

**ST JAMES CHURCH  
CLANFIELD**



**YEAR BOOK  
2025/26**

including APCM reports iaw Church Representation Rules 2025  
not included in the Annual Report and Financial Statement

Welcome to our 2025/6 Year Book,

This document contains certain specified reports on behalf of the PCC, as well as short reports from a number of groups who are part of the life of our church, covering the period between April 2025 and now – please enjoy reading it.

If you are a member of the St James Church Electoral Roll then please do bring your comments, questions and points for discussion to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 12.30pm in the church hall (following the 11.15am Church Service).

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard". The script is cursive and fluid.

**The Reverend Richard Hutchins**

Vicar

St James Clanfield

## **Reports Mandated by Church Representation Rules 2025**

### **Electoral Roll Report**

The number on the new 2025 Electoral roll was 41, 34 resident and 7 non-residents in the parish.

No new members joined or left the parish in this year hence the revised Electoral Roll for the 2026 APCM is still 41. However, cross-checking addresses with parish boundaries shows that 30 members are resident in the parish and 11 are non-resident.

*Marjorie MacGillivray*

### **PCC Secretary Report**

There have been 6 PCC meetings (90% attendance) and 5 Standing committee meetings (91% attendance) in 2025. Matters discussed have included: Safeguarding, Finances, Church Fabric and community events amongst other general church business.

*Sue Heighton*

**Annual Report and Financial Statements** – see separate report

### **Churchwarden Fabric & Safeguarding Report**

#### *Garden of Remembrance and Churchyard*

The ongoing maintenance of the Churchyard has been undertaken by working parties. From April 2025 the working party met on the first Saturday of each month led by Andy Martin. Gavin Rabetts looks after all areas of the churchyard apart from the borders and the two burial of ashes area to a high standard. The permissive path through the churchyard was closed in August to maintain permissive status.

#### *Church*

The maintenance of the church fabric and all relevant inspections of gas, electric and fire equipment have been carried out. A Temporary Minor Reordering Licence (TMRO) remained in place for the removal of three pews to create space near the church main door for accessible seating and to create more room for the families area. Experience is showing that this is effective. A faculty is currently being prepared. List B was granted by the Archdeacon for repairs to the bells. The work to overhaul and repair the fittings of the bell installation was started in February by Taylor of Loughborough and was completed in March.

#### *Church Hall*

Linda Stephens has continued to oversee the operation of the hall. The cleaning and upkeep of the hall and fixtures has continued through the year, along with routine maintenance. The hall finances continued to be monitored to ensure ongoing viability.

As I complete my third year as Churchwarden, I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the life of St James who without them I would not be able to carry out my role of Churchwarden.

*Diana Hutchins*

## Safeguarding

St James Church Clanfield Safeguarding Report to APCM 2026.

The Joint safeguarding Team comprising of Alan Gothard, Joe Edwards and Linda Stephens continue to work through Diocesan Safeguarding structures set up by Portsmouth Diocese. In the past year of this report the safeguarding administration team met four times, and safeguarding reports were presented at all PCC meetings. Safeguarding training was carried out by various church members as identified by the Diocesan Safeguarding Portal. I would like to thank Rev Richard for his guidance and teaching in our shared role and duties to Safeguarding in our parish enabling the PCC to fulfil their Safeguarding Role.

There are three levels within the online Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, covering training and Safeguarding Policy, and we have now progressed to the top level of level three.

Linda and I continued to work closely with Joe Edwards who is the safeguarding officer for All Saints Catherington. Linda is holding training records for both churches. I would also like to say thank you to both Linda Stephens and Joe Edwards for their support in the past year enabling me to carry out my role as Safeguarding Officer for St James.

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

*Alan Gothard  
Parish Safeguarding Officer*

## **Deanery Synod Report**

The Havant Deanery Synod met 3 times

- 10 Jun 2025 All Saints, Denmead
- 11 Nov 2025 St James Church, Emsworth
- 25 Mar 2026 Church of the Good Shepherd, Crookhorn

At the meeting on the 10 Jun, Revd. Emma Racklyeft, Area Dean, welcomed members of the synod and Karen Rose was welcomed and introduced as the Minutes Secretary. The Revd. Jonathan Jeffery was licensed as Assistant Area Dean by Acting Archdeacon Canon Bob White.

