



The Parish of Ss Philip & James  
Whitton

**2023 Parish Reports  
For the 2024 APCM**

**Sunday 17th March 2024**

## **1. Vicar and Chairman's Report**

2023 was a momentous year for our church. On Easter Sunday Father David announced, to a very full church, that he would be leaving us in July. Needless to say, there was an air of sadness and shock. There was also, the realisation that the Parish would need to step up to the plate in the coming Vacancy, and this has been done remarkably well. In July there was a final service and a celebratory 'send off' later in the day. Father David, Jo, Rebekah and Jessica were applauded for their not inconsiderable years of service to the church and all the delight they brought us. The day was full of fond memories, tributes and well-wishes.

In September many of the congregation attended the Collation and Induction Service for father David at St Mary with Saint Alban in Teddington. We received a warm welcome. This marked the official start of the time known as the Vacancy and when there was the realisation that the coming months would be very busy indeed and much help would be required. Many have stepped forward to assist in whatever capacity they can offer and although the time has not been without its challenges, these have been met remarkably well.

We need to express our considerable gratitude to Fathers Vernon and Christopher. They have continued to serve the Parish in whatever way they can and their support has been greatly appreciated. Their presence, their experience and their generosity is invaluable to us all. We also say a big thank you to our LLMS, Peter and Sue, for their ministry and guidance and their support of the clergy.

We also need to express our gratitude to all those who serve the church in whatever role they can offer, large or small, everyone is valued for what they contribute. In writing the Parish Profile it was very clear that the church is very strong in fellowship and in people giving their time and gifts to serve the Parish. We are truly blessed in these areas and give thanks for such dedication.

In January, the decision was made that the future of St Stephen's was uncertain and the Diocese made the decision that SSP&J would therefore be seeking an Incumbent for sole appointment here. We send our prayers to SSH and will be ready to offer any support we can when their future direction becomes known. Therefore, a Parish Profile has been written to reflect this change and is currently with the Bishop for approval. We now await the date for advertising and interviewing but we would hope that the late spring will bring us the news of an appointment of our new Incumbent.

We give thanks to God for our church and its people.

## **2. PCC and Group Reports**

### **2.1 PCC Report – from Lucy James (PCC Secretary)**

The full PCC met 9 times during the year with an average attendance of 80%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has, as described, constituted Working Groups who advise, research and make proposals on matters ready for the full consideration of the PCC in its meetings. The membership of these groups includes both members and non-members of the PCC from across the wider parish. 3 of the PCC meetings were jointly held with the St Stephen's PCC during the year.

Safeguarding is a standing item on every agenda and all members of the PCC have undertaken safeguarding training to guide them in taking action to ensure children, young people and vulnerable adults do not come to any harm in our church and the activities it delivers. With thanks to Angela Bowman, our Church Safeguarding Officer, for her time and efforts in ensuring our safeguarding responsibilities are met.

Much of the PCC's focus in the later months of 2023 has been on ensuring we continue to run efficiently as a church during the interregnum, and on creating a Parish Profile and person specification ready to advertise the post for a new incumbent. In addition to this extra work required of the PCC during a vacancy, new and existing projects have continued to be explored, agreed and undertaken.

With thanks to all those on the PCC, members of subgroups (Finance, Estates, Events & Hospitality, Ministry) and all other volunteers within the church, who have given so much of their time and energy throughout the year.

### **2.2 PCC Working Groups**

Reports from the Group leaders are as follows:

#### **Estates Group – a report from Chris Penson, Clerk of Works**

Having recently been appointed Chair of the Group in November, taking over from Jane Lewis, I would like to record my thanks to Jane for all her hard work in looking after the group in the last few years. I would also like to thank Barrie Shepperd who also recently resigned from the Group after many years of service.

The present committee of Chris Penson, Ian Clabon, Tim Furze, Harriet Muir, Jane Lewis, Chris Raymond, and Ian Swann have met regularly during the year. We are responsible to the Vicar, or at present the Wardens and the PCC, for the maintenance and improvement of the Church building, Church Hall, and grounds. The continuous task of keeping the hedges trimmed grass cut and grounds tidy is always with us. Thanks to Ian Swann for enhancing the look of the grounds with scrubs and flowers. The grounds continue to be used for rugby parking which provides much needed income to the church but does impact on the paths and grass areas especially when its wet, we hope to improve this when funds are available.

Some of the projects undertaken during the year were: new railings and fencing fitted outside the Church Hall entrance to improve safety, the floor coverings in Kitchen and Toilets were replaced, the first memorial bench installed in grounds, and plans are in place to install the second bench together with improving the area adjacent to the 'Guide Hut' and bin area with a concrete base.

SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

The Church heating has survived another year but we have a budget approved for replacement of the boilers when they finally give up. With Fr David moving on the Church re-ordering project has not progressed much further during the year. The first phase of the project is to renew the present wood/tiled flooring in the church with a new wooden floor. The Wardens recently asked us to revisit the project, to this end we have had several meetings amongst ourselves and with a contractor as to the way forward, we hope in due course to present a plan to the PCC.

