

Being St James's



St James's Church Piccadilly

**Sessions start Sunday 6 March and
continue for 5 weeks through Lent**

Take time in Lent to talk about sharing money, time
and gifts, discovering together how we can build a
community of love through our many acts of service.



'Rooted in God's earth, we envision a just society and a creative, open-hearted church.'

"We first need to know who we are and where we belong. Then, rooted in the deep inner place where we know that we are enough and have enough, we can reach out to live in the discipline of community. We can find a people with whom we can journey. Only then with the support of others, can we actively work to build the community of love in the specific way that is right for us..." Henri Nouwen

In her letter to the congregation written in November last year, The Revd Lucy Winkett wrote:

'If we could summarise what our consultation said, it was 'Be more St James's'. We took that to mean; deepen our prayer and spiritual life, deepen our impact, tell our stories justly and with imagination, stand up for what we believe in, trust in God and in our own capacity for imagining a better future, never let go of our questioning spirit and strong insistence that we know life is messy; and don't be afraid.'

During the past two months, the Giving Team and some congregation members, followed a pilot study using Henri Nouwen's essay 'The Spirituality of Fundraising' (fundraising meaning giving). We started by asking ourselves questions about regular giving and what it means. We found ourselves sharing our life stories, the gospel of our lives, in surprising ways. We created a safe space for these stories and the very different journeys we found ourselves taking.

Now we want to ask you to join us over soup and bread on Sundays in Lent, to look at this together. We are looking through the lens of giving, not only money, but time and also sharing other gifts, and our presence alongside each other, to build a community of belonging and to ask how we can be an integral part of bringing our vision to life.

This is an invitation is to come and see. We recognise the last two years have left many exhausted, so come as you are, connect, reconnect, talk, listen, and be.

Structure & Content

There will a simple meal of bread and soup served when the Sunday service finishes.

12.45pm: Start

Each week will begin with prayer and the chance to say hello to your neighbours.

1pm: Introduction

Introduce session and break into smaller groups to reflect and share.

1.45pm: Reconvene

Regather with one reflection back from each group with a note for questions & actions.

2pm: Close with prayer

There will be a Lent resource pack with the topics & suggested questions/reflections for each week. we'll try to make the groups the same each week, but come and join whenever you can, there's always room.



Sunday 6 March

Welcome & Introduction

Brief explanation of the pilot work and group. The vision behind 'Being St James's'

Sunday 13 March

Investing In Our Vision

To explore why we give and what compels us to invest ourselves in the future with our time, finances & gifts

Sunday 20 March

Our Security Base

Where do we put our trust? A look at what thoughts and attitudes around giving we each carry with us.

Sunday 27 March

Planting Seeds

A future promise to develop our understanding of how our relationship with God alters our relationship to money and possessions, as well as one another and how this can become an integral part of our spiritual journey.

Sunday 3 April

Creating a New Communion

To explore how community supports and grows out of our giving.

Sign Up on ChurchSuite

We really hope you can join in, meet, share, eat together, encourage and affirm one another. Signing up is easy just scan the QR code with your mobile which will take you to ChurchSuite event page or visit www.sjp.org.uk



Signing up will allow us to plan how much soup to make and how many Lent packs to prepare, which will help us enormously.

Please come and have fun, be curious & adventurous.

from **The Giving Team**
Claire, David, Debbie,
Hannah, Katherine, Tom,
Jessie, Sophie & Dee

**A Lent invitation to gather,
reconnect, talk, eat, share as
we explore what it means to be
a gathered community centred
on eucharistic living, placed
in Piccadilly, and all the other
places in London and beyond
where we live.**

Isaiah 61

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion-
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.

Being St James's on Zoom

We will also be carrying out these sessions on Thursday evenings from 7-8pm for those who can't attend in person on Sundays.

The zoom room will open at 6.50pm. Feel free to bring your supper to the sessions, where we'll discuss the same topics that the Sunday group did.

To sign up please email the Giving Team at plannedgiving@sjp.org.uk