



St James Church



Christ Church

## The Parochial Church Council of St James and All Saints and Christ Church



### ST JAMES, ALL SAINTS AND CHRIST CHURCH

KEEPING FAITH • JOURNEYING IN HOPE • SERVING WITH LOVE



Office@stjamesandchristchurch.uk  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14154](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14154)  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14150](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14150)



## Annual Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2025

APCM 10th May 2026  
12.15pm St James Church

## Administrative information

The Parish of St James and All Saints and Christ Church is situated in central Gloucester and is part of the Diocese of Gloucester, within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: 1 The Conifers, Gloucester, GL1 4LP.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 until the date of this report was approved are:

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Post</i>	<i>Dates if part year</i>
<i>Incumbent:</i>	Stephen Saville	Chair	<i>From Nov 2025</i>
<i>Associate Priest</i>	Suki Osunsanmi		
<i>Reader:</i>	Alexandra Dyer		
<i>Church Wardens:</i>	Michael Greening Sandie Reeves		Jan - Apr 2025
<i>Deanery Synod:</i>	Ade Osunsanmi Sandie Reeves		
<i>Elected:</i>	Hazel Croly Hilary Cass Stuart Dyer Trevor Henry Sandra Reid	Acting Treasurer Chair	From May 2025 Jan - Oct 2025  Jan - Apr 2025
<i>Co-opted</i>	Lola Amusan	Treasurer	Jan - Apr 2025

## Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

## Objectives and activities

St James and All Saints and Christ Church PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Revd Stephen Saville, and Church Wardens in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission and ministry of the Church: prayer and worship, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St James Church and Christ Church and St James Parish Hall.

## **Review of the year 2025**

### **Keeping Faith, Journeying in Hope, Serving with Love**

#### **Chair of PCC Review of the Year**

In 2025 we continued our time of vacancy trying to keep things as normal as possible. We are grateful to our own Suki, Jeremiah, Alexandra and Sandie who helped make sure the services on a Sunday carried on as before. We are also grateful to those others who came to support us throughout 2025, The Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar, The Revd Dr Mike Parsons, The Revd Canon Michael Butler, (who of course, brought the wonderful music group), The Revd Jo Weatherall, The Revd Ali Mephram and The Revd James Njgu. We also had an Open Doors service led by The Revd Felicity Walters.

During Lent we had our Lent groups and again gave an opportunity to hear different voices as we invited people from the congregation to bring the message on Sunday mornings. What a blessing it was to hear them. Thank you all for being brave enough to step into, for many, a new experience and for sharing what God had put on your hearts. As last year people have been encouraged to try new things and as a church to change by allowing people to make mistakes and to grow and learn from them.

Suki and the Revd Sonya Newton from St Paul and St Stephen Church, have continued to minister at the care homes particularly in Parkview and Great Western.

#### Highlights

We had quiz nights and a skittles night, both great events to get together with members of the wider community and have fun!

In March though we had a reminder that we need to be observant as well as welcoming when Hilary had her purse stolen. It was a good reminder that safeguarding is an important part of everyday life.

In June at the Cathedral Jos Grant was admitted to the Order of St Kyneburga by Bishop Rachel for long service to Christ Church. Although, Jos was not able to attend, he was presented his award in a short service at his home later in the year.

In July as the school term ended, we said goodbye to Luke from Sportily who had been leading the Monday afternoon drop-in for the young people – which according to Sandie and Suki who often went along to help lead was a fun time and often provided pizza! We are grateful to him for all his input to our youth.

We said goodbye to Rose Davies, Rachel Williams, Caroline Thomas and Don Dawkins, who all died during the year. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Archdeacon Hilary held a number of meetings with different people to progress the vacancy. We had our own conversations in church. Thank you to everyone who contributed views and ideas for the Parish profile which was then collated by us and then designed by Revd Ali Mephram, who knew the parish well after leading several services here.

After a successful interview day in June, The Revd Steve Saville was appointed and joined us in November (more from Steve later). And so, we continued the vacancy knowing that there was finally an end in sight.

