



# the arena

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## newsletter

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MAY  
2021

Dear All,

Back to our monthly round-up of news and events at St James', we do hope that you are enjoying some of the new found freedoms to go and do things and see people - without forgetting the part you play in our life at St James'!

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Kingsley Lewis was one of the small group of members from St Peter's who transferred to St James' when the Church in Devonian Road closed in the 1980s. He soon got involved and is shown (left) as a server for Fr Jack Holden about 1986. At this year's AGM we celebrated Kingsley's retirement as a server with a presentation china mug marking his 40 years of service to St James' in a number of roles including a spell as



Churchwarden. Kingsley is seen here with his partner Pauline McGovern.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS** After so many postponements we look forward to admitting Amariah Greenaway, Barnaby and Matilda Powell, Tayah Phillips and Ava Wilson to Holy Communion on Sunday May 16th. These are always such happy occasions and we hope that some who have made their First Holy Communion over the last few years will come and support them.



**ADULT BAPTISM** Despite Covid-19 it has been possible to continue our teaching programme - albeit suitably socially distanced. Thomas Gerbaux, originally from Brittany and a published writer of children's books (just in French, sadly) made his way here in the middle of the lockdown and has been exploring St Mark's Gospel as part of his preparation for Baptism which is planned for Sunday May 23rd, the Feast of Pentecost. What better way to celebrate the Birthday of the Church?! Again we do hope as many as possible will be in Church at 10am that day to welcome him. His sponsor will be Eddie Jenkyns who has recently taken on the role of Verger and Sacristan here.

**RICHARD TO PAUL** Very many thanks to Richard Dennison for allowing us so much time to enjoy his internationally based photo montages. These come down on Thursday 20th May, to be replaced with eight abstracts from Paul Tozer who lives on the Packington Estate. I first invited Paul to consider hanging in Church about seven years ago before we had the ability to hang pictures at all! We look forward to a number of future exhibitions from Pack-Art.





**ORGAN PROJECT** It was in June 2019 that we completed the submission to the Diocese to rebuild our 1877 Gray and Davison organ. Covid delays and an appeal to a Consistory Court have meant that it is only this week that the PCC has been in a position to finally authorize the signing of the contract with Paul Mortier and MPOS, based in Swindon. This begins a nine month process that should see the opening of the organ in its new form, hopefully in time for Mardi Gras. Here is the new schedule:

- 1 As the pipes won't come out of Church until the week beginning 9th August we still have the use of the organ for a full programme of events at St James' during the summer - to include First Communion, baptisms, weddings, memorial services and concerts (see below)
- 2 In the meantime we need to notify Building Control of our plans. Back in Swindon Paul will be completing the designs for the new organ, ordering new parts (some from the US) and beginning to build the new swell box.
- 3 From August 9th the organ will be dismantled and taken away for repair and refurbishment. This will include the organ console. Thanks to Isabel, we will have a small substitute organ until February.
- 4 A team will then clear all the unusable wood and debris from the old organ chamber. When that is completed there will be a full Repair and Development survey, part of which will investigate the presence of asbestos. If there is asbestos this will be removed immediately.
- 5 In September or October the new steel frame will be erected in the vacated space and new wooden boarding installed along with a new electrical supply.
- 6 In Swindon through the autumn all the wind chests and pipes will be regulated and voiced. The console will be refurbished and will be adapted for the twelve additional digital ranks.
- 7 From early January the organ pipework will be reinstalled in its new formation in the south aisle facing the congregation; the console will be reinstalled and the new pipe work will be loaded onto the front of the steel frame; the tuning and voicing of the enhanced pipe and digital organ will take place for completion by February 26th 2022, Mardi Gras.

## FORWARD DATES

### 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 with Isabel Nisbet, Lucy Haire and Gisella Meyer.

Thurs 20th Hanging of new art exhibition, Paul Tozer.

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

Wed 26th 7.30pm PCC meeting.

Sun 30th *TRINITY SUNDAY* Masses at 8am and 10am.

### June

Sun 6th *CORPUS CHRISTI* Masses at 8am and 10am to include the Commissioning of Eucharistic Ministers.

Fri 11th 12.30pm Memorial Service for Valerie Wilson (Rees Street). (tbc)

Sun 13th *TRINITY 2/ANNUAL MUSIC SUNDAY* Masses at 8am and 10am.

**FINALLY** Long Notice for the postponed 'LAMBE'S FEAST' on SUNDAY 19th SEPTEMBER - an open air lunch for the whole community to celebrate the 450th anniversary of William Lambe - and an 'end of the pandemic' social get-together! Something for all of us to do together!

## Donation to St James

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.  
Please keep in touch.

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.