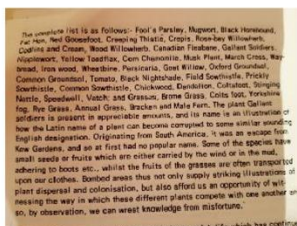




# PROPOSAL

**Aftermath (n):** Originally a second crop of grass growing up on the same land after the first had been harvested, from **after** + *-math*, from Old English *mæð* "a mowing, cutting of grass," from PIE root **\*me-** (4) "to mow."



Top. From our archives; the list of 'weed' species found on the site of St James's after the bombing of Piccadilly in 1940.

Lower. St James's Piccadilly, October 1940 (Westminster City Archives)

Last year, the community of St James's Piccadilly grew and harvested our own wheat. The endeavour was recorded in the [Daily Bread](#) project; a blog of 31 'posters' exploring topics that arose in each season. From wheat genetics, Middle Eastern history, Medieval philosophy, the botany of grasses, William Blake, poetry, eco-theology and much more.

In 2021, the project-organisers: artist (Sara Mark), poet (Diane Pacitti) and scientist (Deborah Colvin) are proposing a sister project AFTERMATH: weeds & wilding.

The Gospels ask us to consider both the poisonous '*tares*' as well as the glorious '*flowers of the field*'. But equally pressing are the contemporary issues of species extinction, habitat loss and the 'scapegoating' of the alien and queer.

In October 1940 St James's was reduced to a near ruin in the first phase of the London Blitz. The bomb-site was rapidly colonised by 43 species of weeds, which were subsequently identified and listed. We propose sowing these 'weeds' in the box that previously grew our wheat; an aftermath of prolific, resilient and resourceful plants that flourished in chaotic and precarious times. We hope to rediscover their gifts of flourishing and fruitfulness as God's hope in these post-pandemic days.

