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PARISH MAGAZINE



FEBRUARY 2012

THIRTY PENCE

Father Peter Writes

St James has enjoyed and been known for its catholic style of worship and tradition for well over one hundred years. It is a tradition that helps to give colour, depth and balance to the Church of England. It has taught the wider church much and still has much to teach it. We in our turn can learn much from the evangelical wing of the Church.

Members of many evangelical churches are taught they are welcome in that church but as a member of it they must observe the three 'P's. The three 'P's being, to pray, to play and to pay.

To pray, they must be committed to the worship of that church on a regular basis and to be regular in their prayer life throughout the week and not just on Sunday.

They must play their part in the life of the church; attend the study groups and other activities of the church.

They must pay by being committed to supporting the financial life of the church and to ensuring that its mission is not hampered through financial worry or lack of funds.

This month sees our Stewardship Campaign and all members of St James' Church will receive a letter about this. I would ask to please all to respond as you can and to observe the three 'P's. To pray daily for this campaign, using the short litany on the card you will receive and for an appropriately generous response to it. To play your part in supporting this aspect of church life and to come along on Sunday 19th February to hear the presentation from our treasurer. To pay, in response to all that God has given to you, in response to all that the church has offered you in the past or may need to offer you in the future. To pay in proportion to your own circumstances which only you can know.

This all needs to be funded and it is up to us to see that our mission in this place, as given by God, is not hampered by lack of funds or worries over financial matters.

Wishing you every blessing

Fr Peter Walker

Looking ahead to 2012 - Bishop Stephen's New Year Message

The Olympic year has arrived. The whole world is coming to the Chelmsford diocese. What does this mean for us? What will people be looking for?

Well, the lucky ones who have tickets won't be doing much more than enjoying the games. But most of us didn't get tickets. We want to watch what's happening and cheer our competitors on, but I think, intuitively, we are rather hoping that it will be something more than just sitting in front of the telly with a pizza on our lap and a beer in our hand. The Olympics is a great world-wide festival of sport and culture. It is happening on our door step. We want to feel as if we're joining in the celebrations, not just observing them. This is where the church comes in. We have an opportunity here to use the excitement and the anticipation of the Olympics to bring people together, to create in our own communities a place of celebration, where just watching the event together, with others, can make us feel part of it.

Building community is a vital ministry for the church. Many of us lead isolated lives. Often we know the names of the people who live in Albert Square, but haven't spoken to our own next door neighbour for years. But loving your neighbour is basic to the Christian faith. It is also what people crave. We long to live in warm, supportive and cohesive communities. So drawing people together in community celebrations is good in itself: it is also the indispensable prerequisite of any Christian service or mission. Unless we know people and people know us there can be no effective witness.

So make the most of the Olympics. Enjoy them. Think how we can use this opportunity to build community and nurture friendship. From it God can do all sorts of other wonderful things; and in it-self it is a sign of God's hospitality and God's longing for the world to live in peace. This might be a good New Year's resolution: what can I do to get to know my neighbour and to serve my community?

Rt Revd Bishop Stephen Cottrell

The Bishop of Chelmsford

Monday Mass

Monday 6th February 11-00am Alderwood Nursing Home Essex Hall Rd.
7-00pm St James

Monday 13th February 11-00am Colonia Crt. St Andrew's Avenue

Monday 20th February 11-00am Cranmere Crt

Monday 27th February 8-00pm 60b East Hill.

House Mass

Please join us for the February House Mass at the home of Kate Thurston, 60b East Hill; on Monday 27th February at 8-00pm. Everyone is very welcome to join us for this time of worship and fellowship.

From the Parish Registers

Holy Marriage

10th December 2011

Andrew James Livingstone & Gaybrielle Louise Baker

Holy Baptism

20th November 2011.

Angela-Marie Daracan

8th January 2012

Stephen Jihun Oh.

Communicant Figures for 2011

People made their communion 5627 times in or from St James last year, a weekly average of 108.

The other registers show, 6 people received the Sacrament of Baptism. 4 couples were married in St James.

Fr Peter officiated at 16 funerals, 4 in St James and 12 at the crematorium or cemetery. Funerals are very down in number from other years. I understand this is a local and national trend but also may have been affected by Fr Peter's time out of the parish.

Saints Days and Holy Days February

Thursday 2nd February

The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (Candlemass)

Mass St James 12-30pm.

Sung Mass for Candlemass in School on Friday 3rd February at 9-00am.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 22nd February 2012.

Mass St James 12-30pm

Sung Mass St James 7-30pm with sermon to launch the St James
Lenten School of prayer.

Imposition of Ashes at both Masses.

