

# **NEWSLETTER**

# **SEPTEMBER 2024**

The Benefice of St. James  
with St. Michael and St. Augustine  
Beckenham  
(DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER)

**Vicar: Fr. Russell Stagg**

The Vicarage, 120 Birkbeck Road,  
Beckenham, Kent. BR3 4SS

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[vicar@stjamesandstmichael.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stjamesandstmichael.org.uk)

## **SUNDAY SERVICES (from 8 September)**

9.15am Mass – St. James's Church  
St. James's Avenue, BR3 4HF

11.00am Mass – St. Michael's Church  
Ravenscroft Road, BR3 4TN

## **Dear Friends,**

I hope this letter finds you well. After a rather eventful move I have finally arrived here in Beckenham; Benji the Cat and myself have almost unpacked and are settling well into the Vicarage.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude for the warm welcome I have already received from many of you. Your kindness and hospitality have made me feel most at home. I am eager to get to know all of you and to learn more about your stories, your hopes, and your dreams for our parishes.

As we embark upon this journey together, I am committed to serving you with dedication, compassion, and faith. I believe that our parishes are places where everyone can find a warm welcome and where together, we can continue to build a vibrant and inclusive community, rooted in the teachings of Christ and guided by love and the Holy Spirit.

I am excited to share in the many activities and events that make our parishes so special. Whether it is through worship, fellowship, outreach, or learning together, I look forward to working alongside you to strengthen our bonds and to reach out to those in need.

Please feel free to make contact with me at any time, my contact details are included in this newsletter. My door is always open, and I am here to listen, to support, and to walk with you on your spiritual journey. Let us pray for one another and for the continued growth and vitality of our parishes.

Thank you for welcoming me into your hearts and homes. I am truly blessed to be here and to serve as your vicar and I look forward to seeing many of you at my induction at St Michael's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

With blessings and warm regards,

***Fr Russell***

### **PLEASE NOTE**

The first Sunday in September, 1 September, the service will be at 10.30am at St. Michael's. From 8 September each church will have its own Sunday mass for the first time since March 2023, 9.15 am at St. James's and 11.00 am at St. Michael's

On 29 September St. Michael will be having their Patronal Festival at 11 am at St. Michael's Church. The 9.15 am service at St. James's will be the 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councils  
of the United Benefice of St. James with  
St. Michael and St. Augustine,  
Beckenham

invite you to

**The Institution**

by the Bishop of Rochester  
The Right Reverend Dr. Jonathan Gibbs

and

**The Induction**

By The Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley  
The Venerable Allie Kerr

of

**The Reverend Russell Stagg  
as Vicar**

Tuesday 3 September 2024

7.30pm

At the Parish Church of St. Michael and All Angels  
Ravenscroft Road, Beckenham, BR3 4TN

## **WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER**

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> Sung Mass at St. Michael's	10.30am
8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> Sung Mass at St. James's Sung Mass at St. Michael's	9.15am 11.00am
15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> Sung Mass at St. James's Sung Mass at St. Michael's	9.15am 11.00am
22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> Sung Mass at St. James's Sung Mass at St. Michael's	9.15am 11.00am
29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> Sung Mass at St. James's <b>ST. MICHAEL'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL</b> Sung Mass at St. Michael's	9.15am 11.00am

## **HYMNS FOR SEPTEMBER**

### **1 September 2024 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Introit: CH 215 – God is love, his the care  
Offertory: CH 741 – Thy hand, O God, has guided  
Communion: CH 663 – Soul of my Saviour  
Final: CH 88 – Blest are the pure in heart

### **8 September 2024 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Introit: CH 778 – We have a gospel to proclaim  
Offertory: CH 59 – At the name of Jesus (Brierley)  
Communion: CH 517 – O bread of heaven  
Final: CH 547 – O praise ye the Lord

### **15 September 2024 – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Introit: CH 31 – All ye who seek a comfort sure  
Offertory: CH 363 – Lift high the cross  
Communion: CH 339 – Just as I am  
Final: CH 536 – O Jesus, I have promised