During the year we said thank you to a number of people - Sandra finished her term on the

PCC, and Lola stepped down as Treasurer, due to work commitments. Robert too stepped down officially as Verger and Sandie as church warden, though both continued to be available whenever needed. We are grateful to all those who volunteer, whether on the PCC or leading and facilitating groups, and to those of you who take part in these activities and groups, many of which you will read about later in this report. Without them church would not be the family that it is. So may I say my own thank you to you all for pulling together over these last eighteen months.

Another huge loss was when Kaylie stepped down as Administrator. She left a huge hole as she was involved in so many areas of administration and we are grateful for the systems she put in place. However, in her absence many others came forward to do aspects of the admin so thank you again. We realise much has been missed but gradually during the year we addressed some of the issues and some are still ongoing at the end of 2025.

The home communion team comprising Suki, Hilary, and Trevor have ensured that those who were housebound continued to be able to be a part of the community and knew they were connected and missed. The pastoral groups set up earlier in the year, came into their own when several people needed ongoing pastoral care and Suki oversaw these.

This November we didn't hold our own community All Souls service on the first Sunday and instead signposted people to St Pauls and St Stephens. The following day we had a wonderful celebration when The Revd Steve Saville was installed as Priest-in-Charge here at St James and also the collaborative team between us and St Paul's and St Stephens parish was prayed for by Bishop Robert. Archdeacon Hilary at her final licensing service installed Steve and took him to ring the church bells to announce the news. (shhh! we won't mention the bell rope!) It was good to see so many of the community represented, school staff, councillors, faith leaders, neighbours, local organisations, congregation past and present and all ages, all came to welcome Steve and Juliette and their family.

What a wonderful ending to our vacancy. Even as we ended 2025 lots of new shoots and exciting new beginnings were happening. An advent bible study, more opportunities for the children to take part to name but two, and we look forward to what God will do next.

**Hilary Cass**  
**Chair of PCC**

**Thank you Hilary for all you contributed throughout 2025.**

It was a joy and privilege to be licensed as Priest-in-Charge on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025. Since then, it has been a whirlwind of new faces, places, and events. In many respects November was an excellent time to join the parish. My first service was very moving as we marked Remembrance Day and then went into Advent and Christmas. These seasons are such a good opportunity for outreach in the community and shared celebrations. My first Christmas in the parish held many highlights including the Advent bible study group and Carols in the Farmyard!

May I add my own thanks to Hilary's to all of you who supported the life of the church in so many diverse ways during the period of vacancy in 2025. I arrived in November to find a welcoming, prayerful, and expectant church community excited about all that God will bring in the year ahead. We give thanks for all that is past and wait with hope for all that will come.

**Revd Stephen Saville**  
**Priest-in-Charge**

# Journeying in Hope

## **Safeguarding Report**

Safeguarding this year has come once again to the front of people's minds with the Makin Report and other illustrations nationally of things going wrong. In our Diocese we have a strong and supportive safeguarding team who are always available and with Bishop Robert due to become National lead for Safeguarding in April 2026. The focus will be to continue embedding a culture of safeguarding throughout the Diocese, one of welcome and of enabling people to thrive in a safe environment.

In our own Parish we ensure that there is a safeguarding report every PCC meeting. We use the national safeguarding dashboard which keeps a check on outstanding tasks such as policy reviews and training. Every volunteer must complete the required training and have the necessary police checks for their role. We will also have to complete risk assessments for any activity, most of these are done but if you are planning an activity please speak to Sandie or Steve to make sure one is in place. It can sometimes sound off putting and scary but there is lots of support within the parish and the team at Church House to support everyone.

As in previous years we marked Safeguarding Sunday to remind everyone that safeguarding is the responsibility of us all. Next year in 2026 there are workshops and training events planned so if you would like to get involved in safeguarding and feel that you would like to find out more of the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer please do speak to Sandie or Steve.

