



The magazine of

St James's Church
New Barnet

and

Holy Trinity Church
Lyonsdown

Spring
2026

FREE



newslink

www.stjamesnewbarnet.org.uk 71 East Barnet Road

www.holytrinitylyonsdown.org.uk 18 Lyonsdown Road

What's in a name?

Jeremy Alford

Many of you will know me as Jeremy. In my career I was often known as Jerry. To University friends I was Alf. To my sons I'm Jezza or Pops. My grandchildren know me as Grandad.

Helen's dad was known as Pom-pom and my dad as Ses. It won't surprise you to learn that those weren't the names they were given at birth, but rather how their more difficult names (Dusan and Wesley) were pronounced by their grandchildren whilst very young.

My own gran used to say, "I don't mind what you call me, as long as you don't call me too late for tea!"

And we now know the name of our new vicar!

In some cultures, given names carry profound cultural significance, acting as vessels for heritage, spiritual beliefs, and familial hopes rather than simple identifiers. They often reflect nature or ancestors, signify birth circumstances, or hold religious, gender, and social status meanings. Across the globe, names are chosen to shape identity, bestow virtues, or provide protection.

There is though one name which is above all others.

The name of Jesus is the most powerful name in all of heaven and earth. Throughout the Scriptures and history, we see people calling on Jesus to cast out demons, heal the sick, raise the dead, and bring peace. Doesn't our broken world need to know the name of Jesus right now?

cont. on p2, lower half

Community gardens

more on p5



Trinity Patch



Jim's Shed @ EBVBC



Best wishes to everyone who was confirmed at St Andrew's Church in Hertford on 27 January, from left: Martine, Paul, Charles and Tatiana



Piano recital at St James; Paws in the Pews at Holy Trinity; Morning Table at Holy Trinity; Rooted Youth



Looking back

Toy Sunday Thank you to everyone who brought gifts for children and teenagers on Toy Sunday in December, and to Pam Bayman for organising it. Pam and Bob passed the gifts on to Barnet Family Services, who were very grateful for the amount of presents that had been donated.



Right: Pam passing on the toys to Barnet Family Services

Visitors at Christmas Over Christmas, we were pleased to welcome Livingstone School for their Christmas assembly, and Highview Nursery (who rent our downstairs rooms) who joined us for our Christmas carol singalong.



Livingstone Assembly; Highview Nursery at Singalong

What's in a name?

cont. from p1

When we call on his name, Jesus is made present within us and among us in all his power and love. 'Jesus' literally means 'God saves!' The name 'Jesus' is derived from the same Hebrew name as 'Joshua', who was Moses' helper and successor – the one who would lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Jesus leads us into the Promised Land – heaven – through his death and Resurrection. His is the name above all names.

“Salvation comes no other way; no other name has been or will be given to us by which we will be saved, only this one.”

Acts 4:12 (The Message Bible translation)

Do we truly believe that when we call on him, he comes? The concerns of this world can seem overwhelming, but we can do something about it. You and I, weak and helpless as we often feel, can

World Day of Prayer service This year our local World Day of Prayer service in March was held at Brookside Methodist Church, attended by around 50 people from many local churches. The World Day of Prayer is an international movement led by Christian women in more than 120 countries. In the UK, World Day of Prayer services are run jointly by groups of local churches.

Barnet Band concert As well as playing at our Carol Service, the Barnet Band held a concert at St James in December in aid of Homeless Action in Barnet (HAB). A large audience enjoyed the performance and around £900 was raised.



Candles for Ukraine This year we again donated used and unused candles to the 'Lights for Ukraine' initiative. The candles have been sent to Ukraine to provide light and heat during the frequent power cuts over the winter. The partly-used candles were melted down to make new ones.



Boxes of candles from St James & Holy Trinity

pray his name with conviction. Miracles can happen when we pray to Jesus with conviction. In Jesus we can overcome every obstacle. In order to 'plug into' the power of Jesus' name, we need to recognise that without him we are nothing. The more we pray with faith, the greater we'll experience the power of the name of Jesus.

