election and major changes to St Peter's Ward boundaries got in the way.



But we were involved in plenty of other community events:



Pack-Up

4.9K/s 32% 11:44

	A	B	C	D	E
1	July				
2	1st		19th	26th	
3		no's			
4	JOYCE MEAL	soup			
5		Volunteers			
6		Joyce Owusu			
7	y	Lisa Scadding	y	y	
8	y	Niamh Burns	y	Y	
9	x	Liz Judges	y	Y	
10	x	Hilly Janes	x	X	
11	y	Rod Austen	x	x	
12	late	Dee Austen	x	x	
13		Stephen Thean			
14	x	Lisa Chafel			
15	x	Sue Brown	late	late	
16	early	Kate White	y	x	
17	x	Jennet Eyre	y	x	
18	x	Claire Golding	early?	Y	
19		Amanda W.	y	y	
20	late	Toni Parker			
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					

Feb2... MarApr2... MayJun +



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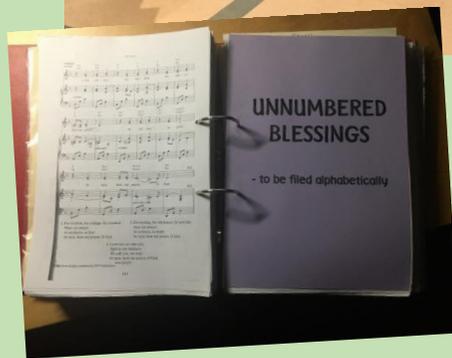


Good food for 35+ each week and a great group of volunteers too

The regular round of prayer is a team effort



Isabel Nisbet, preacher for the 25th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood in June.



Now over 200 items in the 2SC music library



‘Ashing’ at the Angel: being seen in the community



Canon David Bruno from Carlisle covering my retreat in June



Fr Stephen, first port of call for holiday cover and pastoral support

The regular round of prayer is a team effort, starting in Advent with Christingle



We ran out of Christingle oranges again this year...

For our local schools the tree needs to go up early!



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And there is lots of music here – week by week



St James' Occasional Concert Series



KRZYSZTOF MOSKALEWICZ

BEETHOVEN - Sonata in Eb op. 27 no 1
CHOPIN - Etudes (selection)
CHOPIN - Sonata in B minor op. 58

22nd Sept 2019 7pm
St James' Church
Prebend Street London
N1 8PF

Tickets £5
at the door

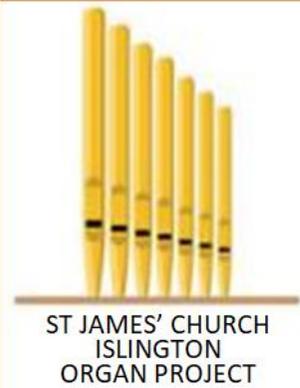


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On Christmas Eve we stage the biggest service of the year: the Crib Service



After a series of difficult delays – and demands for further detailed drawings - the Diocesan Advisory Committee finally approved the specification and physical transformation of the organ in January 2020.



The plans were shared at a further congregational meeting in Church on January 26th and approved. The 28 day notice for Objections was completed by the end of February. Six letters of concern were received by the Registrar. Two of these sought permission to become 'party opponent'.



Each year in Unity Week we make a visit to a local major Church with our friends from St John's in Duncan Terrace. This year we went Charterhouse; in 2019 we went to Westminster Abbey.

Our links with neighbouring Anglican parishes has improved markedly this year, especially with St Stephens' in Canonbury and St Mary's, Upper Street .



The annual Mardi Gras party in the Church Hall was a bit smaller this year but was still a thoroughly enjoyable event. It is one of the best opportunities for relaxed conversations while the children enjoy being entertained.

