

# The Parish Profile of St. James Church Newchapel Stoke-on-Trent



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## INTRODUCTION

St. James church is in Newchapel, a semi-rural village north of the Stoke-on-Trent conurbation and situated at the northern end of the Lichfield diocese on the Staffordshire/Cheshire border.

The parish is largely residential – with a mix of terraced, semi-detached and detached housing, with several fairly new modern estates .



A church has stood on the site since 1558, the current church being re-built in 1880. We are expecting the completion of our new 'Community Hub' building this year (2016). This is a companion building adjacent to the church with large meeting room, smaller meeting room, kitchen, toilets and store.



***“Guard the good deposit  
that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit  
who lives in us.”***

***(2 Timothy 1:14)***



## OUR VISION:

We are a fellowship of Christians who seek to know God and make Him known in our community. We continue to pray for the community we seek to serve so that each person will encounter Jesus and find a time of refreshing in God's Holy Spirit.

## We Seek to:

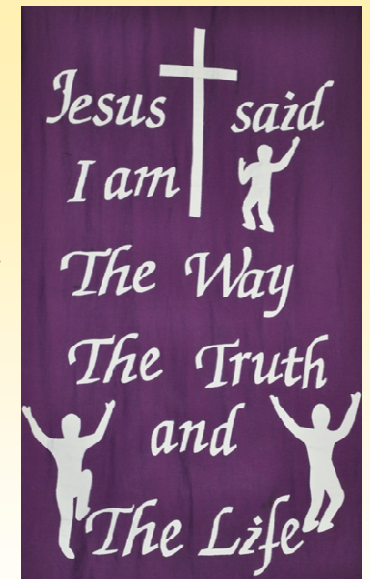
- ✝ Reach out to our community in love and service.
- ✝ Be a community that represents and includes people of all ages.
- ✝ Grow new leaders and encourage the development and growth of existing leaders .
- ✝ Use the opportunities that the “pastoral offices” bring to draw people into the life of the church.
- ✝ Increase the musical resource of our worship team.
- ✝ Equip the people of God to be bearers of good news to our community
- ✝ Experience more fully the Holy Spirit’s presence and power among us.

This Parish Profile presents a fuller picture of where we currently stand as a Parish church in the areas of our worship style, mission, leadership structure, building project and children’s work, which are covered in greater detail in subsequent sections.

## OUR CHALLENGE:

In the next phase of our life we believe God is calling us to:

- ✝ Ensure that our new Community Hub becomes a focus for service and evangelism and to develop activities and strategies to achieve the purpose.
- ✝ Seek ways to be more effective in our discipleship of new believers. We are conscious that some people come to know Jesus and yet drift away from attending church on a regular long term basis, which is a disappointment.
- ✝ Be more effective in reaching children and the 20’s and 30’s age groups and to regain a focus on these.
- ✝ Be more effective in building on existing focussed ministries to women, men and children.
- ✝ Re-launch our midweek home groups as a place where people can grow as disciples.
- ✝ Create structures that better support leaders and lead to ‘natural’ growth of individuals and the church.
- ✝ Develop the resources of our worship team.



## THE ROLE & PERSON:

St. James church is seeking a vicar who:

- ✝ Is Bible-believing;
- ✝ Is led by and operating in the Holy Spirits anointing;
- ✝ Would encourage Christians of all denominations across the Parish and City wide to work together to extend God's Kingdom;
- ✝ Has an enthusiasm for outreach ministry;
- ✝ Has good communication skills.
- ✝ Will help us to grow in faith and numbers..
- ✝ Believes in and positively encourages the empowering of lay ministry and supports lay leaders in their ministries;
- ✝ Encourages worship which brings people closer to God;
- ✝ Will maintain an active prayer life, recognising the central role of prayer in the life of the church and consistently model the Christian life as a servant-hearted leader;
- ✝ Encourages people by preaching and teaching to grow in faith so as to maintain and develop their own spiritual life.



