



Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

# EVERYONE FULLY MATURE IN CHRIST...

MINISTRY REVIEW | 2025-26





# EVERYONE FULLY MATURE IN CHRIST...

MINISTRY REVIEW | 2025-26

**3** RECTOR'S REPORT

**4** MINISTRIES (5 Ms)

MAGNIFICATION · MISSION  
MEMBERSHIP · MATURITY · MINISTRY

**18** FULMER

**22** KIDS & YOUTH

**28** OPERATIONS

**30** FINANCE



## RECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

*"He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ." Col 1:28*

If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time. So why not aim at nothing? At least that way, you can't miss!

As Christians, we believe that God has a purpose for our lives. And for his church. We want to be clear about that purpose because we want to be faithful to what God has called us to do. There is no point in being 'busy' as a church if we are not absolutely clear on what God wants for us as his people.

The pages of this booklet will tell you that, as a church, we have been busy over the past year. Again. But we aspire to more than that. Our goal is to see "everyone fully mature in Christ" as lives are transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. "He is the one we proclaim..." as we open up God's word and introduce them to Jesus.

In reviewing the past twelve months, there is much to give thanks for as we celebrate what God has been doing amongst us. And the reports that follow are packed with encouragements.



But not every arrow has hit the target. In reviewing our ministries we want to be honest enough to acknowledge that. And willing to examine where we can do better. Our recent visit to the Reach Australia conference has been a great reminder of the responsibility we have to pursue growth, and to enable the necessary change, for the sake of the thousands who are dying without Christ. We need to be relentless in our focus on the outsider who doesn't yet know Jesus and the next generation who will follow us.

Above all, therefore, as I look back on another year, the thing that warms my heart and keeps me going is the news of people becoming Christians. It's not yet happening as often as we'd like in our church. But it is definitely happening. People are getting saved. And lives are being transformed. So, let's praise God and press on – to see "everyone fully mature in Christ."

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

# 97

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE IN LAST 12 MONTHS AT Prayer Central



Increase from **87** IN PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

## REPORT

*"Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:18b-20*

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

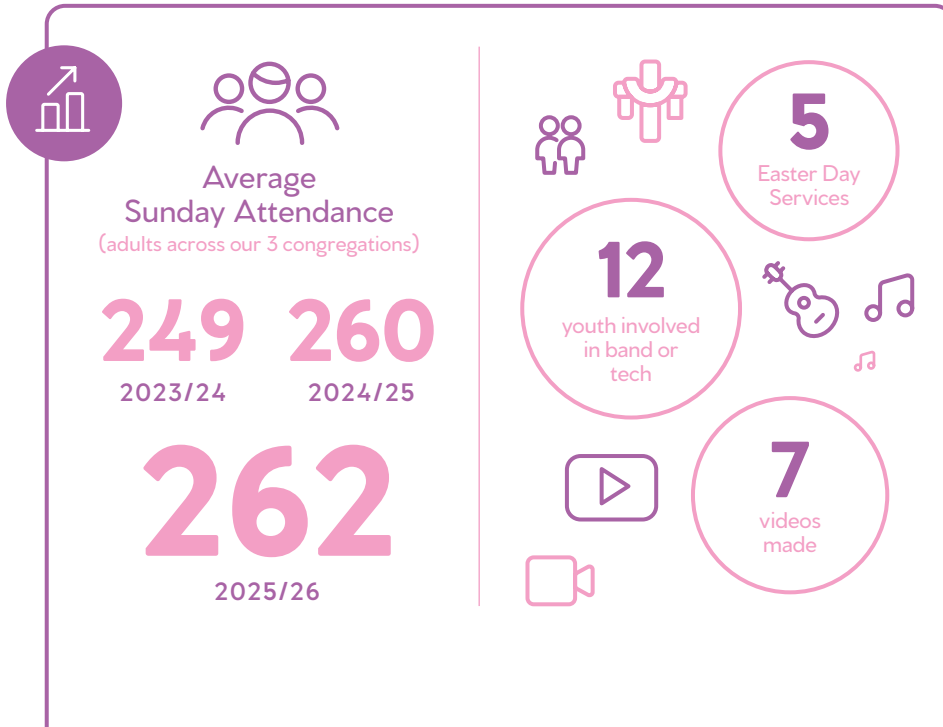
This has been a year when we have firmly established some great family traditions. At the busiest times of the year, Christmas and Easter, we now know how we can work together well as a Music Team and Choir to put together something very special for the glory of God. Thank you to everyone that played their part in enabling extra services at Christmas and Easter so that more guests could hear the good news of Jesus.