**Sandie Reeves Parish Safeguarding Officer**

## **Governance**

During 2025 the church benefited from a Parish Administrator until July and our thanks go out to Kaylie who was a great asset to the church in her role as Parish Administrator since 2022.

We also had Lola as our church treasurer until April 2025 and again our thanks go out to Lola who provided great service to the parish by fulfilling that key role so diligently. Since Lola, Hazel and Sandie have worked together as acting treasurers to ensure the smooth running of the parish finances. Enormous thanks go out to both of them.

The PCC continued to meet regularly during 2025 with Hilary as Chairperson until the arrival of the new Priest, Stephen. It was a role she fulfilled with wisdom, diligence and commitment. Our thanks go out to Hilary for all her work over the year.

Sandie Reeves (unofficially) and Michael Greening fulfilled the roles of Church warden. Sandie had a particular focus on ChristChurch and Michael on St. James. Enormous thanks to both of them for their work over the year.

## **Buildings**

The PCC have overseen the care and use of the three parish buildings during what has continued to be a challenging time: St James Church, St James Parish Hall and Christ Church.

### **St James Church and Church Warden Report**

This year has mainly been a year of preparation; we have been without a vicar since last July. The usual checks on the church have been completed - Servicing the church convector heaters and annual Fire Extinguisher Tests. Virtually all Quinquennial requirements have been completed - the only outstanding major job is the insulating and strengthening of the door on the South Wall. The other smaller jobs left - replacing crazy paving at the side of the church where the gas pipes were laid and replacing the fan heater in the toilets will be completed this year.

Also this year, the 5 Yearly Electrical Inspection of the building is due. I have already got quotes and once an electrician is chosen we proceed and get the work done and approved by the July/August deadline.

The church hall still awaits a new boiler and kitchen / toilet refurbishment. We do have a new regular weekend booking by a local South Indian church community which is very encouraging.

During this last year Archdeacon Hilary guided us through the process of appointing a new vicar. A Parish Profile was prepared - with the invaluable help of St. Paul's vicar, James Njue. The candidate was duly announced and Rev Stephen Saville was officially licensed and installed on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. As Steve and his wife Juliette settle into the parish there will be, I'm sure lots of exciting and challenging times ahead - and with a church family as warm and open as St James, I am sure he will have lots of help and support.

**Michael**

### **Christ Church**

The move to closing the church has continued. As a result of continued fly-tipping, it was decided to erect a secure fence around the building to prevent any more tents and hopefully deter fly tipping. The Church Commissioners accepted the proposal to start the closure process and opened an online survey for anyone to disagree or raise comments. This closed at the end of 2025.

A recent rainstorm meant that the ceiling near the entrance became unstable as a result it had to be made safe. Kings Builders were brought in by the diocese team and did the work. It does mean that no one should now enter without permission from Mike, Sandie or Steve. At the end of December 2025 we have been alerted to the fact that there is another encampment, this time at the back of the building outside of the security fence. Sandie and the closed churches team, along with the PCC are monitoring this. Currently we are working with the utility companies to decommission the building prior to handing it to the diocese.

We have also had some lovely contact with past church members, we were able to reunite a plaque from the organ to the grandson of the organist and several photos have been redistributed. Our new Vicar, Steve, has used sofas and other bits of furniture from Christchurch to make the Mary Merrett Rooms feel more comfortable and welcoming. The sofas, along with the nativity scene at Christmas, really does mean that Christ Church has become a part of the fabric here at St James. There is still much to be done before we can hand it over completely, including a final Service to say farewell, but the PCC are grateful for all the help we have received from the Church and the diocese.

**Sandie**

## Parish Treasurer's Report

At the end of 2025 we had £31887 unrestricted cash and £3708 restricted cash (Restricted means that we can only spend it on certain things e.g. children's work). In investments we had £20815 unrestricted and £105144 restricted. All our parish share has been paid, £30000 in total and all our bills are up to date.

