



the arena

Weekly

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newsletter

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JANUARY 9
2021

Dear All,

It is with the greatest regret that I have had to put up this poster outside Church today (see right).

In the light of the new statistics, the direct call by the Mayor of London to close all places of worship and after talking with the Churchwardens, I really feel I have no other choice.

The exponential growth in Covid infections over the last 48 hours and the significant number of our own congregation who have contracted the disease means that our hope of being able to stay open throughout January can no longer be considered safe.

While I hate to stop celebrating Masses in Church with you (and hate making U-turns!) the time has come when we have to admit that we cannot meet as a congregation in the present circumstances.

Because the call from the Mayor came late on Friday, only a simple Service of the Word will be put up on YouTube tomorrow (Sunday 10th); as you will appreciate we are having to turn things round very quickly and we are sorry that we can't offer any Sunday School resources this week.

But it will still include the swearing in of our two Churchwardens, Hilary Roden and Isabel Nisbet as they remain the focus for this Sunday as we use the occasion to give thanks for their work on behalf of us all at St James'.

Please see overleaf the re-jigged Weekly News for Sunday 10th January so that you are still up to date with what is going on - and because there is some GOOD news in there too! And please keep an eye on your in-box: there is more to come next week!

LONDON: MAJOR EMERGENCY

In support of the NHS
and in response to the call
by the Mayor of London
for a
London-wide lockdown
St James' Church is
suspending public services.
The Church will continue to
be open for private prayer.



Please see website (www.stjamesislington.org) and St James' Islington Facebook page for details of streamed services.

THIS WEEK

Sun BAPTISM OF CHRIST ALL MASSES suspended until further notice.
Wed 6pm Grace Church, Alvin, Texas Zoom prayers.
Thurs 8-1pm BT install a new Broadband connection into Church. 10am Deanery Chapter (by zoom).
Sun 17 EPIPHANY 2 ALL MASSES suspended until further notice.

Calendar and Daily Prayer themes

Sun 10 BAPTISM OF CHRIST Shirley Chinery; Carly, James, Michael, Francis
Mon 11 DEL Epiphany 1 Cyril Daley; Dennis Davis; Adam Dickson
Tue 12 Feria Teresa Pereira, Richard, Mae and Ivy Dennison
Wed 13 George Fox Amanda Doyle; Will Ellsworth-Jones
Thurs 14 Feria Amy Eldon Richier, Scott, Freddie and Callum Kinch
Fri 15 Feria Luigi, Jane, Luca, Francesca, Matteo and Gloria Falcioni
Sat 16 Feria Weini and Ethan Faloppa; Paige Bella and Lola Flynn
Sun 17 EPIPHANY 2 Lisa and Sonny Follet; Wendy Fisher-Gordon; Maria Flavius

Streamed services on Facebook

You do not need to have your own Facebook account to be able to access our streamed services on the St James' Islington Facebook page.



CHURCHWARDENS LICENSING One of the few good things about the Covid pandemic is that the usual annual swearing in of Churchwardens - which often takes place in a bigger church somewhere else in the Deanery - has been scrapped for 2020/1 and is now being done locally. So today part of the on-line 10am Service of the Word is given over to this legal requirement. Which gives us a great opportunity to think about what Churchwardens do - and in our case, how well they do it!

Churchwardens have had a legal role in the English Church since at least 1250ad and they usually take a leading part, with the Bishop and Archdeacon, in choosing new clergy. The aim is that the parish priest and the Churchwardens share the

responsibilities of caring for the Church and making sure everything is in order and so it is crucial that they get on well. I am delighted to say we do!

While Hilary Roden and Isabel Nisbet have very different backgrounds they work really well together, drawing on different skill sets to cover all the jobs that fall to them. Their faithful support of this parish is absolutely exemplary and I am so pleased to have this opportunity to say thank you to them on behalf of us all.

BACK ON LINE This week we have been able to replace the Vicarage iPad with one more suitable for Church so that we can restart streaming our services. I know this has been missed over the last few weeks. Once BT have installed the fibre cable this coming Thursday which will enable us to have Broadband in Church at last, Rob Alvis from Creative Audio-Visual Solutions will install webcams into Church. These will be nigh invisible but they will be flexible enough to pick up activities throughout St James'. Once we are back in Church again Adam Dickson, from his seat at the organ, will then be able to control everything that is being seen on screen. We are enormously grateful to the Cloudesley Trust and their Covid Emergency Fund for making a grant of £5000 to enable us to do all this. They have been incredibly generous to St James' over the years (covering most of the costs of the Kitchenette, new chairs, secondary glazing and of course the very generous grant of £50,000 towards the organ rebuild) and when all the works are completed I hope we will put a permanent plaque in Church as a way of saying thank you. Another way is talking to neighbouring churches about the success of equipment Cloudesley have given us. So on Monday Fr Ben Bell from St Anne's, Hoxton is coming to look at the data projector and screen with a view to a similar installation there.

GUIDE TO ST JAMES' With so many visitors to the Church it is high time we had a printed guide to point out some of the best features. At some time I would like to write a little booklet but for the moment I have put together an A4 sheet with the history of the parish on one side and fourteen features to find (with the aid of a map) on the other. There are some laminated copies to keep in Church and some black and white copies for people to take away if they would like to.

AWFUL PUN You should never trust an atom. They make up everything...

CONSISTORY COURT The preliminary hearing for the Consistory Court met on zoom on Friday morning. Despite the format which takes a bit of getting used to - the Chancellor and the Registrar in Norwich, the four contenders here in Islington - there were, as you can imagine, a whole raft of instructions issued. We heard how a Consistory Court is more like a Coroners Court where the presiding judge has more opportunity to be interventionist than in a criminal case and where the papers already submitted are largely taken as read. The format of formal statements and cross examinations is pretty similar however but there are strict time limits which we will need to adhere to. The most important thing to share with you today is that the court case will sit on **Thursday March 4th, running over into Friday 5th** if we haven't been able to wrap up the case in a day. The Chancellor will not make an immediate judgement and we should allow up to 14 days for the final outcome ie 19th March. The March PCC meeting will therefore be on the 22nd.

PRAYER BOARD/NOTICES Requests for prayer welcome

BIRTHDAYS Many Happy Returns tomorrow to Bow Wheatley who will be 7.

SICK Christopher Browne, Mariolina and Peter Freeth, Emily Grainger, Alastair and Diane Hume, Kris Hyde, Hayley Jenkins, John, Kingsley Lewis, John Scott, Charlie Sharpe, Vera Taggart, Geoff Turner and Melanie Toogood.

ANNIVERSARIES Today: Vera Chambers (2017); Geoffrey Hetherington (1995); 14th: Nancy Barton (1997), Jenny Bogle (2015); 15th: Harry Holness (1986), Mary Murphy, Nick Garsed (2010).

INTERNATIONAL CHURCH LINKS In the US: Suzanne Smith, Rector of Grace Church, Alvin, Texas. Suzanne's husband Travis is Rector of Holy Comforter, Angleton, 14 miles away. In Japan: Fr Sebastian and Yuki Naniwa serving in Ehime near Hiroshima.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE Our prayers continue for **Nazanin Zaghari Radcliffe** in the hope that some kind of formula can allow her to return to the UK as soon as possible.

Please keep in touch and let me know if there is anything more we can do for you.

**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.