It's thrilling to see how we as a church family are growing in our expression of our love towards God in prayer and thanksgiving; Prayer Central attendance has grown by 11% in the last year. However, one of the things we want to give attention to in the next year, as a staff team, is addressing the lack of growth in our Sunday attendance.

PLANS

We think about how our gatherings can be effective in attracting the next generation. We are still working out what this looks like, but service leading, content and music are all things that can have a big impact in this area.

Last year we expanded our use of video. There are many opportunities here, as well as other sorts of communication media, particularly as we seek to raise up the next generation. Therefore, we will need build and effective team for this work.



PRAYER POINTS

Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ A tangible sense of joy in the Lord as we gather every Sunday.
- ▶ A delight amongst the children in Gospel focused, Christ-centred songs.
- ▶ The Lord bringing Hope to us to serve and grow.

Things to Pray For

- ▶ Gatherings that point all ages to the sufficiency of Christ’s work on the cross.
- ▶ Growth in attendance at our Sunday gatherings.
- ▶ Deepening love for God’s Word among musicians and tech team.
- ▶ A music ministry that helps us all to sing biblically, joyfully, and wholeheartedly.

Things we’re Thinking About

- ▶ How to effectively use video and other media to build up the church and bring glory to God.
- ▶ How to build stronger collaboration between Music and Tech teams through a shared gospel vision.
- ▶ How efficient systems can help us keep greater focus 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

Decrease from 8 last year

# 7



PEOPLE are now discovering the joy of new life in Christ

## REPORT

*'My food', said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don't you have a saying, "It's still four months until harvest?" I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.'* [John 4:34-35](#)

Jesus' mission was to reap a harvest, not of crops but people. He didn't come to die for anything less! And it's as we've dwelt on Jesus' mission in our sermon series' in Hebrews and John's gospel this year that the mission heat that Jesus radiated has warmed our own hearts to be a church on mission.

To capitalise on this growing mission heat, this year we formed a Mission Team, tasked with carrying this vision. It's a joy to partner with David and Sarah Steel (Mission Reps at The 10), James Robinson and Rebecca White (Mission Reps at The 5:30), Gary and Jan Palmer (Project and Process Leads), and Otto Summerell (Ops Support).

As a Mission Team, our role is to ensure mission heat is neither stifled nor allowed to dissipate. To that end, we've been working hard to polish and publish the Explore material so as to build confidence and enable fewer barriers to engagement. We've also been working hard to ensure our resources are focussed on the areas of church life that we believe can best capitalise on mission heat, namely Sundays and Explore.

In God's kindness, we are seeing the first fruits of changes made, with a highly committed and capable Explore Team sharing the gospel and their lives with enquirers, resulting in increased ongoing engagement, and another 7 people discovering the joy of new life in Christ this year. At the end of the day, that's all that matters, and we pray on for more.

## PLANS

As a Mission Team, our plans for the coming year all centre around ensuring Sundays and Explore are excellent and accessible. For Explore, this includes launching new daytime Explore Series' to increase accessibility for those for whom evenings are a barrier to attendance, such as the elderly and young mums. For Sundays, this includes partnering with the Membership Teams to better engage with enquirers, and partnering with the Magnification Teams to ensure our services are as outsider friendly as possible.


 Increase from  
62 last year

**75** PEOPLE ATTENDED  
an Explore Session

**explore**



**21** PEOPLE HAVE CONTINUED  
to Explore Series 2 to 5

 Decrease from  
27 last year



**8** PEOPLE HAVE COMPLETED  
Explore and  
joined Connect



**8** PEOPLE COMMITTED  
to being on the Mission Team

## PRAYER POINTS

## Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ Preaching that builds mission heat, and drives us to prayer and activity.
- ▶ A Mission Team that is committed to ensuring Sundays and Explore are accessible and unmissable.
- ▶ Increased numbers attending church at Christmas and Easter.
- ▶ 7 people finding new life in Christ...and many more who see close!

## Things to Pray For

- ▶ Sunday preachers as they build mission heat through the word.
- ▶ Church family, as we step out in faith and 'bring-vite' people to church.
- ▶ Unbelievers at Saint James, for God to open their blind eyes.
- ▶ The Mission Team, for gospel passion and wisdom in decision-making.

## Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ What changes might make Sundays more accessible to enquirers?
- ▶ What improvements might make Explore more attractive to 'bring-viters' and guests alike?
- ▶ How many Explore series' (i.e. daytime etc.) provide sufficient accessibility without compromising on quality?
- ▶ How could we use video testimonies to build mission heat?



