



THE CHURCH OF ST JAMES

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD



PROFILE FOR THE POST OF
TEAM VICAR OF **ST JAMES** AND
THE **CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**
IN THE PARISH OF **BUSHBURY**

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Welcome

From the Team Rector, Rev. Dr. Ian Poole

Dear Enquirer,

I warmly invite you to consider this great opportunity to take on the challenge of ministering among us and I look forward to you joining me as a colleague.

Bushbury Parish is a place of contrasts. Alongside areas of stability and relative affluence, some neighbourhoods face generational deprivation, where crime and instability cast long shadows over daily life.

Our vision is to see this Parish transformed: to see lives restored, hope rekindled, and communities strengthened. We hold three core missional emphases that shape our life together:

Evangelism

We are not ashamed of the gospel and believe it has the power to transform lives through the Holy Spirit. We seek to actively engage with all ages of our community and underpin our efforts with committed prayer.

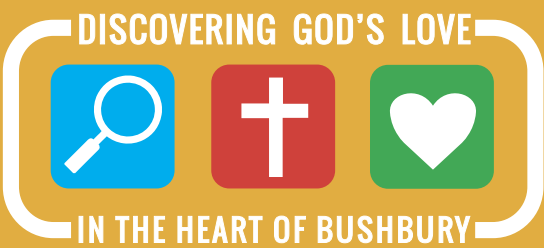
Discipleship

We believe that conversion is just the beginning of a journey into maturity as a disciple of Jesus. To nurture this growth we have a growing number of leaders and Life Groups.

Disciple Makers and Leaders

We are convinced that mature disciples live for others and make other disciples, and in so doing become leaders themselves.

Will you join hands with us in this exciting task of bringing light out of darkness and joy out of sorrow as we lift the name of Jesus up in our Parish?



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PARISH PROFILE INTRODUCTION - from the Rt Revd Michael Ipgrave OBE Bishop of Lichfield

Cradled at the intersection of the Midlands and the North, and the interface between England and Wales, the Diocese of Lichfield is the ancient centre of Christianity in what was the Kingdom of Mercia.

St Chad, Lichfield’s first Bishop, journeyed around Mercia with heavenly hope and the good news of Christ’s resurrection. He believed that there was ‘a new opening for the gospel’ in Mercia. Many people became followers of Jesus.

Accounts of the apostles’ journeys, as they travelled in the power of the Spirit, with little other than the stories of Christ’s life, crucifixion and resurrection, were Chad’s only companions. His plan to walk Mercia was as daring in its simplicity and boldness as God trusting the gospel first to the shepherds and then to just twelve apostles.

Chad set out believing that he would bear fruit, and that the kingdom of God would grow. Bede describes Chad as ‘humble, devout, zealous and apostolic’.

Today, in our much more complex world, I recognise a similar opening for the Gospel in these parts and I invite you to join with me in seizing this opportunity to follow Christ in the humble, devout, zealous and apostolic footsteps of St Chad.

Over the centuries, we have become immersed in Chad’s legacy - as we are immersed in Christ at baptism. Chad’s church of ordinary Mercian people became a growing community of Christian faith through the example of Chad’s pilgrim life and ministry pointing to Jesus. This must have encouraged him in his arduous and sacrificial journey for the sake of the gospel. To truly follow Christ in Chad’s footsteps today, we must be committed to this life and ministry. **This is zealous.**

Chad’s legacy of a vibrant community of faith leads us today to charge our clergy with nurturing, outside weekly worship, confident knowledge of the faith handed down to us. Such faith is characterised by a readiness in each member of our worshipping communities to speak about what Jesus Christ means in their lives and how they are being shaped by him. Doing this, we will recognise and rejoice in the gifts of all those, lay and ordained, who contribute to the life and ministry of our churches. **This is apostolic.**

Our clergy should take responsibility for their own flourishing and effectiveness, supported by the wellbeing and learning programmes in development and through prioritising participation in peer support and review. Chad would have been spurred on seeing God’s unfolding plan in Mercia, just as the flourishing of the gifts of all God’s people can contribute to our clergy’s human flourishing and effectiveness as ministers. **This is humble.**

Together, as the Body of Christ in this place, reflecting Chad’s legacy in giving priority to purposeful evangelism, creative engagement with local communities, and to becoming more diverse and growing younger, our trajectory is given full expression in our diocesan strategy, ‘Seeking the Kingdom’. It is a manifesto for what I invite us by God’s grace to achieve as a diocese.

