

the Arena Weekly

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newsletter

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Dear All,

TEN WEEKS of lockdown and social distancing is not that long in the history of the world but it now seems absolutely ages since we were last together! Inevitably there is less Church news to report in the Arena newsletter so - like the current slim-line Evening Standard - we have to rely on some 'features' to fill the space!

HALL KITCHEN REFURB Thanks to Matt of JM Solutions the renovation of the hall kitchen is making good progress. Inevitably suppliers are not working as normal and Matt has had to be a bit inventive as the cupboard and drawer carcasses (which we are keeping) are in imperial sizes and the new doors and drawer fronts are in metric!



In loving memory of
ROSETTA JOSEPHINE BAKER
24 January 1929 - 24 April 2020
Wednesday 20th May 2020
Islington and St Pancras Cemetery, Finchley



CARRIBBEAN SUN Rose Baker could not have picked a warmer day to be laid to rest. Her funeral, at St Pancras and Islington Cemetery last Wednesday, wonderfully reflected her upbeat, happy disposition; even her daughter Maria Flavius had an umbrella because it was so hot! The only sadnesses were that only 10 people (including five of her six children) were able to attend the funeral; and the Montserratian tradition of singing hymns while the grave was being filled-in was not allowed. We will miss Rose very much indeed but thank God for her support for St James' since 1974!

Calendar and Daily Prayer themes

- Sun 24 *ASCENSION SUNDAY* Jade Nicholson, Charlie and Henry Green
- Mon 25 *DEL Ascension* Isabel Nisbet; Joyce Owusu; Toni Parker
- Tues 26 *St Augustine* Jess, Tayah Phillips; Nick, Matilda, Barnaby Powell
- Wed 27 *Feria* John, Hilary and Laura Roden and Hope Dixey
- Thurs 28 *Lanfranc* Rosemary Ross, Kerry, Chris and Ben Sabine
- Fri 29 *Feria* Helen Schofield; Sam, Joe, Charlie and Isla Seabrook
- Sat 30 *Josephine Butler* Nick, Isabelle, Maxwell and Leon Sharples
- Sun 31 *PENTECOST* Susan and Eric Sorensen; Vera Taggart

Birthdays this coming week

Many Happy Returns today to Laura Roden of the Sunday School team; on Tuesday to Sam Lewis who will be 12; on Wednesday to Stepney Area Bishop Joanne Grenfell and to Lisa Follett; and on Thursday to Paula Morrison. Happy days all.



APPEAL FOR TOP QUALITY PRE-OWNED CHILDREN'S CLOTHES AND BOOKS Julia Maile continues to ask for donations of clothes and books for local families. Despite our affluence the rate of poverty in Islington is high.

Anything you can spare will be gratefully passed on to those in need. Further details available on their website: www.merrygoroundUK.org



THEY COULD WRITE THEIR OWN BOOK! While most Sunday School leaders crib their ideas from books (often quite old) or the internet (often quite American), you will be pleased to know that 99% of the ideas for the weekly Sunday School crafts distributed around the parish from St James' are completely original! Here are the instructions they sent out for the Florence Nightingale lamp...

Sunday School Craft- Florence Nightingale Lamp



1. Stick the Florence Nightingale figure sheet onto card



2. Cut out Florence Nightingale. Also cut along the red lines on her bonnet and hands



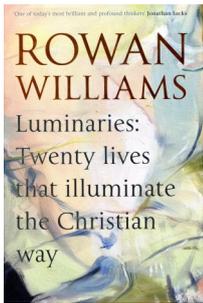
3. Colour in Florence Nightingale



4. Cut out mask, gloves and apron



5. Put the mask, gloves and apron on Florence Nightingale and fold around the back so they stay on



A GOOD READ Over the last six weeks we have used some of the chapters from Rowan Williams' short book on leading Christian men and women to help us understand the Gospel readings better. We started by looking at three Nazi era martyrs, then William Wilberforce and, last Sunday, the 'lady with the lamp', Florence Nightingale. This week (Ascension Sunday) the series comes to an end with one of the most famous Archbishops of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey. We then hope to have a zoom meeting to discuss some of the ideas coming from the book. If you would like to take part, email Ken [kenneththompson493@gmail.com] and he will add you to the zoom invitation list!

THOSE WHO SING PRAY TWICE! So said both St Augustine and the famous Indian philosopher Tagore. Music has always been a very important part of Church worship, from early simple chants to complicated choir anthems and oratorios. For most of us, it is the hymns and songs that 'make a service'. Yet some hymns really appeal while others leave us stone cold! So while we have a bit of extra time on our hands, I thought we might look at "what makes a successful hymn?" Here are a few questions - always ending with 'why do I think this?'

Basics:

- Do you prefer familiar hymns that have been sung many times over the years - or new ones?
- Does the choice of tune 'make the difference' to whether you like the hymn or not?
- Is it important that the lines of the hymn/song rhyme?
- Does it matter if the hymn has 'thees and thous' in the verses?
- Do you tend to prefer faster, more rhythmic hymns/songs or quieter and slower ones?

Over the next few editions of the Arena newsletter I will be talking about at least one hymn or song. If you would like to suggest your best - or worst - and to say why they are good/bad - then I would be delighted to include them into the discussion. Over to you!

Keep safe!

Best wishes as ever,
John