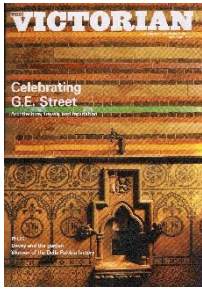
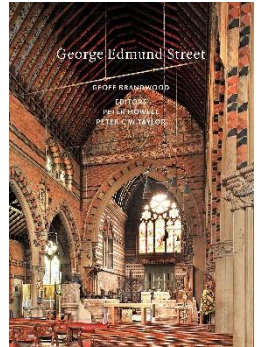




St James the Less – Friends’ Newsletter – Spring 2024

G. E. Street Bicentenary Celebrations 2024

We’re very excited to celebrate the 200th birthday of George Edmund Street (20 June 1824-18 Dec 1881), the remarkable architect of this extraordinary church. In association with The Victorian Society, St James the Less is promoting a number of commemorative events. We are very lucky to have Professor Neil Jackson on the Restoration Committee, as he also chairs The Victorian Society’s Events Committee and has planned the year’s activities, hosting many of the events and leading several of the talks and walks.

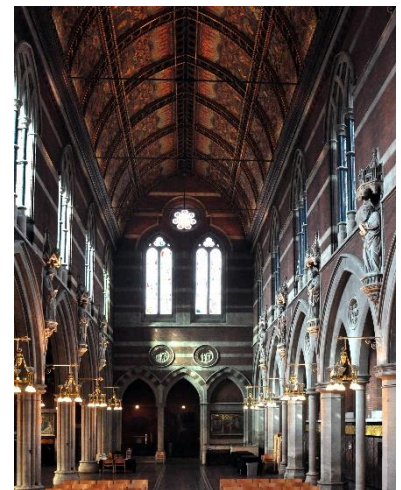


The programme kicked off in March with the publication of *The Victorian* [left], offering several articles about G.E. Street. An introductory talk by architectural historian, Peter Howell, with Professor Jackson, showed how prolific Street had been in his relatively short life. April was a busy month, with a launch party for the first major book about G. E. Street [above], largely written by Geoff Brandwood (former Chairman of The Victorian Society and a Friend of SJTL), and completed after his untimely death by Peter Howell and the late Peter Taylor. (To buy the book, go to: <https://thevictoriansociety.beaconforms.com/form/d38ed168>).

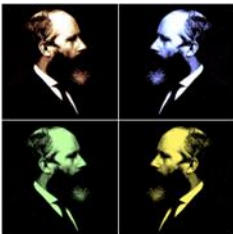
Neil led informative visits to St Mary Magdalene, Paddington (1868-78), [right] with its dramatic painted ceiling, and All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead (1857-



65), [left + below], where Street designed the whole complex of church, vicarage, school, clergy house and almshouses – much as he and his son, Arthur Edmund Street, had done here in Pimlico.



St James the Less events 20-22nd June: Tickets are now on sale for a splendid Gala Dinner in the church on Street’s birthday, Thursday 20 June, with guest speaker The Rt Hon Dominic Grieve, KC; and two days of talks and walks based at St James the Less, on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 June.



[George Edmund Street Bicentenary Celebration | Eventbrite](#)

Programme: for details of these and the rest of the year’s events, see SJTL church website: <https://www.sjtl.org/friends/> and The Victorian Society website:

<https://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/news/g-e-street-bicentenary-year-2024-events>

SouthWest Fest 2024: starts in St George’s Square Gardens from 12.00 noon on Saturday 6th July. Come and support the SJTL stalls – and please volunteer your time if you can spare an hour or two during the day.

Restoration update: wall-damage will be investigated over the summer by drilling boreholes, one in the south-west corner of the church, to examine the material lying under the floor, and one outside, close to the wall of the Monk Room, to look for problems such as tree-roots or drains. The church team is working with Cliveden Conservation, who were recommended by the National Trust and will also repair damaged floor-tiles near the organ. Work also continues to ensure short-term heating solutions, until the church can be connected to the District Heating Network (c.2029).

New Committee Members: we're delighted to welcome new volunteers to the Friends Restoration Committee: Cheyenne Brown has invaluable experience in website design, marketing and social media and has already refreshed the church website, as well as working with Neil Jackson and Samantha McCarthy on publicity material for the G. E. Street events. Ardash George (known as AG) joins us as Project Manager, bringing professional experience of international engineering projects. We are also grateful for the financial expertise of Andrew Brown, church Treasurer and new member of the Restoration Committee in that role.

Friends make Friends: Friends give a modest annual subscription, and every penny is important. If you're not already signed up, please support this project and pass it on to *your* friends! To help with our recruiting, we invite all our Friends to bring a friend to one of the G. E. Street Bicentenary events over the year.

Community Activities

While St James the Less is an important building architecturally and historically, the church is also at the heart of the parish, offering activities that reach well beyond the regular congregation, to support families, schools, young people, and the homeless community. As usual, Easter was an opportunity for celebration with the community.

The church family celebrated Easter Day with the annual Dawn Service, when the congregation met at 6.am to bear the Easter Fire into the church, followed by a community breakfast and then lunch. As part of the religious studies curriculum for schools, an Easter trail was set up in the church. This enabled the children to engage with the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection by playing the role of detectives and interviewing the main characters of the Easter story to find out what happened to Jesus' body on Easter morning. This popular activity was supported by church volunteers, Outbreak young leaders, and St Gabriel's youth leader.

The annual Easter Messy church and Special Messy church (for children with special educational needs) were as well-attended as ever, while the Open Door Meals continue to provide hot food and a welcoming environment for homeless and vulnerably housed people. At the meal after Easter, we celebrated with a traditional Easter meal with roast lamb and a service in which the guests participated.

The monthly Memory café has been growing and meeting an important need for people in the early stages of dementia and for their carers. We are working towards making this a weekly activity.

Future Events – see website for more details: www.sjtl.org

Mondays 3.30-5pm (Term-time only): Pause, a group for Parents, Carers and children up to the age of 7

24 May & 14 June - 7-9 pm: Open Door Meal for homeless and vulnerably-housed people

1st Tuesday of each month - 2.30pm: Memory Café for people with early-stage memory loss

Last Sunday of each month - 2.00pm: Silver Screen, followed by Cream Tea for people over 50

21/22 May 5-7pm: Messy & Special Messy Church with The Pimlico Foundation.

Plus: other activities for young people, please see link: <https://outbreak.org.uk/>

20-22 June: G E Street Bicentenary events (see page 1)

Church Centre offers full catering facilities - available for events, conferences, rehearsals, classes etc.

For information on Services and all other activities, see our website at: www.sjtl.org

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