

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JAMES, CAMBRIDGE

**Annual Report and Financial Statement
31 December 2025**

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BUDGET 2026

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Introduction and Review of the Year

Background

St James' Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of liaising with the incumbent, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the buildings and grounds adjoining St James' Church in Wulfstan Way, Cambridge.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC.

<i>Incumbent</i>	Rev'd Steven Rothwell (until April 2025)
<i>Curates</i>	Rev'd Rosie Hewitt (until January 2025) Rev'd Rob Hawkins (until December 2025)
<i>Acting Chairperson</i>	Grae Worster (from April 2025)
<i>Churchwarden(s)</i>	Pam Butler (from April 2023) Alison Giles (from April 2025)
<i>Representatives on the South Cambridge Area Deanery Synod</i>	Bill Broadhurst (from April 2021) Hatty Harris (until April 2025)
<i>Elected Members</i>	Jennie Brandon (from April 2024) Folma Buss (from April 2024) Jon Griffiths (from April 2024) Rachel Shirley (from April 2024) Robert Monk (from April 2023)
<i>Co-opted Members</i>	Sue Wilson, Treasurer (from April 2008) Rosemary Monk, ALM (from April 2016) David Green, PCC Secretary (from January 2023) Elizabeth Brown, LLM (from October 2022)
<i>Ex-officio Members</i>	Bill Broadhurst “ “ “ (from April 2021) Hatty Harris “ “ “ (until April 2025)
<i>Officers of the Council</i>	Eleanor Pippard Electoral Roll Officer Sue Wilson Gift Aid Recorder

Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church January to December 2025

2025/26 has been another busy year for St James' especially as we are in vacancy. In December we also said goodbye to Rob, whose last service for us was on Christmas Day. We wish Rob, Fran, Gwen and now their new addition, Hugh, love and best wishes for their future.

We have been blessed with the number of clergy who have come along to take the services for us. Not just for our usual two Sunday services but also for our Wednesday and the additional seasonal services. Thank you to all who have done this for us.

Through the year we have continued to hold the Bring and Buy sale each month. These continue to generate income for us. Thank you to all who help with these.

In the school half terms holidays we have held Lunch Clubs, usually on the Monday of each holiday and we hope to continue to do so in the future. These events comprise of craft activities followed by lunch. These are well attended with the main one being the Pumpkin Picnic in October. In 2025 we catered for over 100 children and adults. The lunches are advertised city wide mainly for families who would qualify for free school meals. Whilst most of the help comes from outside organisations we do appreciate the help we get. Thank you to all involved.

The other children's craft events we have held were in Advent and on Good Friday. Both were well attended. Without help we cannot hold events like these for children so we really appreciate the help we get.

In respect of the church building we can confirm that matters have progressed with getting the replacement flat roof, a new sound system and assisted opening front door. These should be completed within the next 12 months.

There are many jobs that are done by people throughout the year to keep our church running and Pam and I would like to say a huge big thank you to all of you for whatever you do for us.

Alison Giles and Pam Butler, Churchwardens

PCC Secretary's Report for the year 2025

In 2025 the PCC met on nine occasions, all meetings taking place in the church building. Some of the business was fairly routine but in other cases discussions and decisions reflected the mission of the church in a changing world. At the APCM, which was held in-person and on Zoom, two Church Wardens were elected (Pam Butler and Alison Giles), one new PCC member was elected and two PCC members stood down. All PCC members have been playing an active role in decision making. The following summarises the main business of the PCC during 2025.

The PCC approved the accounts and the budget prepared by the Treasurer (Sue Wilson) for this APCM (PCC 24/3/26). Now that we are a registered charity these accounts will be filed with the Charity Commission.

