

the arena

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newsletter

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JANUARY
2023

Dear All,



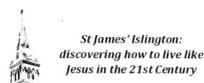
It was really good - and a bit of a relief! - to welcome lots more people to St James' this Christmas! Last year's post-Covid celebrations were a bit quiet! This year we had a lovely (snowy!) Carol Service, a packed Richard Cloudesley School Christmas event, a sticky Christingle Crib Service, a moving Midnight Mass, a much busier Christmas morning, weddings (at home and abroad), the all Age Mass for Epiphany... and a baby-to-be announcement!



Maria Burniston carrying home-made mulled wine and mince pies through the snow for the refreshments after the Carol Service; making Christingles with sweets and very sticky cherry pieces; most of Richard Cloudesley School assembled in Church, watching videos on the screen; a competitive spirit for the Christmas morning quiz; Sergio and Cecy Munoz's religious wedding in Mexico City; Daniel and Catriona Wilkinson (nee Burniston) with their goddaughter Hope Dixey, sharing the news that they are expecting their first baby in May; Matt and Amelia Warne after their wedding on New Year's Eve; some of the old pipes newly gilded ready for reinstallation in the new Organ Gallery in March; Evelyn Holtom wearing the crown after the Galette des Rois ceremony on the Feast of the Epiphany.



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



St James' Islington:
discovering how to live like
Jesus in the 21st Century

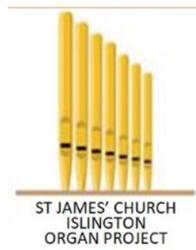
November 2022 edition

CONFIRMATION 2023 Last November we sent out invitations for anyone over 18 to take part in the programme leading to Confirmation. I hope that we will have up to six candidates which is very exciting but others are still welcome! The course is built around four big group sessions and supplemented by a number of individual session which can be fitted in whenever people have got time. We also hope to make a group trip to St Paul's Cathedral for candidates and their families before Bishop Joanne comes to St James' at 10am on Sunday 21st May.

Key sessions

- 1 **Tuesday 24th January:** Why are we Anglicans? A fun-run through 2000 years of Church history!
- 2 **Tuesday 21st February:** Why did Jesus have to die on the Cross?
- 3 **Tuesday 21st March:** Words and Music in worship: prayer and praise in the Church today
- 4 **Tuesday 25th April:** What can the Church offer society in the 21st century? Ethical and social issues which challenge us all.

These sessions are all held at the Vicarage, 1a Arlington Square, start at 7.30pm and are open to anyone who would like to take part even if you are not preparing for Confirmation. Come to one, come to them all; everyone welcome.



MAY 7th - FOR CERTAIN! We are delighted to be able to confirm that the opening of the new organ will take place on Sunday 7th May 2023. Bishop Stephen Oliver the former Bishop of Stepney (who inducted me into the parish in March 2009) will return to preach and dedicate the new instrument; Professor Charles Andrews of the Royal College of Music will give the opening recital and Choral Evensong will be sung by the Corvus Consort who have performed here on several occasions in the past. Invitations are being sent far and wide but this will have to be a ticketed event.

Sunday May 7th:

- 5pm Choral Evensong sung by the Corvus Consort, to include the dedication of the new organ
by Rt Revd Stephen Oliver
6.20pm Drinks Reception in Church
7pm Inaugural Organ Recital by Professor Charles Andrews

LOOKING FORWARD As a result of my notifying the Bishop that I will be retiring on Thursday 30th November, the Archdeacon of Hackney, Peter Farley-Moore will be attending the PCC meeting at the end of February. This is part of the request by Isabel and Hilary our Churchwardens to begin the process of setting up cover for the gap between Vicars (known as the interregnum) as soon as possible. They are also keen to begin the writing of the Parish Profile which will hopefully attract a really good person to be your new parish priest. By starting now we also hope we can reduce the length of the interregnum. In the early summer we will be holding a special congregational meeting to get your ideas of the kind of person you would like to be appointed but in the meantime any suggestions you have would be warmly welcomed by Isabel and Hilary. Please do give it some thought!

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.