



The Weekly arena Issue 68 2020-14 newsletter

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Dear All,

ISLINGTON PROMS



June has arrived and for us at St James' that usually means the opening of the *Islington Proms* season. Traditionally the Proms festival, spread over three weekends, starts with the 'Pocket Prom' in the Vicarage garden when people bring their own picnic for a variety of fun musical performances (see left). This year the concerts in Church were due to include the ever popular Dowland Works, a jazz vocalist and a couple of full scale orchestral concerts. Alongside the usual art exhibition - in 2020 to include pottery as well as pictures - the Proms Fringe had also planned a major contemporary music gig, a literary evening with three local travel writers and our own version of 'Gardeners Question Time!' Next year...

HOW ARE YOUR DOVES? Last weekend we invited both our young people and our older congregational members to make origami doves - to celebrate Pentecost. Here are a few of the latest photographs from our Sunday School members with Florence Nightingale, Ascension-tide and Pentecost themes. More welcome - especially some of those doves... !



Left to right: Amariah Greenaway, Gloria Falcioni, Nylah Lawrence, Antonia Nistor - and our newest member Ava Wilson!



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 7 TRINITY SUNDAY	Louise Ahmet, Vinny and Benjy Payne
Mon 8 DEL Wk 10	Martin, Kerri, Rebecca and Joseph Allen; Beatrice A-Renner
Tues 9 St Columba	Kenneth, Klenam, Kainan and Kepha Awoonor-Renner
Wed 10 Feria	Vicky Bellamy, Holly and Josh Campbell
Thurs 11 CORPUS CHRISTI	Albert and Annie Bryan; The Vicarage family
Fri 12 St Barnabas, Ap	Vivienne Carlton; Chris, Katja, Arnold and Egon Carter
Sat 13 Feria	Dionne, Aly, Sophie, Emma and Jack Carter; Shirley Chinery
Sun 14 TRINITY 1	Carly Cunningham, James, Michael and Francis Russell

Birthdays this coming week

Many Happy Returns on Monday 8th to Ros Ford of our Second Sunday Choir and coffee making rota.



STREAMED SERVICES FROM ST JAMES' Ever since St James' was closed on Mothering Sunday (22nd March) we have tried to offer Sunday morning services for each of the major days that have followed since including Palm Sunday, Easter Day, 'the day that would have been our AGM', Ascension Sunday and Pentecost. We started in a closed Church, were forced to film in the Vicarage and have recently been allowed back into the Church again - albeit without a congregation. But what has been brilliant has been the willingness of so many of you to video or make an audio recording for the services when asked, as well as those who have made musical contributions. I have also been hugely grateful to Sinead who has made sure the technology worked (often in the early hours of Sunday morning!). She has certainly gone more than the extra mile. Thank you too for the positive comments that have filtered back into my email in-box afterwards.

So my plea today is for you to try watching one of these services if you haven't already done so. They are only just over half an hour long and each of them are designed to keep us in touch with each other as well as to help us to think 'outside the box' about a particular topic. So with contributions from a group of our young people we are going to tackle the age old question: how can God be one - and yet be known as Father, Son and Holy Spirit too? If you have never had the chance to work that one out before, then do take a look any time after 10am next Sunday (7th), accessing the Trinity Sunday 'Service of the Word' from the St James' Islington Facebook page.

FAVOURITE HYMNS It is some time since we had evening services devoted to favourite hymns. Shirley Chinery was one of those who enjoyed those occasions so I asked her for her choice: *"As you know I have many favourite hymns but the one that immediately comes to mind is 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind'. I remember reading a verse in the Bible about God speaking through the earthquake, wind and fire, which appears in the last stanza of the hymn. Also I love the melody and the tune of it. It is a powerful supplication to God."*



SLEEPING BEAUTY It is bad enough that St James' has a 'closed' notice on the door but over the last few weeks the hot weather has also encouraged the weeds to grow in all the cracks in the paving behind the railings. These have now been cleared but if anyone felt able to lend a hand to keep the greenery at bay during the growing season, please let us know. They say that first impressions count the most.



NAZANIN ZAGHARI-RADCLIFFE There was every hope last week that Nazanin would hear that she was due to be released as part of the Ramadan clemency programme in Iran. While she fulfilled all the criteria, the Revolutionary Guards seem to have blocked her release once more. Please continue to pray for her, for Richard and for their daughter Gabriella - and for all those who have the power in Tehran to bring this tragic story to an end. After four years Nazanin's health is not good and she needs to be restored to her family in Hampstead as soon as possible.

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.