And it's important to **praise** His name, regardless of whether we feel like it. Praise frees us. It opens up a space where the Holy Spirit is welcome, and his fruits and gifts can become active. If I am a person of praise, and have a pure heart, I am someone that Jesus can use. I can't save the world by myself, but I can make a difference in that small part that I touch in my day-to-day life.

Won't you join with me in wanting others to be able to see Jesus in us at St James, as we call on the name of Jesus with faith and conviction in both prayer and praise?

What's on

Easter at St James's and Holy Trinity

Wednesday 1 April

Passover meal, 6.30pm at Holy Trinity. Entry by donation (suggested £10). Pay on the day, but booking essential as spaces limited. Sign up in church, ring 020 8440 1437 or email holytrinitychurchlyonsdown@gmail.com

Good Friday, 3 Apr

Good Friday family event with activities and hot cross buns, 10am-12noon at St James's

Good Friday Walk of Witness in High Barnet (see p4)

An Hour at the Cross: reflective time, 2-3pm at St James's

Easter Saturday, 4 Apr

Paws in the Pews, 3pm at Holy Trinity. Doggy Easter service

Easter Sunday, 5 Apr

Sunrise service followed by breakfast, 6.30am at Holy Trinity

Easter Sunday celebration service, 10.15am at St James's

Easter Sunday reflective service, 4pm at Holy Trinity

Easter Monday, 6 Apr

Easter Monday Pilgrimage to St Abans Cathedral (details on p4)

Special events

Mothering Sunday, Sun 15 Mar: part of the service at both churches

Clocks forward, Sat 28/Sun 29 Mar

Piano recitals with concert pianist Lily Petrova: 8 Apr & 6 May at St James (see p6)

Gift Day at St James's, 12 April (see p6)

Annual Meetings: Holy Trinity on 3 May & St James on 10 May (see p6)

Small group Bible study. Please see Rev Jenny or Lay Minister Simon Vincent if you would like to join a group.

Prayer at St James's on a Sunday morning. The St James's prayer ministry team are available after each service (front right of the seating area). Also, members of the prayer ministry team (wearing yellow badges) will be happy to pray with you at any time during the morning.

Calendar information is announced in church services and advertised on the website, facebook, whatsapp groups and church emails. For any queries, or to receive our weekly news emails or join a whatsapp group, please get in touch. **Contact details** on p8.

Regular events at Holy Trinity

Morning Table: Communion service with breakfast, Sun 8.30am, weekly

Short reflective service, Sun 4pm, weekly, with Kidschurch group

Trinity Patch: Community garden at Holy Trinity, Tue 10am-12noon, weekly. More on p5

Prayers at the Cross, Wed 7-7.30am, weekly: prayer and contemplation in the prayer garden

'Who let the Dads out' Dads and kids social time, with free bacon butties. 1st Sat of the month, 10-11.30am, in the church and garden. For all dads, grandads and father-figures

Art and craft community group for adults, 2nd Sat of month, 10.30am-12.30pm

Rooted Youth: monthly teenage youth group (for ages 13+), run by churches in Chipping Barnet, East Barnet and New Barnet. Meets at Holy Trinity or St Mark's Barnet Vale. Usually first Sunday of the month. Summer dates: 3 May (St Mark's), 7 June (Holy Trinity), 5 July (St Mark's) and 2 Aug (Holy Trinity)

Regular events at St James's

Morning service, Sun 10.15am, weekly (some services include Communion): in church and on Zoom. With Kidschurch. [Zoom details from church office; sermon available later on YouTube]

Pray at Six, 6pm, 1st Sun of month

Knit and Natter, Mon 10-12noon, monthly (usually 2nd Mon of month) in church coffee room

Little Lambs Toddler Group, Tue 10am, weekly in term-time, for 0-5 year-olds. *Please book in advance*

