



The Arena Weekly

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newsletter

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2020

Dear All,

GETTING INTO A NEW PATTERN

There are many worse ways of starting a Monday morning than being in touch with you all! I hope you survived the weekend OK. It seemed very strange not making my way to St James'.

Since last Monday, instructions have been coming thick and fast from the Diocese about what we can and can't do in and around Church. I know that some parishes have tried filming Masses inside Vicarages with clergy wearing full vestments - and even singing hymns (without any accompaniment!). This is really hard to get right so this week I simply went for a 'Readings - Sermon - Prayers' format. You can find the link on the St James' Islington Facebook page (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-izumAqpyUs&t=3s>) Any suggestions welcome as we begin to prepare for Palm Sunday! Here is Ben Sabine looking at a familiar face on his home PC!



For the children in Sunday School Maria and Sinead shared the story of Lazarus and again there were more great pictures sent in (but more welcome!)



Who needs school? Plenty of creativity in Mae and Ivy's kitchen!



Francesca and Gloria Falcioni with their working models of Lazarus coming out of the cave when Jesus had brought him back to life.



So neat, Isla!



Ilaria Goodwin in a sideways look at the story!

Reggie and Olive Murphy with outlines of their own hands and their prayer that they may use them to care and help other people.



Two deadlines come up this week. The first is the invitation for all those not on the CHURCH ELECTORAL to apply before the roll is closed next Sunday, April 5th.



The other deadline is for the return of the green STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL CARDS.

Despite Coronavirus, the Diocese has reminded us that the money we give is primarily set aside to pay the clergy. Without our Common Fund payments there simply won't be enough cash in the bank to do this. So even though our churches are closed the costs are fixed and there can't be any change to the level of what

St James' needs to transfer to the Diocese which is, as you know, £85,000 this year.

I very much hope you will look again at the pack of materials that Nieve Godwin sent you. All the details are there and of course she is very happy to answer any questions you may have (ncflinter@hotmail.com). The stark news is that without any hall or church bookings (the income from which is usually in the range of £45,000 a year) we are going to be a long way from matching that loss - let alone all the usual costs of our utilities and insurance. For many newer members having a *box of envelopes* might be the easiest way to help; for others setting up a *standing order* can be done with your bank - without leaving home. We can't stress too much how urgent this appeal has now become. If God, through St James', has given you things that you value, we do hope you will help us through this present difficulty. Please return your green card to Nieve asap. The deadline is 5th April. Thank you.

ST. JAMES WITH ST. PETER
ISLINGTON



My Weekly Offering

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FROM THE ARCHIVE is a new element to the ARENA newsletter. One of the long overdue jobs while we are confined to home is going through the thousands of pictures taken over the last decade as we update both the website and our Facebook pages. This photograph was taken of Rosemary Ross, bell-ringer and coffee maker, in 2012: *St James' took part in the national campaign to ring bells for three minutes at 8.12am on Friday 27th July to welcome the beginning of the*

London Olympic Games. The Church bells were joined by handbells of all sorts including a rustic goat's bell from Turkey and a beautiful glass souvenir from the QE2! Also shown (l to r): Margaret Rhymer, Jackie Karas and Jo Barton.



More next week for Palm Sunday.

Keep safe!

Best wishes as ever,

John



May God bless every £1 we give so that St James' will be here, not just for today and for tomorrow, but for the future he wants to create.