



St James the Less Street Project Friends' Newsletter – Summer 2025

Funding



We are delighted to announce the news of a grant of £5,000 from the National Churches Trust and a private donation of £2,500. Together with the funds already saved in our Project pot, this enables us to move on with plans for a range of surveys which are the next important steps on our journey.

We'll start with a Measured Survey, which will enable us to break down the requirements for the project into component parts which we can then finance as separate elements. It will also facilitate an exciting set of computer aided design graphics (CAD) which will provide a splendid 3-D image of our vision for the church.

Works

Preparation for the restoration of the Railings is progressing steadily, with the Faculty granted from the London Diocese, and final details (including a flood risk assessment) being submitted to Westminster Council to approve planning permission.

Visits

We've been very pleased to host a couple of successful visits in the past few months, including Volunteers from Two Temple Place and a return visit by Members of The Victorian Society in America. Roy is also booked for a private tour of the church for an American couple in early August.

Two Temple Place is a quirky building near Temple Station, built in 1895. It's open to the public every spring when they host an exhibition, and on other days through the year, including September Open House. It was commissioned by American businessman William Waldorf Astor and designed by church architect, John Loughborough Pearson. Although there is no direct link with George Edmund Street (as far as we know), Pearson and Street will certainly have known each other, and they used some of the same suppliers, including Clayton and Bell for stained glass windows and Salviati + Co for glass mosaics. The Volunteers enjoyed talks from Roy Stallard on the context for St James the Less, Professor Neil Jackson on Street's works, and Reverend Lis on the iconography within the building.

In July we welcomed back the Summer School students of the **Victorian Society in America** for their first church visit in the 2025 programme taking them from London to Manchester, Oxford and Surrey in search of good Victorian and Edwardian architecture. Professor Neil Jackson led the group towards the church from the far end of Thorndyke Street, as it would originally have been approached. By passing the carved scenes from the Book of Genesis on the church's north wall and entering beneath the arch depicting the Wise and Foolish Virgins, the didactic intent of the building was soon apparent. Inside, the nave capitals and pulpit carvings, together with the figures of female saints incised around the apse and the others depicted in the stained-glass windows, showed what an important, educational building St James the Less had been for the local community when it was originally built. For these American visitors, it must have been quite an eye-opener.

These visits generate modest donations and we would like to encourage more. If you or your

friends know of a group who would enjoy a visit to St James the Less, with talks and (limited) refreshments, please contact Samantha. Donations suggested @ £5 per head.

Open House 2025

On Saturday 20th of September, the church will be open for London Open House from 1pm – 5pm, with talks at 1.15pm and 3pm. No booking necessary, just turn up.

Community Activities

While St James the Less is an important building architecturally and historically, the Church is also at the heart of the community, offering activities that reach well beyond the regular congregation, to support families, schools, young people and the homeless community.

Lis hosted her annual Summer Tea-party at the Vicarage and warmly welcomed a large number of the congregation as a thank you for their support throughout the year.

Good news! We have recently appointed a Fundraiser to raise money for our two community roles, a Children + Families Worker and a Community Outreach Worker. Watch this space as we take this forward.

Community Events – see website for more details and for Zoom links: www.sjtl.org

Thursdays 6pm – 8pm: Games Nights (bring snacks) – for the summer instead of Home Groups

Sunday 31 August 2pm: Silver Screen – Born Free (1966)

Regular activities resume as follows –

Monday 8 September 3.30pm: Pause (for under 7s)

Monthly from Tuesday 9 September 2.30pm: Memory Café

Every second Friday, from 12 September 7pm: Open Door meal

Tuesday 23 September 5pm: Special Messy Church (for SEN families)

Wednesday 24 September 5pm: Messy Church

Thurs 30/Fri 31 October 5pm: Light Parties for Special/Messy Church families

Tues 9/Wed 10 Dec 5pm: Special/Messy Christmas celebrations



Messy Church fun June 2025



Church Centre with 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

E-mail: churchadmin@sjtl.org Tel: 0207 630 6282