

## Election of 7 PCC members

### Alison Beck



I have been a member of the congregation for eight years, and a PCC member for three years. You might know me best as a singer; I'm a member of the lay singers and Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir, and I occasionally cantor for church services. Over the years I have enjoyed getting stuck into church life in all sorts of ways, everything from volunteering at the winter night shelter to helping create 'Soul at Saint James'.

Alongside being a musician, I work as a government social researcher. My professional background means I'm good at analysing, problem-solving, and measuring impact – skills that have been helpful in my PCC role.

As someone with first-hand experience of being disabled and facing barriers in society as a result, I have done my best to be an advocate for others in our congregation and wider St James's community who have disabilities and health conditions. I feel strongly that St James's can be an even more inclusive place for disabled people, and if re-elected I'll continue to work hard to make that a reality.

I'm standing for re-election because I truly enjoy playing a role in representing this community that I love. I would be happy to carry on supporting the delivery of our strategy for the next few years and help St James's find ways to be even more creative, loving, courageous and unique.

### Jules Cunningham

### Jackie Elton



I have been coming to St James's for about 8 years and it's been a very special place of welcome for me and so many people many of whom have otherwise struggled to find a place to feel both at home but challenged.

I love the worship and the opportunities to explore learn and serve. As it moves into this new building phase, so long awaited where we need change but at the same time preserve what is so special, it will be an important time for the Church and for the PCC.

I serve and have served on a number of boards, both charitable and commercial.

I have also been involved in a range of building projects involving some complex decisions.

It is bound to be difficult and involve patience and a few ups and downs along the way.

I have lead intercessions, done readings, welcoming at both the main service and the Sanctuary service where I have also lead worship.

I have also lead a camino companions group during the lockdown period, and was a volunteer for the Winter Shelter.

I have made many friends at St James and would really like to see the Church make the very best of its wonderful position and great strengths to reach and help more people. I have great respect for the leadership of St James and would like to support what happens here to the best of my ability.

**Ros Fane**



St James's has been a source of richness in my life for the last 13 years and I care deeply about SJP being able to continue offering a radical welcome to all and the challenge to 'do justly, love mercy and walk humbly'. I've just completed my first three-year term on the PCC and Audit Committee where it has been a privilege to be involved in the process of setting a bold new strategy, moving towards a more mission-aligned way of generating our income and seeing the Wren Project start to take shape. I'm seeking re-election to the PCC for a second term and, if successful, would continue to serve on the Audit Committee. To both, I would continue to bring my professional experience in strategy development, business planning and risk management in the charity sector.

**Tom Gidman**



Hello! I'd love to be a member of the PCC for St James's. SJP is a place that means a great deal to me. It's allowed me to explore spirituality and life in an open and inquisitive way without fear of anything being imposed on me, and the work St James's does for social justice causes is fantastic. I'd like to run for the PCC to help give back to that mission in whatever big or small way. I know the PCC is looking to get some younger folk involved too, so I just about qualify for that. And standing at a whopping 6 ft 7 inches, I'd probably double the average height (which is the most important thing of course!).

### **Sarah Gillett**



Sarah would love to serve the wonderful church community of St James's Piccadilly, especially with the exciting prospect of the Wren Project and all the considerations that entails.

Sarah spent most of her career as a diplomat, representing and delivering for the UK internationally. Her most recent assignments were as a director in London, then Ambassador to Switzerland & Liechtenstein, and subsequently to Norway.

Public service and accountability are strong motivators for Sarah. Her experience has taught her a lot about what it takes to build understanding, to operate with constant change and resource constraints, and the rewards of working collaboratively with others to make the world a better place. Her learning continues.

After seven fulfilling overseas postings Sarah wanted to do more in the UK. Since leaving the Foreign Office she has been coaching leaders (mainly in public service), thinking about justice as a magistrate in London courts, mentoring young people with the Prince's Trust, and volunteering at Tate.

If elected to the Parochial Church Council, Sarah would enjoy contributing actively to the SJP strategy – building from its purpose to worship God with the centrality of the Eucharist, upholding its values, and harnessing resources effectively to achieve a rooted, just, creative, transformative and sustaining church that supports people well through life's events.

### **Dee Hetherington**



My name is Dee short for Deirdre I retired after 50 years working in the NHS and Local Authority, I began my working career as a nurse and the last 33 years as an Occupational Therapist. I have always been active in social justice and the environment I enjoy being part of the St James Community volunteering at the feast, home for good, welcome and coffee rota. I enjoy doing crazy things like getting up for the Dawn Chorus on the 1st May. Also, I enjoy contemplative prayer and feel I have a pastoral heart which I bring to the PCC if elected

### **Graeme Jones**



I would like to join the PCC because I would like to contribute to the development and ongoing success of SJP. I am enthusiastic about what the church can achieve and would welcome the opportunity to serve in this way. I recognise the need to communicate

effectively with the congregation and community of SJP and be a devoted advocate for them, always keeping their best interests at heart.

