

@StJames'

Issue 7: March 2014

Diary Dates

Sunday 23rd March

10am Parish Mass and **First Holy Communion** for 3 adults in the congregation, including Kerry Thompson (see Getting to Know You).

Tuesday 25th March

PCC meeting in Church - agenda includes Stewardship Appeal and administrative support for the Hall and Parish 7.30pm

Saturday 29th March

To begin the new season of **Islington Proms**, Cantallini sings Faure's Requiem and other music for Passiontide 7.30pm

Sunday 30th March

10am **Mothering Sunday** celebrations

Saturday 5th April

7.30pm Poetical Music Concert

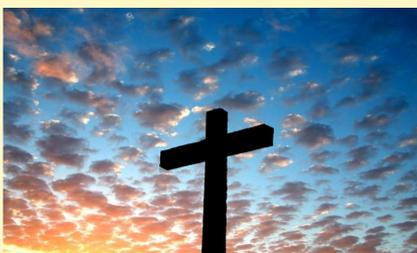
Sunday 6th April

10 am **PASSION SUNDAY** All Age Mass

Publication of the AGM Report Booklets

Final date for names to be added to the Electoral Roll before the AGM. Forms are at the back of the Church.

EASTER SERVICES and further DIARY DATES on page 2



Mardi Gras Parish Lunch

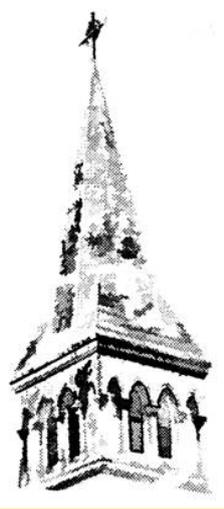
The parish lunch on 2nd March was a huge success. Over 50 people dined in the Church Hall on roast chicken, jacket potatoes and other delights. Despite a minor panic with the oven not working properly, everything went smoothly. We also enjoyed a quiz with questions about Lent and photos of the famous and members of the congregation. Most importantly, everyone had fun! Thanks go to Maria and Sinead Burniston, all those who supplied food and helped to serve, wash up and tidy afterwards.



January/February PCC meetings summary

At the January meeting the PCC agreed the recommendations from the St James' Tower Captain for bell ringing fees and charges for visitors ringing the bells, and also organist fees for occasional services. A summary of the Deanery Synod was presented, the main subjects including the fairness of wages, safeguarding children and the joint meeting between Tower Hamlets and Hackney. Vera Taggart has the report should anyone wish to read it in full. The management of the Hall booking system was discussed and the importance of finding a suitable person to take over the role from Susan Sorensen by the end of June. Reports from the MAPLE group and the igN1ite groups were presented. The process of obtaining quotations for the Quinquennial repairs had commenced; there is an urgent need to find someone to take over Andy Philpot's role in managing the building and maintenance. Details of the building projects (toilet, chancel, AV system) were shared and the *reNEW* programme of events was introduced.

At the meeting in February, the PCC agreed charges for hire of the Church which are banded depending on the hirer. Whilst lower than the charges made by other churches in the Parish, they are attracting a range of users resulting in an additional income for St James'. It was agreed to review the charges in 6 months. A rota is now in place for members of the PCC to count the collection after Sunday Mass. Susan Sorensen presented the accounts to the PCC for the year ending December 2013. Income needs to be increased and it is hoped that a successful Stewardship Campaign (SC), to be launched in April, will allow us to raise the additional funds needed to meet the pledged Common Fund Donation. There was still no volunteer to head the SC which will be a vital role in ensuring its success. The Hall Management Group report highlighted the need for a Mother and Toddler Group and volunteers are still sought to be involved in running such a group. Funds were agreed for a new notice board for the outside of Church to display posters for events etc.



Services (more details on our website)

Sunday: 8am Mass 10am Parish Mass (All Age Mass 6th April)

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

Diary Dates (continued)

Sunday 13th April

10 am **Palm Sunday** All Age Mass, enacting the Passion Story outside Church (weather permitting).

7.30pm **Islington Prom** Haydn: Seven Last Words performed by the Hermitage String Quartet, together with illustrated readings from early 20th Century war poets such as Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Jack Yeats and Patrick Pearse.

Thursday 17th April

7.30pm **Maundy Thursday** Mass of the Last Supper, with the stripping of the altars, the procession to the Altar of Repose and Vigil to Compline at 11pm.

Friday 18th April

Good Friday

12 noon Ecumenical Walk of Witness, beginning at the N1 Centre and moving to St Mary's Church, Upper Street

2pm at St James' The Last Hour Prayers and Meditations on the death of Christ.