Ghana and Portsmouth Link – Angela Herring gave an update on the link, that has been in existence for nearly 24 years, supporting each other in prayer and helping to support projects which enable people to earn money to provide for their families and local communities.

- Water Project
- Maternity Project
- Piggery at Kwabeng

Fresh Expressions, Presentations and discussion – Kathy Gunn, the Lay Chair, introduced five clergy to present on some new ways their ministry is taking – Bubble Church (St Nicholas, Bedhampton), Tea and Praise (Heart Plain), Wild Church (St James, Emsworth), Anna Café Church (St James, Emsworth), The Lunch Group (Leigh Park).

At the meeting on the 11 Nov, Kathy Gunn, (Deanery Lay Chair) welcomed members of Synod and various Deanery Staffing posts were fulfilled.

Parish News – a Pioneer Youth Worker at Park Community School is going to be appointed as part of the Deanery Plan. St Wilfrid's now has solar panels and battery storage, making it the first church in the Diocese to take this step. Revd. Clare Challis, from St John's at Rowlands Castle, reported that exciting things have been happening with younger people in the church, including a young lady who affirmed her faith with Baptism by full immersion.

Update and How I can Support Your Parish - from Heather Powney, Diocesan Children's, Youth and Families Officer

Heather's presentation showed the strategy of her role, which is to prioritise children and youth, and how she would provide support to clergy, training and resources, strategy and culture change. There are currently 29 paid Children, Youth and Families Officers in the Diocese and hundreds of volunteers. There is a need to build networks and communities for them all through regular meet ups, newsletters, and training courses, to prevent feelings of isolation, enable the sharing of best practice, and provide a general sounding board for ideas, challenges, and next steps.

Diocesan News - from Tim Pike

The Diocesan Synod met on the 8th November 2025 and matters arising from the meeting were:

- Oil fired heating systems – replacing these is a priority and there will be some support from the Diocese.
- Budget – the Parish Share will have a 3% increase which is based on collecting 88% of Parish Share.
- Grants – these are being targeted by the central church to dioceses such as Portsmouth, and will be applied where appropriate.

At the meeting on the 25 Mar, Kathy Gunn, (Deanery Lay Chair) welcomed members of Synod and Revd. Janette Smith, Incumbent of the Church of the Good Shepherd (CoGS), gave a brief introduction to the parish.

Deanery Staffing updates

- Revd. Canon Andy Wilson retired
- Revd. Canon Karina Green retiring on 19<sup>th</sup> April

Deanery Plan update

- Revd. Jonathan Jeffery talked us through both the national and diocesan strategy including details relating to the next stage of SMIIB funding and planned timeline.
- Revd. Emma then presented the Havant Deanery DRAFT plan.
- This plan has been created using a new Diocesan framework and format. Emma presented details of the Deanery's very spread-out geographical area, how the Deanery stands today, future building plans for over 9,000 new homes and how the Havant Deanery is already working to the Revive, Revitalise and Renew initiatives. She recognised that there is a real mix of modern and ancient buildings and congregations, and worshipping styles, across the Deanery. Group discussions then raised matters such as the possibility of sharing administration and finance resources across the Deanery, funding for things such as toilets for churches that have none. The document is currently live and therefore can be adjusted.

*Andy Martin and Marjorie MacGillivray*

## Other Reports

### Vicar's Report

The period of preparation for an APCM is one time in the year when emails and paperwork are things of delight – as reports of activities in our life as church family are sent in. There are so many good things to reflect upon over the past year, to celebrate and take joy in, both in the Benefice and in the individual parishes.

Without exactly copying the text of last year, the right place to start in my short report is with my most heartfelt thanks to the PCC, who provide such wisdom and strength in leading a guiding our church life. Diana has been stalwart as our Churchwarden this year and Sue has continued to keep me organised, in her role as PCC Secretary, and keeping PCC records straight. And all of the PCC members together have borne the weight of this leadership role with grace and aplomb. Thank you to you all (and to Alan Gothard and Linda Stephens for their support in safeguarding roles). There are spaces on the PCC this year so if you can serve your church brothers and sisters in this capacity, please step forward! A huge thanks to Linda Stephens for her continued faithful service as our Treasurer and all the work she does to keep the PCC informed through her clear reports.

