

# St James Alperton

“Standing on the rock of Jesus.  
Shining His light to all we meet.”



Focused on Jesus  
Loving in our relationships  
Resilient in Mission

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# Our History

St James was founded in 1904 as a plant from St John's Wembley to reach brick workers on the fields, along the canal. It began as a tented mission in St James's Gardens. A Gothic-style church was built and was consecrated in 1912.



This was demolished in 1988 as it was no longer fit for purpose and a new modern church was built on the same site. Many of the features from the original church have been integrated into the new church design.

St James has always been an evangelical church with a local mission. We continue to be rooted in the evangelical tradition of the Church of England. As a community we encourage prayer to discern God's will in our big and day to day decisions, we look to the Holy Spirit to fill us and enable us through gifts and presence.



The church has changed greatly since 1912 as the surrounding parish make up has changed. St James has long sought to be relevant to its diverse parishioners and this led to the creation of separate services for Tamil and Urdu/Hindi services.





Our service pattern changed during Covid from four different language services on a Sunday to a single service with several languages spoken and sung. After lockdown, the PCC took the decision to continue with one service so that we worship as one church family.

Opinions are still divided on this decision and the new incumbent will need to engage with the PCC and congregation creatively and compassionately, listening carefully to the journey travelled on this issue since 2020 and helping us move forward together.

Reaching back to St James' founding commission, our longing is to share the Gospel with the very different Alperton of today. From the strong base of our commitment to intercultural prayer, worship, fellowship and witness, we want to grasp with fresh energy the opportunities for mission and service to the local community in our richly diverse part of London. Could you join us in our vision for intercultural ministry helping us to navigate any obstacles on that journey, and fire us up for continuing Gospel growth including our ministry to children, young people and their families as well as our other outreaches into our community?

# The Vicar we are Praying for...

God has led St James on an amazing journey and we are praying for someone who understands that we are travelling together but that none of us have arrived.

St James has a strong tradition of listening to God for direction and we are looking for someone who can help us to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to us about our next steps.

We are looking for someone who fits the following profile:-

- a priest who is prayerful, servant hearted and compassionate, able to delegate and to motivate others
- a passion for the Bible, able to communicate, teach and inspire others to grow spiritually by showing them how to apply the Bible to modern life
- the discernment to help the church share the vision and direction that God is calling us to take (particularly thinking of the intercultural ethos)
- the ability to embrace and foster a culture of generosity and hospitality, allowing all the space to experience God in ways that are authentic
- an understanding of the meaning of community and our church's role in it, both internally and beyond the walls
- the skill to continue and develop the church's intercultural identity
- sympathetic to different styles of worship and expressions of church
- the ability to manage and motivate a wide range of volunteer leaders.



# Our Services

## Intercultural Holy Communion service – 10.30am on Sundays

This is the main church service and follows the traditional structure of a Church of England service.

However, the service is far from traditional and is in fact groundbreaking and new.



Songs are sung in multiple languages; the Bible is read in other languages and people are encouraged to pray in their mother tongues. This makes the service more welcoming and inclusive to people from different cultures. This has resulted in St James's having a truly diverse congregation which is more reflective of the local parish ethnic breakdown. We would like the new vicar to find creative ways to incorporate the liturgical calendar into our worship.



On the first Sunday of each month, we share food together cooked by one of the cultural groups represented in our congregation. Since 2023 we have shared Caribbean, Tamil, Gujarati, South African, Bulgarian, English, Iranian and Chinese food.



## “Spaces”

These meet immediately after the Sunday service and many of these are led by members of the congregation. They last about 45mins to an hour. The aim of these is for members of the community to develop relationships with each other.



The most successful of these is the knitting group, which has blessed the community with an Easter post box topper and blankets for nursing homes. They are currently working on hats for premature babies.



Other spaces are card making, Worship\*, prayer walking and Lectio Divina



\*The worship spaces are used for mono-cultural worship (English and Tamil currently). These spaces are used to explain the sermon for those where English is their second or even third language, or just to sing songs in their mother tongue and to pray for each other. It is also a space that identify gifts and talents and to affirm up and coming leaders.

## Holy Communion service in English – 10.30am on Wednesdays

A smaller number of people attend this service, a large proportion of these being people who are not working. Once a month the service follows the “Book of Common Prayer.”

This is a more traditional service where the priest is usually robed.

The group has developed a link with the NHS who have been running health checks and chair-based exercises following the service.

