

# The Arena Weekly

Issue 62 2020-8

## newsletter

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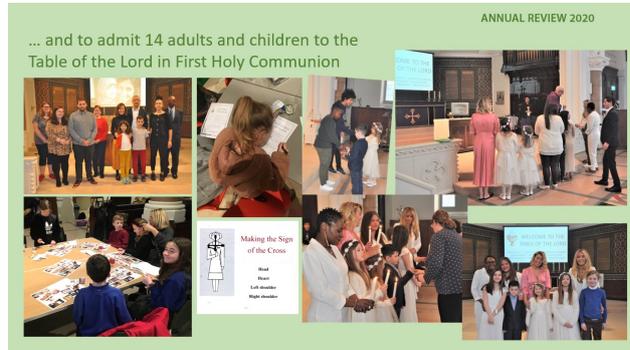
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23 APRIL  
2020

Dear All,

This week-end (April 26th) would have been our 2020 Annual General Meeting. The formal bits aren't the highlight of anyone's year but the report I most enjoy putting together is the annual pictorial 'Review of the Year'. In this year's Review there are actually 183 pictures - recording as many elements of parish life as possible since last April. And all of them are encouraging! To whet your appetite I thought I would show you 4 of the 35 pages - hoping you will go onto the website and look at the rest for yourself. It should be up on Sunday.



**THANK YOU KERRY!** The AGM would have been the last meeting for Kerry Sabine as our PCC secretary. After six years, and with a growing son to look after in the evenings, Kerry is finally hanging up her responsibilities. While fully understanding her reasons we have to say how much we will miss her. Kerry has been an absolutely first class PCC Minutes taker. Since 2014 she has sorted out what needed to be noted and what didn't; has been unfailingly impartial when the debates got lively and has even coped with a Consistory Court and two major projects in Church. We cannot thank her

enough for all she has done and look forward to the time when we can hold public meetings again and can express our gratitude in some appropriate fashion! Just in case you wondered who is who, this is the latest photograph of the PCC. Kerri Sabine is on the far right. For some reason Susan Sorensen is hidden behind Isabel Nisbet (!) and Vera Taggart was not present.



**ARC FOOD BANK** We are delighted that the Arc staff are responding to the need for a local Food Bank. They are raising funds through a Friday virtual coffee morning at 10am. They are also looking for volunteers. They write:

We need volunteers to help us run the food bank. From delivering food packages to fundraising to sorting out the donations, there's a role for everyone. No food bank experience necessary. Let us know about any skills you could possibly contribute as we're sure we'll be able to find a use for them!

**TAKING PART IN THE STREAMED SERVICES** I am sure all those who opened up the St James' Islington Facebook link and watched last Sunday's streamed service on 'Doubting Thomas' will have appreciated the welcome range of other voices! As you saw these pre-recorded clips can either be sent in as video or audio files. I do hope you will give it a try.

**A HUGE THANK YOU** The Church Standing Committee meets via Zoom tomorrow (Friday 24th) to look at the state of our finances - not least in the light of the closure of the Church because of the Coronavirus. Several weeks ago we sent out papers outlining the predicament that we are in and especially our over-reliance on the rent we receive from letting out the Hall and the Church which, between them, accounts for about a third of our income. Nieve Goodwin is our new stewardship coordinator and, together with Diane Hume our former clerk, has made sure that we are made aware of the responses from the parish - knowing that a lock-down is the worst possible time to appeal for financial help. And yet you have responded really generously and the early signs are very encouraging with a rough estimated increase of about £6,000 per year. We are confident that this will encourage those of you who haven't yet got round to replying to Nieve's letter to add to that total. We are by no means out of the woods yet and really hope that everyone will feel able to give 'something' each week/month to help us to keep afloat. Thank you very much indeed.

#### FROM THE ARCHIVE



Each week I will be digging out an old photograph from the files. Only the people involved are barred from answering!

The question this week is: *who are in the picture and what was the occasion?* There is a small prize!

Text us (07989 281123) as soon as you have worked out the answer!

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.