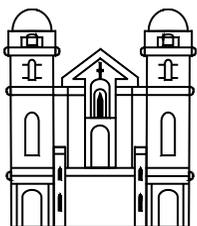


Profile for the appointment of the

Vicar

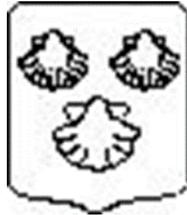
of the Parish of St James the Greater, Leicester



Welcome to St James the Greater



St James the Greater is a large, impressive church close to the centre of Leicester. It has an eclectic, inclusive and diverse congregation and is known for its traditional choral worship and centrist Anglican theology.



We seek to inspire with worship which offers a glimpse of heaven on earth and refreshes us to serve both our community and the life of the city.



Our Vision



www2.cuf.org.uk/blog/near-neighbours-leicester-saturday-stop-project-video

At St James we seek to unite a diversity of people and perspectives through a desire to focus on the worship of God in the beauty of holiness. Worship is at the heart of all we do, offering inspiration to our members to contribute to the life of the city in their everyday lives.

- Through our worship and work we seek to participate in the building of the Kingdom of God in this City of Leicester and to reflect the Diocesan vision “Shaped by God.”
- We seek to grow in the knowledge and love of God as revealed in Jesus.
- We rejoice in the diverse nature of our congregation and seek to use this as a base to reach out into the wider community.

- We see St James providing the spiritual nourishment and support to its members, who in turn may offer service to the city in which we live.
- We aim to develop our understanding of St James as a Spiritual Home for Music and the Arts.
- We intend to build on our links with other churches, especially through the Southern Edge Mission Partnership and also with other faiths, to be a transforming force in the lives of those with whom we come into contact.

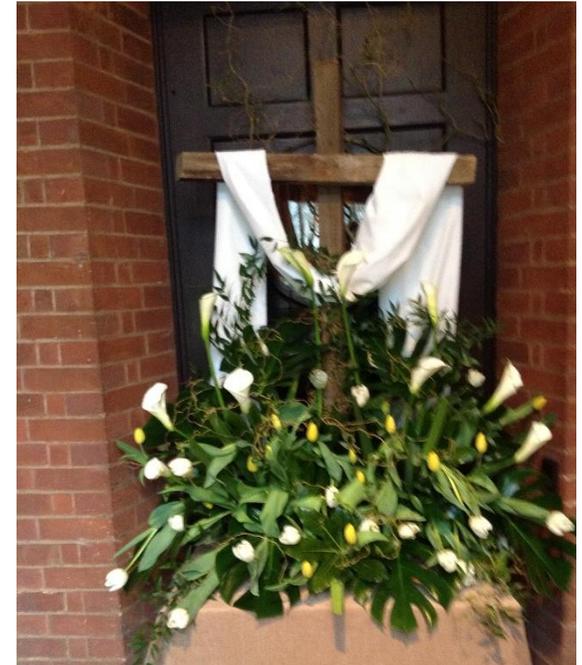
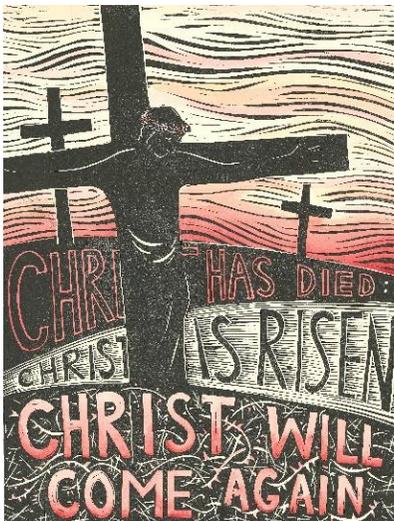


Choir Tour to Devon

Our Challenges

We see distinctive challenges for us as a church working with a new Incumbent as follows:

- Developing discipleship through education and spiritual refreshment.
- Discovering how we can serve our community and city, especially those in deep need.
- Holding together the different perspectives and needs of congregation and parish.
- Seeking new ways of engaging with families and young people.
- Devolving leadership to improve ways of working and communication within the church.



- Encouraging members of the congregation from different backgrounds into leadership roles.
- Maintaining the quality of worship, together with attracting newcomers.
- Finding ways of engaging during the week with an eclectic congregation, many of whom live at a distance.
- Taking advantage of the location of the church near Victoria Park and one of Leicester's Universities.

Our New Incumbent

We are looking for a priest who, from within a mature spirituality, can build on and develop further the strengths of the church.

That person should demonstrate an ability to:

- Share our vision of St James as a spiritual resource for its members, working for the building of the Kingdom of God in our city.
- Fully appreciate, and be committed to maintain and lead, a mainstream style of choral Anglican worship.
- Develop the spiritual life of the congregation through preaching and teaching.



