

# ST JAMES' ISLINGTON: REVIEW 2020-22





Two years ago, in March 2020, St James' seemed to be doing pretty well.





# And then...



Church of England suspends all services over coronavirus



  
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Church of England has suspended all services until further notice, saying it must become "a different sort of church in these coming months".

**DUE TO THE CURRENT  
OUTBREAK OF COVID-19  
ALL CHURCHES IN THE DIOCESE OF LONDON  
ARE NOW CLOSED.  
PLEASE USE THE PHONE  
FOR ALL PASTORAL ENQUIRIES.**

**020 7226 4108 | 07989 281123**

**Please let Fr John know of any who are ill  
or in practical need of help with shopping**



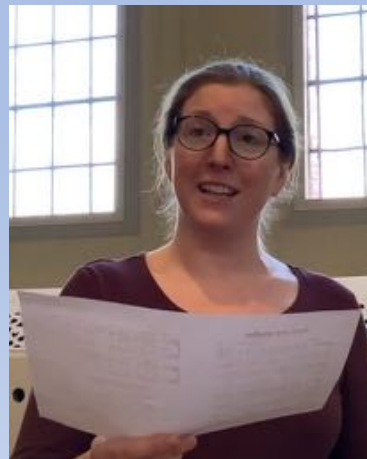
Within days we had to learn new skills, using home ipads to record new 'Services of the Word' for YouTube.







Lord, we thank you for the vigour  
burning in the years of youth:  
strength to face tomorrow's challenge,  
zest for life and zeal for truth.  
In the choices that confront us,  
when ideas and values form,  
may the message of your Kingdom  
be the guide, the goal, the norm.

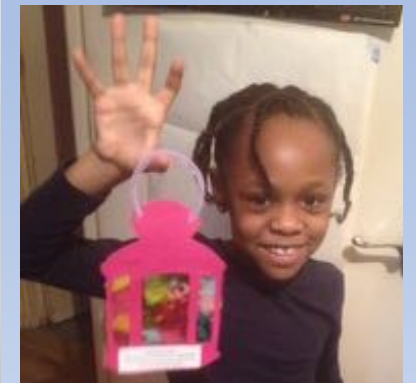


Worship rotas went out of the window as we asked people to film themselves reading lessons and prayers – singing and playing too!

We didn't miss a week!



In parallel, the Sunday School team went into over-drive; for 13 weeks they prepared craft materials for over 30 children, delivered weekly to homes on Saturday afternoons.



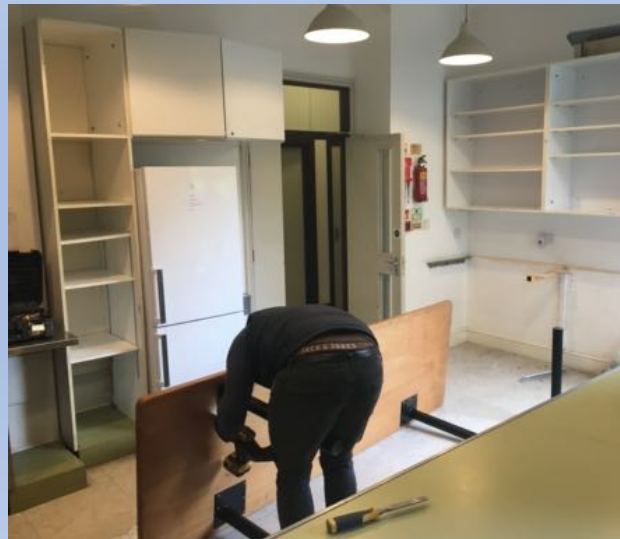


... and then we were finally allowed back into Church again - but with strict rules in place