The Bishop of Chelmsford

Bishop Stephen will be visiting the parish when he comes to St James' School on Wednesday 1st February. Please keep him and the School especially in your prayers that day.

Stations of The Cross

We will once again share Stations of the Cross with our brothers and sisters from St James the Less, Priory Street. This time of prayer will take place each Friday of Lent at 7-30pm beginning at St James the Less Priory Street on Friday 24th February.

Confirmation

Bishop Norman will be coming to St James on Friday 28th September to preside at Mass and to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you would like to be confirmed or to join the classes as a refresher or to support someone being Confirmed please speak with Fr Taemin or Fr Peter and look out for further information in church.

Stewardship

Please look out for the letter every member of St James' Church will receive later this month. As this letter addresses a very important matter, please give it your serious prayerful consideration.

Lent Theme

The St James' School of prayer

Bishop Stephen has asked that we give consideration to those things that make those of us who are Christians distinctive. It is not the good things that we do, for many people of all faiths and none do many good things in the service of others and the communities in church they live. It is not the fact that we say we have a faith; there are many people of faith around the country and the world. The things that mark Christians out from other groups are the message of the love of God that we know to be true. The fact that God took on human flesh to bring Salvation to His world. That Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the life and that there is no other way to come to God but through Jesus Christ. The things that mark Christians out are the relationship they have with God through prayer and through worship. Bishop Stephen is bidding us to re-focus ourselves on those distinctive things, to celebrate them, to renew our knowledge of them, to teach them again and anew. None of us know all that there is to know about the faith and sometimes even the basic things are new to us or we need to be reminded of.

With that in mind, our theme for this Lent will be prayer and the different aspects of prayer. The Sunday sermons will have this as their theme; the study groups will follow this up with practical examples, tips and hints on how to develop our prayer life. One highlight will be when Bishop Stephen leads our Good Friday devotions, when I am sure he will enlarge on this in his own way.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 22. February

Mass 12-30pm

Mass with Sermon 7-30pm

Preacher Fr Peter An introduction to the Lenten School of Prayer

27th February Sunday Lent 1

Preacher Fr Peter Prayer and Silence

4th March Sunday Lent 2

Preacher Fr Peter Prayer and The Bible

11th March Sunday Lent 3
Preacher Fr Taemin Prayer and The Sacraments

18th March Sunday Lent 4
Preacher Fr Taemin Prayer with Others

25th March Sunday Lent 5
Preacher Fr Peter Prayer for Others

More Details next month about:

- A quiet afternoon on Saturday 31st March, to prepare us to keep Holy Week and to introduce/re-introduce people to this style of prayer through silence and reflection.
- A Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament to explore our relationship with God in and through silent prayer.



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Churchwarden

With the Churchwardens Measure 2001, came a new part of the legislation that states a churchwarden in any parish may not normally serve for any longer than a six year period. This means that Paul Bareham's time as one of our churchwardens is coming to an end. He has worked hard on our behalf during that time and our thanks go to him for all he has done. There will be more opportunities for a formal thank-you at a later date, after his successor has been sworn-in in May. As we look to appointing our new warden we need to keep the following in our prayers and ask that God will guide us all to appoint the right person to help lead our worship and witness in the next six years.

THE ANCIENT OFFICE OF CHURCHWARDEN.

Churchwardens have been around for a very long time. The canons of the Church of England of 1604 set out a form of appointment for the wardens of any parish. Until a hundred years ago the wardens also held certain non-church responsibilities in the parish. Today things are rather different although the selection procedures and responsibilities of the wardens are still covered and controlled by Act of Parliament, by the Churchwardens Measure 2001. The basic number of churchwardens for each parish is two.

Prior to 1921, the churchwardens and the incumbent made all of the decisions and had responsibility for spending money in a parish. In 1921 PCC's were established and responsibilities were shared more widely than had been the case before. Since 1921 PCC's have been entrusted with the care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric of the church, its goods and ornaments. They must approve work to be done and allocate the necessary funds. The 1991 Code of Practice on the Care of Churches requires the churchwardens to keep records of all repairs and alterations, to inspect the fabric of the church and make an annual fabric report to the PCC and to the annual meeting.

The Canons of the Church of England, the rules and laws which govern our church, remind us that churchwardens are:

- officers of the bishop (not the incumbent or the PCC)
- must be foremost in representing the laity and co-operating with

the incumbent.

- must use their best endeavours by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace among them
- must discharge the duties assigned to them by law or custom, (these include the care of fabric and ornaments as mentioned above)
- must maintain order and decency in the church and churchyard especially during the time of divine service.
- hold title to the moveable goods of the church and keep and inventory of those goods, keep it up to date and hand over this inventory to their successor who must check it.

