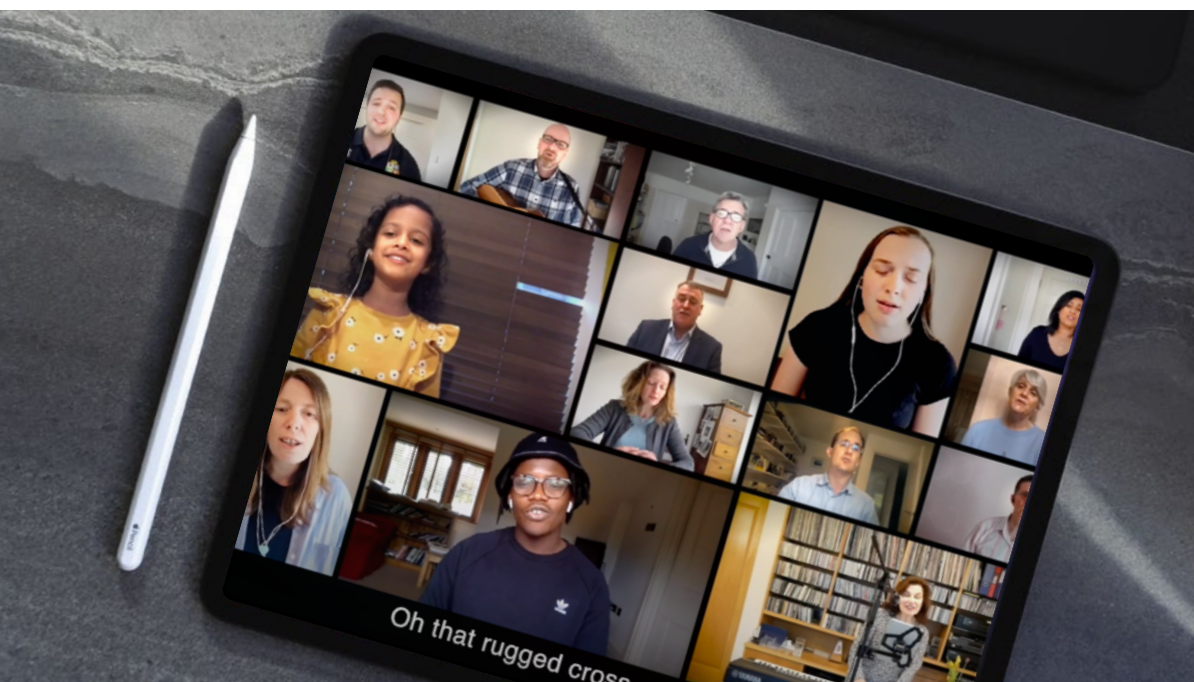




Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

# ENDURANCE INSPIRED BY HOPE...

MINISTRY REVIEW | 2020-21





# ENDURANCE

## INSPIRED BY HOPE...

MINISTRY REVIEW | 2020-21

**3** RECTOR'S REPORT

**4** MINISTRIES (5 Ms)

MAGNIFICATION · MISSION  
MEMBERSHIP · MATURITY · MINISTRY

**14** FULMER

**16** CHILDREN & YOUTH

**20** OPERATIONS

**21** FINANCE

# RECTOR'S REPORT

## Dear Friends,

As we reflect on a year of unprecedented challenge, we have so much to thank God for. The pages that follow are only a snapshot of what God has been doing amongst us, here at Saint James, but they tell a story of “endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess 1:3).

Back in September, we launched the year with our Vision@Home event. (an innovation in itself!) with chocolate brownies and a house key delivered to people's homes. The theme: 'church as a family.' The message: we want Saint James to be 'a place to belong' – for everyone.

Families, however, are messy. We rub up against each other. We have to learn to say sorry. We have to learn to forgive. So, we've spent time in our Sunday sermons and in Growth Groups looking at what the Bible says about that. And we've grown in the likeness of Christ and closer to one another along the way.

We've also been getting to know new faces. God has been so kind in providing for our needs and we are blessed to have an outstanding new staff team. I hope you will soon feel that you are getting to know them. In recent weeks we have had the bittersweet privilege of saying farewell to Welshman Dube, who has returned to Johannesburg after finishing his training with us. We will be praying for him and watching his next phase of ministry with interest.

It hasn't been easy. Lockdown has forced us to adapt not just to new technology and new patterns of meeting together. The relentless innovation and constant decision-making have been exhausting, but having to think more about 'church as a family' and has been healthy for us.

As we work our way out of lockdown, it will take time for people to recover spiritually and for people to reconnect with church. We'll need to be patient with one another and we'll need to look out for those who need encouragement to come back. The need for love and humility in our relationships with one another has never been greater.

Indeed, I hope you'll find a good dose of humility in the reports that follow. After all, some of what we've tried hasn't worked. And there's a lot to do and a long way to go as we rebuild post-COVID. So, this not an exercise in self-congratulation. Rather, it's an opportunity to thank God. We are an ordinary group of people, but our heavenly Father has kept us, guided us and provided for us every step of the way. And through the hope that we have in his son Jesus Christ, he has enabled us to endure.



All the praise  
and all the glory...  
belongs to him.

*Matt.*



# MAGNIFICATION

LEAD **Paul Enns**



## REPORT

It has been a great joy to join Saint James in the midst of this past year. Louanne and I are very thankful for the welcome we've received and we very much look forward to developing relationships with you, our church family, in ways that haven't been possible up until now.

Upon arriving at Saint James I was thrilled to be "inheriting" a fully functioning worship team. I've really enjoyed building relationships with the team individually but also corporately as we've met on Zoom once a month to open the Bible, pray, and worship together. These gifted and dedicated people, musicians and technicians, have been serving our church family week by week as they've been able, throughout the last year. Some you've seen regularly on your screens whilst others have been hard at work to make sure that our services get to your screens.

Nothing about this year has been easy. We've all been pushed beyond our levels of comfort as we've had to learn new skills and new technology, but it's been so encouraging to see the team getting involved for the sake of our worshiping life together. And



## VISION

Rejoicing in God with all our hearts and in all of our lives...