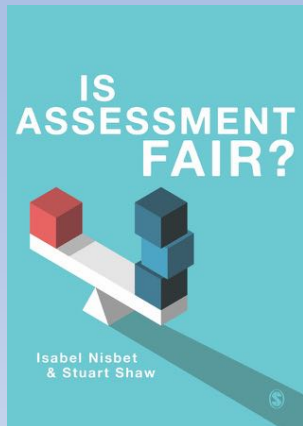
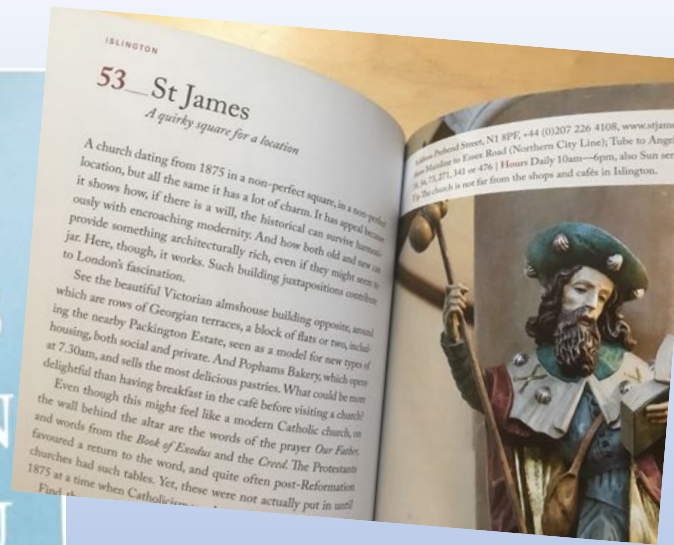
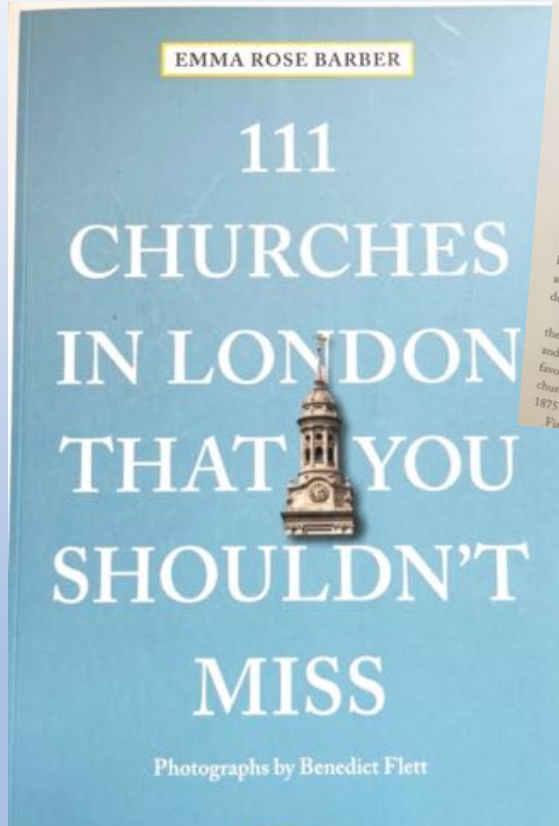


While we were all locked in at home and the Church Hall wasn't able to be hired out for weekday bookings or weekend parties, the PCC decided this was the time to revamp the Church Hall kitchen





# Other events in 2020 included





In January 2021 the parish was finally called to a full Consistory Court to determine whether the rebuild of the organ could go ahead or not. The court hearing was by zoom. The Chancellor was in Norwich!

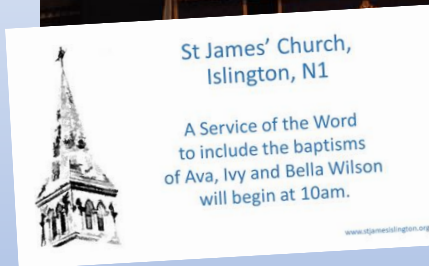


Elizabeth Adekunle, Keith Bance, Christopher Batchelor, Tom Bell at Freehaus, Dave Bostock, Michael Bowden, Craftwood, Rick David, Carlos Diaz, Judge David Etherington, Danny Fowler, Melanie Griffiths and Joanna White at Cloudesley, Adrian Gunning, Paul Hale, Anthony Hill, Ian Kisby, Michael Mappin, David Morrissey, Paul and Roy Mortier at MPOS, John Norman, Sarah Pellereau at Price Myers, Colin Peacock at Renatus, Ricky Roberts, Andres Ramirez, Kevin Rushworth, Keith Stone, Scott Taylor, Alex Veal, Laurence Williams and Paul Wren.