## WHAT WE OFFER:

- ✝ A warm and welcoming church family;
- ✝ Huge opportunity with our new community hub;
- ✝ A supportive ministry team;
- ✝ A beautiful part of the country, well located for town and country;
- ✝ A commitment to reimbursing expenses in full;
- ✝ To protect your day and time off;
- ✝ A good vicarage;



## LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

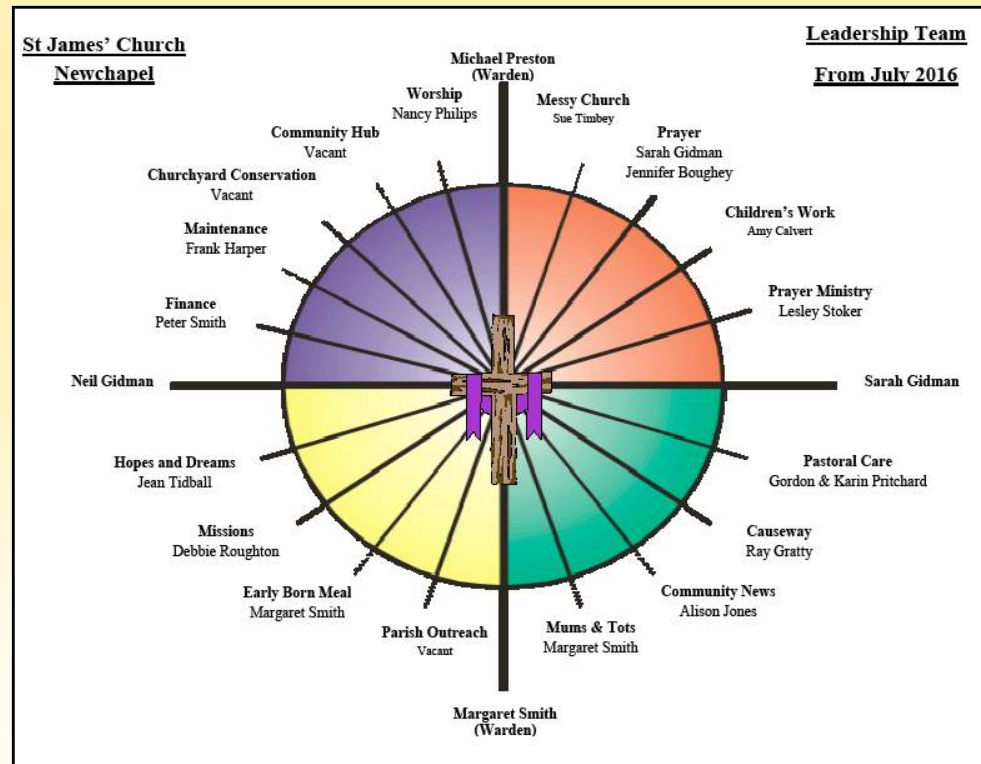
The current leadership structure at St James comprises a Minister supported by:-

Two church wardens, 4 deputy wardens and a church council of sixteen members.

In addition, we have a 'Leadership Wheel' structure (see diagram) covering four general areas of church life. These quadrants have designated co-ordinators who have responsibility for the identified ministries.

These co-ordinators meet bi-monthly as a quadrant group with the two leaders shown at either end of each quadrant. The Minister, whole leadership wheel and PCC meet at least twice per year.

A standing committee composed of minister, wardens and treasurer convenes at various times to address matters of a routine nature and formulate agendas for timetabled PCC meetings.



## WORSHIP & PRAYER LIFE

### Sunday worship (corporate)

**9am:** There are usually fifteen to twenty people who regularly attend this service which takes place on the first and third Sundays of the month. Holy Communion is occasionally included. The same readings and talk as the later 10:30am service are sometimes used. The attendees tend to be drawn from the more mature members of the church.

**10:30am:** This is the main service and takes place every week. Between fifty to seventy people attend the 10:30am service, with ages ranging from birth to eighty plus years, with the majority being aged

fifty years and above. The services open with worship and includes Bible readings, prayer, notices, an offering and a talk given by the Vicar, or member of the church (whom the Vicar has asked to speak), for about twenty minutes. Some services may also include testimony, times of waiting on the Spirit, anointing with oil and drama, depending on the type/purpose of service. Holy Communion takes place on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. If there is a fifth Sunday in the month the service is characterised by the opportunity for anointing with oil and the service is often followed by a shared fellowship lunch. Every 10:30am service ends with a time of prayer ministry for those who seek prayer. (cont'd)

**6:30pm:** There are usually ten or twelve people who regularly attend this service which takes place every week except on a fifth Sunday in the month. It has been the pattern over the last couple of years to follow some teaching course material rather than have a sermon. This gives the service more of a 'dialogue' element. Material used has included the 'Pilgrim' course, ALPHA and Lent courses.

