



Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

# HE KNOWS NOT HOW...

MINISTRY REVIEW | 2021-22



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MINISTRY REVIEW | 2021-22

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# RECTOR'S REPORT

## Dear Friends,

I'm increasingly struck by the wisdom of the statement: *"I don't know."* Admittedly it doesn't sound very impressive, but at least it's honest! As we look back on another year in the life of our church, there is so much to thank God for, but so much of it has been small, slow and (humanly speaking) rather ordinary. When I think of the challenges we've faced and the uncertainty that COVID has brought to our world, *"I don't know"* how things have grown. But they have.

I think that's what Jesus tells us to expect, in Mark 4:26-27: *"The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how..."*

These pages tell a story of what God has been doing amongst us here at Saint James. We are a long way from 'having it all sorted' and we don't know how or when God will give growth to different areas of ministry. But day-by-day, we have scattered seed, we have prayed and we have trusted that our efforts will bear fruit as the Holy Spirit does his work.

It's humbling, because we are not in control. Some things haven't grown. And we haven't always seen fruit. So, we'll want to think carefully about what we can learn from that. But it's also exciting, because in other places we have seen growth – in spite of our weakness!

Our recent service of baptism & confirmation with Bishop Tim Wambunya is just one example of the fruit, that comes from the slow, patient and ordinary work of evangelism and discipleship. It was a joy to see a whole host of people publicly declaring their faith in Jesus. And a reason to rejoice!

Back in September, we launched the year with our Vision Dinners as we re-committed ourselves to our vision to see *every life transformed*. Our theme was built around that wonderful

invitation in Isaiah 55:1: *Come, all who are thirsty...* with an emphasis on recovery, refreshment and getting everyone back to church in person.

The reports that follow give you a taste of what that journey has looked like and how we're doing, but without, I hope, any sense of pride or complacency. We're almost a year in to the re-launch of our Sunday congregations and we've still got a lot to do as we work out what each service should look like and how we can most effectively reach the thousands our doorstep who don't yet know Christ.

The need is as real and as urgent as ever. And progress is often slower than we would like it to be. But the task remains the same: to scatter the seed of the gospel wherever we can. As for what happens after that: *I don't know...*

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



With love  
in Christ





# MAGNIFICATION

LEAD **Paul Enns** (until March 2022)



## REPORT

Over the summer of 2021 we planned and prepared for the launch of a new service pattern in September. We have tried not to change anything 'lock, stock and barrel', but there have been little tweaks to make the most of things we enjoyed during our single service together during lockdown. One highlight from this has been seeing some younger families coming along to The 9:15.

At Christmas we tried something a bit different. Alongside the joy of having a wide variety of carol services in our buildings we also gave Carols on the Common a try. The plan had been to have two guest services in the afternoon and evening, and that these would be preceded by a 'Saint James Together' service in the morning. It was a real joy at that service to bring together the variety of musical styles across Saint James. Iain Ledingham and the choir, as well as our band, together leading us well in a fantastic service.

At Christmas and Easter we sought to ensure that in our services there were plenty of opportunities for us, and our guests, to come and meet with Jesus as we worship him together and hear him speak to us in his word.



### VISION

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



### GOAL

... so that GOD is worshipped & glorified

Another new initiative has been continuing Prayer Central in a 'hybrid format'. Gathering in person is a great joy, but Zoom enables those who are struggling to get away from home to join us. Prayer Central is foundational in our collective dependence on God. It has been a privilege to bring all sorts of concerns for our church, our community and our world before the living God, and then to see many answered prayers.

We must acknowledge a few people at this point for the ways that they've played their part in the Magnification ministry. Firstly, we were sad to say "goodbye" to Paul & Louanne Enns in March. Paul played a key role in sustaining our worship through lockdown and helping us settle into new patterns. Big thanks must also go to Lindsey Mackie and Ian Mitton for the way they've led our bands as we've recruited for a new Worship Pastor. We also remain immensely grateful to Iain Ledingham and the choirs in Gerrards Cross and Fulmer. Iain is retiring from his role at Saint James, and we're looking forward to celebrating his 30+ years of service and thanking him at the end of July.

If you have any musical or singing experience, Josh Lucas, our new Worship Pastor, would love to hear from you when he arrives.







## MINISTRY REVIEW MAGNIFICATION

### PLANS

New appointments provide great opportunities, both to strengthen what is already in place and to bring a fresh perspective. Josh Lucas, our new Worship Pastor, will be starting in late August. We're currently exploring how best to carry on Iain Ledingham's wonderful service on the organ and with the choirs in Gerrards Cross and in Fulmer.

### THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ Lindsey Mackie and Ian Mitton for their leading of our bands whilst we've been between worship pastors.
- ▶ Iain Ledingham's 30+ years of service as organist at Saint James.
- ▶ Our church family who've slowly but surely embraced returning to meeting together and singing God's praises.
- ▶ The joy of gathering each month to pray at Prayer Central.

### THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ Wisdom and God's provision as we recruit an organist.
- ▶ A good start for Josh & Lydia as they settle in the area and at Saint James.
- ▶ For more members of our choir and worship teams to be raised up.
- ▶ Unity in our weekly worship.

### THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ We're excited for Josh Lucas to be joining the team and to have a fresh pair of eyes on our services.
- ▶ Are there more ways for all of us to enjoy the rich variety of musical styles at Saint James, like our Saint James Together services?
- ▶ How we can make personal prayer more visibly available at each of our services.

**1**  
organist  
&

**20+**  
dedicated  
choir members  
(The 9:15 and The 11:15)

**23**  
MEMBERS

of the Scratch  
Choir at Carols  
on the Common



**15**  
MUSICIANS

regularly  
involved in  
bands on Sundays



# MISSION

LEAD **James Forward**



## REPORT

In the Parable of the Sower, Matthew 13, the farmer sows seed far and wide. God's word, which the seed represents, is scattered indiscriminately. At the point of planting, the farmer has no idea if the seed is going to land on good soil, which will produce a crop one hundred times what was sown, or if it will land in bad soil and produce no fruit at all.

That is our task at Saint James. And this year we have sought to share God's word far and wide with our friends, family, and communities in two main ways.

Firstly, we have asked our community to '**Come & See**'. This looks like putting on events and groups at which people can come and find out more about Jesus. A major highlight this year was Carols on the Common which saw hundreds of guests in a tent hearing the good news of Christmas. What a wonderful opportunity to get out into the heart of the town and for them to experience something of the gospel community we have here at Saint James.



### VISION

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



### GOAL

... so that our COMMUNITY is engaged & evangelised

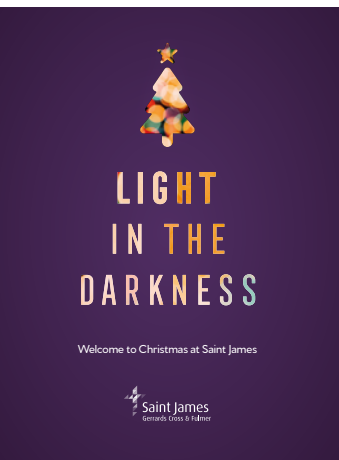
Beyond Christmas, we've been extending the 'come and see' invitation all year round. Each term we have offered an Explore Course where guests can hear the good news of the gospel. We have run Celebrating Easter craft events, a Big Questions evening with Tamar Pollard, Tiny Tots, Fulmer Coffee and Chat, and the Friendship Lunch has offered gospel and community twice a month to the elderly in GX.

Secondly, however, we scatter the seed as we '**Go & Tell**'. This is the ordinary work of church family speaking about Jesus wherever we find ourselves. One of the chief joys of my job is church family sharing with me who in the office or at the sports club they have been praying for and seeking to reach out to.

Whether we are creating a space for people to come and see, or we are going and telling, our task is to scatter the seed, and we trust in God and the power of his word for the result.







# MINISTRY REVIEW

## MISSION

### PLANS

We want to create a consistent and sustainable pattern of 'Come & See' ministry in the year ahead. I would love to see us hosting one big outreach event per term, and a morning and evening Explore Group per term.

In this we want to provide regular opportunities for people to come and find out about Jesus for themselves, whilst leaving plenty of space for us each to be going and telling our friends and neighbours about Jesus.

### THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ Baptisms and confirmations as people publicly declare their faith in Jesus.
- ▶ Great connections into our community via the Fun Run and Saint James FC.
- ▶ People coming though Explore and regularly coming to church on Sundays.
- ▶ Every seed that is sown whenever God's word is shared.

# MINISTRY REVIEW

## MISSION



**60-70**  
people per month at  
Friendship Lunch



**900+**  
sign-ups for Carols  
on the Common

### THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ Our everyday 'Go & Tell' evangelism.
- ▶ Boldness to take evangelistic opportunities at Christmas and Easter.
- ▶ Hearts that long to see our friends and neighbours meet Jesus.
- ▶ Confidence in the power of the gospel to save.



**5**  
active Explore Groups this  
year with over 20 guests



**300+**  
players and coaches  
connected to SJFC

### THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ What questions are people in our community asking that prevent them from believing the gospel?
- ▶ How can we connect with a growing Asian population in Gerrards Cross and Fulmer?
- ▶ What training do we need to be equipped for personal evangelism?



# MEMBERSHIP

LEAD **Daf Meirion-Jones**



## REPORT

As far as I can see the best thing about camping is arriving home. You have a new appreciation for the concept of a roof and your own bathroom. Inside. Not shared with 50 other people. Things that you take for granted become more precious (briefly...).

Hasn't it been wonderful to enjoy meeting in person as God's people over the last year! To do what we have taken for granted in the past with a new excitement. Singing together. Seeing the whole of someone's face as you talk to them. Sharing life together once again.