Our Place, Tue 1-2.30pm, weekly in term-time: group for babies and toddlers with additional needs

Jim's Shed @ EBVBC: Tue 10am-1pm, weekly at East Barnet Vally Bowls Club in Victoria Rec. Community garden run by St James's and the Bowls Club. Come along to take part in the gardening or just to enjoy the garden. More on p5

Midweek service, Wed 10am, weekly: short reflection and prayers

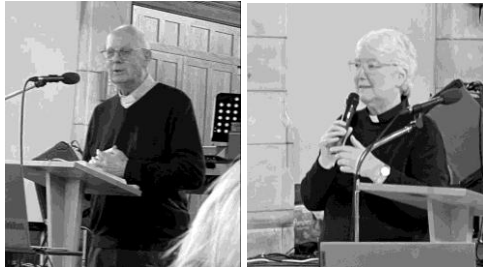
Jim's Café community advice centre, Wed 9am-12noon, weekly, incl Citizens' Advice fortnightly

Craft and Chat, Wed 10.30am-12noon, weekly

Community music group, 3rd Sat of month, 10.30am-12.30pm

A new vicar!

We were delighted to hear the news that we have a new vicar for St James. Sharon Ejinkonye has been appointed, and will start in mid May. We are grateful to everyone who has put in extra work during the Vacancy, and the many visitors who have supported us with preaching and presiding at Communion.



Visiting clergy:
Rev Geoff Lackey
(vicar of St James
in the 1980s) and
Archdeacon Janet

Sharon introduces herself

Hello! I am so excited to join you all soon and see where God will take us in the years to come. :-)

I am one of four children and it is always a joy to spend time with my family and friends, whether we are eating, watching something entertaining or playing a board game!



When I'm not visiting loved ones, you may find me drinking coffee in a cafe, sometimes with a book, travelling somewhere new to be amazed once again at God's beautiful creation, walking Raphy – my handsome greyhound, or at the keyboard playing a chord or two.

In hindsight, I first got the call to ministry when I was around 15. I like to describe it as "an echo of a whisper of a call", which was the name of a vocations event I went to in Chelmsford diocese. I totally dismissed it and continued doing my thing until I got to university where I was studying Law and knew it was not something I wanted to pursue.

Vicarage: We also have a new vicarage, with the Diocese having purchased a new house in the parish to replace the old Park Road vicarage.

Who to contact...

These are the people to contact for a range of areas for the period until Sharon arrives. Speak to them at church, or get in touch via the office (contact details p8).

Youth work: Carol Connah (Churchwarden)

Services: Simon Vincent (Lay Minister)

Pastoral care: Simon Vincent (Lay Minister)

Questions about the vacancy: Luke Cowles (Churchwarden)

Giving / finance: Zoë Jones (Treasurer)

Prayer requests: Christine Mulford (Prayer Ministry) or anyone on the leadership team

For any other queries email the church office.

There were many conversations with many, many different priests and then I said to God "if you're really calling me into ministry, people in another country would see it too." I would soon find out that God is often up for a challenge!

So at 21, I decided to go to Belgium for a year to do the Ministry Experience Scheme, something aimed at young adults to help them discern whether priesthood was something they were being called into.

It was a great and challenging time. God spoke clearly and I could do nothing but obey. I came back and began my training at Ridley Hall, which again was great and also a challenging time. I have experienced the sheer grace and patience of God and I hope in doing ministry I will be able extend to others that particular part of God that has empowered and strengthened me along my journey.

I could go on, but I won't! Just to say that I look forward to meeting you all and hearing about your own experiences of God's presence and goodness in your lives.

See you soon!

Easter Walks

Good Friday Walk of Witness: Rev Jenny and Paul Robinson invite us to join them on the annual Good Friday Walk of Witness in Chipping Barnet. Meet at Joslin's Pond on Hadley Green at 10.55am, and walk together to St John the Baptist Church at the top of Barnet Hill for a short service outside the church. Talk to Jenny or Paul for more info. Let them know if you are going so they can look out for you.