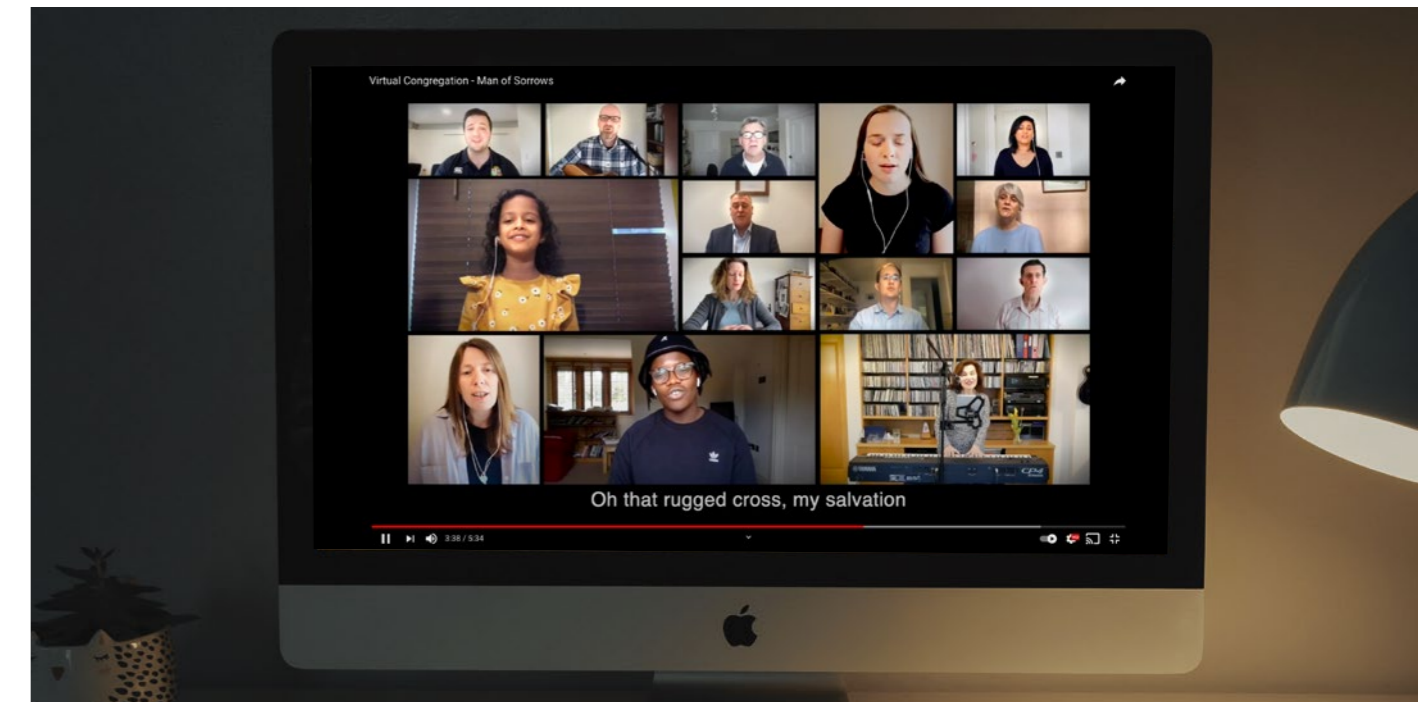
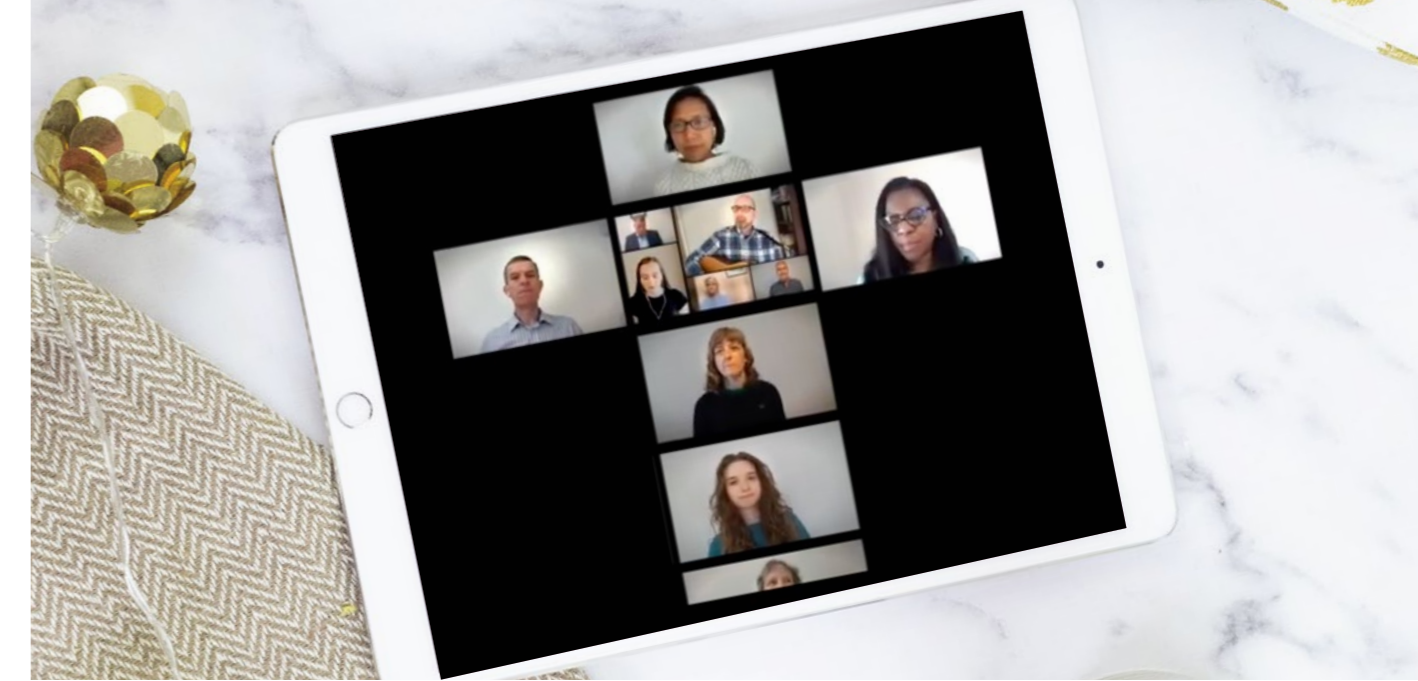
## GOAL

... so that GOD is worshipped & glorified

it has been a blessing to hear from many of the church family that they've been appreciating our work and praying for us as we do it.

Whilst Romans 12 affirms that *all* of our lives can, and should, be offered to God, there is also something deeply important about the body of Christ gathering to worship together. That is a firm conviction of mine and so I find that, together with our monthly Prayer Central gathering, the highlights of my time here so far have been those all-too-few opportunities to gather together to sing God's praise.

"Carols in the Carpark" was a wonderful opportunity to lift our voices (and our car horns!) to celebrate the birth of our Lord! The next opportunity to gather was for Easter Day as we met in the churchyard to proclaim the Risen Christ. That set a bit of a precedent and so we continue to worship together outside on Sundays to close our service. And finally, our virtual congregation videos have been a great way for us to sing 'together'.





## MINISTRY REVIEW MAGNIFICATION

### PLANS

We are all looking forward to living with fewer restrictions on our daily lives. Personally, I can't wait to be able to gather to worship in a way that we would all recognise as familiar (if not exactly as it was before). At the time of writing, we're still in the process of discerning how to shape our gatherings going forward, and we trust that the Lord will guide us.

I'm really looking forward to finding ways to worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23). Sunday services will remain key as we gather to worship our God and to be shaped by our community practices. There will be opportunity for focused times of praise, thanksgiving, or lament. As we move through the Church Year we will celebrate Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter with more chances to sing, to pray, to wait..., in short, to worship.



virtual congregation singers

“

It's been such a blessing and an absolute lifeline during our Covid restrictions.”

ZOOM COFFEE PARTICIPANT

“

I thank God for all those who helped produce a very splendid outcome.”

VIRTUAL CONGREGATION PARTICIPANT

“

[My elderly mum's] face just relaxed and lit up when I showed her [the video].”

VIRTUAL CONGREGATION PARTICIPANT

### THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ The worship team that has been serving us so faithfully
- ▶ The commitment of many to gather monthly at Prayer Central
- ▶ The technology that has allowed us to 'gather' to worship and pray
- ▶ The desire of so many to return to gathering together to worship

### THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ That the Lord will continue to guide our plans out of lockdown
- ▶ That more people would be willing and able to join the worship team, musicians and technicians
- ▶ That we will have a deep sense of joyful expectation as we again gather to meet with our God
- ▶ That the Lord would deepen our love for one another so that we'd be growing in unity

### THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ How do we develop a 'Saint James sound' across our services as we begin to find our voice again as a worshipping community?
- ▶ How can we craft services that not only make space for us to worship during that specific time but also shape us to worship with our whole lives?
- ▶ How can we be unified and diverse as we seek to worship together in Spirit and truth?



