

We hope you had a good half term break and found some time to enjoy this lovely unseasonable spring weather!

APPOINTMENT OF NEW RECTOR

Before half term the church wardens announced the appointment of Rev. Dr Alex Corio:

Official announcement of the appointment of a new Rector for East Barnet:

We are pleased to announce that the Reverend Dr Alec Corio, Assistant Curate of St George's, Stockport with St Gabriel's, Adswold has been appointed as Rector of St Mary's Church, East Barnet. This is subject to the completion of the usual legal formalities after which further information will be announced. Meanwhile please remember Alec, his wife Sam and the children Nathaniel and Josiah in your prayers as they prepare to join us.

A message from Alec:

It is a great privilege to have been called to become the next Rector of East Barnet.

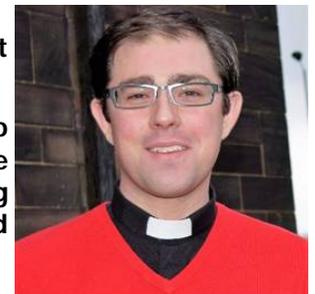
I have been excited to learn of the many opportunities which are opening up to this flourishing and friendly church, as it deepens its creative and collaborative service to the wider parish community. It will be a joy to discern how we are being called by the Holy Spirit to grow and move forward together in that faith and trust.

I would like to thank the diocesan staff, ministry team, and churchwardens, for the welcome which they have already offered to us, and express my admiration for their hard work and leadership during the vacancy. My family are looking forward to moving into the area, which my wife, Sam, has even started referring to as 'the promised land'. We all look forward to meeting you soon.

We are very much looking forward to Alec joining us when the formalities have been completed, hopefully before the end of the summer term.

In the meantime we are very grateful to church members, including Roger Melling and Christine Mears for their help in maintaining our partnership with the church, including our weekly Friday services. Others have helped us with the services, including church member, John Savage former headteacher of Church Hill school, Rev Laura Hewitt vicar of St James' Church, Rev Shaun Sanders minister of Brookside Methodist church, Rev Rupert Lazaar minister of East Barnet Baptist church along with youth worker Stefan Morris and parent, James Pinto, currently preparing for ordination studying at Oak Hill Theological college. Our weekly services will continue to run on Fridays and we will be going to St Marys and occasionally Brookside Methodist as often as possible.

Thank you so much to all parents, carers and other family members for supporting classes by walking up to church and back.



Sad news:

It was with great sadness that I heard to news of the death of David Howard, a long serving and very active member of St Mary's church, and former Chair of Governors form 1990-1998. David was a great supporter of the school, bringing his wide range of building engineering expertise to many of the projects we have done over the years. Having stepped down as chair, David continued first as a governor, then associate governor, and more recently and following his diagnosis as a consultant. Freely giving his time, skill and love, David has served not only the school and church, but also the East Barnet and wider Barnet community. His faith has been an inspiration to many of us, pointing to scripture and prayer, reminding us of the ever present love of God for everyone.

David will be greatly missed. Our sympathy goes to Barbara and the family.

Coming up in the diary this half term:

Sunday 3 March: Parish Eucharist in school at 10 am. The school choir will be singing. Please do join us and the congregation of St Marys church.

Thursday 7 March: World Book Day: children are invited to some dressed as a book character (please no super heroes or footballers!)

We have invited the company West End in Schools to run a drama workshop for each class based on the following books:

R, Y1 and Y2 - The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister

Y3 and Y4 - George's Marvellous Medicine by

Y5 and Y6 - Billionaire boy by David Walliams

A contribution of £2 per child, via school money, towards the cost of the workshops would be appreciated

Children may also bring in their favourite book to share with their class.

Friday 8 March: Barnet Schools Dance Festival. Year 6 are preparing to take part in this spectacular annual event, performing at the Arts Depot along with school from across Barnet.

Wednesday 13 March: **2.30-3.30:** Workshop for year 2 and year 6 parents on supporting your children for Key stages 1 and 2 SATS. Please let us know you are attending by booking via our ticketing system (like the Christmas performances)—an e-mail will be sent tomorrow to invite you to reserve a place just click on the link to confirm your attendance.

Thursday 14 March: **2.30-3.30:** Early literacy workshop for parents and carers of Reception and year 1 children. Mrs Beechey will speak about supporting your child to develop reading and writing skills. Please let us know you are attending by booking via our ticketing system (like the Christmas performances)—an e-mail will be sent tomorrow to invite you to reserve a place just click on the link to confirm your attendance.

Friday 15 March: **3.30:** Year 2 cake sale

Friday 22 March: **2.00:** Friends committee meeting in school

Friday 29 March: Progress reports posted to years 1-6: Reception receive theirs at the end of the summer term.

School disco: further details to follow.

Tuesday 2 &

Wednesday 3 April: **8.00-9.00am and 3.00-6.00pm** each day: parent and teachers consultations, an opportunity to discuss your child's progress report. We will notify you of the schedule in the previous week.

Friday 5 April: **3.00 school closes for the Easter holiday.**

Tuesday 23 April **INSET DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN**

Wednesday 24 April: **8.55am School begins for Summer Term 1**