

@StJames'

Issue 30: March 2016



Big London Night Walk



St James' hosted 275 night walkers on Friday night/Saturday morning 11th/12th March who were taking part in the 2016 Big London Night Walk to raise funds for the Big Issue Foundation. The walk covers 20km and ended this year at St John's Church, Waterloo. There's more information about the walk [here](#).

Music at St James'

The variety of music played at St James continues to expand! We recently hosted a young peoples' music workshop and contemporary music from Liskka, as well as 3 other concerts.



Photos: Young musicians at the workshop (above); Liskka gig in Church: The Power of Light (right)



March PCC meeting

This was the last PCC meeting before the AGM in April (11.30am Sunday 10th April - mark it in your diary!). Some of the reports, including the Treasurer's report and accounts were discussed along with the Electoral Roll figures. The booklets containing all the reports for the AGM will be available in Church two weeks before. We also had an initial summary of the data gathered from the recent congregational meeting and survey which provided much positive feedback and ideas for the PCC to take forward in the coming months. Thank you to everyone who has taken to time to give us their thoughts.

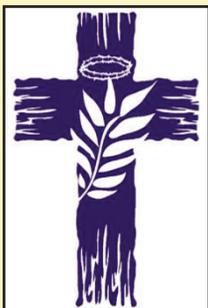
Having finally got the green light for the Faculty application, work in the Church will proceed as soon as possible, and hopefully will be completed in time for the celebrations on 15th May marking the end of St James' 140th Anniversary year. This includes carpet in the sanctuary, the renovation and extension of the sound system, new lighting throughout the Church, the permanent fixing of the Blessed Sacrament in its own chapel, new pew cushions, the painting of all the external doors and the putting up of a publicity case outside Church.

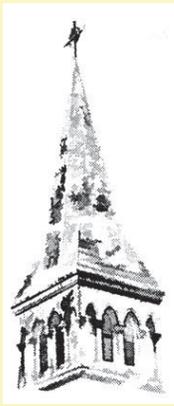
Future plans to refurbish the kitchenette in Church were discussed. It is hoped to make an application to the Richard Cloudesley Trust for funds to help with this project.



Lent Envelopes

Just a reminder that these are still available in Church. Our Lent savings will support the orphan children of Bonda in Zimbabwe. We have pledged to help pay their school fees. Please give as generously as you can.





More Diary Dates...

Sunday 17th April EASTER 4 8am Mass.
10am Parish Mass and Sunday School

Saturday 23rd April ISLINGTON PROM 2 - Milgram Trio
play Mendelssohn £10/£8.

Sunday 24th April EASTER 5 8am Mass.
10am Parish Mass and Sunday School

Diary Dates

Sunday 20th March PALM SUNDAY Mass at 8am and 10am
All Age Parish Mass with the story of Holy Week re-enacted around St James' Garden.

Monday 21st March 8am work begins on the NET installation of Mobile phone masts in St James' tower.

Tuesday 22nd March 7.30pm
Islington Gardeners talk Church Hall: Paul Thompson 'The Greening of Arlington Square'. All welcome.

Thursday 24th March MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.30pm
Said Mass, Stripping of the Altars and Vigil to Comline at 10pm.

Friday 25th March GOOD FRIDAY
12 noon Walk of Witness from Angel Centre to St Mary's Church
2pm Sung Liturgy of the Passion and Holy Communion at 8St James'.

Sunday 27th March EASTER SUNDAY Mass at 8am.
10am All Age Parish Mass with the lighting of the new Paschal Candle and Children's Easter Egg Hunt.

Sunday 3rd April EASTER 2 8am Mass.
10am Parish Mass and Sunday School together with the baptism of Paige and Molly Flynn and Mollie Hunt

Sunday 10th April EASTER 3 8am Mass.
10am Parish Mass and Sunday School
11.30am Annual Vestry Meeting and AGM

Holy Land 2016

I was not at all sure what effect a trip to the Holy Land would have on me. Would it spoil all my mental pictures of Galilee and Jerusalem; would the sites be overrun by tourists and horribly commercial? Would it be safe?

At every level our trip in March was better than we could ever have hoped for and I have a much deeper appreciation of the Bible stories as a result.