Thanks to estates group and all those unnamed people who have contributed to the upkeep and wellbeing of the Church, its grounds and the hall. The church relies on so many who devote their time and energy to the group. Volunteers are always welcome, have a word with one of us or a warden if you can spare some time to help.

**Finance Group** – *a report from Hugh Saville, Chair*

The Finance Committee is a PCC sub-committee reporting to it on all finance matters (general and strategic). It comprises a Chairman, a Churchwarden, the Treasurer, Stewardship Recorder and three others. The Vicar is an ex-officio member and may attend if they wish. Not all the committee are PCC members. Currently, neither churchwarden is on the committee.

The committee has adopted the practice of aiming to meet monthly or bi-monthly (depending on need), with the PCC always receiving written reports of what has been discussed at Finance Committee meetings since the PCC met previously. The Finance Committee also refers recommendations on matters of financial policy or spending to the PCC, who are asked to endorse them.

The Finance Committee met 5 times in 2023. The current committee comprises Hugh Saville (Chair), Jan Furze (PCC Treasurer), Mr Chris Raymond, Mark Johnson (Stewardship Recorder), Harriet Muir, Jane Lewis, and John Barnes (St Stephens). Principal matters discussed and actions taken by the committee during the year include:

- Ongoing oversight of parish finances
- Preparation of parish position with respect to Common Fund payments for 2024 for agreement by the PCC
- Salary review and recommendation for PCC approval
- Oversight of investment of funds in order to maximise interest received
- Stewardship planning
- Financial aspects of church re-ordering
- Longer term financial strategy.

**Bereavement Cafe** – *a report from LLM Sue Hodder-Hesling LLM & Pastoral Minister*

2023 has proven to be yet another hugely successful and rewarding year for the Bereavement Café.

In total we have had 61 guests visit us this year, 45 of those visits were from Ladies and 16 were from Gentlemen. Out of those 61 visits, 25 different individuals have attended and have benefited from this ministry. Out of those 25 individuals, 18 of them were Ladies and 7 were Gentlemen.

SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

The sessions run in two sections:

During the first part of the meeting our guests are welcomed and offered refreshments and are then introduced to one of our trained volunteers. Here the guest is able to talk, either one to one, or in very small group about their loss, this part of the meeting usually runs for the first 45 minutes.

We then have a short interlude where folks can take a comfort break, get another drink and chat to others in the group. To assist the second half of the meeting we display mood cards, these are cards that depict emotions and feelings and our guests are invited to choose a card which expresses how they might be feeling at that time. We impress that nothing has to be done, and that if they just wish to sit and listen that this is completely fine. We never put anyone under any pressure if they are not ready, or in a place to do so.

In the second section of the meeting, we bring the guests together into one group, along with all the volunteers, here we talk openly about loss and grief and gently encourage the guests to share with one another, which is proving to work very well.

We have had some wonderful feedback from those who have / are still attending, a couple of which I have shared at the end.

We have a team of 8 trained volunteers. We were delighted that Debby Johnson undertook the training early in 2023.

I would like to personally take this opportunity to thank the Bereavement volunteer team for their hard work and commitment to this ministry and for their continued support to me. This is very much a team ministry and it is due to their dedication and commitment that it is proving so successful.

I would also like to give a special thanks to Christine Lee and Angela Bowman who come along to assist us with the refreshments each month, this has been invaluable as it has allowed all the trained team to be working alongside our guests, rather than having one restricted to the kitchen. Many thanks to both Christine and Angela.

There has been a decrease in the number of people attending in 2023: we had 123 visits last year in 2022, compared to 61 this year. This could well be due to the fact that the church here is in interregnum and consequently a lot less funerals have taken place.

Bereavement can be a very lonely place and I am so pleased that we are able to reach out and offer folks a safe, friendly and comforting place to come along to. I would like to ask everyone to pray for the Bereavement Café and for its continued success for 2023.

Every Blessing

Sue Hodder-Hesling LLM and Pastoral Minister

Please see below a couple of unnamed testimonials we have received.

1. I have found attending the Bereavement Café so helpful. The volunteers are so kind and welcoming, I can talk about how I am feeling which I have found really hard to do with my family.

2. The first week I came along I just couldn't stop crying and everyone was so kind to me. I felt no pressure on me to join in, they just let me take my time. Now I am a bit stronger I can participate more in the discussions. I've got so much help from sharing my feelings and listening to how others have struggled and how they have coped with their loss.

3. As a bloke I was so worried that I would just break down and cry and then be embarrassed, but everyone was so kind and I felt safe to just express my feelings and cry if I

SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

needed to, and that it was o.k. I have really found such comfort from attending the Bereavement Cafe. Thank you so much.

