



www.stjamesswansea.org.uk

Swansea St James' Parish Profile

St James' is a welcoming, open and inclusive church which tries to cater for the wide variety of interests of its congregation.

Our Mission Statement

Through worship and fellowship, the family of the church at St James' seeks to care and reach out to the wider community with the love of Christ and to provide a place of hospitality and welcome. In particular we are aware of our responsibilities towards the children, youth and elderly of the parish; we will attempt to use our resources for our support.

The Parish of Swansea St James'

The Parish of St James' is in the Deanery of Swansea and the Archdeaconry of Gower in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon in the Church in Wales. St James' is situated in the Uplands suburb about a mile to the west of Swansea city centre on Walter Road, the A4118.

St James' Church was built as a chapel of ease in the parish of St Mary's and consecrated on Friday 21 June 1867. The grounds in which St James' is set were intended to be a pleasant open



space in the middle of an extensive residential area serving, for the most part, wealthy and well-endowed parishioners. In 1985 St James' became an independent parish. Although there are still a significant number of private homes, the demography of the parish has changed significantly over the past twenty five years. Many of the larger houses have been converted to bedsits, student dwellings, social housing and nursing homes. There are a significant number of offices, shops and small businesses, an independent

school and a private hospital in the parish. There are good state schools including a Church in Wales Primary School within easy reach of the vicarage. The Uplands area, within which lies our parish, has a multicultural population of over 10,000 residents, many of whom are transient.

In 1998 a cloister-style development of 28 Housing Association flats was built around the Parish Centre and their presence helps provide onsite security. The Housing Association is responsible for the maintenance of grounds around the flats.

Parking is available round the church and Parish Centre.

Our Church and Church Hall (Parish Centre)

The Parish has one church and a Parish Centre within its grounds. The church has seating for up to 400 worshippers. There is a small Garden of Remembrance situated outside between the South Porch and transept.

A significant amount of work was undertaken in 2008/9 to repair the roof and west wall and replace the guttering. This was made possible by the fundraising activities of the Events Committee and the securing of several grants, the largest being a £63,000 Heritage Lottery Grant. The Property Management Committee ensures that a rolling programme of repairs is carried out to maintain the fabric of the church. The next major projects will be to repair the Victorian tiled nave floor and decorate the interior of the church. We are awaiting the Quinquennial report after an inspection in the spring. All issues raised in the 2006 Quinquennial report have been addressed.

The Parish Centre was opened in May 1905. It was completely refurbished in 1998 through money raised when the Housing Association purchased the land to develop the flats around the church. Work continues apace to maintain the building to a good standard. A new boiler for heating and hot water was installed in the centre recently.

Church meetings and activities are held in the centre. Community groups such as The Lions, Uplands Arts and Adult Continuing Education hire the centre for their meetings or events. There is a large hall, a carpeted meeting room and a good-sized fitted kitchen. There are toilet facilities for disabled people. One of the churchwardens is employed by the church as caretaker and bookings secretary.

The church grounds are well maintained thanks to the voluntary work of a member of the congregation.

Both the church and the parish centre have access for disabled people.



Church Services

St James' has a wide range of worship throughout each week. The pattern of Sunday Services are as follows:

8.30am	Holy Eucharist
10am	Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
11.30am	Cymun Bendigaid (1 st , 3 rd , 5 th Sundays)
4pm	Evensong with Communion
6pm	Prayer, Praise and Healing

Weekday Services are:

Wed 10.30am	Holy Eucharist (with Ministry of Healing 1 st Wed. of month)
1 st Wed of month 2pm	Mass (suspended during the interregnum)

The Churchmanship is central with vestments being worn. Services are mainly from the 1984 Church in Wales Book of Common Prayer. Twice a month at the main 10am Eucharist service a modern rite is used. The common revised lectionary is used. Knowledge of Welsh would be desirable but not essential, in order to continue the services in Welsh. The style of music incorporates both traditional and modern. The Merbeck setting is used for the 1984 prayer book and a setting by Malcolm Archer is used for the modern rite. There is a great deal of lay participation in the services, for instance as sidespeople, servers, readers, intercessors and Eucharistic Ministers.

Holy Communion is taken to residents in the four Nursing Homes in the Parish on a regular basis as well as to the sick and housebound.

