



ST JAMES' CHURCH

TROWBRIDGE

Parish Profile



The Church

Introduction

St James' Trowbridge is part of a two-parish benefice, which also includes St Leonard's Keevil. The church is in an urban setting at the heart of the county town of Wiltshire, providing a central presence in the community. There is an active congregation, participating in various ministries. Our principal Sunday service averages 108 adults and 12 children/young people each week. The parish is in the 20% most deprived parishes. Many in the congregation are in the 70+ category, but we are growing younger. The parish's worship is grounded in Scripture and the sacraments. It upholds the Thirty-Nine Articles and emphasizes gospel-centred preaching and teaching.



*Left: St James', Trowbridge
Below: St Leonard's, Keevil*



Our vision

Our vision is three-fold. It is to Proclaim Christ, Grow Disciples, and Love Trowbridge.



Proclaiming Christ:

Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of our faith and the focal point of our life and worship. United to Christ, we seek to reflect his love, grace, and compassion. As part of the broader Diocesan vision of 'Making Jesus Known,' we are committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with our community, inviting them to experience the abundant life found in him. We proclaim Christ because he is our light and our salvation (Psalm 27:1). He reveals God to us. He saves us by his perfect life and sin-atoning death. He leads us home to heaven.

Growing Disciples:

Nothing less than fullness of life is what God offers people in Christ. In a culture marked by haste and superficiality, we embrace the call to grow deeper as Christian disciples. We affirm the supreme authority of Holy Scripture and seek opportunities to study the Bible together, for example in homegroups and at Adult Sunday School. Children and youth, as well as adults, are central to our long-term and unhurried vision for growing deeper. We also believe in holistic discipleship, recognising that God cares about the whole life of a person. Through





Loving Trowbridge

the work of the Lay Pastoral Assistant team, we seek to walk alongside and help those in particular need – whether in mind, body, or spirit.

Loving Trowbridge:

As the civic church, we desire to serve the people of our community, contributing to the good of our town's common life. The people of St James' represent diverse ages, backgrounds, and nationalities. We strive to offer a hospitable welcome to all. We are a church where the weary find welcome, the lost find hope, and all grow in Christ.

Our values

Worship is central: We gather. We participate. We pray. We invite.

The Gospel is primary: We are intentional in mission and unafraid to live and speak in distinctively Christian ways. We boldly proclaim the Gospel, sharing the hope of Christ with others.

Discipleship is lifelong: We want people to grow in faith and live out their calling as Christ's ambassadors in the world. We take time to nurture faith, recognising that spiritual growth is a journey, not a race. We want to enable lay leadership, help people explore vocations, and offer placements for ministry training.

Hospitality matters: We offer generous hospitality and a warm welcome to strangers.

Trowbridge is significant: We want to be at the heart of the town's revitalisation through public faith 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 leadership team

Clergy:

Jake Eggertsen (*Rector*)

Chris Adams (*Curate*)

Richard East (*Permission to officiate*)

Andrea Harwood (*Permission to officiate*)

Lay leaders:

Helen Pickett (*Licensed Lay Minister*)

Nicola Eggertsen (*Youth Fellowship*)

Paid Staff:

Nick Lambert (*Children & Families Ministry Leader, full-time*)

Clair Matthews (*Church Office Manager, part-time*)

Becca Lambert (*Ministry Development Enabler, part-time*)

Church wardens and PCC

Volunteers:

Various roles, including tech and AV coordination, hospitality, home-group leaders, and lay pastoral assistants



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.

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.



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 20% 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.



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