



2024 PARISH REPORTS

For the 2025 APCM
Sunday 6th April 2025

Ss Philip & James Whitton Parish Church

Hounslow Road, Whitton, TW2 7DY

Registered Charity Number 1144696

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VICAR AND CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS

Foreword from the Vicar

Dear friends

I am delighted to join the vibrant parish that is Ss Philip and James, Whitton to serve you as your vicar. As a newcomer I have been most impressed with the welcome I have received, for the way in which the people of this parish offer an inclusive welcome to those coming through our doors and grounds.

I would like to encourage you in all the social action and pastoral care you undertake through the various groups run by the church. Our liturgy and music is at the heart of our parish life and I am encouraged that there is a sense that our worship develops and evolves in order to remain fresh. During the vacancy, so many people have stepped up to ensure that everything continues and that God is worshipped in this place; my thanks goes to them, who are too many to name. I would in particular like to thank Angela and Mark, who as churchwardens were legally responsible for the parish during the vacancy and it is clear that this task was carried out to an exemplary degree.

This coming year, we will be aiming to do the following:

- Developing our children's work in relation to their spiritual lives and contribution to the worshipping life of our church.
- Creating reusable liturgy and developing our range of music
- Recruiting an Eco Church group to develop and oversee our care of the environment within our sphere of influence.
- Recruiting and working with an architect to further the reordering of our church, making it fit for purpose, a more adaptable, flexible space that is more welcoming and usable, especially for those with disabilities.

This is not an exhaustive list, and I am certainly open to suggestions and offers! Please pray for our church, its leadership, PCC and officers as we seek God's guidance in all that we do in living as God's people in this place.

Mother Kate

Mother Kate O'Sullivan
Ss PJ Vicar (from February 2025)

Churchwardens' Report for 2024

In our role as your Wardens, this past year has been a full one and one that has brought significant change to the church. We have said goodbye to Fr Vernon and Fr Christopher and finally welcomed our new vicar, Kate. We also welcomed Vicky as our new Parish Administrator.

In this time however, we have focused on the following main aspects of our role:

1. Ensuring regular meetings of the PCC and chairing these.
2. Having oversight of provision for services during the Vacancy
3. Having oversight of the running of the Parish Office and all matters relating to the hall
4. Having oversight of the recruitment of a new vicar
5. Being part of the selection process for a new vicar
6. Being part of the selection process for a new Parish Administrator

It is timely to say that all of the above required the input of a great many volunteers who graciously give of their time. We would like to express our gratitude to all of these people because their offerings do much to support and enhance the life of the Parish. It was very noticeable when gathering information about us as a church for the Parish Profile, that we have an enormous sense of community, fellowship, dedication, outreach and willingness.

Therefore, we thank all those who look after the inside of the church, tend to the grounds, keep up the maintenance. Those who add to the service through music or serving. Those who serve tea and coffee after the service. Those who run events, cafes, toddler and baby groups. Those who make up the PCC, the Finance groups, the Events group and the Estates group.

We are of course extremely grateful to those who Minister to us. We thank Peter and Sue for their contributions to worship and the spiritual life of the church and Fr Christopher for his. However, this year we saw the end of Fr Vernon's 16 plus years of service to St Philip and St James. We marked this with a moving service and followed with a most enjoyable send-off that was always going to be tinged with sadness at his leaving. It was made all the more special by the attendance of his entire family, a personal message of

appreciation from the Bishop and the support and acknowledgement of Fr David, Fr Ed and the Archdeacon who were in attendance. We thank you all for making a generous contribution to a leaving gift that was so richly deserved.

Finally, a big thank you to Mark who stands down this year. Mark has given tremendous service to the church, staying as Warden for a fourth year due to the vacancy. He has been a steady presence [whilst bringing a much needed sense of humour] but above all cares passionately for the life of this church and its people. With heart-felt gratitude Mark, for all that you have contributed.

Angela Bowman & Mark Croucher
Ss PJ Churchwardens

We would like to express our gratitude to all of our volunteers because their offerings do much to support and enhance the life of the Parish.

PCC AND WORKING GROUP REPORTS

PCC

The full PCC met 6 times during the year, with an average attendance of 80%. There were also several other gatherings in relation to the parish profile and appointment of a new vicar. Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has 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.

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 early months of 2024 was on creating a Parish Profile and person specification ready to advertise the post for a new incumbent, as well as going through the recruitment process to appoint a new parish administrator. Several months of 2024 were without both a vicar and parish administrator, and our thanks go to Fr Vernon, the Churchwardens and all those who took on additional work to ensure we could continue to thrive as a church.