As we have returned to Sunday services, we have welcomed lots of new people – who have been well looked after by our Hosting Teams. 40 people have come on one of our 3 Connect courses. Matt and Amy hosted a Welcome Tea at the Rectory – one of the most sought after invites in the GX social calendar! It inevitably takes time to settle into a church, but it has been so encouraging to see many new people volunteer to serve in a variety of ways right from the start.



### VISION

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



### GOAL

... so that EVERYONE is connected & cared for

Throughout the Bible a relational highlight for God's people is eating together. The four "Food for Body & Soul" Sunday's we've held have been well attended with over 100 people for lunch on each occasion and a prodigious number of hot dogs being eaten by some of our teenagers after The 5:30. I love seeing people who have attended the same service for months, but never spoken, sitting down and chatting over a meal. Small children on the knee of someone else's grandad; church beginning to become the family that Jesus calls us to be.

Despite the lifting of lockdowns life has continued to be very hard for many people. The ongoing spiritual, emotional and practical support offered by so many in the church has been vital. The Pastoral Care Team have been at the forefront for looking out for some of our more elderly or vulnerable members – however, it has been so encouraging to see others grow in their concern to care for people known to them, either through their Growth Groups or congregations.





# MINISTRY REVIEW MEMBERSHIP

## PLANS

When Ed Shaw spoke at the last “A Better Story” evening he challenged us to be a genuinely inclusive church. The sort of church where whether your single or married, old or young, a life long UK resident or a recently arrival from abroad – you will be welcomed not just to a Sunday service, but into a set of relationships where you will experience the tangible, sacrificial love of the Lord Jesus through his people. We’ve got a way to go. It’s not a programme you can run or a team you can train – it’s a culture that develops as people grow in the love of God and neighbour. My great hope for the next year is that we will grow as a relationally generous church – I just have to work out a plan to make that happen!



have come on one of our  
**3 Connect Courses**



**4** Food for Body & Soul  
Sunday's with over 100  
people for lunch each time

“ Thank you very much for last night, I really enjoyed it and ... I certainly understand better now how to pray for you all.”

A CONNECT ATTENDEE



## THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ Lots of new people joining Saint James and starting to serve amongst us in many ways.
- ▶ Hosting Teams at each service seeking to care for newcomers and help people develop friendships.
- ▶ “Food for Body & Soul” Sundays seeing many people share a meal and more of life together.
- ▶ The Pastoral Care Team, with others, providing vital support to many people.

## THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ That we would welcome people into our lives, so that everyone is supported in our church family.
- ▶ That “church” would feel more of a family we’re a member of, rather than an organisation or an event we go to, as we grow in love for one another.
- ▶ For us to become a genuinely “inclusive” church.

## THINGS WE’RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ Ensuring that each service is as inclusive as possible.
- ▶ How to develop relationships that cross age and cultural boundaries?
- ▶ How to care for increasingly old and vulnerable people?



# MATURITY

LEAD **Ben Clarke**



## REPORT

**Maturity** is about everyone **growing in the likeness of Christ** through the gospel and by his Spirit. To that end the work of the Maturity ministry is, as Paul describes in Galatians 4:19, about labouring “until Christ is formed” in us.

The **primary place** this takes place is in our gathered worship on **Sundays**. This is the greenhouse of growth, the ordinary way in which God promises to build up his people through the preaching of his word and other means of grace. However, because the sort of growth and transformation God calls us to is deeply relational – nothing less than “Christ in us” – it can only be realised in the context of deep relationships. As such our discipleship must spill over from gathered worship to include hospitality, friendship and discipleship in other community rich contexts.

In our busy lives one of the key places this is expressed in the life of our church family is in **Growth Groups**. Over the course of the last year we have prayerfully applied what God has been saying to us through the book of Judges, Luke’s gospel, our Rhythms of Grace series, 1 Corinthians 15 and more recently the book of Ecclesiastes. We have also deliberately paused from our Sunday sermons in order



## VISION

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



## GOAL

... so that our **CONGREGATIONS** are established & growing

to read and discuss **Love Your Church** which helped us consider what church is, why being part of it is exciting, and why it’s worthy of **our love** and commitment.

In March this year all Growth Groups paused to meet centrally on Wednesday evenings or Thursday mornings for **A Better Story**. These four midweek seminars provided time together to consider what God has to say about human sexuality and gender. It was our prayer that we would engage with these **sensitive topics** confident in **God’s goodness**, listening to God’s word, compassionate and gentle with one another. We tried to engage positively with these issues because we are convinced that Jesus came to bring **life to the full** and his word offers ‘a better story’ than our confused culture.

Alongside our Growth Groups we’ve run some one-off events. Over the Summer we ran a seminar on Emotions: Handling Anger and more recently we put on a seminar on Parenting in the Pew. Our bookshop in the Saint James Centre is well stocked and we’re thinking all the time about how to get useful resources into people’s hands.







## MINISTRY REVIEW MATURITY

“

Our group has really appreciated looking again at the passage we heard preached on Sunday. We've loved having time to go deeper and consider what God is doing in our lives through his word.”