# MISSION

LEAD **James Forward**



## REPORT

As Paul reflects on his ministry to the Thessalonians, he says 'we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.' 1 Thess 2:8.

In a year in which many of our normal outreach events and programmes have been disrupted, it has been a delight to see us growing as a church in our everyday evangelism. Despite us being locked in our homes, many of us are more connected to our neighbours than ever before.

Someone shared with me recently that everyone on her street now stops to speak to one another. This is wonderful because that is how the gospel will spread through our networks: as the good news of Jesus is shared in the everyday of our relationships.

Over the past year we've been encouraged by the hard-work and commitment of so many at Saint James Football Club to keep coaching and games happening. Our hopes and prayers for the club are that God might provide more Christian coaches and that we might make the most of the brilliant links between the club



### VISION

Living to see God's kingdom grow as more people are saved...



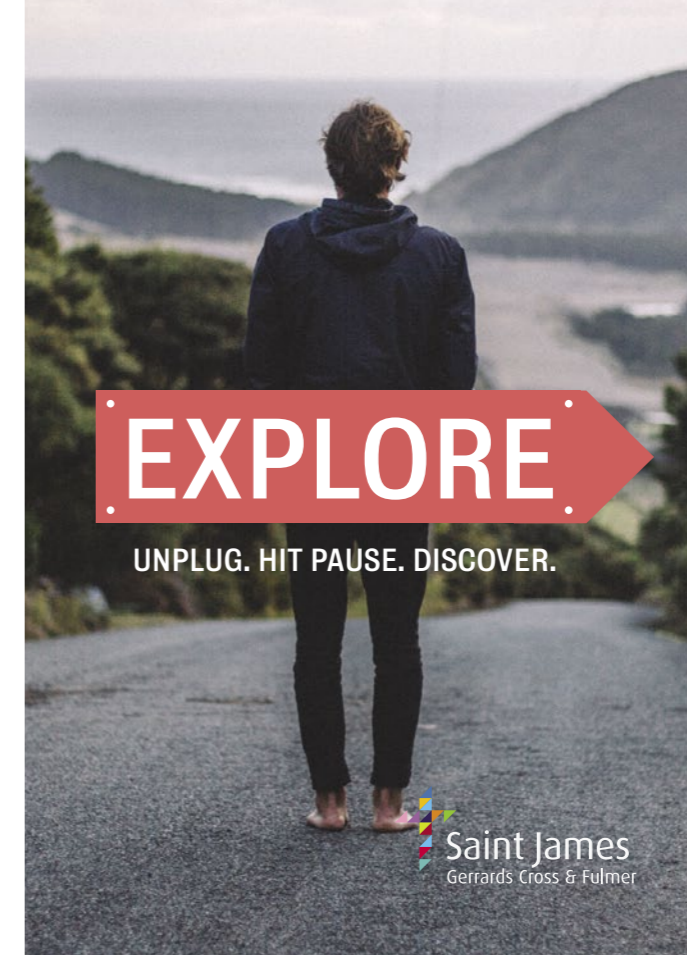
### GOAL

... so that our COMMUNITY is engaged & evangelised

and the church to share our hope in Jesus with those who don't know him.

Of course, the pandemic has brought plenty of challenges and we've had to find creative ways to get the gospel out in our community. Our Explore courses have happened on Zoom. We hosted our carol services in the Tesco car park and on YouTube. We shared our hope through homemade craft videos. And we told the story of Christmas and Easter through trails in Fulmer village and on the common.

In all this, what matters most is not programmes, but people. That is why, over and above events and courses, we want to emphasise the 'ordinary' work of evangelism as we share life and speak about Jesus with our neighbours. It has been a joy to see a handful of people come to trust in Jesus as their Lord and saviour. Each time we've seen this happen, as it did in Thessalonica, in the first century, it has been through friendships, as we share both the gospel and our lives with those around us.



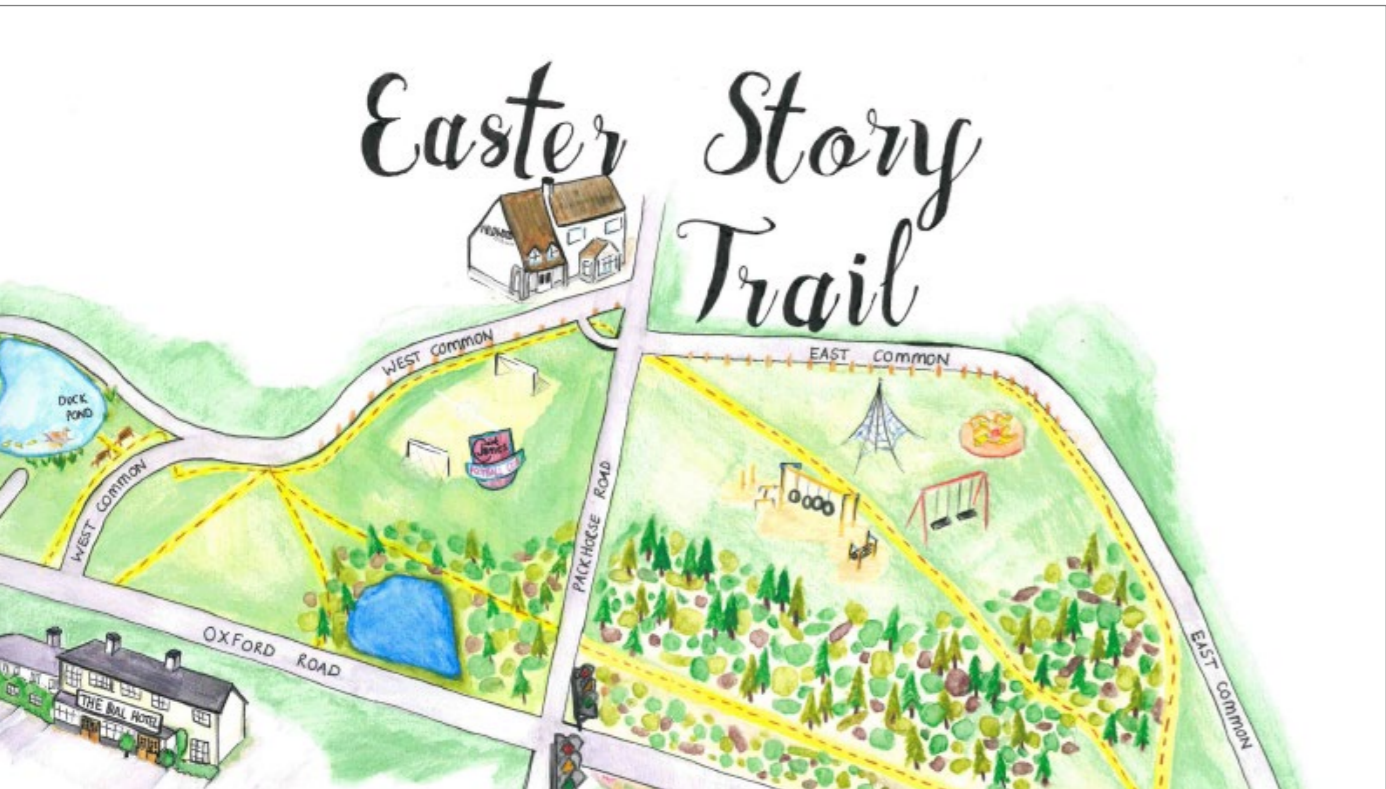
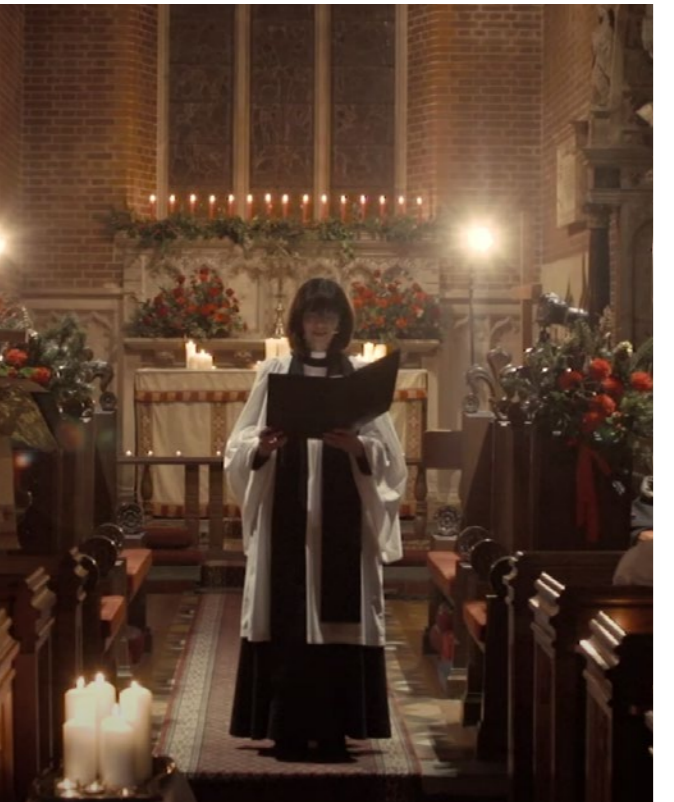