**Pastoral Care – SPACE Café – a report from Peter Lee LLM – Home Groups Chaplain**

Space Café has become established as a firm favourite in the hall on the 3rd Thursday of the month (except August and December). Although the main aim of Space Café is to provide an afternoon of good company, refreshments and board games for people who are lonely, it is open to anyone who wants to spend an afternoon meeting people and enjoying each other's company.

The Café wouldn't be possible without the help of the volunteers to whom I am extremely grateful.

If you know anyone who maybe lives alone or could do with some company, make sure you tell them about Space Café or even better bring them along with you. For further information contact Peter Lee email peterlee300@icloud.com or 07913 214120.

**Event and Hospitality Group – a report from Karen Mackay**

The renaming of the group to the Events & Hospitality Group was ratified during this year by the PCC. This recognises the status of the Group to include the arrangement of refreshments for not only the hospitality events the Group offers, but also for all church events and services and to include these on our Agendas for discussion and action. Therefore, the E&HG continues to be a valuable addition to the PCC Groups. By copy of the Minutes, it puts forward suggestions for fundraising events at PCC meetings for their approval. E&HG members then arrange the advertising, selling of tickets, catering and other logistical elements required to run each fundraising event, together with others who assist on an ad hoc basis, for which we offer our thanks.

Events and hospitality fundraising held this year were as follows:

Bacon Buttie Coffee Mornings – a big 'Thank You' to all our chefs and helpers in the kitchen, organising raffles etc, on these enjoyable and profitable fundraisers.

- 14th January
- 11th February
- 11th March
- 15th April (moved due to Easter weekend 8th/9th April)
- 13th May (May Fair Day) – Coffee morning cancelled
- 10th June (St Augustine's 65th Anniversary event also)
- 8th July
- 12th August (Eng v Wales match)
- 9th September
- 14th October
- 11th November (Remembrance Day)
- 9th December (+ prep for Christmas lunch)

Other fundraising events – a big 'Thank You' to all who contribute to the preparation, running and clearing away of these events.

- Beetle Drive – Saturday 25th February – 7.00pm in the hall
- Quiz Night – Saturday 15th April – 6.30pm for 7.15pm start
- May Fair - Saturday 13th May
- Coronation Afternoon Tea – Saturday 3rd June
- Quiz Night – Saturday 18th November

SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

- Parish Christmas Lunch - Sunday 10th December

Refreshments at Services and other Events – these are an important part of our ministry. Thank you to all who assist, especially as many of the church service refreshments have to be set up at the back of the church and therefore the logistics are more tricky than holding them in the hall.

- Songs of Praise – Sunday 19th February (before Ash Wednesday)
- Choral Evensong – Sunday 26th February (during Lent)
- Covid Memorial and the Blessing of the new Benches Service – Thursday 23rd March
- Agape Meal – Maundy Thursday 6th April
- Walk of Witness – Good Friday 7th April
- David Salter's Funeral Wake – Tuesday 27th June (on behalf of David's family)
- Fr David's Leaving Party – Saturday 23rd July
- Come and Sing Day – Saturday 5th August
- Harvest Lunch – Sunday 8th October
- SsPJ Service of Light – Sunday 12th November
- Service of Nine Lessons & Carols – Sunday 17th December

Rugby/Stadium Events Parking – Huge thanks to Tim & Jan Furze for giving up their weekends to make these profitable occasions possible. (Not all of the dates below attracted parking on site)

- 4th February – England v Scotland (KO 16:45).
- 12th February – England v Italy (KO 15:00)
- 4th March – Big Game 14 Quins v Exeter Chiefs (KO Women 12:00; Men 15:00)
- 11th March – England v France – (KO 16:45)
- 25th March – Varsity (KO Women 12:30; Men 15:30)
- 22nd April – Quins Big Summer
- 29th April – Red Roses 6 Nations
- 13th May – Army v Navy
- 20th/21st May – Sevens
- 27th May – Premiership Final
- 28th May – Barbarians v World XV
- 17th June – Depeche Mode Concert
- 12th August – England v Wales (pre World Cup match)
- 25th August – NZ v SA (pre World Cup match)
- 26th August – England v Fiji (pre World Cup match)
- 30th December – Harlequins Big Game 15

New volunteers are always welcome to either be part of the group or to offer their help at a specific event and indeed, to bring fresh ideas for events we could hold in 2024 and beyond,

My grateful thanks go to all who have led, assisted or taken part in any of the events planned, including those on the Events & Hospitality Group - Angela Bowman, Mark Croucher, Jan & Tim Furze, Rosemary Hodi, Mark & Debby Johnson, Meena Mark, Anne-Marie Philp and Linda Schubert. We met six times during the year, and various other ad hoc specific organisational meetings on top of this so thanks to all on the Group for their dedication to working towards making this a pro-active and enjoyable place for the enjoyment of all!