In addition,

- if a warden is a communicant member of the Church and is on the church electoral roll, they are automatically a member of the PCC.
- if there is no PCC treasurer then it falls to the wardens to fulfil this task.
- during an interregnum then other tasks automatically fall to the churchwardens.

Even with all of the changes over the last hundred years, the churchwardens are today still the senior lay officials in the parish. The partnership of incumbent and churchwarden is a key partnership in the effective functioning of any parish. The modern churchwarden is seen as an essential part of the 'leadership team' of the parish and will have a say in many of the decisions that govern the parish and the church.

A good churchwarden needs many talents, perhaps the most important is the basis of prayer and spirituality that he or she must have. From that grows the leadership they exercise and their ability to work with the parish priest (not always easy!).

Please discuss with me any suggestions you may have for the very important position of our churchwarden and keep the matter firmly in your prayers. If you are approached to be a churchwarden, it would also be helpful to discuss with me how the role will be explored, as it is vital that incumbent and churchwarden do work together. The guide to

the legislation reminds us, it is most important that the minister and people begin considering the choice of churchwardens well in advance of the meeting. The minister and the parishioners should seek wherever possible to come to a common mind. However, it is also important that the election should not be 'fixed' in advance in such a way as to discourage people who wish to serve and are qualified to do so from standing for election.

According to law, nominations must be made in writing and be with me 18-00hrs on Friday 23rd March, nomination forms are available from me at the Rectory or in church.

Our annual meetings this year are in St James' Church on Sunday 25th March following evensong. Fr Peter.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Why we receive the ashes

Following the example of the Nine vites, who did penance in sackcloth and ashes, our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and reminds us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told

"Remember, Man is dust, and unto dust you shall return."

Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts which they were to wear during the forty days of penance, and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of their sins -- just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until Maundy Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days' penance and sacramental absolution. Later, all Christians, whether public or secret penitents, came to receive ashes out of devotion.

Fr. Taemin writes articles (referred to *Tufton Tracts*, but reconstructed in our perspective) in our Parish Magazine to deal with some tricky questions which some of us might have.

The six themes are; *Making the Sign of the Cross, Lighting a Candle, Genuflecting and Bowing, Burning Incense, Anointing with Oil*, and *Asking the Prayers of the Saints*. If you have any other questions apart from these six themes, please do not hesitate to speak to Fr. Taemin or Fr. Peter.

Ordinary vs Special



God created this world and all within it! Also, he makes ordinary things very special by separating them from the usual circumstances; sometimes, he chooses a person and make him or her very special as we can see many examples in the Bible – Prophet Samuel anointed little David by God’s message (picture on the left).

What about ‘materials’ that we use, then? All we can see during the Mass, such as chalice (cup) and paten (plate) are actually common items that we use in our daily life (it doesn’t need to be a silver plate, yet we need a plate!). When Jesus had the last supper with

his disciples, they must have used ordinary cups, plates, bread and wine. But, what makes them special was ‘the blessing of God which descended on the particular item.’ That’s why many of us ask priest to bless our new rosary before we use them in our prayers.

In this month’s article, we will examine the very ordinary - and at the same time, very special – thing; the Oil, and its use. It is ordinary / common / normal oil that we have in our church, yet it is very special / blessed / separated oil to be used for specific occasions.

Why Oil?

Oil has been the symbol of harvest, abundance, healing, sanctity and blessing for Jewish people for many years and the olive oil is the most common one. In the Old Testament era, God’s prophets used to pour this oil onto someone’s head to establish a new leadership or in other words, the divine authority. So, the oil was

not only the symbol of ‘the affirmation of God’s blessing,’ but also, it was the symbol of ‘faith of God’s people.’

Again, in the New Testament period, we can find other traditions and uses of oil among the people of Israel. In the letter of our patron saint - St. James, he says ‘Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up (James 5:14-15).’ According to St. James, two elements – anointing with oil and praying over them – were the source of God’s healing-power and he commands us to do everything ‘in the name of the Lord.’

SC, OI, OS and OC?



We know that there are many different grades of oil in the shelves at Tesco or Sainsbury’s, etc. What about the oil that we use in the church? Do we also have ‘Extra Holy Oil’? The answer is No, but we have *three different types of oil* which can be used for several different occasions.

1) The Oil of Catechumens (OC)

As we can see from the word ‘Catechumen’ which means somebody who is preparing to be a Christian, this oil of Catechumens is used for Baptism. Priest uses this oil of Catechumens to make a Sign of the Cross on the forehead of candidate, before he or she is actually baptised with (blessed) water. There is a very interesting theory behind this too. So, if you don’t know what that is, please ask Fr. Peter!

