



# PARISH ANNUAL REPORT



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**2025**



**St Philip and St James Church,  
Whitton**

Hounslow Road, Whitton, TW2 7DY



Registered Charity Number 1144696

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Parish  
Annual  
Report

2025

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# VICAR'S REPORT

**MOTHER KATE O'SULLIVAN**

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Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the past year at Ss Philip and James, Whitton, I do so with a deep sense of gratitude—for all that has been established, and for the shared commitment to the life and mission of this parish.

When I arrived, I set out a number of hopes for our life together. I am thankful that, through the dedication and generosity of so many, we have been able to make real progress in these areas. Over the past year, work with our children has been strengthened, not only through increased opportunities for engagement but also through more intentional nurturing of their spiritual lives and participation in worship. It is encouraging to see younger members of our church family taking their place more fully in our common life.

Our worship continues to develop in both depth and breadth. Vicky and I have worked to create reusable liturgical resources. This has been a year-long task, and we now have full liturgies for the entire year, helping to bring both consistency and flexibility to our services. We have also begun to widen our musical offering. This has supported a pattern of worship that is both rooted in tradition and open to renewal. It can be challenging learning unfamiliar hymns, but we are fortunate to be well led by the choir and to have a congregation willing to learn.

At the request of the PCC, our young people have taken a leading role in this area of parish life and have made encouraging strides. In the coming year, we will seek to build on this, inviting the whole congregation to share more fully in our common responsibility for the care of creation.

We have also taken steps towards the reordering of our church building. We have engaged with the DAC, who have now seen an initial draft design, and we await their response. Over the summer, these proposals will be shared more widely with the congregation at a parish vision day, to which all are warmly invited, so that we can listen together, gather feedback, and help shape the way forward.

# Vicar's Report continued

None of this has been achieved in isolation. It is the fruit of a parish in which many people give generously of their time, skills, and prayer. I am deeply grateful to all who contribute to the life of the church in ways both seen and unseen, and to those who hold the parish in prayer.

## Priority for 2026

The most pressing area in our parish life is our financial position, and it is a serious concern. However, this is not simply a question of numbers, nor is it an isolated issue. It touches many aspects of our life together: our sense of identity as Christians, our patterns of generosity and giving, and the ways in which we offer our gifts and skills in the service of God's mission.

Accordingly, this will be our single priority for the coming year, recognising that it encompasses a wide range of our common life. Our focus will be not only on strengthening our financial sustainability, but also on fostering a renewed and prayerful understanding of stewardship in all its forms. This includes reflecting together on how each of us contributes—through time, talents, and resources—to the flourishing of our parish, and discerning what faithful and practical changes may be needed as a result.

As part of this, our parish vision day will offer space to explore these deeper theological questions together, considering what it means for us to be a sustainable worshipping community and a beacon of light in our local area. It will also be a key moment in helping us shape the practical steps that will follow.

Our aim is to move forward with clarity and confidence, ensuring that Ss Philip and James is well-resourced, sustainable, and able not only to maintain but to grow its witness into the future to which God is calling us.

As we look ahead, the task is to build on what has begun—to deepen our discipleship, to grow in confidence in our worship and witness, and to continue responding to God's call in this place. Please continue to pray for our church, its leadership, PCC, and all who serve, that we may be faithful in all that we do.

With every blessing  
*Mother Kate*

# CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

**ANGELA BOWMAN & GAVIN COWLING**

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In our role as your Churchwardens, the past year has been full and has brought significant change to the life of the church. In January, we said goodbye to Vernon, who had faithfully served as a Non Stipendiary Minister for 16 years. In February, we welcomed our new Vicar, Kate.

Throughout the year, we have focused on the following aspects of our role:

- Ensuring regular meetings of the PCC
- Attending Churchwardens' meetings with the Vicar
- Attending monthly Liturgy meetings with the Worship Groups to maintain oversight of services throughout the seasons
- Meeting regularly with the Finance, Estates and Hospitality Groups
- Overseeing the running of the Parish Office and all matters relating to the Hall
- Overseeing our Quinquennial Inspection in June 2025. Following the inspection, we are working with the Estates Group on the repair of a stained glass window, stonework repointing, and actions arising from the Fire Risk Assessment.

We are extremely grateful to all who minister to us. We thank Kate for her leadership and ministry across the parish. We were delighted to welcome Debby to our team of Lay Ministers following her licensing in September. Our thanks go to Peter, Sue and Debby for their contribution to the worship and spiritual life of the church and parish.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who cares for the church building and grounds; who contributes to our worship through welcoming, music, serving, and leading children's and youth activities; and those who provide hospitality after services. We are equally grateful to those who run weekday events, cafés, toddler and baby groups, and to all who serve on the PCC and in the Finance, Events and Estates Groups.

The life of our parish is sustained by the generosity and dedication of many volunteers, whose time and commitment are deeply appreciated. Their contribution strengthens and enriches our church community.