Our voluntary giving held up well in 2025 but we are still overspending on our income by £8668. This needs to be addressed or we will soon not have enough unrestricted reserves to work with.

To give some context, at the end of 2023 we had £102,000 unrestricted cash and this had decreased to about £32,000 at the end of 2025. If that trend, an annual overspend of £35,000, continues we will not have any unrestricted cash left to pay bills by the end of 2026. The majority of this money went on updating the church building following the 5-yearly fabric report and updating the windows and doors in the Church Hall.

To address this we are:

- Seeking to increase planned and unplanned voluntary giving
- Applying for grants for specific mission and ministry work
- Seeking to increase rental income from the hall and church
- We will assess our capacity to pay our parish share commitment after 6 months.

Since April of this year we have been working without a treasurer. Sandie and myself have been keeping the boat afloat but pray that we will have a new treasurer for the next year. Parish giving is going well but we would dearly love for more people to join the scheme. For each £1 you donate the church can claim back 25p in Gift Aid from the government at no cost to you. Please consider it.

In addition, we are also encouraging parishioners to consider leaving a legacy to St James in their will. More information on this can be found on [the Church of England Website](#). A legacy can support the work of St James Church in Barton and Tredworth for years to come. Thank you for your continued giving and for your loyalty in all that you do.

**Hazel (Acting Treasurer)**

## Deanery Synod Report

The Synod convened 3 times during 2025 March, July, and November. There were other gatherings for worship and discussions open more widely to our PCCs/members of our congregations

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity there was an opportunity for prayer and praise as guests of Gloucester Community Church at St Luke's, Stroud Road. The service was well attended by representatives from churches across the deanery. An invitation was extended to prayer-walk the city <https://www.pray4gloucester.uk/>

**20 March** Synod met at St Nicholas Church, Hardwicke.

No Speaker. Concentrated on the next steps in the Deanery Strategic Plan, noting that our deanery was in line for early funding to support finance and administration. The roles of a Deanery operations lead and an oversight team, relative to those Deanery Standing Committee and the AD needed defining; and terms of reference were drawn up and agreed. Before the next Synod on 8 July there were 4 opportunities for worshipping together.

- The Way of the Cross 18 April Good Friday Cathedral and City Centre
- Sunrise Service at 6 am Easter Day 20 April Robinswood Hill.
- Ascension Day 29 May,

- 31 May, ecumenical service at the Cathedral with 36 worshipping communities taking part, and young people leading prayers. During this we celebrated the success of the prayer walking challenge as 100% of Gloucester had been prayed for by those who had taken part since January. And the prayerwalking app was reset with people encouraged to keep praying.

Alongside prayer and praise gatherings, interested parties have met to discuss the Parish Share. The City Deanery is heavily subsidised by the other deaneries plus the Diocese as we seek to increase our contribution (currently we give roughly 50% of the cost). Parish representatives/incumbents/ treasurers/churchwardens were invited to meet with members of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) and Archdeacon Hilary on 7 May in Church House to discuss the new approach to their allocations for 2026. There was understanding on the part of the DBF of where we were as parishes. There was transparency in the allocations which were based on what we had said we could afford. There were also of course warnings against complacency and requests that we make every effort to raise our commitments. The phrase we came away with was “realistic generosity”,: response to the generosity we each had received at God’s hand with the very best we could manage.

**8 July** This Synod was held in the Church of St Barnabas. The Rev’d Sarah Todd thanked her team and opened the meeting with prayer.

The speaker for the meeting was Rev’d Kate Stacey, Collaborative Ministry Lead (Life Long Learning) from the Department of Mission and Ministry. She was responsible for the development and learning for both clergy and laity as both are called by God to service and to work collaboratively in the mission of the church within their wider communities. To thrive, parishes need called and committed laity, respected and valued in implementation. In the business meeting that followed members were told of the progress in implementation of the DSP. This was especially so with the Youth Connector, Rev’d Helen Champion and in the moves towards appointing a Deanery Operations Lead.