2) The Oil of the Sick-Infirmity (OS or OI)

This oil is for those who are sick. As we already have seen from the Letter of St. James, the priest uses this oil to bless the sick. In this occasion, the sick person receives the Sign of the Cross on his or her palms and forehead, and the priest uses specific words, such as ‘raise you up!’ Because of what St. James said, it is also a very common practice to do ‘laying-on hands’ prayer before the anointing the sick with the oil.

3) The Oil of Chrism (SC; Sacred Chrism)

This oil is used for special occasions such as Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood. The word ‘Chrism’ means ‘separating things for special purpose – God’s purpose.’ So, it seems absolutely reasonable to use the Oil of Chrism for

Ordination. But, the bishop also uses this Oil of Chrism for lay people as well; he uses this oil for the Confirmation. In our Confirmation rite, the bishop clearly mentions that it is Christ who claims the life of that confirmation candidate. So, the person is being separated from the others and becomes holy, by the grace of God, through the work of Holy Spirit. It is very powerful statement - whether we are aware of it or not – that ‘Our life is no longer ours, but His.’

What is the Chrism Mass?

We now know which oil the priest or bishop uses for which occasions. But you may have another question; ‘Where can you get those oil, Father?’ Well, surely we don’t get them from Amazon or EBay. But, a bishop makes these oils through a special service called ‘Chrism Mass.’



Chrism Mass happens during Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday (when we have foot-washing!), a bishop leads this special Mass and many priests (usually those who are under the pastoral care of that specific bishop) join the Mass. During the Mass, the bishop blesses the Oil and blows the air (as you can see from the photo on the left) as a sign of Holy Spirit moving

into the Oil. Then priests take oils from this Mass and use them throughout a year, until the next Chrism Mass. Bishop Norman, who is our bishop, also will call his priests for his Chrism Mass during the Holy Week, and I am privileged to be a deacon for his Chrism Mass this year.

What should I do to receive this special Sacrament?

Now we know that anointing with Oil is one of the important practices in Christianity. Therefore, if you are sick or waiting for an important operation, I strongly recommend you to speak to me or Fr. Peter. We will explain more details about this Sacrament and will assist you to receive the Sacrament. However, if you just want to have a go, you are most welcomed to our ***Parish Healing Mass*** – You will receive ‘laying on-hands’ prayer in silence, and will be anointed with the OS or OI (the Oil of the Sick-Infirmity) on Wednesday evening. Fr. Taemin

YEAR TO DATE FINANCE REPORT

30TH NOVEMBER 2011

INCOME	£
Payments direct to bank	15,276
Weekly envelopes	9,338
Gift Aid donations	3,503
Payroll giving	530
Cash collections	2,085
One off gift donations	4,133
Other receipts	15,740
TOTAL INCOME	50,605
EXPENSES	66,817
CUMULATIVE DEFICIT	-16,212

Income and expenditure on specific projects and accounts, e.g. the organ fund, are not included.

JUST TO SAY THANK YOU.....

to all the friends at St James for the prayers, good wishes, help and support and wishing you all a Happy New Year. Brian Appleby

ST JAMES RECIPE BOOK

We hope to produce a recipe book to be ready for Christmas 2012.

Would you like to have your favourite recipe included?

To make sure we don't infringe any copyright any small changes to make it 'your own' would be advised.

Please give your recipes to Sheila Sansom.

Thank you in anticipation!

Christmas

Thanks must go to everyone who helped with Christmas at St James this year. As ever, behind the scenes, so many people did so many things to make our times of worship all that they were. Thanks must go to them all. It was very good to have our Christmas Choir singing for us, such a large number of them too! Those who sang all tell me they found it very enjoyable. We look forward to them singing in St James again soon.

Fr Peter.

Alderwood Nursing Home

There is a new nursing home recently opened in the Parish in Essex Hall Road. Fr Taemin and I will be keeping contact with the staff and residents as we try to do with all such residences in the Parish. This is a new establishment and we will begin a monthly Holy Communion service on Monday 6th February at 11-00am.

Tree of Light

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2011 Tree of Light which was the most successful so far. 92 people dedicated lights (77 in 2010) and thanks to increased corporate sponsorship – to cover set up costs - as well as some very generous individual donations the gross income was in excess of £2,000 which will be divided among church funds, St. Helena Hospice and a Bethlehem charity.

This year will be the 10th Tree of Light in the parish, let's make it a good one! Caroline

Wednesday Study Group at Benson House

The Wednesday Study Group will resume at a later date.

