

the arena

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newsletter

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OCTOBER
2020

Dear All,

IT'S OCTOBER: IT'S HARVEST TIME!



ST JAMES' CHURCH HARVEST APPEAL
'5 A DAY'

10am, Sunday 3rd October 2020

Even in the pandemic we are looking beyond our own problems to those "out of sight but not out of mind". We are familiar with the Christmas Smartie tube appeal for the AIDS orphans in Bonda, Zimbabwe. The situation for these children is dire and they look to us to help them get through - even for real basics. This year our theme is 'Five-a-day', the familiar motto to make sure we get our proper intake of fruit and veg. Can we give £5 to make sure these children have what they need for a day? Envelopes are available at the back of Church marked with a 5

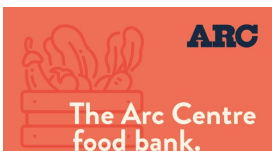
We will collect these at the Harvest Mass on Sunday October 4th - and for a few weeks after. One (or more) 'fivers' will help one of these AIDS children with food and with money for school fees.

£5-a-day * £5-a-day * £5-a-day * £5-a-day * £5-a-day * £5-a-day * £5-a-day * £5-a-day * £5-a-day

Standing outside St James' this morning, talking to Jade Nicholson and Henry in the sunshine - or to Sophie Duffy, Reggie and Olive in the Packington Square playground after school on Monday, it really does feel like we live in an extended (urban) village! How good it has been to be able to talk to each other after all these weeks of either being away or by the lock-down. We hope it won't now all go pear-shaped as yet more and more announcement are made about who we can and can't mix with. Families, including Church families, need to stick together!



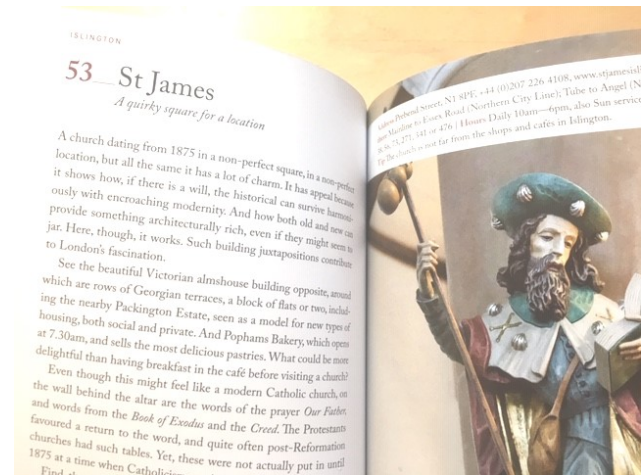
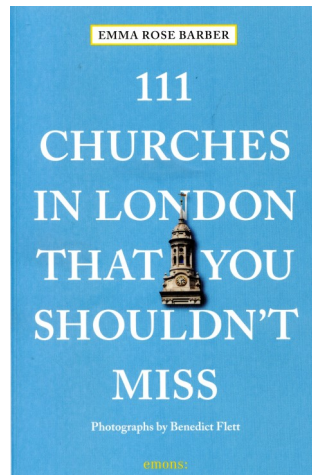
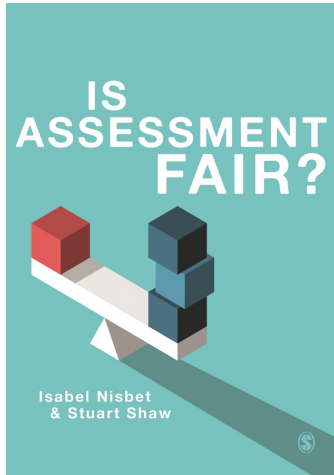
But at least Church is coping with the social distancing rules. I know it is a bit confusing but while only 15 people are allowed to attend a wedding and there is a maximum of 30 for funerals, churches like ours can still welcome more than that for ordinary services - so long as a 2 metre distance can be kept and people are wearing face coverings. The Churchwardens and I think we can cope with 40 people in Church pretty comfortably and while people are away because they are still self-isolating, that seems to be working OK. For the rest of us, if you haven't yet tried it, we hope you will come and see how 'normal' St James' feels at the moment!



And the regulations (so far) for live entertainment work in the same way. While the Epiphoni concert on Sunday 27th September to raise funds for the ARC Food Bank is now 'full', tickets are on sale for other events including the studio version of the opera Pagliacci at 8pm on Saturday 3rd October and Gisella Meyer's fun concert featuring a chromatic harmonica and piano on Sunday 11th October. Film shoots, rehearsals and recordings of various sorts are all going ahead too - which all helps to keep us afloat financially. Did you know it costs roughly £400 a day to run St James'?!

WE NEED YOUR REPOSES PLEASE! To be able to send you newsletters and other Church information, we need your permission under current GDPR regulations. We promise not to bombard you with unlimited stuff but as a congregation we are so widely scattered that regular electronic mailing is the only way we can easily keep in touch. Adam Dickson our administrator has sent out letters asking for written GDPR permission. Hardly any have come back yet. Please do help us by getting those replies back to Adam this month.

BOOKS AT ST JAMES'



IS ASSESSMENT FAIR? Most will be unaware that, in addition to all her other activities, Isabel Nisbet our Churchwarden is extremely busy as an academic working in educational regulation. She has recently joined with a Cambridge colleague to write this book which not only explores philosophical/legal/theoretical thinking but also suggests an approach that can be used to make assessments (including summer exams!) fairer in the future. She doesn't think they will queuing for it at Waterstones but it will have a significant impact in its own sphere. Well done Isabel!

111 CHURCHES Some months ago, Emma Barber wandered into St James' and was so taken with it that she has included it into her book '111 Churches in London that you shouldn't miss'. While we are the only Islington Church she mentions, we sit alongside some very illustrious churches indeed. This book is a really good read and would make an excellent stocking filler (or more) for Christmas so if you would like a copy we can get a substantial discount on the cover price of £12.99. Our price will be £8. Let me know asap if you are interested.



FIRST COMMUNICANTS Our latest crop of First Communicants are now well into to their stride after their second session (of five). Please remember in your prayers Tayah Phillips, Ava Wilson, Amariah Greenaway, Matilda and Barnaby Powell. The Admissions (and Baptism for Ava, Matilda and Barnaby) are at 10am on Sunday 18 October. They are leading at Harvest too!

Birthdays and Anniversaries in October

Keep safe!

Best wishes as ever,
John

BIRTHDAYS Very many happy returns on Sunday 4th to Emma Carter.

On Tuesday 13th to Louise Ahmet, on Thursday 15th to Kerry Sabine and Eric Sorensen; on Saturday 17th to Vicky Bellamy and to Susan Sorensen;

On Sunday 18th to Sonny Follett, on Monday 19th to Tim Willis and Francesca Falcioni, on Wednesday 21st to Jay Wilson and on Thursday 22nd to Karen Greenaway and to Cecilia Son-Vicente

On Wednesday 28th to Scott Kinch and on Friday 30th to Ilaria Goodwin.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES Warmest best wishes to James and Megan Kloet-Gill, married at St James' in 2016 and now resident, with Peter, in Elmhurst, Chicago. Happy days.



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.