Deanery Evensong on Sunday 7 September was led by Rev’d Mark Siddall at St James’ Church, Quedgeley. The congregation was small however the sermon and prayers were uplifting.

**19 November** we hosted the Deanery Synod, with thanks to those who provided cakes and came to serve on the evening. Our new Vicar Revd Steve Saville welcomed the members and opened the meeting with prayer.

Lydia Knight, the new Deanery Operations Lead for Gloucester City Deanery was introduced and spoke about her role. Then each parish and benefice then shared the joys and challenges of their ministries.

The feedback on the Parish Share meeting with the DBF was very positive. The ongoing treasurers meeting with Jane (deanery parish share coordinator) are proving helpful and mutually supportive.

We also spoke of the need to give some thought in our parishes to the elections to the new Deanery Synod which would happen at our APCM, and the effort we should make to encourage enthusiasm around this role.

Over the year we have **Done Something Positive** with our DSP.

- Youth work in the deanery has had a terrific boost,
- we have a more realistic approach to finance but of course much more to do
- the Deanery Operations Lead is in place
- Collaboration across the city with prayer walking

This year the Deanery Synod will have to be re-elected so if anyone would like to attend these interesting and informative meetings and have a part in moving our Deanery forward please think of standing for election at the APCM.

**Ade Osunsanmi and Sandie Reeves**  
**Deanery Synod Representative**

## Electoral Roll and Church attendance

The Parish Electoral Roll has been updated and there are 72 parishioners included on this. 1 person moved away and has been removed and 26 people have been added. Thanks go to Alexandra for being the electoral roll officer and maintaining our records.

Parish worship has been held at St James Church Sunday by Sunday with the services also being relayed to between one and two households over the video-conferencing platform, Zoom. During October, the average weekly in person Sunday attendance at St James was 52 (42 Adults and 10 Children). 72 people attended worship on Christmas Eve and Day whilst 68 attended Easter services.

## Life events

During 2025 the church was privileged to journey with several families through important moments of life and death. Clergy from St. James took the funerals for Noel Palmer, Jason Guyah, Margaret Brown, John James, Daisy Pryce, Rachel Williams, and Jaqueline Tippins

Baby Dedication: Chioma Ugochukwu

Baptism: Amarius Muniya

Banns of marriage: Two

Suki



# Keeping Faith

## Our Regular Services of Prayer and Worship

We have been worshipping each week on a Sunday at 11am. The first Sunday is an all-age service, the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays are Holy Communion. The 3rd Sunday is Morning Worship. We gather from 10.30am for coffee and conversation. A large team of singers, musicians, servers, coffee makers, tech team, play preparers, washing uppers, and others help make our worship happen, A huge thanks to all involved. On the 2nd and 4th Sundays there is Godly Play for primary school aged children. During Lent, Easter and Christmas special services are held to mark Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Community Carols, Christmas Eve, and a Watchnight service on New Year's Eve.

## Morning Prayer

Each week day morning at 8.30 via Zoom, a happy band of pilgrims meet for morning prayer. Our time together lasts between 20 and 30 minutes and we follow the Church of England worship of morning prayer.

We number around 14 altogether, drawing from St James, St Pauls and St Oswalds churches. There is a rota for those who lead our time together, there is space for us to reflect on the bible reading and a time of silent or spoken prayers. It is a wonderful way to start the day in prayerful communion with each other. We are indebted to those who put the power points together. If you would like to join us, you would be very welcome, we can be found on the usual St James Zoom link.

**Viv**

## Evening Prayer

Evening Prayer continues on Mondays to Fridays at 6pm. It usually lasts only 10 - 15 minutes and is a lovely way to end the working day and begin the evening time. Whilst only a small number of core people attend everyday, we are often joined by others, and anybody is always welcome whether occasionally or regularly. Sometimes we are asked by people who can't attend to pray for a specific situation which we are always happy to do. We meet on zoom, follow a simple order of service, have a time fellowship and prayer for ourselves, neighbours the parish and anything else going in the world. We use powerpoints which change throughout the year and the artwork on them helps to focus our mind on the season, particularly in Advent and Lent. If you need the link to the church zoom please just ask and we can send it to you - we would love to see you there.