I repeat what I said last year, that without Anna, our Parish Administrator, I would probably have sunk numerous times in the year – thank you for taking so much of the day-to-day burden from me to allow space for ministry and mission! Thank you to Revd Anne for her support throughout the year and her accompaniment in ordained ministry.

THANK YOU to everyone who gives financially with such faithfulness to enable our life as church together. We have continued in our ability to meet all of our commitments from our giving and fundraising, with minimal impact on our reserves; at the same time we continue to tithe a proportion of our giving to external Christian charities, sharing from the blessings that God has given us. Again I offer an additional sprinkling of thanks to those who give via the Parish Giving Scheme, as this ensures that Gift Aid payments are received automatically.

Thank you to everyone that contributes to our life as church together – there are so many different things that go on, many of them almost invisibly, that create our worshipping and fellowship life together; have you consciously thought about how the communion linen gets clean, or the wafers and wine topped up? Thank you to everyone who does their part, no matter how small, and I will mention specifically the flower arrangers who bring beauty week on week, and especially at the festivals and the churchyard working party who keep the grounds looking so good. I would also like to mention the Summer Teas team, who offer outreach and hospitality in the summer months; and in this blessing to the people that come incidentally raise funds that are an important part of our annual finances. The same can be said of the Christmas Fayre and everyone who gets involved in that event – again, thank you.

Revd Jan Fuller completed her placement from St Lukes, Southsea, in the summer and is now licensed on Hayling Island.

In January, the joint PCCs spent a day at Beckett House (Portsmouth Cathedral) to consider our vision as a Benefice and in each parish. It was a great day of sharing with each other under the facilitating presence of the Revd Andrew Hargreaves (from the Diocese). A small vision team has

been called together and they will be meeting to champion the output of that day with the PCCs. On the day we spent time thinking about our context and things that we celebrate and find challenging, and we thought about what season we are experiencing in our church life. We shared an exercise in groups of where we felt we are in the churches in terms of the seven marks of a healthy church and identified key areas to focus upon. We then looked at hopes and dreams for the short, medium and longer term under headings of Worship, Evangelism, Discipleship, Fellowship/Community and Ministry/Leadership; this included gathering ideas from those present and then everyone having "votes" on the priorities. More on this to come as the Vision Team get their teeth into the championing role.

Following the New Wine Festival 2025, Encounter became Awaken – our Benefice informal evening service on the 3rd Sunday of the month at St James Church; an opportunity to wait on the Holy Spirit and pray with one another. We have enjoyed material from the NW Festival, via New Wine Online – with a dramatic recitation of the book of Ruth and impactful teaching. We held our first Abide in summer – an extended period for people to come and find a meditative and prayerful space.

God bless – and humblest apologies if I have missed anything!

*Revd Richard Hutchins*

### **Catherington and Clanfield Mothers' Union**

'Caring for families worldwide through fellowship, fundraising and prayer'.

Since the last APCM Mothers' Union have continued to meet on the second Tuesday of every month (except during August) at 2pm in St James Church Hall. We are a Committee Led group so many thanks to all our committee members.

During 2025 we enjoyed various interesting talks such as 'The History of Catherington and Clanfield' from John Vincent and his wife, a talk from Neil Whitmore about an annual holiday he helps to run, for young people with special needs and at short notice, a very interesting talk from the 'Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation'. We also used the Church of England resource called 'Grave Talk', which Ruth Bever led, to aid small group discussion about the end of life. This was not at all morbid but extremely useful. January 2026 was our AGM and since then we have had an enlightening talk from Diana Hutchins about her work at Portsmouth Cathedral and a very moving Lent talk from Reverend Judy Henning about the 'Stations of the Cross'. In 2025 we also enjoyed a 'Strawberry Tea' in Di Reynold's garden, a 'Coffee Morning'. also at Di's, to raise funds for the MU Christmas Appeal and lunch at The Rising Sun in December. In August those who were able, joined in a walk around Clanfield, stopping in various places to pray and we also left painted stones, decorated with bible verses. Our members have attended 'The Wave of Prayer' service, The 'Mary Sumner Day' service in 2025 and 'The World Day of Prayer' and 'The Lady Day' service so far this year.

