



st james  
WEST STREATHAM

# ST JAMES' CHURCH

Parish Profile  
2026



## NOTE FROM THE CHURCH WARDENS

Thank you for taking the time to consider the possibility of becoming our new Team Rector at St James, within the Furzedown Team Ministry.

We have been holding you in prayer and would warmly invite you to join us in a period of discernment, as together we seek to understand whether God may be calling you to share with us in this next exciting stage of our life and ministry, as God leads us forward.

The parish profile that follows is intended to introduce who we are as local churches, the community we are privileged to serve, and the context in which our ministry is rooted. Furzedown is a diverse and vibrant area, and our churches seek to respond faithfully to God's call through worship, discipleship, pastoral care, and engagement with the wider community. At the heart of all we do is a desire to grow in love for God, for one another, and for our neighbours.

We believe this is a significant and hopeful moment for both St James' and the wider Team Ministry. As a Team, we continue to explore fresh ways of working collaboratively, deepening our discipleship, and sharing God's love and grace more fully with those amongst whom we live and work. This season brings opportunities as well as challenges, and we are prayerfully seeking a Team Rector who will help us navigate both with faith, wisdom, and generosity of spirit.

If, as you read and reflect, you sense that God may be calling you to Furzedown, we would very much welcome the opportunity to explore this further with you. Should you be led to join us, you can be assured of our wholehearted support through prayer, friendship, and practical encouragement, within an established and collaborative team leadership structure.

A very warm welcome awaits the next Team Rector of the Furzedown Team Ministry and St James West Streatham.

With our prayers and good wishes

### **Kirk Douglas & Nick Burt – Church Wardens**

**On behalf of St James and the Furzedown Team Ministry**

**February 2026**



# WHO WE ARE

## ALL OF LIFE FOR CHRIST

Empowering | Enabling | Equipping



St James is in the **evangelical** tradition of the Church of England. First, we believe that the Bible is God's written Word and has supreme authority in all matters of faith and life, from which it follows that we believe in the necessity and sufficiency of Christ's death and resurrection for salvation. And second, we are committed to doing all we can to enable others to come to know God through faith in Jesus, and to grow in their faith through biblical teaching and spiritual discipline, all in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are a diverse and multi-cultural church family, reflecting the breadth and richness of our community, united by our common faith and mission, but valuing enormously our differences and affirming the contributions of individuals to the life of our church. We seek to organise our church life and our worship to be welcoming and accessible to all in our community. We affirm the ministry of women, both lay and ordained. We work within the Diocese of Southwark and have CPAS as our Patron.

We express this and serve our diverse congregation and community in many ways including Sunday services, children and youth groups, small groups, etc; for more details, see from page 14 'What we do' onwards.

## A confirmation with Bishop and four young women.



## Our Parish Statistics

Through 2025, attendance at our Sunday services averaged about 55 adults (with a typical range of 45 to 75) and 17 children under 16 (with a typical range of 10 to 25); there was a slight trend for fewer adults at the 'Messy Sunday' services and fewer children at the All-Age services.

At Holy Communion, on average there were about 50 communicants (with a typical range of 40 to 70); Tuesday Communion is typically 5 to 10.

In the midweek, Little Fishes often hosts up to 25 toddlers, plus parents and carers, whilst Get Set and Adventurers attract up to 40 children. The POD group typically has up to 10 members.

Our Electoral Roll is currently 123.

The parish has a committed core congregation, and we believe there is substantial room for growth. A new incumbent in partnership with our leaders and with energy for outreach, discipleship, and relationship-building would find fertile ground here.

The observed variation of numbers, including a variable mix of core and fringe members, may suggest that we should critically review our worship provision, seeking to draw more members of our community into our regular worship, to meet with both God and ourselves.

To start to meet this need and beyond, we have had many well attended community events such as 'Magic of the Musicals; several Gospel Concerts and we have held 'Picnics on the Green' at local green spaces, all really well attended. This leaves the way open to lots of opportunity to lead a mission-based growth in the community around us.

### Occasional offices in our Church life:

St James holds Baptisms (infant and adult) typically up to 10 a year, Marriages typically up to 5 a year, and has been chosen to host Funerals, typically up to 5 a year.

### Some community events

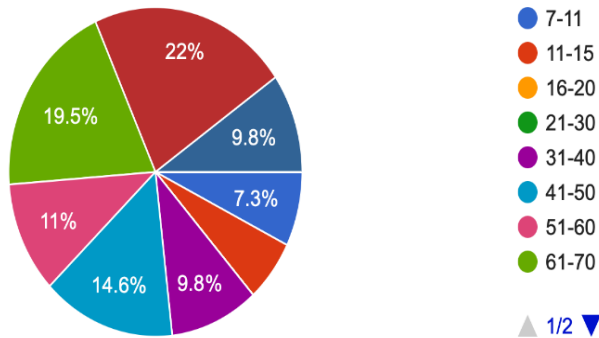




**Responses from PCC consultation:** indicating the demographics of the members of the Church family who answered, we believe that they reflect the demographics of our Church:

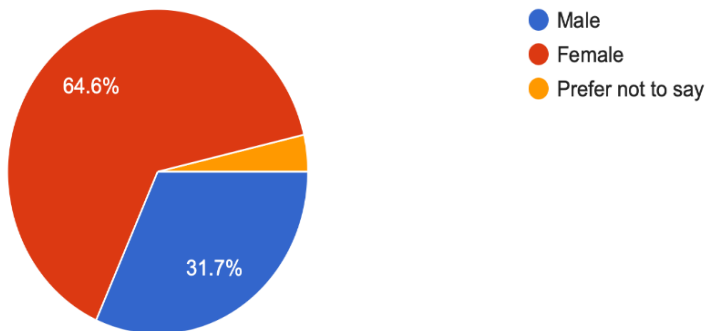
What age group are you?

