



# The Arena

Bi-Weekly

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## newsletter

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

vicar@stjamesislondon.org

020 7226 4108  
07989 281123

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Dear All,

DIDN'T THEY DO WELL??!



**FINAL VIRTUAL SERVICE, SUNDAY 5th:** There was a real surprise on the part of the Church Council, meeting via zoom on Tuesday night, after they had watched so many of our older young people leading the last virtual 'Service of the Word' last Sunday. But where have they suddenly all come from?! The simple answer is: out of our policy of encouraging our young families to bring their children for Baptism and First Holy Communion and out the quality of our Sunday School. Where once they were babies crawling around on the carpet in the south aisle, now they are articulate members of the Church in their own right. And it's wonderful to have them!

So congratulations to all of those who took part last Sunday; we are just sorry that - due to Covid19 - we can't have our usual St James' Day party in the Vicarage garden to celebrate. The next challenge - and probably THE priority for the next few years - is to see how we can help this generation of young people to grow into the next stage of their development in faith and stay within the family of the Church.

**BISHOP JOANNE** The filming also allowed us to use the video recorded by the our Stepney Area bishop, Joanne Grenfell. Her theme brought into focus a debate which is raging throughout the Church at the moment. Are we doing all we can to encourage those in their 20s and 30s to take on leadership roles in the Church and in the voluntary sector? Or are this generation too busy holding down jobs, forming relationships, bringing up families and enjoying a good social life? Many would say that it is for the older generations to run our institutions until such time as our 20-somethings are ready to take them forward - and then, in their own way!

Calendar and Daily Prayer themes

Sun 12 <i>TRINITY 5</i>	Ken Thompson; Sergio Villicana and Cecilia Son-Vicente
Mon 13 <i>DEL Wk 15</i>	Zoe Visekruna, Dan, Darcia and Buster Bryan
Tues 14 <i>John Keble</i>	Fr Victor de Waal; Tim Willis; Chris Wright
Wed 15 <i>St Swithun</i>	Belle Williams, Tom, Poppy, Pearl and Bow Wheatley
Thurs 16 <i>Feria</i>	Brian and Oscar Yeats; Kate Yeats
Fri 17 <i>Feria</i>	Shannon, Arabella and Rocco Adams
Sat 18 <i>Feria</i>	Lisa, Darren, Max and Oscar Ahmet-Baker
Sun 19 <i>TRINITY 6</i>	Louise Ahmet, Vinny and Benjy Payne

**BIRTHDAYS** Very many happy returns this week to Egon Carter who is 2 on Sunday 12th.  
**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** Warmest congratulations to Eva and Roy Kasella whose 'lace' wedding anniversary falls on Tuesday.



**LOOK TO THE LEFT** is not a political comment but the way we are trying to keep everyone safe in Church! After entering St James' through the glass doors and taking time to sanitise hands, there are three things we ask you to do. The first is to tick your name off on the printed list. To comply with current 'Track and Trace' regulations we have to know who has been in the building on every occasion. Please tick the names of all adults entering Church: the names of our children will be recorded through Sunday School. The second thing to do is to take the service sheet/Weekly News from the basket. This needs to stay with you during the service and be taken away by you at the end. Third, there will be a big basket for donations and envelopes as we can't circulate a collection plate as we usually do. Thanks!



**NEW HALL CURTAINS** After 25 years the familiar orangey velour curtains in the Hall had all but fallen to pieces. Installed when the hall was built, the time had come to replace them with something contemporary. Thanks to Susan Sorensen who did all the research and bargaining - and thanks too to Linda Dyche our cleaner who was strong enough to get all the material onto the old curtain rails. A few adjustments still have to be made but the overall effect is amazing: well done. Now the task is to see when the Hall can be opened again for social events and classes. Of course we are going very slowly on that!

## MY FAVOURITE HYMN

*Kerry Sabine writes:* My favourite hymn is "Make me a channel of your peace".

I have clear memories of singing it in primary school. As a child I don't think I understood much of its meaning, but I loved the melody and we sang along to it at quite an upbeat tempo.

As an adult I 'rediscovered' the hymn in my mid-twenties and felt the lyrics resonated with my understanding of what it is to be a Christian. God shows his love for the world through our actions. "*Master, grant that I may never seek / so much to be consoled as to console...*" What a mantra to carry through life. It is our imperative as Christians to always ask, not what we can gain from others but, what we can give: consolation, understanding, love. Amen!

For this reason, it was the first hymn that Chris and I had at our wedding at St James' in November 2014. While it can be considered quite a sombre hymn, and I know it is often used at funerals, for me it will always be a happy and hopeful song about our purpose as Christians.

**Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.  
O, Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled and to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light,  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.  
O Master...**

**Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving to all that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

(Words: Sebastian Temple)

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.