The preaching at St James is based upon biblical principles together with a Holy Spirit dynamic and is undertaken by the vicar, and a small number of trusted and experienced members of the church, as determined by the vicar. Likewise several of the lay church members are gifted and experienced in leading services and more widely the congregation is comfortable with sharing their experiences or words from God.

Our church is 'charismatic' within the Anglican tradition and this provides for a degree of flexibility in the nature of the main service. Prayer ministry is a common characteristic within the service and all are at ease in seeking prayer and healing during or after the service. We have a well organised set of prayer ministry teams who are on duty at every main service.

## Worship Style

Worship is free, with a desire to see God glorified. There are occasional times of spontaneous worship, encouraging the congregation to express their own personal worship and members may share an encouraging verse or word.

The songs are mostly contemporary worship songs. There is often a short period of pre-service prayer and worship.

There is a core worship group, including several singers, keyboard players and drummers. The team works within a rota and meets weekly to practise.

At present the worship team do not cover the 9am or 6:30pm services. Worship for the 9am is provided by using audio and video recordings.

Our services and fellowship are characterised by:-

- ✝ A friendly warm welcome.
- ✝ Modern worship style.
- ✝ All member ministry.



Time	Month - Week 1	Month - Week 2	Month - Week 3	Month - Week 4	Month - Week 5
9am	Fellowship Praise	-	Fellowship Praise	-	-
10:30am	'Together in Worship' All age family service	Holy Communion	'Celebration' worship service	Holy Communion	'Anointing with Oil' service. Followed by fellowship lunch.
6:30pm	Holy Communion	Evening Praise	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer	-

## Prayer Groups and Home Groups

As previously mentioned, we have a good prayer ministry team. We have a weekly prayer evening, open to anyone who wants to come along for prayer.

There is a regular prayer time on a Tuesday morning between 9 and 10am.

We also operate a 'Prayer Chain' network for the mobilisation of people to pray as needs arise. A 'Prayer Post' equipped with cards and a post box stands in the churchyard for visitors to the churchyard to use. Any prayer request cards posted are included in the prayer life of the church.

Midweek home groups encouraging discipleship have declined over the last few years and we only have one currently. This is an area of church life that we need to improve.



We do run ALPHA each year as well as 'Celebrate Recovery' a Christ centred bible based recovery programme designed to help people address a variety of hurts, habits and hang-ups and develop and deepen their relationship with Jesus.

## OUTREACH

We believe that it is important to introduce others to Jesus Christ and look for the opportunities to do this in all the various activities we do.

✝ **Early Born Meals** - Monthly meals provided for anyone in the parish of retirement age. Forty to fifty people attend these each month. The four course meal is followed by a speaker who talks for 10 to 20 minutes and this talk often has a Christian theme.



✝ **'Hopes & Dreams' Drama Group**

Our drama group not only provide drama for within the church, they often perform dramas with a Christian message at various local venues.

✝ **Messy Church** – A monthly activity group at church for families with children aged between 3-11. A programme of crafts, songs, stories, and finishing with a meal, attended by 15 to 20 children plus accompanying parent. The crafts always follow a bible story/theme, which is taken up in the story telling.



✝ **Knit and Natter** –

A weekly activity group at church for adults to share/learn various craft skills at the same time as having a good time chatting. Regularly attended by 15 to 18 people.



✝ **Toddlers** – A weekly activity group at church for carers & toddlers, for a time of playing, singing and toast!



✝ **Parish Magazine** – The 'St James Community News' is an A4 sized colour magazine produced quarterly and delivered by the church to every home in the parish. It includes information about all the activities taking place in all the Christian churches in the parish as well as faith stories, local information, puzzles and the advertisements that fund the production/printing costs.

