

2022

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newsletter

St James' Vicarage,
1a Arlington Square,
London N1 7DS

vicar@stjamesislington.org

020 7226 4108
07989 281123

JANUARY
2022

Dear All,

Happy New Year

From all of us, to all of you, we wish you a happy - and easier - 2022! We are sure it will be full of some really good things...



A SMALLER CHRISTMAS maybe but still - the Cribs shone out into the Gardens; the Corvus Consort sang a brilliant concert of Christmas music including some very amusing 30 second long carols; the Christmas Carol Service was full of good music and also, for the first time, a selection of interesting seasonal poems; there was a showing of the 'Muppet Christmas Carol' raising funds for North London Cares; Sam and Gloria both played in a performance of 'Silent Night' as part of the nine strong Junior Music Group; we raised over £130 for the ARC Food Bank by singing Carols in Packington Square; a stream of children visited the Church - and Siena Taylor was baptised at a service in English and Spanish on Boxing Day. Looking forward to having the Crib Service back in 2022.

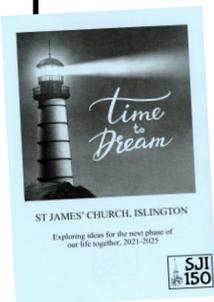
LOOKING FORWARD - FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2022 I am delighted that we already have four children who have asked if they can make their First Holy Communion this year. This is open to any of our young people who have reached their 8th birthday. If there are others who would like to take part in the six week preparation programme, please let me know asap please.

TIME TO DREAM

- renewing St James' after the pandemic

Like all Churches, the Covid pandemic is making us ask serious questions about how we can best serve Jesus, here in Islington in the first quarter of the 21st century. Over the last ten years we have become an open, diverse and welcoming Parish Church. We have invested in our buildings and in our Sunday School. We have renewed our Sunday worship, also working hard to make Baptisms, First Holy Communions, Wedding and Funerals into occasions which are both personal and special. We have reached out to young and old, developed strong ties with local schools, set up Pack-Up for the street community and the Islington Proms as a platform for both music and the creative arts. The organ is being rebuilt. During lock-down we were one of the first churches to go on-line and we have our own YouTube channel. Our worshipping community is now strongly international and we have coped with the churn as new people arrive and familiar faces move away.

But now is the time to 'start again' and to ask for everyone's help as we try to see the way forward.

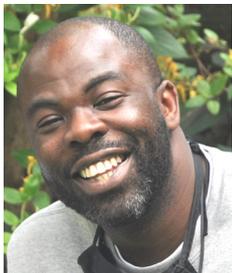


Before the big CONGREGATIONAL CONSULTATION on Sunday 27th February we would like to ask our young people and their parents what they would like to see develop at St James'.

This is probably best done as a group so there will be two meeting times: after Mass on Sunday 16th January AND/OR 7.30pm on Monday 17th January, both in Church.

PLEASE DO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME AND ADD IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS AS WE BEGIN TO RE-SHAPE ST JAMES' FOR THE FUTURE.

St James' belongs to us all and we need everyone's input if we are to flourish. PLEASE do come and take part! Thank you.



SAFEGUARDING One of the key officers in any organisation, especially a voluntary one involving children, is the Safeguarding Officer. Their role is to ensure that our open and welcoming community is also a safe place where we care for people at the deepest level. So I am so pleased that Lebbby Anafu, married to Sarah here at St James' at the end of August and a chief procurement officer in the NHS, has agreed to take over this post from Isabelle Sharples. Sinead Burniston remains the Children's Champion, the first port of call for the children themselves if they have any anxieties.

FUTURE DATES

January

SUNDAY 16th 11.15am 'Time to Dream' session for parents and their children in Church 1
MONDAY 17th 7.30pm 'Time to Dream' session for parents and their children in Church 2

February

SUNDAY 27th 11.15am 'Time to Dream' major plenary session for the whole congregation with Fr Jim Walters
3-5pm Annual Mardi Gras Children's party, Hall (Covid permitting)

March

SUNDAY 6th 10am ASHING SUNDAY and the start of Lent.

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.