

St
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WEST BROMWICH

To know Jesus and make Him known

St James and St Paul's



APPCM

2026

Contents

Agenda	2
Vicars Report	3
Safeguarding	5
Church Wardens Report	6
Create and Cake	7
Children's and Youth Ministry	7
Deanery Synod	9
46th Sandwell Scouts	9
Bible Study	10
Finance Report	11
Minutes of Vestry and APCM meeting 2026	14

Agenda

Vestry Meeting.

1. appointment of a secretary
2. Accepting the minutes
3. Appointment of Wardens,

APCM

1. Appointment of secretary
2. Accepting the minutes
3. Vicars Report
4. Accepting the finance report,
5. Elections to the PCC
6. Safeguarding
7. AOB

(Please give any Any Other Business to Mark at least 36 hours before the meeting)

Vicars Report

Looking back and forward.

As we look back over this past year, there is so much to thank God for. That does not mean everything has been easy, or that there have not been challenges, but it does mean that we can see God's kindness to us again and again.

Over the past three years, we have been thinking together about taking *One More Step*. Not a massive leap. Not trying to do everything all at once. But asking, prayerfully and honestly: what is the next faithful step the Lord is calling me to take?

We have thought about taking one more step to pray for a friend. Not just hoping people will come to know Jesus, but actually bringing people before the Lord in prayer, asking that He would open hearts, open doors, and give us courage to speak of Christ.

We have thought about taking one more step to bring a Bible. That may sound simple, but it matters. We want to be a church where the Bible is not just something read from the front, but something we open, follow, trust, and live by. We want to be shaped by God's word.

And this year, I want to encourage us to take *One more step... to meet together*.

[Let's] not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25

Meeting together as God's people is not just a nice extra when we have time. It is part of how God keeps us going. We need the Lord, and we need one another. We need to hear God's word together. We need to pray together. We need to sing together. We need to encourage one another, especially when life is hard, faith feels weak, or the world feels heavy.

So my encouragement for the coming year is simple: let us not drift. Let us not get out of the habit. Let us take one more step in meeting together — on Sundays, in Bible study, in prayer, in fellowship, and in serving alongside one another.

There are going to be times when we can't be at church, because of work, illness, holidays. However, please do try make church a priority.

Having said all of that, there have been some real encouragements this year. Our church family has grown across SJPChurch, which is exciting!

It has been lovely to welcome new people into the life of St James and St Paul's. That is a gift from God. We have also seen good numbers at Easter and Christmas,

with people coming through the doors and hearing again the good news of Jesus, the one born for us, crucified for us and risen for us.

This is what we are really about, to know Jesus and make Him known. So when people come in at Christmas, at Easter, on a Sunday, at a group, or through a conversation, that is an opportunity given to us by God.

It has also been encouraging to see the progress being made with the hall. There is still a lot of work to do, but progress is being made, and I am thankful for that. However, God's people are the church, buildings can be useful. But only if we are using them for the gospel.

My prayer is that the hall will be a place of welcome, fellowship, outreach, and service; a place where people are loved, where relationships are built, and where Christ is made known.

Thank you

I want to say a sincere thank you to our PCC. Thank you for your time, your wisdom, your patience (especially when I have forgotten we were meant to have a meeting), and your commitment to the life of SJP Church.

I want to especially thank Kerry and Clive, our churchwardens. Churchwardens carry a lot, often more than people realise. I am very grateful for all they have done, for their support, their hard work, and their care for the church, but not just our buildings, but for me as well. Kerry is the one who is the one who tells me when I am trying to do too much and both Clive and Kerry work hard to make sure that things that need doing gets quotes and gets done, fire extinguishers need checking, getting their ears talked off with the piano tuner, sorting out spotlights out the side of our church buildings. Thank you both very much, I couldn't do this job without you both.

I also want to thank Emily for all she does, her report will give you an insight into her work, and this has been no easy task, but I am so grateful for how she has worked so hard this past year.

Thank all those who have worked hard for gospel partnership at SJP Church. If that's cleaning, sorting out socials, getting equipment that we need, the work of the gospel is not a one-person job. It is the work of the whole church family. Whether you serve publicly or quietly, whether people notice or not, the Lord sees. And I am thankful for you.