# Our Church Committee

The current PCC is a cross-section of the multi-culturalism within the congregation. They meet approximately 7 times a year including a day away to look at our journey so far, and to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us on the next stage of the journey.

## **Safeguarding**

We currently have a very proactive Safeguarding Officer, who ensures safeguarding training is up-to-date.

## **Sub-committees**

There are a number of sub-committees and each member of the PCC is expected to be a part of at least one of the sub-committees.

- Finance Committee
- Building Committee
- Youth & Children's Committee
- Missions Committee
- Festival & Catering Committee

## **Common Fund**

We are a parish that has in the past aspired to pay the full Common Fund. Sadly, in 2023 after the pandemic, many of our regular givers moved away and the PCC reluctantly made the decision to reduce the amount we pay in Common Fund to £68,475 with the aspiration to return to full payment in stages as soon as is possible.



# Our Community

## **Guides/Brownies/Girls Brigade**

St James has a long history of working alongside community organisations working with children and young women.



Brownies, Guides and Girl's Brigade meet in our building and do community service which benefits the church. They are particularly involved in our yearly Remembrance Sunday service and do acts of service for the community.

## **English Classes**

For the last nine years, we have offered free English classes to the community. Church members teach small groups from the community twice a week. Students are mostly Gujarati with a sprinkling from other communities.

One church member came to faith and was baptised through this ministry.

## **Healing on the Streets**

For around ten years, we have taken our banner to the Ealing Road, sung and worshipped in our different languages and offered prayer for healing. We have seen many people come to faith through this ministry although it has been difficult to maintain during the vacancy.

## Pentecost Party



On Pentecost Sunday, we invite the community to share the day with us as we celebrate the birth of the Church.

Everything is themed around the Holy Spirit: fire and wind: BBQ, face-painting, bouncy castle and healing prayer tent.



As members of the community go by, they are invited to have some food, the children to play on the bouncy castle, the community police are also invited. Members of the local churches join us for food after they have finished their Pentecost march.

## Knitting Space



The knitting space has looked for ways to impact the community. We have made blankets for local nursing homes and a post box topper last Easter which was the cause of many conversations with local people.

## Hall Rentals

Our building is used throughout the week by a private nursery, De Silva Taekwondo, A foster carers group and a therapeutic counsellor. We have also rented the halls for birthday and anniversary parties.

These bring needed income into the church and also give us opportunities to interact with our local community.

# Our Parish

## Our location

The church is in the middle of Alperton, a welcoming, vibrant and low crime area. It is situated just off the Ealing Road, a lively, Indian shopping area.



The area has multiple Indian restaurants, supermarkets and grocery shops. There is a library, a Post Office, 5 churches, a temple and the Ace Café.

Alperton has good transport links, and the church is walking distance from Alperton, Stonebridge Park and Wembley Central Underground stations. There are buses running up the Ealing Road going to Harrow, Ealing and other parts of Brent. It is close to Wembley Stadium



**Alperton Community School** (Yrs 7 to 13). The academic progress of the school places it in the top 3% of schools at GCSE. It has an Ofsted scoring Good with Outstanding Leadership and Management.

### **Lyon Park Infant and Junior Schools**

These have an Ofsted scoring of good. The report says pupils are happy, kept safe, behave well, strive

to “Go for Gold” and the curriculum prepares pupils well for the next stage of their education.

## **Pre-school.**

There are several private playgroups/nurseries in the parish, one of which is currently run within our Church Centre.

## **Leisure**

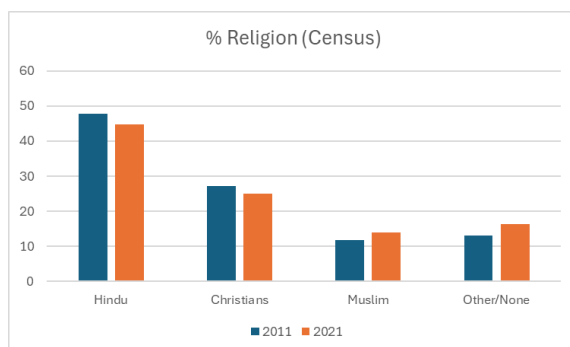
Alperton has several parks and is walking distance from Horsenden Hill. The Grand Union Canal (Paddington Branch) runs through the parish, offering cycling and walking opportunities. Alperton also has gyms, cafes and plenty of restaurants. Wembley Stadium is on our borders.

## Our People



Alperton is predominantly Indian Hindu, with a large, long-standing diaspora of people from the Gujarat. Tamils, from India and Sri Lanka, are newer Alperton residents. After English, Gujarati and Tamil are the three main languages

spoken. Although from time to time we have had other languages, i.e. Bulgarian, Farsi, etc. Not all people in the church/community speak English.