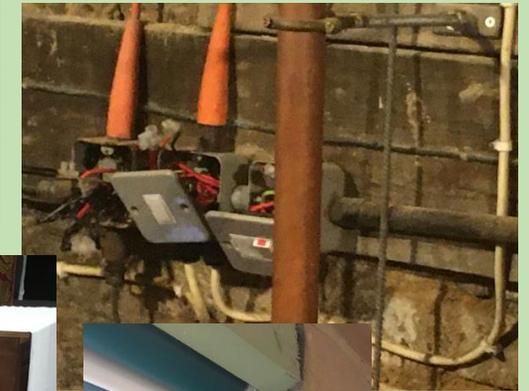
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Our Sunday School has been one of the great successes of this year. The average of fourteen children in Church each week is testament to the work of Maria, Sinead and Laura who have sometimes found themselves overwhelmed when 17 children and their carers have been at work in the Church Hall. Little did they know that this was going to be doubly demanding after the lock-down in March!



Routine maintenance is never ending but we have also suffered from some petty vandalism and theft. Intruders damaged the gates to the boiler house and interfered with the electrics; and an opportunist thief stole four microphones from a cupboard. More positively the Hall Management Committee has approved the purchase of new tables and chairs, a major renovation of the Hall kitchen and the replacement of the stage curtains. These projects will cost approximately £15,000.





In July Joanne Grenfell was consecrated Bishop of Stepney and in September was welcomed to the Area at a big service in St Mary's, Upper Street. She briefly visited St James' as part of an induction week – and we showed her last year's Annual Review!



The Deanery Synod met here one (cold) evening in December. The Archdeacon also conducted the tri-annual check on all our 'goods and chattels', everything from chalices to insurance policies. On occasions like this we are very grateful that we have an Administrator - albeit part-time!



It is so easy to take our Church for granted.



All Age services raising money for overseas



The coffee makers!



Community events



Dreaming dreams



Making music together



Family life



Faith sharing



Entrusting our lives to God

And then came Covid-19.