82 responses



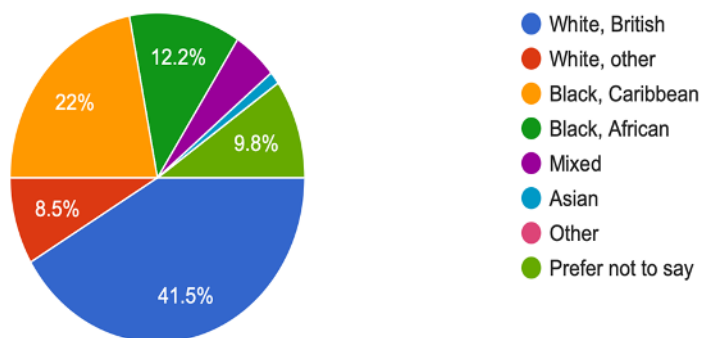
What gender are you?

82 responses



What ethnicity do you identify with?

82 responses



## WHERE WE ARE

### FURZEDOWN

Furzedown is a vibrant, ethnically diverse, and multicultural community, nestled in the heart of West Streatham within the London Borough of Wandsworth, close to the buzzing Tooting. The property market has seen significant growth, this has driven the influx of young, economically active families into the area.

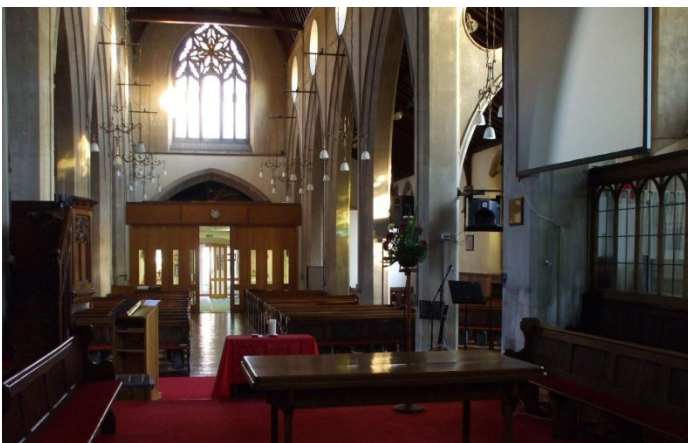
Its diversity is slightly different from the Church with White residents forming the largest group at 10,211 individuals (56.6%), followed by Black residents at 2,947 (16.3%), Asian residents at 2,724 (15.1%), those of mixed or multiple ethnic groups at 1,351 (7.5%), other ethnic groups at 679 (3.8%), and Arab residents at 139 (0.8%). This distribution shows greater ethnic diversity than the London Borough of Wandsworth overall, where White residents constitute about 67.8%. Socioeconomically, Furzedown exhibits moderate deprivation levels relative to England as a whole.

The reputation of local education is a major draw. The area is served by popular and heavily over-subscribed schools, including Penwortham Primary and Furzedown Primary schools, along with other local primaries and the well-known Graveney School (Secondary). The competition for places underscores the family-centric nature of the ward.

The neighbourhood's diversity provides both a rich tapestry for life and clear mission opportunities. Alongside the affluent residential roads, the churches' mission field is immediately adjacent to several pockets of social housing, including the larger Aldrington Estate. These areas are home to many individuals and families, some who face issues of economic hardship and social deprivation. In addition, our community is a place where we are called to minister across all ages, with several facilities serving the most vulnerable: nursing homes and sheltered accommodation for the elderly, and care homes for adults with learning disabilities. This dynamic mix of demographics and social need makes Furzedown an exceptionally diverse and interesting community in which to live, work, and serve.

### OUR BUILDINGS

#### St James Church



## Community Hall and Vicarage



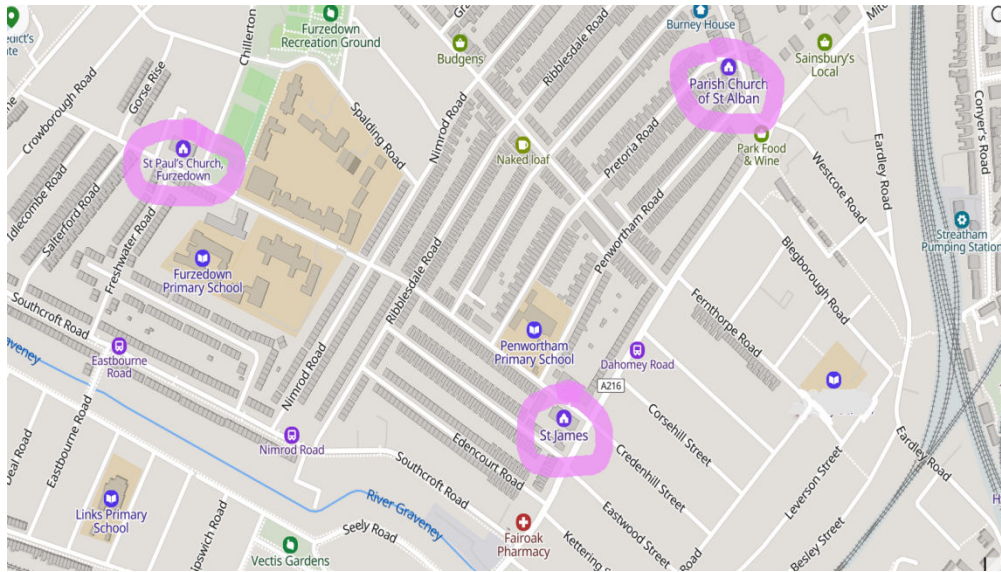
The Church, Hall (2 levels) and Vicarage occupy the same site. The Vicarage has 4/5 bedrooms, and has its own private garden, off street parking and loft storage.



