



Saint James
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

THE BODY OF CHRIST BUILT UP!

MINISTRY REVIEW | 2024-25





THE BODY OF CHRIST BUILT UP!

MINISTRY REVIEW | 2024-25

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MAGNIFICATION · MISSION
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RECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." Ephesians 4:11-12

How does a church grow? Every year, it seems, another book is published, claiming to have the answer to that question. (Some of them are very helpful, by the way.) In truth, however, the answer is simple. As the Bible is taught, the body of Christ is built up.

By God's grace that has been the story of the past 12 months here at Saint James – as you will see on the pages that follow. To the human eye it can seem like very little is happening in church life. And to a watching world, gospel work looks distinctly ordinary. But as the Spirit of God works through word of God, Jesus builds his church – and the body of Christ is built up in number and maturity.

We've seen that on Sundays, with growing numbers and a steady stream of newcomers. We've seen it at Prayer Central – as more of us, have grasped the importance of our dependence upon God in prayer. And we've seen it through Explore, with people professing faith in Christ for the very first time. That is: people



whose eternities have changed. *Forever.* Amazing!

Don't be misled by a glossy booklet: growth brings change. And change is messy. We shouldn't be surprised when we experience growing pains in church life. As sinners saved by grace, we are often having to say sorry to one another.

And it isn't just personal sin that threatens our unity. False teaching and persecution can easily cause division – which is why it has been wonderful to see how, through the faithful teaching of God's word, our congregations have been built up to unity and maturity.

It has long been the conviction of this church that unity is found in the gospel, rather than in denominational structures – and yet at times over the past year that conviction has been tested. No doubt it will be again. However, by God's grace, we are being built up to *"unity in the faith."* (Eph 4:13) and we want to give him thanks and praise for all that he is doing amongst us.

All the glory goes to him!

With love in Christ

MINISTRY REVIEW



MAGNIFICATION

LEAD Josh Lucas



VISION

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



GOAL

... so that GOD is worshipped & glorified

87

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE
IN LAST 12 MONTHS AT
Prayer Central



Increase from **67**
IN PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

REPORT

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." **Colossians 3:16**

It has been such a delight to see us all growing in this over the past year as we grow in confidence together and we become more and more about participation not performance. This is a priority we have studied together at our Music Team gatherings. It has been a joy to complete all 12 sessions of Bob Kauflins 'Worship Matters' course over the past 2 years and it has really helped us grow in depth of knowledge and love for the task we have been given.

This has been a year when we have firmly established some great family traditions. At the busiest times of the year, Christmas and Easter, we now know

how we can work together well as a Music Team and choir to put together something very special for the glory of God. This allowed us to increase our capacity at Easter, in holding two morning services and an evening service on Easter Day in Gerrards Cross.

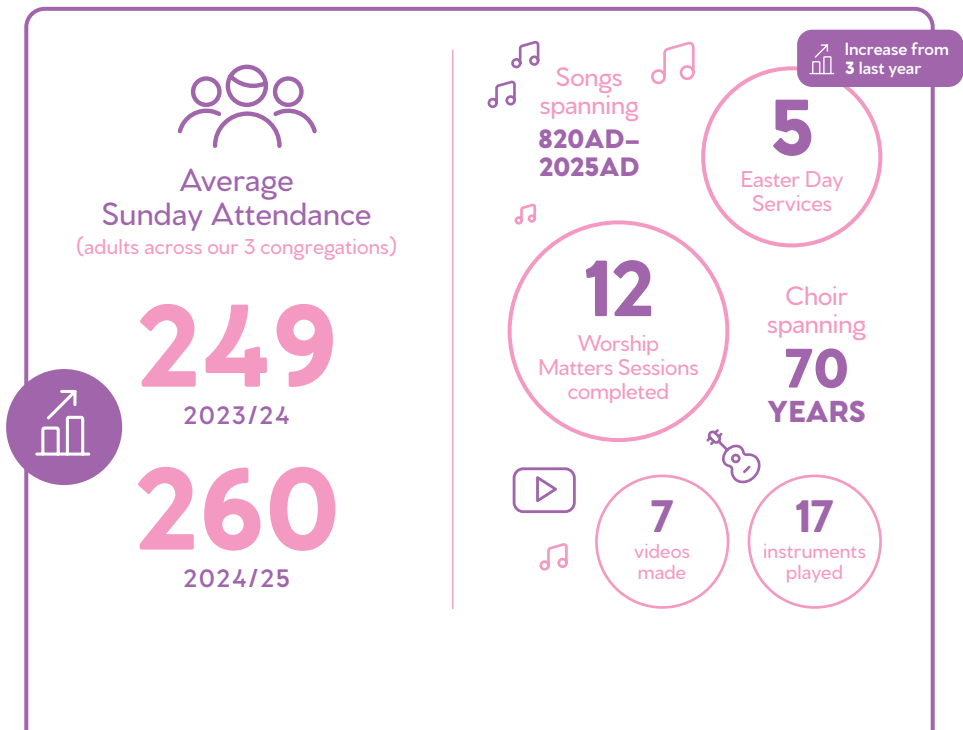
I am so grateful to the team of people that stepped up to do back-to-back services. It was a delight to serve alongside such passionate people and to see so many guests hearing the good news!