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.

Lucy James
PCC Secretary

FINANCE GROUP

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 2024. The current committee comprises Hugh Saville (Chair), Jan Furze (PCC Treasurer), Mr Chris Raymond, Mark Johnson (Stewardship Recorder), Harriet Muir and Heather Clabon. Since our last report, Jane Lewis and John Barnes had resigned from the committee, but Heather Clabon had joined us.

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.

Hugh Saville
Finance Group Lead

ESTATES GROUP

The present committee of Chris Penson, Ian Clabon, Tim Furze, Harriet Muir, Chris Raymond, and Ian Swann have met regularly during the year. We are responsible to the Vicar or Wardens (during the interregnum) and the PCC for the maintenance and improvement of the Church building, Church Hall, and grounds. As usual it has been a busy year for the group.

In April the plinth for the second covid bench was laid down (north wall of church) together with the concreting of the area adjacent to the 'Guide Hut' and the bin area and the walk way between the hut and the hall. This improved the safety around this area by removing some of the different levels. The second covid bench was later fitted. During the summer the Hall was completely redecorated inside and the floor sanded and resealed. The outside was half done before the weather failed, to be completed weather permitted this year.

The continuous task of keeping the hedges trimmed, grass cut and grounds tidy is always with us. Thanks to Ron Hobbs who cuts the grass and Ian Swann for enhancing the look of the grounds (see Ian's report) The hedges have now been cut down to a more manageable height and all the brambles removed which were taking up much valued space. 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 the pathway from the church to the hall when funds are available.

Some of the projects under taken during the year included a defibrillator being fitted on the outside vestry wall together with a Post box so we can now obtain a post code for the church, an escape ladder is being fitted to the church upper office to provide alternative escape route. The Vicars 'names board' has been expanded by fitting a duplicate board next to the original. We have also fitted a bookcase at the back of the church to house the library.

The Church heating has survived yet another year and we have a budget approved for replacement of the boilers, but this may may not be as straight forward as we first thought due to the CofE quest to be net zero by 2030. The church floor continues to present problems and temporary repairs have been carried out on the areas of the grating. Substantial repairs will need to be carried out soon or a complete replacement of the floor as proposed by the re-ordering project.

Thanks to estates group and all those unnamed people who have contributed to the upkeep and well-being 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.

Chris Penson
Clerk of Works

EVENTS & HOSPITALITY GROUP

The E&H Group continues to be a valuable addition to the PCC Groups. By copy of the Meeting notes submitted to be included on the PCC Agendas, it puts forward suggestions for approval for fundraising events. E&H Group members arrange the advertising, selling of tickets, catering and other logistical elements required to run each event, together with others who assist on an ad hoc basis, for which we offer our thanks.

We would welcome additional members to join the Group to spread the work across more people and perhaps to be able to add additional events during the year.

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, setting up and organising raffles etc to make these enjoyable and profitable. They take place on the second Saturday of each month and raised £3,532 over the year, with an average of £295.00 per event.
- 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 2024 our grounds were open for 14 match days. Overall, £6,873.00 was raised, with an average of £490.00 per event.

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

- Quiz Night - Saturday 3rd February - 72 quizzers over 11 teams, with a profit of £801.00. Taking into account is the cost of stocking the bar which isn't always used, but is a cost against the profit figure.
- John & Mary Evans' Beetle Drive - Saturday 27th April - £413.00 profit with the added bonus of Mary's wonderful Bread & Butter Pudding!
- May Fair - Saturday 11th May - 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 £3,856.00.
- Quiz Night - Saturday 26th October - A repeated event in our calendar year as it's such a great evening and attended by a good mix of church and external supporters from the local community. We had 82 quizzers over 11 teams and made a profit of £1,166.00.

- Parish Christmas Lunch - Sunday 8th December - 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 £1,222.00 was made.

Refreshments at Services and other Events - These are an important part of our ministry. Thank you to all who assist, especially as some of the refreshments for these services are set up at the back of the church which make the logistics more labour intensive than holding them in the hall.