Our site by aerial view

Recently, we commissioned a Feasibility Study for the ambitious remodelling of the Church building, accepted in principle by both parish and diocese, as part of the 'Building for the Kingdom' project; this is currently paused for further financial planning.

## MAP OF FURZEDOWN AND PARISHES



## COMMUNITY NETWORK AND COHESION

The Furzedown Community Network (FCN) is a highly active and vital hub for local life. They successfully run multiple popular events and initiatives throughout the year. The network's flagship event remains the annual Furzedown Fun Day. The Churches of Furzedown maintain a strong and visible presence at the Fun Day and other FCN initiatives, typically hosting a stall.

### **Geographical Context and Road Network**

There are several main roads which circulate the ward. Mitcham Lane is the major road (A216) and runs through the parish, serving several main bus routes. The road is mainly residential with a few takeaways, groceries, and newsagents. Other important thoroughfares include Southcroft Road (mainly residential, adjacent to the Ichthus Church), and Welham Road, which is residential but is dominated by the popular and over-subscribed Graveney School, and Penwortham Primary School. The parish is well-connected to larger green spaces, toward Tooting Bec Common.

## Local Hubs and Facilities

Furzedown Youth Centre (FYC): At the end of Welham Road and based in the St James Community Hall is the Furzedown Youth Centre. FYC provides various activities through the week aimed at children in school years 6 - 13 and provides a crucial, non-judgemental service to the often 'unchurched' young people in the local community. FYC also runs a weekly lunchtime drop-in for Graveney sixth formers at St Paul's Church.

### Visit from a local school



Moyser Road serves as the primary commercial and community hub in the heart of Furzedown. There are a variety of local independent shops; two hairdressers, florist, dry cleaners, chemist, supermarkets, two pavement cafes, a bar and an estate agent which is owned by a member of the congregation. The road also houses the Furzedown Project, a much-used local charity set up to serve our elderly residents, and 'Sprout Arts', a community Arts Group.

Furzedown Recreation Ground is a small park which provides the usual park facilities for the local community but also has tennis courts and an astro turf football pitch. However, at night it can be notorious with young people who assemble there for social gatherings, sometimes seen as 'anti-social' by the residents. The council currently has plans to improve this space, and a community consultation is ongoing.

### See more on these community groups here:

<https://www.furzedownproject.org>

<https://www.sproutarts.com>

[www.furzedown.net](http://www.furzedown.net)

## WHO WE ARE - FURZEDOWN CHURCHES

### OUR TEAM AT ST JAMES AND FURZEDOWN TEAM MINISTRY

Team Rector – position vacant

Office Manager - **Alan Burrows**

Children's Worker (Interim) – **Alan Burrows** (March to October 2026)

Cleaner – **Josi Fortunato**

Hospital Chaplain, St George's - **Rev Mark Pybus**

Team Vicar, St Alban's – **Rev Marc Richeux**

Team Vicar, St Paul's – **Rev Belemo Alagoa**

CLPM - **John Farebrother and Glynis Wilkinson**

### FURZEDOWN CHURCHES



Our Covenant between the four main Furzedown Churches, commits us to doing nothing separately that would be better done together. We enthusiastically supported the formation of the Furzedown Team Ministry, uniting the three Anglican parishes as a single benefice. Since the early 1980's, we have also worked closely with our immediate neighbours, Mitcham Lane Baptist Church (MLBC). We are excited by what God can achieve through our continuing partnership within Furzedown, and value our distinctive traditions and insights.

### OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS TEAM RECTOR

- The Furzedown Team is a well-established team ministry. The team benefits from having three Anglican clergy, Marc at St Albans who has served for over 20 years and Belemo at St Paul's who is due to retire later this year.
- The Team is a single benefice with three Parishes, so the Team Rector of St James will take the team lead and also work to promote collaboration with our neighbouring Baptist church MLBC.
- As we look to the future, we are aware that the Furzedown Team may need to evolve to respond to changing needs and circumstances, and the Team Rector will play a key part in shaping that.
- We have a Team Council that meets quarterly, and the Furzedown clergy gather monthly to plan and coordinate local mission and for prayer. St James' staff meet weekly. We are part of Tooting Deanery and Chapter.
- Together Furzedown Churches has held several successful community events including Street Nativities, Passion plays, open air services and Street Parties for the Jubilee and Coronation. Remembrance is shared with MLBC.

- Over the years, St James has sent many members for ordained and lay ministry, recently including two for ordination and one for lay licensing. Several have studied for the Bishop's Certificate.

