

## St James' Trowbridge: Parish Profile



### The Town

Trowbridge, the vibrant county town of Wiltshire, lies just ten miles southeast of the picturesque city of Bath. With a population exceeding 45,000, it proudly holds the title of the largest town in Wiltshire (excluding the unitary authority Borough of Swindon), following closely behind Salisbury and Chippenham. Nestled amidst its enchanting surroundings are charming villages like Keevil, alongside three notable towns—Melksham, Bradford on Avon, and Westbury. The town enjoys excellent rail connections to Bath, Bristol, Chippenham, and Salisbury, while the A350 meanders along its outskirts, providing easy access to the M4 and opening doors to London, the Midlands, Wales, and the rest of the South West.

Trowbridge, though not as affluent as some of its counterparts in Wiltshire, has been a hive of activity, ardently pursuing investment for its commercial revitalization, attracting small-scale industrial businesses to breathe new life into its historical tapestry, and filling the void left by traditional industries and family-owned retailers on the high street. Notably, the headquarters of Wiltshire Council, stationed proudly in Trowbridge, serves as a beacon of local employment, albeit facing some job cuts in recent times.

Despite its undeniable charm, Trowbridge faces challenges as the only community in Wiltshire that falls within the most deprived 10% of communities in England. In response, the proactive Town Council has implemented several schemes, with a particular focus on improving the lives of residents. In addition to the commendable efforts of local authorities, the town benefits greatly from the involvement of numerous national and local volunteer organizations dedicated to providing valuable social assistance. Statistics reveal that Trowbridge boasts a significantly lower crime rate in all major categories compared to the national average.

### The Church

#### *Our History*

Dating back to the 13th century, St James' is the original parish church of Trowbridge, and is strategically located at the edge of the centre of the town. The population of St James' parish is about 12,000 in 4200 households. Remarkably, around 40% of our devoted congregation calls this parish their home, reflecting the magnetic pull of our ministry, which transcends the confines of physical boundaries.

As the civic church, St James' holds an important place in the life of the town, enabling us to extend our ministry to the civic and business communities within Trowbridge. We cherish the valuable opportunities given to us to serve not only the individuals who shape the local governance and economic landscape but also the honourable associations catering to ex-service personnel and the many schools.

### *Our Vision*

As a church, we seek to reach our town with the good news that Jesus Christ has come to bring us into an everlasting relationship with God. In the midst of our imperfections, weaknesses, and struggles, we also want to grow as Jesus' disciples – becoming more of the people God made us to be. We're committed to helping one another in those aims through prayer, worship, witness, and service.

### *Our Worship*

Our worship is rooted in the Church of England's liturgies and heritage. It is shaped by the gospel, saturated with Scripture, and focussed on the God who nourishes us as we receive His word preached and share in bread and wine at His table. We believe there is no better place to be than church on Sunday and no substitute for experiencing the gospel enacted among us in worship each week.

### *Our People*

We are a Christian family of all ages and backgrounds coming together with a shared love and unity in Christ. However, we don't currently have many families with school-aged children regularly attending Sunday worship. We would love to have a Children and Families Ministry Leader on board to help us nurture our children and reach out to the other families.

The Rector is the Revd Jake Eggertsen, a former secondary-school teacher and graduate of Oak Hill Theological College. He's married to Nicola, also a former secondary-school teacher who's currently re-training as a Christian counsellor. They have three girls aged 9, 7, and 4.



**Sundays at St James'**

**Sunday Worship**  
**10:45am**

Beginning Sept 2023

<b>Adult Sunday</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>BCP Holy</b>
<b>School</b>	<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>Communion</b>
<b>4:30pm</b>	<b>4:30pm</b>	<b>8:00am</b>
<b>1st &amp; 3rd</b>	<b>2nd &amp; 4th</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>