St James’

**May 2024**

**Services for the coming month**

**Sunday 5th May** **6th Sunday of Easter**

8am Mass (Fr Stephen Taylor) and 10am Parish Mass (Fr Jim Walters)

**Sunday 12th May** **Ascension Sunday & Bell Sunday**

8am (Fr Toby Thomas) and 10am Parish Mass (Fr Jim Walters).

Bell Sunday activity for Sunday School in Hall at 10am.

**Sunday 19th May Pentecost**

8am (tbc) and 10am Parish Mass (Fr Jim Walters).

**Sunday 26th May** **Trinity Sunday**

8am (tbc) and 10am Parish Mass (Fr Peter Bernhardt)

**Dates for your diary**

**Tuesday 7th May** From 6pm: St James’ Ringing Room open for visits

**Sunday 12th May** 11.30amAPCM in Church

**Monday 20th May** 7.30pm: PCC Meeting

See the calendar on the website for concerts and other dates.

**News and Notices**

**Process to Appoint a new Incumbent:**

Many thanks to all who contributed to our Parish Profile, which attracted a lot of positive feedback from priests who were interested in coming to St James’. The closing date for applications was Tuesday 23rd April and shortlisted candidates will be meeting some PCC members on 5th May. The final interviews are on Friday 10th May. Our parish has 2 reps (Isabel and Jane) on the selection panel, which is headed by the Bishop of Stepney. We hope that we shall be able to bring good news by the end of May. Meantime, we are grateful to the priests who are supporting our worship during the Interregnum, particularly Fr Jim, Fr Stephen and Fr Toby. We send our good wishes to Toby, who will be moving to take on new responsibilities after mid-May.

**St James’ Vicarage**

The Diocese has been consulting on a proposal to “suspend the benefice” of St James’ for a while to enable them to pursue alternatives to 1A Arlington Square (the current Vicarage) to house our new Vicar. The PCC met the deadline for responding to the consultation, and to do that they took advice from a builder, a surveyor and a local estate agent. The PCC asked for more consideration to be given to potential alternative configurations of 1a Arlington Square, and option appraisals of costs for these, before the benefice was formally suspended. Bishop Joanne is now considering responses to the consultation. The Diocese want to see more affordable and environmentally appropriate housing for the clergy, while the PCC’s obligation is to represent the interests of the parish and they see the current Vicarage as an important community asset. We shall await the Bishop’s decision, and we know that when our new priest is appointed he or she will be fully involved in the discussions about their future housing.

**Bells!**

Tuesday is practice night for the bells. On **Tues 7 May** you have the opportunity to come to see what the bells are all about. You hear them ring – now come up to the ringing room and see what’s going on. Just turn up outside the church on Tues 7 May from 6pm. All ages welcome. If you want to get involved after that, the ringers can teach you how to ring and you can join our team.

**Sunday 12th May** has been designated ‘Bell Sunday’ this year. Helen Schofield, St James’ Tower Captain, and Lucy Haire will be holding bell related activities for the Sunday School children at 10am in the Hall and we very much look forward to them telling the congregation about what they have learned, and possibly performing with handbells, at the end of the 10am Mass. We have little bells for the smallest children, but there are also opportunities for the older ones to handle proper handbells, so children of all ages are most welcome. There will, we understand, also be bell themed refreshments after Mass! The APCM happens to be on the same day so please try to come along to support both events.

**Parish Annual General Meeting**

St James’ APCM will be held this year on **Sunday 12 May**. Please do stay after Mass or come along just for the meeting - it would be great to have as many of the congregation at that meeting as possible. As we are in an Interregnum this will be led by the lay chair of the PCC (Kerri) and the Churchwardens (Isabel and Hilary). It is an opportunity for you to ask questions and raise any issues that you feel are important for the year ahead. Booklets containing the annual reports and accounts are available at the back of Church. Please do pick one up to have a look before the meeting. The opportunity to join the Electoral Roll before the APCM has now passed, but the draft revised Electoral Roll is on display, and if there are any mistakes or names wrongly retained, please tell Vicky (admin@stjamesislington.org). Form for nominations for the PCC are still available at the back of Church.

**Parish Office and contact details during the Interregnum**

The Parish office is located in the Hall. If you want to contact the team, including the Churchwardens, during the next few months, please email admin@stjamesislington.org - this email address will be monitored and messages forwarded on to the appropriate person. The contact phone number is 07852 390 266. Please do not call the Vicarage landline number.

If you would like to talk to a priest, or to discuss holding a wedding, funeral or baptism at St James’, please use the same contact details, and we shall get back to you as soon as we can.