**Sandie**

## Bible Study

This group meets at Charter Court every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 2.p.m. We have a short Bible Study using the Lifebuilder series of study books and then we usually have refreshments which are generously provided by Alice. The study is usually led by one of the group and everybody is encouraged to participate. Occasionally one of the clergy attends and will sometimes lead. Anybody is welcome to join us. Your input would be greatly appreciated. God's word is vital to our spiritual growth just as food is to our physical growth so why not come and study with us and have fellowship at the same time. We would love to welcome you.

**Hazel & Trevor**

## **Discipleship Courses**

We undertook the lent discipleship course on "Living Hope". This was a 5-week course from the week after Ash Wednesday to the passion week. Only 4 sessions were held. There were 2 groups- online and in-person at the Charter Court. During Advent a group met in-person at church for 4 weeks to reflect on the themes of joy, hope, peace, and love.

**Suki**

## **Home Communions**

We took home communions to 2-3 enrolled parishioners and presided at a service of Holy communion in 2 care homes: Park View and Great Western. About 25-30 would take communion at Park View and 5-10 at Great Western.

**Suki**

## **Godly Play**

*May we create sacred places where children are invited to bring their authentic selves.*

Are you ready? This is the question our young people are asked, as they cross the threshold into the Godly Play room. Getting ready is an important part of Godly Play, ready to come together, sit in the circle, listen to the story and share in the wondering. Following this the children are invited to respond, in any way they wish, using the resources in the room. There are also times when we share a simple "feast" together before returning to the main congregation. This is the structure of our time together.

Godly Play takes place on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and welcomes children from Reception to Year 6. We are blessed with amazing young people at St. James, who bring so much to our times together. Our numbers each week vary between 3-9 children.

There is a rota of Storytellers and Doorkeepers. A big thank you to all who volunteer for these roles.

This past year we continue to be thankful to Alison for her support and provision of storytelling resources. We have shared The Parables stories from the New Testament, alongside Creation, The Ark and the flood, The Great family and other sacred stories from the Old Testament, as well as Easter, Pentecost and Christmas narratives as appropriate for the church year, together with liturgical actions and language, explored through Holy Communion, Baptism, and The Church Year.

If you are interested in being part of our children's ministry please do speak to Steve, Sandie or myself.

"They don't need all the answers, they don't need to speak out loud or respond in a specific way. They need places for wondering, creating, and being exactly who they are." (Godly Play UK)

**Viv**

## **St James Church of England Junior School**

Our close relationship with the school continued to develop in 2025. Tina and Rob went in every fortnight as 'Storytellers', encouraging the children to reflect on bible stories. Suki supported the school in his role as Governor and took assemblies and services both in school and in the church. Since November I have taken on the role as Governor and worked with the school on their services, assemblies and their Christian ethos. Our thanks go to Headteacher Emma, the RE lead Katharine, and all the staff at St. James for their commitment to the children and the flourishing relationship with St. James Church.

**Steve**

# Serving with Love

## Pastoral Care

Pastoral care has continued to be offered to regular church worshippers and people with wider parish connections, by those with particular responsibilities and by those who do this less formally. A large amount of informal visiting and caring goes on in addition to the Home Communion and Care Home visits mentioned above.

## Youth Work

This year our main provision for the youth was the Youth Hang-out on a Monday evening at St James Hall. Luke and the team from Sportily led evenings of games, fun and fellowship always ending in a time of discussion and focus on God. Suki and Sandie both had the privilege of helping as leaders some weeks, and greatly enjoyed the pizza and other food provided particularly at the end of term! The numbers varied with different young people coming from week to week and interestingly usually a higher proportion of males to females - maybe this was a reflection of the majority male leaders or maybe their emphasis on games and sport. Something maybe to explore when our new Vicar arrives. In July at the end of the school term we had the news that Luke was going into teacher training. Whilst we were all delighted for him it did mean that due to staff shortages Youth Hang out was unable to re-open in September. Discussions were started with Sportily but the PCC felt it would be better to wait till Steve Saville arrived so that the provision could be looked at holistically, particularly as during the vacancy we have been unable to provide any extra sessions for our young people during the Sunday service.