Christmas



Men's Partnership



Women's Breakfast





# MEMBERSHIP

LEAD Dan Hubbard

## VISION

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

## GOAL

... so that EVERYONE is connected & cared for



## REPORT

*"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7*

The way we welcome says everything about the theology we believe! In Christ, we have received an extraordinary welcome: outsiders brought into the Kingdom, rebels transformed by grace, orphans adopted as children of our Heavenly Father. This is to be the kind of welcome that we express to each and every person who walks through the doors. It's a journey we like to call 'simply attending to truly belonging'.

For that kind of gospel welcome to radiate out, all of us have to play our part! By God's grace, this past year has seen encouraging growth in that direction.

A key priority has been laying strong foundations. First, we established a Membership Team to help champion this vision of belonging. I'm deeply grateful for Amy Beeby, Saz Lerner, Peter Whittle, Jan Palmer, Jane Ditty, and Jennie

Marks, who meet bi-weekly on Wednesdays to pray, plan, and think carefully about how we help people move from attending to belonging.

Second, establishing our Connect series as the engine behind all of it has been critical. What does it look like to belong to a church? This is what we unpack at Connect. To get the vision behind Connect and why it matters, Matt and I gave a talk at a conference that hopefully gives a short window into what we're trying to do (scan QR code below).

Alongside these foundations, we've also seen encouraging growth in hospitality, with many opening their homes and lives to others. This culture of welcome will be vital as we continue growing together in gospel-shaped community.




## PLANS

Our Team is so excited for all we long to see in the year ahead! We'll be working hard to share our Connect series across our church family so you can see how it works and acts as the engine that moves people from simply attending to truly belonging. Plans are underway to see growth in hospitality happening across our congregations. We'd love people to see hospitality as being not just for the keen or those who have the time, but as something Christ expects as we live lives that glorify him (Rom 12:13, Heb 10:13, Jn 13:35, 1Pet 4:9, Lev 19:34).



**6** new Connect  
booklets  
launched

**S1.** Gathered & Devoted • **S2.** Deep in the word • **S3.** Loving God  
**S4.** In community • **S5.** On mission • **S6.** Serving others

 **5% increase**  
from last year



**263**  
PEOPLE  
at Vision Dinners

**3** formats of  
Connect  
launched:

Tuesday evenings  
Sunday afternoon  
Connect one to one



**92**  
NEWCOMERS  
on Sunday

## PRAYER POINTS

## Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ Newcomers we've seen become committed members of our church family.
- ▶ Faithful and passionate Hosting, Hospitality, Car Parking, and Membership Teams.
- ▶ A growing heat to share our lives together through practicing hospitality.
- ▶ A deepening sense of family through The Saint James Weekend.

## Things to Pray For

- ▶ That the gospel would shape our perspective on what it means to truly welcome (Rom 15:7).
- ▶ That we would gladly seek the interests of others above our own (Phil 2:4).
- ▶ That the world might look on in awe saying, "see how they love one another" (Jn 13:35).
- ▶ That we'd see hospitality increasingly at the heart of our lives together (Heb 10:13).

## Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ How to help people feel comfortable navigating big crowd environments (e.g. coffee).
- ▶ How to make our Connect series both accessible and unmissable.
- ▶ How to improve our welcome and intentionality over coffee after the service.
- ▶ How we can equip everyone to feel confident playing a part in our gospel welcome.



# MATURITY

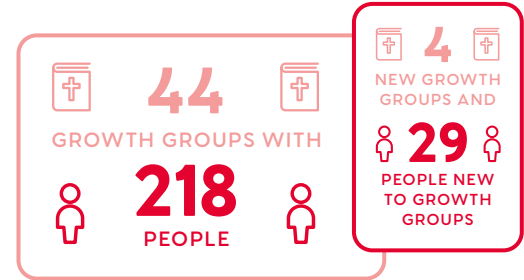
LEAD Peter Ackroyd & Jenny Williams

## VISION

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

## GOAL

... so that our CONGREGATIONS are established & growing



## REPORT

*“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” Acts 20:32*

To see one another built up in Christ – edified and brought to maturity by the word of God in the power of his Spirit – is the vision of our Maturity ministry. Through preaching, teaching and growth groups God is at work making us more like his Son, and fuelling our hearts for service and for making him known.

In a series titled *Greater Than* the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews - with its magnificent picture of Jesus our great high priest - provided rich material for most of our sermons, from September through to June. Shorter series during the year included *Songs for the Summer* (a selection of Psalms), *Only One God* (looking at other religions), *Life* (John 18-21), and *First Things First* (Haggai).