Alicia Morrow (our Ministry Trainee) left us in February, and I am so grateful for the blessing she was to us. It was a privilege to see her flourish in so many different areas of ministry.

PLANS

We are starting to expand our use of video content to tell the stories of what God is doing amongst us. This will be an expanding area over the coming year and it would be great to build a team for this.

We're seeking to build stronger collaboration between the Music and Tech Teams—clarifying a shared, gospel-centred vision and exploring joint training and planning to help both teams to flourish as they serve the church family.



PRAYER POINTS

Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ A tangible sense of joy in the Lord as we gather every Sunday.
- ▶ The wealth of biblically faithful music available today, and for songs that help the church to sing truth deeply and joyfully.
- ▶ The need and hunger for more services to reach more people.
- ▶ The Lord bringing Alicia here to serve and grow.

Things to Pray For

- ▶ That every gathering would point people to the sufficiency of Christ's work on the cross.
- ▶ For deepening love for God's Word among musicians and singers.
- ▶ That the music ministry would help us all to sing biblically, joyfully, and wholeheartedly.
- ▶ That God would provide the right people to meet current and future needs.

Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ How to use video effectively to build up the church and bring glory to God.
- ▶ Building stronger collaboration between music and tech teams through a shared gospel vision.
- ▶ How efficient systems can help us to maintain our focus on gospel work.
- ▶ How to help people develop and build on their skills in music and sound.



MISSION

LEAD Craig Larner



VISION

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



GOAL

... so that our COMMUNITY is engaged & evangelised

8



PEOPLE

are now discovering the joy of new life in Christ

REPORT

"...And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." [Luke 24:27](#)

The interaction between the risen Christ and two disciples on the road to Emmaus is a marvellous picture of how Jesus opens blind eyes, and it's not how we might expect. Simply, he meets them where they are at, listens to them, opens the Bible with them, shows them how he is the fulfilment of every question they have, and at their insistence he sticks with them until they get it.

This year we've established Explore to do just that - to read the Bible, in community, over time, with prayer, and in God's kindness people's blind eyes are being opened. Though we only advertise the initial 6-week Explore series looking at Jesus' answers to big questions, after that come a further four six-week series', as we seek to journey on with those whose hearts are beginning to burn within them.

- ▶ Series 1: Jesus' answers to big questions (Mark's gospel)
- ▶ Series 2: Jesus' miracles that teach big things (Luke's gospel)
- ▶ Series 3: Jesus' fulfilment of big promises (Old Testament)
- ▶ Series 4: Jesus' finished work for us (Various - based on the 5 Solas)
- ▶ Series 5: Jesus' identity that demands a response (John's gospel)

Our Sunday gatherings are still providing unique opportunities for mission, with 60% of newcomers not professing faith, and that's before you consider the numbers we welcomed at Christmas and Easter - the harvest really is plentiful!

PLANS

As a Mission Team we have been thinking about how we can best envision, equip and encourage the church family to engage in Mission by bringing guests to Sunday Gatherings and Explore. Ideas include Growth Groups serving at Explore together for 6 weeks, termly 'A Church on Mission' training evenings, and publishing Explore material to build clarity and confidence in what takes place. In time, we'd love Explore groups to meet at different times during the week so as to enable more to attend, but this is dependent on increased engagement.

62 PEOPLE ATTENDED
an Explore Session

explore

↘
27 PEOPLE HAVE CONTINUED
to Explore Series 2 to 5



↘
9 PEOPLE HAVE COMPLETED
Explore and asked to
join a Growth Group



15 PEOPLE ATTENDED
The Evangelism
Conference

55 PEOPLE ATTENDED
'A Church on Mission'
with Paul Brennan

PRAYER POINTS

Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ Sunday gatherings that are attracting and welcoming unbelievers.
- ▶ An increasingly established and well-attended Explore Series.
- ▶ An incredibly faithful and servant-hearted Explore Team.
- ▶ Many coming to new life in Christ, and committing to church life at Saint James.

Things to Pray For

- ▶ That many in Explore would repent and believe.
- ▶ That church family would be extending 'bring-vitations' to church on Sunday and Explore.
- ▶ That new Christians would quickly be connected into suitable Growth Groups.
- ▶ The ongoing work to finalise and publish Explore guest and leader material.

Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ How can we best envision, equip, and encourage church family to engage in Mission?
- ▶ How can we take what we've learnt in Explore to best partner with other existing outreach ministries (e.g. Tiny Tots, Ignite, Friendship lunch).
- ▶ How can we best enable church family to see Explore, and so have confidence in inviting guests.
- ▶ How can we best use the time of the Mission Team to facilitate Mission at Saint James.



Christmas





MINISTRY REVIEW



MEMBERSHIP

LEAD Dan Hubbard



VISION

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



GOAL

... so that EVERYONE is connected & cared for

 **288** 

PEOPLE
at The Saint James Weekend

REPORT

Paul writes, '... *Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*' [Romans 15:7](#)

The way we welcome says something about our theology! The welcome Christ has given to us, is something to be modelled in his church – to his great glory. It's our prayer and ambition that Christ's example becomes our practice; welcoming the stranger, offering hospitality and establishing people to belong and feel at home here at Saint James.

