

***ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, POOLE
PARISH PROFILE***



St. James's Church, Thames Street, POOLE

***WELCOME FROM THE CHURCH WARDENS AND PAROCHIAL
CHURCH COUNCIL***

Building on the present St. James's Church began in 1819 on the site of the original Church which had been the centre of Poole's worship since 1142. Much of the stone from the old building was used in the new Church. The present Church was consecrated and opened for Worship in April, 1821. It cost £11,740 to rebuild and today it is insured at a sum in excess of £7 million. It is a Grade 2* Listed Building.



The Quay, Poole

About our Parish

Poole is located in central southern England about 100 miles south west of London and on the south coast. Poole has the 2nd largest natural harbour in the world, second only to Sydney. It is certainly a haven for leisure seamen.

The Parish itself is defined by the coastline on the south side and the London to Weymouth railway line on the north side. On a fast train one can be in London in one hour and forty minutes. Within the Parish there exists a real mixture. There are high rise 1950s style flats, several new housing developments, large and small commercial undertakings, including Sunseeker International – one of the largest leisure boat producers in the world. The Headquarters of the RNLI is also located in our Parish. Not surprisingly, the Parish has its areas of wealth and comfort, but like any other town, there exist the less fortunate people, many of whom are struggling.



High Rise dwellings



Modern developments



A Sunseeker Luxury boat

Our Parish Church is located in the Centre of the Historic Old Town Conservation area, where several Georgian Merchants' Houses are preserved.



Georgian Mansion near our Church

The Old Town Re-generation Project is under way and will provide a second bridge to give additional motor and pedestrian crossing to Hamworthy. The new Twin Sails Bridge is due for completion in the Spring of 2012 and a major development scheme both sides of the bridge is being planned at this time. This will involve an hotel, restaurants, commercial units and accommodation for 3,000 people. When these developments come to fruition it will substantially increase the population of our Parish.



Recent housing development

Our aims

The aspirations of St. James's with St. Paul are to:

- *Show the life of Christ*
- *Grow in the life of Christ*
- *Serve in the life of Christ*

The Church Wardens and the Parochial Church Council seek a dedicated and committed man to fill the post as Rector of St. James's Church, Poole, who will fulfil the wide nature of the requirements that the post will demand.

Following the Job Description, we have set out important information about the Church, our Services, our activities, our active teams and matters of local information and interest.



The Family of St. James

The Job Description

The new Incumbent's calling, enthusiasm and dedication to be Rector of Poole are taken as a key assumption in laying out this profile. The Church Wardens and Parochial Church Council are seeking a future Rector who is able to fulfil the following:

- of Evangelical persuasion, of firm faith, prayerful, and with a clear vocation and leadership skills.
- one holding the Holy Bible as central and having fresh expressions of faith and spirituality.
- one supportive of all ages who holds group and personal prayer as totally necessary.
- one who encourages lay participation in Services and other responsibilities, and provides leadership and inspiration to the flock.
- a team maker who can demonstrate the relevance of the Gospel in the 21st century, through teaching, and one who is able to delegate in appropriate areas of responsibility.
- one who has empathy and an ability to communicate at all social levels and with all ages.
- one who recognises the need to enlarge the Kingdom and encourage young and middle aged people to become involved in learning more about faith, prayer and Christian living.

- one who will nurture and encourage the laity in Home and Prayer Groups and leadership and participation within the Church and reach out to those unfamiliar with the Word and encourage them.
- one who can recognise the problems of the less fortunate people in the Parish and who will encourage and work to support them.
- one who supports charitable giving, both at home and overseas.
- one who can work in partnership with other local churches and Poole's Pioneer Minister.
- one who is able to work with the local authority and other local bodies for the furtherance of the Church.
- one who will work with the PCC and congregation to achieve growth in the Kingdom in general and St. James's in particular.
- one who has the confidence and experience to effectively implement change, which is necessary if we are to convey God's Word to the masses, who today are more concerned with the consumer society.