We 'Thank You' for your attendance and support of the above, enabling these events to provide valuable contributions to church finances.

SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

### 3. Worship, Mission & Outreach

#### 3.1 Worship and Prayer

The style of worship is broadly open catholic. Worship is centred around the Eucharist, with Reserved Sacrament and vestments worn. Incense is used at Christmas. Faith is nurtured through Junior Church, Lent and Advent Courses.

The PCC are keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. All are welcome to attend our regular services and the average weekly attendance is:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Sunday Holy Communion 8.00am</b>	<b>Sunday Parish Eucharist 9.30am</b>	<b>Thursday Morning Eucharist 9.30am</b>
2017	18	86	8
2018	16	85	7
2019	17	87	10
2020 (Zoom)	Nil		38
2021 (Zoom)	Nil		46
2022	9	70	8
2023	10	73	9

In 2023 the Parish Eucharist remained at the 9.30am slot with the first Sunday of the month being the family friendly All Age Family Service. This is a more informal in style to appeal to younger worshippers – youngsters are encouraged to take a lead in this service offering prayers, providing the readings and serving at the Altar.

The attendance numbers increase at festivals (see examples below)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Harvest Festival</b>	<b>Crib Service</b>	<b>Midnight Mass</b>	<b>Family Christmas Eucharist</b>
2017	164	163	242	142	76
2018	192	122	208	127	64
2019	170	139	214	106	74
2020 (Zoom)	837		0		
2021 (In Person)	47		0		
2022	153	110	155	78	68
2023	172	89	114	80	48

We are open to exploring new and creative ways to develop the worshipping life of the church especially in reaching children and younger people.

As well as the regular services we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commemorate that person into God's keeping (see below).



SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

Year	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals held in church
2017	22	5	7
2018	25	5	7
2019	15	8	6
2020 (In Person)	7	1	3
2021 (In Person)	9	3	13
2022	12	2	8
2023	14	1	9

**3.2 Deanery Synod – a report from Anne-Marie Philp**

The Hampton Deanery Synod covers 15 parishes and the Activate Church, and gives the PCC an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the church. The Reverend Ben Lovell took over as Area Dean in April 2023. The SS Philip and James Hampton Deanery Synod representatives in are Rosemary Hodi and Anne-Marie Philp (who is also the Hampton Deanery Synod Secretary).

The Hampton Deanery Synod had three meetings during 2023:

- February meeting at St James Church, Hampton Hill where the main topic was Children’s Ministry and the invited speakers were Katie O’Connor (Children’s Ministry Support Worker, Diocese of London) and the Reverend Donna Williams (All Saints, Hampton)
- May meeting at St Michaels and St Georges, Fulwell where the main topic was Reaching out to our Neighbours – models for creative growth and the invited speaker was Jonathan Rust (Area Director of Mission Development)
- November meeting at St Richard Church, Hanworth where the main topic was Youth Collaboration and the invited speakers were Jo Jones (Bishop’s Youth and Schools Chaplain) and Jacob Holmes (Leader of the Youth Ministry in Communion, YMiC)

**3.3 Mission & Evangelism – please see the Trustees’ Annual Report**

**3.4 Pastoral Care and Outreach - please see the Trustees’ Annual Report**

**3.5 Ecumenical Relationships – Churches Together in Whitton (CTiW) – a report by Parish representative - Jacquie Saville**

Saint Philip and Saint James is a member of the Churches Together in Whitton which organises a number of inter-denominational activities in the local area during the year, both spiritual and social. Churches Together in Whitton (CTiW) - Parish representative is Jacquie Saville.

On **Good Friday** morning, the customary “Walk of Witness” took place. About 100 Christians of all ages formed a procession along the High Street walking behind the cross and the CTiW banner. The walk concluded with a short service out of doors here in our Church grounds. Our Hospitality Team provided Hot Cross buns and hot drinks in the hall afterwards.

On **Christmas Day** the Christmas Lunch for those who would normally be alone took place in our Church Hall. Gavin Cowling again stepped forward to be drivers’ Co-ordinator and worked tirelessly to find and organise the drivers. For this we offer her our thanks. Volunteers from St Philip & St.James joined others who generously gave their time helping with preparation on Christmas Eve, and serving food and providing transport for the guests. This

SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

year we welcomed 28 guests, this was an increase of 14 on 2022, also 4 full lunches were delivered to former guests who are now housebound and unable to attend the lunch in the Hall. There was also entertainment provided by Ian Hunter who played the keyboard for a Christmas sing-along. As in previous years all the diners went home with a gift bag.

Thanks is due to Vicky Sandepin who plans the Lunch and, with her family, cooks on Christmas Day; to Christine Pharro who masterminds the occasion and many thanks to the great effort of the volunteers on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for giving their time, and many thanks to local charities and businesses for their Generous donations. With all their help we were able to give the Guests a very enjoyable Day.