It's been a great joy to welcome a good number of newcomers. However, it's been critical this year to establish a pathway to help them connect in to Saint James really well. For many, this has been coming through the Explore series on a Tuesday. For others, it's been coming to our Connect series that provides

a Biblical view on church and what it looks like to belong God's people here at Saint James. From this series, we've seen people established in Growth Groups and serving amongst our Hospitality Team providing tea and coffee on Sunday.

Alongside an intentional welcome, we long for newcomers to experience a compelling community, shown in our love and care for one another. This has been a key outcome of our one-church events this year (Vision Dinners, Maundy Thursday Meal, Saint James Weekend). We've seen relationships deepen; hospitality extended into people's homes and care through gospel conversation happening as we share life together.

PLANS

There's lots we'd like to see happening in the coming year! We'd love to grow our culture of hospitality as a church family, so that we can be better at welcoming newcomers and building congregational relationships. We're looking to work more closely with the Mission Team to help those who are new on a Sunday to come along to Explore. Our Hosting, Hospitality and Car Parking Teams are an integral part of our welcome on Sundays, so we want to further equip them as they serve our church family so faithfully.



61 welcome cards filled out



180

PEOPLE
at Maundy
Thursday Meal



250

PEOPLE
at Vision
Dinners

2 Connect
Series run

29

PEOPLE



PRAYER POINTS

Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ The joy it is to welcome new faces through the door every Sunday!
- ▶ Newcomers who have become committed members of our church family.
- ▶ Those who have opened their homes to welcome and provide hospitality on Sundays.
- ▶ Time together as a church family enabling us to spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Things to Pray For

- ▶ The gospel would continue to shape how we relate to and welcome one another.
- ▶ Every newcomer to receive a welcome that grows their love for Christ and his church.
- ▶ Our one-church events during the year to grow in number, as we grow in maturity.
- ▶ A clear pathway that enables us to ensure that everyone connected and cared for.

Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ How can we help newcomers by walking with them to come to coffee afterwards?
- ▶ How can we build teams to make sure every newcomer is connected and cared for?
- ▶ How can we best communicate how each of us can play our part in welcoming people each Sunday?

MINISTRY REVIEW



MATURITY

LEAD **Matt Beeby & Jenny Williams**



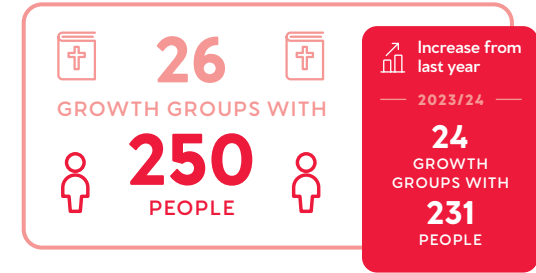
VISION

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



GOAL

... so that our CONGREGATIONS are established & growing



REPORT

"He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ."

Colossians 1:28

That is very much the heartbeat of the Maturity ministry here at Saint James. As Christ is proclaimed through our preaching and teaching, it is our prayer that each of us will be growing towards maturity in him.

Over the past year we've enjoyed sermon series' from a range of books and themes: *Redeemed for Worship* (Exodus), *He is Coming* (Mark's Gospel, for Advent), *LIFE* (John's Gospel), *Only One God* (looking at other religions), *Heaven & Hell* (A Biblical perspective on eternity), *Knowing & Growing* (2 Peter), *Teach us to pray* (Paul's prayers) and *Songs for the Summer* (the Psalms). In other words: a varied and wholesome diet – that has strengthened and enriched us as a church. It has been a joy to hear people commenting on how God has been at work through his word – helping them to know Jesus better.

Our Growth Group leaders have once again given generously and sacrificially of their time and energy to love and lead their groups. We've spent time working on skills for studying and teaching the Bible and we've thought about what a healthy small group looks like. It's a joy to see a growing appetite for training and a willingness to learn as we open God's word.

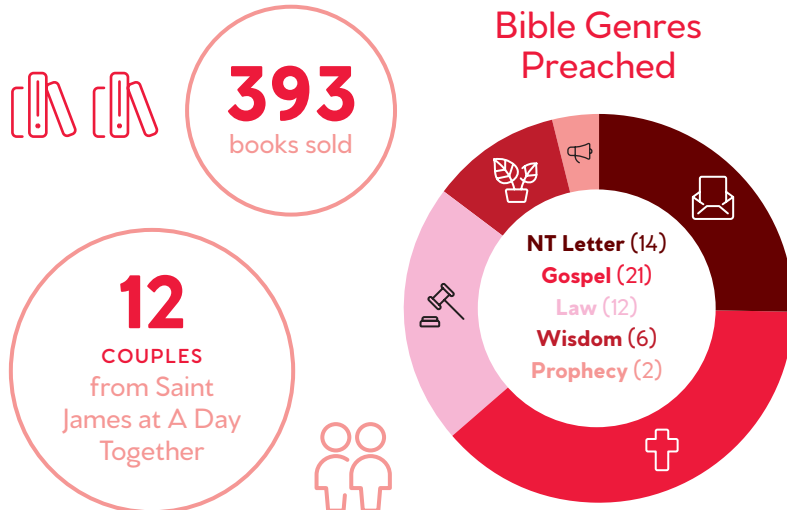
Another highlight was our Lent Talks series on *The Beauty of the Church*. We looked at 'Body, Building, Bride' and deepened our understanding of what it means to belong to God's church. Our termly Men's and Women's Breakfasts have been well-attended and well-received with people enjoying the space to go deeper in conversation and prayer around important topics: Friendship, Temptation, Success (for the men); Friendship, Security, Guilt (for the women).

