



the arena

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newsletter

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Dear All,

AUTUMN 2022

It seems a very long time since we were all together in Church! We hope you have all had a very good summer and that you are ready to pick up the threads at St James' once again. We have missed you!



ITEMS WHICH WILL
BE VERY WELCOME

One of the best opportunities to do that is at HARVEST which falls on Sunday 2nd October. This year we are responding to the appeal by the ARC Food Bank in St Paul Street. They are asking for any help we can give to help them meet the growing demand from local families as inflation and higher gas and electricity prices begin to bite. During the 10am Mass we also hope to hear from one of the ARC staff as they tell us how the Food Bank works.

Anything you bring will be sent across to the ARC team on Monday morning. See left for their list of needs. Do help if you can. Thank you.

LOOKING BACK TO JULY! The highlight in July was the admission to Holy Communion of seven new members. It was a great occasion!

1. Non-perishable whole foods such as pasta, rice, coffee, tea, sugar and tins.
2. Unopened hygiene products eg, shampoo, shower gel and tooth-paste.
3. We cannot accept donations of baby formula.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



TEN YEARS ON! Congratulations to Joseph Allen who has just graduated from Nottingham University with a First Class honours degree. Better still he has recently secured a four year grant to complete a PhD. This photograph was taken at his First Communion in 2012! Who would have known then just how academically talented he was going to be!



CONGRATULATIONS to Alastair Hume, a former Churchwarden and Assistant Treasurer at St James', who reached his 80th birthday on Sunday 18th September. Alastair is a member of the Haydn Chamber Orchestra and will be playing his double bass at their concert on Saturday night: Greig's piano concerto no less!



CYRIL DALEY It is with great sadness that we record the death of Cyril Daley on 11th July at the Royal Free Hospital. Cyril had had to return to a programme of regular dialysis after a successful kidney transplant some years ago. St James' was full of Monstratians and they sang all their favourite hymns 'lustily and with a good courage' (Psalm 33). The island of Montserrat has provided a good proportion of our members over the years and Maria Flavius and Grace Joseph still carry the flag for this tiny island community.



ORGAN PROJECT We were very disappointed that we had to postpone the opening of the new organ yet again. This was for the third time! (May 15th, September 11th and November 20th). But Paul Mortier has not been well this year and we have had to be patient as he completes what he does best, the rebuilding of superb organs. If everything goes to plan the pipework will be returned to Church the week beginning 14th November and we should expect the organ to be playable a month after that. But we are not holding our breath!



Moorfields
World leading experts
in eye care

As most of you will know, I have developed eye sight problems over the summer. A mix of cataracts and cornea dystrophy proved to be too challenging for the private hospital my GP referred to me to in July and I am now waiting a consultation with a consultant at

Moorfields. This is turning out to be a very slow process and reading and working on the computer are both very difficult unless the font size is 24pt print and very black! I am therefore sorry if I am a bit less available; emails, admin (like the Arena newsletter!) and service preparation all take four times as long as before. And please pray that I can get an appointment fairly soon.

BAPTISMS We are delighted that the autumn will be sprinkled (!) with a series of baptisms! On Sunday 23rd October we will be welcoming Anneke Pol - together with family and friends from Australia and Holland; on Sunday November 20th we welcome Alice Holtom, following in the footsteps of her sister Evelyn; and on December 4th we look forwards to baptising Lambert. Jesus goes on calling disciples; I hope we can go on making them welcome.

Do keep in touch.

Best wishes as ever
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.