### **22 September 2024 – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Introit: CH 109 – Christ is made the sure foundation  
Offertory: CH 319 – Jesu, lover of my soul  
Communion: CH 674 – Sweet sacrament divine  
Final: CH 488 – Mine eyes have seen the glory

### **29 September 2024 -**

#### **St. James - 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Introit: NEH 360 – Firmly I believe and truly  
Offertory: NEH 296 – Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour  
Communion: NEH 311 – We pray thee, heavenly Father (J B Dykes tune)

Final: NEH 297 – Lord Jesus Christ, You have come to us

St Michael- Feast of St Michael and All Angels (Patronal)

Introit: Christ the fair glory (booklet)

Offertory: Holy Michael, Great archangel

Communion: It came upon the midnight clear

Final: All for Jesus

## **ST. JAMES'S DRAW WINNERS FOR AUGUST**

1. Norma Bellinfantie

2. Marion Stow

3. Barbara Mills

## **FRIENDS OF ST. JAMES'S DRAW**

It's that time of year to renew your subscription to the Friends of St. James's Draw. Please see the form enclosed with this Newsletter. Completed forms together with payment (£15 per unit) should be handed to Fern no later than Sunday 22 September.

### **FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

Welcome back to everybody after a summer of very mixed weather. Our next meeting is on 6 September at 2.00 p.m. in the Guild Room. We look forward to seeing you and any friends you may have who would like to come along for a cuppa and a natter.

## **ST. JAMES'S PARISH BREAKFAST**

With the return to weekly services from 8 September we are looking for volunteers to join the teams who set up, serve and clear away Parish Breakfast each week. It would involve just one Sunday a month. Please let Jan know if you are able to join a team. We thank Claire, Geoff and Julie who have carried out the work every week during the interregnum.

## **ST. MICHAEL'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL**

St. Michael's Day falls on 29 September, a Sunday this year. We shall be following our 11 a.m. service at St. Michael's Church with a bring and share lunch. There will be a list at the back of each church for you to complete with what you will be bringing. Everyone is welcome. Don't forget to bring your own drinks!

## **ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, BICKLEY**

Events celebrating the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of St. George's Church continue with 'Music for a Summer's Evening' on 7 September, a late summer concert with Pimms in the garden (£15), and a History Study Day on the subject of 'Anglo-Catholics and Others' on 21 September presented by Bromley Borough Local History Society (£10), both payable on the door.

## **HARVEST WEEKEND AT ST. JAMES'S CHURCH**

We are holding our Harvest Supper on Saturday 5 October 6pm for 6.30pm. Tickets £10. Roast chicken, roast potatoes, vegetables. Apple crumble/apple pie with custard or cream. Bring your own drinks (glasses provided). Coffee/tea to follow. Please let us know in advance of any dietary requirements you may have. Our Harvest Festival with Church Parade will be on Sunday 6 October at 9.15am.

## **FUTURE EVENTS AT ST. JAMES'S**

Saturday 5 October – Harvest Supper – Roast meal  
Saturday 2 November – Autumn Fair – 10.00am-2.00pm  
Stalls, Games, Refreshments  
Saturday 16 November – Quiz – 6.30pm to 7.00pm start

**Please support our fund raising events.**

## **ST. JAMES'S DAY**

Well, not exactly the day, but we celebrated our patron saint on 28<sup>th</sup> July. After parish breakfast we set about laying up for a bring and share lunch. As usual we had a wonderful spread brought by members of the congregation. This particular day someone had come to the church while taking his daughter's dog for a walk. If he'd had more time he'd have taken the dog home, but he and the dog were welcome to share our time of devotion, and afterwards lunch – although I don't think the dog had any of the food. This was a truly wonderful experience, and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who stayed on. Our thanks to those who organised this, and those who cleared up afterwards.

## **ST. JAMES'S REMOVAL EXPERTS**

Thanks to the working party who came down to the Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and flexed their muscles helping to move furniture around. Hopefully things are now in the right place. What would we do without our willing volunteers? They don't even get offered the King's shilling, and it's amazing what they'll do for a cuppa and a doughnut.