2026 is the 150th Anniversary of the beginning of MU so we are looking forward to celebrating various events both locally and in London. If anyone would like to join the abseil down Spinnaker Tower on 8th August, please let us know!!

*Trish Biggs on behalf of the Committee*

## **Children's Church**

Children's Church has met on the fourth Sunday of the month (except August) in All Saints Church Hall. This is an opportunity for children from 3 years old to Year 6 to come together to find out more about "Who is Jesus?" through Bible stories, crafts, games, songs and prayers. The children are brought to the hall by their parents and parents then attend the service in Church. The children then join the service at the distribution of Holy Communion and share what they have been doing with the congregation. Each session focuses on a Bible story with a brief talk and then activities linked to the Bible story. The children enjoy their sessions in the hall and are always keen to share what they have learnt in Church.

*Diana Hutchins*

## **Churches Together in Horndean and Clanfield**

Churches Together (consisting of All Saints, St James, United Benefice of Blendworth, Chalton and Idsworth, St Edmund's RC Church and Horndean Baptist Church) have held a number of activities and acts of worship from Easter 2025 to Easter 2026.

Prayer Breakfast: This was held on the fourth Saturday of most months with the five churches taking it in turns to organise the breakfast. Generally, about twenty people have attended from the different churches and it has been good to chat to each other over a light breakfast. After this a period of prayer led by the host church gave everyone the opportunity to contribute prayers for local church and community matters or important national and international concerns.

Pentecost Prayer Room: This was held in the week before Pentecost in the chapel at the Blendworth Centre and organised by Revd. Sam of Horndean Baptists. Each church organised an activity/prayer station and people could sign up to go along for an hour. Not as many people attended as had done in previous years. However, it was decided to have the prayer room in 2026 with the suggestion that some sessions could have a minister present for those who wanted that and help should be offered by the churches with the online booking.

Pentecost Picnic: This was held on the Saturday before Pentecost Sunday at St Edmund's Church and garden but the number of people attending was disappointing. The Open the Book Team performed one of the Bible stories that they have done at school assemblies in the hope that it would encourage more volunteers to come forward. Afterwards people had lunch with meat brought to barbeque and other donations of food.

Open the Book: This started some years ago with support from Churches Together, although people from some Cowplain and Waterlooville churches have been involved. The team went into Petersgate Infant School in Clanfield every other week to act out a Bible Story. Open the Book is organised by the Bible Society and the Bible stories are carefully written to appeal to the children, who take part with actions and some children acting alongside the team. A rehearsal for the team was held in the intervening week.

Online Christmas Card: It had been the intention to have an online Christmas card with a short video from each church and indeed some videos had been taken but they proved too difficult to combine into the card.

January Service for the Week of Christian Unity: This was an excellent service organised by Revd. Richard and held at St James. It was written by the Armenian Church and was enhanced by pictures and comments from Revd Richard's visit and knowledge of Armenia. The attendance of only twenty-one people was most disappointing. In future years it was suggested we might have just one morning service locally in the host church, to which everyone will come and no main services held in other churches.

Lent Lunches at Blendworth Church Centre: These have occurred for many years but there has been renewed interest for all the local churches to take part in hosting one of the Friday soup lunches held in support of the Bishop of Portsmouth's Lent Appeal.

Good Friday Walk of Witness: In 2025 the cross had been taken from St James by walking around Clanfield and then by car to St Edmund's so in 2026 it was the turn of St Edmund's to host the sending out service with the walk carrying the cross to All Saints. There were stops along the way for a hymn, prayer and reading. The cross was received at All Saints with a short service followed by drinks and hot cross buns. As usual this was the best attended Churches Together event.