✝ **Men's Breakfast** – A monthly breakfast at a local farm café open to any man who wants to come. We have a breakfast and discuss a pre-circulated topic from a Christian perspective. Past topics have included difficult bible stories (Creation, Noah, Sodom & Gomorrah) current world issues (Immigration, war, EU membership etc).

✝ **Craft Fayre**

We have been using the 'Community Hub' for some time to operate a craft fayre every 6 weeks, inviting local craft individuals to show their crafts for sale and invite the public to come along. We offer an all day breakfast and other refreshments.



✝ **Coffee morning** – A monthly opportunity for anyone to join together at a coffee shop (usually at a large church in Burslem, one of the local towns).

✝ **Saturday Ramblers** – A walking group organised by people from St James and two other local churches. Walks are organised on a monthly basis and take advantage of the our proximity to the Staffordshire Moorlands, Derbyshire Dales and Cheshire Plain.





## MISSIONS

We recognise that we belong to a world-wide church and support various local, national and overseas missions.

**Youth For Christ** – Financial support.

**Christian Radio** (UCB & Cross Rhythms) – Financial support.

**Saltbox** (Christian Resource Centre) – Financial support.

**Causeway Prospects** - Financial and work with people who have physical and mental problems.

**AGAPE** France – Financial and prayer support and visit opportunities.

**SAMS** in Paraguay – Financial and prayer support and visit opportunities.

**Tearfund** - Financial and prayer support.

**West Malaysia** We have a companionship link with Church of the Holy Spirit, in Ipoh.

Our next trip to Malaysia is planned for 2018 and their visit to us in 2020.



## AREAS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

As a church we are open to being led by a new incumbent into what God next has for us. We see this vacancy as an opportunity to give thanks for where we are and to look to a new vision for the future but we recognise that we need to see 'development' in a number of areas where we are weak.

St. James desires to bring more people to know Jesus as Lord, and we seek opportunities to expand this ministry. In response the PCC approved plans to build our 'Community Hub' as a more appropriate facility. We need to make sure that this facility is used to best advantage and need to develop activities and strategies to achieve the purpose. This could equally apply to some of the more practical areas of church life!

We are conscious that some people come to know Jesus and yet drift away from attending church on a regular long term basis, which is a disappointment. We are therefore seeking ways to be more effective in our discipleship of new believers.

We want to see better integration of people in our 'fringe' groups into our main worshipping body.

Improvement of collaboration with fellow Christians in other local congregations.

## BUILDINGS

### Main Church Building

At the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I in 1558, a new Chapel of stone was built, so giving the village its present name. This chapel stood until the rebuilding in 1766/7. A new church was built in 1766/7 to replace the stone one.

The church was rebuilt in 1880 and this is the current church which was consecrated on 14th February 1880. The style is early English, and originally consisted of a nave with south porch. It has a western turret that contained one bell and originally had seating for 300 people.

A chancel, vestries and organ chamber were added in 1914. There is a Flemish window at the east end, depicting the Ascension and four memorial windows.

During the 1950's the bell became unsafe was removed. The old pipe organ has been removed and the space converted into a 2 story storage room.

Inside the church, extensive alterations have taken place which reflect the church's aim to adapt to the needs of its contemporary congregation. Thus the foyer and coffee bar area, a popular after service gathering spot, leads upstairs to fully fitted kitchen, meeting room and quiet prayer room. This utilisation of the roof space provides a venue for various church groups.



### New Community Hub Building

As a church and community we have celebrated and felt great excitement at the official opening of our Community Hub this year 2016.

This fully accessible building stands adjacent to the main church and has been constructed in a sympathetic style to it. It has a large hall, meeting room, fitted kitchen, toilets and storeroom.

These facilities, have given greater scope for both the Church and Community to continue to expand, develop and work together. The Hub has a Management Team consisting of both Diocesan and PCC members, as well as a contracted Part Time Community Development Worker.



## VICARAGE

The vicarage is a post war detached house having an entrance porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, study, kitchen, utility area, back porch and a downstairs toilet. Upstairs, there are four bedrooms (three double and large single) a bathroom with a shower and an airing cupboard.



The house is heated by a gas central heating system. There is a lawn and borders garden at the front of the vicarage.

There is a driveway leading to a detached garage and patio area overlooking a largely lawned rear garden.