## **WEEDING WORKING PARTY**

It's the grounds where weeds abound. It's a miracle, nobody plants them with tender loving care, nobody nurtures them, but still they grow and multiply. Okay, they're plants where we don't want them, squeezing up through the asphalt and paving stones, against walls and fences. They don't take offence that we don't love them.

A working party was held on 17 August to deal with the weeds that had grown around the church in the paving by the carpark. Again, a cuppa and doughnuts were on hand to keep the team going. It was well worth the effort as the area now looks tidy and gives a better impression of our church as people walk down St. James's Avenue.

It is hoped to hold regular working parties to keep the grounds and interior of our church tidy and clean. If you are able to give up a couple of hours on a Saturday morning your help would be very much appreciated. Please look out for the next date.

## **THANKS**

Our thanks to Geoff who does sterling work in the gardens around St. James's church. You will have noticed that Geoff had done a lot of work in the West Garden and it's hoped that we can use the garden in the future.

## **GREETINGS CARDS**

Thanks also to Claire who brings down her stock of greetings cards to St. James's. Please take a look through them and support this fund raising initiative, which is under the wing of the External Affairs Committee. The proceeds are sent to various charities, including recent donations to the Alzheimers Society and St. Christopher's

## **FORWARD IN FAITH/SOCIETY CORNER**

As we are all aware, since Bishop Norman retired at Easter Richborough has been in vacancy. Fr. Clive Jones updated the FinF Committee on the appointment of the new Bishop. He had just returned from the Richborough Council meeting at Walsingham and the appointment was proceeding. Interviews should be held in late summer with an announcement before Christmas and an enthronement in early February.

St. George's Church, Bickley, are hosting a:

### **Forward in Faith Quiz Night**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 7.00 for a 7.30 p.m. start

Tables of up to 6 persons

£5 per head payable on the night

Bring your own refreshments and friends

To book please contact Monica: [monica@falconavenue.co.uk](mailto:monica@falconavenue.co.uk)

## **News from 9th Penge & Beckenham North Scout Group**

Our summer break from Scouting gives us time to reflect on the past few busy months, plus time to start planning some exciting activities for the rest of the year.

We ended our summer term with a group picnic one balmy evening at Frylands Wood. All the Beavers, Cubs & Scouts invited their families and everyone enjoyed a game of cricket, a big water fight and the added bonus of an inflatable 'Bungee Run' all to ourselves.

Also before we broke up, we enjoyed our annual group camp over a wet weekend at Cudham Shaws near Orpington. The never-ending torrential rain didn't dampen our spirits, we just pulled on our wellies and got (very!) soggy trying out the air rifles, zip wire, obstacle course and cave bus all located on the campsite. We kept dry indoors with a very entertaining Talent Show which was a real highlight! It was a fantastic weekend for all the children - a chance to try new activities and to make lifelong friendship bonds.

When we get back together after the summer break we will welcome more new starters into our group. We are very happy to have the new boys & girls plus their families as additions to our little community, as we continue to expand our scout group.

Next term already we have lined up...a family Bat Walk in Keston led by professional instructors from BEECHE at High Elms, the ever popular St James's Harvest Festival Church Parade, and a trip to the pantomime at Churchill Theatre in Bromley (oh yes we have!)