*Hilary Batchelor (St James HCCT Representative)*

## **Illumin8**

Our youth group, called Illumin8, is for children in Year 6 through to Year 11 and meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 7.30pm to 9.30pm (except August). We have had an encouraging year with 3 new members of the group joining after we held a family BBQ and taster session in June 2025. This was open to Year 5 children and their families, as well as others who would already fit the age range for Illumin8 – we will be running this again in 2026. We meet at the Vicarage (while numbers allow us to) and we are very grateful to Chloe Peett (All Saints) for joining us in leading the sessions. We have looked at The Bible Series from the Bible Society this year, alongside sharing a meal together and some outdoor activities. Before Easter 2026 we canvassed the group about what they wanted to see going forward. They said they are happy with the frequency of Illumin8 and look forward to diving deeper into Christian themes.

Revd Richard has also attended Youthscape Launchpad training provided by the Diocese, between January and March 2026. While this is aimed at senior church leaders (clergy) who have no youthwork, it was a very useful programme to help think about how Illumin8 may develop in the future.

*Revd Richard Hutchins*

## **Messy Church**

Messy Church met every fourth Saturday of the month (except August) at St. James Clanfield for craft, a short celebration and food. We currently have over 30 families registered and since January 2026 we have seen a significant increase in the numbers attending Messy Church each month. Our theme from April 2025 to July 2025 focused on significant events in the Church year and then from September 2025 our theme has been the "I am" statements. In December we had a Messy Church Christingle and in addition to the usual craft and food the celebration was open to anyone in the community to attend. We have continued to have young people volunteer as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award and one young person has completed their gold volunteering with us and recently received their invitation to Buckingham Palace to receive their award. Our fantastic team of volunteers from those who prepare the craft, particular thanks to Trish and Liz, to

those who lead activities to those who prepare the tea and bake cakes ensures each month Messy Church is a success and helps families to learn more about Jesus.

*Diana Hutchins*

## **Open the Book**

A team of 10 from various local churches continue to go into Petersgate Infants School every fortnight to dramatise Bible stories. Sadly, we were unable to go into the school for the first half of the Spring Term as 6 members were abroad and each story usually requires at least 6 people. We desperately need more 'storytellers' as Open the Book, part of the Bible Society, calls the volunteers. The more people who are involved, the less everyone has to do! The group on Hayling Island has 15 members which means that they may only do 2-4 sessions a term. Here, some of us do 5 out of the 7 sessions in a term. A session involves a rehearsal at St James' Church Hall on a Thursday at 1pm for approximately half an hour and then going into Petersgate Infants school on the following Thursday at 1.05 to do the assembly. Storytellers do not have to learn words - scripts are provided. The stories only take about 5-8 minutes to perform and we usually manage to have some children taking part in the story too. The children and staff are very receptive and seem to enjoy our visits. This is an important outreach into the community so PLEASE think seriously as to whether you could join the group.

*Ruth Bever*

## **Small Groups**

In 2025 we added another Benefice small group, when the Vicarage small group was "sent" to be hosted elsewhere, freeing up Revd Richard to start another new small group. The four groups meet regularly to study the Bible, enjoy company and to pray together – they are a great place to support one another and live out our Christian faith in company and everyone is encouraged to join a group. We have looked at two main courses – Reimagine from the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity, and The Bible Series, which is a light touch version of the Bible Course from The Bible Society. The Lent Course for 2026 was shared across the Churches Together where we joined with members from other churches to follow the Talking Jesus course. The groups meet on Monday evening, Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon and evening.

Short reports from two of the groups are included below that give a flavour of what has been going on.

*Revd Richard Hutchins*

### *Tuesday Evening Group*

We originated from Rev Richard's Monday evening group and are now a group of 8 members which enables us to continue to meet even when some are away on holiday.

We started following the set material as supplied by Rev Richard and since Christmas we have been exploring the Parables of Jesus. Each member has been taking it in turns to produce the notes, linking the parables to the Old and New Testaments and lead the group.

Since Easter we have chosen to learn more about the Gospels, starting with Matthew, hoping to gain further insight into the people who met and knew Jesus and how it transformed their lives.

*Shirley & Robert Vann*

### *Thursday Afternoon Group*

We have met 10 times as a small group during the past year, studying two courses provided by Reverend Richard, "Introduction to the Bible" and "Re-imagine".

During Lent, some of us also enjoyed meeting with our Christian brothers and sisters from other churches for a six-week Lent Course, "Talking Jesus", held at St Edmund's RC Church.

*Di Reynolds*