# PCC & WORKING GROUP REPORTS

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## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

*Lucy James - PCC Secretary*

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The full PCC met 6 times during the year, with an average attendance of 65%. In February we welcomed Mother Kate to the PCC, as our new incumbent and Chair of the PCC. We also gave our wholehearted thanks to Anne-Marie Philp for her long and dedicated service to the PCC and life of SsPJ, as she moved home to a new area.

### Core Governance & Compliance

As with every year, the PCC maintained a rigorous focus on its statutory responsibilities to ensure the church remains a safe and sustainable environment.

- **Church Finances:** The PCC provided oversight of the parish budget, navigating the economic landscape of 2025. Regular reviews ensured that missionary work and building maintenance remained funded, with the Finance Sub-group providing detailed analysis of our financial situation.
- **Safeguarding:** Safeguarding remained a standing item on every agenda. The PCC ensured all training was up-to-date and that Diocesan policies were strictly implemented, maintaining our commitment to being a safe space for all members of the community.

### Sub-group Activities

The PCC's work was greatly enhanced by sub-groups, made up of PCC and non-PCC members, which allowed for deeper focus on specific areas of church life:

- **Finance:** Managed day-to-day accounting and long-term fiscal planning.
- **Estates:** Oversaw the maintenance of our historic buildings and grounds, ensuring they remain fit for purpose.
- **Events & Hospitality:** Maintained the social life of the parish, with gatherings that strengthened our community bonds.
- **Ministry:** Supported the incumbent in developing worship patterns and services.

# PCC continued

## Key Developments in 2025

**Eco Church Initiative** - A highlight of 2025 was the formal introduction of the Eco Church framework. In an inspiring move, this project has been led by the Youth Team. The PCC received regular updates on their progress, which included auditing our environmental impact and identifying ways to weave creation care into our liturgy and lifestyle.

**Church Reordering** - The PCC revisited the long-standing conversation regarding the reordering of the church space. Recognising the need for a more flexible, accessible and welcoming interior, a new dedicated sub-group was established to lead the visioning and consultation phase of this project.

Thanks also go 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.

# FINANCE GROUP

***Hugh Saville - Chairman, Finance Committee***

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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 bi-monthly (depending on need) and generally in advance of a PCC meeting, to ensure 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 3 times in 2025. The current committee comprises Hugh Saville (Chair), Jan Furze (PCC Treasurer), Mr Chris Raymond, Mark Johnson (Stewardship Recorder), Harriet Muir and Heather Clabon. We also welcomed the vicar to one of our meetings, and one of our churchwardens to another.

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 2025 for agreement by the PCC
- Salary review and recommendation for PCC approval
- Oversight of investment of funds to maximise interest received
- Stewardship planning
- Financial aspects of church re-ordering
- Longer term financial strategy.

Before ending this report, the Finance Committee wishes to express its deep gratitude to Jan Furze for her exceptional work as Parish Treasurer over many years (at least 10!). The level of detail and accuracy in her reports have been invaluable to the committee by providing us with essential data on which to make our recommendations.

# ESTATES GROUP

## *Chris Penson - Clerk of Works*

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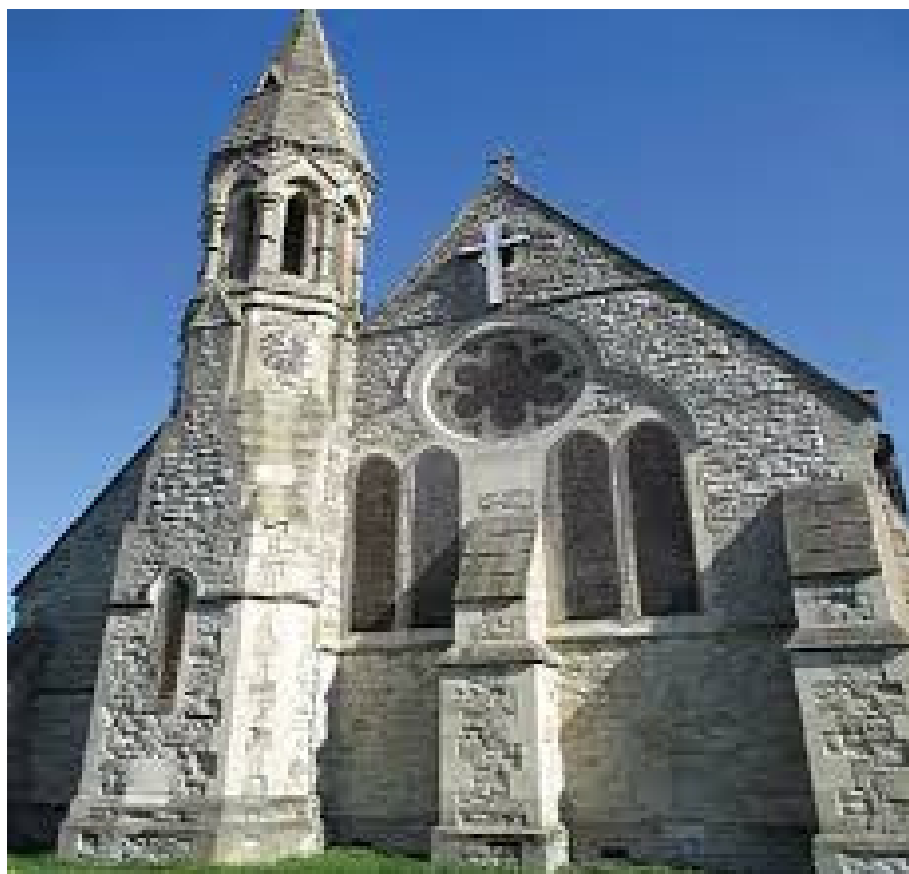
The Estates Group Members are Chris Penson, Ian Clabon, Tim Furze, Harriet Muir, Chris Raymond, and Ian Swann. We are responsible to the Vicar and the PCC for the maintenance and repair of the Church building, Church Hall, and grounds. We have met regularly during the year. (9 times). Some of the items under review:

