

- “Encouraging people [to come] inside the building, thousands must walk past every day. Could be less austere, more light hearted in approach.”
- “Perhaps a monthly or quarterly newsletter for people who do not attend a service regularly at SJP and could be kept informed of upcoming events”.
- “More focus on campaigning perhaps? I've seen lots of great posts about things that have been happening, but fewer about seeking change”.
- “ Being more vocal around the work you do for asylum seekers and refugees, explicit welcome for LGBTQ people through visible signs or flag use”.
- “[The] Theology behind its prophetic ethics”.
- “I wonder if it may appear to be a bit posh, wordy and academic to some people? The sermons are awesome but are they accessible for someone who's not got any GCSEs, never went to uni and/or isn't entirely fluent in English?”
- “I don't find communication very joined up at SJP. The themes, direction and activities 'seem' to be set by a few people and from the top down and without wider consultation, invitation or checking in with other groups that may be impacted.”
- “It's Christian character, its amazing history, the fact that the whole site is 'church' 7 days a week - not just Sundays.”
- “That it is possible to combine a traditional form of worship, with radical action in the world, as part of the Christian way of life.”
- “To build greater awareness to attract more people, maybe more families and people of different racial backgrounds, and then be much better and at welcoming newcomers (often left to themselves whilst people catch up in their own groups)”.
- “Our need for shared and balanced financial support, and for ongoing commitment of ourselves, our talents and our time as well”.
- “It's Christian character”
- “How to go from just turning up on a Sunday to becoming more involved with the church community - I found this difficult”
- “(A) How individuals may access pastoral care beyond 'talk to the clergy' – if, that is, you have confidence to do that and get over 'but then they're too busy for my stuff', and (B) About a lot that goes on, beyond the Annual Reports and Meeting (for those who really access them). Not suggesting a trad. parish magazine; but we do miss out on general awareness, and 'reportage”
- “The underpinning philosophy of why we put energy behind what we do - the overarching focus is often lost in the micro-message (e.g. environmental protection or animal welfare). We don't tell our big picture loudly or well”
- “How the ritual works and what it means”
- “More inclusive language in hymns. Less segregation between young and old groups i.e. make Circus Spirit all-inclusive not age separated”
- “Whole church responsibility to make people feel welcome - it's a lovely church community which clearly wants to be welcoming but it is difficult to get to know people/feel a full part of the community - this could be me/am getting there!”
- “Christian Theology”
- “How do I get on the intercessions list?”
- “The sheer range of activities you have going on is impressive. I wonder if there is a broader narrative which could be developed which makes sense of all that you do. So that the individual parts add up to more than the sum of their parts”
- “I wonder if its [SJP's] agenda is too wide and therefore its challenges can appear to be too broad.”
- “Perhaps St James's could be less coy about the historic faith it has inherited from the whole Church (capital 'C'), and could acknowledge that the insights of previous Christian eras have something vital to say to us today.
- “We are bit clique and us regulars tend to only talk to people we know!”
- “I think sometimes it [SJP] gives off a kind of off-putting new age vibe which genuinely nearly put me off from coming at all. I think it talks a lot about inclusivity but mostly means LGBT/gender equality and needs to do some real work on ensuring people of different colours and abilities/disabilities are

represented. I think people of colour are encouraged to get involved but often not trusted with leadership roles”

- “Perhaps you might think about your entrances, and how they could be made more enticing/reflective of your edginess? They are a bit dull and therefore not representative of you”.

Helping people find their place at SJP and supporting one another:

- “Whilst the clergy are all friendly, welcoming and helpful, because the congregation come from far and wide, it can be difficult to get to know people...”
- “Regulars could make sure that any newcomers especially are offered the peace and engage them in conversation after the service”
- “Due its size of congregation it can feel a bit alienating. I’ve tried hard to involve myself in my interest areas and pitched in to assist where required but have not made friends with anyone despite being warmly welcomed by members of the congregation. I don’t feel I quite belong”.

WE ASKED ‘IF YOU WERE TO DESCRIBE SJP TO SOMEONE WHO DID NOT KNOW US, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?’

