

the arena

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newsletter

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Dear All,

The webcams are working - well!



Last Wednesday was a big day as the team from CAVS made final adjustments to the wiring and then led Adam, Sinead and Isabel through a training session and sound check in time for Carol Saunders' funeral at 1pm. With one minor glitch (my mic was on mute throughout which was nothing to do with the engineers!) the quality of the pictures and the sound was first class and Adam did well to act as organist and AV editor at the same time, something he will be doing from the organ console from now on. To start with, the additional setting up - and the careful planning of which camera to use when - will take a bit of getting used to and we also need to make sure we have scheduled a You Tube 'slot' in advance before each service or concert. But the benefits are obvious: only 30 people were able to attend the funeral on Wednesday and yet there were 80 additional visits to the website. So I am very proud of St James' once again for tackling the challenges head on as soon as the technology could be put in place. Well done - and thanks to Cloudesley for the £5000 grant that made it all possible!!



BAPTISMS St James' opens for congregational services as from Sunday and as a gentle 'way-back-in' we are delighted that the 10am will be a Service of the Word and will include the baptisms of Ava, Ivy and Bella Wilson. These were originally planned for the 18th October so this is well overdue! We will have a slimmed down staff of readers, interceders and musicians and the service will only last for about 40 minutes.

This will be our second chance to use the webcams and this short service will give us a further opportunity to test their

abilities - not least because they will need to be able to capture what is happening at the Font at the back of Church! There is no Sunday School this week.

NEXT SUNDAY we are back to normal with the usual pattern of services plus Musical Vespers. Major services on webcam too.

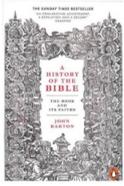
THIS WEEK

Sun	<i>LENT 4/MOTHERING SUNDAY 8am Mass. 10am Streamed Baptism 'Service of the Word' for Ava, Ivy and Bella Wilson.</i>
Tues	8.30am Morning Prayer. 9am Mass.
Wed	10am Mass. 11am. Proms Committee meeting. 6pm <i>Grace Church, Alvin: zoom prayers.</i> 7.30pm 'History of the Bible' study group (pp 311-330).
Thurs	2-4pm <i>James Potter Choir recording.</i> 6pm Evening Prayer. 6.15 Basic Christianity course looks at St Mark
Fri	11-5pm <i>Apollo's Cabinet music rehearsal.</i>
Sun 21	PASSION SUNDAY 8am Mass. 10am Streamed PARISH MASS. 10am Sunday School re-opens.

Calendar and Daily Prayer themes

Sun 14 <i>LENT 4</i>	Vicky Bellamy, Archie, Holly and Josh Campbell
Mon 15 <i>DEL Lent 4</i>	Albert and Annie Bryan; Fr John, Maria and Sinead Burniston
Tues 16 <i>Feria</i>	Vivienne Carlton; Chris, Katja, Arnold and Egon Carter
Wed 17 <i>St Patrick</i>	Dionne, Aly, Sophie, Emma and Jack Carter; Thiago Chang
Thurs 18 <i>St Cyril</i>	Carly Cunningham, James, Michael and Francis Russell
Fri 19 <i>St Joseph</i>	Shirley Chinery; Cyril Daley; Dennis Davis; Adam Dickson
Sat 20 <i>St Cuthbert</i>	Teresa Pereira, Richard, May and Ivy Dennison; Amanda Doyle
Sun 21 <i>PASSION SUNDAY</i>	Sophie Duffly, James, Reggie and Olive Murphy

The easiest way to access our streamed services is by typing *St James Islington YouTube* into your browser.



HISTORY OF THE BIBLE In the end there were eight brave souls who took part in the discussion on John Barton's 'History of the Bible'. Chaired by Ken Thompson this was an opportunity to see if zooming would work for us and, by and large most people felt fairly comfortable with the format and very appreciative of the book itself. Our next evening is this coming Wednesday, 7.30pm on 17th March, when we will be looking at pages 311-330 of the book which touches on the major themes to be found in the Bible.

If anyone would like to join the zoom group it isn't too late and the pages to be read ahead of the evening can be made available - with enough notice!

WELCOME VICKY As you know Adam Dickson has stepped down as Parish Administrator as he now has a full time job as a Data Scientist. So we welcome Vicky Bellamy from the congregation who has very kindly agreed to stand in as interim Administrator for the next two months which will very helpfully carry us through to the rather quieter period after the AGM on Sunday 18th April.

MUSICAL VESPERS After the first try-out at Candlemass, we are delighted to offer a second service which combines Evening Prayer with some wonderful music. The principal soloist on this occasion will be the young cellist Milo Karuse, a student at the Royal Academy junior department. Do join us at 6.30pm next week, Passion Sunday, 21st March.

HOLY WEEK A wonderful request has come from Epiphoni (the choir of which Ros Ford is a member which has sung with such success here, not least at last year's Christmas Carol service) who want to sing three services for us during Holy Week! We are now agreed they will sing Compline on Wednesday, Tenebrae on Good Friday evening and a pre-Easter service of music on Holy Saturday. Each will also be streamed to a wider audience and the first two will include parts of the Lamentations by Alonso Lobo, a contemporary of Vittoria. What a great way to "keep the Week!" This will be widely publicised; do come if you can.

NAZANIN ZAGHARI RATCLIFFE While we share Nazanin's excitement in being released from her five year jail term in Iran and having her ankle tag removed, we are also anxious about the new charges that may follow her court appearance this Sunday. It is all to do with the huge unpaid debt the UK government owes to the Iranians but this is no way to treat an innocent dual-national caught like a pawn in a fight not of her making. Please pray for the immediate return of her passport so that Nazanin can return to Richard and their daughter Gabriella in Hampstead.

CONSISTORY COURT There will be time to tell the fuller story of this event and I am already in discussion with the bishop about the way this case has been handled. Suffice to say for the moment that the court's decision is not now due until Friday 26th March - and even that depends on agreement about details of costs published over the last four years. My thanks to all those who acted as expert witnesses at the hearing and to all who have sent in messages of support over the last week. These events are very difficult to handle within the family of the parish but the two viewpoints about the renovation of our Organ have proven to be entirely irreconcilable and there was no other course of action that could be taken. I can truly say, however, that this was an experience I never want to go through again.

PRAYER BOARD/NOTICES Requests for prayer welcome

BIRTHDAYS Many Happy Returns to Ethan Faloppa who is 15 on Tuesday, a day he shares with Ava Wilson who will be 11 and with Luke Smith in Texas who will also be 11; on Friday to Aurnyn Franich who will be 4.

SICK Christopher Browne, Jennifer Franich, Mariolina and Peter Freeth, Emily Grainger, Kris Hyde, Hayley Jenkins, John, Kingsley Lewis, John Scott, Charlie Sharpe, Vera Taggart, Lyn Thompson and Melanie Toogood (ICU., UCH).

ANNIVERSARIES 15th: Guiseppe Saponara (1997), Prof Andy Burroughs (2014); 18th: John Semaine (2002).

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. Japan: Fr Sebastian and Yuki Naniwa serving in Ehime near Hiroshima.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE Our prayers continue for Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe whose 5 year sentence was completed last Sunday but who faces a new court investigation today. We pray for her parents, for Richard and for Gabriella, all awaiting news.

Donation to St James



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.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

John