GROWTH GROUP LEADER



### PLANS

Over the next year we hope to repeat our midweek seminar format in March. An opportunity for Growth Groups to join together in the Saint James Centre for 4-weeks, receiving some interactive teaching and perhaps even sharing a meal together. Over the autumn we will look into the possibility of relaunching a Men and Women's breakfast. Our hope would be for these to strengthen relationships in the church family and give an easy access point to receive biblical teaching on relevant issues.

### THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ Give thanks for our **Growth Groups** and the way the Lord has used them to deepen our relationships with one another.
- ▶ Praise God that through reading **Love your Church** many have grown in their grasp of the significance of the Sunday gathering.
- ▶ Give thanks that through our **A Better Story** series God strengthened our **Spirit-filled love, gentleness and clarity.**
- ▶ Praise God for all of the unseen 1:1s, and discipling relationships in the church family. Pray that God would multiply and deepen these.

### THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ Pray that we would all be **growing in the likeness of Christ** through the gospel and by His Spirit.
- ▶ Pray for **Growth Group leaders** as they love the people in their groups and open the scriptures with them week by week.
- ▶ Ask for God's help as we seek to be a church family **deeply rooted in God and in his word.**
- ▶ Ask that God's Spirit would help us to be a **biblically inclusive church** committed to love and truth.

### THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ How can we help one another experience Sundays, as a foretaste of heaven and our greatest earthly joy?
- ▶ How can we better equip people for leading in prayer?
- ▶ How can we make it easier for people not in a Growth Group to connect with the Maturity ministry?



**3** new Growth Groups launched



**200** members of church family in Growth Groups



**217**

people at **A Better Story**

## REPORT

The Ministry 'M' is all about 'serving' so that as disciples of Jesus we are all playing our part. Discipleship and service go hand in hand, so as we grow as disciples, we will see more and more of us involved in ministry of one kind or another.

Equip continues to be one of the ways in which we raise up leaders who can faithfully express the gifts that God has given them for the building up of the church. Many who've been part of Equip over the last two years are now Growth Group leaders, Explore leaders and Sunday serving team leaders, whilst others are faithfully and quietly stuck-in as needs and opportunities arise.

As we've settled into a new service pattern on Sundays there have been lots of opportunities for people to serve. Hosting teams are now established at each service, along with refreshed Duty Warden Teams. Later on you'll be able to read of our gratitude to God for the teams that God has provided for our Youth and Kids works.



### VISION

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



### GOAL

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

One of the highlights of the year has been the way our church family has responded to one-off events, both at the actual event, but also in the planning and preparation.

It's wonderful to see many in our church family who are serving joyfully and sacrificially to enable the ministry here. Much of it is unseen, but is evidence of the Holy Spirit at work.

It may sound like the Ministry 'M' is about filling roles at church. Whilst we're full of gratitude to God as we've seen people stepping forward to meet growing needs in Kids and Youth ministries, or the way that Sundays run smoothly because of the sacrificial service of many, what is really encouraging is hearing stories of people at Saint James, stirred up by Jesus' sacrificial love for us, looking for opportunities to serve their church family and their neighbour. This is the long, slow work of the gospel. Please join with us in praying, that we might see this more widely and more deeply at Saint James.







## MINISTRY REVIEW MINISTRY

### PLANS

- ▶ There is a particular need for leaders at The 5:30 to help oversee the different teams which are being formed...
- ▶ ...but equally we'd love to see everyone equipped to serve and stuck in to a ministry...
- ▶ ...so if you're not yet serving in a role why not put up a hand and ask how you might be involved?

### THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ Give thanks for our children and young people who are serving our church family, for their "labour prompted by love".
- ▶ Many serving in ways for which they wouldn't naturally say they were gifted, because they've seen the need.
- ▶ Newcomers arriving at Saint James and getting involved in serving.

### THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ God would sustain our joy as we serve.
- ▶ Pray for those who feel overwhelmed by balancing serving and the rest of life. Ask that they would experience Jesus' promise: it is more blessed to give than receive.
- ▶ Pray for some particular gaps that we'd love to 'fill' (coffee teams at each service, duty wardens for The 5:30, additional members for the Tech Team).
- ▶ Pray for those reading God's word and leading us in prayer at our services. Ask that God would bless them in their service and equip them to be a blessing to us.

### THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ How to be a church where everyone is using their gifts to serve in sustainable sacrifice.
- ▶ How to build a pipeline of leaders for our different ministries.
- ▶ How to grow a church-wide culture of 'partnership' in ministry, giving generously of our time, energy and gifts.

Lots of opportunities to serve



Kids & Youth



Hospitality



Tech

& LOTS MORE

How might you get involved?

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



# FULMER

LEAD **Jill Roth**



## REPORT

Lockdown during 2020/2021 presented particular challenges related to not meeting physically and also the loss of loved ones and several church members. On the upside we have been presented with opportunities for growth numerically and spiritually since restarting services in September 2021.