This year, in our Deanery, we said goodbye to Fr Ron Farrell as Rural Dean. Fr Ron, I am sure will never read this, however, I don't think it would be right for me not to acknowledge him in my report this year. I cannot tell you how grateful for his friendship, his encouragement, and his ministry not just to me, but also to SJP Church. He has been there for me through times of hardship and doubt about what I have been doing, and even when there was uncertainty about a permanent minister at SJP Church. We give thanks to God for him.

Finally, I want to thank Rebecca and our children. Ministry is a joy, but it is not always easy. Your Vicar doesn't minister on his own. Rebecca and the children are apart of my ministry and I am deeply thankful for their love, patience, support, and encouragement. They also have to hang around before and after events, for the children this is hard, their ministry seems small but is wonderful.

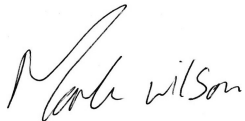
As we look ahead, let us keep taking one more step. One more step to grow in Christ. One more step to pray for a friend. One more step to bring a Bible. And this year, *one more step... to meet together.*

Not because we are trying to be busy. Not because we are trying to impress anyone. But because Jesus is worth it, His church matters, and the gospel is still good news for West Bromwich.

May the Lord keep us faithful, thankful, prayerful, and bold. And may He use St James and St Paul's for His glory in the year ahead.

Please do continue to pray for me, that I will stay faithful to Gods word, and faithful in Christ's service.

Yours in Christ Jesus

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mark

Vicar: St James and St Paul's West Bromwich.

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Policy is available to see and if you would like to inspect a copy one can be emailed, or you can look for it on the church website (<https://www.sjpchurch.co.uk/church-policies>).

The Policy sets out our procedures and requirements for people serving the Church. The PCC understands its legal responsibilities to uphold the policy for the safety of those we serve.

Church Wardens Report

This last year has been another busy but productive year, and we have many things to thank God for and many things to pray about as we continue to move forward.

Both church buildings continue to have regular maintenance on the heating, lighting, guttering and the organ (St Paul's), and inspections on fire safety equipment and lightening conductors. Quinquennial inspections are due and priorities for further work will be addressed. Currently new security lighting is being installed at St Paul's and decoration of the extensive work previously carried out on the wall there, is due to be carried out. In the near future, the font at St James is going to be relocated to the front of the church and this will allow for the purchase of more seating.

The church hall refurbishment continues. Recently floors have been replaced in the smaller room at the back of the hall, storage rooms and the kitchen. The hall roof is the next priority and your prayers are needed as the PCC looks at the options for replacing it and the funding to do this. We pray that some parts of the hall will be available for hire in the near future and this will serve to improve our finances.

Together, we thank Mark for his continued hard work, enthusiasm and determination to grow our churches and pray that he finds a healthy work-life balance. Thanks also go to Emily for her hard work and commitment to the children and young people, and to Andrew Gorton for assisting in providing worship with Mark's support and encouragement.

We give thanks to all who help in any way within our church services-the readers, the servers, the intercessors, the camera operators, the refreshment and welcome teams and to those who help with the cleaning and maintenance of the church buildings, and to those who provide and arrange flowers that make our churches attractive and welcoming places of worship.

We pray for strength to face the challenges ahead and look forward to God's future blessings as we take that one more step to know Jesus and make him known.

Kerry and Clive

Create and Cake

We continue to meet once a month for a time of fellowship, crafting and cake eating. After a decline, this year our numbers have steadily increased, with 13 regular ladies, a number of who are from outside the church. We have again received funding from Foresters Financial, covering the cost of the craft materials, allowing the group to remain at £2.

We have lots of crafts available, allowing people to try out things for the first time, maybe discovering a hidden talent or sparking a new hobby, and share skills and expertise with each other, while widening friendship circles both within and outside of the church family.

Rebecca Wilson.

Children's and Youth Ministry

2025 has been another busy year for children's and youth ministry at St. James and St. Paul's church, please find a snapshot of this work below.