***Sue Guckian***

### **Piano By D. H. Lawrence**

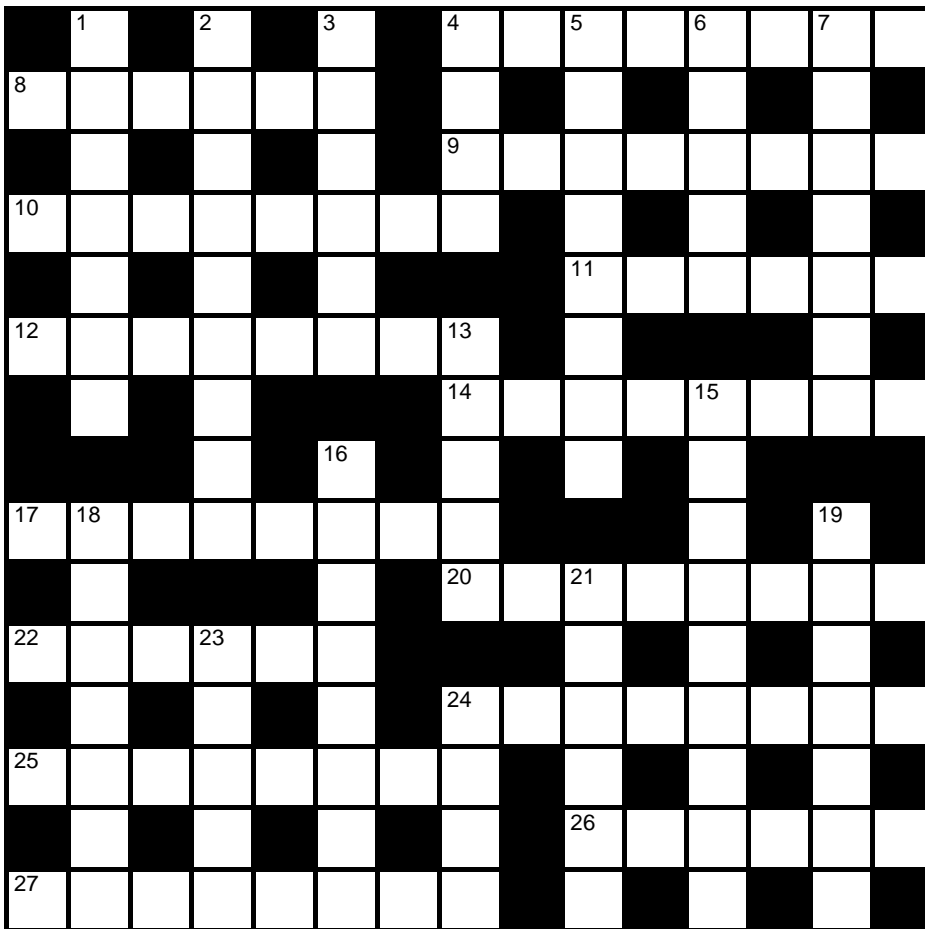
Softly, in the dusk, a woman is singing to me;  
Taking me back down the vista of years, till I see  
A child sitting under the piano, in the boom of the tingling strings  
And pressing the small, poised feet of a mother who smiles as she sings.

In spite of myself, the insidious mastery of song  
Betrays me back, till the heart of me weeps to belong  
To the old Sunday evenings at home, with winter outside  
And hymns in the cosy parlour, the tinkling piano our guide.

So now it is vain for the singer to burst into clamour  
With the great black piano appassionato. The glamour  
Of childish days is upon me, my manhood is cast  
Down in the flood of remembrance, I weep like a child for the past.



# SEPTEMBER PUZZLES (Solutions next month)



Solon 46

## Across

- 4 Howard Hughes loses dash to have no finish (5-3)
- 8 Father and woman together find dish (6)
- 9 Eccentric lawyer touted to be obsolete (8)
- 10 Admire head picture (8)
- 11 Ely, for one, was turned up and down (6)
- 12 States that descaler works (8)
- 14 Charlie and Romeo leave unbelievable food (8)
- 17 Canons, reportedly, are influential types (3,5)
- 20 Eruditely lose rook manically for Christmas period (8)
- 22 Hendrix took reports evenly for newsman (6)
- 24 Queen accepts no rubbish for comment (8)
- 25 I'm a frail poor witch's cat (8)
- 26 Cost of a horse (6)
- 27 Stan has surprisingly dark drinking vessels (8)

## Down

- 1 Keir's cupboard? (7)