Over Christmas we worked with "Readwithme" and the "Holiday Activities and Food Programme" (HAF) to host a Christmas Film evening and a Homemade Pantomime which was enjoyed by many local children and families.

**Sandie**

## Coffee and Cake

Coffee and cake gives an opportunity to connect with each other in a social setting, where we can share our news, plan social events, as well as being a visible fellowship of faith in the community. We meet at The Coffee Shop situated within the Friendship Café, every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10.30. This also gives opportunity, in times of a difficult financial climate, to give our support to this community space. The Coffee Shop offers us a warm welcome as well as a variety of goodies to eat, alongside the tea and coffee. We would love to see you there.

**Viv**

## Welcome Wednesday

Welcome Wednesday started about two years ago and was aimed to encourage both adults and children to use the church on a Wednesday afternoon once a month. This was never really well attended and soon became a knit and natter group of five or six people who were very industrious in making hearts, ducklings, knitted Christmas puddings, beanie hats and hats for premature babies. All these went to good homes and were greatly appreciated. The original group is still open to anybody who would like to come along and play a board game or just have a chat and a coffee. Please do not feel you have to knit. We would love to see you.

**Hazel**

## **Social Events**

One of the aims of the Social Committee is to show that religion is not dull but that Christians can enjoy themselves and have fun as well.

This year we have surely done that. We have played skittles, held quizzes, enjoyed a jazz concert, shared food and much more. Next year we hope to broaden our horizons. We are going to change the venue for our skittles evenings. We have an evening of board games planned and a couple of concerts arranged and of course we must tax our brains with the usual quizzes. It is good to see new faces joining us. Please bring your friends when you are planning an evening out. You will not be disappointed.

**Hazel & Trevor**

## **English Corner**

The majority of students in 2025 have come from the middle East including Iran, and from North Africa. There have also been regular attenders from Columbia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Hong Kong, and usually 8 to 12 come to each session.

We have enjoyed teaching English conversation and vocabulary (mostly Alastair) along with basic grammar (mostly Alice). Most are able to learn at a reasonably high level. The few who are beginners normally have half the class with Alice teaching basic English, then join the others for the second half of the lesson. There has been a growing sense of friendship during the classes, and serious learning punctuated with much laughter.

**Alastair Sammon & Alice Wheeler**

## **Art for Life**

I'm delighted to share an update on Art4Life in 2025. Over the past year, we have continued to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at St. James Church in Gloucester. Our art club is a vital sanctuary for 10 to 12 participants, each living with dementia, disability, or other challenges. For them, these gatherings are a deep source of healing and joy, as they create art, share tea and biscuits, and spend precious time together. This is so important for them to carry on, and we have recently been awarded a grant to continue our work. We're also thrilled to announce a new project: we'll be decorating the front of the church near the altar with a beautiful piece of art. Everyone is so excited to bring this vision to life. Thank you for your ongoing support.

God bless, **Rose**

## **Appendices**

St James and Christchurch 2025 Independent Examiner for 2026 APCM

Parish Finance Return 2025

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of St James & All Saints With Christ Church**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025.