The Person Specification

The Church Wardens, Parochial Church Council and Congregation seek:

- A dedicated, committed leader to develop St. James's Church into the next stage and beyond.
- A man who recognises the need to move forward in faith, spirituality, prayer and teaching, in the confidence that growth in the Kingdom will be achieved, with particular attention to this Church.
- The successful candidate should be a humble man, of grace and integrity, having Christian love, compassion and vision.
- He will need courage and a God given strength to make changes, yet at the same time, have the ability to nurture and encourage the existing quite elderly congregation.
- The new Rector will need good Christian experience, understand the need to delegate, and to create and encourage teamwork and lay participation.
- We seek, preferably, a family man who can meet and achieve the factors set out in the Job Description on pages 4 & 5 above.
- He should be willing to undertake, if asked, the role of Mayor's Chaplain, Chaplain to the RNLI whose national headquarters are located in our Parish, Chaplain to Mission to Seafarers with responsibility for Local Port and visiting Team.

About our Church

During the first half of the 20th century, the old town of Poole consisted of two Parishes, that is St. James's and the other St. Paul's which was located in Poole High Street. In the early 1960s St. Paul's was closed, the site was sold and the building demolished. In 1962 the two Parishes were merged under the title the Parish of St. James's with St. Paul. Other than on formal documents, the full title is rarely used today.

By tradition, St. James is an Evangelical Church, with a conservative stance on *Scripture*. Our Parish is affiliated to the Evangelical Alliance.

The Patron of the Church is the Church Society Trust.

Using some of the funds from the sale of St. Paul's Church, a side Chapel, known as St. Paul's Chapel was created in the north East corner of the Nave and is used from time to time for small Services.

The interior of the Church is beautiful and at the East end is fitted an 18th century Reredos, said by the former Council for the Care of Churches to be one of only three in the United Kingdom, the other two being in Wren Churches in London.

Pews are in place in four blocks throughout the Nave with a centre and two side aisles. At the rear of the Church is an open area, used for displays and occasionally serving tea and coffee.

An excellent amplification system and loop has been installed in the Church for use at Services, and on occasions such as Concerts and Visiting Choirs, Meetings etc.

Probably because of the internal beauty of the Church and the warm, welcoming feel from within, we have many requests for Weddings here. For those who live outside the Parish the conditions of the current legislation apply. On average we have 20 Weddings or Blessings at the Church each year, mostly in the summer months, there being only one Church in the Poole Deanery that exceeds that number. Already 23 have been booked for 2012.

To appreciate this, one needs to know that before 1950, St. James's Church was the centre of Poole itself, then a densely populated area. In the 1960s it was decided that many of the historic properties were slums and a demolition programme took place which moved many families into newly built housing estates way out of town. Small commercial units were encouraged in these areas and high rise flats were built. In the last 15 years there has been a reversal of that policy and dwellings are again being built in the Parish, with a vengeance. As a result of these changes, many people living in the out of town estates still regard St. James's as their church. Some attend but many don't, until there is a marriage, funeral or baptism in the extended family, this is the first Church they think of. Funerals average 20 most years. Services at the Crematorium are also frequent .



The Quiet Area within the Church

St. James's Church has a gallery which originally housed the organ. The seating in the gallery is stepped, and was built when a very high Pulpit was in place and the Preacher could see everyone and vice versa. Today however, the viewing capacity is limited on the north and south sides in places, and to be realistic, it is suggested that a maximum of 500 seated with a reasonable sightline, is the estimated Church capacity.

The Church roof is supported by pine pillars brought across to Poole in Georgian times from Newfoundland as part of the flourishing Newfoundland trade..



St. James's, facing the East showing the gallery and pillars

At St. James's we are fortunate to have a team of ringers who call the parishioners to Worship every Sunday morning, and ring at our many Weddings. The 10 historic bells were totally refurbished in 2009.

The north east and south east areas of the Church have recently been totally refurbished and additional toilet and storage facilities installed.

The Church Lounge has also been refurbished.