**3.6 Home Groups Ministry – a report by Peter Lee LLM – Home Groups Chaplain**

Bible Study in Home Groups has continued to be strong in 2023 with the creation of a fourth group that meets monthly in person. Zoom meetings have continued to be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening each week with participants continuing to come from St Augustine Whitton, St Stephen Hounslow, and as far afield as Reading, as well as members of our congregation at Ss Philip & James.

During 2023 there were 101 meetings (compared with 85 normal meetings and 26 Lent meetings in 2022). The normal meetings in 2023 involved 25 participants overall (compared with 23 in 2022) and logged 487 attendances in total (compared with 438 in 2022). However, in 2022 twenty-six specific Lent groups were held which didn't happen in 2023 so overall the number of meetings and the number of participants have remained steady when compared year on year.

The subjects covered by the groups have been the Pilgrim Course Book, Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Acts of the Apostles, James' Epistle, Elijah and Elisha and other Biblical characters.

If you are interested in joining a Home Group for bible study and prayer, or you are willing to host a group please contact Peter Lee email [peterlee300@icloud.com](mailto:peterlee300@icloud.com) or 07913 214120.

**4. Finance Report – please see the Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts document**

**5. Ministry Reports**

**5.1 Baby & Me – a report from Anna Benson**

Baby & Me started in November 2013 as a drop-in group for babies and their parents/carers. We took an enforced break during the pandemic and after Covid restrictions were lifted, due to some personal circumstances amongst the small group of helpers, we weren't able to restart immediately.

In 2022 I was contacted by a Mum who had brought her first baby to the group and had recently had her second child, and wondered if she could help me get the group going again. Her offer came at just the right time so the group restarted in October 2022 – I am so grateful that she suggested it!

Average attendance during 2023 was 12 families per session and we met on 42 occasions.

SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

What we offer is very simple: a warm, welcoming, light and bright space in the hall, baby-friendly toys, books, informal chat, support, time and space to share concerns with others, hot drinks, home baked cake and song time with percussion instruments. The group is aimed at parents and carers with babies.

We decided to run the group during the half term holidays (as other groups tend to be shut) and to welcome older siblings for those sessions. We organise craft activities on a theme in the holidays. The 'craft table' is popular and there is often cake or biscuit decorating too. We had crafts at Easter, Halloween and Christmas which were great fun, and we always celebrate World Book Day in March as well with some dressing up!

Here are some comments from our parents and carers:

"Very calm and well organised"

"My little one really enjoys his time at Baby & Me. A relaxing time for him as well as for me. He also loves singing time."

"This is the fifth year of coming to Baby & Me and it's definitely the best playgroup for babies under one. It is calm and very friendly and even my older children love coming along. Thank you so much."

"A fantastic group for babies and parents/carers. My baby has really enjoyed his time playing, singing and developing over the past 6 months. Baby & Me has become the highlight of the week for him and me. Everyone is so friendly and willing to offer help and welcome advice to a first time mum. A wonderful group - thanks"

"I've been coming here for the last 6 months. A great place to meet other parents and for baby to socialise. Very warm and friendly atmosphere every time."

I have been so happy to have some new helpers this year, and delighted that our regular helpers could continue. A massive thank you to Marjie Edwards, Honor Clements, Jane Lewis and Jean Morley. I simply couldn't do it without you!

## **5.2 Fireflies Toddler Group** - a report from Linda Schubert



Fireflies is run in the Parish Hall every Monday and Friday morning from 9.30 - 11.30am. ( Term time only ) The group is run by volunteers on behalf of the Church.

We welcome all pre-schoolers and their parents / carers from the local community and charge just £5 per session for each 'family group'. A 'family group' is deemed to comprise of one adult and two children. We have a number of childminders who bring their children to the group. The

charge is the same for everyone, provided they only have two children. Any additional children are covered by charging an extra £1. The money charged covers all adult drinks and biscuits that are available throughout the session. Fruit, drinks and child friendly biscuits are available for all children from 10am.

Monday sessions are run by Marie Edwards and Linda Schubert, ably assisted by Barry Edwards and Chris Lee, together with three additional volunteers who put out and clear away all of our equipment and toys. We could not operate without the help of our volunteers and are always looking for more.

Friday sessions are run by Hayley Lucas, supported by a small group of parent / carer helpers.

SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

We are always busy but try to cap the number of family groups to twenty as space for parking buggies can be an issue and this number is the maximum we can have in the hall if children are to have enough room to play. This has certainly been the case recently when we have been lucky enough to regularly welcome two sets of triplets and at least two sets of twins to the group.

Over the last year we have also been actively supporting the MacMillan Nurses charity by offering the local 'Twickers MacKnitters' charity a venue for their sales of hand knitted items for this wonderful cause. To date we have raised in excess of £400 in the last year. Please feel free to contact us via the Parish Office if you have any questions about the group or if you would like to volunteer your services. You will also find information, including dates and times of sessions on our Facebook page.