- “SJP is a Christian congregation that takes the world seriously and seeks to show in our actions what we believe about the love of God for all”
- “A wonderful inclusive place of worship which also has an extremely high profile concert programme”
- “This is a church where you can worship without leaving your mind at the door”
- “Community trying to live their best lives through interpretation of the gospel and who see each person as a unique human being, whilst acknowledging that we all fall down sometimes”
- “You don't have to believe in anything to become an honoured part of the community. Equally, it's incredibly committed to strong discipleship and helping one to navigate life in relation to your faith if that's what you want. It's never dull”
- “St James’s is a slightly chaotic group of people trying to put the planet and humanity at the heart of how they worship God”
- “It would change your perception of church for the better”
- “Takes the bible seriously, but not literally; and this informs its theological standpoint and its endeavour to be inclusive and to work for social justice”
- “A friendly, welcoming church with a large range of activities. The clergy are well informed and usually preach excellent thought-provoking sermons. For the climax of the Communion service (the Thanksgiving), the whole congregation gathers round the altar, symbolising that it is a celebration by the whole congregation and dispelling any tendency towards clericalism”
- “A forward thinking, welcoming church, not afraid to address the big issues of faith within diversity”
- “They seek to be an inclusive, welcoming and adventurous Christian community, honouring God and one another (and they are keen to change the world, starting with themselves...)” [someone’s read the Mission Statement...]
- “St James's is a great place to experience Christian Spirituality, a diverse congregation and a welcoming environment that allows you to be as much involved or as little as you want to, which allows you to find your feet, make yourself at home and be part of something greater than yourself”
- “They put on excellent concerts”
- “That it’s very open and welcoming and if they were doubtful about going to Church they should go to this one! Wonderful sermons and lovely atmosphere. Beautiful garden”
- “The Church but not as you might have though you knew it; The Church of England but not as you might have felt the welcome before”
- “It's a place where you can come and join in the worship without feeling self-conscious: its recognisably CofE, and 'liturgical', but in a refreshing sort of way..”
- “An inclusive Christian church”
- “You will be welcome: age, sexuality not an issue, no evangelising - Eucharist fresh and inclusive every time - 90 % preaching intelligent, inspiring, thought provoking and often entertaining”
- “A place where people don't GO TO church, but ARE church. We try to stay rooted in Gospel, while engaging with the challenges we encounter in church and society”

- “An unorthodox church in central London that is more connected than most to the real world, with a strong commitment to social justice & inclusivity”
- “I would describe St. James's as a faith community that seeks to live out the Gospel with integrity, that we don't always manage that, but we keep on seeking to do so. It is a Church that seeks to be relevant to and engage with today's society in a meaningful way. It welcomes all who come without judgement”
- “If you want a dose of honest Christianity that respects the traditional forms and rituals but speaks and thinks 21st century; that does what it can to meet the needs of those who feel the pain of modern life; reflecting Christ's actions in its actions; then this is a place that you should learn to make your friend”
- “A creative community in touch with spiritual and earthly issues. Relevant and thoughtful worship. Intelligent and inspiring preaching. Very evidently diverse and inclusive”
- “A progressive, justice oriented, welcoming congregation that is engaged in the community and world. The preaching, music and liturgy are tops. The church has a strong ministry to asylum seekers, homeless. It is a church that embraces people who have been marginalised. It is ecumenical and inter-faith. The members are active. There is so much going on that it sometimes feels like a three-ring circus”
- “It's a church like none other I've attended. The people there welcome and accept everyone as they are without judgment. There is a joy in the worship which lifts me up but also the recognition of pain, sorrow and all sorts of other difficult feelings. All things are done well but I get the impression that if something doesn't go according to plan no-one will be upset. It's a life-changing place”
- “St James's is a Christian community where the edges are kept hot to create a safe space for change to happen”
- “SJP represents an open, thoughtful theology which will change your mind about Christianity and the church. and encourages a questioning approach towards faith”
- “I would probably say that it is a church that prides itself on being inclusive, where you can hear wonderful sermons that are very relevant to modern life in the city and practises what it preaches by allowing homeless people to sleep in the church and providing support for homeless people and asylum seekers. That it is also radical in promoting links with other religions”
- “...all a bit bonkers really. In a good way”
- “Every Service is like a party . The sermons always make you laugh but they always also hold a real pearl of truth and can be very challenging. Everyone is welcomed, black, white, gay, straight, homeless trans, dogs, children, disabled - you name it they are all represented here. The music is magical, the cantor leads us in wonderful singing and often I am moved to tears by the music. Thank you”
- “I'm often asked why I travel 120 miles to go to church. I tell them it is the most amazing example of what I believe Christ intended his church to be.....truly Christ like, loving, compassionate, welcoming, diverse, slightly quirky”
- “Marries a traditional aesthetic with progressive politics and an inventive approach”

This survey was commissioned by us as an essential part of our communications review. It has given us some valuable information and raised other matters we wish to learn from and progress. *Thank you to everyone who helped with this exercise – we are very grateful.*

The PCC