

St James the Great, Claydon  
ANNUAL REPORT  
May 8<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Aims and Objectives:**

The Parochial Church Council of St James the Great holds the responsibility of working alongside the incumbent to promote the whole mission of the church. It has responsibility for the maintenance of the church and churchyard and has shared responsibility of the Church Room with the Church Room Committee.

**PCC Members:**

Angela Ferguson, Keith Hamilton, Adele Al Anazi and Janice Hamilton

**Worship**

In 2023, Shires Edge Benefice was in a period of interregnum as we awaited the appointment of a new vicar. During this time, St James was supported well by Bishop Jonathan, Sue Upton and Sarah Sharp. The PCC give our heartfelt thanks to the ministry team who helped us maintain our regular services as well as being there for any help and advice we have needed.

Interviews for the new incumbent were held on 7<sup>th</sup> June and we were most delighted that Revd Sarah Fenby was appointed. Sarah's licensing and installation was on 6<sup>th</sup> September in Wardington and was well represented by Claydon. Refreshments were served afterwards, and it was a very happy and joyous occasion.

For the last three months of the year our usual pattern of services continued, together with the introduction of a daily 9:00am Morning Prayer around the benefice with Claydon having a Tuesday morning. This continues with a small but dedicated group of worshippers each week.

St James celebrated a Family Harvest Festival on 17<sup>th</sup> September with evening prayer followed by refreshments, which was enjoyed by villagers.

A Remembrance Service was held on 12<sup>th</sup> November led by Bishop Jonathan. It began at 10:55 at the War Memorial where wreaths and poppies were laid by the Parish Council and parishioners.

Three Christmas services were well attended- a Carol Service, followed by mince pies and mulled wine and a Christmas Day Communion were led by Bishop Jonathan. On Christmas Eve, a very lively and joyous crib service led by Revd Sarah was followed by biscuits, mince pies and mulled wine.

A group of 14 adults and children sang carols and Christmas songs around the village.

Keith Hamilton designed a Christmas card which was sent from the PCC to villagers wishing them a Happy Christmas and outlining the Christmas services.

Moving forward, a new pattern of services for the Benefice was accepted by the Benefice at the churchwarden's meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. Claydon now has an 11:00am service and a 4:00pm service each month. The afternoon service gives flexibility for different ways to gather. So far, the new pattern of services has worked successfully.

**Fabric**

Following our Quinquennial Inspection where priorities were outlined, a scheme of works has been drawn up. In 2023 the following works have been completed:

- Tiles have been refixed to the pulpit and chancel floor
- The wall to the west boundary was repaired.
- The soffit boarding to the underside of the chancel ceiling was repaired.
- The fillet flashing to the chancel roof south was repaired.
- The fillet flashing to the vestry was repaired.

- The hole in the Lady Chapel roof was repaired and the stones field slates were replaced. The ceiling in the Lady Chapel was made good.
- 20 concrete tiles were replaced to the Lady Chapel roof.
- The hole in the tower wall was repaired.
- The springing to the floor in the choir stalls was investigated and boards replaced.

There was a very good church spring clean on 24<sup>th</sup> March and many villagers from the Community Group came along to help. Many thanks to Victoria Pearce for co-ordinating this.

With the help of the Community group, the Church Room was completely redecorated in November.

The kitchen has been improved and new curtains have been purchased. A wine and nibbles evening was held in January to say thank you to all those who have helped with the work.

We have two current projects. One is to resurface the path around the church and church room, and we are very grateful for the contribution from the Parish Council towards this work. The second is to have the church clock chiming again and a faculty to the Diocese has been submitted for their consideration.

St James is about to sign up for Eco Church.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow PCC members who have worked generously and given their time and commitment to keep St James running smoothly. A special thank you to Angela who does a wonderful job keeping our finances in order and who also does so much work behind the scenes. Thank you, Adele, for your work on posters and social media and to Keith for his work on the fabric of the church. His expertise and craftsmanship have meant that much of the work carried out to address the Quinquennial priorities has been at no cost to St James.

I would like to thank Victoria Pearce for her eco commitment, cleaning, and flowers. Also, Vicki and Georgia Smith who support our services and often supply delicious treats for our refreshments.

Thanks to Rebecca Meyrick for her continued support of St James in many different ways. Finally, thanks to Mike Smith for auditing our accounts.

This has been an eventful year in the life of St James. The interregnum brought the Benefice together and resulted in each of the parishes having a better understanding of each other. We are delighted with Revd. Sarah's appointment, and she has worked hard to get to know each of the parishes.

Sarah's enthusiasm is infectious and her pastoral work within the village is really appreciated.

In the short time that she has been in post, Sarah's work has had significant impact. Her dedication and commitment to St James has given us all a very positive and optimistic vision for the future.

Janice Hamilton  
May 2024