It's exciting to see the dynamic of Christian life changing in Fulmer. Since services restarted 9 months ago, we're now regularly welcoming newcomers. Most importantly, we're seeing growth in Christian maturity as we continue to engage with Luke's gospel. We're seeing evidence of shoots of growth where members have attended courses to explore more about the Christian faith, joining Growth Groups and engaging in 1-2-1 sessions with a focus on John's gospel. Many more people are engaging in serving in some way for the very first time in church services and other events, such as the Fulmer Family Fun Day in May and our Platinum Jubilee service.

We're also experiencing deepening relationships with parents from Fulmer Infant School at Thursday Coffee and Chat. In the last six months we have a new team member and have stepped up a gear by offering seasonal outreach events followed by Hope Explored courses to parents. We pray that others will come to a living faith in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



## VISION

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

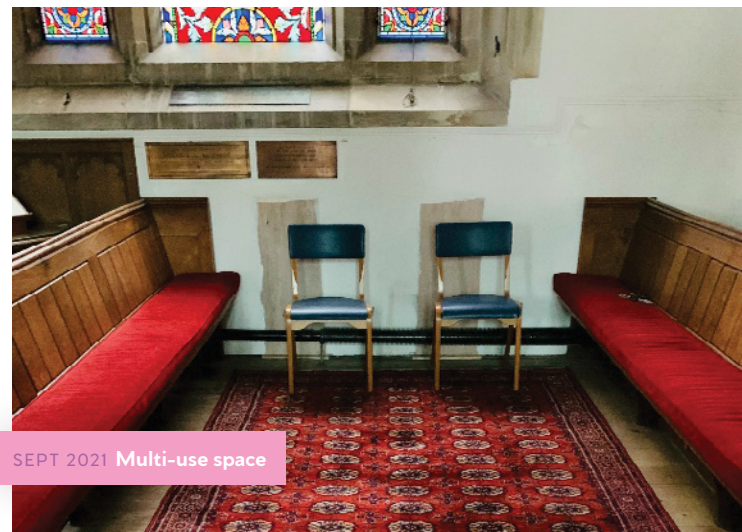


## GOAL

... so that lives are transformed through the gospel

Some further highlights over the last year include:

- ▶ Baptism by immersion of a new Christian.
- ▶ Hosting Thursday Coffee & Chat themed Christmas and Easter outreach events together with a Gerrards Cross team.
- ▶ Running the Hope Explored course alongside Thursday Coffee & Chat has encouraged 3 mums to join the course after hearing a personal testimony at the Christmas Come Make Give event.
- ▶ The Fulmer Family Fun Day in May saw many families joining in our activities at the Saint James tent, offering great opportunities to engage with our village community.
- ▶ Zoom coffee was a catalyst for building church community during lockdown and we're now seeing deepening relationships amongst congregation members and a greater willingness to serve together at church services and outreach events.
- ▶ The new multi-functional space created in September 2021 is enabling us to more easily offer hospitality, run evangelistic outreach events, provide a children's play area and also a meeting space for Bible study, 1-2-1's, etc.
- ▶ A Platinum Jubilee service giving thanks for HRH Queen Elizabeth bringing newcomers and church congregation together to celebrate 70 years of our Queen's reign.



SEPT 2021 Multi-use space

JUNE 2022 Platinum Jubilee



## MINISTRY REVIEW FULMER

### PLANS

We'd love to keep building to the point where The 11:15 reflects the diversity of ages and stages in the village. We think an interim step will be to have a monthly all age service. This will require us all to play our part, whether in sharing our faith, inviting neighbours to church, or getting involved in new ways of serving. It will be so wonderful to see the kingdom of heaven growing beyond our church walls to the village and surrounding area.

However, to do this, we'll need to be fed and growing ourselves. So our coffee time and being a part of a Growth Group; times when we engage with scripture and discuss sermon topics, as well as making time to support each other in prayer, will be essential.

### THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

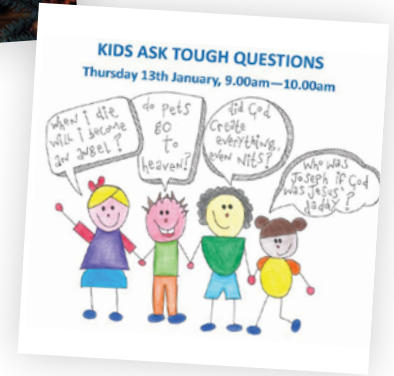
- ▶ Praise God for lives changed by the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and bearing fruit.
- ▶ Give thanks for the opportunity to share our faith at outreach events.
- ▶ New members attending Fulmer for the first time after attending Explore courses in the last few months and who are now bringing friends and family to services.
- ▶ The Luke sermon series helping us to grow in our gospel understanding, growing as disciples of Christ, and enabling us to share our faith with greater confidence.

### THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ Our hearts to be Christ-focused in all that we are, say and do.
- ▶ An openness in the village community to hear the gospel.
- ▶ Joyful servant hearts, seeking to proclaim the gospel in our village and beyond.
- ▶ Us to keep growing in Christian maturity.

### THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ Offering more prayer for our village by offering a community prayer box, and continuing prayer walks around the village.
- ▶ How do we offer the best possible 'traditional' service that's accessible for all.
- ▶ How we can keep strengthening the partnership between Gerrards Cross and Fulmer.



DEC 2022  
Nativity tree decorations  
by Fulmer Infant School



MAY 2022 Fulmer Family Fun Day





LEAD **Ross Mungavin**



## REPORT

*So, then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 3:6-7.*

The word which came to mind for me as I thought about this last year of youth ministry was: “deeper”. It’s been a hard year in many ways for our young people. As we begin to emerge from the pandemic, and experience some of the lasting implications of it, life has not gone back to “normal”. But through all that, God has been at work, to draw our young people deeper into his love.

I can think of three areas where we’ve seen this growth in depth. The first is deeper faith. What a joy to read the testimonies of the young people who were baptised and confirmed this year to see that this is true. Many of our young people are working out what it means to be a faithful disciple of Jesus every day.

The second is deeper relationships. I’ve loved seeing friendship flourishing in our youth groups, as young people eat together, have fun together, and pray together, they having been growing in love for one another and for God.



## VISION

To partner with parents to grow resilient disciples...



## GOAL

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

The third is deeper partnerships. It has been a joy to have parents come on the youth team to serve our young people, or to partner with us in other practical ways. We’ve also been working hard to make partnerships with other gospel-centred churches to show the young people that we belong to something bigger than just our church.

Please join me in giving thanks to God for the spiritual fruit he has been producing amongst our young people.

“

My faith has really deepened over the last couple of years – I want to share Jesus with all my friends!”

15 YEAR OLD GIRL







## MINISTRY REVIEW YOUTH

  
 **8** young people  
**baptised/Confirmed**  
this year

### PLANS

We'd love to be able to push on with the vision and goals we've set for next year. Some things that we're looking forward to in particular are:

- ▶ Taking a group of our young people away to a summer camp with other gospel-centred churches to spend a week worshipping, getting into the Bible, and having a great time.
- ▶ Encouraging our young people to think about how they can engage with God's mission in their schools and clubs.
- ▶ Continuing to build a team who love our young people, and want to see them go the distance with Jesus.



#### Sunday Youth

Part of church service, discipling young people



#### Rooted/Rooted+

Midweek Bible study groups, discipling young people



#### Reach/Reach+

Once a month social to engage disconnected youth



#### The Big Weekend

A weekend away in January 2022



#### Summer Camps

August 2022

“I've learned lots and lots about Jesus through St. James, and now I want to follow him every day.”

13 YEAR OLD BOY

“Reading the Bible everyday has helped me grow in my faith.”

12 YEAR OLD GIRL



### THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ Young people committed to growing deeper in their faith in Jesus.
- ▶ Increasing confidence in the gospel and humility before the Word of God.
- ▶ The eight young people who were baptised or confirmed this year.
- ▶ A growing group of leaders.
- ▶ Supportive parents whose top priority is for their young people to follow Jesus.

### THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ Deeper spiritual maturity for our young people.
- ▶ For new young people who have moved into the groups (or who will).
- ▶ God's blessing on future ministry plans.
- ▶ For the young people going on camps this summer.
- ▶ For more leaders to join the teams to grow the next generation of disciples!

### THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ How can we encourage young people to reach out to their friends with the gospel?
- ▶ How can we engage young people who are not part of our church community?
- ▶ How can parents play a greater role in our ministry to young people?

“We feel that the commitment of the leaders to love our kids, open their homes, and show them Jesus is fabulous. To have fun and feed them on spiritual truth is so important, and the kids know when you are for them.” PARENT

# MINISTRY REVIEW CHILDREN

LEAD **Anna Barrett**



## REPORT

The last 12 months have seen us return to a new normal with regular Sunday groups and midweek activities and wow, what a hugely encouraging year it's been! It's been a real joy to serve alongside over 30 members of the church family in a variety of kid specific contexts as we seek to grow young disciples.

There has been a noticeable change amongst the children on a Sunday who hunger to learn more of what God's word says. Evident in the way the children are now engaging with talks and Bible Studies (especially the older ones who are growing in confidence to read and handle the Bible), feeling confident and able to pray out loud (pre-schoolers as well as kids) and in the way they show real enthusiasm and joy at being in the group. This is aided by the team of committed leaders who have gotten to know the children, disciplined them weekly and prayed for them over the last year.



### VISION

Partnering with parents to grow young disciples...