- Grounds, Hedges and Paths: The hedges were cut twice last year we hope to get a contract to get this done on a regular basis The wet weather and parking on the grounds have made the need to improve the pathways and sustainability of the grass.
- Stain glass windows: Two of the windows on the south side require repairing due to excessive bowing we are awaiting the go ahead.
- Hall security: The inside door has been fitted with a lock which is activated by the people inside the hall to stop un announced people entering without supervision.
- Quinquennial Architect: A new Architect Michael Swords RIBA ARB was appointed to carry out the 5 yearly inspections of the Church building required by the C of E which was due at the end of last year. The subsequent report highlighted several issues which we will work through as urgency and money dictate.
- Church Roof: Some storm damage occurred in the Autumn which brought down some of the flashing on the roof which required repair. This has now been completed, unfortunately we were unable to claim the cost on our insurance due to it being not entirely put down to the storm.
- Boilers: Our boilers are over 30 years old and continue to function for our needs. In anticipation of them giving up sometime in the future we have discussed the options available to us, if there are spares available to fix them, we will continue to use them to heat the church. Replacing them is unfortunately not an option due to the C of E net zero policy so the future heating method will be part of the Church re-ordering project.

## **ESTATES GROUP continued**

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Thanks to all the estates group and those unnamed people who have contributed to the up keep, well-being of the Church, its grounds, and the hall. We rely on those who devote their time and energy to the group. (Who are not getting any younger). New Volunteers are always welcome please have a word with one of us or one of the wardens if you can spare some time to help.



# EVENTS & HOSPITALITY GROUP

***Angela Bowman - Events & Hospitality Group Member***

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The E&H Group continues to meet and facilitate any organisation required for Parish events, reporting back to the PCC with the submission of a group report for each meeting. The group has been challenged this year by losing a number of people that helped previously. As it is an invaluable part of Parish life and fund raising we need to have some new people to bring us back up to strength and spread the workload. Please do not assume this is always a physical task, we need people for organising, advertising, checking and chivvyng!

Events and Hospitality fundraising held this year were as follows:

- Saturday Breakfast Mornings – a big ‘Thank You’ to all our chefs and helpers in the kitchen, setting up and organising raffles etc to make these enjoyable and profitable. They raised £3000+ over the year.
- Allianz Stadium/Rugby Events’ Parking in Church Grounds – Huge thanks to the teams who give up their weekends to make these profitable for the church. These are, collectively, one of our larger income sources across the year. During 2025 £8,914 was raised.
- Other fundraising events – a big ‘Thank You’ to all who contribute to the preparation, running and clearing away of these events.
- Quiz Nights Spring and Autumn £1,176 and £1378 respectively
- May Fair -- A wonderful outreach event, which is enjoyed by all involved and, more importantly, those who support us from the wider community. Always hard work to organise set up and run, and not forgetting clearing away afterwards and our thanks to all who worked so hard to make it a success. This year we made a profit of £4,134.
- Parish Christmas Lunch - Its reputation goes before it as a well-attended and much-loved annual event. Thanks to all who work so hard to ensure a successful and enjoyable day. It wouldn't happen without a great team of volunteers working tirelessly together. A profit of £1,190 was made.
- Refreshments at Services and other Events – These are an important part of our ministry. Thank you to all who assist in the very many ways help is needed.

# EVENTS & HOSPITALITY GROUP continued

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- Walk of Witness – Good Friday – with Hot Cross Buns and tea/coffee served to all who attended. .
- Harvest Festival– A light lunch was served with the usual post-service coffee. A simple offering on the day of celebrating this Festival.
- SsPJ Service of Light – An important part of ministry to those who have been bereaved within our community.
- Chase Bridge Adult Choir – a wonderful concert with a very enjoyable repertoire. The school provided the refreshments, and we received a generous donation of £529
- Service of Nine Lessons & Carols– with Mulled Wine & Mince Pies served afterwards.