We've also refreshed our pastoral care framework and re-launched the Visiting Team – all underpinned by the appointment of Pastoral Care Co-Ordinators at The 10:00 and The 11:15.

PLANS

Looking ahead, we want to step-up our investment in training and pastoral care for our Growth Group leaders, so that they are better equipped and supported in leading and discipling the people in their groups.

This includes clarifying our vision for Growth Groups, so that we're all committed to the same shared purpose of growing together in Christ, as we gather around his word and aligning groups with congregations (where possible) to enable better 'one another' care week-by-week.



PRAYER POINTS

Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ Growth Group leaders growing in wisdom and discernment.
- ▶ Our Lent Talks series on 'The Beauty of the Church.'
- ▶ A growing hunger for God's word through Advent and Lent devotionals.
- ▶ More people wanting to join Growth Groups.
- ▶ Growth in spiritual maturity as the word does its work.

Things to Pray For

- ▶ Peter Ackroyd as the new Ministry Lead for Maturity: for vision and wisdom.
- ▶ Our coffee conversations to be more intentionally about God's word.
- ▶ A higher proportion of the church family to be in Growth Groups.
- ▶ Greater commitment amongst group members to their groups.

Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ Clarifying the vision for Growth Groups.
- ▶ Stepping up training and care for Growth Group leaders.
- ▶ Aligning Growth Groups with congregations for better care.
- ▶ The need to recruit and train more leaders for Growth Groups.

“

Thank you for preaching on this - it's SO important and we mustn't shy away from it!”

“

In lots of churches they don't talk about these things, but they're so important.”





MINISTRY



VISION

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



GOAL

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

28



PEOPLE

starting to serve
for the first time

REPORT

Jesus teaches us, “...*whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.*”

Mark 10:43-44

We know that when we see Jesus, laying aside the comfort of heaven, persevering through life in a fallen world, and suffering persecution and death at the hands of his creatures, we are seeing the perfect embodiment of true greatness as Christ served us. Our hope for each other is that as we grow more and more mature as Christians so we would be more and more ready to roll up our sleeves for the benefit of others.

How marvellous then to see lots of people joining a new serving team in the last year. Each time a new team member joins it thrills those around them, it better helps us as a church family to meet the needs of each other and those around us, and it brings glory to the Lord Jesus.

We always want to give thanks to God at this point in the year for all of the seen and unseen acts of humble service going on around church life. God knows your labours.

For each of us, the summer might be a good time to review our involvement in serving in more formal ways at church. For some of us, we might be doing too much, and it might be best for you and for the body of Christ to take a step back. For others of us, now might be the right moment to take a step forward in serving. If you're already involved, do talk to your team leader about a way you might be able to take more responsibility. Or if you're not yet involved, have a look at the serving opportunities listed on our website (see link on the following page).

PLANS

We would love to see more and more team leaders emerging from within the church family to take responsibility for different areas of ministry, moving us away from rota filling duties to passionate teams, please don't be shy to ask if you can help.

We're hopeful that 2 ministry trainees will join us in the next 6 months, one to start in September and one to start in January. We look forward to keeping you updated.



Increase from 59
PEOPLE LAST YEAR

Each ministry running termly
leader training evenings

PRAYER POINTS

Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ 28 people starting to serve for the first time.
- ▶ 68 people stepping in to new roles.
- ▶ Teams becoming more established at The 5:30.

Things to Pray For

- ▶ That we'd aspire more and more to the servant hearted greatness that we see in Jesus.
- ▶ That joy would be a hallmark of our serving.
- ▶ That we would serve with a prayerful dependence on God.

Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ How do we help to keep training each other to be more effective in ministry?
- ▶ How do we share ministry responsibility with one another?
- ▶ How do we develop a 'lifeboat' culture across our congregations so that we're all crew and involved in serving?
- ▶ Re-starting Equip in Sept. 2025.

MINISTRY REVIEW

FULMER



VISION

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



GOAL

... so that lives are transformed through the gospel

19

GROWTH GROUP
MEMBERS ACROSS
5 GROUPS



4



CHURCH
MEMBERS
LEARNING BSL

REPORT

We were able to say thank you to Jill Roth, with a farewell service in December, thanking her for her leadership, dedication and service for 8 years. In Jill's absence, initially on long-term sick leave, and then since she has left, many have pulled together to continue our weekly worship and praise to the Lord. As we've continued to gather each week we have had many blessing in this past year.

