

the arena

Issue 110 2022-11

newsletter

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DECEMBER
2022

Dear All,

After a really happy Carol Service last Sunday night we are now looking forward to welcoming you to Church at 10am this coming Sunday for the 2022 Crib Service - which will be a Christingle!



What is Christingle? Borrowed from an old German/Moravian tradition, everyone in Church is given an orange to "dress up". On each paper plate are lot of things to assemble which all help us to think about our world, our friends and families - and about Jesus - in a different way.

We very much hope that members of Junior Church will read the new 'poems' that have been especially written for the Crib Service this year. Like one of the poems at the Carol Service last Sunday, they are written in the style of the famous Scottish humourist poet William McGonagall! And sticky fingers guaranteed!

*The annual Crib Service/Christingle is one of the highlights of the St James' Year.
Do come if you can.*

*Crib Service, Sunday 18th
December at 10am.*

Already in the Christmas mood...



The Susanne Beer
Cello Corner Foundation

Fundraiser Concert
Sat 9 Dec at 6:00pm
St James' Church Islington, N1 7PH
Tickets & donations: www.thecellocorner.co.uk

PRE-CHRISTMAS AT ST JAMES' The coloured candles at the Advent Service of Light; raising the 11' Christmas Tree; Toni Parker completing the decorations; Richard Dennison with the star; Mae and Ivy preparing the Crib; Anneke Pol reading at the Carol Service for the first time; The Muppet Christmas Carol film show raised over £2,000 for North London Cares; some of the parish Christmas cards ready for sending; several concerts including one by the Susanne Beer Cello Foundation; our own Junior Music Group playing Silent Night; COLA-I's own Santa!

2023: A YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS

So we are now planning for 2023 and hope to be able to get together far more than we have this year.



- In February we expect, finally, for the organ to be returned to St James'! Once it is functioning in Swindon all the elements are taken apart again and the trucks will bring it back to Islington. We look forward to having it working sometime around Passion Sunday (March 26th) which happens to be the anniversary of my first Sunday at St James' - in 2009!
- We are still exploring May 7th as the day for the inaugural recital - which also happens to be very close to William Lambe's anniversary in 1580 and also the consecration of St James' in 1875. It is also the day after the King's coronation!
- Later that month we are looking forward to welcoming Bishop Joanne for her first visit to St James'. We have invited her to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 21st (see below).
- On July 3rd I will have notched up 40 years of ordained ministry! I am hoping that we might find some way of marking that, perhaps with some special music and other events in Church. One of the things that I would like to do is to mount a photographic retrospective (with a nod to the fact that I have such a hopeless memory!) called 'From what I can remember' - a few of the thousands of photographs that I have taken since first owning a camera 50 years ago.

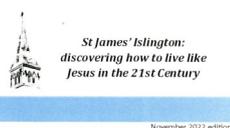
CONFIRMATION 2023

NEW STUDY
SESSIONS -
INCLUDING THE
CHANCE TO
PREPARE FOR THE
SACRAMENT OF
CONFIRMATION



Here at St James' we have invited children from the age of 8/9 - and also adults - to make their First Holy Communion as part of their reception into the life of the Church. Since January 2012 we have admitted nearly 60 people to the Table of the Lord for First Communions. We would now like to invite anyone over the age of 18 to take the next stage which is Confirmation. Leaflets have been sent to all those who are eligible and we do hope that those who have not yet been Confirmed will take this opportunity to offer themselves to the bishop on May 21st and be admitted as fully fledged adult members of the Church. Please let me know asap if you are interested.

AND ALSO...



Despite endless tests there is still no news about when I can get my cornea dystrophy treated. The latest email from Moorfields Private Eye Hospital (Monday 12th) simply said I am on the relevant waiting list - with the added sub-text: please stop bothering us! I can manage



to use the computer with two magnifying glasses but everything is very slow - and I can't actually read books and magazines at all! Thanks for your patience if I miss things or stumble over words in Church.

Happy Christmas everyone!

Please 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.