 Saint James  
Gerards Cross & Fulmer

# Celebrating EASTER

*easy* decorations & treats

## String eggs



## MINISTRY REVIEW MISSION

### PLANS

As lockdown eases, we can't wait to welcome our friends and neighbours to Saint James once again. We hope to run our Explore courses in person, host Friendship Lunches and welcome families back to Tiny Tots.

I'm excited to see how God will use the new connections we've made during COVID to grow his kingdom! We're looking to put on some training opportunities and some great outreach events, to help us get the conversations about Jesus flowing with our friends.

### THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ People coming to Christ this year.
- ▶ Events that have engaged our communities.
- ▶ Deepening relationships with our neighbours.
- ▶ People moving from Explore to Connect and joining the life of the church.

### THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ Boldness to share the gospel at every opportunity.
- ▶ Outreach to the local schools.
- ▶ Our everyday evangelism; that we would all be sharing Christ with those we love.
- ▶ People would come to know Jesus through the Football Club.

### THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ How can we be sharing the gospel with our friends and neighbours in everyday life?
- ▶ What training do we need to be equipped for personal evangelism?
- ▶ How can we reach those in our area who have no connection to Saint James?



**6** Explore Groups

**22** Guests



# MEMBERSHIP

LEAD **Daf Meirion-Jones**



## REPORT

The last 12 months have produced unique challenges for us in being a church where everyone is connected and cared for. Certainly at the start of the first lockdown there was a desire to both proactively care for one another as a church family and to reach out to those in the community around us that led to a flurry of activity. However, as the months have gone on the weariness has inevitably increased, along with Zoom fatigue and we have settled into new, more isolated, patterns of life. Despite this the Pastoral Care Team have continued to reach out physically and virtually to many in our church. This has been supplemented with the addition of “Cake Ministry” in which people have received baked goods, greeting and prayer on the doorstep.

Undoubtedly lockdown life has taken a huge toll on our mental and emotional health. Many people have struggled in their marriages, carers have been put under even more pressure and



### VISION

Welcoming people in to a family that cares for each other...



### GOAL

... so that EVERYONE is connected & cared for

many of us have found ourselves a little bit more on edge. There has been a wonderful level of care extended through the Growth Group network, as well as some specific webinars addressing “God’s Care in Dementia” and “Marriage Matters”, both of which were encouragingly attended.

One of the hardest things has been seeing how people have struggled spiritually in the last year. Many have found engaging with ministry online unappealing or technically difficult. However, others have joined Saint James or become more involved. We have run four Connect courses since October 2020 with around 50 people attending. It has been a joy to see people for the first time “in the flesh” as we have started to meet again on Sundays, a number of whom have connected with Saint James virtually during the last year.







## MINISTRY REVIEW MEMBERSHIP

### PLANS

Our great desire is to meet together in person Sunday by Sunday. As someone who arrived this year I am excited about meeting many of the church family for the first time! We want to develop services at which anyone and everyone feels welcomed. We are looking forward to reconnecting with some who have drifted away, whilst welcoming and including of all who are new.

We'll be running a Connect Course each term, looking at Welcoming resources in the church buildings and centre and encouraging us all to love one another as the Lord Jesus has loved us. (John 13:34-35)

### THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ New people joining Saint James and attending Connect in the last year.
- ▶ Hours of loving care shown by members of the church family especially the Pastoral Care Team.
- ▶ For Growth Group leaders providing much pastoral care.
- ▶ Many people returning to church after lockdown and re-connecting in person.

### THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ Those who have stopped engaging with church.
- ▶ Our Sunday services to be welcoming to all.
- ▶ Newcomers to be fully integrated into our life as a church.
- ▶ People to find loving care and support amongst us.

### THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ How can we ensure that everyone receives a warm welcome, not just at the door, but into our church family?
- ▶ How can we help our Growth Groups to grow in pastoral care for one another?
- ▶ How can we increasingly be a church where people show hospitality?



Connect Courses  
FOUR COURSES

# MATURITY

LEAD **Ben Clarke**



## REPORT

Maturity is about a culture in which we are growing together in God's word by the power of his Spirit.

One of the key places in which this is expressed in the life of our church is Growth Groups. We are convinced that as God's word is preached on a Sunday his voice is heard. And his voice always brings transformation and life! We've been trying to live out that reality as our groups meet week by week. We've prayerfully applied what God has been saying to us through the books of Ruth, James, John and more recently 1 Thessalonians. We've also thought about what it is to be a church family and how we might be better equipped to share the gospel with others.

During lockdown especially, Growth Groups have been a vital source of community, prayer and spiritual encouragement. It was a real joy for me to visit each of the groups and hear how God has been at work in them over this challenging year.

However, whilst Growth Groups are obvious and visible, most of the discipleship in our church family is organic and hidden. It might be people reading the Bible 1:1, or meeting in Prayer



## VISION

Growing in the likeness of Christ through the gospel and by his Spirit...



## GOAL

... so that our CONGREGATIONS are established & growing

Triplets, or walking side-by-side with one another through the stresses and strains of the Christian life. And of course, much of our discipleship takes place in the home, which is why we want to keep equipping families for whole-life worship.

Life in lockdown would not have been the same without our Daily Devotionals! Many have appreciated starting the day with God's word and prayer. And we've run some one-off events and courses as well. In January, to help us through the challenge of lockdown in mid-winter, we ran 'Covid on my Mind' with Helen Thorne. And in March we ran three 'Parenting – Rooted in Grace' evenings. We've also launched a virtual bookstore ([saintjames.org.uk/books](http://saintjames.org.uk/books)), and we've re-stocked the bookshop in the Saint James Centre; we're thinking all the time about how to get useful resources in to people's hands.