With a generous grant from the Cloudesley Trust, the PCC asked Rob Alvis of CAVS Solutions to install a webcam system that would allow us to broadcast not only Sunday Masses (and Baptisms) but also concerts, funerals and smaller occasions like Musical Vespers.





We were also able to resume  
our regular Baptism and First  
Communion programme



Ava Wilson, Amariah Greenaway, Matilda and  
Barnaby Powell on Ascension Sunday





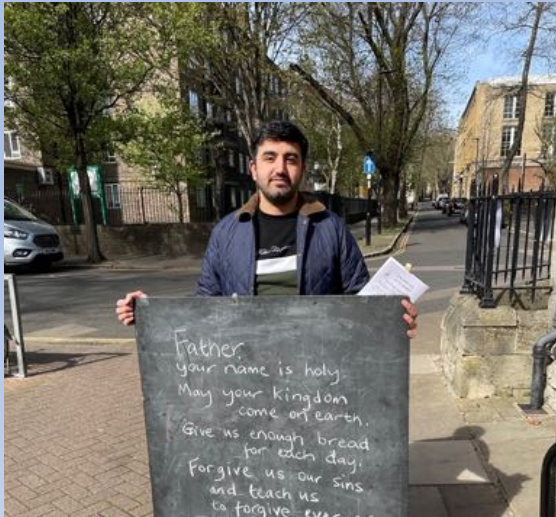
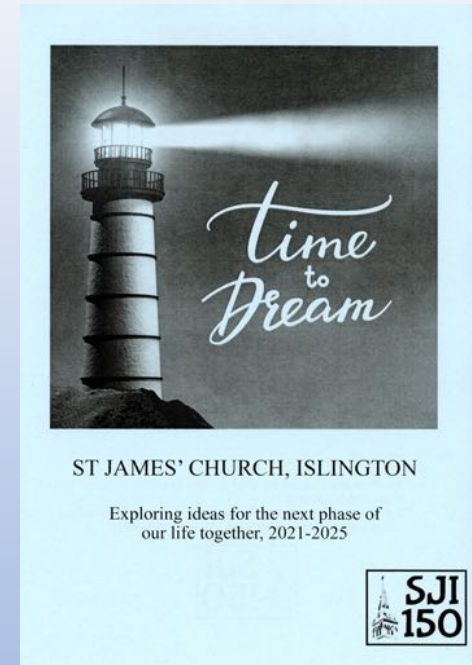
... for adults as well as young people. Thomas Gerbeaux was baptised and admitted to Holy Communion at Pentecost.

We look forward to Mohammad Bagheri and Anneke Pol following Thomas in 2022.

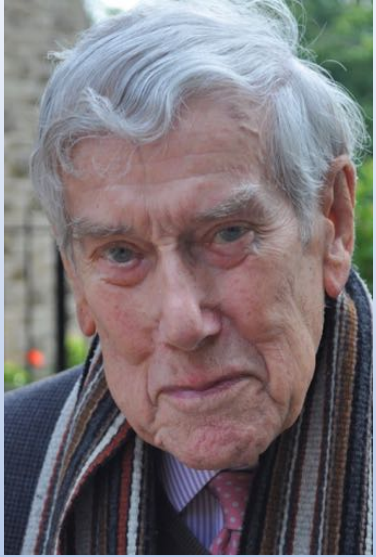




The launch in June 2021 of 'Time to Dream' is a response to the need for St James' to recognise the way the Church is having to adapt after Covid and as the leadership at St James' changes in November 2023. We have also become even more international over the last couple of years!







