

# Fit for the Future St James', Elstead



Church in the Community  
Community in the Church



## Fit for the **Future**

Our church has been on this site for nearly 900 years, built by the monks at Waverley Abbey. Generations of believers have built and rebuilt the church; adapting the structure to enable us to worship and share the Gospel.


## We are **Celebrating**

Our engagement with the local community through our Sunday services, Seasonal services, baptisms, weddings, funerals and community events.

We are nurturing the faith of children and families through our JAM (Jesus and Me) services and through our relationship with St James Primary School.

Our connection with the community is growing through the Elstead Foodbank, the Domestic Abuse Charity, uniformed organisations, Royal British Legion, Churches Together in Elstead and many other initiatives.

We are eager to re engage with our community “post Covid”.



But...  
we have a  
**Challenge**

We want to give everyone a **warm** but **environmentally friendly** welcome



The Church of England has set a deadline for all church buildings to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. We have to install a heating system that meets this deadline.

Our boiler is old and inefficient. The heating system can be made much more efficient in terms of warmth and cost.

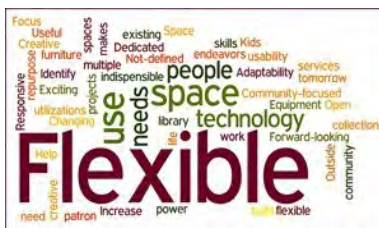
## We are **Planning:**

To install an environmentally friendly underfloor heating system.

Using smart technology to allow us to maintain an even temperature.



## We want to have a **flexible space**



## We are **Planning:**

To remove the pews—to allow installation of the new, environmentally efficient heating system.

A flexible space for wheelchair users and parents with push chairs to be able to choose where they sit rather than being at the back or in a corner.

For flexible seating—with the pews removed, the space in Church opens up. We will have comfortable chairs that can be rearranged for services, seasonal services, social events, community engagement such as the Elstead Foodbank and other support groups.



This is an example of a church showing the flexibility of seating.

Artist impression of St James', Elstead

## What will your church be like when we've made these changes?

**Church is the people of God gathered together rather than the building in which we meet. We need a church that our grand-children will want to be part of.**

**However, we need a church building that's fit for that future, one that honours the past but is fully ready for where we need to go.**

### **We want to be able to:**

Use our church buildings to support families in need through the Elstead Foodbank.

Use our church buildings for the local community but **not** in competition with the village halls.

Be involved with our community through support groups, coffee mornings for the lonely, those in debt or with other needs such as dementia.

Be a space for Positive Parenting Groups, Toddler groups and Toddler Praise, Bible groups, Prayer, healing and meditation groups.

A Musical centre for singers and musical groups.

Extend the invitation of Jesus' gospel of good news to everyone.

Provide traditional and contemporary forms of worship in a flexible and warm environment.

Create prayer spaces and installations.

### **We want to be a church where:**

Prayer is vibrant; worship honours God and is the very best we can offer in sound, pictures, actions and other creative ways.

Our welcome is warm and inclusive.

What we do is relevant to the whole of our lives, and offers hope to those in the communities that surround us.

But we need **your** help...

**Plans are already well advanced with the architects and the Diocese.**

All we need to do now is raise the money:

We need: £400,000

We can do this if we work together.

You can help by:

Making a lump sum donation.

Committing to give weekly or monthly to the project over 2 years.

Praying that the money will be found, and that we may truly be a church “fit for the future.”

Supporting fundraising events.



**'The task of the church is to proclaim afresh the Christian faith in every generation. St James' Church has been faithful to this task since the 12th century. It is important in this post-Covid world that it now prepares itself to serve a new generation. I believe that the reordering of the interior of the church is vital for this task.'**

*The Venerable Paul Davies, Archdeacon of Surrey*

**'One of the things that attracted me to the post at St James was the opportunity to reorder the church so that it becomes a vibrant hub of community engagement. The opportunities to serve the community will be greatly increased with a flexible, warm, welcoming space.'**

*Rector of St James', Revd Hannah Moore*

**'A flexible church space will allow us to organise a wide range of worship, from prayer stations to drama, allowing the children greater participation in the activities. This would also help our youngest children to enjoy our worship in the church. The school also visits the church for RE lessons and reflection times so an open space will help the children and staff to make the most of being in church too.'**

*Valerie Elliott, Headteacher, St James Primary School*

**Sign up for regular updates from the St James' Reordering Group:**

[fitforthefuture@parishesofetsph.org](mailto:fitforthefuture@parishesofetsph.org)

[www.parishesofetsph.org.uk](http://www.parishesofetsph.org.uk)

# Fit for the Future

## Response Form

To be completed and returned to St James', Elstead

### Your Details

Name.....Telephone Number.....

Address ..... Postcode.....

Email Address .....

Please make a donation via Cash, Cheque, BACS payment or Monthly Standing Order to the Fit for the Future Project

For a BACS payment or to set up a standing order, you must take this to your bank or add a standing order to your online banking.

To.....Bank/Building Society

Address.....

**Please pay: St James' Elstead PCC, CAF Bank, Sort Code: 40-52-40, Account No: 00029917**

The sum of ..... on ..... and then the sum of ..... on ..... of each month with a final payment of.....on .....Reference F4F.....(your surname)

Name of Account to be debited.....

Sort Code...../...../..... Account Number.....

*The Parochial church council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St James', Elstead is a Registered Charity  
Charity Registration number 1195242*

### Thank you for your help and responding to the St James' Church Fit for the Future Project

Please pray about your response and for St James' Church as we seek to make your church fit for the future. There are two ways to support our appeal, either a fixed amount or a pledge over two years.

Here are illustrations of how your pledge over two years may be spread.

Pledge Amount	Monthly	or Weekly
£3000	£125	£28.85
£2000	£83.33	£19.23
£1000	£41.66	£9.61
£500	£20.83	£4.81
£250	£10.42	£2.40

*Once the project is complete, any surplus will be transferred to the St James' Major Repair Fund.*

*Your information will be stored in a GDPR compliant manner. Our privacy policy is available:*

*<https://parishesofetsph.org.uk/policies/privacy-policy/>*

**Gift Aid Declaration—Are you a taxpayer?** Boost our donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

I already gift aid

I would like some more information