- Lenten Concert, with St Mary's Church, Teddington - Sunday 24th March
- Walk of Witness - Good Friday 29th March - with Hot Cross Buns and tea/coffee served to all who attended.
- Masonic Rose Croix Bi-Annual Service - Sunday 9th June. We received a generous £977.00 donation from the Freemasons for holding this at SsPJ for the use of the church and for serving refreshments post Service. Again, an outreach occasion for others to enjoy our beautiful church.
- Big Hymn Sing - Sunday 23rd June. This was another community outreach occasion and, whilst not a fundraiser, the sum of £39.00 was raised.
- Harvest Festival Brunch - Sunday 6th October. A light brunch of pastries served with the usual post-service coffee. A simple offering on the day of celebrating this Festival.
- SsPJ Service of Light - Sunday 10th November. An important part of ministry to those who have been bereaved within our community.
- T H Sanders Service of Light - Thursday 12th December. With limited input by this Group, nevertheless another important occasion for those who were invited to attend by T H Sanders.
- Chase Bridge Adult Choir - Sunday 3rd December - a wonderful concert with a very enjoyable repertoire. The school provided the refreshments, and we received a generous donation of £491.00, which was very kind of them.
- Service of Nine Lessons & Carols - Sunday 22nd December - with Mulled Wine & Mince Pies served afterwards. A modest profit of £68.00 was raised via kind donations.

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 - Angela Bowman, Mark Croucher, Jan & Tim Furze, Rosemary Hodi, Mark Johnson, Meena Mark, Anne-Marie Philp and Linda Schubert. We met six times during the year, as well as ad hoc specific organisational meetings. Thanks to all for their dedication in working towards making this a pro-active and enjoyable place for the enjoyment of all! All this within the period of an extended interregnum!

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 figure raised for Ss Philip & James across the year was £19,438.00 for all events with input by the Group.

Karen McKay
Events & Hospitality Group Lead

MINISTRY GROUP

During the year the Ministry Team met on alternate Thursdays. The team consisted of; Fr. Vernon Fray, Fr Christopher Henley, Peter Lee, Sue Hodder Hesling, Debby Johnson, Rosemary Hodi , Tim Furze, Angela Bowman, Elizabeth Malone

The purpose of these meetings was to ensure the continuous provision of timely and appropriate services. To this end:

1. A preaching and presiding rota was produced and kept up to date by Peter Lee [to include White Farm Lodge]
2. Additional clergy were contacted and included when cover was needed for Fr. Vernon and/or Fr Christopher
3. Seasonal services, eg. Easter, were formatted and any additional provision made for extra and/or different services.
4. Provision of music was considered and reviewed.
5. Services were discussed and reviewed where necessary and included new ideas brought forward, Lent courses for example.
6. Any practical points relating to the smooth running of the services were raised and considered, eg the sound system, streaming, accessibility for those less mobile.
7. Notification was given of services such as funerals and Baptisms to ensure their smooth running.

This group will be operating slightly differently from now on with smaller numbers meeting with the Vicar as appropriate.

Angela Bowman
Churchwarden

WORSHIP, MISSION AND OUTREACH

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:

Year	Sunday Holy Communion 8.00am	Sunday Parish Eucharist 9.30am	Thursday Morning Eucharist 9.30am
2018	16	85	7
2019	17	87	10
2020 (Zoom)	Nil		38
2021 (Zoom)	Nil		46
2022	9	70	8
2023	10	73	9
2024 (Interregnum)	9	69	9

In 2024 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 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)

Year	Easter Sunday	Harvest Festival	Crib Service	Midnight Mass	Family Christmas Eucharist
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
2024 (Interregnum)	106	106	129	80	44

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).

Year	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals held in church
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
2024 (Interregnum)	10	0	5

Tim Furze
SsPJ Sacristan

MISSION AND EVANGELISM

Please see the Trustees' Annual Report 2024

PASTORAL CARE AND OUTREACH

Please see the Trustees' Annual Report 2024

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

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 him 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 year we welcomed 21 guests, also 4 full lunches were delivered to former guests who are now housebound and unable to attend the lunch in the Hall. 10 volunteers who would normally be alone on Christmas Day also had Lunch. 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.

Jacquie Saville

Churches Together in Whitton - Parish Representative

HOME GROUPS MINISTRY

The Pilgrim Groups at SsPJ started in March 2014, so 2024 was our 10th Anniversary year of bible study meetings. Those 10 years included the pandemic which meant switching in 2020 from meeting in homes to meeting on-line. In 2024 we had three groups meeting in the evenings online, on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays and one group meeting monthly in person.

Although the faces may have changed, the number of people participating has remained steady over the past five years with 22 regular people attending in 2024 spread across the meetings compared with 23 in 2020.