Grateful thanks go to all who have led, assisted or taken part in any of the above events, including those on the Events & Hospitality Group - Mark Croucher, Jan & Tim Furze, Rosemary Hodi, Mark Johnson, Meena Sundaran, Angela Bowman and Linda Schubert. Thanks to all for their dedication in 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 as well as making it possible to provide outreach to our Whitton community. The total fundraising figure across the year was just over £22,000.



# MINISTRY GROUP

## *Mother Kate O'Sullivan - Group Lead*

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The Ministry Team comprises the Vicar and three Licensed Lay Ministers. The team meets approximately every two months to agree the forthcoming worship rota and to consider ways of supporting the worshipping and spiritual life of the congregation.

We were delighted to be present at Debby's licensing as an LLM earlier this year. We have developed a strong pattern of shared preaching and worship leadership, with LLMs taking a particular lead in non-Eucharistic worship, such as the Good Friday service. During the year we led Compline during "Thy Kingdom Come" and have also begun to use Facebook more effectively to share faith and spirituality with a wider audience.

We are continuing to develop a strong sense of collegiality as we work together as a team, including bringing pastoral concerns to the group for shared reflection and support. We continue our Ministry at White Farm Lodge with a monthly home communion and at Christmas, a Eucharist with Christmas Carols, supported by member of the parish. In addition, we take communion to those who are in hospital or unwell at home.

This coming year we will explore ways in which the team can support the key priority identified in the Vicar's report, and we will continue to broaden our use of worship and social media to deepen faith and discipleship across the parish. We are delighted to be welcoming Archbishop Rowan William in the summer of 2026, to lead the parish in a quiet day. In addition, we expect to be taking a significant role in the Vision Day planned for the summer of 2026.

# WORSHIP, MISSION AND OUTREACH REPORTS

## WORSHIP AND PRAYER

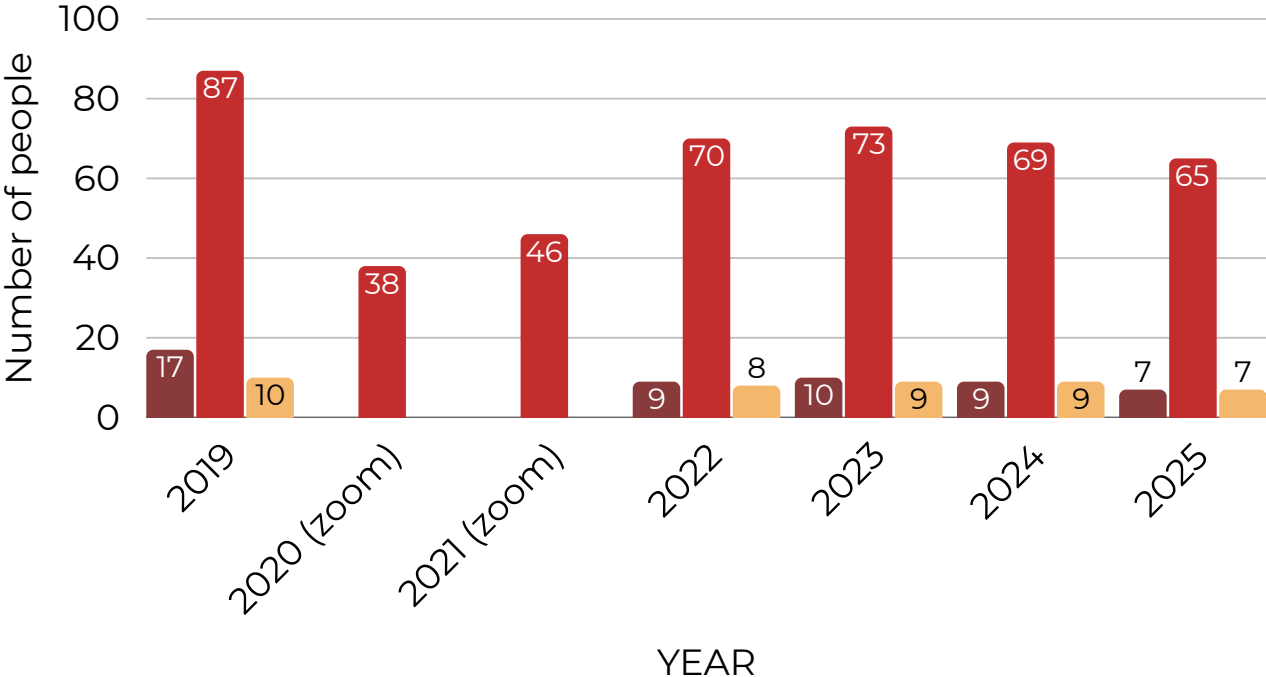
*Tim Furze - Sacristan*

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:

### Average Attendance at Services

- Sunday 8am Holy Communion
- Sunday 9.30am Parish Eucharist
- Thursday 9.30am Morning Eucharist



# WORSHIP AND PRAYER *continued*

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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).