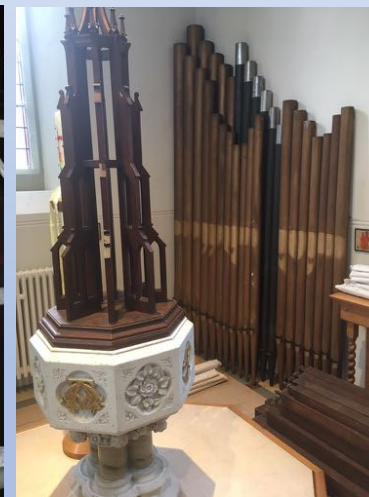
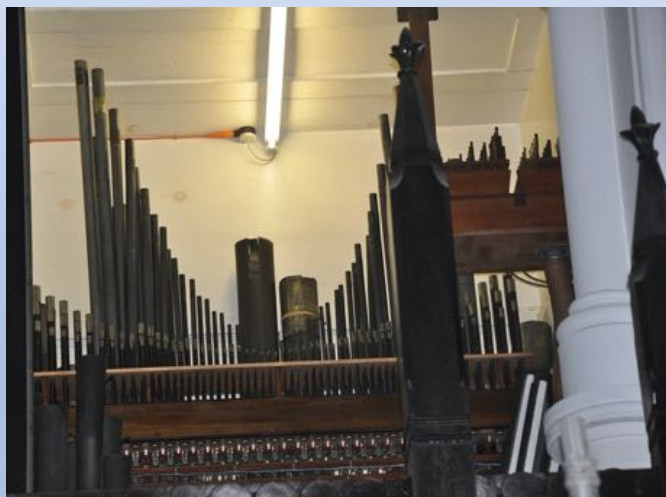
Inevitably we have lost good friends during the course of these two years, in particular Robert Addington, Rose Baker, Dave Collins, Jill Hetherington, Revd Melanie Toogood, Fr Evan Jones and Bill Murphy



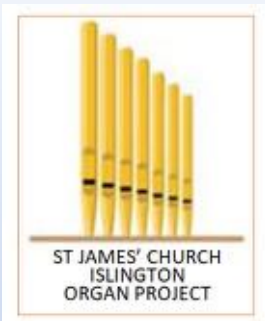




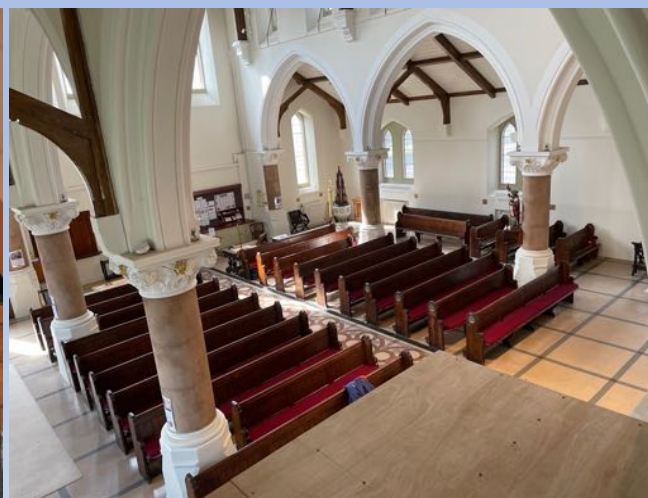
The Chancellor's OK to the Organ Project finally came through on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2021. Next task: clearing the organ loft and building a new wood and steel platform.







Pipework and debris out, the structural engineer on site, the organ console removed, steel and wood delivered. Next: the building of the new organ chamber platform