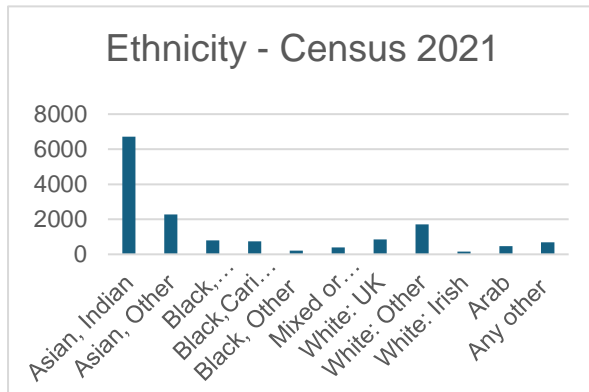


The 2021 Census shows the religion makeup of the area is changing with a decrease in both Hindu and Christians and an increase in Muslims and other/none.



Part of the parish is a development area, with several high-rise tower blocks. Undoubtedly, this will have an impact on the Parish demographics by the 2034 Census





Our congregation reflects and celebrates the ethnic diversity of our local community with members coming from different backgrounds, however Asian Indian ethnicity is currently under-represented in our church, undoubtedly partly due to the large percentage of the locality who are Hindus.

## Our Vicarage



St James' vicarage is a modern, 5-bedroom building adjacent to the church. It is a well-maintained, spacious home with an adjoining garage.

Four bedrooms are doubles with one smaller bedroom previously used as an extra study. One bedroom has an annex from it which has been used as an additional bedroom in the past.

The house has boarded attic space for storage.

There is a large garden surrounding the house on all sides. There are fruit trees including walnut, apple and damson.





# Appendices

## 2023 Accounts

### St James Church Alperton

#### Analysis of Receipts and Payments

Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
<b>Receipts</b>						
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>						
0201 - Other Planned Giving	£2159.00	-	-	-	£2159.00	£4166.75
0202 - Envelope	£5745.10	-	-	-	£5745.10	£4573.30
0301 - Plate	£5424.69	-	-	-	£5424.69	£5941.93
0302 - Gift Aid	£560.00	-	-	-	£560.00	-
0553 - Focus For Worship	-	-	-	-	-	-
0601 - Gift Aid Refund	-	-	-	-	-	£12500.00
1031 - Monthly Standing Orders	£28665.25	-	-	-	£28665.25	£54850.33
1258 - CAF Payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
1264 - Sunday School collection	-	-	-	-	-	-
1214 - Toddler Group- Accorns	-	-	-	-	-	-
0109 - Direct Giving Donations	£12354.25	-	-	-	£12354.25	£16880.00
0120 - CBS Deposit Fund Interest	-	-	-	-	-	£947.00
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds Totals</b>	<b>£54908.29</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£54908.29</b>	<b>£99859.31</b>
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>						
0113 - Miscellaneous Income	£200.00	-	-	-	£200.00	£4100.00
0554 - Flowers	-	-	-	-	-	£110.00
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities Totals</b>	<b>£200.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£200.00</b>	<b>£4210.00</b>
<b>Other incoming resources</b>						
0111 - Rent From Tae Kwon Do	£20633.30	-	-	-	£20633.30	£17561.14
0112 - Rent From Kumon	-	-	-	-	-	-
0114 - Church Fees	-	-	-	-	-	£512.00
0115 - Clergy Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
0117 - Telephone Coin Box	-	-	-	-	-	-
0118 - Memorabilia	£500.00	-	-	-	£500.00	£2000.00
0119 - Other Income	£815.00	-	-	-	£815.00	£60.00
1020 - Bank Interest	-	-	-	-	-	£872.00
1030 - Rent From Nursery	£12729.66	-	-	-	£12729.66	£17237.63
1230 - Mis- Church Hall lettings	£8983.50	-	-	-	£8983.50	£1677.50
1260 - Income from Magazines	-	-	-	-	-	-
1261 - Income from bookstall	-	-	-	-	-	-
1262 - Income from copier	-	-	-	-	-	-
1265 - Social Events	-	-	-	-	-	-
1266 - Funeral Services	£1315.00	-	-	-	£1315.00	£1030.05
<b>Other incoming resources Totals</b>	<b>£44976.46</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£44976.46</b>	<b>£40950.32</b>
<b>Receipts Grand Totals</b>	<b>£100084.75</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£100084.75</b>	<b>£145019.63</b>