While Sunday sermons have been at the heart of hearing and understanding God’s word, Growth Groups have once again been indispensable in enabling church members to deepen their understanding and apply the teaching of

Scripture to their personal circumstances. During the year, a few groups were re-shuffled to align membership with congregations, simplifying pastoral care and enabling mutual support. Some groups welcomed new members mostly from Connect and Explore.

Growth Group leaders have once again given generously and sacrificially of their time and energy to love and lead their groups. Leaders have met regularly through the year for training. As well as engaging ahead of time with the Bible books being preached, leaders have discussed other aspects of enriching the life of their groups, including helping one another to pray, leading healthy discussions, and developing Bible handling skills.

In our Thrive Lent Talks, we looked at how we can grow as followers of Jesus. Exploring first the neglected topic of our Union with Christ, and then the more familiar doctrine of Justification by Faith, we concluded by exploring what the Bible has to say about how God can use the Trials of Life to forge Christ-likeness in us. Like Prayer Central, Lent Talks are a key opportunity to meet together ▶

## REPORT (CONTINUED)

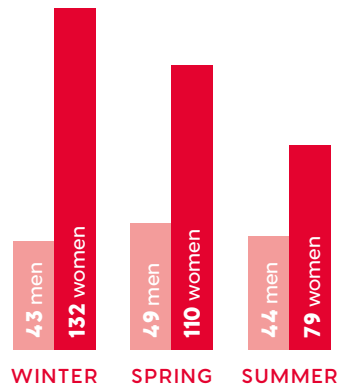
under God's word and across our congregations, but without losing touch with our Growth Groups. Termly Men's and Women's Breakfasts provided similar opportunities to hear and wrestle with teaching on aspects of discipleship – for example, Guidance, Contentment, Fear and Work.

The pastoral care provided by growth group members and leaders has continued to be supplemented by the ministry of our Pastoral Care Co-ordinators, while members of the Visiting Team extend pastoral support to housebound members.

  
**555**  
books sold

  
**181**  
PEOPLE  
attending  
Lent Talks

Sign-ups (from across  
all 3 breakfasts) at Men's  
and Women's breakfasts



## PLANS

Our intention is to enable a growing number of church members – regulars as well as newcomers – to benefit from growth group membership. So a key goal for the coming year is to grow the number of groups, equipping and supporting more leaders. And as well as inspiring people to join groups, to strengthen the prayerful practical support which group members contribute across ministries of Saint James.

## PRAYER POINTS

### Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ More Growth Groups aligned to congregations.
- ▶ Leaders serving and caring for members week by week.
- ▶ Our Lent Talks series 'Thrive'.

### Things to Pray For

- ▶ A higher proportion of the church family to be in Growth Groups.
- ▶ New Growth Groups forming in the autumn.
- ▶ Effective and supportive training and care for leaders.
- ▶ Lent Talks, Breakfasts, and other opportunities to learn and grow together across congregations.

### Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ A strategy to multiply Growth Groups and welcome more members.
- ▶ Recruiting and train more leaders for Growth Groups.
- ▶ Encouraging habits of prayer and Bible study, and reading Christian books.





The Saint James Weekend





# MINISTRY

LEAD Matt Beeby & Jenny Willams



## VISION

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



## GOAL

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

15



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

When we look at Jesus, laying aside the comfort of heaven, persevering through life in a fallen world, and suffering death at the hands of his creatures, we see the perfect embodiment of true greatness. In and through the gospel, Christ has served us. And God’s will for our lives is that, as we grow more and more in the likeness of his Son, we will be ready and willing to roll up our sleeves for the benefit of others.

It has been a really encouraging year of investment in training. As new groups were launched in September: the original Men’s Partnership Group has more than doubled, Women’s Partnership got started and the Young Adults Growth Group have been doing Equip on a Tuesday evening. The people in these

groups have stepped up to serve in many and various ways in the last year as they’ve grasped the vision for what it means to see “everyone presented fully mature in Christ”.

And there are many more who’ve got stuck-in too. 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. Now might be the moment to take a step forward in serving. If you’re already involved, do talk to your team leader about whether you might be able to take on more responsibility. Or if you’re not yet involved please chat to one of staff who can help you think about joining a team.

## 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.

### LEADERSHIP TRAINING GROUPS



**46**  
PEOPLE  
stepping in to new roles  
on Sunday or midweek

## PRAYER POINTS

### Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ 15 people starting to serve for the first time
- ▶ 46 people stepping in to new roles
- ▶ Men's and Women's Partnership groups and their growing passion to take a lead in church life

### 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?

## MINISTRY REVIEW

# FULMER

CHURCHWARDEN

Francesca Hall-Drinkwater



### VISION

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



### GOAL

... so that lives are transformed through the gospel

20



GROWTH GROUP  
MEMBERS ACROSS  
7 GROUPS

4



CHURCH  
MEMBERS  
LEARNING BSL

## REPORT

In the Autumn, Saint James will welcome Mike and Lizzie Neville to the Ministry Team. Mike will be part of the Saint James staff team with a key focus on the growth of the Fulmer congregation.

