

# the arena

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## newsletter

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Dear All,



**LITTLE BY LITTLE** After the mini-scare on Sunday July 12th when I was rushed into UCH with Covid19-like symptoms (but which were fortunately completely unrelated) we were really pleased to be able to be in Church on Sunday 19th - albeit with a range of precautions in place! As last week there will also be a 6pm Mass this Sunday (26th) in addition to the usual 8am and 10am services. This is designed to be a very quiet and reflective occasion when social distancing is very easy. However on August 2nd and 9th, as people take the opportunity to go away after such a long lock-down and while Fr Stephen is kindly taking charge, there will be no 6pm Mass and the 10am Parish Mass will not be streamed. Our Parish Mass will be back on YouTube on the 16th.



**ARC, ST PETER STREET** It has been so good to see the way Damien and the Arc community have responded to the challenge of the pandemic. Starting in April they are now providing food boxes for about 60 people living in our neighbourhood. They get referrals all the time and they think this will only increase as companies fold and people lose their jobs.



They estimate it costs roughly £10 to create a food box for a household with under four members in it, and around £20 to create one for a household with over four members. The boxes are packed with healthy food ordered from high-quality restaurant suppliers. This means they can feed healthier food to more people for less money than if they shopped at supermarkets or relied solely on food donations.



*Do you think we could help fund one or more food boxes?* If you would like to help St James' support the ARC Food Bank project on a regular basis please let me or one of the Churchwardens know. We are also hoping that our friends in the Epiphoni Chamber Choir will help us to put on a fund-raising concert for the ARC Food Bank as soon as musical performances are allowed again.

In the meantime there is also a weekday pop-up coffee stall outside the ARC which serves coffee and more, all profits going to the Food Bank.



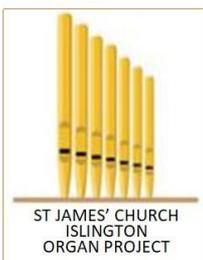
**WHAT ABOUT PACK-UP?** Now that the kitchen is completely finished, Toni Parker and our brilliant band of Pack-Up volunteers have been exploring the possibility of a limited take-away sandwich service for the street community but are waiting for guidance from the Council.

In the meantime some Hall bookings have restarted with smaller week-end parties the first to return. There have also been a few bookings for the Church for both recordings and rehearsals. Anti Covid cleaning in both the Church and the Hall has been stepped up.



**NAZANIN ZAGHARI-RADCLIFFE** You may well have been following Nazanin's story in the press. A resident of Hampstead, Nazanin was arrested in Tehran four years ago and put on trial for trumped up charges of trying to overthrow the Iranian state! The real story is that she is being kept as a hostage in the hope that the UK government will repay a £400 million debt over undelivered military hardware. Apart from the dreadful loss of her freedom Nazanin

is increasingly concerned that by the time she is released she won't be able to extend her family; her one daughter Gabriella is now six. Although Nazanin is entitled to release under recent amnesties, she has not only been denied the chance to return home, the Revolutionary Guard have now threatened an extension to her current 5 years sentence. Please continue to pray that she can return home as soon as possible.



**AN UPDATE** Some of you will have heard that the plans to rebuild and develop the organ at St James' have been challenged by two members of the congregation. Under the Faculty regulations they are entitled to an official review supervised by the Chancellor of the Diocese of London. After discussion they have opted to have the case heard at a full Consistory Court. Like any judicial trial, all the facts of the case, with all the supporting paperwork, are presented and challenged - probably inside St James' Church itself - and the decision by the judge becomes binding on all the parties involved.

As you will remember we had hoped to have the work completed in time for the William Lambe 450th anniversary this June. However, delays in the process plus the Coronavirus lock-down for the Registry staff has meant that we are only now reviving the process.

I am sorry that this is occurring but there is a major difference of opinion between those who have planned the project over the better part of ten years, and those who do not share the vision for the Church and the musical ministry here as outlined at our last two Annual General Meetings. Sadly there is no other way of resolving this but I hope that we can still ensure that the parish maintains its sense of unity and purpose while this process takes its course.