### **Tchansia Kone**



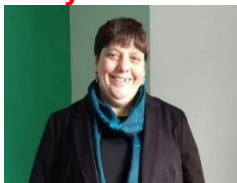
I discovered SJP in March 2020. It was at the time of Lent and “*stay where you are*” and the low-key YouTube videos of that era became part of my lockdown/furlough life. I didn’t really consider myself a member until I joined the Camino Companions in late 2020. It was still online but it wasn’t virtual to me. When I finally made my way to 197 Piccadilly for the first time in July 2021, it felt familiar to me and most importantly, I felt welcome. And I think it’s what SJP does best: welcoming people whoever they are, wherever they are from, with religious beliefs or not. It is a church with very solid walls in central London that people living further afield like me want to be part of. Wanting to join the PCC is affirming my belonging to the SJP Community (not online, not broader, just Community/ies) and have a role in the governing structure that makes SJP the place it is.

### **Ben Mariam**



The PCC has an important part to play in promoting the mission of our church, amongst the congregation and in the wider community, and as a member of the SJP PCC, I will aim to demonstrate a commitment to the Christian ethos, through leadership, by example and by witness, in the parish.

### **Tracy McKeever**



I joined SJP as a verger in 2015 and have embraced the community and core values of the church and try to embody them in everything I do. I feel as though I have found my spiritual home within the community here and continue to actively contribute to the life of the church in whatever way I can.

With my knowledge of SJP from being both staff and a member of the congregation I already have a good understanding of how the church operates and runs day to day, and also see it as a family and I would like to help and contribute my skills and knowledge in a new way and help the church with its next chapter by being part of the PCC and to represent the church at the Deanery Synod.

### **Anna Lakshmi Sabapathy**



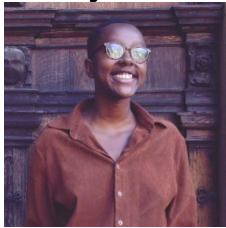
St James's Piccadilly has been a beacon of hope to me, even more so as prior to attending the services here, I felt that my connection to God was absent.

I have been welcomed with such warmth and appreciation by so many of the congregation, the clergy and the whole church which is something I have not experienced elsewhere and hope to do the same for others who come to St James's Piccadilly.

I have put myself forward as a candidate for the PCC as since joining St James's Piccadilly I have found a church that not only talks of their values, commitment to the community and inclusivity but truly puts this into action, through the weekly sermons, cultural events and Feast, which I volunteer at which I thoroughly enjoy.

I very much hope to contribute to the community of the church by dedicating my time, energy and enthusiasm by assisting the PCC in continuing and building upon the amazing work.

### **Audrey Sebatindira**



I'm running for the PCC because I'd like to expand my service commitments at SJP and, in light of the Wren Project and the church's 2023/26 Strategy, it seems like a particularly interesting time to get involved with SJP's governance.

In terms of what I have to offer the PCC, I have prior experience as a trustee of a registered charity. From 2016-17, I was a trustee of the Cambridge University Students' Union, a democratic body that represents 23,000+ undergraduate and graduate students. This role required creative and long-term thinking as part of a remit of overseeing the Union's management, administration, governance, budget, and strategy. Additionally, as a finance lawyer I have a degree of comfort around and familiarity with reviewing accounts and governance documents.

I have a deep interest in the pastoral and prayer life of SJP, along with a material investment in current efforts to make our community more inclusive. To that end, I'm a member of SJP's Programme 1 strategy working group, which has as one of its primary objectives building a home where all can belong and everyone has a voice. I also co-developed this year's Lent course on fasting and freedom, placing Scripture in conversation with liberatory black thinkers. Finally, I think I'd be able to represent a range of voices in the congregation, having formed a wide array of connections by volunteering with Sanctuary, Feast, and the LGBT Group, along with serving coffee, welcoming, and helping out with Traidcraft.

**John de Waal**



I am an irregular member of St James' congregation and a more regular Feast Volunteer. I was confirmed into the C of E as long ago as 1973 (that gives you a clue about my age) and have been coming to St James's for a little over 7 years now. I feel very at home here. I live in Chesham in Buckinghamshire with my partner Julia and our daughter Emmy (6). I also have two grown up children Bethany and Luke. Both Julia and Emmy enjoy coming to church with me when we can make it. In my professional life I am a barrister and KC based in Gray's Inn. My expertise is property law. I hope my professional background and skills would add value to the PCC. I can't be at the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> unfortunately but can be contacted on [jhdewaal@gmail.com](mailto:jhdewaal@gmail.com)  
Thankyou!

**Claire Wright**



I have been worshipping at St James's for about 9 years and have been on the PCC for 3 years, and I would be happy to represent you for a second term. I love being part of the community here, and am excited about the vision for change that we are starting to implement. I am currently PCC Champion for Programme 2 (Faith, Earth and Social Justice Initiatives) and I believe that through the WREN project, St James's Church Piccadilly with its message of radical welcome, represents something the world needs right now. In my professional life I worked as nurse, community development worker, and NHS manager, and getting on with people, developing consensus and facilitating change were all important. I hesitate to say I'm an artist but my other passion in life is messing around with paint and any other material that comes to hand. I also like visiting art galleries, am learning to play the guitar, enjoy teaching English to a group of women who are hoping to settle in the UK, and love hanging out with friends. At St James, I co-ordinate Home for Good, host Holding the Silence on Thursdays, am involved with Citizens UK and am a member of the Giving Team.