Earlier this year Fulmer's service moved from 11.15 to 10.00am allowing different members of the Ministry team to focus on the Sunday service, leading, preaching and later discussion before heading up the hill to coffee after the 10.00am service at Oxford Road.

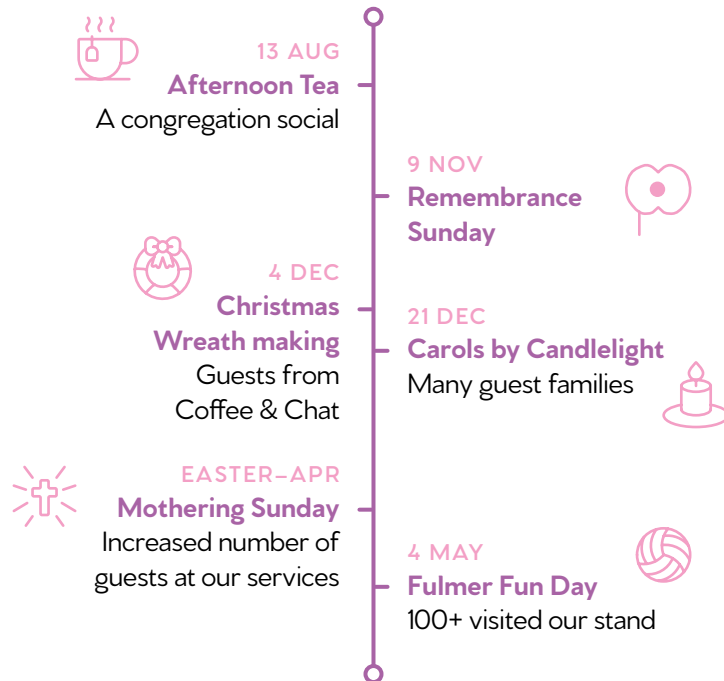
Sunday preaching has been well received and valued, then discussed at Coffee and cake after the service. We have nurtured congregation members through sickness, in most cases, thankfully, welcoming them back to gathering together each Sunday. We've encouraged congregation members to continue in caring 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 the Nursery. We have a loyal group of Mum's and love building relationships with the school. It's great when they join our services and we are invited to School functions to celebrate and close in prayer. We continue to extend a welcome to the village and surrounds and it's pleasing to see fruit from this.

Stephanos our organist continues to lead and coach our congregation choir. The choir is making great progress and enjoys serving the Lord, monthly during communion and at Christmas and Easter. Our congregation really seem to enjoy the contribution. Many at our 10.00am service have continued to step up and serve in several ways, hospitality, floristry, bell ringing and Bible reading, for which we are truly grateful.

## PLANS

We're thanking God for our partnership with the Two Saint James Trust, and the generosity of the church family, to enable (God-willing...) the purchase of a property which will be used, in the first instance, to house Mike & Lizzie Neville, who are joining the team to serve the congregation in Fulmer.



## 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

- ▶ Mike Neville's arrival and discerning how God will use us to reach Fulmer with the gospel.
- ▶ For Christ focussed hearts in all that we do as the Church in Fulmer.
- ▶ Boldness as we share the gospel with people in and around Fulmer.

## Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ How do we maximise the links we have in the village to share the gospel?
- ▶ How do we encourage those who come regularly to seasonal services to come more regularly?
- ▶ How do we involve more people in the Pastoral Care team?
- ▶ How do we draw more people into public prayer during our services?





Remembrance Flowers



Coffee & Chat



Fulmer Family Fun Day



Starting young



Afternoon Tea

## MINISTRY REVIEW



# KIDS

LEAD **Anna Barrett**



## VISION

Partnering with parents to grow young disciples...



## GOAL

... so that our children are rooted and growing

Compared with **28** at The 10:00 and **3** at The 5:30 last year

Average weekly attendance

<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>
UNDER 11'S AT THE 10:00	6-11'S AT THE 5:30

## REPORT

*"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children." Deut 6:5-7*

Our vision is to grow disciples. Going through the book of Hebrews has been a particular highlight for the Kids Team, expanding the children's understanding of Jesus' role as our great high priest which many had never heard before. It was therefore a joy (and sadness for the kids team) to send the year 6 children up to Younger Youth who especially enjoyed studying Hebrews, even commenting

“

I enjoyed studying Hebrews as I've never read it before, but what I enjoyed most was moving up to YY and being able to study the bible more. We do this in kid's groups but in YY we had more bible time." YR6 KID

that they were pleased to move up so they could study the bible in greater depth!