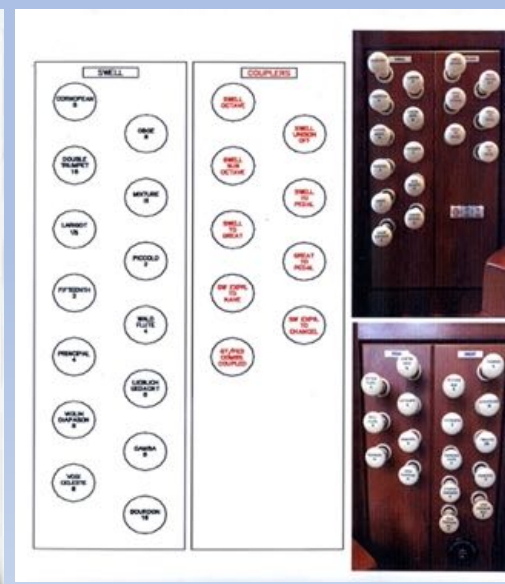
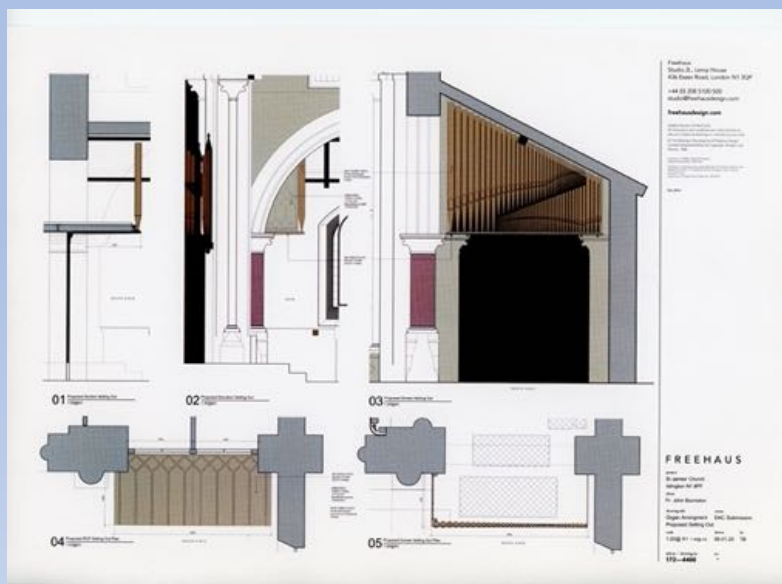
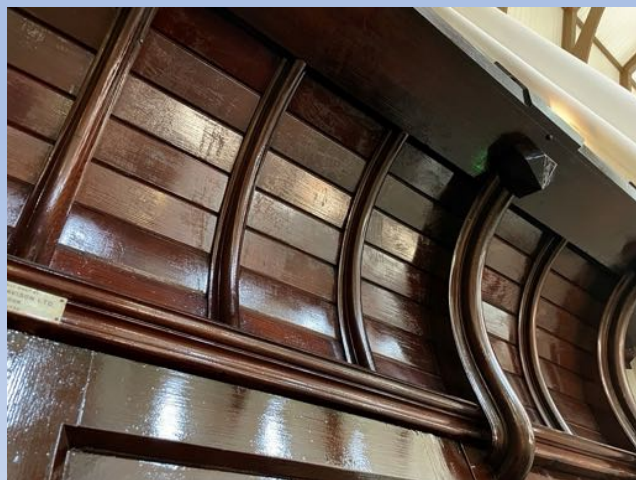




Back in Swindon the organ is getting the refurbishment it deserves: pipework repaired, new windchests and the organ revoiced and enhanced for the next 50 years



Finally, before the pipe work is returned we need to finalise the casework and the layout of the console stops







The one stipulation of the Chancellor was that the new organ deck should not exceed £21k:

1 Pipe Gilding £1,600	2 Steelwork, installed £2,208	4 Clearing of void £2,966
£1,600	£2,730	£2,966
5 Building Control £924	3 R+D/Management survey £1,474	7 Timber £803
£924	£Nil	£160
8 Timber fixing £1,500	6 Audio Panel £1,524	10 Structural Engineers fees £1,600
£1,700	£1,676	£2,070
9 Making good platform under-face £4,850	11 Electrical Installation £533	12 Scaffolding £500
£5,000	ESTIMATED COSTS £20,482	£500
	ACTUAL £19,976	





After some delays due to Covid and ill health, the project is back on track

Return of the pipework

From 25<sup>th</sup> July

Opening Celebration

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022

5pm

Choral Evensong sung by Epiphoni.

Preacher: Rt Revd Stephen Oliver

6.15pm

Drinks Reception

7pm

Opening Recital by Charles Andrews

(Professor of Organ, Royal College of Music)



Coming  
and goings  
in 2021/2



Kingsley Lewis retired after 40  
years in the sanctuary



Clem, Pierre, Alex and  
Sophie Friry leave for  
new jobs in Singapore



Weddings no longer  
registered in churches



Nan Doerr preaches from Alvin  
in Texas, on International Links  
Sunday



Brian and Oscar  
Yeats move up  
to Edinburgh



Rhidian Jones our  
organ consultant  
records the old organ  
for the last time



Coming  
and goings  
in 2021/2



Sarah Ansah and Lebby Anafu  
take advantage of the  
Vicarage garden for their post  
wedding photo shoot