Our Congregation

The average age of our regular congregation is high.

There are some young and middle aged regular members but there exists a need to adjust the balance. *The future of this Church depends upon growth, and we need to fervently pray for this.* Every effort has been made in this direction, but in today's secular society it is a mammoth task.

Church Music

We are most fortunate having as our Director of Music, David Owen Norris, MA(Oxon) FRAM, FRCO, Professor of Musical Performance, University of Southampton, Visiting Professor, Royal College of Music, Honorary Fellow, Keeble College, Oxford, Educational Fellow, Worshipful Company of Musicians.

David Norris is working very hard to build up our music ethos here at St. James's and also as an outreach project is creating Concerts at the Church on a regular basis. At this time we do not have a Choir, but a Music Group leads our music at the Morning Service , accompanied by piano, flute and cello. Generally we use Mission Praise as our hymn book and occasionally the Anglican Hymn Book. Our selection cannot be described as contemporary, although some more modern music is included.



David Owen Norris, MA (OXON) FRAM FRCO, Professor of Musical Performance, University of Southampton, Director of Music, Poole Parish Church

Worship at St. James's

Until recently, our main morning Service has begun at 11am and has been generally informal, with traditional Evening Services.

OUR REGULAR PATTERN OF WORSHIP HAS BEEN:

Sundays

8am Holy Communion (said) Book of Common Prayer(Traditional)

11am Morning Worship. A variety of Services were offered throughout the month:

Family Service (1st Sunday) usually accompanied by Baptisms (Informal)

Morning Prayer (2nd & 4th Sundays) (Following Common Worship)

Family Communion (3rd & 5th Sundays) (Following Common Worship)

Sunday Club for children aged 3 and upwards during our Morning Worship.

6.30pm Evening Prayer BCP (Traditional)

Holy Communion (4th Sunday) BCP (Traditional)

Mid week Communion (BCP) is held on Thursday mornings at 10am in the St. Paul's Chapel. (Traditional)

During the interregnum we are preparing for the future, and arranging a different series of Services, in order that the congregation might prepare themselves for change, thereby leaving the new Incumbent free to recommend a Service pattern of his choice.

8am Holy Communion (said) Book of Common Prayer (Traditional)

*10.30am Family Praise & Worship (1st Sunday)(Informal) – may include baptisms.
Baptisms also take place at 2.30pm on 1st Sunday by arrangement.*

*10.30am All other Sundays Common Worship – Holy Communion
(With Sunday Club in Church Lounge)*

6.30pm. 1st Sunday only - variable

Midweek

10am Holy Communion BCP (Traditional) in the Church Lounge.

Bible Study

We acknowledge that Home Groups, Bible Study and Prayer Meetings are crucial to any successful church. Here at St. James's we have had a regular Prayer Group on a Wednesday morning each week, and a Home Group fortnightly on a Tuesday at the Rectory, both of which have proved to be popular. There is also a Prayer Group fortnightly on a Thursday which meets at various homes and this too has

been well attended. There has been also a Saturday morning meeting “Prayers for the Parish” on the second Saturday of each month. An Alpha Course is being arranged to begin in March, 2012.

With no Rector and no Rectory, change has been necessary. The Wednesday Prayer Group and the Thursday Holy Communion will continue, and both will be to be held in the Church Lounge, a cosy room, which will create a marked reduction in the heating charges.

We wish to increase the number of Bible Study Sessions and Home Groups. The future of the former Rectory Group is currently in the planning stage. All other gatherings will continue.

It will however, leave the new Incumbent free to make his own recommendations and hopefully our home groups and Bible study Groups can then increase.

During 2011 a House Party was arranged at the Sidholme Hotel, Sidmouth, Devon and 30 members of the Family of St. James attended. This was an excellent occasion, which involved bible study sessions, fellowship and fun.

A similar activity has been provisionally arranged for May, 2012.