Sunday Children's Work

- It is wonderful to report that St. James' welcomes an average of sixteen children and young people each Sunday, with a third of the congregation being under sixteen.
- In January 2026, St. James introduced a nursery class, for children aged between two and four. This has enabled the younger children to receive lessons tailored to them and allowed the older children to study the Bible without distraction. In addition this class has provided our teenagers with the opportunity to serve in ministry by volunteering with the younger children.
- Youth Church continues, however attendance has fluctuated over the last few months as its members approach their GCSEs. It is hoped that numbers will recover in the near future when exam season is over.
- This year has seen Katie join the Sunday School teaching team and thank you to everyone who has helped in this ministry over the last twelve months, namely Alex, Joe, Kyle, Nicola and all our parent / carer helpers.

Youth Work

- SJP Youth Club continues, with Joe, Jenna and Mark making this work possible. Membership remains steady, with a core group of approximately twenty members, though exam season is impacting attendance. A new advertising campaign is currently in development and we hope this will lead to an increase in new members.
- 2025 saw the introduction of Twenty Four Hour Youth Church, where a dozen young people slept over in St. James' church building for a session of intense Bible study alongside social activities. The event was well received by the young people.

School's Ministry

- School Assemblies - Mark and Emily continue to lead school assemblies at Moorlands and Hateley Heath monthly.
- Schools Messy Church - Each term St. James welcomes children from Moorlands and Hateley Heath for craft activities and a short service. This work would not be possible without the amazing team of volunteers: Rebecca, Michelle, Clive, Marleen, Diane, Jenna, Cara, Ella, Lauren and Theo (apologies if I have left anyone out!).
- School Visits - This year St. James and St. Paul's welcomed children from Hateley Heath, Moorlands, Harvills Hawthorn and St. John's Bosco for various visits. In addition church staff visited schools to lead RE lessons.

Community Ministry

- Messy Church continues to run, but in a new format and is now held in alternative months. The changes have seen an upturn in numbers with over one hundred people attending the launch event.
- Community Events - The paring back of large scale events continues, with a renewed focus on relationship building with smaller numbers over crowd management of higher footfall. Last year saw a Firework Party, Pancake Party, Astronaut Training Camp, Jungle Adventure and Easter Egg Hunt under the new format and an average attendance of 100 people.
- Little Fish Playgroup - This remains a cornerstone of St. James outreach ministry. While attendance numbers recently dipped, it has started to grow again and remains a key part of the community in Hill Top.

Let us give thanks to God for His abundant blessings in this ministry.

Emily Taylor
Children's and Youth Worker.

Deanery Synod

We have had a busy year in Deanery synod. In the summer we sent a motion to Diocesan Synod regarding parish share and are awaiting a response.

Fr Ron went on sabbatical in July before retiring as Parish Priest and Rural Dean in October. Since then Mark has been acting Rural Dean, and is expecting to formally take on this role soon.

Since Mark has been chairing Deanery Synod there has been a shift in focus to mission and how parishes can support and encourage each other in this. We now have an extended time of opening worship together as a deanery, grounding our meetings on the word of God.

We look forward to seeing how God is used this time together as a deanery in the next few years as churches send their new representatives.

Rebecca Wilson.

46th Sandwell Scouts

An Explosion of Adventure

The past year has seen the 46th Sandwell Scouts reach new heights of energy and engagement. We aren't just a group meeting in a Church (And a New Hall); we are a growing movement of young people discovering their potential, strengthening their character, and serving the heart of our community.

Highlights from the Field

- **The Great Outdoors:** Our Scout Sections have recently braved the elements for their annual camps. From mastering fire-lighting and Learning Knife and Axe Skills to the adrenaline of having fun in the great outdoors, our young people are building resilience that lasts a lifetime.
- **Skills for Life:** Whether it's earning the Chef badge by preparing a three-course meal on a small colander fire or achieving the Digital Citizen badge, we are bridging the gap between traditional scouting values and modern-day skills.
- **Community Spirit:** The 46th took centre stage during the Remembrance Sunday parade, standing tall as a credit to this church. We've also launched a "Green Sandwell" initiative, with our Cubs and Beavers leading litter picks to care for the local environment.

Growth and Impact

Our numbers are surging! We have seen a 20% increase in membership this year, particularly in our Beaver colony. This growth is a testament to the dedication of our volunteer leaders who show up week after week to mentor and inspire.

Looking Ahead

The calendar for the coming months is packed. We are currently fundraising to take our group on an Activity day and planning a summer getting outside . Most importantly, we continue to provide a safe, inclusive space where every young person—regardless of background—can find a sense of belonging.