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Harvest Festival</b>	<b>Crib Service</b>	<b>Midnight Mass</b>	<b>Family Christmas Eucharist</b>
<b>2019</b>	170	139	214	106	74
<b>2020 (Zoom)</b>	(837)	-	-	-	-
<b>2021</b>	47	-	-	-	-
<b>2022</b>	153	110	155	78	68
<b>2023</b>	172	89	114	80	48
<b>2024</b>	106	106	129	80	44
<b>2025</b>	130	94	100	73	34

## **WORSHIP AND PRAYER** continued

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<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Baptisms</b>	<b>Weddings</b>	<b>Funerals held in church</b>
<b>2019</b>	15	8	6
<b>2020 (in person)</b>	7	1	3
<b>2021 (in person)</b>	9	3	13
<b>2022</b>	12	2	8
<b>2023</b>	14	1	9
<b>2024</b>	10	0	5
<b>2025</b>	3	1	3

# MISSION AND EVANGELISM

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Please see the Trustees' Annual Report 2025

# PASTORAL CARE AND OUTREACH

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Please see the Trustees' Annual Report 2025

# HAMPTON DEANERY SYNOD

## *Madeline Swann - Parish Representative*

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As a new parish representative on the Deanery Synod, I attended my first Deanery synod meeting on Wednesday 21st May 2025 at Holy Trinity church, Twickenham Green. The welcome was by Area Dean Ben Lovell, the Rev Simon Couper led opening worship.

There was discussion about Common Fund & a finance update, a brief talk about the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, an Ancient Greek papyrus held in John Rylands Library believed to be oldest copy in existence.

The main item concerned church school governance, the talk was by Daniel Aldridge, CEO of Instanter Learning Trust & executive head of Bishop Wand School. St Mary's Hampton CE Primary School in Hampton is also a trust school, there were suggestions that other CE schools may wish to join.

# ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

**Jacquie Saville - Parish Representative, CTiW**

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St Philip and St 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. Thank you to our Hospitality Team who 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. We served 36 lunches, including 3 home deliveries. As in previous years, we prefer to let our guests do the talking:

*"You gave us all a wonderful time on Christmas Day."*

*"Really enjoyed the food and meeting new people."*

*"Everything was superb and much appreciated by everyone."*

*"Many, many thanks to all for their hard work."*

*"The bag of gifts was very generous." "I'll definitely be back next year."*

Gavin Cowling again stepped forward to be drivers' Co-ordinator and worked tirelessly to find and organise the drivers. For this we offer him our thanks. Volunteers from St Philip & St. James joined those from the other Churches who generously gave their time helping with preparation on Christmas Eve, and serving food and providing transport for the guests on Christmas Day. This year we welcomed 36 guests, also 3 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 seasonal music on the keyboard. 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.

# HOME GROUPS MINISTRY

*Peter Lee - LLM and Home Groups Chaplain*

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The Online Pilgrim Groups evolved during 2025 with the amalgamation of three groups, that were meeting on Zoom three separate evenings each week, into one large group meeting every Tuesday evening. This larger group has enabled a greater variety of views to be expressed and more discussion.

The Pilgrim Group that meets in person, once a month, has continued to meet on the second Wednesday of the month and my thanks to Denise Moore for continuing to host these meetings in her home.

In total 66 meetings were held in 2025 involving 425 attendances, compared with 95 meetings in 2024 involving 468 attendances. So, reducing the number of meetings by approx. 30% has only reduced attendance by approx. 10% whilst considerably reducing the workload on me in facilitating the meetings. The number of individuals who attended in 2025 was 20 compared with 22 in 2024 so the changes have had a slight impact on those who have other activities on a Tuesday evening.

The subjects covered by the groups in 2025 were: The Pilgrim Course Book; Gospels of Matthew and Mark; New Testament Letters – Romans, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 Corinthians; Book of Revelation and from the Old Testament, Book of Ruth and Psalms 69, 84, 133 and 145.

If you are interested in joining the weekly Zoom meeting or the monthly group that meets in person, or indeed if you are willing to host a group, please contact Peter Lee email [peterlee300@icloud.com](mailto:peterlee300@icloud.com) or 07913 214120.

# FINANCE REPORT

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*Jan Furze - Treasurer*

Please see the Trustees' Annual Report 2025

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# MINISTRY AND PARISH REPORTS

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## CHOIR AND ORGAN

*Rosemary Hodi - Director of Music*

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The choir has my thanks for their dedicated hard work in providing music for Sundays and occasional services. In addition to weekly hymns and settings, they have sung a wide variety of anthems spanning five centuries and introduced new hymns to our repertoire. We have explored music from different cultures and have used the new percussion instruments to good effect.