If we are to truly to follow in Chad’s footsteps together, we will go forward with his devotion to prayer. So doing, we will go believing that God will be faithful and will build his kingdom. **This is devout.**

Our journey together begins with our vision prayer:

As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the two million people in our diocese encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find you, O God already at work in your world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities. We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as a people of hope.

+Michael

Joining God’s Mission: Seeking the Kingdom Together

Thank you for taking the time to explore this parish profile. Across the Diocese of Lichfield and the Wolverhampton Episcopal Area, we are committed to the vision of Seeking the Kingdom — a call to grow in faith, share hope, and serve our communities with confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ.



To this end, we have committed ourselves to prayerful dependence on God, collaborative ministry, and courageous mission. With a shared desire to deepen discipleship and vocation, prioritise evangelism, nurture younger generations, grow in diversity, and engage every community in Christ’s love, we are marching forward in confident hope, trusting God to renew and revive his Church among us.

We are seeking leaders to join us in this joyful work: pastors rooted in Scripture, attentive to their communities, and eager to foster vibrant, outward-looking churches.

I warmly invite you to read this profile prayerfully, listening for where God may be calling you to serve. May the Holy Spirit guide your discernment, and may you recognise the opportunities for faithful witness and kingdom growth that await you.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

The Rt Revd Dr Tim Wambunya
Bishop of Wolverhampton

The Parish



THE CHALLENGE

We are seeking someone to take up the demanding yet rewarding post of being Team Vicar responsible for two distinct districts of Bushbury Parish (The Church of St James in Fordhouses and The Church of the Good Shepherd in Low Hill). These two churches together with the Parish Church of St Mary's are part of a Team Ministry, set up in 1977 out of one existing parish, with the aim of encouraging growth in each of the 3 districts. The team now comprises Team Rector (responsible for St Mary's) and Team Vicar (responsible for St James' and The Good Shepherd) alongside lay leaders. The team works together and enjoys supportive relationships. The Team Rector is committed to collaborative ministry, with clear space for the Team Vicar to lead and shape the life of St James and the Good Shepherd

All three churches share a common Charismatic/Evangelical churchmanship with a variety of local expression; each church places a high value on the Word of God, the work of the Holy Spirit, and missional outreach. We aim to create a culture and atmosphere which encourages and enables individuals to encounter the transforming power and love of God.

The churches of St James and The Good Shepherd share a joint heritage; we are sister churches established within two distinct cultural areas of Bushbury Parish. We desire to work more closely together, to be at the heart of our communities, and to share opportunities for outreach and discipleship so that we may see God's kingdom grow in our midst.

We acknowledge the need for more evangelism. We are keen to explore new and different ways of reaching out and drawing alongside our communities, being relevant to their daily experiences and bringing the transforming power of the Gospel into their lives. We believe we need to be intentional in our discipleship, nurturing our understanding and love of the Lord. Out of this we long to see new Christians disciplined effectively so that with discernment, commitment and confidence they too can make disciples.



THE CONTEXT

Bushbury parish is located within the Diocese of Lichfield and in Wulfrun Deanery. It is situated to the northeast of Wolverhampton and serves a population of almost 27,000. Overall, it can be described as urban with some areas of leafy conservation. Within the parish boundary, and just beyond, the urban area gives way to the more rural setting of Staffordshire and Shropshire.

The parish is among the most deprived in the country, ranking 699 out of 12,154 in the English Indices of Deprivation 2025. On the same scale the parish is ranked 682 for child poverty and 440 for working age poverty. These figures are collated for the parish, but the deprivation is not constant across the districts. The Good Shepherd district would be seen as the most deprived area in the parish with St Mary's marginally more affluent and skilled, while St James enjoys a relatively much better standard of living and skill base.