**5.3 Junior Church** - *a report from Katherine Cowling, on behalf of the Junior Church Team*

Junior Church meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month and currently has two leaders - Jo Coleman and Katherine Cowling. Numbers are variable, but we have 6 regular families and contact with over 20 families who come occasionally. We generally have between 8 and 15 children each session. Parents tend to join the sessions, although we have encouraged them to stay in church if they have school age children. This has not really happened, and we have found it best to embrace and include the adults and enjoy their support.

Our sessions involve prayer, news, songs, games and story, before splitting into groups for more focussed activities such as art or drama. A highlight is feeding back to the congregation at the end of the service - children really like showing what they have made.

Junior church arranges our Christingle service and are central to our Christmas Eve crib service.

We aim to have 3 social events a year - film night, park and picnic and games in church grounds.

We love having support of the congregation and clergy. It makes such a difference and makes our young people and families feel important and valued.

We would ideally like to offer provision 3 times a month but need more leaders. At the moment we have lots of parents willing to help, but few willing to commit and lead.

**5.4 PJWYG (with SSHYG)** – *a report from Lucy James and Gavin Cowling*

PJWYG is 'Ss Philip + James, Whitton - Youth Group'. We provide a forum for our older children and young people to meet and socialise in a relaxed 'youth cafe' style environment. We started in March 2017 and are now entering our seventh year. We have found that Friday evening 1900 – 2030 hrs works well for our meet up and we aim to do this once a month. We also run an extension of this group on a 4th Sunday, during the service, known as the Chat Room. At these sessions we explore the reading for the week and how it applies to our everyday lives.

SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

Highlights of our year:

- Meeting together and sharing food, laughter and faith talk
- Our Youth Service on Sunday 30th April 2023 at St Stephen's, Hounslow
- May Fair games and entertainment

Lowlights of our year (including some tears):

- Saying farewell to Jessica and Rebekah, as they moved parish
- Saying farewell to Sophie, who left for University

In 2024 we are looking forward to:

- Continuing meeting together and sharing food, laughter and faith talk
- Another Youth Service > we need to get a date in the diary
- Kensington Area Youth Event (March)
- May Fair games and entertainment (hopefully they'll confirm a date soon)

We are grateful for the young people who come along to each session and make them such an enjoyable time with their enthusiasm, energy and ideas.

Thank you to the adults who provide assistance during the year. Thank you to all those who value and encourage our children and young people, and the contribution they make to our worshipping community.



**5.5 Choir – a report from Rosemary Hodi – Director of Music**

The choir has my thanks for working as industriously as ever to provide music for Sunday and occasional services. In addition to weekly hymns and services, they have sung a wide variety of anthems from Palestrina to Kendrick via Mozart, Schubert, Bach and Walford Davis, together with settings by Shephard and Merbecke.

Special events have included the “Songs of Praise” style service in February, where the choir members mingled with the congregation to swell the singing of the ‘Top Ten Hymns’ voted for by the congregation. For Fr David’s leaving service in July, we sang the Sanctus and Benedictus from Darke’s Mass in F and Jesu, Rex Admirabilis, an a capella piece by

SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

Palestrina, since they were favourites of Fr David. During August, the traditional 'Choir Holiday' period, we were happy to welcome for the first time beautiful solos by choir members at Communion. Members of the choir also took part in our 'Come and Sing' event, where they joined with members of other local choirs to perform Vivaldi's Gloria and short baroque works.

This year, we joined forces with singers from All Hallows, Twickenham, for an occasional service and members of the adult choir joined singers at St Mary with St Alban, Teddington, for Fr David's Collation and Induction and for an Advent Carol service. We hope to develop strong relationships with them, and other church choirs, in the coming year.

In August, our organ scholar, Samuel, played his first full service, to universal approbation. It has been great to see his wonderful progress over the year. He has also directed his first choir practice and played services, both at SSPJ and St Stephen's, including the children's Crib Service and in the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Atmospheric organ music (thank you, Samuel and Ian) led us into the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Christmas. A beautiful solo from Poppy started Once in Royal David's City and the Junior choir offered Carter's A maiden most gentle in three-part harmony. The full choir sang pieces by Bullard, Rutter and Chilcott. The congregation joined with the choir to sing the Church of England's newly-commissioned carol by Chilcott, The First Nowell. A selection of favourite traditional carols for all, with descants, topped off by Bach's superb organ work In Dulci Jubilo (thank you, Rachel), made the event a truly joyful service. Older members of the Junior choir are 'hybrids', singing for both sections of the choir. Constantin and Poppy were appointed Music Librarians for Junior and Adult sections of the choir respectively.

We have had to bid a sad but fond farewell to Junior members Rebekah, Jessica, Penny, Ellie, Alouette and Evie, and Louise from the adult choir, thanking them for their fabulous contribution to choir ministry over the years and wishing them all the best for the future. We are seeking more singers in all voices so if you would like to try it out, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Finally, many thanks are due to Ian Hunter, for his sterling work with the Juniors, and to Rachel Pickering, Roy Mackintosh and Angela Bowman for their invaluable playing for both practices and services.

