

St George-in-the-East

We're waiting...



Highlights this Month:

Players of St Peter (1st-5th) | Carol Service (21st) | Tree decoration (TBC)

Christmas!

December 2014

Churchwardens: Allan Ramanoop & Alex Nelson

Contact details: 020 7481 1345 | office@stgite.org.uk
[facebook/stgite](https://www.facebook.com/stgite) | [@stgeast](https://www.instagram.com/stgeast) | www.stgite.org.uk

From the Churchwardens...

Hello everyone near and far! It's been a busy few weeks and there's been lots happening in and around the church that has been keeping everyone busy. Lots of activity and everyone doing something.

The PCC met with Ali Lyon, our consultant who is helping us to look for a new rector. We met at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine down the road and were treated well (always good to get lunch). We talked about what we thought we should do next and we made some good progress gathering our thoughts— we had good discussions and the morning went very quickly which is hopefully a good sign.

Ali joined us in church on the 16th of November and we went off and huddled in little groups and answered questions about what our church meant to us and what more we could do and whether church was meeting our needs. Ali is going to read through our notes and report back to the PCC in a few weeks. If you weren't in church, let us know if there's anything you want passing on.

Because News International have moved away we have to buy a tree this year—we'll be ordering one soon and I'll let you know in church when we'll be decorating it.

We have a fantastic building and a fantastic congregation—thank you to everyone for helping out. Hopefully I will see you all in the run-up to Christmas if not have a lovely Christmas. Alex is on holiday until 14th December, so I will be left in charge and keeping busy.

On Christmas day we'll be having a simple said service - I hope you can make it.

In other news CTC are now in the crypt and will be holding services in church and hopefully we'll also be getting some new signs to make everyone know that we're here!

Allan (and Alex)

wardens.stgite@gmail.com

From the (interim) editor...

The expectant waiting of Advent provides a convenient link to last month's introductory theme. Whether it is the birth of Jesus or just the turkey we're waiting for, we're hopefully doing it patiently. For some, Christmas is difficult time, as the celebration and excesses of others may contrast with their own sense of isolation, sadness or financial hardship and we should be alive to the needs of others.

The Players of St Peter are back; in this year's production is a scene in which Gabriel does not say bluntly to Mary "thou shalt conceive". Instead, he asks her politely if she is willing to give her "assent to the incarnation" and then he "waiteth long to hear what she will say". If Gabriel can be patient, so can we.

On Christmas Day, my mother-in-law will be buzzing around the kitchen, and no doubt she may decline my offers of inept help. As I wait patiently for my lunch hopefully she knows there's someone she can ask to empty the bin (even if it does end up in the recycling by mistake). In our run-up to Christmas, Alex and Allan are buzzing around organising (though typically silent and unseen) and an offer of assistance might not be immediately taken-up, but let them know it's there.

Our rotation of preachers seems to be going well—my highlight was Jen getting us out of our pews (and comfort zones) to discover the length of our relative attendance— it was amazing to discover how long we had each been coming for.

Finally, a thank you to all who came to quiz night—what could be better than a jolly, bearded rotund fellow from the extreme north giving out gifts? Highlights included Phil's encyclopaedic knowledge of cockney rhyming slang (even if he was too polite to admit knowledge of some of the more coarse phrases) and an intense discussion on whether York Minster is a cathedral (something which depends on which tour guide you had). A big thank you to Alex for going on the fish & chips run.

Paul

Other News

PCC Next PCC Meeting is Wednesday 17 December.

Players of St Peter This year's production is of scenes from the Corpus Christi Plays and will be in the church twice nightly at 6.30pm and 8.30pm from Monday, December 1 to Friday, December 5.

Congregation Olive has now been moved to Mile End from the Royal London. Baby Cherish has had an operation on her eye and has been discharged. We hold both in our prayers and our hearts.

Carols Carol service 5pm on 21 December.

Internet As reported we've started a Facebook page and a twitter account to publicise events in church more widely. We've had a friendly response from local churches and residents (including a request to have an open day for the tower) and even one lady who spotted herself in a photo on our website as a baby in the 1960s!

Services and readings	
30 November—First Sunday of Advent Tim Clapton: Centre for Theology & Community	Isaiah 64.1-9 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.24-37
7 December—Second Sunday of Advent Mark Aitken: Royal Foundation of St Katharine	Isaiah 40, 1-11 2 Peter 3, 8-15a Mark 1.1-8
14 December—Third Sunday of Advent TBC [Angus Ritchie: CTC or Adam Atkinson: CTC/St Peter's Bethnal Green]	Isaiah 61, 1-4, 8-end 1 Thessalonians 5, 16-24 John 1.6-8,19-28
21 December—Fourth Sunday of Advent Natalia Critchlow	2 Samuel 7, 1-11, 16 Romans 16, 25-end Luke 1.26-38
24 December Midnight Mass 11.30pm Rachel Treweek: Archdeacon of Hackney	TBC
25 December—Christmas Day Said service	TBC
28 December—First Sunday of Christmas Jenny Petersen: QMUL	Isaiah 61, 10-62,3 Galatians 4, 4-7 Luke 2.15-21