Baby Hats

A letter has been received from Karen Moss the Neonatal Unit Manager at Colchester Hospital thanking for the lovely knitted hats that were sent to the unit. She says the babies will make great use of the hats and it is very much appreciated.

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The Old Testament Prophets

We are beginning a series of studies on the Old Testament Prophets, with the prophet Amos being the first one to receive John Thompson's attention. For some time now John has been writing a monthly article on the background to several of the Psalms. John, a member of our congregation who worships with us at the Thursday Mass, is an eminent Hebrew scholar. He was part of the team responsible for the translation from Hebrew of the Old Testament of the New English Bible.

The New English Bible was the first full translation of the bible into contemporary English in this country since the Reformation. It is true that the Revised Version and the Revised Standard Version of the Bible has been published earlier in the century. It is also true that the Revised Standard Version is considered by many scholars to be the best translation of the Bible from the original texts but it was translated in America and so did not use the words and spelling that perhaps we are more familiar with in the United Kingdom.

The New English Bible began its journey in 1948 and the New Testament was first published in 1961 with the Old Testament and the Apocrypha published in 1970. It was a work that received support from many of the reformed churches of the United Kingdom. It is a very important document as it began a process that is still ongoing today, which seeks to keep the language of the Bible fresh and understandable.

I hope you find John's contributions helpful and we thank him for his hard work on our behalf. Fr Peter.

THE DAY OF THE LORD in AMOS (1)

DARKNESS AND MISERY

'Fools who long for the Day of the Lord what will the Day of the Lord mean to you?

It will be darkness not light' Amos 5 vv 18 - 20.

These words were to occupy the thought of prophets from Amos the earliest whose sayings have been recorded to Joel the latest. Rather than that the day when the Lord God was to rise up to judge the nations being a time of great joy for his chosen people it came to be considered by many prophets as a time of darkness and misery.

'I will make it like mourning for an only son
and the end of a bitter day.'

Amos lived some two centuries after King David had consolidated into two kingdoms the tribes and Canaanite cities around which the Israelites had settled. This was a rare period of national prosperity. There had been considerable urbanisation as many farmers had become craftsmen and traders and moved to the security of walled towns and cities particularly Jerusalem and Samaria. However not everyone had benefited from the new found wealth. The population movement had weakened the original tribal structure of families and clans with their network of responsibilities which had assisted relatives in time of need. Now those who had fallen on hard times, such as farmers in a prolonged drought, resorted to loans which if they were not able to redeem could result in selling their children or even themselves as slaves. In the desire for riches, exploitation, sometimes by dubious legal means, became common against those not able to defend themselves.

Amos who had lived in Tekoa a hill farming community on the outskirts of the Judean wilderness that stretches steeply down to the Dead Sea experienced the call to confront the inhabitants of one of the most prosperous regions of the Northern Kingdom an area originally settled by the tribe of Joseph. Like all prophets he could produce memorable oracles.

'Let justice roll on like a river

and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.'

But with him fine words and phrases were insufficient. His verses are full of evidence of wrongdoing as if he is preparing a case against the nation's people.

'They grind the heads of the poor into the earth

and thrust the humble out of the way.'

More often though he makes an unflinching direct attack on miscreants

'You that turn justice upside down

you that hate a man who brings wrongdoers to court

you who persecute the guiltless'

His words are never minced, he addresses vicious wine-loving women as fat cows, and none were fatter than those from Basham. But simply staying within the law was not deemed sufficient to stay his tongue. Wealthy citizens who could enjoy their luxuries while at the same time ignoring the encroaching social decay do not escape attention.

'You who sprawl over your couches

feasting on lambs from the flock and fatted calves

You who drink wine by the bowlful
and lard yourselves with richest oils
but are not grieved at the ruin of Joseph'.

For Amos this was an unethical fools' paradise unworthy of followers of a
righteousness God so that the revelry of these loungers must inevitable
pass away in grief.

'On that day said the Lord God
I will make the sun go down at noon
and darken the earth in broad daylight.'

John Thompson

The Presentation of The Lord in the Temple

The story of the Presentation is told in Luke 2:22-29. Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and observed their religious customs. An important custom was for the couple to take their first-born son to the Temple. The baby was taken to the Temple forty days after his birth and was dedicated to God. When Jesus was forty days old, Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem. They were not wealthy, so they took two turtle doves with them to offer as a sacrifice at the Temple. As they arrived at the Temple, Mary and Joseph were met by a very old man named Simeon. He was a holy man and was noted as a very intelligent scholar. Simeon spent much time studying about the prophets of Israel. It was during his studies that he learned of the coming of the Messiah. The Jewish people were waiting for the Messiah to come and deliver Israel from their conquerors. From that time on, Simeon spent his time praying for the Messiah to come. He spent many years in prayer. Finally, while Simeon was praying he heard the voice of God. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah.

