

The Weekly arena Issue 80 2020-26 newsletter

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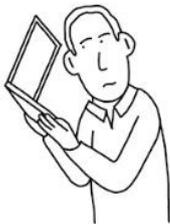
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NOVEMBER 27
2020

Dear All,

ONLINE SERVICES

THINGS THAT CAN GO TERRIBLY WRONG



PROBLEMS WITH THE SOUND



ACCIDENTAL SCREEN-SHARING OF PASTORALLY SENSITIVE INFORMATION



INTERNET BREAKS AT CRUCIAL MOMENT

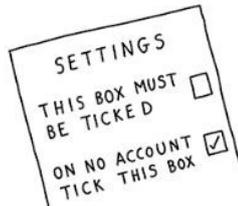


LET US PRAY...
LINDA! HAVE YOU SEEN MY SPECTACLES?

FAILING TO MUTE THE CONGREGATION



ANIMALS RUNNING AMOK



THE APP HASN'T BEEN CONFIGURED



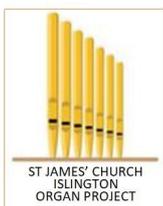
LIVE ARREST OWING TO IGNORING COPYRIGHT



INVASION BY ROWDY GROUP OF METHODISTS

© Dave Walker, Church Times

With the final on-line service now in place (with a cast of over a dozen from New North Road to Nice!) it is good to know that we are not the only ones looking forward to returning to normal congregational worship as from next Sunday (6th December). Thanks to everyone who has responded to appeals to take part this year. What a diverse congregation we are.



YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP! After the parish AGM on Sunday 25th October we were assured by the two Party Opponents that they were not asking for a formal Consistory Court to rule on the Organ Project. So it came as something of a surprise to hear this week from the Registry that they were still working on the assumption that they would need to convene such a Court. They then went on to tell us that the Chancellor of the Diocese, Nigel Seed, had also recused himself from the case because he was in the same congregation as Isabel Nisbet our Churchwarden for some years, and the papers were now being forwarded to the Deputy Chancellor. We don't think it will significantly hold up the process (any more than before!) but it is a very long time since the notification of the Project was first posted - in February! With luck we should hear the outcome in the next three weeks or so.

NEW MEMBERS While we continue to pray for our three mothers-to-be, we send warmest congratulations to Josh and Charlotte Kennedy (St Paul's Road, Highbury) on the arrival of Alfie. Also new to the congregation we send a warm welcome to Varonica Sisong and her daughter Jess. There are a large number of baptisms pending too but families are rightly waiting for travel restrictions to be lifted and for permission to sing in Church to be restored!

TREASURE HUNT Who knows quite what will be possible in and around Church this year but one thing is certain: we are planning a Christmas Treasure Hunt! Designed by Catriona Wilkinson (Burniston) who loves these quizzes and who is designing a similar Hunt for her village in West Yorkshire, we do hope this will be something that many of our families can take part in. 'Watch this space' for further details.



SUNDAY-SCHOOL-AT-HOME As I write (on Saturday afternoon) Sinead and Maria are busily putting together the craft activity for Advent Sunday tomorrow! Thanks to Francesca for showing us what she did with her pack from last week. But this is the last week when we need to bring the material to you as Sunday School will be open again 'live' (but socially distanced) next Sunday, 6th December. We look forward to seeing our children back with us again.

REPORT FROM THE PCC After a good discussion the Church Council has agreed to investigate the best way of putting permanent webcams into St James' so that we can live stream services. This will take a little while to complete but it will save so much work for Adam our administrator after the 10am Mass on Sunday as he tries to download files onto YouTube. The quality will be better and we will be able to livestream Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals too.

STRANGE BUT TRUE We have every reason to be proud of the way the Church has remained open for private prayer every day for three years (save when we were forced to close). Comments in the visitors book are all positive. But we have 'lost' a few things recently and I am asking if some of them were just 'borrowed' - and we can have them back please?! They are the three (heavy!) votive candle boards stored on top of a cupboard in the Flower Vestry, the blackboard easel kept underneath the tower, three silver oil stocks in a small black box kept in a drawer in the vestry - and the two Peppa Pig soft toys from the top of the bookcase in the south aisle...



PACK-UP While it hasn't been possible recently to provide a hot sit-down meal for the 30+ regular guests at Pack-Up on Mondays, Toni Parker is already planning to provide goodie bags of toiletries and the like a week or so before Christmas. Donations can be safely left with the Pack Up Team at the Hall on Mondays lunchtimes or brought to the Vicarage. Many thanks.

CHRISTMAS While services in December are back to 'normal', the three bigger services will be by ticket only, available through eventbrite (www.eventbrite.co.uk) as we can only have 40 people in Church at any one time and we don't want to turn people away. Full details to follow.

Sunday December 15th at 6.30pm 'Carols at Christmas' sung by the brilliant 'Epiphoni'
Thursday December 24th at 6pm 'Crib service'
Thursday December 24th at 11.30pm 'Midnight Mass'

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.