ST ALBANS STREATHAM PARK



**Website:** <https://www.stalbanschurch.org.uk/>

**YouTube:** @albanschurch

ST PAULS FURZEDOWN

**Website:** <https://www.stpaulsfurzedown.co.uk/>



MITCHAM LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

**Website:** <https://www.mlbc.org.uk/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/mlbc230/>

**Instagram:** @mlbc\_church

**YouTube:** @MitchamLaneBaptistChurch

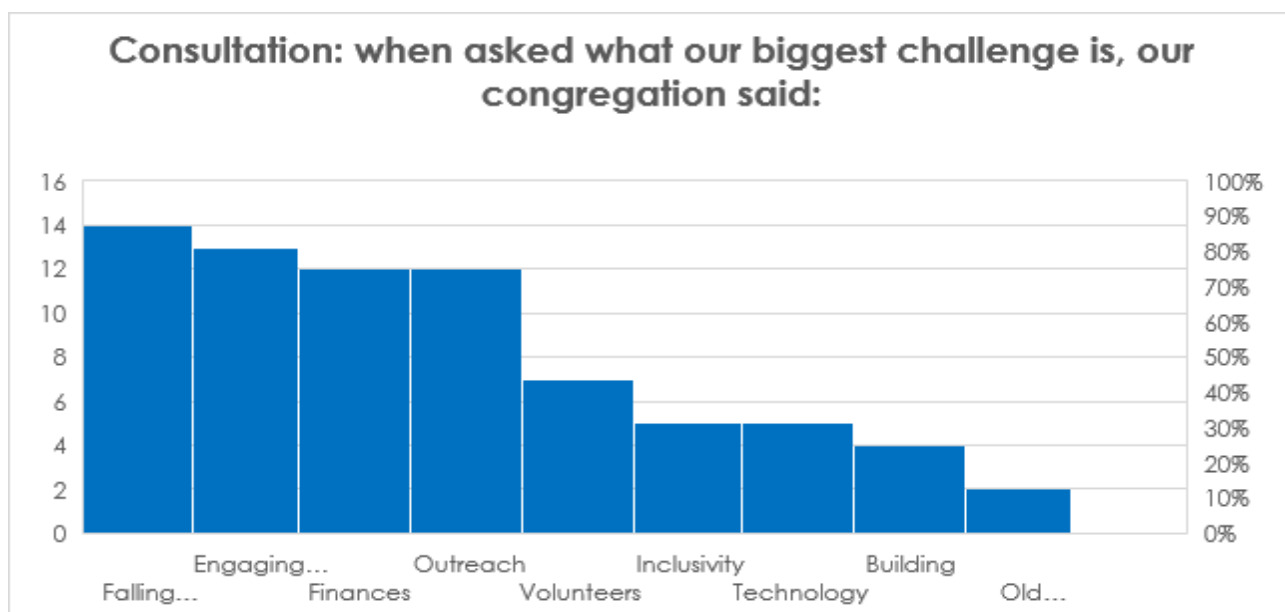


The young women at POD

## WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO? GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

As we look forward to the appointment of our new Team Rector, the church leadership have been considering where there might be gaps and opportunities in our on-going ministry and mission that the Rector might wish to help us address in the years ahead. To help us in this exercise, we have also undertaken a consultation of our congregation, to which 86 individual members responded. **Our view of the main potential areas to be addressed includes:**

- We want to make better use of opportunities to share the Gospel within our largely unchurched community. While ministries such as Little Fishes, Messy Sunday and The Well have built strong contacts in our community, we have not always developed these into opportunities to share our faith.
- Delegation to and encouragement of more individuals for service in the church and community, alongside training for and enabling every member ministry.
- Re-energising the concept of Small Groups for all to grow and share, reviewing how well our existing groups are functioning and training leaders.
- Reinvigorating our provision for youth, in order to encourage our older children to continue in their spiritual growth and engagement with church.
- There is an appetite for taking the faith of our church into our community with prayer, service and evangelism.
- We note a possible growing demographic divergence between our congregation and the wider community we serve. Guided by our faith and mission, we affirm our commitment to being a Church for all.
- Falling numbers and attendance in the congregation were a significant concern within the consultation results, together with the knock-on effects on our finances.



**This graph shows the top challenges we face as perceived by those members of our Church family who participated in the consultation.**

## WHO IS GOD CALLING TO SERVE?

We are prayerfully seeking our next Rector — someone whom God has chosen and guided to us, who walks closely with God, delights in the message of the Gospel, and has a heart to love, care for, and nurture each member of our church family. We would expect our Team Rector to:

- Have a vibrant and biblical faith, grounded in a deep love of God and his Word.
- Be passionate in sharing God's love and grace, in teaching, preaching, discipleship and evangelism.
- Have a clear biblical sense of calling, vision and discernment.
- Have experience in community outreach especially with children and youth.
- Have the desire and experience to look to the community with hope, seeking mission opportunities to value all ages and abilities.
- Be a proven team leader, committed to a collaborative style of leadership, welcoming, valuing and encouraging the distinctive contributions and skills of individuals, both lay and clergy, volunteer and paid, appreciating diversity within our unity, and being open to insights from other Christian traditions.

We aim to welcome a priest of vision, enthusiasm and energy, who will travel with us on this next exciting stage of our journey of faith together, and who we expect to demonstrate a clear calling. In faith, we hope that are new Rector will:

- **Refresh and share** a vision of mission and ministry together with us, one that inspires and brings together the many voices of our diverse congregation.
- **Listen**, being ready to listen to both God and the congregation to develop God's vision for St James and Furzedown.
- **Breathe new life into our work with young people**, and younger adults, so that the faith and witness of St James may flourish for generations to come.
- **Encourage and lead our mission to the community**, making the most of the opportunities for welcome, community engagement, and evangelism offered by our wider contacts within the community that we seek to serve, from the youngest such as toddlers at Little Fishes, and their parents/carers, to youth at FYC and to older members in the Friendship Circle.
- **Teach**, able to bring the Bible to life in ways that speak into our everyday lives in the 21st century, through engaging and inspiring preaching, and by encouraging learning and growth in small groups.
- **Offer compassionate and empathetic pastoral care**, able to provide appropriate support to people within the congregation and the wider community, including reaching out to those who cannot attend services, working with, training and encouraging our existing pastoral team.