“

Attending with my children was a heartwarming and memorable experience...a magical atmosphere in the Church...a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a meaningful tradition for us.” Guest at Christingle Service

Sunday by Sunday we have received great and valued teaching from the scriptures which we've discussed over coffee and cake after the service. We've encouraged congregation members to continue in caring for each other both in church and through Growth Groups. This is wonderful to witness. Each Thursday we have held Coffee & Chat for parents and carers of children at the Infant School and BeeHive Nursery. We have a loyal group and love building the relationships with them and the school. It's great when invitations to join our services are accepted, and also when we are invited to school events and can close in prayer. We continue to extend a welcome to the village and surrounds and it's pleasing when people continue to come.

Stephanos has continued to coach the choir drawn from the congregation. Their contributions each month, as well as at Christmas and Easter, are greatly appreciated. Many at our 11.15 service have continued to step up and serve in many different ways. There's always more opportunities to get involved.

PLANS

We're currently reviewing the best time for our morning services at Saint James so that we can maximise the ministry opportunities over coffee after each service. This may involve some changes across our morning congregations.



PRAYER POINTS

Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ Lives being changed as people engage with the gospel of our Lord Jesus, and as we grow in our understanding of Christ together.
- ▶ For all those who've served faithfully and sacrificially over the last year.
- ▶ Great music from our organist and choir.

Things to Pray For

- ▶ To discern how Fulmer will continue to grow over the coming years.
- ▶ For hearts to be Christ-focused in all that we do as Christ's church in Fulmer.
- ▶ Boldness to tell the gospel to the village, and openness to the gospel in the village.
- ▶ For wisdom about the best time for our Sunday service to enable ministry across Saint James.

Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ How do we maximise the links we have in the village for the proclamation of the gospel?
- ▶ Can we encourage more lay involvement and training in leading intercessions and services?
- ▶ How do we strengthen our relationship with the Gerrards Cross congregations?
- ▶ How do we help guests who only come to seasonal services to take the next step of coming more regularly?



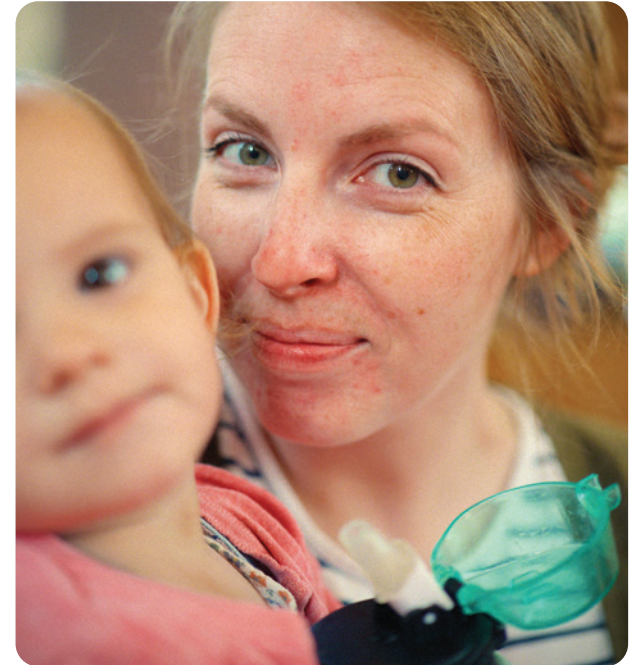
Christmas



Sunday Kids



Women's Breakfast





Fulmer Wreath Making



Coffee & Chat



Fulmer Choir



Fulmer Fun Day

MINISTRY REVIEW



KIDS

LEAD Anna Barrett



VISION

Partnering with parents to grow young disciples...



GOAL

... so that our children are rooted and growing

Average weekly attendance

28 3

UNDER 11'S
AT THE 10:00

6-11'S AT
THE 5:30



Increase from last year

2023/24

26

UNDER 11'S
AT THE 10:00

3

6-11'S
AT THE 5:30

REPORT

At the end of his gospel, John states his reason for writing:

"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." [John 20:30-31](#)

In the Kids Team we long to see each child knowing Jesus personally and having life in his name.

“

We had a wonderful time – from the fun activities to the real fellowship, it was such a meaningful experience for both of us. It was also a great opportunity for me to reflect on how I can be a better dad and continue disciplining my child as she grows in faith. I really appreciated the space to connect with her and with others." Dad speaking about dangerous camping

It has been a joy to see the children loving their Sunday kids groups, running to their rooms keen to sing God's praises, play games and learn more of who Jesus is. I've been especially encouraged by the way relationships have strengthened over the past year. This has meant noisier groups but a deeper love for church and for one another. Attendance has also become more consistent. However, the biggest challenge we are facing is recruitment.

Ignite has grown too, welcoming 50 children each month, most of whom are not from the church family. This level of engagement is exciting and so as we look ahead to another year, the Kids Team will start to think through how we can engage our families in evangelism. Not just with Ignite but in reaching other families, drawing them into the life of the church.

There have been many highlights this year but the consistent team who serve the 0-11's so sacrificially is the biggest. I'm so thankful to God for the unity we share seeking to grow young disciples.

PLANS

We would love to grow and develop the Kids Team so that we can do more in the way of evangelism (Ignite) and discipleship (Sundays). And to see how we can equip our parents to be thinking the same. It's exciting to see how kids ministry has developed over the last few years, and we look forward to seeing how God will continue to grow it for his kingdom.



