

the arena

Issue 117
2023-7

newsletter

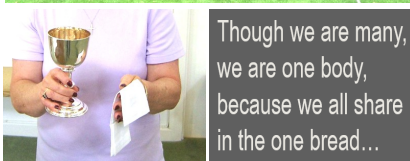
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JULY/
AUGUST
2023

Dear All,



Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share
in the one bread...

Now that the Organ Project is completed the time has come to look again at some of the ministries we take for granted on Sunday mornings. The first of these is the training of new Eucharistic Ministers. Over the next few weeks we hope to be able to license six new members of the EM team.

In the autumn this will be followed up with sessions for those who read lessons and for those we hope will be willing to write as well as lead our Intercessions.

WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER EDITION OF ARENA

It's summer time and at least in early June we had some pretty good weather! On 18th June we welcomed about 150 people to the Vicarage, one of eight taking part in the National open Gardens Scheme. Ian Baker's saxophone quartet played (and Sinead baked scones) for the whole of the afternoon! Between us over £2000 was raised for various medical charities.

ISLINGTON PROMS



2023 Pocket Prom

An afternoon of al-fresco music in a walled Victorian garden

Featuring **Sky Ingram** - Australian opera singer with an international reputation, accompanied by Adam Dickson.
In the second half the acclaimed **Ian Baker saxophone quartet**.

4pm - 8pm, Sunday July 9th

St James' Vicarage, 1a Arlington Square N1 7DS

Bring a picnic Tickets £15 (children free)
available from www.trybooking.co.uk/CLKA
or at the door



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



NARIYAH LAWRENCE, Daughter to Danni Green and sister to Nylah, who we look forward to baptising at St James' on Sunday 16th July. Although the family currently live in Willesden they are frequent visitors to their great grandma who lives in Peabody Buildings!



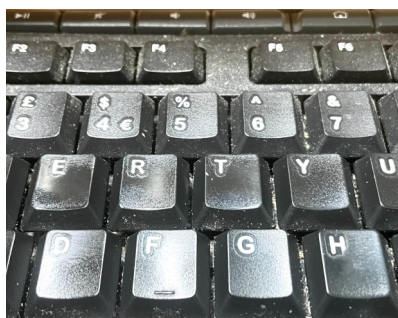
JOE AMMOUN. Joe was a student in training from Oak Hill College a couple of years back and we very much enjoyed his time with us. Joe was ordained priest at All Soul's, Langham Place on Monday 3rd July and is the curate at St Simon Zelotes, Chelsea.

The next big event is this coming Sunday (9th) when we have a taster for the Islington Proms music series which runs for three week-ends from September 15th.

Highlights for the 2023 Proms series include a top flight Choir, an exciting early music consort, a recital with a distinctly south American flavour, our friends the Greenwich Trio after the release of their first CD, an evening looking at the impact of video gaming, an Irish Night, a concert of romantic piano music with Yoon Chung, the regular Youth Prom, a talk about local architecture and the welcome return of the Haydn Chamber Orchestra. On the walls a big exhibition of the work of Caroline Griffiths; and on the screen a retrospective show *'From what I can remember'*, pictures I have taken over the last sixty years which are being shown for the first time. See www.trybooking.co.uk for more details.



SAFEGUARDING As you would expect, all churches are having to spend a great deal of time making sure that children and vulnerable adults are safe when they are with us. The DBS checks and the training courses our PCC members and our Sunday School leaders have to undertake on a very regular basis are now part and parcel of Church life and I am so pleased that Lebby Anafu as our parish Safeguarding officer has taken to his new role so well. But the national Church also has to handle cases of abuse from the past and I am afraid we have not done that very well. The Independent Safeguarding team at central HQ has just been scrapped after two of those working particularly closely with survivors were sacked from their roles by the Archbishops' Council. So today I am asking for your prayers for our Area Bishop Joanne, whom many of you met at the Confirmations in May. She was appointed as the lead bishop for Safeguarding in the 43 Dioceses of the Church of England just as this row was coming to public attention. It could not be a more difficult job as it calls into question not just how we care for survivors of abuse but how trust between the Archbishops' Council, General Synod and the new Independent Safeguarding panel can be restored. She and all her colleagues will need lots of wisdom at this time and we do ask for your support for Joanne as she balances all this with being Bishop of Stepney.



THE CHURCH COUNCIL met again on Monday 3rd July, trying to work its way through all the paperwork that is involved in running a Church as complex as ours - with just a skeleton admin staff. We have to be very grateful to our Churchwardens and to our Treasurer for the hours of work they put in especially this year when the Archdeacon makes his three-yearly visit



to check up on all our policies and records - and we have to prepare for the interregnum in November.

The good news is that our finances are looking reasonably healthy due to Hall and Church lettings and we are able to rely on additional grants from the William Lambe and Cloudeley charities to help us with the big list of repairs that need to be done to the outside of the building in 2023 in advance of the five yearly Diocesan check on churches which, for St James', will take place this autumn.

The biggest task over the next four months is getting handover notes into good order. These range from how the heating is put on and where the supplies of toilet paper are kept to knowing who to call on for pastoral help and who will be there to take a wedding or a funeral. Then there is the job of creating a rota of priests to lead our Masses on Sundays and what kinds of service booklets and Weekly News sheets can we look forward to as so many of these materials at St James' have been tailor-made for us over the years. And that is before the small team start to write the advertisement (Parish Profile) for the new parish priest! If you can help in any of these areas, please offer!

JULY 1983: Can it really be 40 years since 20 of us were ushered into Durham Cathedral to be ordained deacon? It has been a huge privilege to be able to work with so many people in such a variety of places and I hope a few of you will be able to come to the 10am Mass this Sunday (9th July) as we look back at what has happened over those 40 years - and to raise a glass to the future as we trust God to bless all that is to come.

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.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon. Please keep in touch.

John