

PARISH PROFILE

**ST JAMES
CHURCH**



LOVE GOD



LOVE NEIGHBOUR



**GO OUT
MAKE DISCIPLES**

From the Bishop

*Bishop Andrew
Bishop of Ramsbury*

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the post of Vicar of Southbroom, St James: part of the See of Ramsbury in the Diocese of Salisbury. This is a super incumbency in the heart of Devizes, recently voted one of the happiest places to live in Britain by The Guardian.

I am looking for devoted and visionary clergy, who can inspire and lead our churches in Making Jesus known – our diocesan vision. While Wiltshire can appear a timeless landscape, our parishes are constantly changing to meet the needs of their people, and to proclaim afresh the good news of God in Christ.

Southbroom St James has an excellent reputation for blending compassionate community action with a spirituality rooted in the Anglican evangelical tradition. The new incumbent will find a diverse and mobilised team who are ready to grow and serve, in co-operation with neighbouring churches and buoyed by much local goodwill.

In the Diocese of Salisbury, we place a high value on the encouragement and pastoral support of our parish clergy and, should God guide you to serve here, you will become part of a committed and collaborative team - with (I might add) the Ramsbury team office recently moved just over the road from St James' Church.

Please contact the Archdeacon of Wilts, Ven Louise Ellis, or my PA Lynne Archer, if you need any assistance with your enquiry - and be assured of my prayers as you seek the Lord's will for your future.

Sincerely in Christ,



lynne.archer@salisbury.anglican.org
adwilts@salisbury.anglican.org



Welcome from the St James Church Family

St James' Church is a vibrant family where our members play an active role with the clergy in seeking to make God's love known to the people in our growing town. We have purposely sought to become more involved in our community, believing that this is one aspect of what God has called us to be. As stated in our vision statement, we desire to love God, love our neighbour and go out and make disciples. We then pray for the Holy Spirit to help us to do it.

In 2008, we re-ordered the interior of our church building. This now provides a much more flexible space that can accommodate concerts, quizzes, creative activities, and a flourishing toddler group on a Friday, as well as our usual services on Wednesdays and Sundays.



In 2020, we purchased the former church school building across the road and we refurbished it to provide a meeting place for community groups, including the Devizes Foodbank, local health visitors, Christians Against Poverty, art groups and a wide range of our own youth and church activities.

We aim to help people deepen their relationship with Jesus, through preaching that seeks to apply biblical teaching to everyday life, and through home based Connect Groups that can go deeper as well as providing support and care for individuals. We also encourage putting faith into practice by serving in the activities that we run, often in partnership with other local organisations.



We are not afraid to take risks, in styles of worship, in giving people responsibility and a chance to explore their gifts. When something doesn't work, we seek to learn from it and move on. We know we haven't got it all together, but we have faith to know we all have a part to play in making Jesus known.

We enjoy having fun together, with our annual St James Festival in a field, Tearfund Quiz night, games nights, and various excuses to go to the local British Lion pub.



I am so grateful I found St James and so appreciate the friendship, love, and support I receive from everyone.

Connect Group Member

Life at St James

Friday Impact

To stay connected to God and each other and to live the lives we are called to, we need to breathe. We 'breathe in' through our corporate and personal worship and home groups. This nurtures and equips us to 'breathe out' in our engagement, hospitality, and mission within our community.

We meet on Sundays at 9am (a traditional style communion service with hymns) and 11am (a more informal service with songs led by our worship band). On Wednesdays, we have a mid-week morning

communion service, whose congregation recently received "poems of Hope" from our local Y6 primary school class as a



Wednesday Communion

thank you for joining them for a communion service. Our worshipping community is over 260 individuals with weekly attendance across the three services of around 180 people. We host 12 'Connect Groups', where people can develop deeper relationships with each other. Each Sunday at the 11am service we have groups for primary and secondary children and a staffed creche. On a regular monthly schedule, we organise a varied programme of different styles of prayer to help people draw near to God.

As a church family, we are not pausing activities during the vacancy, but are taking the opportunity to deepen our discipleship through studying Mark Comer's 'Practicing the Way' and committing to read the Bible in its entirety, and prayerfully engage with it, over a year in an initiative called, "Illumination". We hope that God will use this time to help prepare us and equip us.

In 'breathing out', our renovated St James Centre hosts life-enhancing activities, including child contact meetings, community health visitors, the local foodbank and a wide range of our own activities, including our CAP debt centre and our CYP work. Our desire to share the Good News with our community means we reach out beyond our doors with celebration services on The Green at Easter and Christmas. We give people the opportunity to remember loved ones at Easter by planting small crosses written with the names of loved ones around a larger cross erected on The Green. For the last 3 years, we have run Devizes Advent[ure], a community social event, in the days running up to Christmas, in partnership with local schools and organisations. We also run an annual Alpha course, which draws guests to faith and into our church family.