We continue to have participants from St Augustine Whitton, St Stephen Hounslow, and as far afield as Reading, as well as members of our congregation at Ss Philip & James. In total 95 meetings were held in 2024 involving 468 attendances, compared with 101 meetings in 2023 involving 487 attendances.

A table of meetings and attendances over the past 5 years is below:

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Meetings	74	114	101	101	95
Attendances	511	645	582	487	468
Individuals	23	23	34*	25	24*

*Includes additional participators in Lent Course

The subjects covered by the groups in 2024 were: The Pilgrim Course Book, Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John and the Old Testament books of Job and Esther. In Lent we looked at eight Psalms and during Advent we covered two chapters from Isaiah. 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 or 07913 214120.

Peter Lee
LLM and Home Groups Chaplain

DEANERY SYNOD

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 is Area Dean and Mr Tony Dixon is the Lay Chair. The SS Philip and James Hampton Deanery Synod representatives are Rosemary Hodi and Anne-Marie Philp (who is also the Hampton Deanery Synod Secretary).

The Hampton Deanery Synod had three meetings during 2024:

- February meeting at St Mary's Church, Hampton where the main topic was the Role of the Diocesan Secretary and the Diocese Group Discussions given by the recently appointed Diocesan Secretary Oliver Home;
- May meeting at St Augustine of Canterbury Church, Whitton where the main topic was Passionate Communities and the invited speaker was Alison Tsang (Diocesan Head of Passionate Communities). The Deanery also prayed for the Reverend Canon John Kafwanka who left St Augustine's in the summer to become the next Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Zambia;
- November meeting at the Church of St Mary with St Alban, Teddington where the main topic was Love Matters - the Archbishops' Commission on families and households, and the invited speaker was Reverend Mary Hawes (St Mary with St Albans) who had been part of the third commission.

Anne-Marie Philp
Hampton Deanery Synod - Parish Representative

FINANCE REPORT

Please see the Trustees' Annual Report 2024



Jan Furze
PCC Treasurer

MINISTRY AND PARISH REPORTS

CHOIR AND ORGAN

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 from Palestrina to Jon Paige via Mozart, Schubert and Walford Davis.

Special events have included singing at the RSCM Choral Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral, and in our own church, Music Sunday and the Big Hymn Sing. It was lovely to have our ranks swelled by Elizabeth, Sarah and Sally when they could join us, and to have some memorable solos from volunteers at Communion during August, which is our choir holiday, and beautiful solos from Poppy and Francesca at Christmas.

In the summer, Poppy decided that she needed to step back from singing on a regular basis as her school commitments had increased but we were delighted that she managed to join us for Remembrance Sunday where she and Constantin sang together. We would like to thank Poppy for all her loyalty to the church choir over many years. Choir members are always welcome to return to the ranks whenever they can and it was super to have Sophie (and Carys) join us at Christmas.

In September we said a sad goodbye to Samuel, our organ scholar, as he (most inconsiderately!) decided to take up a university place at St John's, Oxford. It was great to welcome him back to join us with Sophie and Carys for the Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols and we look forward to hearing him play from time to time when he is home.

As Samuel left, we welcomed Joshua as our new organ scholar, and he has successfully played some hymns and beautiful piano voluntaries to enhance our worship. It is very encouraging to see the progress of these young people.

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, Rachel Pickering, Roy Mackintosh and Angela Bowman for their invaluable playing for both practices and services and to all who generously contributed to the organ repairs.

Rosemary Hodi - Director of Music

JUNIOR CHURCH

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

Numbers are variable, but we have 10 regular families and contact with over 20 families who come occasionally. We generally have between 8 and 14 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.

Our sessions involve prayer, news, songs, games, a story and a craft or activity. We have currently been 'Adventuring with Jesus', which has involved journeying to different places and experiencing some of the key events/stories of Jesus. 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, most recently 'Harvest Samba' and 'It was on a starry night'.

Junior church members read in church during the family service, and they are keen to be part of the coffee rota. The children enjoyed being part of the Christmas Eve crib service and this year we were so grateful to Linda Schubert for making fantastic costumes and to Barrie Edwards for helping with the script and props and stage directions!!

We aim to have 3 social events a year - film night, park and picnic and games in church grounds. We are hoping these events will take place this year.

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.

Katherine Cowling - Sunday School Lead

PJWYG

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 eighth year. We aim to meet once a month.

