

# All Saints West Dulwich

## Vicar's Report 2025-26

It really has been a year of massive change for my family and I since last May, but arriving at ASWD has been a real blessing. I have found the church to be a wonderfully collaborative community full of talent and variety!

As an outsider, I have tried to get to know as many people as possible, both our employees and those who are connected with church and parish whether they attend services or not.

As an outsider, I think the church had done a great deal of listening and thinking before I arrived as a vicar and so I feel that God has led me to the right place for all of us. Thus I have tried to continue to listen and observe what are the needs and challenges of the people and the parish at large. I'm still learning!

These are the aspects I've been getting to know so far:

Pastoral care - I have been meeting people (especially those mostly at home) and taking home communion to include them in the Eucharist of the whole church. I've begun to broaden this by training some of our Eucharist ministers to take home communion out too so we can deepen those relationships and serve more people.

Many people quietly visit others in this church and I would like to thank them for the part they play in the Body of Christ.

Rosendale Social Groups for over 50s - I visit regularly and am building relationships here. I've attended the committee meeting too.

Children and young people – I attend our wonderful team meetings and have supported them with events like a pancake party, youth lunches and confirmation classes.

I've also met and been involved with several local schools, with whom, again, we are building good relationships.

Wedding prep – I have one wedding so far.

Baptisms and preparation – There have been three baptisms and I would like to see more.

Ministry Team retreat – This was beneficial in building the team and I thank them for all their support.

Spirituality through Poetry and Advent and Lent groups.

Social Justice through Robes, the Foodbank and L'Arche (though this is an area I will prioritise after Easter and which Revd Cathy Wiles has been leading on)

I've also learned about:

A Christian Aid lunch

Social events

Music and worship

The Choir

Open Arts and exhibition with Robes (still to come)

Spirituality, worship and music seem to me to be the heart of ASWD and I would like to see this continue. Similarly with the other aspects I have mentioned.

However, I think that through prayer and discernment, if the church is to grow and develop we need to make it a little more open in its language and in variety of music and worship offered and to find ways to make space for new people. The inclusive welcome at ASWD is very good and we should build on that by making more obvious places for people to belong.

Our Lent discussion group has focused on social justice and this is an area we could also develop.

I hope that as we re-form our PCC and Wardens, we will have an away day to reflect and plan our direction more specifically.

God has been very gracious in the last months since I arrived and I hope you share in the feeling of blessing that I am experiencing and that we can share this more and more.

Thank you all for your warmth and care.

Rev Caroline

April 2026