## Payments

					Total	
	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
0123 - 19 Bowrons Avenue-Interest & Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-
0124 - 19 Bowrons Avenue-Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-
0125 - Vicarage-Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-
0126 - Vicar Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
0127 - Curate Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
0128 - Assistant Minister Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
0129 - NSM Expenses/Amelia	-	-	-	-	-	-
0130 - Parish Administrator	£152.59	-	-	-	£152.59	-
0131 - Parish Assistant	-	-	-	-	-	-
2331 - Cleaning	£9323.94	-	-	-	£9323.94	£11931.75
2530 - Electricity/Gas/Water	£14949.18	-	-	-	£14949.18	£6364.23
2720 - Repairs, Maintenance	£8994.19	-	-	-	£8994.19	£5966.96
0122 - Diocese-LDF Fund	£64500.00	-	-	-	£64500.00	£63900.00
0132 - Church Office Phone	£1077.96	-	-	-	£1077.96	£979.01
0133 - Stationery & Printing	£601.25	-	-	-	£601.25	£466.00
0135 - Photocopying	-	-	-	-	-	£780.36
0136 - PCC Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
0144 - Church Insurance	£2099.39	-	-	-	£2099.39	£2223.55
0167 - Catering	£1324.27	-	-	-	£1324.27	£458.56
2531 - Contingencies	£299.02	-	-	-	£299.02	£3327.48
2721 - Depreciation for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cost of generating funds Totals</b>	<b>£103321.79</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£103321.79</b>	<b>£96397.90</b>
<b>Charitable activities</b>						
0149 - Training	-	-	-	-	-	-
0150 - Teaching	-	-	-	-	-	-
0152 - Evangelism	£900.91	-	-	-	£900.91	-
0158 - Pastoral Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-
1801 - Mission Tithe	£6000.00	-	-	-	£6000.00	£12000.00
2342 - Music; Service Worship	-	-	-	-	-	-
2343 - Cafe Church	£358.11	-	-	-	£358.11	-
2503 - Youth/Children/SWAY	-	-	-	-	-	£2735.00
2504 - Church Flowers	£154.87	-	-	-	£154.87	£59.61
2722 - Caribbean Hurricane Relief	-	-	-	-	-	-
2723 - Relief Fund Collections	-	-	-	-	-	-
2724 - Payments to Hope of Glory Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	£13000.00
2725 - Payments to RE & R Telford	-	-	-	-	-	£1200.00
2726 - Donations to ALMA	-	-	-	-	-	-
2727 - Cheques to St James	-	-	-	-	-	-
2728 - South Asia Concern	-	-	-	-	-	-
2729 - Open Doors	-	-	-	-	-	£1000.00
2730 - Barnabas Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
2731 - OM for R & R Sharp	-	-	-	-	-	-
2732 - CMS	-	-	-	-	-	-
2733 - British Youth for Christ	-	-	-	-	-	-
2734 - AGAPE	-	-	-	-	-	£1000.00
2735 - Salvation Army	-	-	-	-	-	£1000.00
2736 - Twyford Trust Chaplaincy	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Charitable activities Totals</b>	<b>£7413.89</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£7413.89</b>	<b>£31994.61</b>
<b>Governance costs</b>						

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
0137 - Accountancy & Audit Fees	£2580.00	-	-	-	£2580.00	£2910.00
<b>Governance costs Totals</b>	<b>£2580.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£2580.00</b>	<b>£2910.00</b>
<b>Other resources used</b>						
0140 - Payphone	-	-	-	-	-	-
0141 - Consumables	£579.67	-	-	-	£579.67	£1049.98
0143 - Sound System	-	-	-	-	-	-
0145 - Bank Charges	£141.37	-	-	-	£141.37	£186.85
0146 - Church Insurance Claim	-	-	-	-	-	-
0147 - Caretaker	-	-	-	-	-	-
0153 - Subscriptions	£351.88	-	-	-	£351.88	£2126.54
0155 - Focus For Worship	-	-	-	-	-	-
0156 - CBF General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
0157 - Seniors' Ministry	-	-	-	-	-	-
0159 - Social Event (Urdu)	-	-	-	-	-	-
2507 - Social Events	-	-	-	-	-	£20.67
<b>Other resources used Totals</b>	<b>£1072.92</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£1072.92</b>	<b>£3384.04</b>
<b>Payments Grand Totals</b>	<b>£114388.60</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£114388.60</b>	<b>£134686.55</b>