

@St James'

Issue 64: October 2019

New Bishop of Stepney

Bishop Joanne Grenfell was duly inaugurated into the Stepney Area at a big service in St Mary's Church, Upper Street on Friday 27th September. During the service she was interviewed by Andy Rider (pictured), Area Dean of Tower Hamlets. She preached on the story of Jesus meeting the disciples and telling them to fish on the other side of the boat. She was clearly keen to focus on mission and trying new things. .



Harvest

This year our support for those most in need focused on the Caribbean and in particular those affected by Hurricane Dorian. As a symbol of the money hung between the pillars which we will be sending to Christian Aid, members of the congregation made paper aeroplanes and flew them across the width of the Church. Some flew better than others!



First Holy Communion

After a concentrated five week study course, the three groups of First Communicants were all ready for their special service on Sunday 13th October. Sadly Tyrone Vaux wasn't well enough to attend on the day but the other five - Luca and Francesca Falcioni, Danni Green and Barry and Hayley Jenkins - were duly admitted at the 10am Mass. Luca in particular has been asking when he could receive communion for at least a year and although some may consider him too young he certainly understood what being a communicant member of the Church was all about. Indeed his grandmother, Elaine Kilgannon, was so impressed with the service and his workbook that she has taken copies back to her parish in South Shields to encourage them to consider admitting children to communion there too. The picture shows the five candidates and their sponsors.



George Freeman

Congratulations to George Freeman who passed his voice trial and has been admitted to the choir of Southwark Cathedral. While we will miss his support for the Junior Music group, the JMG was still able to play the Kiev Lord's Prayer recently. And the Second Sunday Choir was in very good form on First Communion Sunday. Additional voices are very welcome to join the Choir; you don't have to be a brilliant singer to take part but if you are - you are welcome too!



Diary Dates

October

Friday 18th - Friday 1st November -
Fr John and Maria away on annual leave.

Sunday 20th - TRINITY 18 Masses at 8am and 10am (Cannon David Bruno).

Sunday 27th - LAST AFTER TRINITY
Masses at 8am and 10am (Cannon David Bruno).

Tuesday 29th - 7.30pm Deanery Synod

November

Sunday 3rd - ALL SAINTS Mass at 8am. 10am All Age Mass.

Sunday 10th - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Masses at 8am and 10am.

Sunday 17th - 2 BEFORE ADVENT
Mass at 8am. 10am Parish Mass with the Baptism of Eve Jean Baptiste.

Monday 18th - 7.30pm PCC Meeting, the Vicarage.

Tuesday 19th - 10am Islington Proms Committee meets.

Saturday 23rd - 7.30pm Cantallini Concert features pt1 of Handel's Messiah plus motets by Victoria, Gabrielli, Tavener and Laurisdén.

Sunday 24th - SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT Masses at 8am and 10am. 7pm Gisella Meyer's piano trio performs Schubert's Trio in Bb and Brahms Trio in B major.

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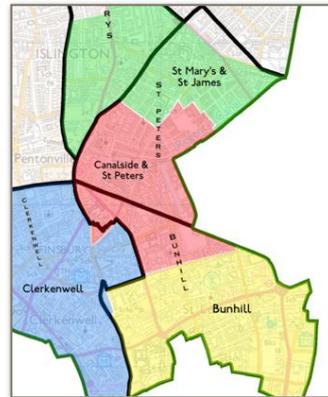
Pack-Up

Toni Parker is rightly proud of the food that is served to over 30 people, week by week in the Hall: "Today's offering: Salad bar, sweet and sour pork or Thai green vegetable curry with rice, delicious mixed veg. soup, fresh fruit salad and yoghurt and pastries donated by Popham's Bakery. A real feast. It is so much enjoyed and appreciated." The current band of volunteers work very hard and the regular donations from the Felix charity mean that the average cost per head is just 63p!



Ward Boundaries

At the AGM of the Angel Association, Eric Sorensen outlined the new plans to change the Ward boundaries in Islington. While most wards remain relatively unaffected, St Peter's Ward will be completely redrawn - and St James' will not be in it! The new division will separate the Church from the Packington estate and all the housing to City Road and beyond. Instead it will be merged with St Mary's on the other side of Essex Road. A huge number of complaints have been sent from St Peter's and Fr John had the opportunity to speak to our MP, Emily Thornberry about our concerns recently. We hope there will be major review by the Boundary Commission.



St James' Gardens

Thanks to Joe Radmore of St Paul Street, the Council has granted £24,000 towards the renovation of St James' Gardens, money which has come from recent developments in our area. Given the state of the space this isn't a great deal to work with but at least it will enable us to get rid of the overgrown bushes, trim the trees and re-turf the grassed area. This will have the effect of opening up sight lines which will make the Gardens safer. It will also enable passers-by to see the Church more easily!