### **Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner**

The charity's trustees (the members of the PCC) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention:

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **T R Payne FCCA**

Abaqus Limited

No. 1 Business Centre

1-11 Alvin Street

Gloucester

GL1 3EJ 6 May 2026

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
7	<b>Return of Parish Finance</b>		Parish code:	616121	If the form is NOT completed on behalf of the entire parish, please list below the churches included:		Deanery:	Gloucester City Deanery	
8	<b>January to December 2025</b>		Parish name:	St James and All Saints and Christchurch, N/A		Diocese:	Gloucester City Deanery		
10	<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>RESTRICTED</b>	<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>RESTRICTED</b>	
11			(nearest £)	(nearest £)			(nearest £)	(nearest £)	
12		<b>Voluntary income/ receipts</b>				<b>Costs of generating income</b>			
13	1	Tax efficient planned giving	£ 20,125	£ -	17	Costs of fund-raising activities	£ -	£ -	
14	2	Other planned giving	£ 6,000	£ -		<b>Church activities</b>			
15	3	Collections at services	£ 3,432	£ -	18	Mission giving and donations	£ 272	£ -	
16	4	All other giving and voluntary receipts, including Special Appeals (recurring and one-off)	£ 550	£ -	19	Diocesan parish share contribution	£ 30,000	£ -	
17	6	Gift Aid recovered	£ 3,038	£ -	20	Salaries, wages and honararia	£ 2,346	£ -	
18	7	Legacies received (capital value)	£ -	£ -	21	Clergy and staff expenses	£ 242	£ -	
19	8	Grants (Include recurring and one-off)	£ -	£ -		<b>Church expenses</b>			
20		<b>TOTAL Voluntary income:</b>	£ 33,145	£ -	22	Mission and evangelism costs	£ 2,470	£ 162	
21		<b>Activities for generating funds</b>			23	Church running expenses	£ 10,307	£ -	
22	9	Gross income from fundraising activities	£ 392	£ -	24	Church utility bills	£ 2,975	£ -	
23		<b>Income from investments</b>			25	Cost of trading	£ 2,728	£ -	
24					26	Governance costs	£ 90	£ -	
25	10	Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	£ 97	£ 8,322		<b>Major capital expenditure</b>			
26		<b>Church activities</b>			27	Major repairs to the church building	£ 3,903	£ -	
27	11	Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)	£ 1,757	£ -	28	Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration	£ -	£ -	
28	12	Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.	£ 2,731	£ -	29	New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or other PCC property	£ -	£ -	
29		<b>Other incoming resources</b>				<b>SUB-TOTAL for Church activities &amp; expenses</b>	£ 55,333	£ 162	
30	13	Any other income/ receipts not already listed	£ 750	£ -					
31		<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)</b>			99	Other payments/expenditure not already listed	£ 367	£ -	
32	A	Unrestricted	£ 38,872			<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)</b>			
33	B	Restricted	£ 8,322		D	Unrestricted	£ 55,700		
34	C	TOTAL	£ 47,194		E	Restricted	£ 162		
35		<b>PLANNED GIVERS AND LEGACIES</b>			F	TOTAL	£ 55,862		
36	14	Number of tax efficient planned givers	21			<b>Cash and Investment Balances</b>	<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>RESTRICTED</b>	
37	15	Number of other planned givers	8		31	Cash and deposit balance as at 31 Dec 2025	£ 31,887	£ 3,208	
38	16	Number of new legacies received in year	0		32	Investments as at 31 Dec 2025	£ 20,616	£ 105,144	
39	100	Weekly Average Planned Giving per Planned Giver							
40		<i>This section needs to be completed manually as the figures are not recorded within the Cashbook</i>				<b>Account basis: on which basis are your accounts prepared (indicate ONE)</b>			
41					30	Receipts and payments [ X ]	Accruals	[ ]	
42							<i>*produced using the Diocesan Cashbook v5</i>		
43					Date	2/9/2026			
44		Please refer to the notes on the following pages to help clarify what is included in each section. The item numbers refer to RPF notes, consistent with the guidance provided in PCC Accountability, 2013.			Name	Sandie Reeves, Hazel Croly			
45					Position	Acting Treasurer			
46					Telephone or email	01452 531982			



# ST JAMES, ALL SAINTS AND CHRIST CHURCH

KEEPING FAITH • JOURNEYING IN HOPE • SERVING WITH LOVE



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St James and All Saints and Christ Church