A significant event this year was the departure of our Vicar Steve Rothwell in April 2025 to become Clergy Development Officer on a full-time basis. Since then St James' has been 'in vacancy' (formerly termed 'in interregnum'). Legally the Church Wardens have had responsibility for the church during the vacancy. Grae Worster was elected as Vice Chair of the PCC and has been chairing PCC meetings since Steve left. We held 'brain storming' events for the congregation, and for young people, which informed our updated Parish Profile, and our online and print advertising campaign. In July Archdeacon (Alex Hughes) visited the PCC to advise us on the vacancy process and our 'Section 11' Meeting was held on 16/12/25 to confirm our Parish Profile and to appoint our Churchwardens as our reps for the appointment process. An Interview Day was held on 16/3/26 but the outcome has not yet been announced.

We also said goodbye to our curates Rosie Hewitt (in February) and Rob Hawkins (in December).

The PCC continues to strongly support the desire to promote St James as a place of safety for everyone. We continue to make good progress with all our safeguarding processes, under the leadership of Jill Bradley and the Safeguarding Team. The PCC approved the safeguarding policy based on the diocese template.

St James' continues to partner with Cambridge City Food Bank (CCFb). Our 'Queen Edith Fairbite Food Club', is going well with lots of members and a team of volunteers under the leadership of its Coordinator Michelle Peters. An area of permanent shelving is set up in the transept.

St. James' celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2025. We held a well attended Ceilidh (5/7/25). The Patronal Festival service (6/7/25) was led by the Archdeacon. Other anniversary events included a Beating the Bounds walk (12/10/25), and a display of archive photos of the parish. A very enjoyable Sing Fauré event in April organised by Grae Worster also formed part of the celebrations and attracted approx. 75 singers.

The Audio-visual system will shortly be upgraded in the church, and we are planning to upgrade the bicycle racks. Both these projects, first suggested by the congregation, are funded by £30K of Section 106 money previously awarded to St James' by Cambridge City Council. We have applied, and are waiting, for planning permission before the much needed work to replace the flat roof can be started. Automatic entrance doors will soon be fitted to St James' funded mostly by a Disabled Access grant.

Three home groups ('Pilgrim Groups') met regularly and are well attended. Rosie and Rob provided resources for the group leaders.

Anne Streater ran a Mental Health training course for PCC members and the wider parish members.

David Green, PCC Secretary

Annual Reports 2025

Church Flowers

Caroline Dickson and I continue to provide flowers throughout the year. It has been a challenging year, again making it difficult to run our 'all-comers welcome' flower workshops for our festivals - Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We miss Jackie Bartholomew. Jackie continued to provide us with beautiful flower contributions until her move last summer (2025) to Lincolnshire and we now mourn her passing – May she Rest in Peace, and Rise in Glory. However, we are grateful for the extra help we get from Maureen Gibbs on special occasions.

Once again, Eric Yung constructed a magnificent Christmas tree for us from cuttings donated by David Green.

We continue to aim to recruit more people for our flower rota.

Jacqui Worster

Fairbite Food Club

The Fairbite Food Club continues to serve the local community and those from further afield who find it easier to access help on Saturdays.

Our free community cafe opens at 10am each week, anyone is welcome to come and enjoy this time either in their own company or chatting with other members. We really appreciate members of St James' church who come along to offer friendship and support too. The cafe is hosted by volunteers from St James', and the food club, and most weeks there are a delicious selection of home made cakes for everyone to enjoy.

The shopping begins at 10.30am and members are helped by the fantastic group of volunteers. Some are members who have decided to join the team. We value everyone's input - their energy, kindness and generosity is fantastic.

We cannot run the food club without the generosity of our local community, some make financial donations and others bring along items for the shelves and fresh fruit and veg.

In 2025 we have seen more weekly shops made, not necessarily because we have more members, but because as food prices continue to rise our members need to shop more regularly. We have also seen our donations decrease, which is understandable as people have less disposable income. Having said this though, we continue to be amazed and thankful for the provision we have and every donation made.

If you would like to know more about the club please do contact Michelle on fairbite.sjww@gmail.com

Thank you.

Michelle Peters, Fairbite Food Club Coordinator

Meditation Group

The Meditation Group meets weekly on Mondays at 12.00 noon. After a short reflexion we share a 25 minute period of silent prayer, ending with a final read prayer.