### GOAL

... so that our children are rooted and growing

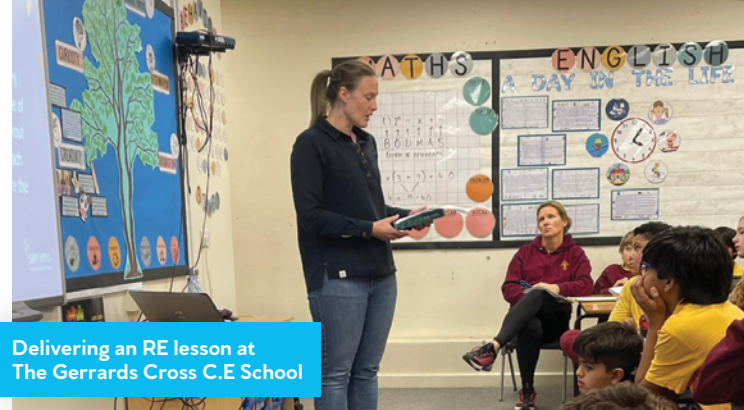
Tiny Tots has continued to grow this year with the opportunity to start Tiny Tots Extra: a time where mums and carers can look a bit further into the works and person of Jesus. The opportunity we noticed was revealing itself after the team were having good chats with parents about the hope we have in Jesus and the difference it makes in everyday life.

Weekly assemblies in the school have continued and we hope that our new kids' club, Ignite, will bring the children in to the church from the local area. God has been powerfully at work amongst our young people and team. We praise him for his kindness to us!

“

My son is always excited to come to Sunday kids at the 5:30 and has grown so much in his love for Jesus.”

DAD FROM THE 5.30



Delivering an RE lesson at The Gerrards Cross C.E School



Sunday kids acting out the passage



Tiny Tots





Sunday kids and creche leaders training



Tiny Tots scratch Nativity



Story time at Tiny Tots



Singing at Tiny Tots

## MINISTRY REVIEW CHILDREN

### PLANS

We've got exciting plans to keep teaching the Bible in ways children of all ages can engage with and understand. Our prayer is that they continue to lay deep biblical foundations, learning to trust and obey Jesus. Plus, the exciting opportunity Ignite provides in reaching children in the local area with the good news of Jesus. And providing a way for church families to engage with evangelism themselves, helping children to speak to their friends about Jesus and inviting them to Ignite.

### THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ A whole year of in person teaching!
- ▶ Children engaging with the Bible each Sunday and growing in faith.
- ▶ A committed team of leaders who have served all year.
- ▶ The launch of Ignite!
- ▶ Continued regular assemblies at The Gerrards Cross C.E School.

37   
school assemblies

3   
RE lessons

2   
class visits to the church

### THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ Tiny Tots extra and the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with parents and carers.
- ▶ Kids leaders as they seek to teach and disciple our children each week.
- ▶ For children to be captivated with the word of God.
- ▶ That children from the local area would come to Ignite and hear about Jesus.

“

My child (10) is so excited to have a club that she can bring her friends to.”

QUOTE FROM MUM

Average weekly attendance

 **38**   
UNDER 11'S

### THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ Fine tuning Ignite details so that all children are able to attend.
- ▶ The possibility of starting a KS1 afterschool club similar to Ignite.
- ▶ How to train and equip a team of people willing to disciple our children.
- ▶ How to encourage devotional times amongst families.



# OPERATIONS

LEAD Mark Nicholas



## REPORT

This year we've learnt that getting Church of England approval for signage changes takes a lot longer than anyone estimates!

We've also learnt that restarting ministry after lockdown restrictions have been released is a lot like planting a church – lots is new and needs building from the ground up. This has taken time we'd thought would be available to move some projects forward.

We're starting to see glimpses of a rhythm and cadence to church life which helps with planning and balancing workload.

## THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ New signage!
- ▶ Good processes being built as we start from scratch in lots of areas.
- ▶ God's sustaining through a variety of challenges.
- ▶ Making a start with the church magazine.
- ▶ New systems supporting finance and giving.

## THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- ▶ New member(s) to join our wonderful team.
- ▶ Clarity on which areas to address in the coming year, there's lots we could turn our attention to.

## THINGS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

- ▶ How to protect space to work through bigger changes behind the scenes alongside the busy-ness of the week-by-week.
- ▶ How to build and shape a settled rhythm to church life.



Over the year it's become clear, that to better support ministry at Saint James, we would like to have someone come and join the Ops Team. This could be in a voluntary capacity, or a paid role. We think we're a great team to work alongside, if you or someone you know might be interested, please be in touch.

We hope that the points below are fuel for prayer and give a sense of the things that we've been working on and what we think lies ahead.



## 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 2021

We started the year with a PCC approved budget deficit of £178k and as a result of another year of God’s provision through the generous giving of the church family we have ended up reporting a surplus of £90k (after fund transfers).

The “headline” total income figure of £1,012k was 19% down on the 2020 equivalent income of £1,250k. However, the 2020 headline figure included £343k of legacy income; the equivalent figure for 2021 being only £14k. Excluding legacies, the total income rose by 10%.

Voluntary income, being the income received directly from the members of the church family, again excluding legacies, rose 13% from £854k in 2020 to £962k in 2021. A major factor in this increase, but one difficult to measure accurately, was the “bounce back” from

the impact of COVID-19 on church family personal finances in 2020.

Due to the continuing strong performance of the stock exchange index during 2021 there was a recognised gain of £10k on the holding value of our index related investment (2019: gain of £13k). The total gain was £29k, but it was felt prudent to only recognise £10k in the General Fund with the balance shown in the related Designated Fund to protect the General Fund from any losses in future years.