- Be open to the diversity of perspectives within the congregation and to discern what is the call of the Church to serve the wider community.
- Actively develop provision for youth work and family-centred worship and outreach.
- Offer pastoral care, which may include visiting members of the congregation outside the parish.
- Be willing to work collaboratively beyond St James itself, particularly with other churches in the mission partnership and with groups from other faiths.
- Offer leadership and encouragement to members of the congregation, enabling them to develop their skills to serve church and community.
- Collaboratively manage the smooth running of a church of some complexity.

St James the Greater – the place we love

Worship and Ministry

The Ministry Team is comprised of one Associate Priest (NSM), two Honorary Associate Priests (with PTO), three Readers, who are all experienced preachers, as well as one Pastoral Assistant, who also acts as Child Safeguarding Officer. They are supported by our Sacristan.

A strong team of committed volunteers contributes to our worship including Eucharistic Assistants, Servers, Intercessors, Sidesmen, and members of The Flower Guild and The Sanctuary Guild.

Sunday services take place at 08.30, 10.30 and 18.30. There is a celebration of Holy Communion on Thursdays at 10.15. The Tuesday early morning Communion service is suspended for the interregnum. Full details of services, both regular and those on festivals and special occasions (when we often host outside organisations and attract large numbers of people) can be found on our website. There you can also find downloads of past weekly leaflets, orders of service, the Quarterly magazine, Music and Choir Calendars and the Annual Report. We are fortunate in having a Webmaster who keeps the site regularly updated.

Music at St James

Music in the Anglican choral tradition is central to our main services and we aim to offer a high standard of worship, all to the glory of God.

Two professional musicians lead the Music Department – our Director of Music and Associate Director of Music/Organist.

We have two choirs: one consists of Girls, Boys and ‘The Back Row’ (alto, tenor and bass adults). St James’ Singers is our SATB choir, which covers services during holiday periods and sings once a month in its own right. All our choristers have access to high quality vocal training and we also offer the opportunity of an Organ Scholarship, currently held by a member of the choir.

Other staff

Our Administrator ensures the smooth running of the church, including publications, accounts, managing concerts and lettings plus general administrative tasks. A part time caretaker lives on site to ensure security.



St James the Greater – the place we love

Activities and Organisations

Opportunities to socialise may be found over coffee after both Sunday and midweek celebrations of the Eucharist, through occasional house groups, social and charity events.

Our work with young people is currently focussed through the main choir and the Sunday Club which meets during the 10.30 Sunday morning service, as well as the outreach through SEMP.

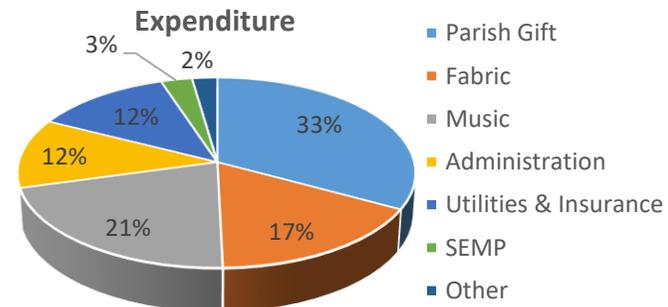
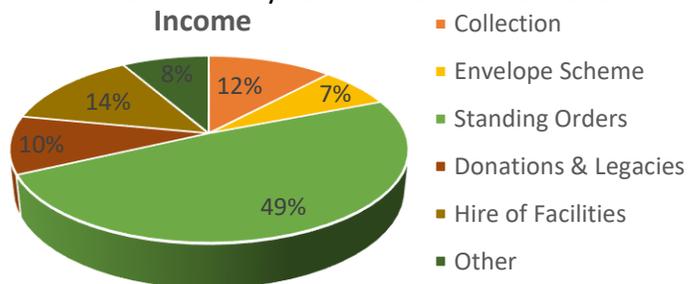
The church halls are extensively used during the week. Groups include a local Madrassa and our own St James 41st Scout, Beaver and Cub group. Every Saturday lunch time we co-host a project (Saturday Stop-By) with the Leicester branch of the Islamic Society of Britain to feed and care for the vulnerable adults of our area. The halls are often rented to the wider community for family functions such as wedding parties.

Several choirs rehearse at St James. Choral societies and orchestras frequently rent the church for concerts. We also host performances by professional groups, which have included world-renowned choirs such as The Sixteen and Ex Cathedra.

Finance and Administration

Our Finances are currently in good order through regular giving via the Parish Giving Scheme, plate collections and legacies. All our finance complies with Corporate Governance procedure.

The church's expenditure is carefully planned and budgeted, ensuring that the high standard of music, staffing, fabric and outreach is realised. It also includes a healthy contribution to the Diocese via the Parish Gift.



We are also supported by 'The Friends of St James', who have ensured that finance is in place for a planned upgrade of our sound system in the church.

St James, the place we love, would not run as smoothly as it does without the hard work of many behind the scenes including Churchwardens, the Standing Committee and PCC with its sub committees. The annual report is on our website.

Further information, newsletters and orders of service can be found on our website:

www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk



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