Sunday 20th April

10am **EASTER DAY** Mass followed by the traditional Easter Egg Hunt



MAPLE going forward The group met at the end of January to review the progress that had been made and the way forward to **reNEW!** and the anniversary celebrations in 2015. A remarkable amount of progress has been made including the following:

- **Hall** - refurbishment of the floors and entrance hall decoration is complete. The Hall is a major source of income for the Church and further refurbishment will take place over the next few years.
- A programme of **Social Events** is now in place including the Harvest Lunch, pre-Lent Mardi Gras lunch and St James' Day celebration.
- **Building and Maintenance** - the Church heating system has been serviced, the main electrical circuits replaced. The plans for the second toilet, chancel and sound system are in progress.
- **Financial Review** - the accounting system is being updated and simplified, expenditure over the last 10 years has been reviewed and a budget for 2014 planned.
- **Worship and Music** - the service booklets are working well, training for Readers and Interceders is planned once the new AV system is in place and a congregational discussion was well attended.
- **Communications** - St James website, Facebook page and the e-newsletter @StJames' were in place and well-received. Further plans for a new notice board and posters for parish events are in progress.
- **Children and Young People** - Worship Bags for children are being prepared and the Children's Charter has been applied for.

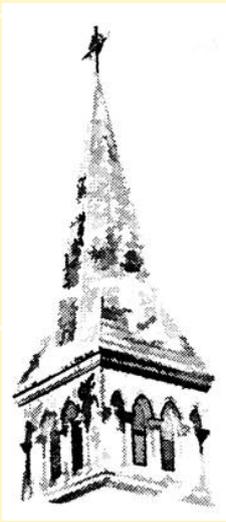
The **reNEW** programme now seeks to build on this progress and put more of the plans and ideas (which continue to be generated) into action!

28 Day Legal Notice As required by the Church Faculties process, a notice was pinned to the main doors of the Church on 11th March, informing the public that the three proposals put forward by the MAPLE group and affirmed by the congregational survey, the PCC and the 2013 Annual General Meeting, were due to be begun. Two objections, covering all three proposals, have now been sent to Paul Morris the Diocesan Registrar.

The reasons given are

- (i) that the process of consultation has been inadequate
- (ii) that the parish should not be undertaking work while the parish is not paying its full Common Share
- (iii) that there is still work to be completed as the result of the Quinquennial building survey
- (iv) that the proposals put before the PCC were not unanimously approved
- (v) that the changes to the chancel will spoil the visual effect and are not concerned with worship but with the use of the church for outside events
- (vi) that the second toilet is not strictly necessary
- (vii) that the sound enhancement is mostly required for outside lettings.

While the complainants have had every opportunity to hear the counter-arguments and to see how this work will be completed alongside the repairs identified in the 2012 Quinquennial Report - and have been informed of the full support of the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the Archdeacon of Hackney - the legal process that follows objections of this sort cannot be predetermined and we will have to wait for the Diocese to review the case once more before we can go ahead with the work which has been so warmly supported throughout the parish and further afield.



SPRING is finally here - always a good time for change. After 6 months of @StJames' do you have any feedback or suggestions to make it even better? Please let us know!

Getting to Know You Kerry Thompson

Birthday 15th October

Where were you born? Harrogate, Yorkshire

How long have you been coming to St James'?

Since November 2013

Do you have/have you had any special roles at St James'? Not yet!

Do you have a family? I live with my fiancé, Chris, and between us we have two loving sets of parents and lots of siblings, cousins etc.

What is your day job? I work in Human Resources for an insurance company in the City. More specifically, I work in Learning and Development, so I design and organise training programmes.

Did you enjoy school? VI enjoyed Sixth Form more so than my other years at school. I went to school in Bakewell, Derbyshire (of 'Bakewell Tart' fame); the school was at the top of a very big, windy hill and it was always very cold!

What hobbies do you enjoy most? I like to cook for family and friends. I hate cooking for myself, but love nothing more than to have my house full of people eating well and getting along.

What is your favourite kind of music? Indie (e.g., Arctic Monkeys, Coldplay).

Do you have a book that you would like to recommend?

I am currently reading *'The Scapegoat'* by Daphne Du Maurier. If you can accept the rather silly storyline (two men who look identical meet by chance in a train station and decide to swap lives) it can be read as an interesting and challenging exploration of duality in our own selves.

What kind of food do you enjoy most? British - I love a good Yorkshire pudding or cream tea.

Which person has most inspired you in life, and why? My sister Lauren, who gave me the courage to move to London; and my former manager, Holly, who taught me the importance of being yourself and making friends at work.

Do you have a favourite place, and if so why is it special? Curbar Edge in the Peak District National Park because it's the village where I grew up and an area of outstanding natural beauty. Though it is rather cold!

If you were given £50,000 to spend, what would you do with it? I would divide it between paying my parents back for our wedding, investing in our home and donating to a charity.



Hand in Hand for Syria

Along with the whole Stepney area, we are supporting Gill Newman's efforts to send relief supplies to the displaced people of Northern Syria in the Big Spring Aid Drop. Donations can be left in the box in Church or taken to the Vicarage. The deadline for donations is **Sunday 23rd March.**

Donations of any of the following (but only these items) please:

- Nappies and babywipes
- NEW baby clothes
- Children's sunhats
- Colouring books, picture books, exercise books
- Pens, pencils, sharpeners
- Multivitamins for children and the elderly
- Dressings and medical disposables
- Folic Acid
- New underwear in sealed packs
- Money...



Church Warden

Just a reminder that we need to someone to replace Andy Philpot as one of our two Church Wardens. It is vital that Maria Flavius has someone to assist her with this vital role. Could it be you?

Parish Priest: Fr John Burniston

1a Arlington Square, N1 7DS 020 7226 4108

email: vicar@stjamesislington.org

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