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

Highlights of our year:

- Meeting together and sharing food, laughter and faith talk
- Kensington Area Youth Event in March, hosted by St John's Hampton Wick
- May Fair games and entertainment
- Baptism of Danial Abbas
- Volunteering for Church Rugby Parking
- Leading the Christingle Service at the start of Advent

Lowlights of our year (including some tears):

- Saying farewell to Samuel, who left for university (although he frequently returns)

In 2025 we are looking forward to:

- Continuing meeting together and sharing food, laughter and faith talk
- Getting to know our new vicar, Kate O'Sullivan
- Another Youth Service > we need to get a date in the diary
- May Fair games and entertainment

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, for the contribution they make to our worshipping community.

Gavin Cowling & Lucy James - Youth Leaders



BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ

2024 has proven to be yet another rewarding year for the Bereavement Café.

In total we have had 30 visits this year, 23 of those visits were from Ladies and 7 were from Gentlemen. Out of those 30 visits, 17 different individuals have attended and have benefited from this ministry.

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 now have a team of 9 trained volunteers which includes myself. We are split into two groups and each volunteer team, led by myself, attends alternate months. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Bereavement volunteer team for their hard work and commitment to this ministry and for their continued support. This is very much a team ministry and it is due to their dedication and commitment that it is proving so successful.

There has been a decrease in the numbers of people attending in 2024 we had 61 visits in 2023, compared to 30 in 2024. This could be due to the fact that the church has been in interregnum up until recently, and consequently less funerals took place. I am hoping that now we have our new vicar Kate in place that she will help to promote this ministry and our numbers will increase.

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 2025.

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

Sue Hodder-Hesling - LLM and Pastoral Minister

SPACE CAFÉ

During 2024, Space Café has continued to meet in the hall on the 3rd Thursday of the month (except August and December). The main aim of Space Café is to provide an afternoon of good company, refreshments, and board games for anyone who wants to spend an afternoon meeting people and enjoying each other's company.



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 or 07913 214120.

Peter Lee - LLM and Home Groups Chaplain

COFFEE MORNINGS

This popular monthly community event is a regular fund raiser for the church. A variety of breakfast rolls are available, hot drinks, a raffle, book swap and on occasions sale items such as homemade jams, cards and plants. Taking place on the second Saturday each month, we have managed to raise £3270.00 in the past year and have made many new friends.

Tim Furze and Diana Sell

PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Parish Christmas Lunch 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 socially. 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 sellout. We also enjoy a raffle and a round of Christmas songs or a game of bingo. All proceeds go to parish funds

Tim and Jan Furze

PINTS OF VIEW

Pints of View is now in its twelfth year, that's one gross of curries and countless pints of beer. The fact it has been going this long must mean that its a good night out. At last month's pints of view there was lots of laughter which must be a good thing in this age of doom, gloom and uncertainty. So come on chaps, join us at 8pm on the first Monday of the month at 'The Nelson' and then onto 'The Spice' for a curry [optional].

Mike Clarke

BABY AND ME

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

Average attendance during 2024 was 8 families per session and we met on 37 occasions.

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 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 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!

Anna Benson

FIREFLIES

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.

We are grateful to everyone who helps to run this group and thank them for their time and support.

CHURCH GROUNDS

The grounds are very much part of the church a place where people visit and enjoy the calm, I have met a number of people over the years who visit and enjoy the respite of stillness. Well-kept grounds are an advertisement for a welcoming church. Many thanks to Harry and others who have helped with gardening and with litter picking.

Work carried out includes planting floribunda bush rose Mango have been planted on the sunny south side, tree lily bulbs are behind the north side memorial bench and on the west side of the church.

A new bed has been formed by the new rear hall exit; this has been planted with plant donations from members of the congregation for which many thanks.

There are repairs needed to the raised beds; these beds prevent parking under the trees to protect the tree roots while providing some colour. Other work includes tidying the church hall beds, the Calla Aethiopica need to be divided and spread out, the dividing rosemary dividing hedge in the memorial garden will require moving elsewhere. A young tree that was gifted to the church is to be planted in the north east corner of the grounds at a suitable time.

In the future I will be looking after the pruning and general maintenance tasks in the memorial garden so there is no need for anyone else to touch the garden please speak to me if you have any issues regarding the plants in this garden.

Ian Swann

100 & ALPHABET CLUBS

The 100 and Alphabet Clubs have continued to be successful during 2024, 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. In December 2024 Francesca James, supported by Lucy James, agreed to take on the coordination of the clubs from January 2025. Please speak to Francesca or Lucy if you are interested in joining the 100 or Alphabet Club.