Total expenditure for the year at £908k was 5% lower than 2020 (£954k). The “core” expenditure of running all our ministries and other activities (excluding outside giving and governance costs) at £824k was down 3% from £846k in 2020. This was due to good cost control despite the church activities gradually re-opening during the Autumn of 2021 following the relaxing of the COVID 19 restrictions. The parish share contribution of £217k is included within this figure and was down 1% on 2020 as savings in both Deanery and Diocese spending was passed down to the parishes. In 2021 the grants to organisations outside the church (allocated by the Mission Committee) totalled £78k, down 7% on the 2020 equivalent. This was due to the re-basing of the effective 10% tithe on church family giving on the actual giving rather than historically where it was based on the budgeted giving in the year in question. The PCC felt that this was a more accurate way of reflecting the giving pattern. However, the PCC decided that in light of this year’s surplus an additional £10k be made available to the Mission Committee (now known as the Global Mission Group) to support external organisations.



## OVERVIEW OF 2022 TO DATE

We started 2022 with a PCC approved general fund budget deficit of £158k. Due to a combination of good cost control and after factoring in the savings relating to the vacancy gap in the post of Worship Pastor, the full year costs are now forecast to be down by £49k. After taking in the above costs saving and being slightly more optimistic regarding the income, the full year deficit is now forecast to be £106k, an improvement of £51k over the original budget. 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](https://saintjames.org.uk/giving)

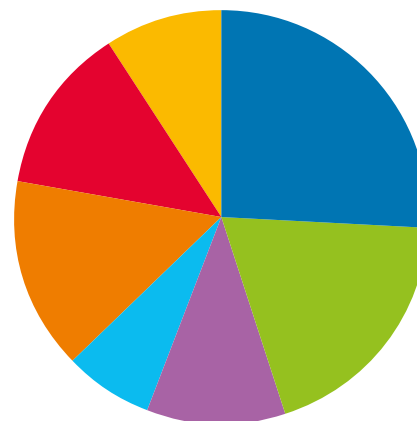
## OUR BUDGET FOR 2022

- ▶ 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	589,000
One off giving	131,810
Other income	23,600
<b>Total income</b>	<b>744,410</b>
Expenditure & transfers	(901,944)
<b>Total deficit</b>	<b>(157,534)</b>

## BREAKDOWN OF COSTS

- ▶ Most of our expenditure (56%) 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.



Ministry staff costs (inc. housing)	£237,590 (26%)	Other Operations cost (inc. facilities etc.)	£137,348 (15%)
Operations staff costs	£171,409 (19%)	Parish Share - non-staff costs (Diocese & national church contribution)	£116,356 (13%)
Parish Share - staff costs (inc housing)	£99,100 (11%)	Outside Giving	£73,856 (9%)
Ministry costs	£66,785 (7%)		



15.05.22

# Ecclesiastes

LIFE IN THE LIGHT OF ETERNITY

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

*come  
make  
give*

Easy Christmas ideas  
that don't cost the Earth

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November  
9.30-11.30am (with crèche)  
or 7.45-9.45pm

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

# EXPLORE

LIFE'S BIGGEST QUESTIONS

Thursday mornings (with crèche)  
9.30-11.15am

STARTING 12 MAY

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

Alpha

#AskAtAlpha

A

# Mind of Their Own

Building our  
Children's  
Emotional  
Wellbeing

7.45pm, Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January

[saintjames.org.uk/a-mind-of-their-own](http://saintjames.org.uk/a-mind-of-their-own)

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

# Celebrating EASTER

easy decorations & treats

SJFC

FOOTBALL CLUB

END OF SEASON CELEBRATION

14 MAY 2022

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

# BIG QUESTIONS

## FORGIVENESS. HOW?

12 MAY

# Connected

Saint James Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

# LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

ISSUE No.2 • DECEMBER 2021

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE  
**O COME ALL YE...  
FAITHLESS?**  
A fresh take on a Christmas classic

**THE WORD  
BECAME FLESH**  
What was really going on at Christmas?

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

# Thursday Coffee & Chat

8:45-10:00am DURING TERM-TIME

0153 883 311

[office@saintjames.org.uk](mailto:office@saintjames.org.uk)

Celebrating  
EASTER

easy decorations & treats

17<sup>th</sup> March

Saint James

# IGNITE

A new monthly kids club for children  
in school years 3-6 with a variety  
of activities, crafts and a chance to  
find out about Jesus.

17 June  
Beat the  
clock!

8 July  
Animal  
madness  
with manager skil!

4-5.30pm

£5  
per session

Saint James Centre, Oxford Road,  
Gerrards Cross, SL9 7PJ

Book via the website:  
[saintjames.org.uk/ignite](http://saintjames.org.uk/ignite)

# Testimonies

The faith stories of those being baptised  
or confirmed on 12th June at the 5:30

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

Light  
in the Darkness

Christmas at Saint James

Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer



Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

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