

St James Review

Summer 2008

Celebrating 40 years



**'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord.
'Plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give
you hope and a future'
Jeremiah 29:11**

Celebrating 40 years...

...a brief history



St James Church has been serving the community for over 100 years. The first St James was a tin tabernacle built in the 1870s. A large brick building, St James Forest Gate, was built in 1882 on the corner of St James Road and Forest Lane, and later enlarged to seat 1,200 people. In 1961 the Church was found to be unsafe and had to be demolished. The congregation was faithful and for a time services continued at Durning Hall. After much work, particularly from Bill Wade, churchwarden, and Rev. Jimmy Froud, St James Church reopened in the present building on April 6th 1968.

We are celebrating the 40 years of ministry at this end of the street, and a steady growth in our church.

St James average January Sunday attendances

(From date attendances first recorded)

| Years | Minister/s | Average |
|-----------|---|---------|
| 1983 | Various ministers | 16 |
| 1983-1989 | Ann Easter (Deaconess) | 19 |
| 1990 | Various ministers | 9 |
| 1991-1996 | Rev Bill Atkins | 15 |
| 1997 | Overlap Rev Bill Atkins Rev Jeanette Meadway | 18 |
| 1998-2004 | Rev Jeanette Meadway | 27 |
| 2004-08 | Rev Jeanette Meadway | 31 |



Today we are still meeting in the name of Jesus, celebrating His gifts to us and God's grace, and still serving the community more than 100 years after it all started. May the Holy Spirit continue to bless and guide our family and may we continue to bear witness to our God and continue to grow.



Gospel-oke

Forty years to the month from the opening of St James, we celebrated with an evening of delicious food, music, and dance. We enjoyed the evening together, sharing food, fellowship, and our talents with each other, present members and special guests. Rev Stella Olukanmi visited us with her daughter, who quickly spotted mummy on a picture on display of Jeanette's licensing at St James in 1997.



St James Singers

The newly formed St James singing group has had a very busy inaugural year. It all started when we were invited to sing at St James Primary School, following their visit to our church. Since then we have sung for a conference at the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster, and at Chelmsford Cathedral. We took our drums and instruments and most of us wore African dress to take part in a Celebration of the World Church with visiting Bishops in advance of the Lambeth Conference. Our group was described by Rev Roger Matthews as 'an answer to prayer'.



Special celebrations

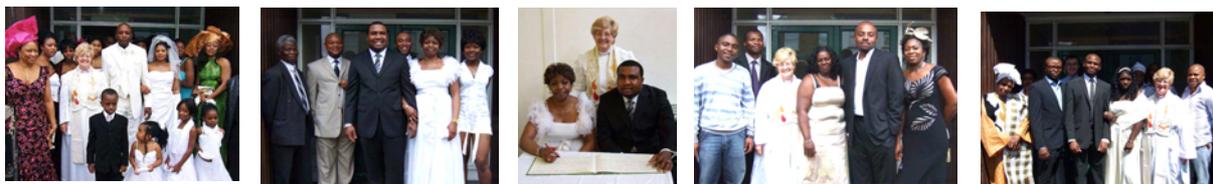
September 2007 saw a very special confirmation; after a gap of more than ten years, the service was held at St James. Bishop David enjoyed the service, and asked to take a copy of one of our new St James songs, "Jesus is Lord". Candidates at that service included Tina Vinson our pianist, as well as Gareth Annable, Nathan Okello and Seun Lazeez. On 18th May 2008 seven St James members were confirmed, Allwell Chiukwu, Daniel Mitchell, Florence Onyebuchi, Julain Iyawe, Kate Idemudia, Lucky Efe, and Maris Ogiomade. They were confirmed by Bishop David at St Saviour's church.

The first baptism in 2007 was Miriam Afriye in April, then Destiny Anyanwu in August, Seun Lazeez in September, Emmanuel Clarkson also in September. In December three adults were baptised at the same service, Allwell, Lucky and Julian. In February 2008 Jaiden Abbott Abbey was baptised, and on Easter Sunday 2008 Malvyn Sacko, Maris Ogiomade and Henry Kerson. Kate Idemudia was baptised at St Saviour's during the confirmation service and Charis Campbell Jean-Charles on July 20th which brings the grand total to six babies, one young person, and six adults baptised between January 2007 and the end of July 2008. We extend our congratulations to everyone involved and pray for their journeys with each other and with the St James Church family.

Please continue to pray for all those baptised and confirmed and their families.



St James was licensed to hold wedding only in 2005, but our popularity for weddings is steadily increasing, often from people who attend St James. In October 2007 Charles Anyanwu and Lisa were married, in March 2008 Collins Okoro and Lydia, in May Uchechi Anyanwu (no relation to Charles) and Maria, in June Innocent Ikenta and Alpha and in July Tony Williams and Jelen. Three other couples are at the stage of making enquiries.



Church Holiday at Lambourne End

What a great time we had on our holiday. The activities were challenging, the friends we shared our holiday with were great, and the food was out of this world. We managed some singing as well. This year's holiday includes the opportunity to take part in a musical show, organised by Tina and Gareth, as well as outdoor activities such as mountain biking, farm visits, ropes course and swimming. Places are being booked up fast and plans are already being made for 2009!

Another St James success story.



Happy Birthday Desmond

It was a lovely day when we celebrated Desmond's 90th Birthday. We very much valued his monthly sermons at St James and the way he and Valerie touched our lives. Sadly he has become increasingly ill since his birthday; please remember him in your prayers, and Valerie as she cares for him.



Services

The Congregation at St James continues to grow, at both our morning and evening services. We praise and worship the Lord with lots of the music and songs from countries all around the world. This represents the diversity of our church members and is something we are very proud of and something that we think makes us extra special. Our teaching is Bible-based and members of all ages are called upon to assist in practical ways or reading to help to illustrate the story and the lessons they have for us today .



Supporting the work of others.



St James gives a tithe of ten per cent of our church income to outside Christian work. We currently support Bishop Gideon Obama, retired Bishop of Northern Uganda, in his responsibility for the education and upkeep of seventeen orphans; Gautam Money and his work for the Church Mission Society in India; and the Turnaround Project for the homeless here in Newham. We have also supported a project for orphans in Sierra Leone , The great news is that the people supported by this project have now returned to live with their extended families. We will be discussing our giving at the future St James Committee meetings.



Happy 'Special' Birthday

A landmark Birthday for our minister resulted in a great celebration for all of us, when she invited everyone in St James to her party, and had a special photo with ten of the adults and children she'd baptised (see right).

We thank God for Jeanette, her wisdom, enthusiasm and vision for St James and pray that she will continue to work with us for many years to come. She doesn't want us to say how old she is, but if she wants to catch up with Desmond, she still has about 30 years to go! (Jeanette comments that she plans at least to follow the example of her mum, who continued full-time work until she was 72, and only gave up because she moved house.)



Coming up...

We have lots of things planned in the life of our church for the coming year. Including...

Black History Month celebration—October 2008

Carol-oke Saturday December 13th 2008

Church holiday—August 2009

Pray for the church and the year ahead.

St James Church
98 St James Road
Stratford
London E15 1RN
Phone: 07854 731 864

Minister-in-charge: Rev Jeanette Meadway
St James is a Church of England (Anglican) church in the Diocese of Chelmsford
Services are every Sunday at 11am and 1st and 4th Sundays at 6.30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

May the God who gives you endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus.

Romans 15: 5