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VISION
2024



“to make committed followers of Jesus”

Dear Church Family

Once again we are at that time where we look ahead to what God has for us in this coming year.

As I have reflected on the last six months, I sense that we are experiencing a fresh wave of God's blessing. We have seen new people joining our church family, people from our local community enquiring about faith, a new appetite for seeing the Church grow deeper and healthier and people stepping into new roles within the Church. This is all really exciting and I believe that God is inviting us to catch this new wave of the Spirit.

As I have prayed and reflected on this, I believe that God wants to emphasise the importance of our shared life and ministry together.

That is why I believe that for 2024, God has given us the phrase *Growing Together*. This phrase draws from Ephesians 4:16

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

In this verse we see the interconnectedness of being and doing - that is who we are and what we are called to do.

Who we are: *Growing Together* reminds us that we are a family - our identity is wrapped up in something far greater than just ourselves. We are each a part of this wonderful body called the church. Our togetherness is based on Christ - "it is from him the whole body... grows".

What we are called to do: *Growing Together* also reminds us that all of us have a part to play. We grow and are built up "as each part does its work". This year will be a fresh opportunity for us to ask ourselves: What has God given me a passion for? What gifts has God given me? How can I use these gifts and passions to serve Christ and the church family?

No doubt there will be much more that will unfold from this vision, as we go through 2024. My prayer for all of us, is that God would give us a fresh sense of call to His church and our local expression of this - the St James church family. In a world that is increasingly fractured and polarised we need a secure church family that we can call home. As we deepen and broaden our shared life together, this will be a light and a beacon to the world in need around us.

I look forward to the journey with you during the coming year.

Love and blessings,

Josh

HIGHLIGHTS 2023

In this booklet we look forward to our Church's vision focus for 2024. But first we want to give thanks to God for all that he has done in 2023.

COMMUNITY CAFE

The cafe continues to provide a safe, warm and welcoming place. An opportunity to share the love of Jesus with our community.

NEW WINE

Largest group to go to New Wine yet from St James! Thought provoking teaching, great sense of community and summer fun.

YOUTH WORK

We celebrate that Josh Lumwagi has joined the staff full time to lead us in our work with young people. New young people join. Spiritual growth.

JOYFUL VIBRANT CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS

Exciting to see the most we've seen in recent years attending both our Carol Service and Christingle. Carols and Cakes appreciated once again and we enjoyed a wonderful fun Nativity from our church children. So good to see so many people involved in these services.

NEW STAFF JOINING OUR CHURCH

Josh Grimwood joins as our Curate. Josh Lumwagi going full time to lead young adults work as well as youth.

CELEBRATING THE CORONATION

Watching the King's Coronation at church and celebrating with a fun community afternoon.

CHURCHYARD DAYS OVER THE YEAR

Team of volunteers taking care of our church yard and God's creation throughout the year.



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Community Cafe, All Stars and Create continue to provide a safe, warm and welcoming place and an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with those who have not yet met Him

YOUNG ADULTS

A new young adults group starts providing a space for those in their 20s and 30s at St James.

Growing Together

2024

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

(Ephesians 4:16)

We pray that in 2024 St James will be a community where we are *Growing Together* as we love one another through using the gifts that God has given us.

In addition to all the ways in which we are currently *Growing Together* we are going to invest in the following fresh opportunities.

Rekindling existing gifts and discovering new ones

This is an opportunity for us to discover and use our gifts to help us all grow in our gifts together. We will be offering a course to help enable this.

Launching new small groups

There are a number of people who would like to join a small group at St James. We want to provide space for people to deepen their relationships. Within this we want to invest in developing leaders to lead these groups.

Relaunching Alpha

In 2024 we are planning to run two Alpha courses. We will be running a smaller scale one in the Spring and then a larger one in the Autumn. If you are interested in being involved in running these please speak to Josh Grimwood.

Key Teaching for the Year

During the course of the year, amongst other teaching, we will be running series on: Romans, 1Corinthians, teaching on stewardship and looking at the Apostles Creed.