During Lent and Advent 2025, we met half an hour earlier for a 40 minute discussion of the life and writings of Julian of Norwich (Lent), and St John of the Cross (Advent). We were helped greatly by Rob Hawkins, who joined us whenever he could do so.

We are a friendly open group and welcome all who wish to join us whether regularly or occasionally.

Mary Calladine

Music

The choir has been growing and evolving. Our "Junior Choir" members are no longer so junior, with two now in sixth form and two others whose voices have broken, so have joined the back row. During most of the year, the Junior Choir met on Monday evenings by themselves for half an hour from 6:30 pm before joining the first half of the main choir practice, which ran from 7:00–8:00 pm. The Lower Voices Choir met on Wednesday evenings from 7:30–8:30 pm. Towards the end of the year, considering the changes mentioned above, some new juniors were recruited, who rehearse on a Sunday morning from 11:15, and the Lower Voices moved to Monday evenings at 6:30 pm for some focused training before the main choir rehearsal. By the end of the year, there were 30 singers involved in the choir at St James's.

The Music Group maintained its presence at our monthly all-age services, enriching the worship with their broader soundscape. That too has grown by the addition of three young members, playing chime bars and viola.

Enabled by generous donations, we replaced our ageing hymn books, which had significantly fallen into disrepair. We took this opportunity to move from the New English Hymnal to Ancient & Modern (Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship), which allows a much broader range of hymns for Sunday worship, and reduced our need to prepare and photocopy additional hymn sheets.

A musical highlight this year was a come-and-sing concert of Fauré's Requiem, held as one of our 70th anniversary celebrations. One of our former undergraduate Directors of Music (David Rice) returned to conduct the event, and the singing was beautifully accompanied by a quartet of organ (James Buchanan-Worster), violin (Christina Hood), cello (Caroline Worster) and harp (Hebe Kan).

Grae Worster

Pastoral Visiting Group

The group continues to hold monthly Hymn Services at Cherry Hinton Care home and also a monthly Communion Service and we are pleased that the Care Home now joins our regular Sunday worship on zoom.

The group now visits the regular coffee morning at the Fairbite Food Club to talk to those attending and has discontinued its own coffee mornings since COVID.

Regular home communions continue as well as keeping in contact by phone or by visits. The prayer support box is still available for anyone to use and can be anonymous.

Anyone interested in joining the group would be very welcome; we meet on the first Wednesday of each month after the midweek service.

Rosemary Monk

Safeguarding

During 2025, Anne and I were grateful for support from the clergy, churchwardens and PCC. We continue to meet quarterly to discuss progress made on our local safeguarding priorities and also send a report to each PCC meeting.

During the year there were four safeguarding concerns raised by parishioners. These were each followed up according to national guidance. It is really positive to see that members of the church are looking out for each other and the local community.

The Safeguarding Dashboard is currently at 85%. This covers areas such as safer recruitment, protocols for children's groups, safeguarding training for volunteers and DBS checks.

Jill Bradley, Parish Safeguarding Officer and Anne Streater, DBS Checker.

Sunday School

Over this year we have managed to find enough helpers to move the Sunday School back into the Study Centre which they appear to have been enjoying. We have on average 6 young people of Primary School age, at the moment, and hopefully we will have more over the coming months. We have consulted the young people, and they have said they prefer being in the other room.

Unfortunately, we still haven't been able to start Flames at St James' back up again because of lack of adult support but that's a thing for the future.

Pam Butler

16th Cambridge (St James) Scout Group

This year, once again, has been a very successful year for the Scout Group; we now have over 70 young people in the group and 10 leaders.

They have all been very active with several successful and exciting camps, nights away and trips, for all sections including Beavers.

The Beavers meet here at St James' on a Tuesday evening and the Cubs and Scouts in the Main Hall at Queen Ediths School on Mondays and Wednesdays respectively.

Our grateful thanks to St James' Church for their continued support throughout the year.

Pam Butler, Lead Volunteer