The Sidmouth House Party - 2011

Midnight Communion 2010:	280 (Adverse weather)
Mothering Sunday attendance 2011:	198 (Two baptisms)
Palm Sunday attendance 2011:	163
Easter Sunday attendance 2011:	198
Remembrance Day attendance 2011	199

The Management Team

The Parochial Church Council is constituted as follows:

The Rector (Chairman)* (Vacancy)

During the Interregnum, the Revd. Roger Green has been invited to join the PCC, the Standing Committee and the Finance Committee.

Two Church Wardens: Royston Scott (Vice Chairman and Treasurer) (Ex Officio)*
Fred Poate (Ex Officio)*

Three Deanery Synod Members: (2 vacancies at present) (Ex Officio)
Rob Vincent (PCC Secretary) (Ex Officio)*

Nine elected Members, (currently 2 vacancies), each elected for three years, and at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April, one third stand down and are ineligible for re-election for 12 months.

Those marked above with an asterisk * are members of the Standing Committee, the only statutory committee of the Church, but also are members of the Finance Committee. As the constituent members of each Committee are the same Officers, they invariably meet as one Committee. It has been normal practice for the Rector and Wardens to meet in advance of each PCC Meeting.

The Assistant Treasurer is also a member of the Standing Committee.

The Church Council meets each month, except April, August and December. There is an additional meeting in March to consider the Annual Report and Accounts in advance of the Annual Meeting. From time to time a need arises for an extra PCC Meeting.

The Support Teams

Revd. Roger Green assists in the Parish on a temporary basis. Revd Green is domiciled in Kent but is currently occupying a property in Poole, owned by the Church and his presence is very much

appreciated, as he is placing St. James's Church in the enviable position of having a regular clergyman available to us during much of the interregnum. By the time the new Rector is appointed, Revd Roger Green will have vacated the Church property and to help with the finances the property may well be rented on a commercial footing.

We have two members currently exploring training for Licensed Lay Ministry and five members who have recently completed training as Lay Pastoral Assistants. There are six members who are authorised to undertake Holy Communion by extension in the Parish.

Verger

Mrs Denise Demarco assists in the preparation of some Services of Holy Communion, and attends all Weddings, Blessings and Funerals. She also prepares the statutory Marriage Certificates on behalf of the Rector.

Director of Music:

Professor David Owen Norris, (Salaried) Southampton University & BBC. David has been with us since July, 2009 and is deeply engaged in the music of the Church. He is developing contacts with a view to increasing younger folk initially into Church music, and eventually into the Music Group, Choir or congregation. David is also bringing more musical concerts to the Church.

Clerical Assistant:

Mrs Lorna Kenny (Salaried) works four mornings each week in the Parish Office and has relieved the Rector of a mass of administrative matter which otherwise would tie him to the desk. Lorna also takes bookings for Weddings, Blessings and Baptisms, and is the first contact with any member making any enquiry.

Activities

Little Jemms (Toddlers Group)

A very successful Mothers and Toddlers Group has been run by the Church and organised and supervised by volunteers. It is hoped this will continue and develop even further. Apart from the occasional baptism, this effort has not created growth in the congregation, although there are a couple of Church activities each year, but it has created a lot of good will. It is encouraging to note that some parents have now enrolled on a Y Course.

Women's Fellowship

A very successful Ladies Group (Men also welcome) has operated for many years here at St. James's Church, with interesting Speakers, teas etc. This Group averages 40 at each meeting and is valued by many and run by volunteers.

Luncheon Club:

This group has been operating for several years now, and caters for those folk who, in the main, live alone and are lonely. After the meal, a Christian message is delivered. This group is also run by volunteers.

Missions

St. James's Church has undertaken a five years support project for Dr Nick Wooding, his wife and family who through CMS are serving in Kampala. There are 14 other Churches in the support team and our commitment is £3,000 per year for the duration. To date we are three years into our five year commitment.

Dr. Wooding has resigned from the National Health Service to teach medical practitioners in Uganda, whilst his wife is helping with education leading, hopefully, to a reduction in aids.