When Simeon saw Jesus, he took the baby in his arms and blessed the Lord and said: "Lord, now let Your servant go in peace according to Your promise, because my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory to your people Israel."

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School News

www.st-james-colchester.essex.sch.uk

GARDEN OF EDEN

Since our last piece in the newsletter, the school has made great strides with this project. Our outdoor hexagonal is now in place and is being used, complete with a cross on the top of the roof and 3 water butts to collect the rainwater. In addition, a fence has been erected to define our area with 3 gated entrances with arches. We are now deciding what to grow up the arches and are now planning on the layout of our area. This is a major addition and enhancement to our school facilities and will help to further develop our Christian ethos and curriculum. We are planning to hold a number of worship events in the area too. Do come and have a look! Many thanks must go to The Friends of Saint James' School for funding the hexagonal classroom.

OH YES WE ARE!

By the time this magazine goes to print, all pupils in the school will have seen a pantomime performance by a theatre group, completely free of charge, funded by The Friends of Saint James' School.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS - CAROL SINGING AND SCHOOL CHOIR

Our carol singing at the castle and two local homes for senior citizens was a great success in December and the school choir did a fantastic job at the school carol service in church. It was lovely to have the school and church community working together on the tableau scenes. I hope that the congregation welcomed the 4 new advent scene doors and nativity scene that were produced by staff and pupils of the school.

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS

The school has now received both the Ofsted and Church School Inspection reports and the P.C.C. has been given an overview from the School's Deputy Headteacher. The recommendations from the Ofsted Report have now been formulated in to an action plan, which has been approved by the Governing Body. The school has divided itself in to four teams, which are each working on our identified priority areas of 1) improving the quality of teaching and learning 2) further developing mathematics 3) ensuring that our monitoring and evaluation is more rigorous 4) R.E. and Worship development. The school and church can be particularly proud of the care, guidance and support that we give to the pupils as we live out our strapline of 'A Christian School, Serving The Community'.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

I am very pleased to announce that the school has ordered a set of Stations of the Cross, which are child-friendly and will help us to tell the Easter Story to the pupils. They will also help us to teach parts of our Religious Education Syllabus.

AND FINALLY.....,

Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages.

Suddenly, something fell out.

He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found," he called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked."

With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

Jeff Graham, Headteacher

DIARY DATES for 2012

Friday 3rd February	Cheese and Wine Party, 7-00pm, at the Rectory
Sunday 25th March	Annual Parochial Church Meetings
Good Friday 6th April	Devotions at the Foot of the Cross To be led by the Bishop of Chelmsford.
Friday 20th April	Quiz Night at St James' School
Monday 4th June	Church Open Day and Jubilee Street Party.
Saturday 7th July	An International Day at the Rectory. Food, activities and other experiences from members of our congregation.
Wednesday 25th July	St James' Day. Bishop Norman to preside and preach.
Saturday 15th September	Grand Cake Sale at Benson House
21st to 23rd September	Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham
Friday 28th September	Confirmation
Friday 13th October	Giftware Evening

Cheese & Wine Evening

There will be a Cheese and Wine evening at the Rectory on Friday 3rd February, beginning at 7-00pm. Tickets will be £10-00 each and are available in Church or from the Rectory.

Pre Lent Social

There will a pre-Lent social evening at the home of Stephen Pawlak on Shrove Tuesday 21st February from 7-00pm. Look out for the posters for more information.

If you need help with transport that can be arranged.

Jubilee Tea Parties

It is our hope to organise 60 Tea Parties during this year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The first one was held at the Rectory on January 2nd and raised £120-00. This was probably one of the larger ones. Could you organise one to help with our finances? Others are arranged for the year. Plans include a Street Party on Monday 4th June to mark the jubilee weekend and there will also be children's tea party in the

Rectory garden at some stage during the summer. What can you do to help make this year special?

Parish Walks 2012

The parish walk programme starts on 18 February 2012 with a visit to Walton-on-the-Naze. We will walk up the seafront past the tower and walk around Walton Hall marshes before returning to the town. After this we will visit the pier where if we are lucky we might find a Mediterranean Gull. Meet at Colchester station for the 08:56 departure train (09:07 from town station)

Then, on April 21 we visit Mersea Island. This will take us around the perimeter of the island starting and finishing in West Mersea. This will be a longer walk of c.10 miles and will take us along seawalls past marshland and along beaches. Little Egrets may be found on the marsh and along the shore. Meet at Colchester bus station around 08:30.

