

New PCC elected Members' statements:

Sarah Gillett CMG CVO

St James's has given me a lot, and I have enjoyed opportunities to give a bit back. I have learned much as an assistant church warden and would love the opportunity to serve on the PCC. It is an exciting time for the church as the Wren Project gathers momentum. I spent most of my career as a diplomat, representing and delivering for the UK internationally. My most recent assignments were as a director in London, then Ambassador to Switzerland & Liechtenstein, and subsequently to Norway. After 7 fulfilling postings overseas, I wanted to do more in the UK. Since leaving the Foreign Office I have 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. Service and accountability have been central features in my career. Experience has given me rich lessons in building understanding, operating constructively with continual change and resource constraints, and working collaboratively to make the world a better place. If elected to the PCC, I would enjoy contributing to the mission and governance of St James's Piccadilly – so that the church's worship, spiritual support and social initiatives continue to sustain the community through life's events.

Anna Lakshmi Sabapathy

St James's Piccadilly has been a beacon of hope to me. 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 and cultural events. I am a volunteer at Sunday Breakfast, a reader, a server and a trustee for the charity. On the odd occasion I also bake cakes for coffee on after the service too. 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. I would like to be considered for the post of Treasurer for SJP.

Rachel Sumption

I am honored to be nominated to serve on the SJP PCC. I began attending SJP in May 2021 and have been a member of the Lay Singers since fall 2021. I am part of SJP's 20-30's community of young people, and I was baptised and confirmed along with other SJP parishioners at St. Paul's Cathedral in March 2024. When I experienced a family tragedy in the fall of October 2022, the church community rallied around me and brought me through the most challenging time in my life. After three years at SJP, I am committed to supporting the church's future and mission. In my day job, I am a lawyer working in climate policy. I have prior training in charities law and have donated over 200 hours of pro bono legal work to non-profit organisations representing refugees and indigent clients. I would draw upon these skills and experiences as a member of the PCC. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.