Special events included choir members singing at the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Service of Celebration at Christchurch, Oxford, and, in our own church, it was lovely combining with St Augustine's Church for a Trinity Sunday Choral Evensong. We enjoyed welcoming additional singers from local churches - and our own Theresa - to sing for the atmospheric Advent Carol Service and Service of 9 Lessons and Carols at Christmas, the latter opening with Francesca's beautiful solo and featuring Constantin, Francesca, Sophie, Carys and Chloe in Of the Father's heart begotten.

Chloe worked industriously to achieve her RSCM Voice for Life dark blue ribbon. She has sung some lovely solos for us as part of this study and went on to sing most poignantly at one of our Sunday services in Advent.

In the summer, Constantin gained a distinction in his ABRSM Grade 8 Singing exam (as Countertenor) and was awarded a place at Cambridge University as a Choral Scholar where he is reading Classics. Choir members are always welcome to return to the ranks whenever they can and it was super to have Constantin, Sophie (and Carys) join us at Christmas, and indeed ex-organ-scholar, Samuel, who played for us in the early autumn and at Christmas.

# **CHOIR AND ORGAN continued**

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In September, our organ scholar, Joshua, took up a place at Brunel University to read Engineering, but commutes from Whitton so he has been able to pursue his organist studies with us. Josh has gone from strength to strength and now regularly plays the Eucharist music setting and has extended his knowledge of hymns. He has accompanied the choir in Communion items and played some excellent voluntaries both on the organ and the piano. He has attended two online training courses with the RSCM and has even had his photo taken with Anna Lapwood!

We were delighted to welcome Clare to the choir last September. We are always happy to add singers to our ranks and need singers in all voices, so if you would like to join us in our ministry of Music, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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

## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

### ***Katherine Cowling - Sunday School Lead***

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Junior Church meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month and is currently lead by Katherine and a range of parents – Theresa, Julie, Beth, Hannah, Adam, Rebecca, Louise, Jo and Louise.

Our sessions involve prayer, news, songs, games, a story and a craft or activity. This year we have explored being a member of God's family, Bible heroes in Genesis and the life of the early church in Acts. The children always enjoy feeding back to the congregation at the end of the service and showing what they have made. We have also enjoyed sharing some of the songs we have learnt – at Harvest and Christmas time.

Numbers are variable, but we have 10 regular families and contact with about 5 other families who come occasionally. We generally have between 8 and 12 children at each session, aged between 3 and 11. Parents often join the sessions; this is a wonderful thing as we all learn together and have fun as a church family.

# JUNIOR CHURCH *continued*

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Junior church members enjoy reading in church during the family service and doing the prayers of intercession and some have been acolytes. Some of the children and parents have also enjoyed being part of the coffee rota.

Highlights of the year include helping with games and face painting at the May Fair, decorating the church for Harvest and the Crib Service.

Again, it was wonderful to have fantastic costumes to wear, as provided by Linda Schubert and to have the expertise and enthusiasm of Barrie Edwards helping with the script and props and stage directions!!



## PJWYG

### ***Gavin Cowling & Lucy James - Youth Leaders***

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PJWYG is 'Saint Philip and Saint 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 entering our ninth year.

We aim to meet once a month. This has become more irregular during the year, although you will always find an impromptu gathering after a service if you want to join a conversation on Minecraft, Music, or Mission.

We also run an extension of this group during the service on the 4th Sunday, known as 'ChatRoom'. At these sessions we explore the reading for the week and how it applies to our lives.

# PJWYG continued

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## Highlights of our year:

- Meeting together and sharing food, laughter and faith talk
- Working towards and achieving Eco Church Bronze Award
- May Fair 'VE Day 80' assault course and entertainment
- Volunteering for Church Rugby Parking
- Working with our Junior Church to decorate the church for Harvest Season
- Leading the Harvest Service in October
- Leading the Christingle Service at the start of Advent

## Lowlights of our year:

- Saying farewell to Constantin, who left for university

## In 2026 we are looking forward to:

- Continuing meeting together and sharing food, laughter and faith talk
- Home of Rugby 5K sponsored run around Twickenham Stadium
- Attending a Josiah Queen concert in September
- Pushing forward with more Eco Projects

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.



# **SPACE CAFE**

***Peter Lee - LLM and Home Groups Chaplain***

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The main aim of Space Café is to provide an afternoon of good company, refreshments, and board games for adults (regardless of whether they are churchgoers or not) who might otherwise be on their own or at a loose end. Instead, they can spend an afternoon meeting people and enjoying each other's company.

Space Café provides an important outreach into the community with advertising shared on social media that has been successful in attracting people who otherwise would not have come. In 2025, Space Café has grown from strength to strength and is a regular feature in many people's social diary on the 3rd Thursday of the month for ten months of the year (except August and December).

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. You will find a friendly atmosphere where the emphasis is on enjoyment and friendship.

The Café would not be possible without the help of the volunteers who turn up each month and to whom I am extremely grateful.

For further information about the Café or volunteering to help, please contact Peter Lee email [peterlee300@icloud.com](mailto:peterlee300@icloud.com) or 07913 214120.

