

The Arena Weekly

Issue 67 2020-13

newsletter

St James' Vicarage,
1a Arlington Square,
London N1 7DS

vicar@stjamesislington.org

020 7226 4108
07989 281123

28 MAY
2020

Dear All,

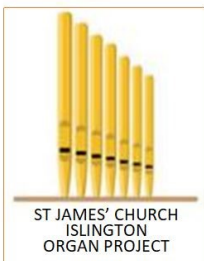
For many this has been a welcome Half Term! Even if the children are still at home at least there was no home-schooling to be done! With great weather and the rules about going out not quite as restrictive as they were, life seems a bit better again...



Despite coronavirus we have not quite got to this yet:



ASKING ABOUT BAPTISM We already have two families living in Baring Street: Chris, Kerry and Ben live next door to Sophie, James, Reggie and Olive. And next door to them live the Wilson family. Jay is a plumber and has been working on the boilers at St James' for a couple of years. His daughter Ava has been enjoying RE at school recently and has been asking about Sunday School and about Baptism. So even in the middle of the Covid-19 Pandemic, God is at work. Welcome!



THANK YOU Although there is no news on the Organ Project at the moment because the Chancellor and the legal team in the Diocese are not processing Faculties during of the current lock-down, we were delighted to receive a generous donation towards the Project from the Baker family. Maria wrote: *We are very happy to make this donation towards the Organ Project. Our Mum (Rose) will be very happy with this decision as she was always very clear in the AGM debate that we do need a new Organ.*



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 excellent website: www.merrygoroundUK.org

Calendar and Daily Prayer themes

Sun 31 *PENTECOST* Susan and Eric Sorensen; Vera Taggart
 Mon 1 *DEL Week 9* Fr Stephen Taylor; Ken and Margaret Thompson
 Tues 2 *Feria* Sergio Villicana and Cecile Son-Vicente; Fr Victor de Waal
 Wed 3 *Feria* Belle Williams; Tom, Poppy, Pearl and Bow Wheatley
 Thurs 4 *Feria* Tim Willis; Chris Wright; Brian, Oscar Yeats, Kate Yeats
 Fri 5 *St Boniface* Shannon Adams, Arabella and Rocco Macdonald
 Sat 6 *Feria* Lisa, Darren, Max and Oscar Ahmet-Baker
 Sun 7 *TRINITY SUNDAY* Louise Ahmet, Vinny and Benjy Payne

Birthdays this coming week

Many Happy Returns on Sunday 31st to Dennis Davis and also to Sophie Carter; on Tuesday to Florence Maile who will be four.

MACMILLAN WELL-BEING COACHING

As some of you know, our daughter Catriona works for Macmillan Cancer. She has been part of the team which has set up a scheme aimed at helping those suffering from cancer to approach the future by changing negative thoughts into more positive ones. They offer a six week telephone course with skilled trainers whose aims are to:

- Better understand what's on your mind and come to terms with your life with or after cancer.
- Build confidence to talk with a loved one about what you're going through and how they can support you.
- Develop coping strategies for challenging situations you find yourself in.
- Build courage to be around other people and to communicate with them.
- Find new opportunities for work, study or leisure that interest you.
- Learn to feel OK with making mistakes and become more able to move forward.

Anyone is welcome to access the course. More details from wellbeingcoach@macmillan.org.uk.

PCC MEETING Our PCC had it's first (zoom) meeting on Thursday - since January! One of our first tasks was to look at what the shut-down of the church will mean financially. The lack of hiring out of our premises was the most serious challenge and Susan Sorensen estimates that we may lose up to £50,000 in the course of this year. Nevertheless we feel obliged to pay our full Common Fund to the Diocese which pays for our clergy and we are fortunate that giving by the congregation has gone up this year and we have some historic assets we can call on. But it is going to be tough and we do hope that people will do all they can to see us through this very difficult time. Sinead talked about the three new initiatives that have developed since March 24th. In addition to the transformation of the Arena newsletter into a weekly bulletin, there has also been the development of a Sunday streamed services on YouTube. These now involve a large number of the congregation who are prepared to record parts of the service at home. She also talked about the weekly craft packs for our 40 Sunday School children. But we all agreed that all these things can only be second-best to being part of a worshipping community and we looked forward to that very much indeed. Everyone said how much they were missing being part of a lively Church family.



TRAFFIC IN ST PETER'S WARD Clare Cornell and Jane Kilgannon both sent in details of a new survey designed to ask the Council to consider traffic calming measures locally: Clare writes: I'm sure you will agree that since the lock down the area has been so much nicer due to the reduced volume of traffic. We have a much better chance of getting Islington Council to make changes at the moment so we are keen to get as many views and as much support from local residents as possible. We've set up a website www.StPeters2020.org which includes a survey about the area. It would be fantastic if you could fill in the survey and share it with others in the neighbourhood who you think would be interested. Having support from St James' would be very much appreciated.

FAVOURITE HYMNS I am afraid we have run out of space to launch this feature this week so it will be held off until the next edition of Arena on Friday June 5th. Please send in any suggestions or thoughts you have about our Church music. We know you have loads of opinions!

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.