Debby Johnson

BISHOP PERRIN CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The last 12 months have been an eventful time at Bishop Perrin, and have seen a number of changes. Fr David stood down as Chair of Governors last July and has been replaced by Alwyn Williams, one of our St Augustine's Foundation governors. Lucy James and Russell Nimmo continue to serve as SS P&J Foundation governors and play an active part in the life of the School.

This year Mr Corke, the Headteacher, has taken a further secondment, this time to support a Junior school in Hampton Wick, at the request of the London Diocese. In fact, he will not be returning to BP as he has recently been appointed Headteacher to a larger Primary school in Teddington as from September. We would like to thank him for all his dedicated service to BP over so many years, congratulate him on his new appointment and wish him well for the future.

The governors have started the process of appointing a new Headteacher for BP. The appointment of a new Headteacher does not usually take quite as long as the appointment of a new vicar, but!

In the meantime, Miss Macklearn and Miss McAvoy, as Interim Head and Interim Deputy Head respectively, have ensured that the School continues to progress. We would like to thank them for their hard work and vision.

Following on from the School's Outstanding Ofsted inspection last year, in February BP underwent a SIAMS inspection. (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools.) This is completely separate from Ofsted and examines explicitly how effectively the School provides a good Christian education and strong Christian ethos. The School was graded as 'living up to its foundation as a Church school and as enabling pupils and adults to flourish'. This sounds a rather bland judgement, but is, in fact, the highest grade awarded under SIAMS, the equivalent of Ofsted's Outstanding. The full report goes into much more detail and can be found on the School website (click on 'Our School', then 'Ofsted and SIAMS reports'). We hope you may be able to find a few minutes to read the full report as there is so much there to celebrate. We really do have every reason to feel extremely proud of our local church school. Well done to all of the staff and children!

Last, but certainly not least, everyone at BP looks forward to welcoming Kate as part of the wider school community, and to reinforcing the strong links between BP and SS P&J which everyone at the school values so much.

Russell Nimmo - SsPJ Foundation Governor

WOMEN'S GROUP

2024 proved to be another very busy year for the Women's Group. We welcomed 7 new members and sadly bid farewell to 2 of our members - Jean Errington and Bunny Kisby.

We hosted a variety of speakers on topics such as To Fall or not to Fall and Ceramics and audio visual presentations on Swinging London in the 60's and Behind the Scenes at Hampton Court. We also had some interesting demonstrations including Perfume Making, Jewellery Making, Chair Yoga and Christmas Wreath making.

We visited the wonderful Freemasons Hall in June and learned from our guide Colin that the hall had been built as a memorial to the members who died in World War I and contains a shrine to the fallen. In September we had a coach trip to Brighton - some of us went off to shop in The Lanes, others went up to the top of the I360 and some just had coffee followed by lunch near the sea front - but all agreed it was a lovely day to be beside the sea. November saw us off on a coach trip firstly to stop for fish and chips, then for a fantastic tour of the London Christmas lights with an interesting commentary from our driver Andy. Our annual trip to The Mill at Sonning did not disappoint and lunch, followed by the musical White Christmas 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 Park Lane Stables, Riding for the Disabled Association in Teddington who are an award winning centre with a wide programme of activities, including assisted riding, horse care, carriage driving, equine therapy and hippotherapy - our £1,000 donation 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 £312.50 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 £263 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 our theme was Bringing the Sunshine into January - we all made the effort to wear bright colours - even The Teddington Ukulele Players who entertained us with their uplifting songs. Our fantastic buffet with an extensive array of desserts went down a treat with our members and guests, as did our quizzical quizzes.

Jo McEwan

UNIFORMED GROUPS

On Tuesday evenings during school terms, we meet in Ss Philip + James Church Hall. There are over 20 girls from 10-14 years old regularly attending. We participate in a wide variety of activities, including cookery, craft, and games, working towards our badges. We like using the church grounds for more energetic games, fire lighting and tent building.

Last year there were several weekend camps - Walton Firs, Paxmead Riverside and Windsor. Over the last few months, we have been raising money to fund a 10-day International Camp to Switzerland in Summer 2025, which we are all looking forward to.

In Guides we grow in confidence, learn leadership skills, make lots of friends and have an amazing time.

Thank you to our leaders, Sally, Jen, and Holly. Thank you to Ss Philip + James for letting us use your lovely hall.

Carys Cowling - 1st A Whitton Guides Member