The 46th Sandwell Scouts are thriving, and we remain deeply grateful for the continued support and prayers of the Church Council.

Paul Stuart
Group Scout Leader,

Bible Study

The relaunch of our Bible Study group, this time on a Tuesday morning has been a great success. We currently have a group of 8, all in different stages of faith. We have a short time of social conversation before opening God's Word together. We have so far completed Bible studies called Just Looking, and Living Life. It has a great few months where church members have got to know each other better while exploring what the Bible has to teach us and encouraging each other on our faith journey, wherever on that we might be.

Rebecca Wilson

Our Monday Evening Bible Study, is small but works hard, as we look at the Bible, looking at what we have preached and what will be preached. It isn't always easy, but the discussions are always interesting. If you would like to join us, we would love to see you

Mark.

Finance Report

West Bromwich Saint James & Saint Paul

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

I report to the Parochial Church Council of West Bromwich Saint James and Saint Paul on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 set out on pages 2-4.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- . Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act.
- . To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) on the Charities Act, and
- . To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - . to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - . to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: _____

Date : 12th May 2026

Worley Pritchard & Co
Accountants
34 Hydes Road
Wednesbury
West Midlands
WS10 9SY

Saint James & Saint Paul

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

Income and Expenditure Account

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025
		£	£	£
Income				
Offertory - Gift Aid	St James	£765		
	St Pauls	£4,484		£5,249
Offertory - Open Plate	St James	£1,276		
	St Pauls	£2,179		£3,455
Offertory - Planned Giving	St James	£1,497		
	St Pauls	£361		£1,858
Church Hall Lettings	Little Fish	1,286		
	SJP Youth Club	393		
	SJP Café	128		
	Create & Cake	120		
	Little Fish R&R	332		
	Scouts	2,770		
	Other	100		
	WST	9,600		14,729
Service Fees	Funerals	5,269		
	Weddings	650		5,919
Grants				
WST	General	28,000		
WST	Heating	3,328		31,328
WST	Hall Flooring		1,800	
WST	Asbestos Removal		1,194	
WST	Hall Heating		4,400	
	Hall Rewiring		3,780	
	Hall Rent		2,400	
Chance Trust			1,000	
Donations for Church Hall			848	15,422
Other	GB News	2,080		
	Donations & Gift Days	615		2,695
Miscellaneous				
Bryland Overpaid refunded	Fire Extinguishers	139		139
Total		65,372	15,422	80,794

Saint James & Saint Paul

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

Income and Expenditure Account

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025
	£	£	£
Resources Expended			
Incumbent Expenses	924		924
Childrens Worker	5,192		5,192
Church Running	22,208		
Gas & Electricity	4,415		
Insurance	2,139		
Telephone	217		
Water	1,751		
Waste Services	268		
Lightning Conductor test	279		
Fire Extinguishers	2,120		
Photocopier Maintenance	263		
Organ	360		
Audio Visual	172		
I Know Church	1,734		35,926
Other			
Common Fund	12,228		12,228
Church Administration	978		978
Churchyard	700		
St Pauls Garden	700		
St James Garden	540		1,940
Car Park Line Paint	8,929		8,929
Church Maintenance			
Miscellaneous	18		
Petty cash payments	50		
Father Ron's Gift	24		92
Sum Up Fees			
Oven For Hall		1,044	1,044
Total	66,209	1,044	67,253
Total Income	65,372	15,422	80,794
Total Expenditure	-66,209	-1,044	-67,253
Excess of Income over Expenses	-£837.00	£14,378.00	£13,541.00

Minutes of Vestry and APCM meeting 2026

West Bromwich - St James and St Paul's

APCM Meeting: Sunday 25th May 2025 at the Parish of St James, Hill Top

Vestry Meeting:

Agenda and Minutes:

Appointment of Secretary: Nicola Johnson was proposed to be the secretary for this meeting – proposed by Lisa Mannion and seconded by Rachel Nunns. All in agreement by show of hands from all present.

Accepting of the minutes from previous year: Mark Wilson shared the previous year's minutes – recapping the main points. Slides were added to the presentation for extra information and clarification at this point. MW reminded all present of the rule that was added last year to allow Clive to continue to stand as warden, despite many years' of service. Minutes were read by Lisa Mannion proposed and Marlene Bradley seconded – all agreed and accepted.