“

Can't tell you how much of a life line they are, keeping me connected with God's word."

DAILY DEVOTIONAL LISTENER





# MINISTRY REVIEW MATURITY

## PLANS

Over the course of this next year we hope to launch Growth Group Central. GGC is an opportunity for Growth Groups to join together in the Saint James Centre for 5-weeks, enjoying a meal and receiving some up-front teaching. It is my prayer that over the course of the year every group would have the opportunity to join GGC, meeting other groups and learning from one another.

## THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ The way in which we have been caring for one another in our Growth Groups during lockdown, prayerfully and practically.
- ▶ All of the 1:1s, prayer triplets and discipling relationships in the church family.
- ▶ The way God has used the Daily Devotionals to keep us this past year.
- ▶ The way the Lord used Covid on My Mind and our Parenting evenings to strengthen us in his grace.



Daily Devotionals  
**2400**  
minutes of  
daily devotionals

## THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ We would all be growing in the likeness of Christ through the gospel and by His Spirit.
- ▶ God to help us continue to apply his word into our lives, as Zoom Coffees are replaced by gathering in person.
- ▶ Growth Group leaders as they seek to love, teach and care for the groups God has entrusted to them.
- ▶ God to equip us to live for him wholeheartedly through our various seminars next year.

“  
Our Growth Group were raving about the evening! I was so thankful for Helen. I loved it!”  
COVID ON MY MIND PARTICIPANT

“  
I'm very thankful for the group which is such an encouragement. People have made a real effort to join even with kids at home and work etc.. and we have encouraging times every week.”  
GROWTH GROUP PARTICIPANT

## THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ How could we learn to view gathered worship as the primary means of growing in our enjoyment of the Father?
- ▶ How might we be better equipped as a church to know the Holy Scriptures which make us wise for salvation in Christ?
- ▶ What would it look like for us to develop deeper Spirit-filled relationships with others in the church family?

LEAD **Jeremy Ellis**



## REPORT

In September 2020, when we thought the pandemic was drifting into the past, we started meeting in-person again and put in place teams to oversee car parking, welcoming, and stewarding, and of course we had a fantastic Tech Team to take care of the livestreaming. But then we went into lockdown again, then reopened before Christmas, then another lockdown, then reopening again! We've needed to adapt, to combine teams, and to adjust to new guidelines along the way.

Thank you to everyone for your understanding and patience, and for the grace of God allowing us to adapt and be flexible in unexpected circumstances.

So, how do you serve in lockdown? Well, you don't need to be in a team or on a rota. Serving one another has involved phone calls, cards in the post, text messages, doing someone's shopping, helping with home-schooling, running errands, dropping meals round, and plenty of cake. And, of course, where would we be without Zoom?! Well done to everybody who has mastered the technology, and used it to connect with others, to encourage them, and pray together. Even in a pandemic, or perhaps because of it, we've seen people serving others in ways we wouldn't normally have thought of.



## VISION

Serving God with the gifts His Spirit has given us...



## GOAL

... so that we're ALL equipped & serving

So much care has been expressed – and much of it will have gone unnoticed. But as the body of Christ, we belong together, and we have the joy and privilege of serving together – “there are many parts, but one body.” (1 Corinthians 12:20)

Many of us have appreciated the book *Serving without Sinking* – an easy read, which opens our eyes to how we can serve with joy because of who we are in Christ and how our service is in response to all that God has done for us.

In order to resource our various ministries, we need a strong pipeline of future leaders. It's essential, therefore, that we are training and equipping men and women for gospel ministry. To that end (and building on last year), a second group drawn from across the church has been meeting with Matt on Wednesday evenings for EQUIP. We've been deepening our grasp of key doctrines and clarifying the principles of gospel ministry and how they apply to our vision to see every life transformed. We've spent time in the Bible; time in discussion – and built relationships along the way. (And we persevered with it on Zoom...!) Matt is looking forward to another cohort starting in September.



“It was good reading this book on my own, but I’ve learnt so much more discussing it with others.”



“It’s definitely worth reading.”



## MINISTRY REVIEW MINISTRY

### PLANS

As we emerge from lockdown and move on from a single livestreamed service, so the opportunities to serve will abound – Kids, Youth, Car Parking, Welcoming, Stewarding.

We’re planning to relaunch a Prayer Team. The Gardening Team is re-starting in July.

We look forward to when we can hang around after the service and talk about the sermon over coffee and cake – hospitality is key, and we long to see it develop.

But however we serve, to be doing so with joy!

### Lots of opportunities to serve



Kids



Hospitality



Tech

& LOTS MORE

How might you get involved?

### THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ All those who have said, "Yes, I'll serve, where do you need me?"
- ▶ All those who have shown flexibility and gone the extra-mile in serving during the pandemic.
- ▶ The Tech Team who have faithfully served us behind the scenes.
- ▶ All the unseen acts of service between members of the church family and in the community.

### THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ That we would willingly serve as the opportunities arise.
- ▶ That we would use our gifts as well as being willing to just do what needs to be done.
- ▶ That we would serve with a prayerful dependence on God.
- ▶ That joy would be a hallmark of our serving.

### THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ How do we move from a few doing a lot, to many doing something?
- ▶ How do we raise up teams for the new service pattern?
- ▶ How do we ensure serving is a joy?

LEAD **Jill Roth**



## REPORT

Life in Fulmer during a global pandemic has been challenging, encouraging and occasionally distressing. God continued to be at work amongst us with opportunities to share the gospel creatively in the village, church members growing in their Christian faith, people coming to faith, and some stepping out in faith to serve in new ways. We have also experienced considerable loss: our freedom to meet in person, the passing of several congregation members, as well as family members, and the sense of isolation that comes with social distancing.

Some highlights:

- ▶ A new member of the church coming to faith during lockdown, now connected into church life.
- ▶ Zoom coffee after Sunday Gatherings, enabling deepening relationships with one another and with Jesus, through chat, prayer and Bible study, bringing a sense of one church.
- ▶ Private Prayer and Midweek Holy Communion, providing space to draw close to God in scripture and prayer.



## VISION

A Christ-centred community in the heart of Fulmer village...



## GOAL

... so that lives are transformed through the gospel

- ▶ Online Carols by Candlelight offering an atmospheric presentation of the Christmas story and gospel message, enjoyed and shared globally.
- ▶ The Christmas Nativity Trail, appreciated by many Fulmer families and others, followed by an Easter Trail, enabling opportunities to proclaim the gospel in a child-friendly way, with a goody bag for all. Many ribbons were tied to the Christmas tree and the cross, symbolising prayers made to God at the end of each trail.
- ▶ Pastoral care: church members going above and beyond, making phone calls, knocking on doors, offering love, care and prayer to church and non-church.
- ▶ People stepping up to serve: pastoral care, tech on Sundays, artwork, building story trail boards, stewarding, hosting Zoom, keeping us COVID-safe, etc.



“

News of the birth of Jesus brought great joy to many families following the Christmas Story Trail in Fulmer. The singing of *Away in a Manger* and *Hush Little Baby* could be heard across the village as the excitement built up when discovering the Christ child in the lowly stable. The trail ended with a message from wise man "Daf" (a new pastor) and the opportunity to say a prayer while putting a ribbon on the Christmas tree.”

FULMER CHRISTMAS STORY TRAIL PARTICIPANT





Whoever organised this... it's brilliant!  
FULMER CHRISTMAS STORY TRAIL PARTICIPANT



## MINISTRY REVIEW FULMER

### PLANS

We're really looking forward to gathering again in-person on Sundays. Alongside that, we're looking to build servant-hearted teams for our Services and outreach events.