Easter Monday Pilgrimage: An annual event, in which people from across the diocese travel to the cathedral for an Easter celebration. This year it takes place on 6 April, with the service starting at 3pm. It includes a short communion led by Bishop Jane. Dogs are welcome and most people sit on the floor, although chairs are available. A group from Barnet churches will be walking to the abbey – details of starting time and location from Mark Oliver.

Community gardens

Jeremy Alford

In the last edition of Newslink I reported that, with the impending sale of the old vicarage at 11 Park Road by the diocese, we were hoping to set up two new community gardens, one at East Barnet Valley Bowls Club in Victoria Recreation Ground (Jim's Shed @ EBVBC), and one with Jenny and Paul at Holy Trinity Lyonsdown (Trinity Patch).

Jim's Shed @ EBVBC has been up and running for about a month now, and we have just moved the actual Jim's Shed from the old vicarage garden!

Nine adults, three dogs and a toddler enjoyed the first gardening session at Trinity Patch on 3 March. We have a grant which will allow us to add four more beds, including one raised one which will be accessible for people with less mobility.

In the past you have been so generous with donations of seeds and tools. Splitting our tools between two new gardens, we are short of a garden fork if anyone has one they don't need. Any vegetable or flower seeds will be put to good use, and we are especially looking for tomato, courgette, carrot, squash and herbs. The principal aim of our two gardens will be to continue producing wholesome organic food that we give away at Jim's Cafe and the Foodbank.

We would welcome new volunteers. Please speak to myself, Ed Sells or Paul Robinson for further details of how you can get involved. Both gardens are open on Tuesday mornings for anyone to come along and help with the gardening, or to enjoy time relaxing in the garden.



Above: rebuilding the shed in its new home at the Bowls Club

Left: gardeners at Trinity Patch

Night Shelter

The St James's Night Shelter co-ordinators (Fiona Perera, David Mulford, Helen Alford and Jeremy Alford)

In January and February St James was again part of the local Night Shelter. We hosted between 11 and 16 guests each Friday night to Saturday morning, providing an evening meal, overnight accommodation and breakfast.



The guests have been very appreciative of the hospitality they received. One guest said on the last weekend of the shelter how relaxed he felt at St James and what a positive vibe there was, before saying goodbye with a warm hand shake.

Working with the night shelter makes us reflect on how easy it is for someone to slip into homelessness. Thankfully organisations like Homeless Action in Barnet (HAB) work tirelessly to end this reality. This is evident by the ever-changing list of guests who attend the shelter; as soon as someone is housed, another joins the night shelter list.

We have a great team of around 40 volunteers of whom half are St James's members, and wish to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been involved with the shelter in any way this year.

Foodbank

Thank you for all the contributions over the last few months, and especially for the extra food and treats that were donated for Christmas.

There are two special collections in the run-up to Easter: **school holiday lunchboxes** to help during the holidays when children aren't receiving school meals and **chocolate Easter treats**. Useful items for the lunchboxes include small packs of: raisins, fruit pots, snack bars, biscuits, cheese crackers, juice cartons, etc.

Newslink is published quarterly

Copy date for the summer edition is Sunday 10 May

Thank you to everyone who has contributed photos, news and articles

Paws in the Pews

Holy Trinity held a doggy Christmas service in December, which featured on the St Albans Diocese website:

“Holy Trinity Church, Lyonsdown recently held its first dog-friendly service, called Bark the Herald Carol Service. The event welcomed 50 people and 24 dogs to celebrate Christmas together by listening to the Christmas story and singing carols.”

Paws in the Pews has now become a regular event, with a programme of services every two months throughout 2026.