- **Serve as Vicar of St James and Team Rector of Furzedown**, bringing the Gospel into the civic life of the parish and offering a respected, prayerful presence within the wider Furzedown community.

If, as you read this, something stirs a sense of possibility, curiosity, or gentle nudging — perhaps God is calling you to explore this next step with us. We warmly invite you to read on and find out more about life and ministry at St James.

## WHAT WE DO - AREAS OF MINISTRY AT ST JAMES

### PREACHING AND TEACHING

Our Sunday preaching follows a variety of either theme-based series or series on a particular book or books of the bible, together with one-off seasonal sermons. Other teaching takes place in the context of small groups and in occasional courses such as Christianity Explored. We have also worked in conjunction with other local churches to provide seasonal input such as a Lent course.

### MUSICAL WORSHIP

Music in worship is a vehicle for enabling us and the church fellowship to ascribe to God the glory and greatness that is due to Him. Sunday by Sunday we in the worship and technical teams strive to offer our gifts, talents, skills and time to bring the church family into a closer relationship with Him.

Our Sunday worship and technical teams offer their gifts, talents, skills and time to bring the church family into a closer relationship with Him. We recognise that we all are unique and we are committed to providing worship styles that help people encounter and worship.

The sung worship is typically focussed on contemporary worship songs, often with a more traditional hymn. We have several worship teams that include singers, pianists, guitarists and drummers. The organ is often played for hymns. There is potential to grow the musical team through the upcoming youth.



**One of the highlights of the local festive calendar is this Carol Service**

## CHURCH SERVICES

Our services are informal and contemporary with a mixture of modern songs and older hymns. We serve good coffee!

We have a regular 10.30am Sunday service which changes weekly - on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday a Messy Service with Zones for all ages and stages, craft, Bible study activity and plenty of food. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday we have a Communion service with Children's groups, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and all age service, engaging all the family and with prayer and anointing, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> a Communion service, again with Children's groups. We also have a weekly Communion service on Tuesday mornings in term time.

### Children enjoying a service



Action Song at Morning Worship

## PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer is an integral part of our Sunday services through liturgy, intercessions and Holy Communion, including The Lord's Prayer.

In addition, on the first Sunday (Messy Sunday) we have the Prayer Ministry team available at the front of the church at the end of the service for anyone who needs individual prayer. Also, on the third Sunday there is an opportunity for all to come forward to be anointed with oil and to share a simple prayer. We have a dedicated prayer corner that is available at the end of all services where anyone can be prayed for who is in need. As well as these opportunities, we have a WhatsApp Group which the Pastoral Care Team use to pray confidentially for members who may not want to go on the weekly prayer list.

There has previously been a church prayer meeting held once a month by our previous Rector, but this was generally poorly attended and was not continued. During the Interregnum we have started a new church prayer meeting held after the service, once a month which 8-10 people attend, specifically focussing on the needs of the church in this

season. We have held prayer walks and as a Furzedown Churches initiative 'Prayer On The Streets' has been explored and this is currently being considered again.

We recognise that there's a huge opportunity for communal prayer and prayer ministry to grow through training, with more Ministry team members and more creative prayer meetings.

## CHILDREN

Children are a vital and much-loved part of our church family. We value their presence, energy, and curiosity, and we believe that their involvement enriches the whole life of our worshipping community. Parents and carers are warmly welcomed and deeply appreciated for the part they play in nurturing faith within their families and within the wider church.

We understand that children will move around, make noise, and express themselves in their own ways — and we celebrate that! Our church is a place where families can feel at ease, knowing that everyone is welcome.

Each week, our worship includes a song with actions, helping children to engage with praise in a fun, active, and meaningful way. Alongside this, we have well-organised and purposeful children's groups, led by a committed team who create safe, engaging spaces for learning, creativity, and faith exploration.

### Craft table for preschoolers



As we look to the future, we are keen to ensure that this strong foundation continues under new leadership. We want to build on our excellent children's ministry and continue to nurture a church where children and families feel truly at home, growing together in faith and joy.

All our work with children up to Year 6/7 has been overseen by our part-time Children's Worker, working with a team of voluntary leaders and helpers.

**Sunday Groups: Crèche** facility has been suspended principally because the area became a place for adults to visit with friends during the service rather than offer babies and young children a more appropriate place to learn about the God who loves them. Instead, a dedicated area at the back of church is on offer for parents to supervise their children with appropriate toys and books while being able to engage with the service.

**Bubbles** (Nursery, Reception and Year 1) The Bubbles team are incredibly creative, always thinking of new ways to tell the stories. The children enjoy the age-appropriate stories and crafts evidenced in the enthusiasm with which they go to the groups and the crafts they like to show and tell.

**Splash** (Years 1 to 3) is a group for age-appropriate bible teaching. The children seem to have a great time, whilst developing their understanding of the Bible.

**Mid-Week Groups: Get Set** This week-night club is for children from Reception through Year 2. We meet on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 we welcome an average of 15 children in the Centre to play games, eat snacks, enjoy a range of different activities, and listen to and engage with a Bible story. We aim to have fun, let off steam, recharge our batteries, and go home with an important truth about God in our hearts. Currently, Get Set is combined with Adventurers, in Get Adventurous.