The Church supports several other Missions including Christian Aid, Tear Fund, Sudan Medical Link, etc. We are currently engaged with the Deanery in a project to support the serious needs of the new South Sudan. Groups within the Church also support Missions and charities on a national, regional and local basis.

General information

Here at St. James's we are keen to keep on top of legislation, and consequently we have maintenance contracts in a variety of areas, including security, fire precautions and health and safety. Lighting and heating systems have been upgraded and certificated.

The Church generally is in good order.

Whilst the 18th century Church Organ is regularly maintained, there are indications that a re-build is necessary. We have obtained advice from the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the indications are that the organ should be returned to its original location in the West Gallery and totally re-built. This has been considered recently, but the advice of the Diocesan Advisory Committee is that no action should be taken until the new Rector is appointed and has had time to settle in and then consider the matter. This advice has been accepted and in the current financial situation it is not the best time to launch a Public Appeal to fund such a project. In advance of the DAC advice, the Parochial Church Council had decided that no works would take place until the necessary funds have been pledged or raised.

Poole attracts many visitors during the summer and from May to September inclusive, the Church is kept open for their benefit. Some have the historic interest, others the beauty and some come for quiet prayer. The vast majority comment upon the cleanliness of the Church. This is maintained by a team of very dedicated volunteers, to whom we are most grateful.

The Borough of Poole generally

Poole is clearly a town with a buzz. The leisure boating industry dominates the town, and there is an active fishing industry. The population is growing all the time and there are good nursery schools, main stream and private schools in the area. Excellent Secondary and Grammar schools and sporting facilities for all ages are available. Although now overloaded, there are some excellent hotels and so many places of interest in the locality. We are blessed with the most excellent Poole Hospital and for those ageing, there are sufficient Nursing and Rest Homes should the need arise.

Actually, Poole has everything needed by all ages.

More information about Poole's development, its harbour and its trade can be found in The Book of Poole Harbour, printed by The Dovecote Press, Wimborne, Dorset.

The Churchyard

The Churchyard is a "closed" Churchyard and therefore maintained by the Borough of Poole, although the Rector is the freeholder. Negotiations are currently ongoing to have the Churchyard refurbished and modernised to create a quiet area where people can relax. If this comes to fruition, it will be funded from the fees paid by developers for community projects. Negotiations have taken place but available finance and car parking remain issues. Parking in the Old Town is a parking problem generally and the Church needs a parking facility.

The Church Centre



The Church Centre viewed from the Churchyard

In the 1950s the Incumbent purchased a redundant school (St. James's Junior School) opposite the Church and gave it to the Parochial Church Council as a gift. This became the Church Centre and was refurbished in the 1970s, but proved to be too large for the purpose required and the PCC were unable to maintain it adequately. After many years of financial subsidy, our immediate past Rector decided that the time had come for a radical rethink.

Research was undertaken and a decision was reached by the PCC to offer the site to a developer, and whilst retaining the freehold, it was agreed that the site could be developed, upon condition that the Church was provided, free of charge, with a Church Centre on the ground floor with two rooms on the first floor.

This project was completed and the new Church Centre handed back in September 2002. There are now six leasehold flats above.

The Church Centre is let out to various groups and can seat 85 for dining, or 120 if seated in lecture room format. Modest fees are charged for outside users and a discount is allowed for Church events which take place in the Centre.



Part of the Church Centre – during a coffee morning

The Rectory

The Rectory is a modern four bedroomed house, a matter of 200 metres from the Church and has a small and manageable walled rear garden and a garage. The property which is in good condition is maintained by the Diocese.

Conclusion

Poole is a beautiful place. For the right person, this is the place to be. We look forward to learning of suitable applicants for the post of Rector of Poole, and trust that this presentation by the Parochial Church Council of St. James's Church has been informative and helpful.

Royston Scott
Church Warden

Fred Poate
Church Warden

The above named are both Church Representatives for the purpose outlined in this Profile.