As we look forward we're excited about:

- ▶ Sharing the gospel creatively across all ages in the village
- ▶ Developing seasonal inter-generational services, e.g. harvest

### THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ Lives changed by the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ▶ The opportunity to engage in Zoom coffee and the gospel during lockdown.
- ▶ Love and care shown in many ways to one another and our village community in lockdown.
- ▶ Creativity in bringing the gospel to many families at Christmas and Easter through the story trails.

- ▶ Creating a space for evangelistic outreach in church

We're wanting to build on:

- ▶ The best possible 'traditional' service that is accessible for all
- ▶ Engaging with scripture/sermons over coffee after services
- ▶ Encouraging all church members to be in a Growth Group
- ▶ Our relationship with Gerrards Cross, as 'one' church

### THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ Hearts to be Christ-focused in all that we are, say and do.
- ▶ Openness in the village community to hear the gospel.
- ▶ Joyful servant hearts, willing to serve in proclaiming the gospel.
- ▶ That we are united in our purposes as Christ's church.

59 

weeks of Zoom  
Coffee with  
bible shaped  
conversations

### THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ How can we encourage one another to become more like Jesus Christ?
- ▶ How can we become a church that regularly prays for our brothers and sisters in Christ and for those who don't yet know Christ in the village?
- ▶ How can we develop and grow in telling the story of Jesus to all ages in the village?

# CHILDREN

LEAD **Anna Barrett**



## VISION

Partnering with parents to grow young disciples...



## GOAL

... so that our children are rooted and growing

## REPORT

Lockdown has had a big impact on ministry to children this year. With the constant start stop of kids groups and the restrictions in church, it has meant most families have decided to stay away from church. Sadly, this has made it difficult to engage and build relationships with families.

In God's kindness lockdown has brought new areas of ministry and therefore unique opportunities to teach children. Weekly zooms helped children to stay connected in lockdown as well as creating room for discussions following on from the online kid's lessons. Our partnership with the local GX school has continued all year with the provision of weekly online assemblies. These have been received really well. Online assemblies has enabled us to reach out and support other schools in the surrounding area too. The introduction of support groups enabled us to prepare

well for the relaunch of Tiny Tots. A team was established and equipped so that church mums would feel confident in building relationships so that they could share the gospel. Even with restrictions in place, the launch has been successful in seeing over 15 local and brand new families attending the weekly group.

Coming alongside parents to disciple children will continue to play a part in the kids work going forward so that together we are growing young disciples of our children. As things start to open up again the kids work will see a new structure to Sundays and mid-week activities which are aimed at, through God's grace, laying the foundations of faith so that they are rooted and growing. Children on a Sunday are showing hunger to learn which has been evident in their prayers and questions and has encouraged the leaders, leaving us praising God.







## MINISTRY REVIEW CHILDREN

“ We’ve loved the online kids’ videos, especially the discussion questions which helped us to have good conversations with our children about faith.”

PARENT



### PLANS

We’ve got lots of exciting plans for the coming year, but two big things we’re most looking forward to is firstly, the opportunity to build a new Sunday kids team. This is exciting because we will be able to teach and disciple our children. And secondly, ways in which we can engage local families through an afterschool club and a potential dads morning toddler group.

### THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ The families and children returning on Sundays.
- ▶ The team of committed leaders who teach each week.
- ▶ The relaunch of Tiny Tots and the team of church mums.
- ▶ The weekly online assemblies at the GX school that have been so well received.



29

Saint James kid’s online videos during lockdown

40

online school assemblies

### THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ Pray for the Tiny Tots as they seek to build relationships with local parents.
- ▶ Ask God to raise up more people to join the Sunday kids team.
- ▶ Pray that families would feel welcomed and supported, helping them to get back into regular attendance.
- ▶ Pray our children will be transformed through the teaching of the gospel.

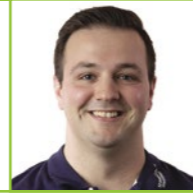
“

We are so appreciative of the support we have been given through Tiny Tot’s and even the preschool group on Sunday was amazing. It enabled us to fully listen and absorb the service (without a distracting toddler) and we look forward to him learning so much more.”

### THINGS WE’RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ What are some of the ways we can support and encourage parents as they seek to make disciples of their children?
- ▶ How can we engage local families and children from GX school with the gospel?
- ▶ How can we encourage regular attendance so that we can disciple our children?

LEAD **Ross Mungavin**



## REPORT

*Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvellous deeds – Psalm 71:17.*

If there is one word to summarise this last year of youth ministry it would be: resilience.

It's been a hard year. There's been so much change and confusion. Exams have been cancelled, algorithms have changed grades, exams have been reinstated, masks are to be worn, no masks are to be worn, home-schooling, in-person schooling, virtual schooling. There's been *a lot* of disruption in the lives of our young people. And I think they've shown incredible resilience.

Of course that doesn't mean that it's all been plain sailing – many of our parents know that from experience. But on the whole I'm grateful to God for how our young people have kept going through the pandemic.

We kept gathering in person as much as we were able to within the guidelines. It's good to keep Sundays for corporate worship



## VISION

To partner with parents to grow resilient disciples...



## GOAL

... so that our youth are disciples who go the distance.

and Christian activities. Having a slot every week where we could meet together has been so precious. And our young people kept coming. There were, of course, some who couldn't join us because they were shielding – but I've been amazingly encouraged at how they were keen to join in via Zoom with what was happening in the Saint James Centre. We've read the Bible, prayed together, listened to worship songs, and by God's grace, we've gotten to know Jesus a bit better. Now that restrictions are lifting it's a joy to see more of our young people coming back each week to join in with in-person groups again.

This highlights a broader aim of our youth ministry, revealed beautifully in Psalm 71:17. We want to grow young disciples of Jesus who are resilient. That is, young people whose faith lasts a lifetime (and beyond!). It's my prayer that in 20, 30, or 40 years' time our young people will look back on their time in our groups and say: *since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvellous deeds.*





# MINISTRY REVIEW YOUTH



“ I have a great time and everyone is kind”  
11 YEAR-OLD

“ The Boat is a fun and lively place to be”  
13 YEAR-OLD



## PLANS

We're really excited to build on the foundation that has been laid here. Some things that we're looking forward to in particular in the next year are:

- ▶ Building a team with a heart for young people who want to grow the next generation of resilient disciples.

## THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ A growing group of resilient young people.
- ▶ New people who have joined the groups, or old friends who have come back.
- ▶ Signs of growth in Christian maturity amongst our young people.
- ▶ Some young people who have professed faith for the first time this year!

- ▶ We're excited to grow good partnerships with parents through regular parents' forums and prayer meetings.
- ▶ We'd love to make connections with other Gospel-centred youth ministries in the area to show our young people that we belong to something bigger than just our group.

## THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ Ever-deepening relationships between the young people.
- ▶ God's blessing upon future plans for youth ministry e.g. camps, conferences, etc.
- ▶ Our young people would be faithful witnesses in their schools and clubs.
- ▶ A team of leaders who will love the young people and help grow disciples who go the distance.

## The Boat



Weekly groups on Sundays and Midweek, in person, on Zoom and hybrid throughout the year

+ FIRE PIT FRIDAYS!

## Resonate



## THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ How can we engage with young people who are part of our church, but have disconnected during the last year?
- ▶ How can we help parents feel equipped to talk about the difficult questions young people ask?
- ▶ How can we help young people to feel like they are able to stand out for Jesus in school?