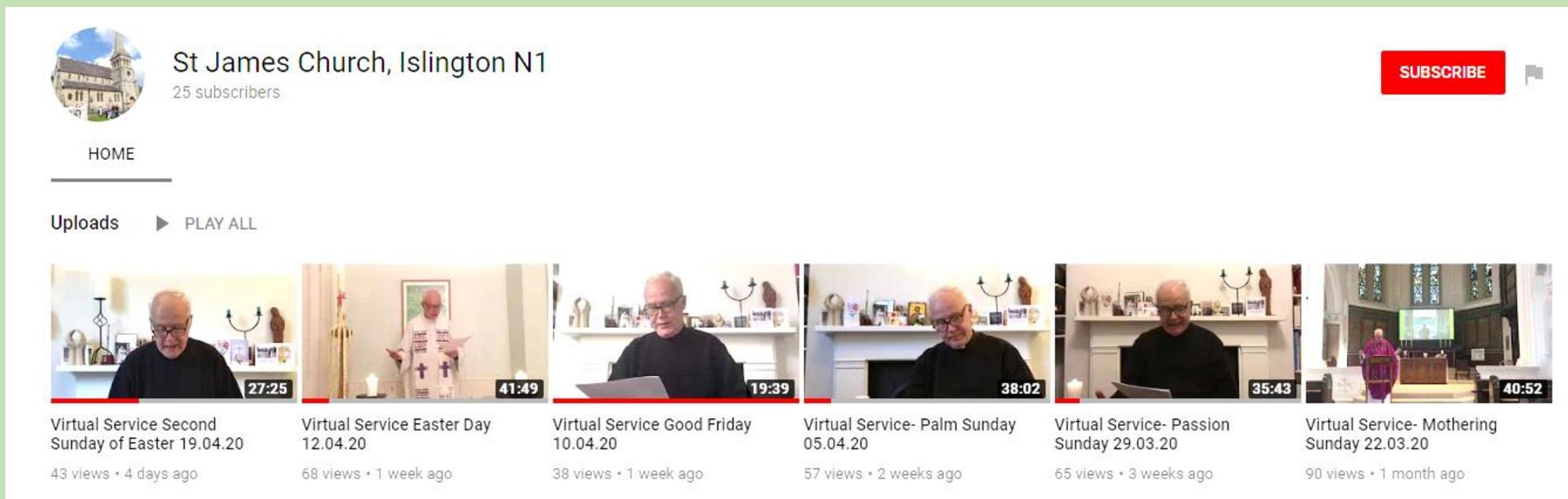
To all clergy

Dear Colleagues,

Coronavirus COVID-19



Tuesday 10 March 2020



The image shows a YouTube channel page for 'St James Church, Islington N1'. The channel has 25 subscribers and a 'SUBSCRIBE' button. Below the channel name, there is a 'HOME' link and an 'Uploads' section with a 'PLAY ALL' button. Six video thumbnails are displayed, each with a title, date, and view count. The videos are: 'Virtual Service Second Sunday of Easter 19.04.20' (43 views, 4 days ago), 'Virtual Service Easter Day 12.04.20' (68 views, 1 week ago), 'Virtual Service Good Friday 10.04.20' (38 views, 1 week ago), 'Virtual Service- Palm Sunday 05.04.20' (57 views, 2 weeks ago), 'Virtual Service- Passion Sunday 29.03.20' (65 views, 3 weeks ago), and 'Virtual Service- Mothering Sunday 22.03.20' (90 views, 1 month ago). Each thumbnail shows a priest performing a service, either in a home setting or a church.

St James Church, Islington N1
25 subscribers

HOME

Uploads ▶ PLAY ALL

Video Title	Date	Views	Time Ago
Virtual Service Second Sunday of Easter	19.04.20	43	4 days ago
Virtual Service Easter Day	12.04.20	68	1 week ago
Virtual Service Good Friday	10.04.20	38	1 week ago
Virtual Service- Palm Sunday	05.04.20	57	2 weeks ago
Virtual Service- Passion Sunday	29.03.20	65	3 weeks ago
Virtual Service- Mothering Sunday	22.03.20	90	1 month ago



Each week a slightly different form of service, trying to learn new skills from scratch with limited (but hugely valuable) resources based at the Vicarage!

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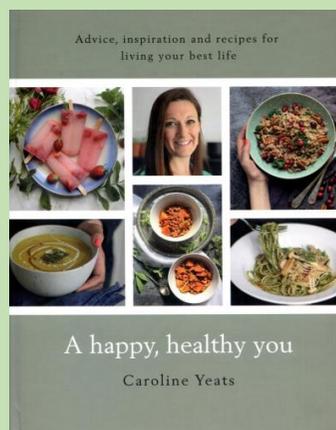
The priority has been maintaining our Sunday School which has a membership of nearly 40! Each week packets are sent to over 25 households - from City Road to Highbury.



Of course our community is much wider than just our young families. Service sheets for the weekly streamed services are also being distributed to eight older members without internet connections.

And we remember those whom we have lost this year, Vicki Simmons, Caroline Yeats, Fr Douglas Bean and Rose Baker.

Caroline's untimely death in January at the age of 35 reminded us of the importance of standing alongside one another, in good times and in not such good times.



So what now?

This is Eastertide and we are the people of hope: Christ has risen from the dead.

When Sinead decorated our Paschal (Easter) Candle this year she added the sign of the rainbow which so many people are placing in their windows. We will come through the Coronavirus pandemic – but we will have been changed by the experience.

As the Archbishops remind us, we have to be a new kind of Church.





We may not be huge in number, rich, powerful or super-intelligent.

But we believe that God has a special purpose for us at St James' Islington which we are learning to discover – one step at a time.

Every day there are signs of his goodness. Every day there are examples of how we can adapt to these challenging times.

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Wherever we are we can use this time to think and pray. We can give thanks for the way that people are reaching out with offers of help in ways which were not so obvious before.

We can use Zoom, the website, the Arena newsletter, texts and emails to stay in touch. Thank you for doing that.

Because what we are discovering again is the truth that 'we are better together'.