So what were the highlights? In perfect weather our first major excursion to the Sea of Galilee was serene and calm. We stood listening to a black pastor reading the Beatitudes and watched a Catholic Mass being celebrated just yards from the natural amphitheatre where Jesus spoke to the crowds; later that day we were able to see the rock on which, tradition says, he lay the bread and fish before feeding the 5000. The great fortress at Massada and the caves where the discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls brought these stories of the 1st century Church alive while going through the Israeli Security Wall so that we could visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem brought us firmly into the 21st. (Continued on p3)

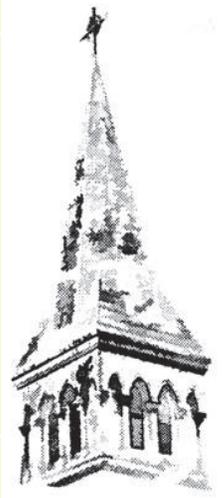


Photos: Clockwise from top left - Site of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount; Pastor at the Church of the Beatitudes; Church of the Nativity; Korean pilgrims.



Don't forget - the clocks go forward!

The clocks go forward an hour at 1am on Sunday 27th March, Easter Sunday!



Celebration of the end of St James' 140th Anniversary

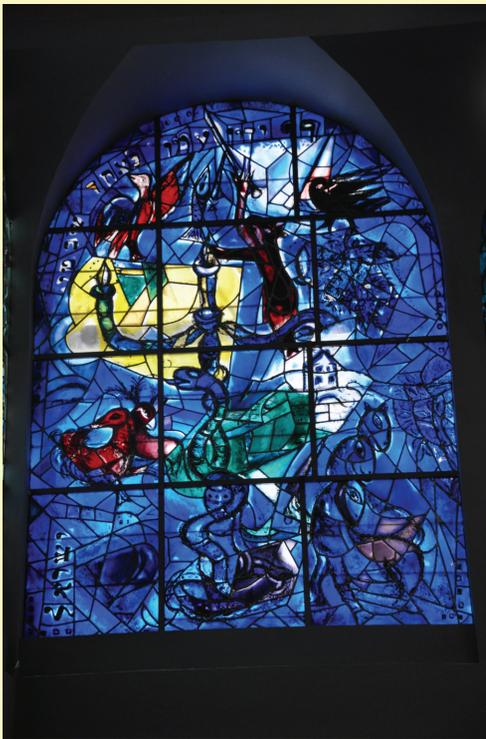
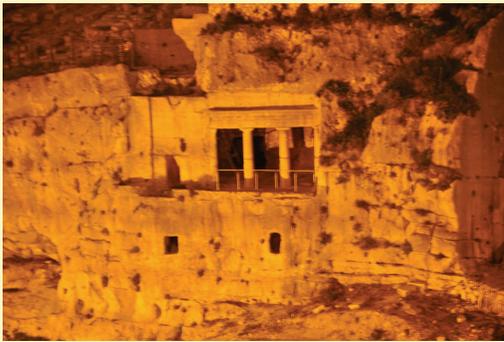


The celebrations will be held on Sunday May 15th - make sure you mark this date in your diaries. Look out for further details in next month's @StJames'!

Holy Land 2016 (continued)

Walking through Jerusalem in the dark on our first night there was just a bit intimidating but our excellent Jewish guide made sure we saw all the key sites – in the right order – so that we could follow the Holy Week events in a logical fashion. It was good to watch young Korean students carrying a cross along the Via Dolorosa, singing hymns with almost the same tunes we knew, but in their own language. Everyone is moved by the Holocaust Museum of course and we made a special effort to see the tomb of our St James and wonderful stained glass windows of the twelve tribes of Israel by Marc Chagall, located in the chapel of a hospital where a former colleague of Maria was currently working. The operating theatres there are five floors below ground for fear of mortar attacks.

And what the surprises? Somehow I imagined the River Jordan to be bigger! The banks were much more built up of course than my imagination allowed for but with very few people there it felt more like the Granta in Cambridge – without the willow trees! But we collected our four litres of Jordan water for baptisms here!



Photos: Above - St James' Tomb and Mark Chagall Window.

Right - (Clockwise from top left) The River Jordan!; Collecting water from the River Jordan; The synagogue at Nazareth; At the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem



Standing watching the men at prayer at the Wailing Wall gave me quite an electric feeling and it was good to pray for everyone at St James' in the place that Jesus would have known so well. But the most stunning and unexpected delight was in Nazareth, not at the site of the home of Mary and Joseph that still stands under the huge Basilica but in a small synagogue nearby where Jesus preached. Almost completely untouched by history because it was off the beaten track, these were the walls, here was the roof that actually heard his voice. The tour was wonderful; that was a revelation. (Fr John)

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