450



CHILDREN FROM THE SCHOOL
attended The Easter Experience

2

scout
group visits



3

school
visits



32

school
assemblies



36



KIDS
at Ignite

21



PEOPLE
serving in
kids in a week



Books of the Bible
we have been in:



Exodus, Psalms, John,
Luke and 2 Corinthians

10 & 2

DADS

GUESTS



plus their kids
at Dangerous Camping



Increase from last year

2024

7 dads & 2 guests
plus their kids
at Dangerous Camping

PRAYER POINTS

Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ The 12 dads who went Dangerous Camping, including 2 guest dads.
- ▶ The kids team who are committed and sacrificial in serving our children.
- ▶ Children who love church and being in their groups.
- ▶ Clear signs of spiritual growth amongst our children.

Things to Pray For

- ▶ More families with young children to join the church.
- ▶ The Kids Team to double in size.
- ▶ Families to be intentional in discipleship of their children.
- ▶ For children to believe in Jesus, receiving eternal life in his name.

Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ How to partner with parents in the year ahead.
- ▶ A Families Lunch to equip parents.
- ▶ What does evangelism look like amongst families?
- ▶ Growing the kids team.

“

We are so thankful and grateful for all that dangerous camping offers us as dads and fathers." Dad

MINISTRY REVIEW



YOUTH

LEAD Luke Douglas



VISION

To partner with parents to grow resilient disciples...



GOAL

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

5



GUESTS

coming regularly to Friday Youth

REPORT

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ." Ephesians 4:15

This year has been one of growth and change. Growing numbers and spiritual maturity as God does his work has meant we have had to make big changes. This has been hard for our leaders, but it has been a joy to see more youth coming and growing in Christ.

“

It was the best weekend away I've been on." Older Youth after Weekend Away

“

I'm going to find a gospel teaching church to go to when I go to university." After Church

We have seen growing numbers and growing maturity at Older Youth on a Sunday night. What was once contained in one room has now expanded onto the landing as well, God willing, we will soon need a third room. Once a month we have been seeing what the Bible says about a particular Hot Topic and the youth have grown in their maturity and begun to make changes because of it.

On Friday nights the Younger Youth have had somewhere to invite their friends every week rather than once a month. This has led to growth as the youth and their friends have sat under God's Word more regularly. Some have even started coming on Sundays.

In previous years we have partnered with other churches for an Older Youth Weekend Away, but this year our growth has necessitated a change: our own weekend away! Many of the church family helped serve our young people and we had a great time looking at Titus together, as we saw how growing in the gospel means a change in your life.

PLANS

To continue growing in three main areas: Team, Time in God's Word and Midweek. Grow our team, in number, so we can focus more on the discipleship of our youth particularly as at Easter six will join Younger Youth and 16 will move to Older Youth. Deepen our time in God's Word and help the youth learn from him. We'd love to go deeper into the Bible on Sundays, whilst also growing our midweek ministries - especially from those already regular on Sundays.



9

OLDER YOUTH HOT TOPICS...

Friendship / Phones / Our Futures / Identity / Church / Sex & Relationships / Aspirations / Suffering / The Bible



27



YOUTH
on summer camps 2024
WITH 12 LEADERS

13

YOUNG PEOPLE
on Older Youth
Weekend Away
WITH 7 SERVING FROM
CHURCH FAMILY

11-14s



14-18s

6

LEADERS

15

EACH
SUNDAY

7

EACH
FRIDAY

4

LEADERS

18

EACH
SUNDAY

8

EACH
THURSDAY

PRAYER POINTS

Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ Youth bringing friends to church.
- ▶ Youth studying the scriptures deeply on a Sunday.
- ▶ Good numbers coming to Summer Camps and Weekend Aways.
- ▶ Spiritual hunger amongst newcomers.

Things to Pray For

- ▶ God keeps working in the hearts of our young people.
- ▶ Deepening times in the Bible.
- ▶ Team as we continue to grow and change.
- ▶ Parents as they disciple their young people.

Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ Running our own two weekend aways next year.
- ▶ Making sure we continue to have room to grow.
- ▶ Helping the church family serve our youth practically and in prayer.
- ▶ Better supporting our parents as they disciple their young people.



Increase from
last year

2023/24

11-14s

6

LEADERS

15

EACH SUNDAY

7

EACH FRIDAY

14-18s

3

LEADERS

15

EACH SUNDAY

6

EACH THURSDAY





Dangerous Camping



Easter Egg Hunt



Tiny Tots Team



Family Together



Ignite Talks



Easter Experience



Sports Plus Camp



Weekend Away



Weekend Away



Weekend Away



Hot Topic



OPERATIONS

LEAD Mark Nicholas



Church Family helping to drive ministry support projects forward

REPORT

This year we have had the following goals in mind as we've sought to better support ministry at Saint James.

1. Ensure that our address book in ChurchSuite accurately reflects those that are involved at Saint James
2. Build scalable processes for supporting the transition of people through our various ministry activities
3. Update our digital comms to better engage with our church family and with newcomers
4. Keep improving our fire safety practices to maintain our health and safety compliance
5. Provide a sustainable framework for ministry leads to drive forward their ministry growth

As you can see there's a rich variety of work that we've been applying ourselves to. Much of this has only been possible because of the involvement of members of the church family. We're so grateful that they've not been shy to say that they have some experience and some time to share.