Statistics for Last Year

Average Sunday Communicants	70
Average Welsh Service Communicants	13
Easter Communicants	143
Christmas Communicants	114
Average midweek communicants	19
Baptisms	18
Confirmees	12
Weddings	14
Funerals in church	6
Electoral Roll	88

Ministry Team

A retired priest, Revd Walford Roberts, assists each week. During the interregnum he leads Evensong, midweek Eucharist and the Welsh services. The Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers is a member of our congregation and he leads services occasionally.

There are three Lay Readers, one Worship Leader and five Lay Eucharistic Helpers including one Welsh speaker. The two Churchwardens and five assistant wardens provide a link between the ministerial team and laity.

There is a home visiting team and a group who leads worship at one of the Nursing Homes once a month.

Parish Organisations

The main organisations are:

Sunday School

Mothers' Union

Mixed voice Choir who lead 10am and 4pm Sunday worship

Faith and Fellowship discussion group, including environmental issues.

Prayer Group

Supper Group with Bible Study

There is a church cleaning team, a team who helps with floral displays for festivals and a group who collect recyclable materials.

Four Retreat Days take place at Nicholaston House, Gower, during the year. Parish Lunches are held in the Parish Centre on Sunday lunchtimes on four occasions throughout the year. These events are well supported.



Work with other Parishes

There are six parishes and a rectorial benefice in Swansea Deanery. Deanery services and events are held occasionally throughout the year and members of our congregation are informed and invited to take part. We need to strengthen our links with our deanery partners.

Ecumenical Links

For many years we have belonged to the local Council of Churches, recently renamed UNITAS. Through our membership we have links with the following churches – Memorial Baptist, Society of Friends, Brunswick Methodist, Ebenezer Newydd Welsh Presbyterian, Argyle and Rhyddings Park Presbyterian, Spring Terrace Assemblies of God, St David's Catholic and the Rectorial Benefice of Central Swansea.

We celebrate together on several occasions throughout the year:

- Christian Aid annual service
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity annual service
- Songs of Praise on the sea front annual service in August
- Weekly Lent Bible Studies Group
- Good Friday March of witness
- Weekly Advent Bible Studies Group
- Christmas carols in the town centre

This summer UNITAS is starting a course 'Christianity Explored', one evening a week for 7 weeks. We hope to encourage newcomers from the community.

Several churches in UNITAS support Prison Fellowship and Street Pastors although we at St James' haven't as yet, other than prayerfully.

We also take part in the Women's World Day of Prayer annual service.

Parish Support

The main parish support is the Parochial Church Council which currently has twenty-one members including the church wardens and ex-officio members. Meetings usually take place six times a year but extraordinary meetings are called if the need arises. Within this council there are four sub-committees comprising Outreach, Finance, Property Management and Events. These committees discuss in detail whatever is necessary and bring their findings to the P.C.C. for approval.

The administration work is undertaken by the P.C.C. secretary and at the moment there are no facilities set aside as an office.

There is a parish magazine published in alternate months and a weekly newsletter published during school term times. The church has a website (<http://www.stjamesswansea.org.uk/>) where all relevant details about the parish can be found.

A child protection officer has been appointed to ensure the parish adheres to the Diocesan Child Protection Policy.

Financial Matters

The Parish is currently meeting its parish share although last year a case for a reduction in the parish share had to be made as it was becoming increasingly difficult to meet our obligation. The appeal was successful and this has resulted in a reduction in the parish share this year. Giving over the plate and through direct debits has to be supplemented by money raised through fundraising events and grant appeals to cover the costs of running the church and hall. The Events Committee works hard to organise regular social events such as Fairs and coffee mornings.

Parish expenses are dealt with by the treasurer and currently follow the Church in Wales guidelines.

The Finance Committee, one member of which is our Stewardship Officer, regularly encourages members of the congregation to give by Direct Debit or the envelope scheme and to Gift Aid their giving if they are tax payers.

The Vicarage



The Vicarage is a detached house on the corner of Ffynone Drive. It was built in the 1950s and is within a short walking distance of the church.

It comprises a kitchen, utility room, two good-sized living rooms and a cloakroom/WC on the ground floor, with four bedrooms, bathroom and separate WC on the first floor.

It has been modernised, re-wired and newly decorated. It has gas central heating throughout. There is room for one car in the garage and the gardens are of moderate size with the back being terraced.