The vicarage is situated in Pennyfields Road, approximately a quarter of a mile from the church.



## THE PARISH OF NEWCHAPEL

St James' parish is situated at the Northern end of Staffordshire, close to the Cheshire border. This gives easy access to the Staffordshire Moorlands and its picturesque villages and scenery as well as Cheshire's rural villages of half-timbre and local red sandstone buildings. There are many and varied visitor attractions within easy range of our location. 4.5 miles South is Hanley, which is the city centre and main shopping area in Stoke-on-Trent.



The church and part of the parish are in the Newcastle-under-Lyme borough council area and the other part of the parish is in the Stoke-on-Trent County Council area.

(See parish map)

The population is approximately 9,000.

There are between 3,600 to 3,700 households in the parish, with an estimated 84% owner occupied households, 9% private rented households and 7% social housing.

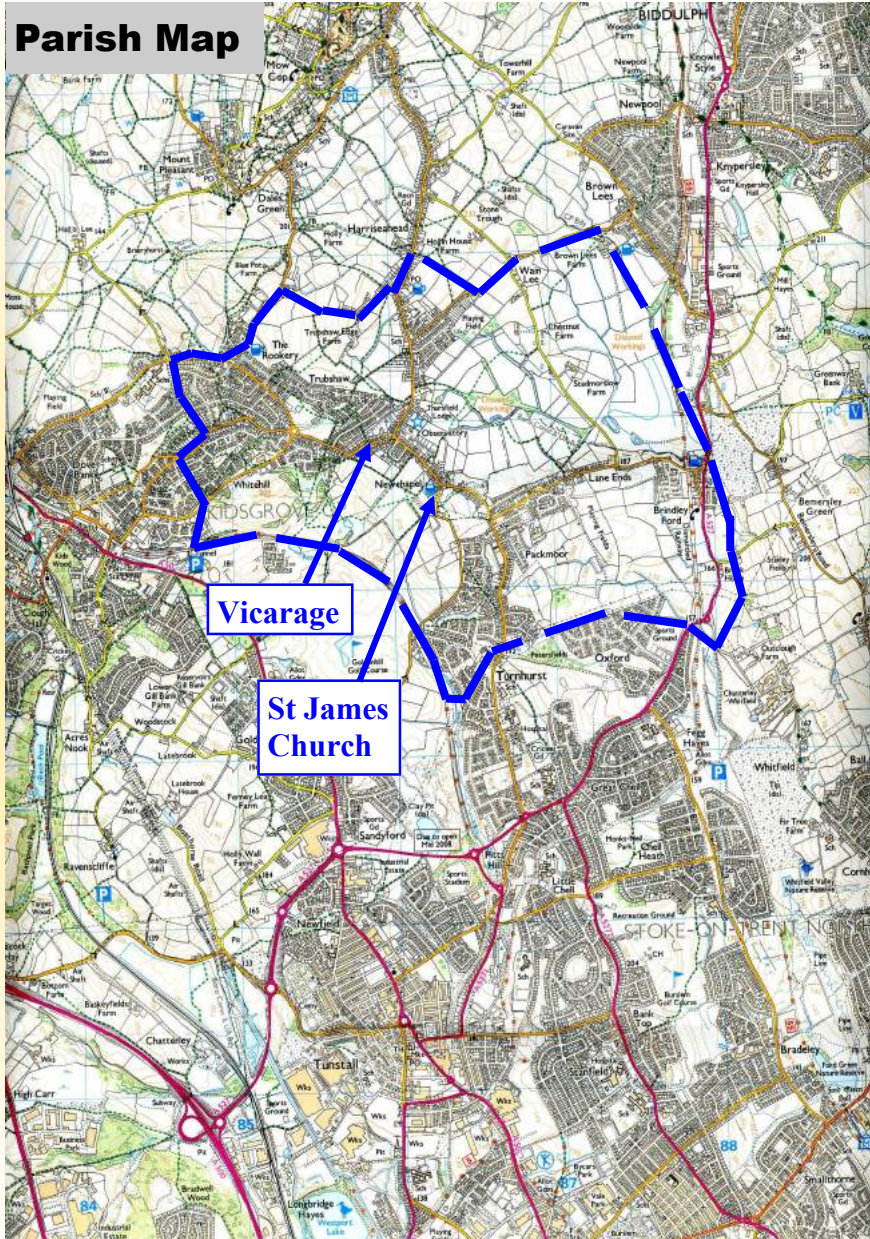
19% of those who live in the parish are under 16 years, 65% are 16 to 64 years and 16% are 65 years and over.

