

the arena

Issue 93 2021-11

newsletter

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APRIL
2021

Form 7
(Rule 7.4)

FACULTY

In the Consistory Court in the Diocese of London
Parish of St James the Apostle with St Peter, Islington

Church of St James

David Charles Lynch Etherington QC, Chancellor of the Diocese and Official
Principal of the Right Reverend Sarah by Divine Permission Lord Bishop of
London

- To:
1. The Reverend Aubrey John Burniston (Incumbent)
 2. Ms Isabel Nisbet (Churchwarden)
 3. Ms Hilary Hoden (Churchwarden)

A petition presented by you has been submitted to the Registry of this Court together with designs, plans, photographs or other documents, requesting a faculty authorising the works or other proposals specified in the petition.

A public notice was duly displayed giving an opportunity to all persons interested to object and give reasons why a faculty should not be granted.

Letters of objection and objections made in person to the granting of a faculty have been taken into account by the Chancellor in reaching a decision that a faculty should be granted.

The Chancellor held a hearing at which oral evidence was given and has decided for reasons given in a judgment dated 9 April 2021 that a faculty should be granted.

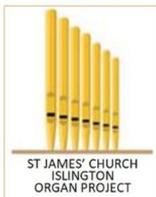
This Court now grants a faculty authorising you to carry out the works or other proposals described in the Schedule in accordance with the designs, plans or other documents accompanying the petition and subject to the conditions set out in the Schedule below.

The works should be completed within TWENTY FOUR MONTHS from the date below or such further period as this Court may allow and the certificate of completion is to be sent to the Registry within the period allowed.

A copy of this faculty is to be supplied by you to the architect or surveyor and contractor to be employed in respect of the authorised work before any work is commenced.

This faculty is duly authenticated by the seal of this Court.
Dated 9 April 2021

Registrar



Dear All,

IT'S OFFICIAL! After a wait of fourteen months since the public Notice was displayed outside St James', the incredibly slow Church Faculty process has finally resulted in a clear outcome: our plans to rebuild and extend the organ can finally take place - in full! The written judgement was received on Friday 9th April at 5.23pm. It runs to 27 pages and 128 paragraphs.

This has been the most exhausting of processes and came at the end of nearly four years of work, testing possibilities and exploring pioneering techniques. This will mean that our organ will also be of huge interest nationally. Unlike most other hybrid 'combination organs' in the UK which just retain a few pipes to give 'weight' to an off-the-shelf electronic instrument, ours will add a very limited number of digital sounds to what is essentially an historic pipe organ so expect to see St James' featured in 'Choir and Organ' and other leading music magazines next year. We plan to have the rebuilt organ ready for our Christmas Carol service.

So what happens next? Once a contract has been drawn up with the organ builder, Paul Mortier of MPOS, he will bring a huge truck and remove all 1500 pipes from the current organ chamber, together with the organ console which will have a completely new electronic transmission system installed. Every pipe will be tested for damage - something that always needs to be done after 30 years of continual service - and then Paul will begin to construct new windchests and a new swell box in his workshop in Swindon before starting to put together the electronic components that will eventually sit alongside the pipework. The old pipes on the chancel side of the organ will be sent away to be regilded to match the new façade of pipes that will be built on the new platform in the south aisle.

Free of pipework, the current organ chamber will then need to be completely gutted and the old wooden staging dismantled. Once that is done a new steel structure will be fitted in the chamber ready to support the new organ. This platform will extend through the arch above the organ console so that a large proportion of the pipework can speak directly into the Church rather than after being bounced around the walls of the chancel. This will enable Paul and his team to blend all the various organ stops so that it sounds very much like it did when it was first installed in 1877. Everyone will notice the difference this 90 degree rotation will make.

Then towards the middle of November the refurbished pipe work, the new swell box, all the wind chests and air trunking will be put back in their new formation. The space underneath the new platform will be kitted out to provide a much needed new store cupboard and the console with an additional 12 new stops will be put back in its usual place. Now the job of on-site re-voicing of the organ (both pipe and digital sounds) can begin. This is a painfully slow job and requires both skill and patience but this is the reason for tackling this project: we will have a better sounding instrument than we have ever enjoyed at St James' in 144 years!

But what will we do for music when the organ is out of action?

Fortunately we have an excellent grand piano and there may be times when that is going to be the only option. Adam is a fine pianist as we all know! But Isabel has also offered to loan us a small electronic organ for the better part of the year which is incredibly generous. With speakers provided by Paul Mortier and MPOS this organ should be big enough for most of what we want to do in Church, including supporting the Epiphoni Chamber Choir for the big Islington Proms Festival Mass on September 19th. This is a very exciting prospect and it is so good to be able to share with you the way that things are coming together after such a tough year!

NEW WEBCAMS



St James' Church,
Islington, N1

MUSIC FOR A VIGIL
sung by Epiphoni
will follow at 7.30pm



It has been something of a 'baptism of fire' as we have demanded more and more from our new webcams over the Easter festival. Really only designed for speech, we have forced the system to try to record all the musical services too and the mics have done their limited best! But if we are to record services like the ones led so wonderfully by Epiphoni, we need to do a bit of an upgrade and the PCC will be considering some options when it meets in May. By what has been so encouraging are the remarks from those who - because they were in a household with Covid patients or were simply not able to get to Church - have felt included in to what we have been doing. The figures suggest we are easily doubling our numbers for each service which is amazing.

THANKS We don't always get an instant response to appeals but thanks to Eddie Jenkyns for responding so quickly to my request for a Sacristan and Verger. Eddie comes 'with form' and already knows his way around the backstage of churches so it is really good to have an additional pair of hands. And Vicky Bellamy is quickly learning the ropes as our Administrator too. Getting the booklet and all the paperwork ready for the AGM next Sunday (18th) has been a real help.

DATES The Arena e-newsletter is probably the best place to share provisional future dates...

April

Sun 18th *EASTER 3* Masses at 8am and 10am. 11.30am PARISH ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (AGM). Two principle items on the Agenda: the commissioning of the new organ and the launch of the new five year plan: SJI-150. How can we make St James' a better vehicle for the love of God between now and our 150th anniversary in 2025?

Mon 19th 12.15pm 'Pack-Up' reopens for take-away lunches. Thanks to all the volunteers for making this possible.

Sun 25th to Sat May 1st Fr John takes his first holiday break since last August!

May

Wed 5th 11.15am Proms Committee meets

Sat 15th 2pm Wedding of Dominic Higgins and Annabel Hill

Sun 16th *ASCENSION SUNDAY* Masses at 8am, and at 10am to include Admissions to First Holy Communion. 6.30pm Musical Vespers.

Sun 23rd *PENTECOST* Masses at 8am, and at 10am to include the Baptism and Admission to Holy Communion of Thomas Gerbeaux.

Please keep in touch.

Looking forward to
seeing you all soon.

John

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.