

the arena

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newsletter

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MAY 2022

Dear All,



OUT AND ABOUT - AT LAST! The virtual end of Covid restrictions has meant St James' has been able to re-open its doors to a range of groups over the last few weeks. At the very end of March we had three groups of young people from Hanover School who did a tour of the Church before settling down to watch the story of Easter on the big screen. It was good to see some of our own Church children in the mix! The Lent film series had also been really powerful.



HOLY WEEK always starts with Palm Sunday. Lebbly Anafu acted as narrator and baptismal candidate Mohamad Bagheri got his first taste of an outdoor liturgy.



EASTER DAY was really warm - and wind-

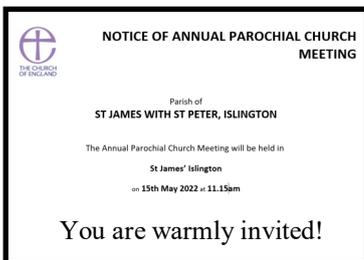
free! - so the new Paschal Candle lit first time and some of our young people were able to bring it to the front of Church as part of the traditional Easter ceremonies - before discovering a stash of Easter eggs outside afterwards!



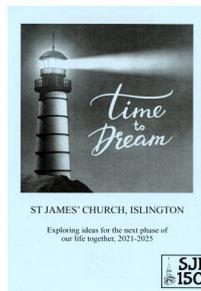
ROSE BAKER, Maria Flavius' mother, was only able to have a small funeral last year due to the pandemic so on Saturday 23rd April St James' was full for a very special memorial service including amusing tributes from two transatlantic members of Rose's extended family. We are pretty sure Rose would have enjoyed the occasion - and the big party in Tottenham afterwards!

EVIE JENKINS It was a great pleasure to welcome Evie into the Church on the Sunday after Easter - marking an almost complete 'set' of experiences for this family: Barry and Hayley were married here and made their First Holy Communion. We baptised each of the three children, Theo, Freddie and now Evie, and we buried their granddad George Smith last September. Finally we look forward to Theo making his First Holy Communion on Sunday 17th July. And what a joy, after Mass, to talk to Anneke Pol for the first time and to hear her ask if she too could be baptised! When we least expect it, there again is the God of Surprises!





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING I think we are all aware of what is at stake at St James' currently. After two tough years of Covid pandemic and with the inevitable changes that will occur in November of next year, now is the time to begin to make sure that we are ready for all the challenges that are beginning to emerge. But that depends on everyone playing their part.



**WW
YD?**

INTRODUCING 'WWYD'? or 'What will you do?' This is a new appeal for help with all the activities that take place at St James', working on the basis that if everyone does a little then we really will be able to fulfil our potential! Over the next few months we will be listing a number of tasks that we hope one or more people will be able to help with, but there is one role that needs to be filled urgently: we need a new PCC Secretary.

The PCC is the governing body for St James' and its members meet every six weeks or so - by zoom. In order to keep track of all that is happening we need someone to take Minutes of those meetings and to keep an eye on decisions made so that nothing is forgotten. It isn't a big job but it is fundamental to any Anglican parish, anywhere in the country. At the moment the role is being shared by one of the Churchwardens and the Lay Chair. **PLEASE** would someone come and help with this role? We also need a few more people to work alongside the current team as members of the PCC itself. Please ask the Churchwardens about what is involved.

FIRST COMMUNIONS We had a very helpful meeting on Sunday May 1st and, diaries in hand, found that if we moved some dates, we could also include Arnold Carter into the programme. So the preparation course will begin after the 10am Mass on June 12th and the admission will take place on Sunday July 17th when we are also keeping St James' Day! So the final list for 2022 is: Arnold Carter, Hope Dixey, Matteo Falcioni, Theo Jenkins, Zuri Kasella and Anita Losito. How exciting!



UKRAINE APPEAL The 10am Mass on Sunday 8th May will be devoted to the conflict in Ukraine and will launch a month long appeal for those suffering from the war there. This will remain open until, Sunday June 5th (Pentecost) and special envelopes will be available in Church in order to help you to Gift Aid your donations if possible. Many thanks.



ART EXHIBITION We are so pleased that Margaret Thomson is showing 17 of her latest canvasses in a one-woman show which will hang until 20th June. There will be an opportunity to talk to Margaret about her work at an evening viewing from 6pm on Monday 16th May. Drinks available. All are welcome.



SONG RECITAL Isabel and her accompanist friend Rhidian Jones, have teamed up again for a recital devoted to songs 'to be sung on the water'. This is arranged for 7pm on Sunday May 22nd. The proceeds are being given to our neighbours at the Angel Community Canal Boat Trust.

FUTURE DATES

May

- Tuesday 10th 10.30am Proms Committee
- Sunday 15th 11.15am Parish AGM. 7pm Concert by Sonare
- Monday 16th 6pm Evening viewing of the art exhibition
- Tuesday 17th 9am Painting of the Organ loft begins
- Sunday 22nd 7pm Recital by Isabel Nisbet and Rhidian Jones
- Sunday 29th 6.30pm Musical Vespers for Ascension Sunday

June

- Thursday 2nd 2pm Peal at St James' to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee
- Sunday 5th 10am Baptism of Mohammad Bagheri
- Tuesday 7th Fr John and Maria on three day Diocesan 'retirement conference', Woking. "It must be happening then...?"
- Saturday 11th 10.30am Ecumenical pilgrimage to Southwark Anglican Cathedral.

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.