A particular highlight has been a growing partnership with parents over the year, with the introduction of family picnics & Table Talk (where parenting topics are discussed). These times have brought parents together, growing our sense of community whilst also providing space for parents to think through how they can 'impress' the Good News of Jesus on the hearts of their children.

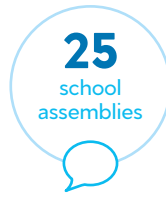
Ignite & Tiny Tots continue to see many from the community come into the church but the lack of growth amongst families with under 11's and the decline in kids Sunday attendance is something for us to be concerned about. The kids team continue to serve with great love and commitment, and we long for our kids rooms to be bursting at the seams with new families and an ever-increasing number of young disciples.

## PLANS

We would love to see more children, and therefore, families growing as disciples. We therefore want to think about how we can draw more young families into the heart of Saint James and disciple them. This may be costly and bring about change but it's worth the cost to see lives saved through the gospel.

“ I valued the space we had to think & discuss being a dad and how we can be better dads.” DC DAD

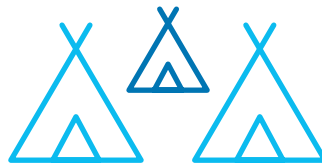
“ I enjoyed the time with other dads, getting to know them better and being able to discuss parenting in a way I've never been able to before.” DC DAD



**20**

KIDS  
avg. attendance  
at Ignite

Compared with  
**36** last year



**5 & 1**  
DADS GUEST

at Dangerous Camping

Compared to **10** dads  
and **2** guests last year

## PRAYER POINTS

## Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ A committed team of leaders who have loved and discipled the children in their care.
- ▶ Table Talk and Family Picnics which have grown our sense of community & fellowship amongst families.
- ▶ Kids who love their group and love learning about Jesus!
- ▶ Another year of Dangerous Camping!

## Things to Pray For

- ▶ For wisdom in planning ways to draw in and disciple young families.
- ▶ Wisdom about how to engage with non-church families committed to Ignite so that we see them on Sunday.
- ▶ Families to be intentional with the discipleship of their children.
- ▶ For children to believe in Jesus, receiving eternal life in his name.

## Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ What does evangelism look like amongst families?
- ▶ Growing the Kids Team.
- ▶ How to reach young families in our community?
- ▶ Ways to equip and encourage parents in the discipleship of their children.

## 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.



## REPORT

*"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Heb 10:24*

This year in youth has been one of solidifying and growing existing ministries. Increasingly we have a pattern that grows our young people in their spiritual maturity as they sit under God's Word. A significant change for our youth work came this year when 17 moved up from Younger to Older Youth after Easter.

Encouragingly, we have seen the young people grow in their spiritual maturity. On Sunday evenings at Older Youth we are enjoying deep bible studies as we discuss the day's sermon. Increasingly the youth are coming with questions from the sermon and looking in the passage for answers. Due to increased numbers we have to expand the team to 6 members of our church family.

Also, we have had the second year of Rooted on Fridays, where we average 12 young people each week. The young people have become more regular and

enjoy spending time together and hearing from Mark's Gospel. They have been inviting friends, and of the 7 guests who've come 5 have come on Sunday as well.

We only have a max of 7 years with our youth. Children join us as they get ready to leave Year 6, and we send our school leavers on to "Students+". At this key age for discipleship and evangelism, to grow we need to be reaching new families and friends every year.

Last year was our first solo Older Youth Weekend Away, and this year we added a Younger Youth Weekend Away as well. Over the two weekends we took 19 young people and 10 adults. These were great times for growing in love for each other and for the Lord Jesus. We spent time looking at Jonah with Younger Youth, and 'The 5 Solas' with Older Youth. Both were encouraging times and we are beginning to see the fruit in our regular youth meetings.

PLANS

To establish patterns for Midweek Older Youth Discipleship so those not free on Thursday nights can be discipled as well, so we can grow them as disciples. Increase our numbers in YY so we can continue Sunday YY and Rooted which has been drawing in young people. Help our young people attend church more regularly and see the value of meeting as God's people, so that we can more effectively grow them as Jesus' disciples.



**5** OLDER YOUTH HOT TOPICS...  
Church, the Bible, Exams,  
Sex and Relationships and Identity

IN 2025/26



COMPARED TO 2024/25



PRAYER POINTS

Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ Youth growing as Jesus' disciples.
- ▶ Guests invited coming regularly on Sundays.
- ▶ Lots of young people coming on weekend aways.
- ▶ A team that long to see our young people growing.