### Get Set games



**Adventurers** Children in Years 4-7, primarily for children from church families. We meet on Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:00pm for refreshments, games, craft, cooking and a short Bible study. Adventurers is a valuable time for children and the significance of a group like this has meant that we are able to help children to deal with difficult situations as they arise.

**Holiday Club:** A one-day Holiday club was held on the 30th of October for children in Primary School. The theme was 'Under the Sea' and the children had a fabulous time, playing games, singing, dancing and doing crafts, as well as having the opportunity to learn about the Bible in different ways.

### Activities in the Hall





## Little Fishes

Little Fishes is a very popular pre-school activity-based group in the St James Centre. After 45 minutes of free play, everyone 'wiggles' into the church for a time of singing and Bible stories presented using puppets, cartoons and action songs. It has a gentle Christian ethos woven through its activities and relationships.

## YOUTH

St James, currently, does not have a youth minister. Youth projects are organised and led with the support of volunteers from within our congregation.

**POD (Pockets of Disciples):** POD is a mixed, mid-week Bible group for all in school years 7+. POD meet in the lower hall of St James Community Halls, for interactive sessions to help the young people explore, experience, and live out their faith in a fun and creative environment.

**Messy Youth Zone:** The first Sunday of the month has become known as a Messy Worship Service. There is a youth zone activity around a Bible theme, or holiday, for secondary school aged students to join in with.

## Roleplays at Messy Church



**Xstream:** (Years 6+) Meets every second and fourth Sunday of each month, (excluding August) for all in secondary school. Using Energize materials from Urban Saints, volunteers build engaging Bible study sessions around the preaching themes heard in the main service. The group helps to deepen faith and connections between the young people.



### FYC activities and POD raising money



## PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is central to our mission and witness, enabling us to share Christ's love with vulnerable and housebound members of the parish and to serve the wider community with compassion, dignity and hope.

### Our Pastoral Team

- Seven members, including two Commissioned Pastoral Lay Ministers (CPLMs)
- One member preparing to begin CPLM training in September 2026
- Skills across bereavement, mental health, safeguarding, counselling, and community support

### Current Work

- Ad hoc visits to housebound members; plans for a more structured visitation and home-communion scheme
- Visits to hospitals, care homes, and nursing homes
- Prayer support and guidance for those requesting it, a new part of our work
- Case review meetings as needed
- Draft proposal written to improve pastoral record-keeping (awaiting PCC/Churchwarden review)
- Managing a backlog of around 30 cases due to earlier gaps in team meetings

### Future Aims

- Establish regular pastoral visiting to housebound members
- Provide consistent home communion and sacramental ministry in local care settings
- Strengthen prayer and intercessory support
- Increase engagement with the wider parish community
- Meet regularly to reflect, plan, and review pastoral needs
- Work closely with clergy to ensure safe, coordinated, mission-focused pastoral care

## Looking Ahead

The Team looks forward to welcoming a new Rector who will support, shape, and encourage this collaborative pastoral ministry as it continues to grow as a caring outward looking mission shaped community of faith.

## OLDER MEMBERS

**Friendship Circle:** The Friendship Circle have meetings on the last Friday of each month, either in the Church Centre or out and about in the warmer sunnier weather. Average attendance is around 24. During the year they have continued to welcome new members from the wider community to the meetings to enjoy a time of fellowship together, and activities which include talks on health issues, exercise sessions, games and quizzes, ending with a Christmas lunch in December.

**Holiday at Home:** Organised by all four Furzedown churches, over 40 older members from our local churches and community spend a week together in August enjoying each other's company. As part of the week young people have always been invited to serve the older people. There is varied programme of activities including keep fit, flower arranging, painting, and sharing helpful home tips and local history. Each day starts with lunch and finishes with tea.



## MEN AND WOMEN

**Men:** Historically, the Men's Group has been a highly valued part of our congregational life. Its success stemmed from regular, informal social gatherings, including popular monthly Men's Pub Nights at local venues, alongside occasional outings such as curry evenings and sports activities. These events provided a relaxed setting for Christian men to socialise, build deeper relationships, and share faith. However, following a period of declining attendance, the formal Men's Group is currently in hiatus.



## Men's Group BBQ

The relaunch of a thriving Men's Ministry is identified as a key opportunity for growth and mission for the new incumbent. We are confident that a new leader, whether the Vicar or someone inspired by them, could easily breathe new life into this fellowship, using the successful blueprint of past activities to reconnect men and foster a supportive and outward-facing environment within the parish.

**Women:** St James' has many women who take an active role in leadership and service. We are also dedicated to a strong support network and fellowship. **Women's Night:** All women in the church plus friends are invited monthly to our Friday night social events. We aim to use each other's gifts to learn new skills, have fun, create time to share and relax and all at low cost. Evenings have included dance classes, flower arranging, cake decorating, painting and cocktail making plus movie, pamper and book nights. We have also had trips out to the theatre, pub and restaurants. In addition, we have a WhatsApp group where people can share requests for practical help or emotional support through prayer. We also organise meal trains and support for new mothers, those who are unwell, etc. It would be great to keep these nights going and widen them out further to non-Church members.



### Some Women's Group Activities

## SMALL GROUPS

There are four Home Groups meeting fortnightly. There are three in the evening and one in the daytime. The groups generally follow bible studies based on the Sunday sermon series. It's a great way to get to know people, and to learn, share and pray together. All church members are encouraged to join a group, but membership is currently low and would benefit from a relaunch, perhaps including training and encouragement of new and existing leaders.