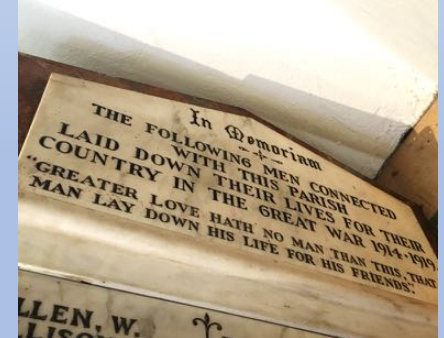
Ros, Chris, Bea and Sebastian  
Ford move to Cambridgeshire



Nick, Felicity  
and Eleanor  
Fryer escape  
London for  
pastures new  
in Hampshire



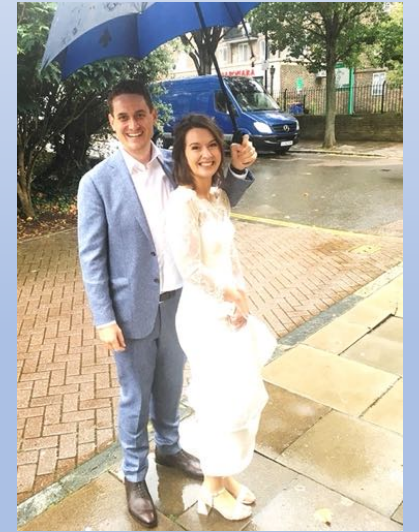
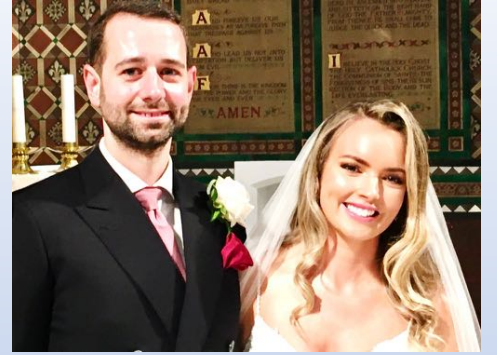
Tim Willis  
takes time  
out at the  
Royal  
Academy



Interest in our  
memorials by the  
Imperial War  
Museum



# After Covid, baptisms and weddings



## CONGRATULATIONS

Dominic and Annabel Higgins  
Lebby Anafu and Sarah Ansah

James and Gemma Owen

Ian Pierce and Jennifer Hammond

Neil and Katherine McRae

## WELCOME

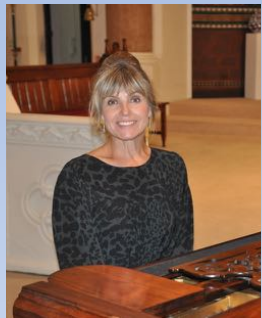
Leo Faulkner, Ava, Ivy and Bella Wilson, Alfie Kennedy, Callum Kinch, Siena Taylor, Ayla Darko, Arlo Goodwin, Anaiah Lapido and Evie Jenkins



And then  
there was  
music...




ISLINGTON  PROMS





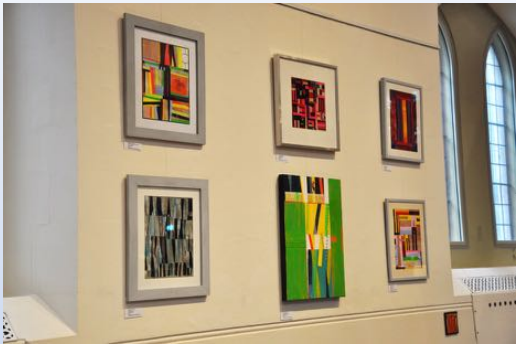
and art...

TAKE 5  
NORTH LONDON ARTISTS



Dawn Finn Francisco Gutierrez  
Jane Bolden Jo Pethybridge Margaret Thompson

St James Prebend Street N17DS  
Weds. 1<sup>st</sup> September – Sun. October 3<sup>rd</sup>





Lambe's  
Feast was  
fun too...



THE BIG  
BOOK OF  
WILLIAM  
LAMBE





and more  
music...