Like them there are others who have lent themselves to ensuring that the practicalities of church life. Particularly this year I'd love to thank James, Joan, Annie, Diana and Joyce for being the friendly faces that people see if they visit The Centre during the week. Please don't be afraid to reach out if you think you might have something to offer.

I'm enormously grateful for the Ops Team. They're fantastic colleagues with wonderful, complimentary gifts and abilities. Sadly, Rachel is stepping down from the Ops Team this July. We wait eagerly to see who the Lord will raise up to strengthen the Ops Team.

PLANS

In the coming church year, it will be good to see a greater alignment of the Ops Team with individual ministry areas expressing strong gospel partnership. With this I hope that Ministry Leads will experience the benefit of working alongside a Ministry Co-ordinator who can help them streamline their ministry planning. We hope to continue making better use of ChurchSuite, as well as working hard at our communications.

ChurchSuite Data and Workflows

- ✓ ChurchSuite Address Book accurate
- ✓ Newcomer Workflow
- ✓ Explore Attendee Workflow
- ✓ Safeguarding Workflow
- ✓ Electoral Roll Workflow

Digital Comms

- ✓ SJTogether (newsletter updated)
- ✓ More videos produced – improving our communication variety
- ✓ New Website – watch this space!

PRAYER POINTS

Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ Progress with projects that are bringing tangible ministry benefits.
- ▶ Church family getting involved with their experience and time.
- ▶ The weekday centre hosts.

Things to Pray For

- ▶ Wisdom about how to keep better supporting ministry.
- ▶ Good ministry information that helps drive great ministry decisions.
- ▶ Communications that enable growing disciples.
- ▶ New team member(s?) to join and strengthen our ministry support.

Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ Could we increase the size of the Ops Team?
- ▶ Can we simplify our church audio visual set-up to make it more user friendly?
- ▶ Can we build a team of media savvy church members to grow our comms?

FINANCE

OVERVIEW OF 2024

As mentioned in our update to the church family in February, and as can be viewed in our Financial Statements published for our APCM in May, we're delighted to have closed the previous financial year with a surplus (£6,839), for the most part this is down to a 10% increase in giving in the year. Significantly, however, this was due to a large amount of "one-off" gifts. Regular giving in 2024 was down by 20%, and only represented 42% of the total giving received. In 2023 it had represented 57%. Our hope and prayer for 2025 is that we will see an increase in regular giving. Regular giving is recognised in scripture as part of our worship, so it's good for the giver. But it's also good for our church as it helps us to better plan for the medium-term.

OVERVIEW OF 2025 TO DATE

We started 2025 with a PCC approved general fund budget deficit of £189k. The trend of giving so far this year has been encouraging being above both budget and above where we were this time last year. The regular monthly giving is tracking in line with budget, with a number of generous one-off gifts taking the total giving above expectations. The costs are in line with budget. Taking all these factors into consideration the current full year forecast for 2025 is a deficit of around £92k. Further updates will be given to the church family during the remainder of the year.

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

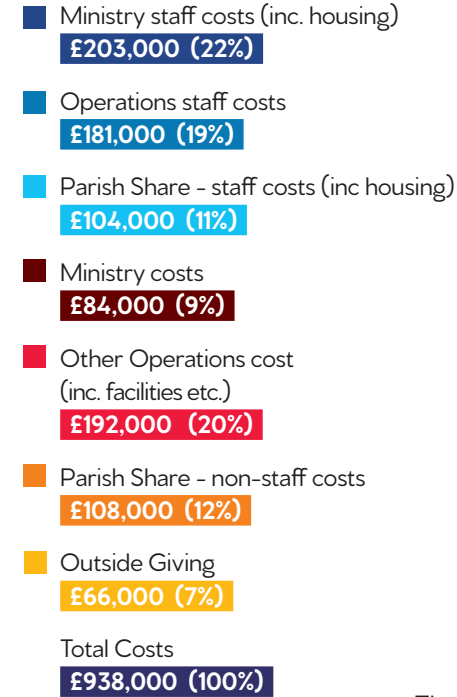
If you'd like to review your giving, or start giving to Saint James, you'll find all you need at saintjames.org.uk/giving

OUR BUDGET FOR 2025

Regular Giving	550,000
One off giving	60,000
Collections	6,000
Other income	52,000
Total income	673,000
Expenditure	(938,000)
Transfers	76,000
Total deficit	(189,000)

- ▶ Increased regular giving will enable more confident medium-term planning.
- ▶ The continuing reliance on one-off giving to close the deficit is a challenge.
- ▶ We want to be more generous in our external giving.

BREAKDOWN OF COSTS



- ▶ The largest element of cost continues to be the staff team salaries and accommodation.
- ▶ We continue to invest to grow disciples whilst raising up leaders for the wider church.
- ▶ As a church we want to give generously to mission in both the UK and abroad.