The Field

We value our links with local schools, particularly our two church primary schools where we lead the occasional collective worship and services for Year 6 leavers and at Harvest, Easter and Christmas. A new initiative this year was to invite the 90 Year 11 Religious Studies students from Devizes School into St James to talk with church members on how faith impacts their whole life.



Faith Conversations

These included topics such as Faith in Business; Faith in Social action; Faith and Science; Faith and the Bible and Faith in suffering. This event will run again in 2025.

This is just a short snapshot of all that being part of St James is about. For extra insight, please read our [2024-25 Annual Review](#).

The Opportunities



Swap Shop

St James is one of 8 churches, and 3 Anglican parishes in Devizes. However we have a strong local reputation for working with and through the community. We have great links with the Town Council who allow us free use of The Green near church for community services. We also work closely with local businesses, charities, and organisations.

For example, construction company Gaigers provided temporary flooring for events in the churchyard, we've worked with Wiltshire Police, hosting a bin as part of their Knife Amnesty and our regular Swap Shops are supported by Sustainable Devizes and Chippenham Uniform Exchange.



Worship on The Green

Devizes is a lively market town (recently listed in the top 20 happiest places to live by The Guardian), Our parish is large, with over 10,000 residents and with multiple new housing estates recently completed or under construction. Of 8 schools in the town, 7 are in the parish, including two linked C of E Primary schools and Devizes Secondary School. There is huge missional potential in this diverse parish, with areas of poverty and unemployment as well as affluence and development.



Swap Shop

We seek to realise this potential through a church family that sees itself as an integral part of the body of Christ. Some church members seek opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus.

Others are passionate about building others up and helping them to become the people Jesus calls them to be. As a result, paid staff are well-supported by laity who step up to take leadership and team roles in most ministries.



Easter Community Service

We are one of the Diocese's first "Mission Hubs" seeking to raise up passionate disciples and confident leaders — equipping them to bless our town, grow new worshipping communities, and share the Good News of Jesus across the region!

Alongside our many volunteers, we have a full-time Associate Priest (on a fixed-term contract until June 2028), a part-time Leader and a part-time Intern in Children, Youth, and Family Discipleship, a Church Administrator, and a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre Manager. Our volunteer roles include two PTO priests; two Lay Licenced Ministers and three Lay Worship Leaders, as well as volunteers who share the preaching ministry, pastoral care, lead the music and help run many of our other numerous activities.

With our people, our facilities, and our heart for sharing our faith, we have a solid foundation for responding to God's call to Love God, Love Neighbour, and Go out and make disciples.



Easter Community Service

Our Prayerful Hope

As our new incumbent, our prayerful hope is that you will:

- Be a passionate follower of Jesus with a desire to join with us to share the Good News of Jesus with our community.
- Be committed to a deep personal faith, grounded in scripture and with a strong prayer life.
- Be relational, committed to walking alongside others as they walk the path of discipleship.
- Be purposeful in taking care of yourself and your family.
- Be a communicator that seeks to apply Biblical teaching to everyday life, building people up.
- Be a team player, leading and working alongside our staff team and engaging with our many volunteers and teams. Helping to identify and release God's gifts in others.
- Have a caring heart for people of all ages and backgrounds, cultivating a community of grace and hope.
- Be respectful of other people's views, especially when they differ from yours.
- Be ready to lead an active and growing church community that has a diverse ministry and mission programme.
- Nurture our relationships with local partners, and grow new ones.
- Work with us to discern God's vision and direction for his ministry at St James.
- Find yourself welcomed and supported by a loving and caring church here at St James.

Result of asking the church family the following question:
In one word only, what would you like our new incumbent to be?



Our Location

Devizes is a friendly town in the centre of Wiltshire. It has a weekly market and a collection of independent retailers, as well as the famous Wadworth brewery whose new modern site lies within the parish. It hosts an Annual Arts Festival and many events organised by Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts. Devizes' award-winning museum holds articles recovered from near Stonehenge.

Devizes is perhaps most famous for the impressive flight of 29 locks on the Kennet and Avon canal, but is also known for its well-preserved medieval layout and rich heritage. It contains over 500 listed buildings (including our Grade II* church building and Grade 2 St James Centre).

The town sits in beautiful rural Wiltshire, surrounded by charming villages and with Salisbury Plain to the South and the Vale of Pewsey and the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to the East.

There is a good bus service to the rail-connected towns of Trowbridge, Chippenham and Swindon, whilst Bath, Bristol and Salisbury are within a 45-60 minute drive away.

Our parish is situated on the eastern and southern side of the town and includes both residential areas and commercial land. The town centre is in the adjacent parish of St John's Devizes.



The Vicarage

The Vicarage is a modern (c. 20 years old) family home with 5 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, large office, open-plan dining rooms and kitchen, utility room, double garage, and a modest, enclosed rear garden.

It is situated on a quiet, neighbourly close on the southern edge of the town next to the local Drews Pond nature reserve.