Appointment of the wardens: Mark Wilson publicly thanked by Clive and Kerry for their efforts and commitment during this past year, which has at times has proved difficult and challenging – however so much has been achieved because of this commitment and determination. Mark Wilson showed the Church Warden nomination forms received from Kerry and Clive to prove they were filled in correctly. As no other person offered to stand before or during the meeting, Clive and Kerry were appointed as wardens elect, until the Archdeacon's visitation, where they will be appointed officially.

Apologies received from: Kerry Gorton, Andy Gorton, Gaynor Williams, Jill and John Smith and Diane Ore.

West Bromwich - St James and St Paul's

APCM Meeting: Sunday 25th May 2025 at the Parish of St James, Hill Top

APCM Meeting – Minutes and Agenda:

Apologies received from: Apologies received from: Kerry Gorton, Andy Gorton, Gaynor Williams, Jill and John Smith and Diane Ore.

Appointment of secretary: As per the Vestry Meeting: Nicola Johnson was proposed to be the secretary for this meeting – proposed by Joe G and seconded by Sean P. All in agreement by show of hands from all present.

Accepting the minutes: Clarified that Michelle had been appointed for 2 years – not 21 years – typo/genuine mistake. MW clarified this verbally during the meeting. Rachel Nunns then approved, and Rebecca Keay seconded. It was noted that there is no 's' on her surname as per previous minutes. All present accepted. MW amended the minutes to change Rebecca's surname to ensure it was correct in these minutes and future minutes.

Vicars Report: Written in the APCM booklet and also available online by scanning the QR code. Some printed copies were available in church during the service. Mark's main points:

*Focus on the "One More Step" – I will pray for: _____ to come to church. Real focus on how we as individuals can help grow our church by inviting new friends, either for special services, or normal Sunday services. However, we need to pray for them before, so we and they and we understand and have this belief and confidence to come and try and come to know God and Jesus more.

Mark also asked that all who pray/write intercessions for our weekly services – always have a “One more step” focus in the prayers to help focus all of our thoughts on growth and ministry and mission. Mark Wilson also asked us to consider having our own physical bibles in church, rather than relying on our phones – apparently by having a physical bible, we retain the information more and it allows us to see where we are in relation to story and the messages we read and share each week. It also helps us to prepare ourselves for what we are going to see and hear and allows us to be more focused on what God wants us to. Mark Wilson used an analogy about shopping bags and shopping lists to reinforce this- the act of having a purpose and being prepared. The new bookmarks should help us to focus on the pages too that we will be reading, as well as reminding us of the people we are praying for on our bookmarks. Mark Wilson is encouraging us to prepare ourselves to take one more step to grow in Christ together, grow the church together and bring our bibles to focus our hearts and thoughts.

Accepting the Financial Report:

**Questions will be taken/recorded and then will be answered in next month’s Church Magazine – mainly due to Andy Gorton (Treasurer) not being present today. MW read Andy’s report sent previously to all present. This is available to read in the APCM booklet, either in church (printed off) or online via the QR code, which links to the church website. MW publicly thanked Andy for his hard work, referred to him as a faithful servant to our Church, who works tirelessly in many roles. MW asked all to consider approving – which they did.

Joe Gorton proposed the acceptance of the accounts and NJ seconded. Mark Wilson also reminded about the different methods of giving to church – lots of ways eg: envelopes, Sum up machine or direct to the bank. Either see Mark or Andy for more information and ways to show this giving.

Elections to the PCC: 3 x 3 years at St James 1x 2 years at St James and 1 x 1 year at St Paul’s – these are the vacancies for the PCC

New appointments: Caroline Bradley – St Pauls. Michelle Cassado for a 2 year post as a St James representative. Nicola Johnson and Rachel Nunns re-elected for 3 years posts. All duly appointed. One vacancy left – people who may be interested, to fill in a form and approach Mark to be then approved by PCC at the next meeting.

No Deanery Synod vacancies – all full. MW then shared a power point slide to show the full list of PCC members for the coming year.

Safeguarding: nothing to report at this time. But there is a small report in the APCM booklet and the policies are available on website

AOB: None declared before hand as per instructions prior to the meeting.

MW then prayed to close the meeting, reminding us to consider One More Step – praying for and bring new friends to church, to help us grow together through Christ.