# **BEREAVEMENT CAFE**

***Sue Hodder-Hesling - LLM and Pastoral Minister***

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In 2025 the Bereavement group was suspended after six years, for the foreseeable future, due to several months of no attendance. Mother Kate has talked about discussing this with Mother Helen at St Augustine's to see if there is anything we might be able to do together in the future.

# **SATURDAY BRUNCH**

***Tim Furze & Diana Sell***

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This is our re-branding of the community Coffee Morning which takes place on the second Saturday each month. As well as coffee, breakfast rolls of sausage egg & bacon or vegan sausages are available. This is one of our fund raising events that raises over £3000 each year.

# **PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

***Tim & Jan Furze***

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This is a lovely event attended by members of our congregation. It is an opportunity for the whole church family to meet together and celebrate Christmas. Prepared and cooked by our volunteers, we serve a full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings and cater for special diets. With a maximum of 70 tickets it is always a sell out. We also enjoy a raffle and a round of Christmas songs. All proceeds go to parish funds.

# **PINTS OF VIEW**

***Hugh Saville***

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The Pints of View men's group met monthly throughout 2025 with between 6 and 8 in attendance on each occasion. It meets in the Admiral Nelson public house for beer and "to put the world to rights" at 8.00PM on the first Monday of the month, followed by a curry in one of our local Indian restaurants.

The refurbishment of Jollys Restaurant during the year has provided us with an additional local venue for our curries. We are a friendly group, and we warmly welcome men of all ages to join us. Just turn up on the night!

# **BABY AND ME**

***Anna Benson***

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Baby & Me started in November 2013 as a drop-in group for babies and their parents/carers.

Average attendance during 2025 was 12 families per session and we met on 38 occasions, including one very sunny and warm session in the shade of a tree in June in Murray Park!

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 treats 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 simple craft activities and cake or biscuit decorating on a theme in the holidays: Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween and Christmas. We always celebrate World Book Day in March with some dressing up and at the session closest to Mothering Sunday we give flowers to the parents and carers.

A massive thank you to all our fabulous volunteers who welcome our guests so warmly each week - Marjie Edwards, Honor Clements, Jean Morley, Jenny Nash, Angela Bowman and Linda Schubert. I simply couldn't do it without you!

# **FIREFLIES**

***Marjie Edwards & Linda Schubert***

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Fireflies is a popular pre-school playgroup that takes place in the Parish Hall every Monday & Friday morning in term- time from 9.30 - 11.30. An enthusiastic group of wonderful volunteers organise & run the sessions on behalf of the church. During the sessions children can enjoy singing, craft & general play activities. There is a charge of £5 for each 'family group'. This money covers the cost of tea & coffee along with healthy fruit & biscuits for the child.

# CHURCH LIBRARY

*Rosemary Hodi*

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The Church library is now happily arranged at the back of the church so that it is available to all who wish to browse and borrow. Thank you to Chris P for assembling the shelves! We had a reading challenge in the summer (won by Ruth) and books for Advent and Lent have been specially displayed. We have a surprising range of books, with a generous donation of theology books from a member of our congregation, and a number of new titles are added throughout the year. There are a few Young Christian's and Children's books lurking too.

There is no limit to the time for which a book or CD can be borrowed but please do sign books out in the little notebook and return items when you have finished them so others may enjoy them.

# CHURCH GROUNDS

*Ian Swann*

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We have had a good year in keeping the flowers in the beds that run along the south and west sides of the church. The south side has rose bushes and other plants to provide a colourful array, the plants on the west side which comprise quite a few dahlias which were cut back, covered with mulch rather than digging them up and splitting the roots.

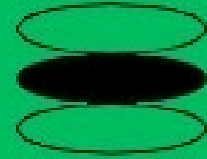
The bed on the east side of the church has been stripped back to try some different plants whilst the three raised beds protecting tree roots were planted with cyclamen.

The bed on the north side of the church adjoining the memorial garden has been successful with tree lilies, these have been cut back to repeat the display in 2026.

The bed to the church hall has with its tree lilies and the calla aethiopica lilies given a good show and hopefully will repeat in 2026.

I wish to thank Harry and Samuel for their work during 2025. I have asked them to help again when they have a break from the work and academic commitments.

## ECO CHURCH



### What we did last year

- Eco bronze award
- Reduced printing of service sheets
- Bike rack for eco commute to church
- Litter picking
- Fundraising
- 5km Twickenham stadium run for vineyard food bank and eco church
- Advocate for change

### Future ideas for the big 26

- Individual champions for the 5 areas
  - Worship and faith
  - Building
  - Land
  - Community and global engagement
  - Lifestyle
- E-news bulletin
- Screen and physical bible instead of service sheets
- PCC representation for the youth
- Toilet twinning
- Refill centre
- carpool
- May fair build a bug hotel stall



# 100 AND ALPHABET CLUBS

*Francesca James*

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The 100 and Alphabet Clubs remained a valuable part of our fundraising in 2025. We raised £1,950 for church funds, including £230 in prizes kindly re-donated by our winners. We extend our deepest thanks to all subscribers and donors. These clubs remain a joyful source of income for our church and I love seeing the smile on winners' faces when I hand them their envelope. We have a few vacant numbers and letters, so please speak to Francesca or Lucy if you would like to join the fun.

