

PRESS RELEASE: MARCH 2020

**‘Hope: An Exhibition’**  
**An exhibition created by our local Clapham community**  
**9th – 21st March, 2020**



Photo: Jim Grover

This March, St James Church, Clapham, who have recently staged two major photographic exhibitions, will stage a new exhibition of over 200 photographs and artworks portraying the theme of ‘Hope’.

The exhibition is the centre-piece of St James’ ‘Festival of Hope’, which is part of the broader ‘Hope 2020’ programme being offered by churches in Clapham Park.

The photographs and artworks have been created especially for the exhibition by a broad cross-section of the local community. Contributors include Clapham residents in their 90’s, teenagers, families, children from the local Iqra primary school, and visitors to the Clapham-based ‘Ace of Clubs’, which offers day centre services for the homeless and vulnerable, and which celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Contributors were asked to submit photographs (typically using their mobile phones) or create artworks that, for them, portrayed the theme of ‘Hope’; some of the resulting works portray vivid descriptions of ‘Hope’, others are works that give hope. The resulting exhibition features a wonderful diversity of inspiring and creative imagery.

Visitors to the exhibition will be asked to nominate their favourite images and artworks with prizes being awarded to the most popular.

As part of the exhibition, award-winning local photographer Jim Grover, creator of the acclaimed photo-stories, 'Windrush: Portrait of a Generation (2018) and 'Here Am I' (2019) will also exhibit a new body of work, 'Hope through the lens of Jim Grover'; all of the photographs have been taken in and around Clapham.

The Reverend Kit Gunasekera, vicar of St James, Clapham, said:

"Hope is something we all need and long for. I am so delighted that such a diverse breadth of local people and groups are participating in our exhibition of photos and artwork, and am especially delighted to have the involvement of the Iqra Primary School and the Ace of Clubs. I very much hope that exhibition visitors will leave with renewed hope in their lives."

Photographer Jim Grover, who is organising the overall exhibition, said: 'It's incredible the imagery that can now be created on mobile phones; everyone is an artist! Last year, the globally prestigious Prix Pictet photography prize won by a series of images taken on a mobile phone, which just shows what's possible. I am really looking forward to seeing and exhibiting our community's creativity; exhibition visitors can be sure of experiencing a wonderful variety of portrayals of hope.'

### **Exhibition Listings Information**

Title: 'Hope: An Exhibition'  
Dates: Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March  
Times: Daily 11am-7pm (Thursdays 11am-9pm).  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 1-6pm; Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 10am-12pm  
Admission: Free (including free refreshments)  
Venue: St James Church, Park Hill, Clapham, SW4 9PB  
Web: <https://www.stjamesclapham.org.uk>  
Contact: Revd Kit Gunasekera, Vicar  
Telephone: 0207 652 0882

For more information, please contact: Diana Whitehead; Fourth Wall PR at [diana@fourthwallpr.co.uk](mailto:diana@fourthwallpr.co.uk); 07939 149887

### **Background notes for editors**

#### **About St James Church, Clapham and 'A Festival of Hope'**

St James is a Church of England church in the heart of Clapham. It has recently staged two major photography exhibitions: 'Of Things Not Seen' (2016), and 'Windrush: Portrait of a Generation' (2018) which have proved very popular with local residents.

This March it is staging a 'Festival of Hope' programme comprising, 'Hope: An Exhibition' (March 9<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>); a concert by renowned gospel-singer Garth Hewitt (Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm); and a community 'Film and cream tea afternoon' (Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2.30-5.30pm). The events are all free.

For more information: [www.stjamesclapham.org.uk](http://www.stjamesclapham.org.uk)

St James' 'A Festival of Hope' is part of the broader 'Hope 2020' programme being offered by churches across Clapham Park from March 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>.

Details of the full 'Hope 2020' programme are available at:  
[www.claphamparkhope.org/](http://www.claphamparkhope.org/)

### **About Jim Grover, Photographer**

Jim Grover is an award-winning social documentary photographer based in Clapham.

In the last 5 years he has created 4 major local photo-stories which have all been exhibited and featured by national media including The Guardian, The Times, The Observer, The British Journal of Photography, and the BBC, amongst many others. His work includes the highly acclaimed 'Windrush: Portrait of a Generation' which was first exhibited in the Oxo Gallery on London's south bank and which has now been seen by over 20,000 visitors.

For more information: [www.jimgroverphotography.com](http://www.jimgroverphotography.com)

### **About Iqra Primary School**

The Iqra primary school is a Muslim voluntary aided school in the parish of St James Church, Clapham. There are 245 pupils between the ages of 4-11. The school was rated 'Outstanding' in all areas in its most recent Ofsted inspection.

For more information: <https://iqra.lambeth.sch.uk>

### **About 'Ace of Clubs'**

The 'Ace of Clubs' in Clapham provides a wide range of day centre services for homeless and vulnerable people, including those suffering from addiction. This year marks its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

For more information: <https://aceofclubs.org.uk>