## 'THE WELL'

'The Well' is a drop in cafe which runs on Tuesdays during term time from 09.00 -12.00, it is well used and much loved.

We serve hot and cold drinks, a variety of toasted items, cakes, pastries, biscuits and fresh fruit, all fairly priced but free to anyone in genuine need.

All are welcome, whether or not they attend our church and we offer free Wi-Fi, also toys and a play area for babies and toddlers.

We have lots of regular customers, who meet for a weekly get together and we love to welcome passersby to pop in for a cuppa and a friendly face, or who just want to sit in the church to pray.



### Some of The Well team

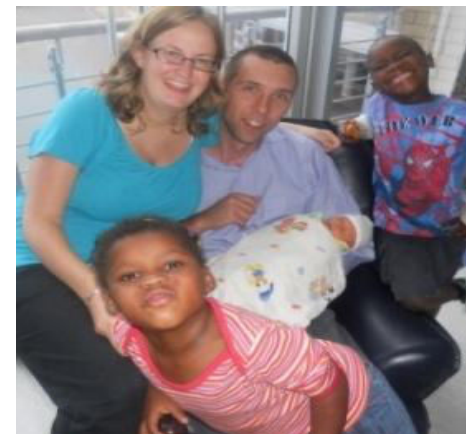
## MISSION PARTNERS

As a church, we aim to regularly support two or three Mission Partners by encouraging interest, prayer and finance. A tithe (10%) of our regular giving is specifically allocated to these ministries and distributed monthly. Our current Mission Partners are:

Alun and Debbie Burt working through Crosslinks in Cape Town, South Africa, where Alun is the Pastor of St Thomas', a Cape Flats township church. Debbie founded and nurtured "Arise", caring for young mums, disadvantaged and abandoned children, encouraging fostering and adoption by Christian families, before passing on leadership as the organisation sought to move nationwide.

Furzedown Youth Centre: our joint youth outreach working from St James Community Hall. In addition to the financial tithing, we provide the premises and utilities as a donation in kind.

Advent Gift Day: In addition to this regular support, we allocate the first portion of our annual Advent Thanksgiving and Gift Day to other mission opportunities. This year we have donated £3,000 to the Hurricane Melissa Appeal for Jamaica, set up by the New Testament Church of God.



Alun, Debbie and family



See [The Friends of the Heart Foundation](#)

For many years we have supported the Friends of the Heart Foundation of Jamaica, founded in 1980 by members of St James, to enable and encourage community health initiatives in Jamaica. We share an annual Sunday service to coincide with our Windrush Sunday celebrations.

## MISSION ACTION PLAN (MAP)

Our Mission Action Plan can be found here [VISION & BELIEFS - ST JAMES CHURCH](#)

Under our vision of “**All of Life for Christ- empowering, enabling, equipping.**” we are in the process of slowly implementing a new MAP, based on the 5 Marks of Mission discerned together with the PCC and a wider group of active church members. This journey began in late 2023, and we look forward to welcoming a Rector who will partner with our church leaders to sustain momentum and help guide the next stage of this shared vision.

The revised Mission Action Plan sets out our desire to grow as a welcoming, outward-facing Christian community rooted in prayer and shaped by the love of Christ. Our priorities focus on strengthening our **evangelism and discipleship** through deeper community connections, thoughtful teaching, and a vibrant culture of invitation and welcome. We aim to **nurture faith** across all ages by developing small groups, short courses, mentoring, and increased opportunities for young people to participate in worship and leadership. Alongside this, our **pastoral care** seeks to offer compassionate, structured support to those in need through visiting teams, inter-generational friendship initiatives, and practical hospitality that reflects God's kindness in everyday life.

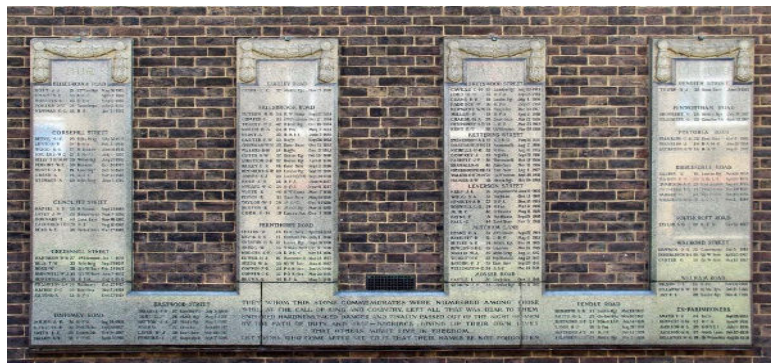
We are equally committed to becoming a more welcoming, justice-seeking and environmentally responsible church. Our plan includes teaching and action around diversity and representation, building multi-generational relationships, and engaging the wider community in our pursuit of justice and welcome. Care for God's creation is expressed through initiatives to reduce energy use, improve recycling, develop green spaces, and work toward Eco Church accreditation. Underpinning all of this is a reliance on prayer, a renewed focus on financial sustainability, the mobilisation of volunteers, and responsible stewardship of our buildings, including the next steps in the Building for the Kingdom project. Together, these priorities describe our hope to be a church that **Tells, Trains, Tends, Transforms and Treasures** in the name of Christ.

## Messy Sunday Craft



## Our Unique WW1 War Memorial (see Church Website for more detail)

Our war memorial on the East wall, facing The Green, is the only one we know of that lists those who sacrificed their life by street, rather than perhaps name, highlighting the loss to our local community. Our annual Remembrance Service is held here with MLBC.