There are two Primary schools in the parish (Packmoor and Thursfield).

There are two secondary/academy schools situated just outside the parish boundary.

There are four Methodist churches and one Roman Catholic church in the parish.

## Parish Map



## DEANERY & DIOCESE

St. James Church is a part of the Diocese of Lichfield and is situated within the Stoke North Deanery. Two representatives from St James play an active role in meetings of the Deanery Synod. Our previous incumbent was, for several years, the Rural Dean.

## COMMUNICATION

St. James Church makes effort to communicate with its members and the wider community.

### Church Newsletter & Magazine

There is a weekly notice sheet given out in hardcopy form at each service and an electronic version that is sent out weekly to anyone who has requested a copy (currently 57 people).

We display church information and upcoming events electronically on a screen in the church reception area and on screen in the church prior to the main service.

As previously mentioned, we produce and circulate the St James Community News to every home in the parish on a quarterly basis.

### Parish Office

We do not currently have a staffed Parish Office, however we have included one in the new Community Hub building and hope to make this an effective point of contact for information, planning and administration.

### Website

St James has a professionally designed website:

[www.stjamesnewchapel.co.uk](http://www.stjamesnewchapel.co.uk)

This site is updated with information about news, church groups, service times and special events.

## FINANCIAL POSITION

The financial position of St James church is considered to be stable.

The Parish Share is paid in full by monthly Direct Debit and represents approximately 65% of the PCC's total annual income.

All major items of expenditure—insurance, utilities etc. are paid by Direct Debit and there are no arrears. The PCC commits to maintaining our levels of giving to local, national and overseas work.

Budgets for other areas of expenditure are reviewed and approved by the PCC as necessary.

There are currently no significant reserves of any kind beyond those needed to meet regular planned commitments.

The PCC strongly believes that as we give of ourselves and our finances, God provides replenishment to meet our needs.

In 2015 total ordinary income, including Gift Aid, was £62,943. The building project raised around £18,611 (inc. Grants) and £5,721 was expended on it.

### Our Community Hub building project.

The Diocese has invested in our building project by provided money, for the completion of The Community Hub, by way of a Capital Asset Loan, which requires us to pay back interest only on the loan.

We will start paying interest on the £225,000 provided, at an initial rate of 1% PA this would equate to around £2,250 PA or £187.50 per month. This could rise over a period depending on general interest rate changes.

The best and worst case scenarios are as follows:-

**Best case**, as the Hub is expected to become self sufficient within 2 years, this interest would come out of generated income.

*"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 4:38*

**Worst Case**, if there was a 100% shortfall in income, (unlikely), we would have to find between £562.50 and £2,250 per quarter, depending on interest rates.

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Electoral Roll Members : 101 with 64 living within the parish and 37 non-resident. (2016)

Average Sunday Attendance across all services: 59 Adults / 4 Children (2015).

Public Offices: 1 Wedding, 12 Funerals, 7 Baptisms (2015)



## PASTORAL OFFICES

### Baptisms

Our website provides information to prospective applicants to help inform and advise them.

An application form is provided for download.

Baptism preparation has been carried out by a small team from the fellowship in the past, though the use of this team has diminished and any preparation has been conducted by the vicar.

Baptisms take place within the 10:30 am Sunday service.

### Weddings

Our website provides information to prospective applicants to help inform and advise them about residency and bans. An application form is provided for download.

Couples are requested to attend the services when their bans are read.

Marriage preparation has been carried out by married couples from the fellowship in the past, though it has more recently been conducted by the vicar.

### Funerals

Our churchyard is 'closed' to burials other than interment into an existing grave that has capacity.

The graveyard does have an 'Ashes only' plot.

Retired or other local priests are available to conduct funerals in the incumbent's absence.



***"To God be the glory,  
Great things He hath done!"***