Concert pianist at St James

From March to May we are having three piano recitals at St James with concert pianist Lily Petrova and colleagues. These concerts are in aid of the church, and are a thank you to St James for donating the grand piano to the Maria Vranka Foundation (of which Lily is a Trustee), which repurposes pianos and aims to provide accessible music education and support young artists. The piano has been rarely used at St James for many years now, and long-term is in need of considerable restoration work. Read more about finding a new home for the piano in an article by the Barnet Society: <https://tinyurl.com/mr7et42h>

We have two concerts coming up:
‘Modern music for Piano & Guitar’ on Wed 8 April
‘Desyatnikov – 24 Preludes’ on Wed 6 May

Concert on 6 March: Sonatas for Piano and Violin *Review by Glynice Smith*

My passion is live jazz, so I approached Lily’s performance in March with curiosity, but an open mind. However, I was astounded and delighted at the dedication and passion of both Lily Petrova (piano) and Takanori Okamoto (violin). I was enthralled by their synchronicity, dexterity and obvious rapport. Literally lost in music. Pieces by Mozart, Ravel and Beethoven ranged from ‘honky-tonk’ and ‘stormy’ to ‘tender’ and ‘romantic’ sections. Don’t miss the next concert on Wednesday 8th April!



Our Annual Meetings

Holy Trinity’s Annual Meetings are on Sunday 3 May, and St James’s are on 10 May. They will form part of the regular service at each church. They are a chance to review the past year, plan for the future, ask questions and make appointments:

PCC: Some PCC members are ‘ex officio’ – members by virtue of another position they hold (Vicar, Churchwardens and Deanery Synod reps). Other members are elected and have a three-year term of office which is staggered so that a third come to the end of their term each year.

Churchwardens are elected annually.

Deanery Synod Reps come to the end of their 3-year term of office this year. Deanery Synod is a group that represents all the churches in our deanery (our local group of Anglican churches).

Who’s currently on the PCCs?

St James’s: Carol Connah (Churchwarden), Luke Cowles (Churchwarden), Simon Vincent (Lay Minister), Bryony Johnson, Zoë Jones, Alun Matthews, Aregan Obawaeki, Liz Smith, Ros Thompson, & Sue Walsh

Holy Trinity: Jenny Robinson (Vicar), Martine Whitaker (Churchwarden & Deanery Synod Rep), Charles Duah Badu-Kusi, Fiona Jones, Leslie McCrory, Paul Robinson & Alison Slade

Join the church electoral roll: If you’ve recently started coming to St James’s or Holy Trinity, you might like to join our church electoral roll. This allows you to vote at Annual Meetings, and helps us to keep in touch with you. You can join if you live in the parish or have been attending regularly for 6 months or more (including by Zoom). For Holy Trinity, ask Paul Robinson for an electoral roll form and return it by 10 April. At St James, ask Bob Bayman for a form, and return it by 10 April if possible or 17 April at the latest.

St James’s Gift Day

Zoë Jones, Treasurer

St James’s Gift Day is on 12 April. Like most churches, we are entirely self-supporting, so congregational giving is a major source of funding for us. We are so grateful for your gifts, without which we could not keep the church running.

If you would like to find out more about our finances (where our income comes from and how we use it, etc), our Finance Report and Accounts for 2025 will be published just before our Annual Meetings in May.

Congratulations to Mali Firoozian who has been accepted to train to be a vicar. Her ordination training will start in September. Please keep Mali in your prayers as she prepares for this new chapter in her life.



Parish Giving Scheme

Supporting our churches through regular giving

St James and Holy Trinity have recently become part of the Parish Giving Scheme. It is run by the Church of England, and is an easy method for members of congregations to give to their church by Direct Debit. The annual running cost of the scheme is paid for by the national Church of England, so there is no charge for churches or givers to use the regular giving service. Regular giving helps us as churches to plan and be good stewards of our money and resources.