## GOVERNANCE AND POLICIES

### PCC

We have 8 elected members of our PCC, and currently 4 vacancies, together with the 2 Church Wardens, 4 members of Tooting Deanery Synod, one member of Southwark Diocesan Synod and one Commissioned Lay Pastoral Worker (co-opted).

We have elected a Lay Chair (Kirk Douglas), Secretary (Sarah Veal), and Treasurer (Karen Jolly) as our Officers for this year.

Currently PCC meets once a month to ensure continuity and accountability during the interregnum, but we have more usually met 6 times a year.

### LEADERSHIP SUPPORT AND ADVISORY GROUP

For many years, St James has worked collaboratively through a leadership team of clergy and lay leaders, encouraging and supporting the Incumbent, seeking to embody every member ministry in our leadership as in other areas of our church life. More recently, to ensure transparency, we have renamed the group and drawn up Terms of Reference, shared with PCC, and making clear that the group has no formal executive or decision-

making powers, other than those held by individual members. Governance remains with the PCC as elected trustees.

## RACIAL JUSTICE

St James West Streatham is an ethnically diverse church with congregants of African, Caribbean, South and East Asian, Latin American and European heritages. St James values the many and varied contributions these worshippers bring to the life of our church and feels blessed to have such a rich diversity of believers. However, we also recognise the need for 'continued action to ensure that all individuals feel welcome and valued',<sup>2</sup>[1] and have a real sense of belonging within our church.

### Celebrating 75 years since Windrush



Consequently, in keeping with the Church of England's 2020 report 'From Lament to Action',<sup>3</sup>[2] and the Diocese of Southwark's 'Anti-Racism Charter',<sup>4</sup>[3] St James will endeavour to pursue actions that encourage inclusion and celebrate diversity, such as ensuring that all aspects of our leadership reflect the composition of the congregation, and that all voices are heard and respected within the various decision-making processes linked to the governance of the church. Moreover, in keeping with our desire to celebrate and affirm the diversity of the church, we will mark Special Sundays such as 'Racial Justice Sunday' (in February), Windrush Sunday (in June) and Black History Month in October.

Finally, we recognise that all human beings are made in the image of God (Genesis 1: 27), and loved by him, and that there is only one 'race', humans. We also acknowledge that our God is a God of justice (Isaiah 30:18) who calls on his people to act justly (Micah 6:8), and to love those who are also made in the image of God (Leviticus 19:18).

## SAFEGUARDING

We take the protection of all who come into contact with St James Church very seriously and have two Parish Safeguarding officers, one for families and children and one for vulnerable adults. We ensure all volunteers, PCC members and staff have safeguarding training, and DBS clearance at an appropriate level. You can see our webpage and

<sup>2</sup>[1] <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/racial-justice>

<sup>3</sup>[2] <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/FromLamentToAction-report.pdf>

<sup>4</sup>[3] <https://southwark.anglican.org/anti-racism-charter/>

contact details here: Safeguarding - St James Church we are supported by and follow the practices of Southwark diocese which can be found here Safeguarding - The Diocese of Southwark .

## POLICIES

Over the years, we have developed more formal Policies covering much of our work and ministry. The PCC seeks to keep these up to date and under regular review.

## FINANCE

Financially, we generally manage to break even at the year-end but would like to build our reserves further. Apart from regular giving and income from our property, we have our annual Advent Thanksgiving Gift Day, which has in recent years realised between £20K and £25K; this suggests that we may be able to increase our regular giving to aid financial planning and improve sustainability. We tithe our regular giving to mission partners and give away the first £3,000 of our Gift Day. In addition, we provide our lower Hall rent free to the Furzedown Youth Centre. For many years we have contributed our full indicative costs to Southwark Diocese, expressing our wider partnerships.

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Forecast 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>
<b>Donations</b>	£140,800	£133,550	£141,500
<b>Property</b>	£56,300	£52,250	£60,500
<b>Other income</b>	£10,400	£10,700	£10,600
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£207,500</b>	<b>£196,500</b>	<b>£212,600</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>Clergy &amp; Diocese</b>	£83,500	£89,300	£94,400
<b>Other Staff</b>	£40,350	£30,450	£38,800
<b>Mission Tithe</b>	£13,600	£17,700	£14,950
<b>Property</b>	£38,800	£39,550	£45,300
<b>Ministry</b>	£5,950	£5,300	£6,750
<b>Office</b>	£9,100	£8,700	£8,550
<b>Other Expenditure</b>	£4,200	£3,100	£3,900
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£195,500</b>	<b>£194,100</b>	<b>£212,650</b>

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US/GET IN TOUCH

You can get a good picture of our church via our social media accounts; we also have a 'Members of St James' Facebook page.

**Website:** <https://www.stjames-streatham.org.uk/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/St.Jameschurchweststreatham/>

**Instagram:** @stjamesweststreatham

**X:** @StJamesChurchWS

**Threads:** @stjamesweststreatham

**YouTube:** @StJamesWS

**address:** 236 Mitcham Lane, London SW16 6NT

**telephone:** 020 8677 3947

**email:** [admin\\_stjameschurch@btinternet.com](mailto:admin_stjameschurch@btinternet.com)

**Southwark Diocese page:** [West Streatham, St James - The Diocese of Southwark](#)

**Community:**

**Furzedown Churches Team Ministry:** <https://www.furzedownchurches.org/>

**Furzedown Community Network:** [www.furzedown.net](http://www.furzedown.net)



**A Christening at St James**