# OPERATIONS

LEAD **Mark Nicholas**



## REPORT

Within the Operations Team we're thinking about everything that supports ministry, whether that's the weekly details of all the constituent parts of a Sunday gathering, or ensuring that we have the right systems, processes and equipment to deliver the breadth of ministry at Saint James. In recent weeks we've been wrestling with safeguarding, church database, new marriage legislation, ministry planning, Covid risk assessments, HR processes, and much more.

## THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ Good working relationships in the team.
- ▶ God sustaining us through working from home.
- ▶ Steps forward in our systems (new phone system) and communications (#SaintJamesTogether, temporary website, giving forms).
- ▶ Developing our planning processes across the Ministry Team.

## THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ Successful delivery of updated signage over the summer.
- ▶ Continued improvements to our comms (new website, social media, welcoming materials, church magazine).
- ▶ We're able to meet the growing ministry support needs, as we emerge from Covid restrictions.
- ▶ Good processes that enable ministry.

## THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ How do we align the operations team with ministry needs?
- ▶ How do we keep moving projects forward whilst ensuring that the regular ministry support is sustained?
- ▶ How do we communicate effectively the good news of Jesus and the community He's building here at Saint James?

Over the last 12 months, I'm enormously grateful to Simi, Tara, Hazel, Rachel and Kirsty for juggling the challenges of lockdown and with their work responsibilities. God has been kind to us as he's sustained us.

In the points that follow you'll get a sense of what we've been able to move forward and where we think the challenges lie as we look ahead. We're enormously grateful for your prayers.



## BACKGROUND

The General Fund represents the “pot” available for the day to day running of all the ministries here at Saint James. All church family giving, that is not for a specific purpose, goes into this fund; all the staff costs and other general running costs of all our ministries are paid for using this giving. Any legacies that are not made for specific purposes also pass into this fund (which can vary dramatically in both size and frequency), as do the other, much smaller, sources of income including the bookshop, increases in the value of any investments, church run events and fees for weddings and funerals.

## OVERVIEW OF 2020

We started the year with a PCC approved general fund budget deficit of £147k and as a result of God’s provision through the generous giving of the Church family we ended up reporting a surplus of £18k.

The “headline” total income figure of £1,244k was 16% up on the 2019 equivalent income of £1,075k. However, the 2020 headline figure included £343k of legacy income; the equivalent figure for 2019 being zero. Excluding legacies, the total income fell by 16%.

The income received directly from the members of the church family, again excluding legacies, fell 13% from £987k in 2019 to £854k in 2020. A major factor in this reduction, but one difficult

to measure accurately, was the impact of COVID 19. This resulted in increased financial pressures on personal incomes and severely restricted the ability to physically meet together to worship with the associated reduction in collection related income.

The PCC decided that the main legacy received during 2020 should not be used to finance the on-going running costs of the parish, but should be put aside for a yet to be defined project that would serve and enable our overall vision as a church. Hence, £286k was transferred into the Church Growth Fund.

Due to the strong performance of the stock exchange during 2020 there was a recognised gain of £13k on the holding value of our index related investment (2019: gain of £10k).

Total expenditure for the year at £948k was 9% lower than 2019 (£1,042k). The “core” expenditure of running all our ministries and other activities (excluding outside giving) at £840k was down 10% from £936k in 2019. This was due to a combination of good cost control, the COVID 19 impact of closing the various church buildings and various staff vacancy gaps that arose during 2020. The parish share contribution of £219k is included within this figure and was up 2% on 2019. In 2020 the grants to organisations outside the church (allocated by the mission Committee) totalled £84k, down 9% on the 2019 equivalent and represented 10% of the budgeted underlying voluntary income.

# EVERYONE & ANYONE



**OVERVIEW OF 2021 TO DATE**

We started 2021 with a PCC approved general fund budget deficit of £178k. Due to the very encouraging response to the “Giving at Saint James” packs that went out during February and the associated sermon given by Matt, the latest forecast deficit is down to £126k. As the actual costs are broadly in line with the budget, the increase is primarily due to the nearly 40 members of the church family who have increased their regular giving.

Further updates will be given to the church family during the remainder of this year.

Please pray that we would all be giving joyfully and sacrificially to enable the work of the gospel at Saint James.

**If you'd like to review your giving, or start giving to Saint James, you'll find all you need at [saintjames.org.uk/giving](http://saintjames.org.uk/giving)**

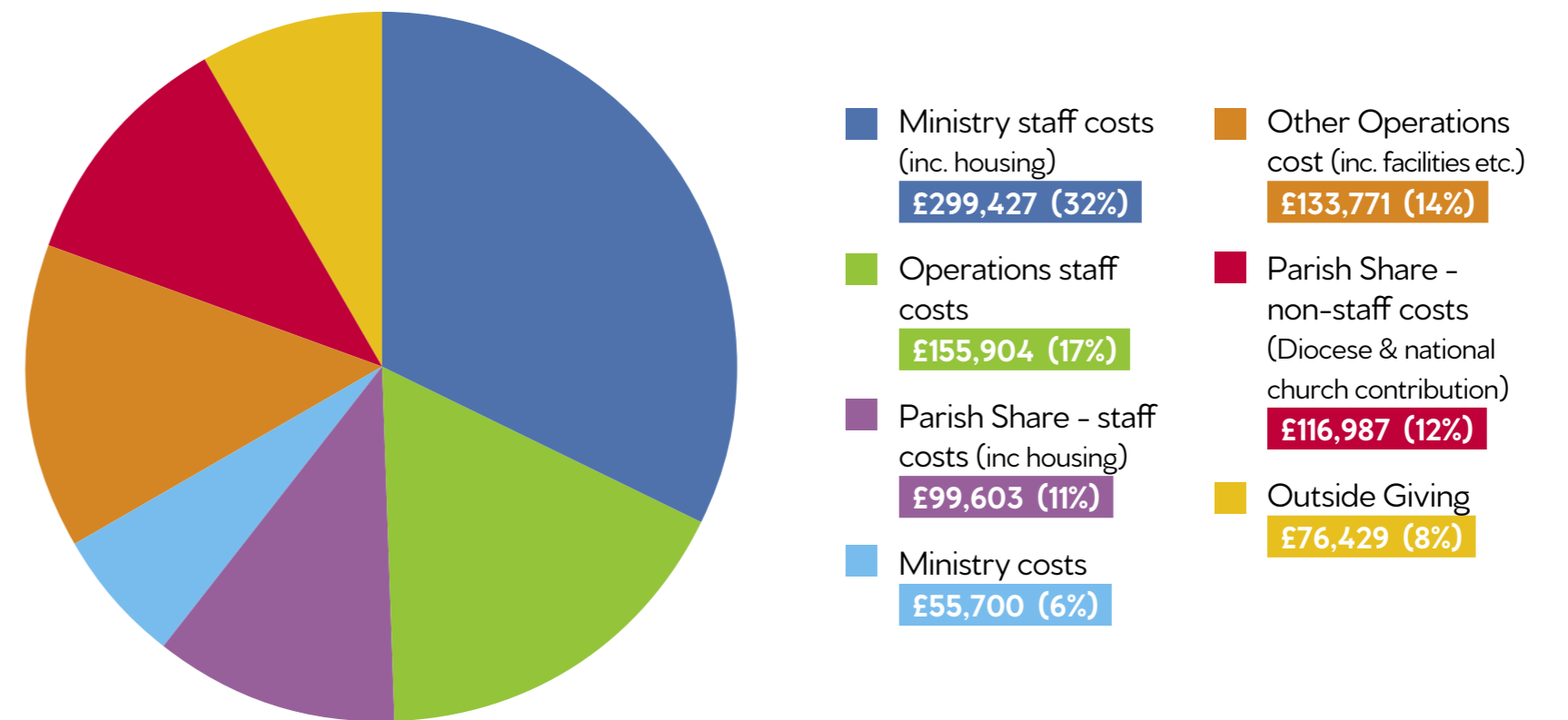
**OUR BUDGET FOR 2021**

- ▶ Our current reliance on one off giving is heavier than we would like.
- ▶ We want to enable better planning and more generous external giving.
- ▶ We need to increase our regular giving to meet the budgeted shortfall.