**5.6 Gardening – a report from Ian Swann**

The work carried out prior to the winter period was essentially removal of the gladioli bulbs, planted last year, to the south side as well as the dahlia roots on the west side of the church building, planting of bulbs in the church hall bed as well as the bed to the northeast corner of the church hall.

The gladioli bulbs now have to be replanted in the south side, the splitting and pot planting of the dahlia roots is due to be carried out soon. When they show sufficient growth, they will be returned to the beds.

Recent planting has been carried out in the Hounslow Road bank of rose bush roots, further planting of peony and chrysanthemum plant plugs is to be carried out later in the spring, along with some planting to the east end of the church. These plants will be hosta and ferns. There are some repairs to be carried to the raised beds under the trees on the east side of the church. This is normal wear and tear as well as some graffiti.

SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

Unfortunately, graffiti was drawn on the memorial bench at the east side of the church. This is an unpleasant action with which the estates team will be dealing.

Appreciation must be given to Jane Lewis, Harry Winch and Linda Schubert for forming the team who assist in making the grounds a calm and peaceful place to be.

## **6. Parish Reports**

### **6.1 Fellowship**

During the year many events are held which bring together the church community and also draw in the wider community in Whitton, for example Coffee Mornings (every second Saturday of the month), Beetle Drives, Bingo, Race Nights, Quiz Nights and Afternoon Teas. These events provide an opportunity not only for fellowship but also contribute to raising funds for the maintenance and upkeep of the church. Fellowship Groups which meet regularly are highlighted below.

#### **Book 'Burrowers'** – *a report from Rosemary Hodi, Anne Gray & Diana Sell*

P and J's Christian 'pop up' lending library has expanded its offerings for children as well as adults this year. Since regular usage on a Sunday has diminished, we are exploring a means of housing the Church Library within the church building so that it is more easily accessed by those who are interested.

Currently, items can be returned, on any Sunday, to Diana Sell or Rosemary Hodi.

#### **Parish Christmas Lunch**– *a report from Tim and Jan Furze*

Christmas Lunch was launched as a good social event for all our Church Family.

This year we catered for about 70 people, serving a full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. We have a Christmas raffle, bar and a sing-song

Although it was not set as a fundraiser event, it does make money for Church funds.

#### **Pints of View Men's Group** – *a report from Mike Clarke*

After years of reporting that there is nothing to report I'm pleased to say we have exciting news. we have a new member called David who being an airline pilot has many interesting things to say having travelled all over the world.

The trusted few attend on a regular basis and would welcome more members for beer, curry & jolly conversation. 8pm for beer at the Admiral Nelson then a curry at The Spice of India - the curry is not compulsory if you just want to come for a couple of drinks as some do.

As a reminder Pints of View is on the first Wednesday of each month.

### **6.2 Fundraising**

The Church runs a number of regular fundraising activities (see below) and holds specific fundraising campaigns for particular causes/items:

#### **Coffee Mornings** – *a report from Diana Sell & Tim Furze*

The Coffee Morning, on the second Saturday of each month, continues to be a popular community activity. As well as offering bacon/egg/sausage or vegan rolls with a hot drink. There is a well supported raffle and often a table top sale with goods such as crafts, plants, and homemade jams.

SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

The Christmas Coffee Morning also features seasonal stalls. This is a popular social event for the whole community and gives us all a chance to meet up with people from other services or in the local area. It is also an important fundraiser, averaging about £250-£300 per month.

Thank you to all who have helped during the year.

**The 100 and Alphabet Clubs** – a report from *Debby Johnson*

The 100 and Alphabet Clubs have continued to be successful during 2023, with only a few letters/numbers going spare. This is an excellent fund raiser for the church as 50% of the subscription money goes to church funds and the remaining money is given out as prizes. If you would like to join one or both of the clubs, speak to Debby Johnson.

**6.3 Ss Philip & James' Women's Group** – a report from *Jo McEwan (Chair)*

2023 proved to be a very busy year for the Women's Group. We welcomed 11 new members and sadly bid farewell to one of our founder members, Joyce Robson.

We hosted a variety of speakers on topics such as Crime Prevention and Scams, A Wander around Literary Richmond, RNLI and audio visual presentations on Concorde and a Sleepover at London Zoo. We also had some interesting demonstrations including Kilt Making and Bees and Beekeeping. The Reminiscence Roadshow entertained us in December whilst we sipped prosecco and nibbled on cheese and biscuits.