See also www.stjameschurchpoole.com

Email: info@stjameschurchpoole.com

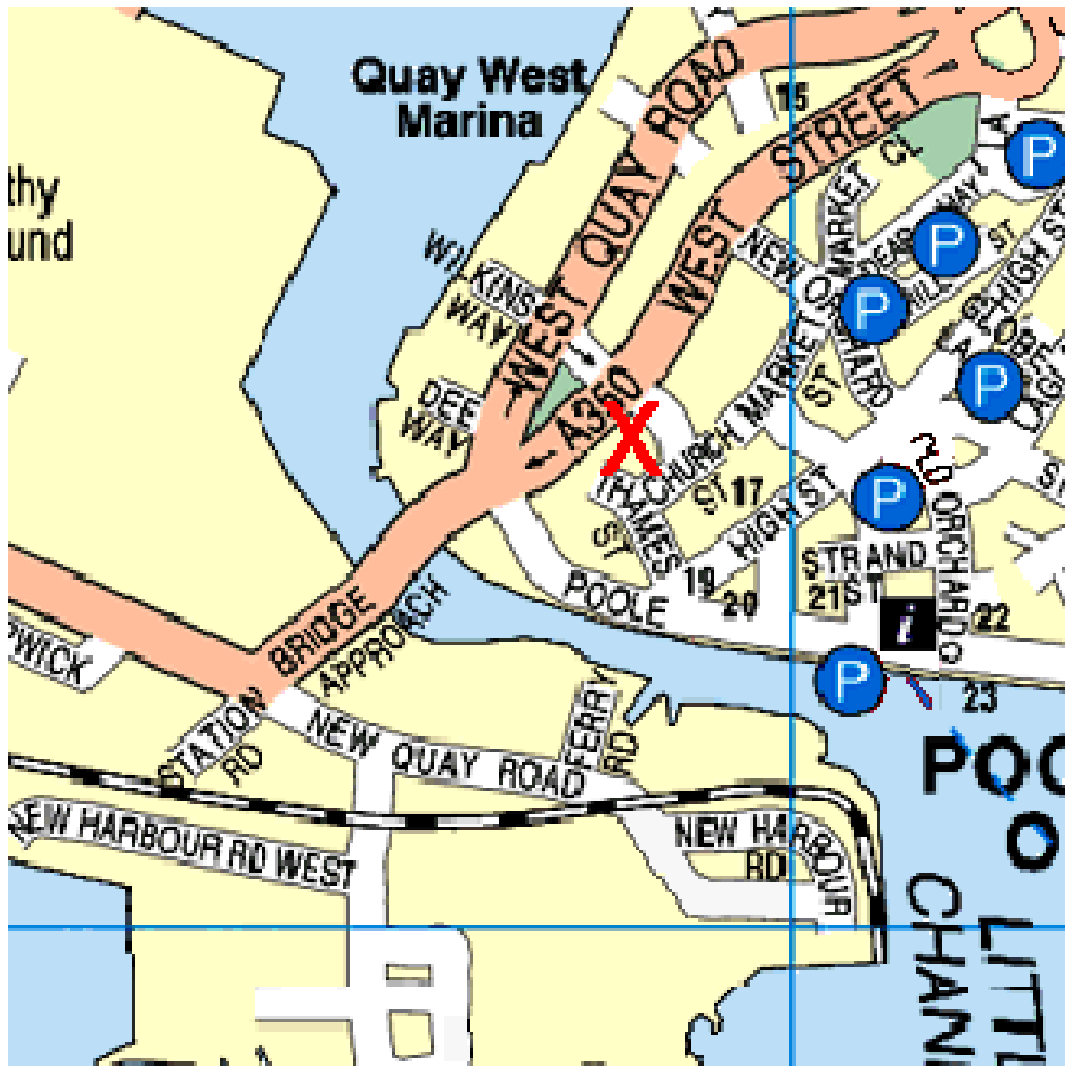
Office Telephone: 01 202 677117



Poole is a beautiful place



St. James's Church, Poole



**How to reach us – Red X marks the spot.
Thames Street,
POOLE.
BH15 1JN**