

the arena

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newsletter

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APRIL
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Dear All

As this coming Sunday is Palm Sunday and we start on the great run up to Easter, I am aware that many of you reading the April edition of the Arena e-newsletter will be very many miles away from Islington! After Covid it isn't surprising that people are taking the opportunity to get away from London if they can. We hope, wherever you are, you are having a good break.



Which is a very bad pun hereabouts as poor Maria broke her arm on the ice when we took a few days away to Tallinn in Estonia. And she couldn't get it properly strapped up in a plaster until we had flown down to Tenerife (via Frankfurt) three days later!

It was good to get away though - and the ice cream in Tenerife was delicious!

THERE ARE TWO BIG THINGS TO SHARE WITH YOU THIS MONTH As you know we are looking closely at the way St James' is run as part of the 'Time to Dream' consultation and in readiness for my retirement towards the end of next year.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Parish of
ST JAMES WITH ST PETER, ISLINGTON

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in

St James' Islington

on 15th May 2022 at 11.15am

Like many churches we run on a skeleton staff with a very small group of people doing a heap of work - much of it unseen and under valued! The time has come therefore, to ask for more help from the wider congregation so that as I begin to lay down more of my responsibilities here (so that

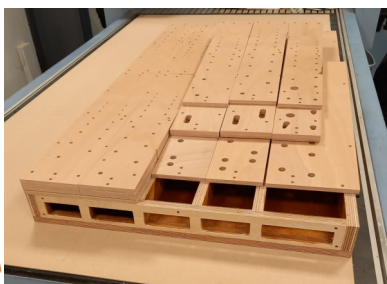
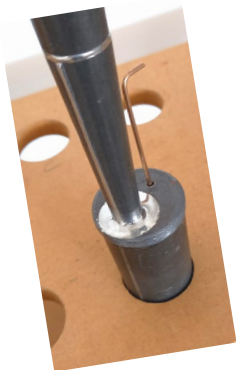
I can begin to think about where I am going to live after we leave amongst other things!) we know that the pattern of life here at St James' will be able to continue.

The place to start this process is the Annual General Meeting which, this year, will be held after the 10am Mass on Sunday May 15th. As well as electing our Churchwardens we are also looking for new members to serve on the core Church team (the Parochial Church Council or PCC). It is the PCC which makes most of the decisions about Church life. To make membership of this committee as easy as possible it meets - by zoom - about once every six weeks and the meetings are never longer than an hour and a half. If you would like to help to guide the Church into the future, this is the place to start! Do look at the poster at the back of Church and ask our current PCC members what it feels like to be on the PCC. Lebbly Anafu our new safeguarding officer has joined recently and is finding it very interesting.

At the AGM I also show a PowerPoint 'Review of the Year', a slide show made up of the many pictures taken during the year. We do this to remind ourselves of just how much happens at St James' over twelve months. While many of the photographs are mine I am glad to say that Lucy Haire, Jane Falcioni and Luke Gillman have also taken pictures and we hope that the show will encourage us all as we see what God is doing among us, day by day.

Please do arrange to come to the AGM on May 15th if you can.

THE SECOND THING IS AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS ON THE ORGAN REBUILDING As I am sure you know, a pipe organ is one of the most complicated pieces of equipment that you are ever likely to come across! For the first time in 30 years the whole organ has been taken apart and for the first time in 140 years many of the worn parts are being replaced - using the very best of modern technology alongside traditional skills.



We are now able to plan the big opening which is currently scheduled for September 11th.

FIRST COMMUNIONS Apologies for the delay in mounting the 2022 First Communion course for young people. We now have a group of five - Hope Dixey, Matteo Falcioni, Anita Losito, Theo Jenkins and Zuri Kasella - who would like to prepare for their First Holy Communion. The provisional dates for their preparation starts on Sunday May 1st, directly after the 10am Mass. We will be in touch with parents very shortly to firm up these arrangements.



THANKS TO JUNIOR CHURCH for their help in Church recently. Amariah, Jerome, Zuri, Sam, Matilda, Barnaby, Isla, Poppy, Pearl and Ava all read in 'The Way of the Cross' meditations at the First Sunday Masses in March and April and Lucy Haire drew together a small team of (real!) coffee makers on Sunday, April 3rd.



REST IN PEACE Because of Covid, it wasn't possible to have a full funeral service for Rose Baker who died last April. Her family have now arranged a full Thanksgiving Service for Rose at 2pm on Saturday 23rd April, at St James'. All are welcome. We were also very sorry to hear of the death of Ed Pereira who has been on our sick list for over a year. Ed was the father of Teresa Pereira and had been suffering from cancer. By chance Teresa's brother was being married this month and she, Richard, Mae and Ivy were in the US for the wedding and were able to be with Ed at the end. We remember them all at this time.

FUTURE DATES

SUNDAY 10th **PALM SUNDAY** 10am Mass includes the story of Jesus' final week with Lebbey Anafu as the Narrator.

SUNDAY 17th **EASTER DAY** Mass at 10am followed by traditional Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY 23rd 2pm Thanksgiving Service for Rose Baker

SUNDAY 24th 10am Baptism of Evie George-Jeana Kathleen Jenkins

May
SUNDAY 1st 11.15am Start of the First Communion programme. [AGM now on the 15th].

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.