 Saint James

Building the body

THE YEAR AHEAD 24-25

DINNER Saturday 28th September - 7.00 for 7.30*on*
LUNCH Monday 30th September - 12.00 for 12.30*on*

[SAINTJAMES.ORG.UK/DINNERS](http://saintjames.org.uk/dinners)



 Saint James



HE IS COMING

A SERMON SERIES IN MARK 13



 Saint James

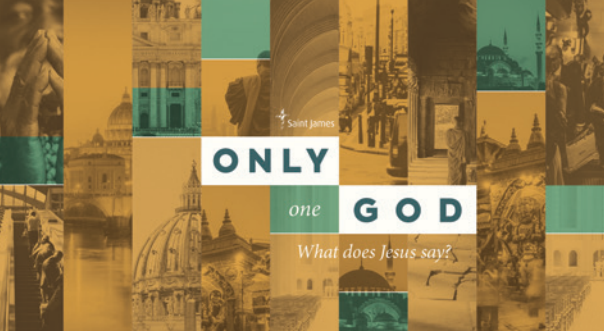
explore


life's big questions



7 January Is there meaning to life?
14 January Why would a good God allow suffering?
21 January How could a loving God send people to Hell?
28 January Do all religions lead to God?
4 February Is there life after death?
11 February Can we really trust the Bible?

saintjames.org.uk/explore



 Saint James

ONLY one GOD

What does Jesus say?



 Saint James



MEN'S BREAKFAST

7.30-9AM. SAINT JAMES CENTRE.

12th October 2024 FRIENDSHIP Faithfulness in a flaky culture	18th January 2025 PURITY Temptation in a digital age	10th May 2025 SUCCESS Identity in a hove it all world
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GOOD FOOD. BIBLICAL CONTENT. OPEN DISCUSSION.



 Saint James



WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

9-11AM. SAINT JAMES CENTRE.

23rd November 2024	8th March 2025	7th June 2025
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This is a place for women to connect, to hear from God's Word and to encourage one another. We will enjoy a light breakfast, sing, listen, discuss and pray together.

 Saint James

A Church on Mission

Working together to reach the 45,000

Speaker
Paul Brennan,
Tron Church, Glasgow



When
Thursday 5 June,
7:30–9:30pm

Sign up
saintjames.org.uk

 Saint James
seminary college & hall

Redeemed to worship.


Exodus






AND WHEN YOU *pray*

 Saint James
SUMMER SERMON SERIES
LUKE 11

 Saint James
seminary college & hall
THE LENT TALKS



THE BEAUTY of the CHURCH

AND WHY YOU MATTER

 Saint James
seminary college & hall



gospel
for the nations
World Mission Sunday 2025

27th APRIL

THE
Saint James
WEEKEND
28–29 JUNE

living hope

the joy of the resurrection

 Saint James
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

EASTER

AT SAINT JAMES

— 17 APRIL —

MAUNDY THURSDAY

MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL
5:30pm at Gerrards Cross

— 18 APRIL —

GOOD FRIDAY

REFLECTIVE HOUR AT THE CROSS
9:15am at Gerrards Cross • 11:15am at Fulmer

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
11am at Gerrards Cross

— 20 APRIL —

EASTER SUNDAY

DAWN SERVICE
7am at Gerrards Cross

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE
9:15am, 11am & 5.30pm at Gerrards Cross • 11:15am at Fulmer

 saintjames.org.uk/easter

 Saint James

IGNITE

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

24 Jan
Lego
14 Feb
Bake Off
21 Mar
Eggstravaganza!

Saint James Centre, Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7DJ
 Book via the website: saintjames.org.uk/ignite

£5
Per session

4-5.30pm
 Parents are welcome to stay for a drink during drop off at 4pm, pick up at 5.30pm.

 Saint James

Dangerous Camping

16-18 MAY 2025

3-6

Jesus
Bible
Camping
Outdoor Activities
WELCOME
BIBL

QR CODE
 SIGN UP AT
saintjames.org.uk/dangerous-camping

COST
 £60

 Saint James
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Create a beautiful Christmas Wreath for your door using a natural straw and moss base. We'll guide you through how to wire the greenery and other decorations onto the ring and also talk about the meaning of Christmas.

Ring and base provided
 PLEASE BRING:
 Greenery - Decorations - Scissors (or strong scissors)

Wednesday 27th November 7.45-9.45pm €8
 Thursday 28th November 9.30-11.30am (with crèche)
 at The Saint James Centre, Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7DJ

Tickets: £6
saintjames.org.uk/christmas-workshop



 Saint James

Building up the body

THE YEAR AHEAD 24-25

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO...


DINNER
 Saturday 28th September - 7.00 for 7.30hrs


LUNCHEON
 Monday 30th September - 12.00 for 12.30hrs

It's an opportunity to reconnect to our vision, to consider our focus for the year ahead, and to look to our heavenly Father for all that we need.

Vision | Community | Prayer
 These events are for the whole church family to come together – newcomers, old-timers... and anywhere in between!

NOTHING ESSENTIAL
SAINTJAMES.ORG.UK/DINNERS
 PRICE £12


 Saint James
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer



Christmas

at SAINT JAMES


saintjames.org.uk/christmas

 Saint James
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

YOUNGER YOUTH

11-14s

SUMMER TERM 2025

 Saint James
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

OLDER YOUTH

14-18s

SUMMER TERM 2025



To find out about our mission partners pick up a copy of our booklet or scan the QR code

saintjames.org.uk/mission-partners



Saint James
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

www.saintjames.org.uk