The Parish Giving Scheme is quick to set up, either online or by phone, and you can change the amount you give at any time. The Parish Giving team process donations and Gift Aid on the church's behalf, saving time for our volunteers at church. If you are a UK taxpayer, you can add Gift Aid, meaning that the church will get an extra 25%.

Lent Carbon Fast

This Lent, some members of the St James's congregation are again taking part in our Carbon Fast – doing one new thing each week which will help the environment. The idea of a Carbon Fast was originally developed by the Church of England in 2008, and many people around the world now take part each Lent.

There is a handout at St James showing each week's topics, and suggested actions. These are also shown in the notices on Sunday.

Contributions for Easter flowers

Heather Gill

During Lent we don't have any flowers in church as part of creating an atmosphere of simplicity and reflection. On Easter Sunday this all changes as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, and create a burst of colour with our flowers. If anyone would like to make a financial contribution to these flowers, please speak to our church Treasurer Zoë Jones.

New Bishop of Taunton

A former Oak Hill placement student at St James's, Fiona Gibson, has become the Bishop of Taunton. Her installation service was on 8 February at Wells Cathedral.



News from St James's PCC

Energy audit. We have taken advantage of a scheme provided through St Albans Diocese to have an energy audit of our church building to identify long, medium and short terms ways that we can reduce gas and electricity usage.

Piano. The PCC were updated on the process to find a new home for the grand piano.

Fabric. Urgent work was undertaken to mend the boiler that heats the whole church building. We were very fortunate to receive a grant from City Churches Fund that covered the whole cost. Our high gutters have been cleaned by a firm that specialises in difficult-to-access guttering.

Mandy Lane (manager of Jim's Community Café) brought the PCC up-to-date with what has been happening at Jim's over the past year. It has been a busy time, with more people being referred to us. This brings a need for more volunteers to take on specific roles, maybe to sit and chat, pray with people or help with refreshments. The PCC is strongly supportive of all that Mandy and her team are doing with Jim's.



Mandy reporting back in the St James service

News from St James's PCC compiled by Sue Walsh

News from Holy Trinity PCC

We have bought equipment for recording sermons, and are now streaming them on Youtube.

We have received grants for repairs to the roof and the boiler and for a new external notice board.

A new Fire System has been installed, and Rev Jenny, Paul Robinson and Martine Whitaker are the fire wardens.

Charles Duah Badu-Kusi was elected on to the PCC.

News from Holy Trinity PCC compiled by Fiona Jones



Christmas at St James's Above: Carol service; Christingle; Christmas Day
Below: Santa at Christmas Fun Day; Nativity Service; Carol Singalong; Santa at Toddler parties



Christmas at Holy Trinity Above: Christmas Day lunch (x2); Nativity Service; Paws in the Pews
Below: Reflective Carol Service

Carol singing Argent Court and the Lord Kitchener Pub



contact	www.holytrinitylyonsdown.org.uk 020 8440 1437	www.stjamesnewbarnet.org.uk 020 8440 2451	
<p>Rev Jenny Robinson, Vicar of Holy Trinity revjen45@gmail.com 020 8440 1437 <i>Jenny's day off is Friday</i></p> <p>Simon Vincent, Assistant Minister at St James's sdvincent@btinternet.com</p> <p>Paul Robinson, Youth and Family worker at Holy Trinity 020 8440 1437</p> <p>Mark Oliver, St James's Administrator office@stjamesnewbarnet.com 020 8440 2451</p> <p>Fiona Jones and Caroline Jones, Newslink editorial team cm_jones@btinternet.com</p> <p>Jeremy & Helen Alford, Safeguarding Officers (St James's and Holy Trinity) stjamesnewbarnetsafeguarding@gmail.com</p>			<p>Copy date for the summer edition is Sunday 10 May</p>

If you no longer need Newslink, please recycle it. We always welcome contributions from members of St James's and Holy Trinity. This means that views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Editor or either PCC. Charity Registration (England and Wales): 1150299 (St James's) and 1131088 (Holy Trinity).