Things to Pray For

- ▶ Increased numbers of young disciples in our church.
- ▶ Deepening times in God's Word.
- ▶ Young people to continue to invite friends to church.
- ▶ That our young people will stand firm in a hostile culture.

Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ Starting new Midweek Older Youth Discipleship.
- ▶ Making Sunday Older Youth easier to invite friends to.
- ▶ How to increase the number of young disciples in our church.
- ▶ Partnering with kids to help our parents disciple their young people.



One youth on Summer Camp described it as 'completely life changing' and we have seen them almost every week since

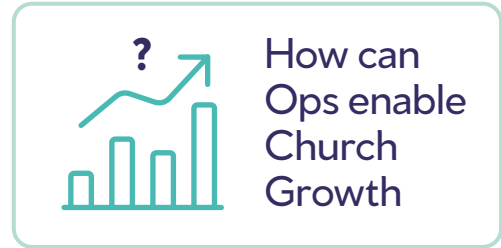






# OPERATIONS

LEAD Mark Nicholas



## REPORT

This year we've been delighted to welcome Jennie Marks to the Ops Team. With Jennie's arrival we've moved to aligning members of the Ops Team specifically with each ministry area. This was a plan that we shared with you last year and we're grateful to God for the ways that Ops are more effectively supporting the ministries.

Another plan for this year was to relaunch the website. The goal for this was to create an experience for those who are new to Saint James that makes it as attractive and compelling as possible that they would join us on Sunday. As Dan reports, we've seen 92 newcomers over the last year, we'll be doing more analysis to work out what difference the new website has made.

I'm immensely grateful for the work of the PCC's People and Culture Team (PACT) over the last two years. Under Ian Mitton's chairmanship, we will have written, updated and implemented all of the employment policies that we need as well as many others that help to guide and shape a healthy culture amongst the staff team. There's plenty more to do, but it's great to celebrate a milestone that will be hit at the end of July when all of these policies have been complete.

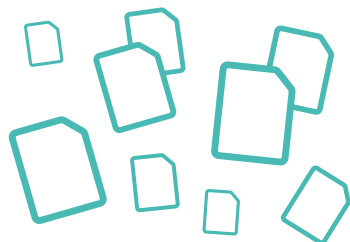
As I write the staff team are working on our ministry plans for the coming church year. It's a significant piece of work to think strategically about how we can keep building Jesus' church here at Saint James. One thing's for certain, "unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain" (Ps 127:1); please pray for us as we plan, prioritise, implement, and then analyse the impact of those plans.

## PLANS

Lots of work has gone into making sure we're capturing helpful ministry information in ChurchSuite, we'd love to make progress in understanding the impact we're having for the gospel as we analyse that information regularly throughout the year.

We've mentioned a few times in previous years our desire to increase the amount of ministry support that we can offer.

Otto and Jennie are scratching the surface of what's possible (currently 7 ministries, as well as the parish related admin, being supported by 2 people). It would be wonderful to increase our support capacity.

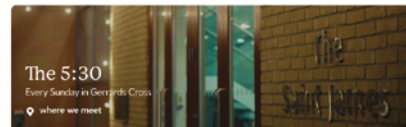


PACT  
Policies



### Come on Sunday

Gathering on a Sunday is the highlight of our week and the focus of our life together. Every week, we welcome newcomers for the first time — we'd love to meet you and help you feel at home!



## PRAYER POINTS

### Things to Give Thanks For

- ▶ New website.
- ▶ Improved ministry support.
- ▶ Successful adoption of a new DBS processor, it's much easier to use .

### Things to Pray For

- ▶ Clear, purposeful ministry planning that enables gospel impact.
- ▶ Wisdom for how to increase the ministry support we can offer: New staff? More volunteers?
- ▶ We'd be able to make further improvements in comms that enables growing disciples.

### Things we're Thinking About

- ▶ Can we simplify our church audio visual set-up to make it more user friendly?
- ▶ Is there more we can do, perhaps with social media, to engage and attract newcomers? Who could take this on?

# FINANCE

## OVERVIEW OF 2025

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We started the year with a PCC approved budget deficit of £189k and as a result of God's provision and committed giving from the church family we have significantly closed this funding gap reporting a headline deficit of £33k (after fund transfers). However, this figure includes the funding of a one-off project to install solar panels to the roof of the St James Centre at a cost of £26k. The true underlying operating deficit is hence only £7k.

