

Mission partners drop in to say hello to St James in Finchampstead



The Revd Julie Ramsbottom, Rector, with Kim Khongsai. Inset: Kailean Khongsai with Julia Arscott, chair, Mission & World Concern Group at St James' Church, Finchampstead

St James Finchampstead

On Sunday, March 2, the Parish of Finchampstead and California welcomed their mission partners from the Church Mission Society (CMS) - Kailean and Kim Khongsai, who were accompanied by their young daughter.

In his address to parishioners, Kailean explained that they have been seconded from CMS to A Rocha, a Christian environmental and conservation movement based in Southall.

Their work in Southall involves building community through environmental projects. This has included clearing derelict land for use as a country park, growing produce on a community allotment, making jams from foraged blackberries, sloes and damsons and currently creating a community orchard with beehives.

Southall is a multi-ethnic and multi-faith community but the Khongsai's experience has been that actions from the heart speak to everyone irrespective of faith.

The couple, who generally worship at Southall's Emmanuel Church, enjoyed experiencing the two morning services at sister churches, St Mary and St John, California and St James Finchampstead.

Parishioners had the opportunity to discover more about their work when they joined the CMS representatives at a Bring-and-Share lunch, held in St James' Church Centre.