Don't forget to wear stout footwear, and while there are cafés in Walton you will need a packed lunch for the Mersea island walk. A pair of binoculars may also be of use!

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We are the longest established Thai Restaurant in Colchester Essex, Britain's oldest recorded town.

We pride ourselves on serving only the best in truly authentic Thai dishes, all freshly prepared and cooked from locally sourced suppliers by our highly experienced Bangkok-trained Thai chefs.



Thai 1 can be found just a few hundred yards on the right hand side travelling up East Hill Colchester, going towards the Town and Castle Park. We

are located directly beside the pedestrian crossing and offer FREE parking to the rear of our premises, with on-road parking also available immediately in front of the building.



Thai 1 restaurant is bright and modern but still retains that real feel of Thai decor, our waitresses are both informed and attentive to your needs, offering genuine Thai hospitality.

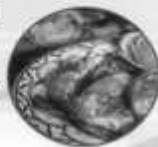


Our exceptionally good value, low priced, authentic Thai menu will make your journey very much worthwhile.



Alternatively, we offer our Thai 1 take away menu for home delivery anywhere within the Colchester area, with FREE local delivery for orders over £10.00.

Thai 1 restaurant is available to hire for private functions and we also offer an excellent outside catering service. Please feel free to call us on 01206 870770 and we'd be happy to discuss with you.



Signature A selection of our 'House Special' dishes:

Starters

- Thai 1 Gung Pao (Our Speciality)** £9.95
Giant king prawns, marinated in garlic, pepper and butter then char grilled, served with hot sour sauce.
- Phed Sawang** £6.95
Specially prepared crispy duck pancakes served with hot sin dip.
- Tom Yum Gung** £5.50
The most popular of all Thai soups, a combination of tender king prawn sharp with lemon grass, lime juice, citrus leaves, chilli and mushrooms.

Thai 1 Restaurant
Tel: 01206 870011

82A East Hill, Colchester, Essex CO1 2QW

Main Courses

- Weeping Tiger** £11.95
Marinated sirloin steak, flame grilled with a spicy sauce.
- Gaeng Musaman Lamb** £8.95
Muslim lamb curry in medium Thai spice.
- Phed Yang** £9.95
Roast duck Thai style served with honey and tamarin sauce.
- Thai 1 Gung Pao (Our Speciality)** £19.95
Giant king prawns, marinated in garlic, pepper and butter then char grilled, served with hot sour sauce.
- Panang** £7.95
A choice of Beef, Chicken, Pork, Prawn or Fish served in rich coconut milk, panang gravy and fresh lemon grass.
- Gaeng Musaman Nuea** £8.95
A typical muslim curry from south of Thailand. Beef in medium Thai spice curry.
- Gaeng Musaman Gai** £7.95
A typical muslim curry from south of Thailand. Chicken in a medium spicy curry sauce.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK: MONDAY - SATURDAY 6.00pm - 11.00pm, SUNDAY 6.00pm - 10.00pm

Mass and Prayer Intention for February

1 Wed	Bishop Stephen
2 Thu	Thanksgiving
3 Fri	Parish Finances
4 Sat	Walsingham
5 SUN	Church and Parish
6 Mon	HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee
7 Tues	The PCC
8 Wed	St James' School
9 Thu	Local Almshouse Trusts
10 Fri	Beacon House
11 Sat	Stewardship Campaign
12 SUN	Church and Parish
13 Mon	Ecumenical Relations
14 Tue	Local Hospitals
15 Wed	Local Funeral Directors
16 Thu	St Helena Hospice
17 Fri	The Faithful Departed
18 Sat	Stewardship Campaign
19 SUN	Church and Parish
20 Mon	Deanery Synod
21 Tue	Penitence
22 Wed	Lent
23 Thu	Mampong Babies' Home
24 Fri	Stations of the Cross
25 Sat	St James' School of Prayer
26 SUN	Church and Parish
27 Mon	Parish Prayerlife
28 Tue	Colchester Night Shelter
29 Wed	Lent Groups