Regular Giving	567,637
One off giving	175,000
Other income	21,900
<b>Total income</b>	<b>764,537</b>
Expenditure & transfers	(942,870)
<b>Total deficit</b>	<b>(178,333)</b>

**BREAKDOWN OF COSTS**

- ▶ Most of our expenditure (60%) goes towards funding the staff team: salaries & accommodation.
- ▶ We are investing to grow disciples whilst raising up leaders for the wider church.
- ▶ As a church we want to give generously to mission in the UK and abroad.



Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

# God's Grace FOR DIVIDED HEARTS

THE LETTER OF JAMES

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

# Parenting rooted in grace

saintjames.org.uk/parenting

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

## Welcome to Saint James!

**Our Church Family**  
We are a church family of ordinary people brought together by the grace of God and the love of Jesus Christ. We share the same faith, beliefs, values, and the same mission to glorify God and to love and serve our neighbours.

**Our Vision**  
Our vision is to see every life transformed through Jesus for the glory of God. This happens as we:

- Preach the Gospel with passion, with the greatest of joy, and with integrity.
- Nurture and equip our members.
- Welcome and care for all.
- Grow in our faith and love for one another.
- Engage with our community.
- Witness to the world.

**Our Five Biblical Ministries**

- Worship & Evangelism
- Discipleship & Prayer
- Education & Training
- Ministry to the Vulnerable
- Community & Outreach

**Ministry Team**

**Operations Team**

Get in touch: 01295 882333 | 01295 882333 | #saintjames | @saintjames

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

# Welcome to Carols in the Car Park

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

## INVESTING FOR THE KINGDOM

**OUR BUDGET FOR 2021**

- Our current reliance on one-off giving is heavier than we would like.
- We want to build a more resilient and more generous pastoral giving.
- We need to increase our regular giving to meet the budgeted shortfall.

**BREAKDOWN OF COSTS**

Most of our expenditure (82%) goes towards funding the staff team salaries & accommodation.

We are seeking to grow disciples whilst raising up leaders for the wider church.

As a church we want to give generously to mission in the UK and overseas.

**BREAKDOWN OF GIVING UNITS**

- We would like to change the shape of this pyramid.
- Is your current level of giving truly meaningful? Could you increase it?
- Could you move in the next band by giving a lot more?

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

### GIVING NOTIFICATION

Please use the form below to set up a standing order or make a one-off gift directly with your bank. Please email [give@saintjames.org.uk](mailto:give@saintjames.org.uk) to notify us of the arrangement, or complete and return the form to the PCC Co-ordinator at the Church Office.

If you wish to make a one-off donation directly with your bank, use the standing order form enclosed or contact [give@saintjames.org.uk](mailto:give@saintjames.org.uk) to send you one.

Account No: 881858 30481 0001 90-08-34 - National Westminster Bank PLC, Gerrards Cross branch

**REGULAR DONATION**

I have set up the following regular donation:

Amount: £  Monthly  Quarterly  Annually

The account will start from:  £0.00  £100.00  Other:

I have set this up with my:  bank/building society  Charity Account (please specify below):

**ONE-OFF DONATION**

I would like to donate: £  to the PCC of Saint James Gerrards Cross and Fulmer and I have authorised my donation via:

Online banking  Cash enclosed  Cheque enclosed

**Account Holder**  
(Please identify your gift on your bank statement)

First name:  Surname:

**Acknowledgement**

We would like to thank you for your generosity. To whom should we address the acknowledgement?

First name:  Surname:

Address:

Postcode:  Telephone:

Email:

1. Please return the completed form to PCC Co-ordinator, Saint James Church Office, Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, SL9 7DZ.

# hope

EASTER 2021

# Ruin to Redemption

FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH

# HOG ROAST

AT THE RECTORY  
ON FRIDAY 2 JULY  
7-11PM

# CREAM TEA

at the rectory  
Sunday 4 July • 3 - 5pm

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

### GETTING STARTED

You can start your giving in any of the following ways...

- Regular Standing Order**  
The most helpful way to support Saint James is to set up a standing order with your bank. Once you have decided how much to give, you can set up the arrangement with your bank and then they will automatically process your gifts in accordance with your instructions. It therefore saves you time, it means that you don't forget when life is too busy and – crucially – it helps the PCC and Leadership Team with our financial planning.

You can also set-up and manage regular donations through charity accounts like Stewardship or CAF.

See the enclosed giving forms for more details or go to [saintjames.org.uk/giving](mailto:saintjames.org.uk/giving)
- Cheque or charity voucher (e.g. Stewardship or CAF voucher)**  
Made payable to 'PCC of St James Gerrards Cross and Fulmer'.
- Direct bank payment**  
You can use your online or telephone banking to make a payment to 'PCC of St James Gerrards Cross and Fulmer' using the details on the enclosed forms or go to [saintjames.org.uk/giving](mailto:saintjames.org.uk/giving)
- Online Giving**  
You can make a secure online gift at [saintjames.org.uk/giving](https://saintjames.org.uk/giving)

Details of your giving will be treated as strictly confidential. Only the Planned Christian Giving (PCG) Co-ordinator and Secretary know the names of those who are giving. To see our privacy statement, visit [saintjames.org.uk/privacy](https://saintjames.org.uk/privacy)

The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St James Gerrards Cross With St James Fulmer is a registered charity (No. 102352) whose registered office is at Saint James Church, Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, SL9 7DZ.

**IF YOU ARE A UK TAXPAYER...**

Please ensure that you also complete and return a Gift Aid declaration to enable Saint James to increase the value of your gift by reclaiming the basic rate tax on your gifts from HM Revenue & Customs. At the current rates for every £4 donated we receive £1 Thank you!

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

## GIVING AT SAINT JAMES

[saintjames.org.uk](https://saintjames.org.uk)

# Faith while we wait

## 1 Thessalonians

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

## BOOK YOUR PLACE!

### DINNER WITH A DIFFERENCE

We'll be meeting in homes according to the latest guidelines to share food, fellowship and fun, and to raise in to a short video outlining this year's vision.

When you sign up you can choose to host, be hosted, or join in online. On Saturday 26th a surprise dessert box will be delivered to you. We'll provide the dessert, the rest is up to you!

### BOOKING

Everyone needs to book a ticket! So please book yours at: [saintjames.org.uk/visithome](https://saintjames.org.uk/visithome)

#saintjames.org.uk | 01295 882333 | #dinnerwithadifference

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# God's Care in DEMENTIA

Saint James  
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# EMOTIONS

TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 8-9PM

HANDLING ANGER  
GOD'S WAY

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

# COVID ON MY MIND

MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER, 8-9PM

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

# A PLACE TO BELONG

Enjoying Church as Family



Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

[www.saintjames.org.uk](http://www.saintjames.org.uk)