We visited The Mill at Sonning for a fantastic backstage guided tour of the theatre, culminating in a delicious Afternoon Tea. In June we had a delightful guided tour of The Royal Opera House where we were shown the rehearsal studios, auditorium and backstage. On a glorious day in September a coach took us to Chartwell the family home of Winston Churchill for a tour around the house followed by a wander in the grounds. November saw us off to the Winchester Christmas Market where many of us managed coffee, lunch and also a quick visit around the Cathedral after visiting the market stalls. Our annual trip to The Mill at Sonning did not disappoint and lunch, followed by the musical High Society was a welcome tonic in gloomy January.

Our annual lunch was held at The View Training Restaurant in Richmond College and we enjoyed a delicious 3 course lunch prepared, cooked and served by the students in training there. Our Christmas lunch at Squires Garden Centre is always a fun occasion when we give our Christmas jumpers an outing. Members also enjoyed monthly meet ups at Squires Garden Centre for coffee and chat and often staying for lunch.

Our chosen annual charity was The People Hive who are a community hub in Twickenham providing a range of activities and training for adults with a learning disability. They also provide a retail outlet for locally produced arts, crafts and gifts to provide commission income to support the charity – our donation for £1,000 to be handed over in March.

In May, we arranged the Patronal Flowers in Church and the following month participated in The May Fair with both our Bottle Tombola and 100 Squares raising £315 towards church funds. We also ran our Human Fruit Machine in Whitton High Street both for the St. Georges Day Event and the Christmas Lights Switch On event, raising over £300 for our charity. Further fundraising events included an Afternoon of Tea and Cake with Books and Jigsaws for sale.

Our final event before our AGM in February was our Annual Lunch Party in January where the talented youngsters from the Richmond Music Trust entertained us with their classical renditions and our fantastic buffet with an extensive array of desserts went down a treat with our members and guests.



SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

**6.4 Uniformed Groups - 1st A Whitton St Philip and St James Rainbows – a report by Tracey Howard**

Rainbows meet on Tuesday's between 5.00pm and 6.00pm during school term time. Between 1st January to 31st December 2023, there have been 14 girls registered in the unit. Demand for Rainbows is still very high in the local area due to a lack of units and we currently have a two and a half year waiting list.

I am lucky that I had three Duke of Edinburgh students during the year to help out during the sessions. Having older role models in the unit is so beneficial to the Rainbows and being able to offer volunteering opportunities to the DofE girls is very rewarding. We are also well supported by the parents of the girls and receive positive feedback from all the parents involved. At least one parent volunteers each week to keep the session in ratio for safeguarding purposes.

All the girls continue to enjoy all the activities on offer and have embraced the opportunity to share their news at the start of the session, work as a team and earn the all important badges. Favourites include obstacle courses, craft activities and running round the hall playing games.

We are very grateful for the well equipped hall and the facilities available to us, allowing us to offer a varied programme of games, craft and food activities. We have also made good use of the outside space doing tree rubbing, bug hunting and playing games.

Girlguiding is such a fabulous organisation and the difference in confidence from when the girls first start to when they leave is staggering.

We are looking forward to another great year at Ss Philip & James and to introducing our new Rainbows to the wider church community through our attendance at parades and other events in 2024

**6.5 Bishop Perrin Church of England Primary School – a report from Fr David**

Fr David has carried on as Chair of Governors to allow sufficient time for proper succession planning, but will stand down at the end of this school year. As nominated by St Philip & St James, Lucy James and Russell Nimmo have continued to serve as governors. They have both played an active part in the work of the governing body and the wider life of the school.

The school's Headteacher, Mr Corke, has been seconded to a primary school in Kew for this academic year. It is an indication of the esteem in which Bishop Perrin is held that it should be asked to support another school in this way. It is also a tribute to the strength of Bishop Perrin that it has been able to cover this secondment by existing members of staff taking on enhanced responsibilities - most notably Miss Macklearn as interim Head - while moving forward on a range of new initiatives and developments.

The school continues to provide an excellent education and a caring, nurturing environment for all its pupils, irrespective of ability or particular needs, and from whatever background or religious faith (if any), including, of course, many children from our own church family at St Philip & St James. The school's values are very firmly rooted in a strong Christian ethos. Although geographically located in the parish of St Augustine, the school greatly values its longstanding and reciprocal connections with the parish of St Philip & St James.

SS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH  
**Parish Reports 2022**

*We very much hope you have enjoyed reading the reports of the various Groups that Ss Philip & James has to offer. If you would like to volunteer or, indeed, join any of the Groups reported on above, please let yourself be known, by contacting the specific report writer, the Parish Office or the PCC Hon Secretary at [secretarysspj@gmail.com](mailto:secretarysspj@gmail.com). Thank you*

**Ss PHILIP & JAMES PARISH CHURCH**  
**THE HEART OF CHRIST IN THE HEART OF WHITTON**

Hounslow Road  
Whitton  
Twickenham  
TW2 7DY  
Tel: 020 8898 2694  
Email: [office@whittonchurch.com](mailto:office@whittonchurch.com)

Registered Charity Number 1144696