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

1	Wed	19-00	Mass	St James
2	Thurs	12-30	Mass	St James
3	Fri	9-00	Mass	School
4	Sat	9-00	Mass	St James
5	SUN	8-00	Mass	
		10-00	Sung Mass	
		18-30	Evening Prayer	
6	Mon	11-00	Mass	Alderwood NH
		7-00	Mass	St James
7	Tues		NO MASS	
8	Wed	19-00	Mass	St James
9	Thurs	12-30	Mass	St James
10	Fri	9-00	Mass	School
11	Sat	9-00	Mass	St James
12	SUN	8-00	Mass	
		10-00	Sung Mass	
		18-30	Evening prayer	
13	Mon	11-00	Mass	Colonia Crt
14	Tues		NO MASS	
15	Wed	19-00	Mass	St James
16	Thurs	12-30	Mass	St James
17	Fri	9-00	Mass	St James
18	Sat	9-00	Mass	St James
19	SUN	8-00	Mass	
		10-00	Sung Mass	
		18-30	Evening Prayer	
20	Mon	11-00	Mass	Cranmere Crt
21	Tues		NO MASS	
22	Wed	12-30	Mass	St James
	Ash Wednesday	19-30	Sung Mass	St James
23	Thurs	12-30	Mass	St James
24	Fri	9-00	Mass	School
		19-30	Stations	St James the Less
25	Sat	9-00	Mass	St James
26	SUN	8-00	Mass	
		10-00	Sung Mass	
		18-30	Evening Prayer	
27	Mon	20-00	Mass	60B East Hill
28	Tues		NO MASS	
29	Wed	19-00	Mass	St James

Churchwardens of the Parish

Mr Paul Bareham 01206 210270
90 London Road
Copford CO6 1BJ

Mrs Janet Walker 01206 790448
38 Gladstone Road
Colchester CO1 2EA

Parochial Church Council Officers

Secretary Mrs Lucy Mason 01206 386766
2 The Anchorage
East Road
East Mersea CO5 8UJ

Treasurer Mr Tony Allen 01206570214
40 Wavell Avenue
Colchester CO2 7HP

**Electoral Roll
Officer** Mrs Sheila Sansom 07905516502
14 Greyfriars Court
The Secret Garden
Castle Road
Colchester CO1 1TL

**Child Protection
Officer** Mr Stephen Pawlak 01206 729810
Millbank
16 High Street
Rowhedge
Colchester CO5 7HQ

**Health & Safety
Officer** Mrs Janet Walker 01206 790448
38 Gladstone Road
Colchester CO1 2EA

St James' Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Headteacher	Mr Jeff Graham	01206 865747
Website	http://www.st-james-colchester.essex.sch.uk	
Bible Reading Fellowship	Mrs Madeline Bates	01206 364215
Childrens' Society	Mrs Joyce Mays	01206 841681
USPG (Mampong Babies Home)	Mrs Gill Scott	01206 867403
The Church Union (Local Contact)	Mrs Claire Epsom	01255 861202
Child Contact Centre stjamesccc@googlemail.com		07855 752421
Sidesmen	Mr Paul Bareham	01206 210270
Readers	Mrs Janet Walker	01206 790448
Intercessions	Fr Peter Walker	01206 866802
Stewardship	Mrs Kate Thurston	01206 793243
Organist	As arranged by rota	
Sacristan Team	Mr Brian Appleby	01206 852073
	Mr Paul Bareham	01206 210270
	Mr Stephen Pawlak	01206 729810
Children's' Liturgy & Flowers	Mrs Diana Irven	01206 386393
Magazine Editor	Mrs Lucy Mason	01206 386766

Rector **Fr Peter Walker SSC**
 Non Residentiary Canon of Chelmsford Cathedral
 Assistant Rural Dean of Colchester
 Surrogate for Marriage Licences.
 The Rectory 01206 866802
 76 East Hill 07867 972231
 Colchester CO1 2QW 01206 799444 (fax)
 fatherpeter@walkerssc.freemove.co.uk

Fr Peter and Caroline are always happy to welcome parishioners to the Rectory

Deacon **Fr Taemin Oh**
 Benson House 07737161317
 13 Roman Road 01206511598
 Colchester CO1 1UR
taemin.oh@gmail.com

Hon Asst. Priest **Fr Alan Cross SSC**

Services at *St James the Great, East Hill*

Sundays	Morning Prayer	07.25
	Said Mass	08:00
	Sung Mass	10:00
	Evening Worship	18.30
Weekdays	Morning Prayer	07.45
	Evening Prayer	18.00
Monday	Mass	See page 5
Tuesday	No Mass	
Wednesday	Mass	19:00
Thursday	Mass	12:30
Friday	Mass	09:00 In School during term
Saturday	Mass	09-00

Festivals and Saints Days see monthly calendar.

Confession	By appointment with the clergy
Holy Baptism	By arrangement after preparation
Ministry to the Sick	Names of the Sick to the clergy, the Blessed Sacrament is reserved for the communion of the Sick, and the Oil of the Sick for Anointing



February 2012