



Covid Christmas at St Jude's

Unlike during the first lockdown places of worship have been allowed to remain open. St Jude's is a big and airy building, and with loose chairs rather than pews, we were able to hold a modified version of our Christmas celebrations. We decided not to hold Midnight Mass (usually our most attended service of the year) but to hold

an additional service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve instead with pre-booking system for seats. Our director of music, Nicholas Chalmers (fresh from conducting at the BBC Proms at the Albert Hall), led the choir in a rendition of Christmas carols and anthems. No congregational singing is permitted under the COVID

regulations. We greatly missed being able to host the annual Residents Association New Year's Eve party.

St Jude's remains open (at the time of writing) every Sunday at 10.30 for worship and for the dropping off of donations to the Childs Hill Food Bank (serving the NW11 area).

THE REVEREND ALAN WALKER

HGS U3A latest

Live, learn and laugh – U3A's Philosophy – is ensuring that our U3A is really living the dream! Our Group Leaders and members remain remarkably busy using Zoom, which is proving an invaluable tool for keeping us all in contact and enjoying our Group activities in the comfort of our homes.

One Group is Current Affairs 2 led by our remarkable Group Leader Marion Godfrey. Prior to Covid 19, Marion used to host a maximum number of 14 members, which was a bit of a squeeze, but immensely popular; now Marion is hosting over 20 members. What members do miss is the wonderful pastries that Marion provided, but they certainly do not miss their regular discussions.

Zoom has enabled us to secure speakers for our monthly Topical Talks. In January we were delighted to host two excellent speakers; the first, Dr Anne Anderson on Art Nouveau Architecture and the second, Professor Sir David Omand on his recent publication entitled 'How Spies Think'. Our Climate Emergency group also hosted a successful session with Roger Harrabin, who is the BBC Environment correspondent.

We have a full programme of speakers planned including authors recommended by the Crime Writers Association, with whom we have forged a strong relationship. Two of them are giving talks on their recent publications in February and March. These bolster support for two of our popular groups, Crime Club and Crime Book Club.

To capture an upsurge in creativity amongst our members – be it artwork, writing, general crafting or photography – we are developing a Gallery on our website and encourage members to upload their work on our dedicated Facebook page. This also forms part of a social history project.

For the foreseeable future our timetable will continue online. Despite all the challenges of the last year, our U3A continues to develop and grow and always welcomes new members and ideas. We trust that our programme has ensured that our members feel connected, occupied, and inspired.

To find out more about us you can visit our website at <https://hgsu3a.uk/groups/index/>.

DAPHNE BERKOVI

A shout out for...



...Joe Sochor-Grethe and all the TFHC volunteers 18-year-old Suburb resident Joe Sochor-Grethe, is one of the many fantastic volunteers stationed at Temple Fortune Health Centre's surgery helping with the Covid-19 vaccination programme. This photo was taken half way through a six hour shift on a particularly cold January day yet Joseph was still smiling (behind his mask!) and doing a brilliant job welcoming, directing and answering queries. Well done Joseph – and all the other volunteers. You know who you are!



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Volunteering in lockdown

On hearing school wasn't starting again in January, I was faced with much more time on my hands to think about what volunteering activity I could get involved with for my Duke of Edinburgh Award, knowing that with social distancing and other lockdown restrictions, my choice would be limited.

Last Easter during the first lockdown my family had helped with some food collections locally when we heard that people were starting to lose their jobs and not able to afford to feed themselves or their families which really made me feel just how lucky I was. Almost a year later, I knew that food banks were now in even greater demand. The idea of lending my support seemed an obvious and effective way to volunteer locally and since the New Year, attending school remotely made this even more practical.

Firstly, I contacted Finchley Food Bank (at St Mary's Church)

and also offered to support Burnt Oak Community Centre through my synagogue, New North London. Both were happy to hear from me. A WhatsApp group for my street, Southway, had been set up at the beginning of the first lockdown which is where I decided to first publicise my offer of doing door to door collections for any families who wanted to donate.

My first collection was between Christmas and New Year and since then I have expanded my collections to another four streets: Thornton Way, Litchfield Way, Meadway and Brunner Close.

Week on week I have been delighted to see the increasing level of people contributing and I feel a real sense of satisfaction that I am the catalyst in sparking people's giving. An added bonus for me has been meeting lots more neighbours in the process of co-ordinating these collections which has been fun.



If you would like to support this initiative, please contact me on 07421 742929 or email me at benjaminsteinhart@icloud.com. I'd love to hear from you!

BENJAMIN STEINHART

Virtual Museum launches Friends of HGS Heritage

HGS Heritage Virtual Museum has had a busy few months behind the scenes, planning and implementing improvements to

its visitor experience. Visitors to the Museum continue to contact us not just from within the Suburb, but from across the world, asking queries and questions which we are delighted to answer.

So we have decided to launch a Friends of HGS Heritage scheme to enable people to support the museum through a small annual donation. Visitors to the Virtual Museum can find details of how

to contribute to the Museum at hgsheritage.org.uk/about/donate. Gifts can be monetary or take the form of donations of actual memorabilia and artefacts that residents may have in their homes. These can be captured as photographs and saved in perpetuity safely in our Museum, while ownership of the actual objects remains with the donors.

JUDY SMITH

Combat Stress update

Thanks to your generosity, the HGS Combat Stress Committee managed to sell a fantastic £495 worth of Combat Stress Christmas Cards last December, with donations of £42.50 bringing the final total to £537.50. We are delighted to have raised so much for this Veterans' mental health charity during these difficult times.

By August the sun should be shining, Covid-19 should be in retreat and perhaps people will be able to enjoy safely mingling in a beautiful garden. If so, we can look forward to Caroline and David Broome's garden opening in aid of Combat Stress at 2-6pm on 1 August. There will be tea and cake, plants for sale and a raffle.

MARJORIE HARRIS



Caroline and David's garden awaits you.

Welcome to St Jude's

Sundays: 10.30am
 (Subject to COVID regulations)

Contact us for details of Easter services

All Welcome

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www.stjudeonthehill.com