For most part the closing of the gap came from the total income figure being 10% up on the 2024. However, excluding "one-off" type income, such as legacies, the adjusted underlying income was actually down 2%. The income received directly from the members of the church family was up 12% on the 2024 figure primarily due to "one off" type income. However, encouragingly, the regular standing order giving was up 2%.

Total expenditure for the year was 13% higher than 2024. This was primarily due to high levels of spend on infrastructure projects such as the repair to the roof of the St James Centre; a new fire alarm system. The majority of this spend was covered by transfers in from the appropriate designated funds

## OVERVIEW OF 2026 TO DATE

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We started 2026 with a PCC approved general fund budget deficit of £143k. Whilst the gift aided regular giving is tracking just below budget, the other forms of giving (regular non gift aside and "one offs") are well below. The costs are in line with budget. Taking all these factors into consideration closing the gap on the £143k is going to be a challenge. 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.

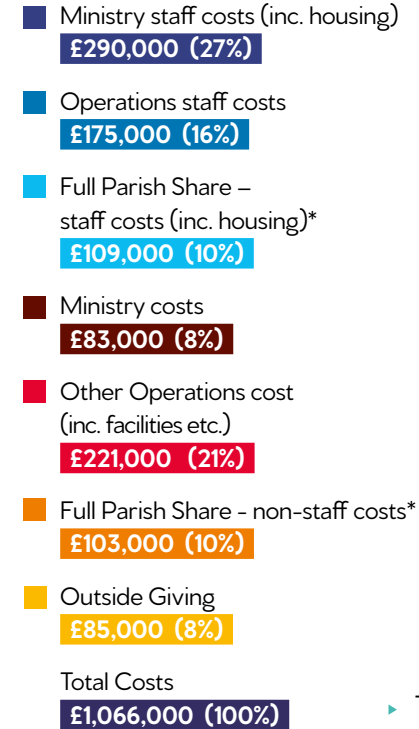
**If you'd like to review your giving, or start giving to Saint James, you'll find all you need at [saintjames.org.uk/give](https://saintjames.org.uk/give)**

## OUR BUDGET FOR 2026

Regular Giving	598,000
One off giving	165,000
Other income (incl. collections)	59,000
<b>Total income</b>	<b>822,000</b>
Expenditure	(1,066,000)
Transfers	101,000
<b>Total deficit</b>	<b>(143,000)</b>

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

## BREAKDOWN OF COSTS



\* Only a total of £162k is paid to the Diocese of Oxford with the remaining £50k being used to fund projects as approved by the PCC.

- ▶ 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



Refresh Weekend







**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.

17 Apr scavenger Hunt!  
15-17 May Dangerous Camping!  
12 Jun Music Mayhem!  
17 Jul Ranger stu!  
4-5.30pm

parents are welcome to stay for a drink during drop off at 4pm. Pick up at 5.30pm.

£5 per session

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

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



**EASTER**  
AT SAINT JAMES

2 APRIL  
MAUNDY THURSDAY  
MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL  
5:30pm at Gerrards Cross (Bookings Required)

3 APRIL  
GOOD FRIDAY  
AN HOUR AT THE CROSS  
9am at Gerrards Cross • 11am at Fulmer  
GOOD FRIDAY TOGETHER  
11am at Gerrards Cross

5 APRIL  
EASTER SUNDAY  
EASTER SUNRISE  
7am at Gerrards Cross  
EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION  
9am, 11am & 5.30pm at Gerrards Cross • 10am at Fulmer

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

**Dangerous Camping**  
15-17 MAY 2026

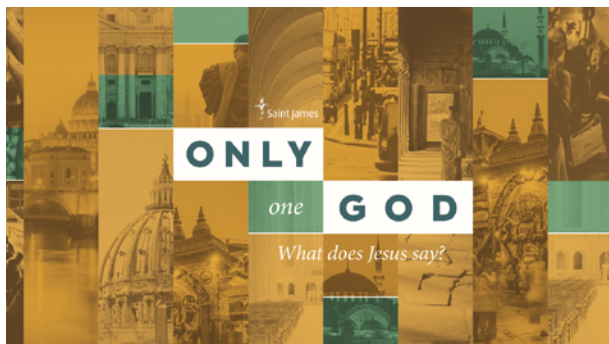
FOR BOYS & GIRLS IN SCHOOL YEARS 3-6

WELCOME Jesus Dad Bonfires Campfire BBQ Outdoor Activities

SIGN UP AT [saintjames.org.uk/dangerous-camping](http://saintjames.org.uk/dangerous-camping) COST £60

**Growing Disciples**  
LIVING OUT OUR VISION

Saint James  
OXFORD ROAD, GERRARDS CROSS





Saint James  
Gerrards Cross & Fulmer

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