**Concert Corner**



**Saturday 19 March**  
**6:30-7:30pm**  
St James' Church Islington N1 8PH  
Ostara Chamber Players  
Richard Lester (cello)

Schubert: Cello Quintet in C major D 956  
Cole Porter: 'Let's Do It'

General admission £20. Students £10  
[www.concertcorner.co](http://www.concertcorner.co)



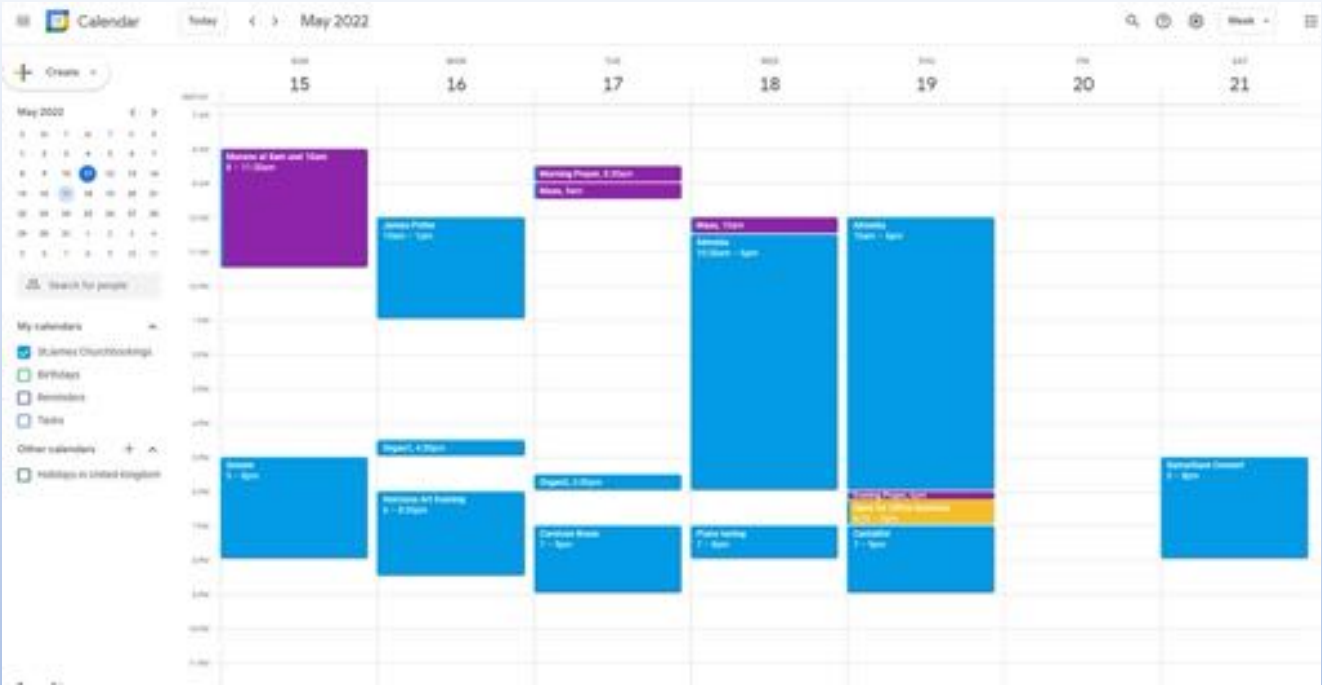


# Things going wrong!





# Use of the building



WE CAME TO SEE WHERE MY GREAT  
GRANDPARENTS WERE MARRIED -  
16th APRIL 1884, JAMES & ANNIE MARIA  
BEAUTIFUL CHURCH  
THANK YOU FOR JOHN

Comments

Julie and I were married here  
in July, 1994. It's so wonderful  
to return and see it thriving all  
these years later!

Pray for David R. who is  
going to have an operation





# And the Hall?





The Hall is  
for parties!



Baptisms

Sunday School

First Communions

Junior Music Group

Junior Church Café

Post Sunday School



But what  
about  
Sundays?