**BAD LUCK!** Walking back from a job interview, talking to her sister on her mobile, Laura Roden tripped on a pavement and ended up breaking her ankle in two places. Ouch! That will keep her out of action for a while as dad John is not driving much while he keeps Hope in isolation until the middle of August. Mind you, there is never a good time for such things! Get well soon Laura.



**Birthdays and Anniversaries in August**

**BIRTHDAYS** Very many happy returns on Saturday 8th to our Safeguarding Officer, Isabelle Sharples; on Monday to Maxwell Sharples who will be 6; on 13th to Nick Sharples - a very busy week! On Tuesday 18th to Jade Nicholson and on Thursday 20th to Sinead Burniston, PCC member and Sunday School leader. On Monday 24th to Gloria Falcioni who will be 4, on Tuesday 25th to Jack Carter who will be 11 and on Thursday 27th to Josh Campbell who will be 15.

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES** August 1st: John and Maria Burniston; 4th: Alex and Clare Suksiri; 7th: Barry and Hayley Jenkins; 27th: Chris and Christine Wright

**Calendar and Daily Prayer themes in August**

Sun 2 *TRINITY 8* Paige, Bella and Lola Flynn; Lisa and Sonny Follett  
 Mon 3 *DEL Wk 18* Wendy Fisher Gordon; Maria Flavius  
 Tues 4 *St John Vianney* Ros, Chris, Beatrix and Sebastian Ford  
 Wed 5 *St Oswald* Nick, Felicity and Eleanor Fryer; Mark and Shireen Gilbert  
 Thurs 6 *TRANSFIGURATION* Mostyn, Nieve and Ilaria Goodwin  
 Fri 7 *JM Neale* Karensa and Amariah Greenaway; Lucy Haire and Sam Lewis  
 Sat 8 *St Dominic* Jill Hetherington; Mark and Norah Hodge; Kris Hyde

Sun 9 *TRINITY 9* Rebecca, Rob and Evelyn Holtom; Alastair Hume  
 Mon 10 *DEL Wk 19* Matt, Nicole and Eve Jean--Baptiste  
 Tues 11 *St Clare of Assisi* Barry, Hayley, Theo and Freddie Jenkins  
 Wed 12 *Feria* Alexandra Jones; Grace and Elrose Joseph; Miranda Jules  
 Thurs 13 *Florence Nightingale* Eva, Roy, Jerome and Zuri Kasella  
 Fri 14 *Maximilian Kolbe* Charlotte, Josh and Olivia Kennedy; Philip Kingston  
 Sat 15 *Of Our Lady* Kingsley Lewis, Pauline McGovern; Beryl Lloyd

Sun 16 *TRINITY 10* Kurt, Julia and Florence Maile; McBrien families  
 Mon 17 *DEL Wk 20* Paula, Gianni and Giandre Morrison; Bill Murphy  
 Tues 18 *Feria* Jade Nicholson, John, Charlie and Henry Green  
 Wed 19 *Feria* Isabel Nisbet; Joyce Owusu; Toni Parker  
 Thurs 20 *William and Catherine Booth, SA* Jessica and Tayah Phillips  
 Fri 21 *Feria* Nick, Matilda and Barnaby Powell  
 Sat 22 *Feria* John, Hilary and Laura Roden and Hope Dixey

Sun 23 *TRINITY 11* Rosemary Ross; Kerry, Chris, Ben Sabine; Helen Schofield  
 Mon 24 *DEL Wk 21* Sam, Joe, Charlie and Isla Seabrook  
 Tues 25 *Feria* Nick, Isabelle, Maxwell and Leon Sharples; Susan, Eric Sorensen  
 Wed 26 *Feria* Claire, Alex, Kaitlin and Oliver Suksiri; Vera Taggart  
 Thurs 27 *St Monica* Fr Stephen Taylor; Ken and Margaret Thompson  
 Fri 28 *St Augustine of Hippo* Sergio Villicana and Cecilia Son-Vicente  
 Sat 29 *Beheading of St John the Baptist* Fr Victor de Waal; Tim Willis

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.