

# @<sup>St</sup>James'

Issue 4: December 2013

## Christmas Charity Fair

This was held on Saturday 30th November and raised a wonderful amount for CARIS, MOP and Shelter from the Storm. The total, before the raffle proceeds are included, was £1196.34. Many thanks to all those who helped set up, run stalls and the cafe, and to tidy up afterwards. And thanks also to everyone who generously donated items and cakes. Raffle tickets are on sale until the draw on 24th December - see Maria Flavius to buy tickets and to take some away to sell to friends.



## Church Office

The collection of papers, going back nearly 30 years, was recently transferred from the Church Hall to the basement of the Vicarage. After being sorted and filed, some will be taken to the



Metropolitan Archive in Clerkenwell, some will remain in the new parish Office, and some of the redundant records will be shredded. We anticipate this process will be completed over the next three months.



**Advent** During the season of Advent we light a new candle each week. Three are purple, one is pink and the last one, lit on Christmas Day, is white. As we wait for the coming of Jesus these coloured candles remind us that throughout history, men and women have waited patiently for the coming of the Messiah, God's chosen one.

On Advent Sunday we revived the old tradition of keeping the day as a Festival of Light (in the same way that our friends in the Jewish community are celebrating Hannukkah) through yet another old tradition, the German Christingle - oranges, candles, red ribbon, cocktail sticks and jelly babies all combined to make our Christingles with the candles reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world.

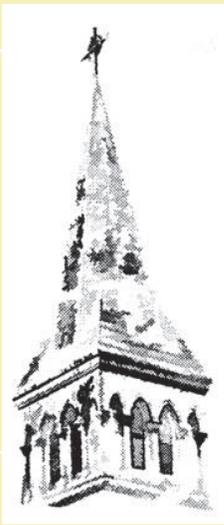


**New Website** After two years of work, the new website is finally online! Take a look at [www.stjamesislington.org](http://www.stjamesislington.org). Our website designer, Catherine Lepper, has been fantastic in translating our vision into what we now see online. Whilst there are tweaks still to be made from January Kerri, our PCC Publicity Officer, should be able to add events to the calendar, add photographs and update text where appropriate. Please do pass any feedback to Kerri - we want the website to be a dynamic project which changes to reflect the life of our Church.



For details of coming events, including Christmas services see the [calendar page](#) and there is also a full timetable for the [Church Hall](#) on the site, as well as a host of information about worship and our community. You will also be able to access the weekly news sheets, sermons and @StJames' from the website.

**Maple Plans** Following the PCC meeting on 11th December at which it was agreed to go forward with the first phase of the MAPLE building proposals, we will be asking the DAC to submit our plans to the Chancellor of the Diocese for a full Faculty. This will take place in January 2014, and will include the installation of a second toilet, levelling of the chancel floor and the upgrading of the Church audio system along with the installation of wiring for a data projector (to be installed at a later date). The Quinquennial work to the interior of the Church can then be completed with new lighting being installed before the Church is repainted in advance of our 140th anniversary celebrations in May 2015.



## Services (for changes over Christmas/New Year see below)

Sunday: 8am Mass 10am Parish Mass (All Ages Mass 5th January)

Tuesday: 7.30am Morning Prayer 8am Mass

Wednesday: 9.30am Morning Prayer 10am Mass

Thursday: 6pm Evening Prayer 6.15-7pm Office Hour

Friday: 8am Morning Prayer 8.30am Mass

## December/January Diary Dates

### Sunday 15th

**CAROL SERVICE 6.30pm** Join us at our candlelit service with Cantallini leading the singing. Featuring one of the very first performances of the carol "The Lambkin" by Helen Drew.

### CHRISTMAS EVE Tuesday 24th

**6pm CRIB SERVICE - A Neon Nativity** performed by members of Beavers, Rainbows, Brownies and St James' Sunday School with active participation from the congregation!

### 11.30pm CANDLELIT MIDNIGHT MASS

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Masses at 8am and 10am

### Changes to weekday Masses over Christmas/New Year period:

No Mass Friday 27th

Tuesday 31st - 10am (rather than 8am) and will be a New Year's Eve celebration.

No 10am Mass Wednesday 1st

Normal pattern resumes Friday 3rd January.

**Epiphany** celebrated with an All Age Mass on Sunday 5th January

**Got something to share?** We would love to have your contributions to @StJames' or if you just have an idea for something you would like to see included in a future issue, let us know. E-mail Kerri at kaallen07@gmail.com

## Growing in Faith

A number of young people are to be prepared for their first Holy Communion at Candlemass on 2nd February 2014. They will be joined by a group of adults who would also like to become more involved in the life of the Church. The adult preparation will be assisted by the return of 'Talking Heads' which will take place after Mass on the 2nd Sunday of the month as from 12th January. We will be using a new course entitled 'pilgrim', devised and written by Stephen Cottrell and Stephen Croft, the bishops of Chelmsford and Sheffield respectively. Everyone is welcome to join these 45 minute sessions and it would be really helpful to have established members of the congregation supporting our new enquirers.



## Activities for Babies and Children at St James' Hall

You will find on the new website a [timetable](#) of activities in the church hall, including lots of music, drama and dancing for children. Last month we featured the ballet classes run by Marmalade Dance. This month we'd like to highlight the group run by Rucksack Music. This is a north London venture which runs sessions for babies and toddlers in a number of locations including St James. It provides an introduction to music with lots of participative activities involving percussion instruments. The classes are from 10 am to 11 am on Tuesday mornings. Visit their website [www.rucksackmusic.co.uk](http://www.rucksackmusic.co.uk) for more information.

Since the closure of the much-loved Thursday morning "Fire Engine Club" this summer, we no longer have a drop in playgroup for toddlers and their carers. This is quite a loss to our local community and reflects a shortage of volunteers to run these sessions. The group leader, Edita, had other commitments and could not find any one to take over. She is still on the look-out and meanwhile Susan Sorensen, the hall bookings manager, has found a volunteer who is willing to be part of a team. Is there any one in the congregation who would be willing to join a small team of volunteers so that we can restore this activity? There are free slots on Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings. If we can find volunteers amongst our congregation then it can run as a St James' sponsored community activity, like the Pram Club we used to run, with no hiring fee. There is plenty of good quality equipment bequeathed by the Fire Engine Club. So please help if you can....it's a great opportunity to consolidate our work with young families.

**Coming in January...** a new feature for @StJames, 'Getting To Know You' - learn a bit more about some of the members of our congregation. Who will be first?

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**Churchwardens: Maria Flavius & Andy Philpot Hall bookings: 020 7354 9170**