

# the arena

Issue 118  
2023-8

## newsletter

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SEPTEMBER  
2023

Dear All,

## HERE WE GO AGAIN!

I usually say "after the long summer break..." when starting the autumn edition of *Arena* but this year we seem to have had a very busy couple of months and there have been more people around in Church on Sundays too which has been really positive! So on my desk a long list of things to share with you today...



**NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS** After the exciting Confirmations in May it was a great joy to license Mohammad Bagheri, Karensa Greenaway, Eva Kasella, Sergio and Cecy Munoz, Jade Nicholson and Anneke Pol as Eucharistic Ministers on 23rd July. Our EM team had got very small recently! The next training session will be for those who would like to write Intercessions for our Sunday Masses. Please look out for the date and sign up if you would like to.

**THE PARISH SURVEY** Isabel has been doing a great job co-ordinating a small group who will be writing the new Parish Profile. This is the detailed advertisement which we hope will attract a lot of people to apply to become the new Vicar of St James' next year. But what sort of priest do you want? The Survey is your chance to describe what you value at St James' and what you would like to see develop and grow in the future. Without your input the Parish Profile writers won't know what to write! Please do your best to return the Survey, either via the forms to be found at the back of Church or on line using the QR code. The team hope that as wide a group of people as possible will reply - and that includes the local community, those who only use the Church occasionally as well as those who come regularly on Sundays.



**SAVE THE VICARAGE!** As you will have heard the Diocese are seriously considering selling the Vicarage in Arlington Square because they think it is too big to look after. I think we all realise what a great asset we have: not only is it quite close to Church it also serves as our main meetings venue, our teaching base and also a welcome space for all kinds of community-wide events like the National Open Gardens Day and the Pocket Prom in July. Over the years it has also been a place of temporary accommodation for lots of people who needed somewhere to stay when they

first moved to London and of course it also houses both the Vicar's study and the busy Parish Office. The PCC are working hard to change their minds!

# COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER

**ISLINGTON PROMS**  
SEPTEMBER 2023

A TWO-WEEK FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND ART

4 Sep-2 Oct Exhibitions  
Islington landscapes and photography

15 Sep **Beaufort Singers**  
A cappella choral music

16 Sep **Tabea Debus**  
with Sam Stadlen and Toby Carr

17 Sep **Back to Bach**  
David Chew and Blas Rivera

18 Sep **Jonathan Wober**  
All around the houses

22 Sep **Yoon Chung**  
Schubert, Brahms, Ravel, Wagner

23 Sep **Greenwich Trio**  
Mozart, Ravel and Brahms

24 Sep **Youth Prom**  
Talented young musicians

25 Sep **Computer games**  
To game or not to game?

29 Sep **Irish Night**  
featuring Oisín Kavanagh

30 Sep **Last Night of Our Proms**  
Haydn Chamber Orchestra

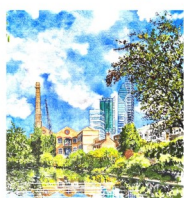
all at **St James' Church**  
Prebend Street, N1 1PH

Full details and tickets at [www.islingtonproms.com](http://www.islingtonproms.com)

**CONCERTS AT ST JAMES'** While there have been a number of first class concerts recently, including one that raised £1500 for charity, our major annual arts festival, the ISLINGTON PROMS, is this month. The Festival takes a huge amount of organisation by the small organising Committee but the standard of performance is always really high and of course we welcome lots of people who have never been inside the Church before. We hope there is something for everyone!

**PROMS FESTIVAL MASS** New in 2023 is a Proms Festival Mass. This will be at 10am on *Sunday September 17th*. The preacher will be the well known writer and broadcaster, Bishop Michael Marshall who will talk about the way music works in our Church worship. He is an excellent speaker. We will also have a special choir for the day singing choral music which I think everyone will enjoy, supported by Adam Dickson playing our newly rebuilt organ. Do make a special effort to come on that day if you can.

## ISLINGTON PROMS Caroline Griffiths 'From Dalston to the Regent Canal'



Caroline Griffiths studied Fine Art at City Lit. She lives and paints in East London where her work celebrates its distinctive architecture and the changes brought about by the shifting seasons. She uses water-based media and pastel and has exhibited in London's Mall Galleries.



**'From what I can remember'**  
John Burniston: 60 years behind a camera  
- a retrospective on screen

SEPTEMBER 4th TO OCTOBER 1st 2023  
St James' Church, Prebend Street N1 8PH  
Open daily from 10-6pm Free Entry  
[www.CarolineGriffiths.net](http://www.CarolineGriffiths.net) [www.islingtonproms.com](http://www.islingtonproms.com)

## IN THE NEWS

**SERVING TEAM** It is very good to welcome Ethan Faloppa back into the Sanctuary. He and Mo are developing new skills all the time and are adding greatly to the dignity with which we celebrate our Sunday Parish Mass.

**FIRST COMMUNIONS** We are very much looking forward to Charlie Green and Olive Murphy starting their First Communion Preparation shortly.

**ART - AND SOME PHOTOGRAPHS** Throughout this month local artist Caroline Griffiths will be exhibiting her work inspired by living in this part of East London: *'From Dalston to the Regent Canal'*. And I am taking this last opportunity to share a fraction of the many thousands of photographs I have taken over the last sixty years, a kind of biographical retrospective which highlights not just the places I have served as a parish priest but also some of my passions - in architecture and Church design, in interesting people, the beauty of the natural world as well as in the quirky things that have caught my attention over the years. The big screen is the perfect way of showing these pictures and they will be on a continuous loop whenever the Church is open.



ON OCTOBER 1ST we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival. We do hope that you will be generous in supporting the international "Disasters Emergency Fund" which has done such amazing work where flooding and hurricanes have devastated people's lives in recent months. Envelopes will be available in Church for anything you can give.

**NO CASH?** At last we have a card reader in Church! Do help us to pay our way. Queuing to use it during the Peace/Offertory is allowed!



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

John