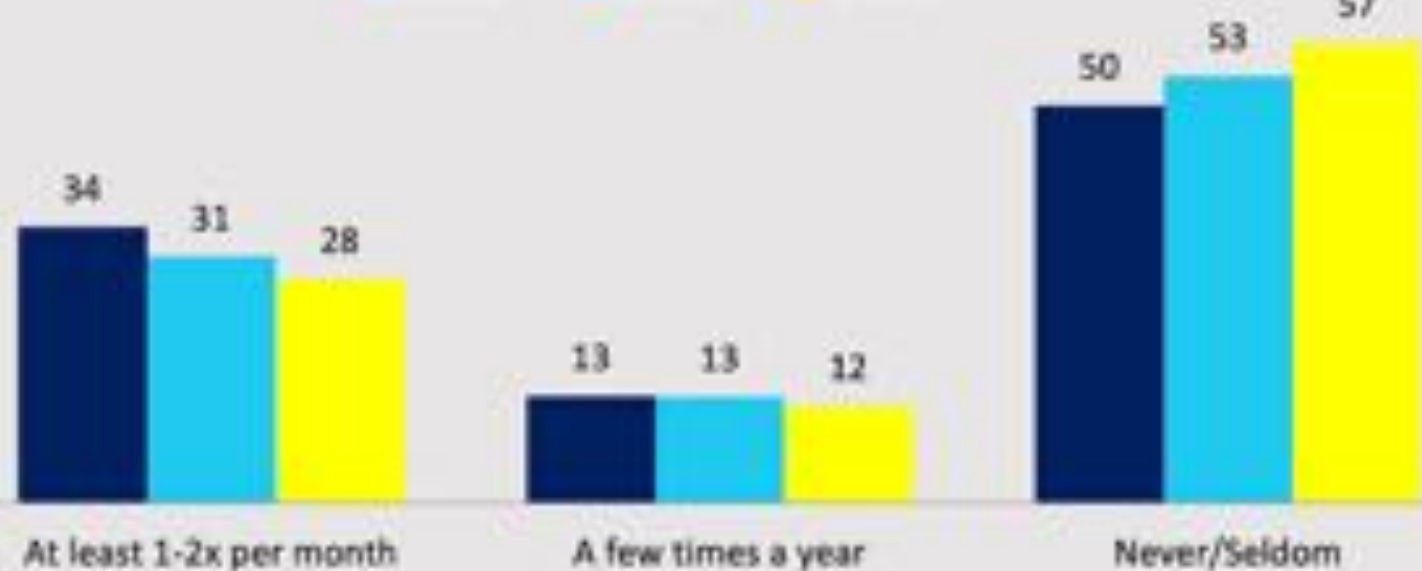


But what  
about  
Sundays?

## Regular Church Attendance Has Declined During COVID-19

% who attend religious services ...

■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021

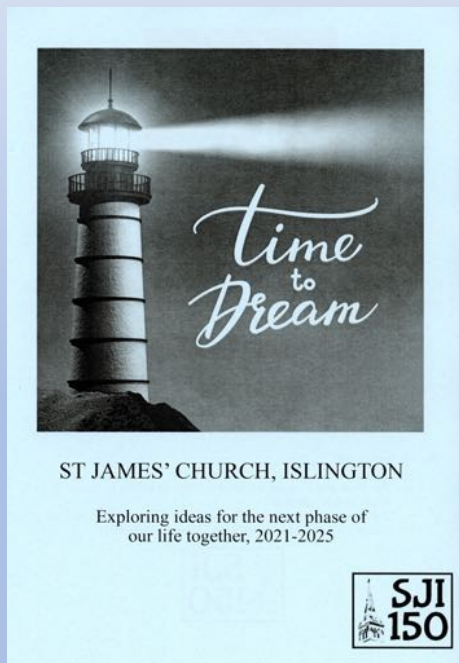






- We have a HUGE amount to be thankful for
- We have been very well served by a hard-working team for many years
- But that period of stability is coming to an end as people retire and move on
- What is our vision for St James' as we come up to our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025?
- How much do we value what we have?





The 'WHAT WILL YOU DO?' challenge:

Are you willing to help maintain the things you value at St James'?

Will you help to decide what those priorities are?





Finally, thanks to all of you for the important part you play in making St James', Islington a 'life-enhancing' place to be.

Special thanks to Hilary and Isabel our Churchwardens, to our PCC members, our Treasurers, organist and assistant priest.

May God bless us in the coming year.