

the arena

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newsletter

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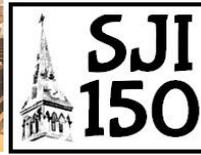
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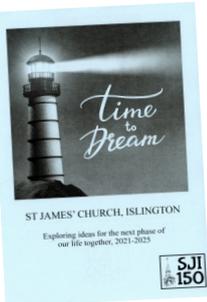
JUNE
2021

Dear All,

A MAY MOSAIC!



Featured: Ascension Day with First Holy Communions for Amariah Greenaway, Barnaby and Matilda Powell and Ava Wilson (and cup cakes); the Baptism and First Holy Communion for Thomas Gerbeaux at Pentecost with an international congregation gathering outside for Bucks Fizz afterwards; the first wedding allowed during the pandemic with Dom and Annabel Higgins, refugees from Brisbane in Australia; the new art exhibition being set up with works by Paul Tozer; mixed success with the webcams; the gathering outside for Bucks Fizz; the Friry family with us briefly before they re-locate to Singapore; Trinity Sunday and the launch of 'Time to Dream' as part of the new five year plan looking forward to our 150th anniversary in 2025: SJI 150.



TIME TO DREAM After all the activity of these last few months, beginning with the successful outcome of our plans to rebuild the Organ, now is the time to take stock. As we begin to come out of lockdown and the pandemic stops dominating every aspect of our lives, we need to ask the question: *where are we now?* There is no doubt that the pandemic has taken its toll on all of us within St James' in one way or another and it may be that some will take quite a while to return; some may not come back at all. It is also true that we have - to our surprise and delight - been able to welcome newcomers during the year. But in all of that too-ing and fro-ing, there are inevitable gaps in our regular rotas and among those who have been responsible for some of our core tasks.

Instead of getting overly worried that 'the place is going to the dogs' (!) now is the time to review what needs to be done and to look again at the way we do things. We hope too it will be a fresh opportunity for people to offer to help and see if there are new developments we would all enjoy. 'Time to dream' gives us all permission to try to match ideas and needs and people's gifts - in a new way.

Available from Sunday 6th June is a blue hand-out designed to help us to begin this process. It contains lots of questions - and no answers! God willing they will emerge over time...



TONY EASTLAKE The whole Community was shocked by the murder of Tony Eastlake on Saturday 29th May. Tony had run the flower stall by Essex Road station for nearly 40 years and was well known to us all. Among the many posters and cards attached to his green van was one from the local Christian churches, all of whom had bought flowers from his stall on various occasions. As someone wrote: 'For years you gave us flowers. Now it's time for us to bring them to you. Sleep peacefully Tony, a truly lovely man.'

REVD MELANIE TOOGOOD After twelve years at St George's Tufnell Park, Mel retired on grounds of ill health in 2016 and became a resident in St James' Close. For a while she assisted at St Anne's in Hoxton but more recently became a regular member here, sneaking in when the Church wasn't being used to play jazz saxophone! Sadly she had spent all of the lockdown in various local hospitals and died in the UCH at the young age of 64 on 14th May. Her Requiem will be held here at St James' on Thursday 17th June at 11.30am. The preacher will be Fr Peter McGeary of St Mary's, Cable Street. Revd Fiona Weaver, currently Vicar of St Swithun's, Purley, will lead the interment.



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS I know that everyone is looking forward to two things as the rules about lockdown are updated: the first is when we will be allowed to sing in Church for the first time since March 2020. The second is when we will be able to receive Holy Communion in both kinds. In anticipation of the latter, eight members of the congregation were formally re-licensed as Eucharistic Ministers by Bishop Joanne as from Corpus Christi, June 6th. They are Dionne Carter, Maria Flavius, Norah Hodge, Isabel Nisbet, Hilary Roden, Laura Roden, Susan Sorensen and Ken Thompson.



LAMBE'S FEAST 2021 While our plans to celebrate the 450th anniversary of William Lambe in 2020 got shelved by Covid-19 and the delays to the organ rebuild, we are very much looking forward to reviving at least part of the anniversary. So, to bring the 2021 Islington Proms Festival to a conclusion we are holding a special Anniversary Mass on Sunday 19th September. We have invited the sub dean of Southwark Cathedral, Michael Rawson, to preach and a group of singers from Epiphoni will be provide some very special music. After the Mass we will then be inviting our congregation (past and present) and members of the wider community to share a lunch with us outside on the Prebend Street side grass. This is quite an undertaking but we very much hope everyone will feel able to contribute a first course

or a pudding to share with our guests. This is the 'first call': much more detail to follow!

FORWARD DATES

- Thursday 17th 11.30am Requiem Mass for Revd Melanie Toogood. Tickets available via Eventbrite.
- July
- Sunday 4th 10am *International Links Sunday* with contributions from Grace Church, Alvin in Texas and St Andrew's Church, Matsuyama, Diocese of Kobe, Japan.
2-5.30pm pm *National Garden Scheme*: Seven gardens open in the Arlington Square area with refreshments and live music available at the Vicarage (Combined entry ticket £8).
- Wednesday 7th 7.30pm PCC meeting.
- Friday 9th 12noon Memorial Service for Valerie Wilson (Rees Street).
- Sunday 11th 6pm Hermitage Quartet play music by Cesar Franck.

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

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.