



# the arena

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## newsletter

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FEBRUARY  
2023

Dear All,

No two days are ever the same at St James'! Taking advantage of the warm weather while waiting for the piano tuner to arrive on Friday morning, I was planting some new pansies in the concrete planter outside Church when the mobile phone rang. It was the Archdeacon! After making some arrangements for his visit to our PCC at the end of March he then asked me about our safeguarding paperwork.

**SAFEGUARDING** Fortunately we have a strong safeguarding team at St James'. Lebby Anafu our Safeguarding Officer works in this area for the NHS and Sinead Burniston continues as our Children's (safeguarding) Champion alongside her work with our Sunday School. But we ought to say that if you have any concerns about our care of children or vulnerable adults in Church please talk to Lebby or Sinead. Their details are on the main noticeboard.



**WW  
YD?**

The discussion with Archdeacon Peter Farley Moore will largely focus on our preparation for the coming 'interregnum' - the time between the exit of one Vicar and the arrival of the next - making sure that the Church continues to work well during that time. We had already started to do this as part of the 'Time to Dream' process but always in the background is the need to make sure all the essential jobs are covered. One of those, as we have already seen, is Sinead's role as Children's Champion; another is the care of our Sunday School led by Maria and Sinead. So in advance of our meeting with Peter, Kerri Allen (Lay Chair of the PCC) will be in Church on Sunday 12th February talking through the challenges and asking again the question: 'WWYD?' What will you do? We do hope you will feel able to respond generously.



**LENT 2023** Thanks to Sergio Munoz and our AV equipment, we were able stage some really good films on Friday nights throughout Lent. Sergio is suggesting we do something similar this year, perhaps including Franco Zeffirelli's 1977 'Jesus of Nazareth' and Roland Joffé's 1986 'The Mission'. We might also include an evening prayer service along the lines of our Musical Vespers. Watch this space.

**PACK-UP** Our weekly lunch for the street community - which marked its seventh birthday in October - often receives official visitors and one of the inspectors from Islington Council was so impressed with the quality of the service that they have awarded Pack-Up a grant of £2,500 to purchase a new range cooker. The old one has done sterling service since the Hall was first opened by Prince Charles (as he was then) in 1995 but it doesn't look all that smart nearly 30 years on!





**CONFIRMATION** The new education programme preparing adults for Confirmation on May 21st is now well under way. At the end of a breathless session in the Vicarage kitchen (the only space available which was big enough for the group!) looking at the History of the Church, we discovered what a wide background our candidates come from: Australia, Uniting Church; West Indies, Pentecostal; France, Roman Catholic; Tanzania, Evangelical Anglican; a former Muslim from Iran as well as Islingtonians from both Roman Catholic and Anglican roots! Please pray for Anneke Pol, Belle Williams, Eva Kasella, Karenza Greenaway, Jade Nicholson, Mohammad Bagheri and Thomas G.



**ORGAN PROJECT** Once again the journey to complete the organ by Sunday May 7th has become something of a roller-coaster ride. Just when we thought we were home and dry there has been a major breakdown of communication between suppliers and the organ builder and the race is now on to wire up the big console (containing the keyboards) in time for the instrument to be transported from Swindon on Monday March 6th as planned. All being well the Church will then be closed for the whole of March (in the daytime) while the organ is reconstructed in its new gallery and the north aisle is turned into a workshop so that the remaining front pipes can be gilded to match those already in the organ loft. Please pray that there are no more hold-ups...



After six months of waiting, it is a relief to know that I will be having treatment for my eyes on Wednesday 15th February. This involves a temporary contact lens being inserted over the damaged cornea.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** We could not let two big birthdays pass without a mention. This month we send our warmest best wishes to Beatrice Awoonor-Renner who was 92 on February 3rd, and to Fr Victor de Waal who was 94 on February 2nd! Both of them are still able to walk to Church - Beatrice twice a week! Which reminds me to ask anyone whose details aren't recorded in the 'little red book' to let me know of your birthdays and anniversaries. We are family!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5th 2023

# FEAST OF CANDLEMASS

All age PARISH MASS at 10am  
with Procession of Candles and special music.

Do join us if you can.



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.