- 2 Insomnia in Washington? (9)
- 3 Move quickly into job (6)
- 4 Antipodean small jumpers (4)
- 5 Chaotic oriental student won't take exams (8)
- 6 Pull in for heaven's sake (5)
- 7 Look at organ (7)
- 13 Sibling, extremely shy could be a big girl's blouse (5)
- 15 Fake restriction left out (9)
- 16 Attendant has date that is right (8)
- 18 The state of Jones? (7)
- 19 Accidentally ignited for 22's work (7)
- 21 Arrive with gold carriage (6)
- 23 Fool could be a fast one! (5)
- 24 Weapons kept up ones sleeves? (4)

## SUDOKU

		5			7	2		
3				8				
			1		9	6	4	
	1			2		4	9	
		6				5		
	9	4		1			2	
	3	7	4		5			
				6				4
		2	8			9		

## SOLUTIONS TO AUGUST PUZZLES

**Across:** 6 Scarf, 7 Flatiron, 10 Rump, 11 T-bone, 12 Lash, 13 Feasted, 15 Topside, 18 Porterhouse, 22 Sirloin, 24 Shrimps, 26 Bead, 28 Fakir, 29 Arch, 30 Teaspoon, 31 Steak.

**Down:** 1 Accused, 2 Trap, 3 Afoot, 4 Gazebo, 5 Vial, 8 Onside, 9 At rest, 14 Spoil, 16 Sushi, 17 Ark, 19 Others, 20 Ribeye, 21 Special, 23 Inflow, 25 Eking, 27 Dusk, 29 Ante.

5	7	9	6	1	4	2	3	8
4	6	2	8	3	9	7	5	1
3	1	8	5	7	2	6	9	4
1	3	4	7	9	6	5	8	2
9	8	5	4	2	3	1	7	6
6	2	7	1	8	5	9	4	3
2	5	1	3	4	7	8	6	9
7	9	3	2	6	8	4	1	5
8	4	6	9	5	1	3	2	7

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Please send items for the October issue of the Newsletter to Jan ([janetgore@aol.com](mailto:janetgore@aol.com)) by Thursday 19 September

## DIRECTORY

Vicar:	Fr. Russell Stagg	020 8402 2712 07526 621232
	Email: vicar@stjamesandstmichael.org.uk	
<u>Churchwardens:</u>		
St. James's	Mrs. G. Binnie	020 8650 0342
St. Michael's	Mr. M. Philippault	07838 146467
	Email: office.stmichaelbeckenham@gmail.com	
Benefice Administrator	Mrs. J. Perry	07838 146467
	Email: <a href="mailto:office.stjamesbeckenham@gmail.com">office.stjamesbeckenham@gmail.com</a>	
	Email: office.stmichaelbeckenham@gmail.com	
Hall bookings	Mrs. J. Perry	07838 146467
St. James's Fellowship	First Friday of each month 2.00pm-3.30pm Guild Room	
Rainbow Guides	6 <sup>th</sup> Beckenham – Suspended	
Brownie Guides	6 <sup>th</sup> Beckenham Tuesday in the Hall 6.15pm-7.45pm Miss A. Mansfield	020 8658 1680
Guides	6 <sup>th</sup> Beckenham Friday in the Hall 7pm-8.30pm Miss A. Mansfield	020 8658 1680
Beavers	Thursday in the Lecture Room 6.30pm-8.00pm Claudia Gotor-Pedrerros	<a href="mailto:claudiagotor@gmail.com">claudiagotor@gmail.com</a>
Cub Scouts	Thursday in the Hall 6.30pm-8.00pm Sue Guckian	<a href="mailto:sueguckian@gmail.com">sueguckian@gmail.com</a>
Scouts	Thursday in the Hall 8.00pm-9.00pm Jaime Griffiths	<a href="mailto:jaimegriffiths@hotmail.co.uk">jaimegriffiths@hotmail.co.uk</a>
All Beaver/Cub/Scout enquiries to Group Scout Leader		<a href="mailto:9thpbnbeavers@gmail.com">9thpbnbeavers@gmail.com</a>
Pre-School	Jenny Strudwick	020 8249 8386