# BISHOP PERRIN CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Russell Nimmo*

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This time last year, the school was in the process of advertising for a new Head Teacher. I am delighted to report that we appointed Rachael Macklearn to the post, and were fortunate to have such an outstanding candidate. We subsequently appointed Mary McAvoy as Deputy Head and Jo Sweeney as Assistant Head, giving the school an exceptionally strong leadership team moving forward.

Pupil progress remains well above the national average in all areas, including for children with special needs and from disadvantaged backgrounds. Year 6 SATs results last summer were particularly impressive, in many areas outperforming the Richmond average, which is no mean feat. Everyone who visits the school comments on how the children clearly enjoy their learning and on the strong Christian ethos which underpins all that the school does.

There is, however, a cloud on the horizon. As you may be aware, the birth rate nationally has fallen dramatically in recent years. In Richmond, for instance, there is a significant surplus of unfilled primary school places. There are simply not enough children to go round! This in turn impacts school finances as school funding is directly dependent on pupil numbers. I would stress that Bishop Perrin is in a much better place than many schools, but it is not immune to national trends over which it has no control, and, as a small school, is potentially more vulnerable to falling rolls and tight budgets. It would be nice, and very much appreciated, if we as a church community could actively promote our church school, as it truly does offer a wonderful Christian education to our local children.

# WOMEN'S GROUP

*Julie Mearing*

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During 2025 the Group has enjoyed monthly meetings with talks from various speakers. Topics covered Audrey Hepburn, Eel Pie Island, "I do like to be by the seaside", Scams, Whitton Network, genealogy and a sing-along with St Mary with St Albans Church bell ringers. We also have monthly coffee mornings at Squires.

In January we made our annual visit to Sonning Mill Theatre for lunch and afterwards we saw a brilliant production of My Fair Lady. In June we visited The Cockney Museum at Stoneleigh, Hever Castle in September, The Sunbury Millennium Embroidery at the Walled Garden, Sunbury and Oxford Christmas Market in November.

In August we held a successful fund-raising coffee afternoon and raised £436. At Group meetings we raised funds by selling books and jigsaw puzzles, table sale and 100 Squares and several members held pop-up events.

At our March meeting we presented a cheque to our 2024 charity Park Lane Stables Riding for the Disabled. We also made donations to Crisis at Christmas and Whitton Business Association.

Our charity for this 2025 was Richmond Carers Centre,

The Group provided flower arrangements for Ss P & J's Patronal Festival and ran a Bottle Tombola and the 100 Squares Game at the May Fair raising £337.

Unfortunately, we were unable to run Our 'Human Fruit Machine' at the St George's Day Parade and Christmas Lights event in the High Street.

The Group had their annual Christmas lunch at Squires, our annual dinner was held at The Wharf, Teddington and the annual January lunch in the Church Hall.

The Group welcomed 3 new members.

# UNIFORMED GROUPS

## *Carys Cowling - Patrol Leader, 1st A Whitton Guides*

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On Tuesday evenings during school terms, Rainbows and 1st Whitton Guides meet in Saint Philip and Saint James Church Hall. There are over 20 girls, from 10-14 years old, who regularly attend the Guides group.

In Guides we grow in confidence, learn leadership skills, make lots of friends and have an amazing time. We participate in a wide variety of activities, including orienteering, craft, and games, working towards our badges. There are six themes that we explore:

- Know Myself
- Express Myself
- Be Well (healthy lifestyles and wellbeing)
- Have Adventures
- Take Action (making a positive difference, locally and globally)
- Skills for My Future

We like using the church hall, and the church grounds for our more energetic activities like wide games, fire lighting and tent building. Last year there were several weekend camps – Walton Firs, Paxmead Riverside and Windsor.

The highlight of the year was a 10-day International Camp in July at Kandersteg in Switzerland. We visited a Cheese Factory, a Chocolate Factory, met with Guides from across the world, and spent a night camping high up on the mountain in a remote shepherd's hut. The coach trips there and back were very long and tiring.

In November we joined with the Saint Philip and Saint James parish and local community for a Service of Remembrance.

Thank you to our leaders, Tracey (Rainbows) and Sally, Jen, and Holly (Guides). Thank you to Saint Philip and Saint James for letting us use your lovely hall.



As we look back on the year reflected in these pages, our hearts are full of gratitude. None of the growth, outreach, or worship we celebrate today would be possible without you.

Whether you gave your time to organising events, your voice to the choir, or your quiet support through prayer and stewardship—thank you. Your generosity is the heartbeat of this parish, and it is a privilege to witness the 'amazing grace' at work in our local community through your hands.