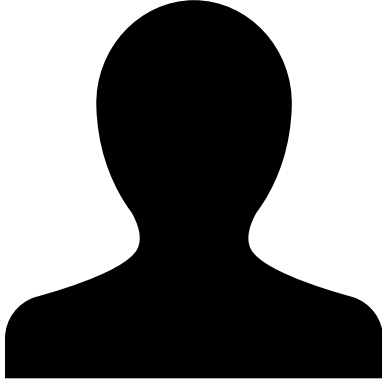
It is a 25-minute walk / 10-minute cycle / 5-minute drive from the church.



Meet The Team

At St James, we encourage all our family to play an active role in the life, ministry, and mission of the church. Below are just a selection of the people involved in leading various ministries.

Can you see yourself here?



You?
Incumbent



Richard Saint
Associate Priest



Mike Wilmott
Church Warden



Jenny Oliver
Church Warden



Pip Sanday
Families Discipleship Lead



Jaydon Irvine
Youth Intern



Angela Kendall
Church & SJC Admin.



Kate Morris
CAP Debt Centre Manager



Sandra Meadows
Priest, Connect Grp Coord.



Kirsty Wilmott
Pastoral Team Coord.



William Hazelton
Lay Minister



Liz Starling
Lay Minister



Clare Kent
Parish Safeguarding Officer



Stephen Casey
PCC Secretary



Richard Oliver
Treasurer

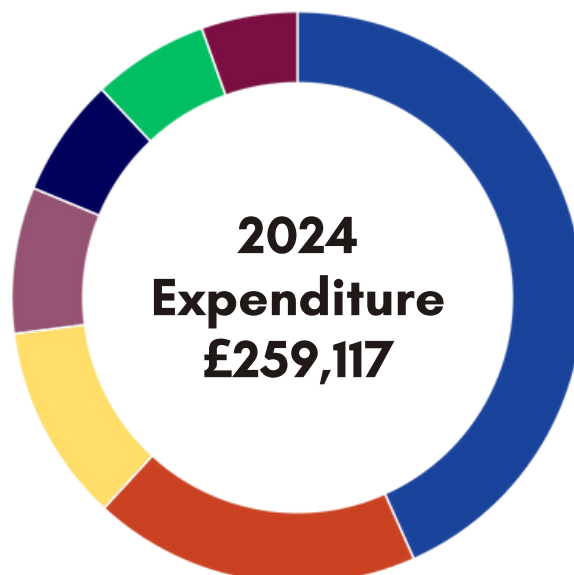
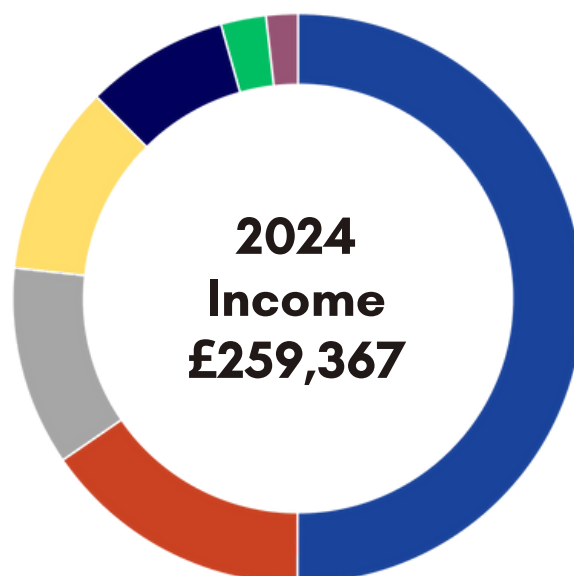
The Finances

The church is on a stable footing with regard to income and expenditure, meeting its share requirement in full. 10% of our income from planned giving and associated gift aid is donated to our mission partners, some local, some international.

Most of our income (85%) comes from the church family, and a large percentage of this is donated through the Parish Giving Scheme. We also derive some income from lettings at the SJC and our 1970's former parish centre is let out to Devizes Open Doors, one of our mission partners working with the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless.

More details in an easy-to-read format are set out towards the back of our 2024-25 Annual Review.

There is no room for complacency as factors such as the cost-of-living crisis and the inevitable loss of long-standing church family members has led to the income from our church family levelling out and not increasing in line with inflation.



Want to Know More?

If you have read this far, digested the Annual Review, scanned the web site, and have further questions on anything, please feel free to contact either of our Churchwardens, Mike and Jenny, or our Associate Priest, Rev Richard Saint. We'd love to hear from you.

- (Richard Saint) revrichard@stjamesdevizes.org
- (Mike Wilmott) churchwarden1@stjamesdevizes.org
- (Jenny Oliver) churchwarden2@stjamesdevizes.org

www.stjamesdevizes.org



ST JAMES CHURCH



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St James Centre
Estcourt Crescent
Devizes, SN10 1LR

01380 723891
office@stjamesdevizes.org
Reg Charity No. 1134059