Meal for Six

This is an opportunity for you to meet people you have not met before within the church. We will publicise more details about this in due course.

Launching a new Evening Service

A relaxed open space for extended worship where we can wait on God and invite his Holy Spirit to minister to us. A place where people can explore and grow in their gifts.

Hear about child sponsorship from Compassion

On the 12th May we have a representative from Compassion visiting us to talk about their work and how we as a community can be involved.



We can all be part of God's mission in many ways, and one important way is through our giving.

Last year our income was £165k. In the week-round ministry and outreach we believe God has called us to, we are looking to spend £174k, of which £112k will need to come from us as church members. That is an increase of £898 per month, a 10.6% increase. We realise that this increase is unlikely to be achieved this year, so our aim is to reach this target within 2 years. We are therefore looking for an increase in giving of £449 per month, which is a 5% rise each year.

5 new families and individuals giving regularly to St James



Average increase in regular giving of 5%

When we are thinking about our own giving, here are three tips:

- 1** Think first about how generous God has been to us in Jesus Christ. It all starts with His grace to us.
- 2** Reflect on Jesus' example of His generous and sacrificial grace as a pattern for our giving.
- 3** Use the biblical guide of a tithe (10%) as a benchmark for our own giving.

The table below gives an example of how together we can achieve our mission for 2023

This many people	Increasing monthly by	Total extra income
1	£50	£50
3	£25	£75
6	£15	£90
16	£10	£160
12	£5	£60
7	£2	£14
To meet our monthly target of:		£449

Will you make a bold step to increase your giving in light of the grace offered to us in Jesus Christ or be one of 5 new givers?

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

36% £62k	PARISH SHARE Each Parish Church pays a share to Coventry Diocese. This covers clergy stipend, pension, training and the upkeep of the vicarage.
11% £20k	WORSHIP, MISSION AND MINISTRY Worship expenses across all our Sunday congregations. Alpha, other courses, weekly activities, events, Small Groups, Pastoral Care and our Children, Youth and Families Work. The salary for our Youth Worker Josh Lumwagi (plus a grant from the Diocese of Coventry).
17% 30k	ADMINISTRATION AND CENTRAL SUPPORT Keeping our church working effectively, including the salary of our part time office administrator, Rebekah Cassar, along with printing, stationery, equipment and general church supplies.
26% £45k	PROPERTY This includes the upkeep of the Church, Church Centre, St James on the Grange, Watercall Avenue, cleaners salary, and heating and lighting. Any major material repairs come from this allocation, unless already allocated from reserves.
10% £17k	OUTWARD GIVING Our mission budget enables us to support Mission Partners locally and globally. Also, this includes a contribution to the Deanery Support Fund for churches who are less financially well off.

HOW IS THIS FUNDED?

Together we share in the responsibility for keeping the church running. Over 60% of our income comes from voluntary gifts from 89 families and individuals. The remaining income comes from the letting of our premises and other parish related fees.

WHY SHOULD I PLEDGE?

Pledging helps us to steward our finances prudently and to be confident in the achievement of our Vision.

HOW DO I GIVE?

The simplest way is via Standing Order and filling in the attached Commitment Form. If you want to set up the Standing Order online our account details are: HSBC account name 'St James Styvechale PCC', sort code 40-18 38 and account number 41132695. Further details and the forms can be found on the St James website (www.stjam.es) or on the welcome board at church.

PLAYING OUR PART

You are invited to make three commitments as we focus on
Growing Together during 2024



Praying

Pray about what the *Growing Together* vision focus means for you personally. Also prayerfully consider how you can help other in the church grow through the gifts that God has given you.



Next Step



Consider what next steps you might take personally and what you can bring to the wider church community. If you are not already, could you join a small group? Could you get involved in one of the fresh opportunities? Is there another next step that you could take to grow in your faith?



Giving

Prayerfully review your giving, considering whether you can become a regular giver, increase your giving or provide a one-off donation.

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(Ephesians 4:16)

