

The Arena Weekly

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newsletter

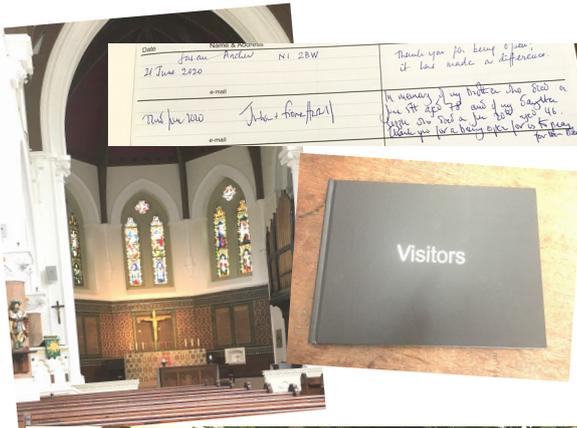
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26 JUNE
2020

Dear All,



OPEN CHURCH St James' has now been open for private prayer for two weeks and the evidence suggests it has been well used. At the end of week 1 the Visitors Book arrived and is already being filled with lovely comments by those who really appreciate having the building available to drop in to. The stock of candles and the supply of hand sanitiser is going down too!

Stage 2 is the use of Church for small services and the first of these will be on Sunday night. The local neighbours and friends of Dave Collins (Prebend Street), who died very suddenly recently, were keen to have the chance to pay their respects and to bring flowers. That will take place at 6pm with the usual social distancing rules in place.



To comply with current instructions we have taped off the central aisle and set up a one way system so that everyone moves in the same (clock-wise) direction using the north and south aisles. A few low key signs make it pretty obvious how best to avoid meeting others head on.

DAVE COLLINS (front row, second from left) has lived in this area all his life and was one of the very first to join the volunteer team at Pack-Up when it was first set up in late 2016. Sadly he became seriously ill and spent five months in the Whittington Hospital last year. He was also the full time carer for his grand-daughter **Natasha** (front row, far left). Here they are seen helping to put up the 13' Christmas tree last December. Dave's contribution was the strong wire needed to stop the tree falling down! His funeral will be held at Islington Crematorium on Monday 29th at 11.45am.



MERRYGROUND Some of the clothes and books collected by Julia Maile's charity for distribution to local children in the area. Thanks for all your donations to www.merrygroundUK.org.

Calendar and Daily Prayer themes

- Sun 28 *TRINITY 3* Alastair and Diane Hume; Kris Hyde; Alexandra Jones
- Mon 29 *DEL Wk 13* Grace and Elrise Joseph; Miranda Jules; Philip Kingston
- Tues 30 *Feria* Eva, Roy, Jerome, Zuri Kasella; Josh, Charlotte, Olivia Kennedy
- Wed 1 *John and Henry Venn* Kingsley Lewis and Pauline; Beryl Lloyd
- Thurs 2 *Feria* Kurt, Julia and Florence Maile; McBrien families
- Fri 3 *St Thomas* Paula, Gianni and Giandre Morrison; Bill Murphy
- Sat 4 *Feria* Jade Nicholson, John, Charlie and Henry Green; Isabel Nisbet
- Sun 5 *TRINITY 4* Joyce Owusu; Toni Parker; Jessica and Tayah Phillips

BIRTHDAYS Apologies to Olive Murphy who told me she was only 5 last Tuesday not 6! Many Happy Returns this week to Oscar Yeats who is 3 on Tuesday; to Isla Seabrook who is 9 on Wednesday; and finally to Zuri Kasella who will be 7 on Thursday. We hope you all have very happy days!



PINK PIGS! The Sunday School take on the parable of the Prodigal Son last Sunday involved feeding fruit and veg to some very pink pigs! These were part of our reflections for Father's Day and a way of celebrating the endlessly forgiving character of God.

There are now just two more craft envelopes to come through letterboxes. After 16 weeks, "Sunday School at Home" will be replaced with "Sunday School in the Hall"! But how will that work?

ALL SQUARE! Based on government and Diocesan guidelines, the Sunday School team will be welcoming all the members of our Sunday School to the Church Hall at 10am on Sunday July 11th. In order to fulfil social distancing rules, the team have devised the following:

Each table and set of chairs will be located within a chalk square. That table will be for one family only and they will be asked to make sure they don't interact physically with those on other tables.

We are therefore asking that an adult accompany the children in that family - and ensure their children stay at their designed table. If no adult is available then please make sure that your child is aware of what social distancing means and how to abide by it.

We are sure that in a very short time everyone will be quite used to taking part in Sunday School in this slightly more controlled way. Activities, crafts and games will be organised to avoid crossing the chalk lines. Maria, Sinead and Laura will continue to make sure Sunday School is still fun - and safe.

MASSES IN CHURCH We know how much many of you are looking forward to being back in Church. We are too! But you will have also have heard that congregations must not exceed 30 persons (although the rules don't say whether this is adults only or adults and children). To stop us exceeding this number we will, at least to start with, be offering three Masses on a Sunday as from Sunday July 11th:

8am Said Mass with sermon. No music.

10am **PARISH MASS** with sermon. There will be opportunities for members of the congregation to read and to lead the prayers. This Mass will include music on CD but, for the present, no singing. This Mass will be recorded and made available from 12noon each Sunday. Sunday School will be available in the Hall.

6pm Said Mass with evening reflection.

Like every parish we will be playing things by ear. But please don't let these new arrangements put you off sharing in worship at St James' as we have always done. With a few practical steps we hope we can ensure everyone's safety while making it possible to answer God's invitation to come and meet with him at his Table. After so many weeks at home it will seem strange going out for a joint activity like this but we hope for most it will be an opportunity to begin to pick up the threads and to support one another by being in St James' on Sundays.

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.