The Church Urban Fund (CUF). CUF has a very useful lookup tool for information. The profile for St Mary's Bushbury can be found here: <https://cuf.org.uk/parish/200202>

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Job Description

LEADERSHIP

- To lead the two churches, both to set and hold onto our vision, as we seek to lead people to Jesus and make disciples.
- To develop the prayer life of our churches and recognise its central part in all we do together. To share God’s living Word with our congregations that is both inspiring and motivating and to bring God’s Word in clear and applied bible teaching and preaching.
- To inspire, motivate, challenge and empower members of the churches individually and collectively to achieve God’s vision for us, and to fully take their place in thankful service to God’s community.
- To demonstrate a prayerful and spiritual life personally, recognising that they are on a spiritual journey themselves involving development of theological understanding and spiritual reflection.
- To lead worship which gives glory to God in a variety of styles and mix of the formal and informal. (As a Parish we value our links across all three churches and therefore there will be opportunity to lead worship on occasions at St Mary’s)
- We need leadership to help us see the wider, bigger picture, particularly in the ways we operate as churches – individually, together and as a Parish.
- To continue the Vision and Strategy begun with our previous Team Vicar and strengthen our culture of evangelism and discipleship.

DISCIPLESHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

- To encourage all members of the churches in their own journey of discipleship. Growing in their love and closeness to the Lord with a longing to share that experience and disciple others.
- To collaboratively plan, organise and support an ongoing programme of teaching which helps the church community as it seeks to develop its faith. And especially to have in mind those who are new Christians.
- To share ministry as is appropriate and work with others to encourage the bonds of fellowship.
- To help develop our work with children, young people and young adults.
- To develop appropriate structures and skills to meet the pastoral care needs of the congregations. We recognise that to be present in and connect with the community, we must seek first the welfare of our own churches.

OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM

- To prioritise clear and intentional actions for evangelism and community engagement with the Good News of God’s forgiveness and grace. To recognise connections we already have and seek new opportunities to best use our resources in serving our communities as we share the Gospel with them.
- To build on the extensive public ministry across the parish in weddings and especially funerals. To explore how we might engage people in meaningful ways that lead them to Christ.

STEWARDSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

- To chair the District Church Councils of St James and the Good Shepherd. To participate on the Parochial Church Council. To engage with the structures of the parish so that resources are effectively managed and the mission of the churches is achieved.
- To ensure process and policies in relation to services, safeguarding, health and safety, finance and fabric are in order to meet Diocesan and legal requirements.
- To work collaboratively with the Team Rector to build up both the people of God and reach out to the wider community in this parish.
- Engage with the wider church community, especially within the Deanery.
- Manage time and resources through administration, chairing of meetings, team time breaks.
- Facilitates personal spiritual growth and maintains an appropriate work/life balance.

WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER

We are a welcoming community with a strong core of lay people who support and strengthen our life together, and who will work with you across all areas of ministry as we grow in the goodness of God.

We believe in the power of prayer and the transforming work of the Spirit; prayer and worship are a priority across all three churches and central to our parish life. We want to uphold your ministry and our work together in prayer.

As a parish we want to support our Clergy by helping them recharge physically, spiritually and professionally. Ministers are encouraged to take their full days off and to arrange for the large part of another day for prayer and study.

Whilst recognised as team leader the Team Rector will seek to actively support and collaborate with the Team Vicar. The Clergy meet regularly for prayer, mutual support and planning.

The Clergy share the pastoral ministry of weddings and funerals across the parish. There is administrative support at the parish office based at St Mary’s church for this ministry.

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PERSONAL SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL

Has a passion for Jesus and experience of the transformative power of the gospel in conversion, and is effective in leading people to faith.

Someone who believes in discipleship and is able to grow disciples who can be disciple makers.

A highly valued personal prayer life with a passion to inspire this in others.

A deep knowledge and reverence for God's Word.

A charismatic spirituality, open to spiritual renewal in the church. Someone who enjoys the anointing of the Spirit and the presence of God in their ministry and who is sensitive to the Spirit's leading.

Someone who holds an orthodox view on sexuality.

Someone who places a high value on worship.

A leader and pastor who can bring renewed vision, building on what we already have.

Someone who is collaborative in their leadership style and promotes every member ministry.

Someone who sees the importance of engagement with our local communities.

Someone who is self aware and realistic about their gifts and limitations, who sees their work life balance as important.

DESIRABLE

A gift of evangelism in sharing the good news and encouraging others to lead people to Jesus.

An ability to communicate effectively to a wide range of people.

Experience with work in schools, care homes, workplaces, etc. Experience in leading or overseeing successful ventures with children, young people and young adults.

THE TEAM DIMENSION

Our team priorities are:

First, in our attitude as we aim to be supportive of each other in a servant hearted way.

Second, in our emphasis in discipleship and growth. This especially centres around the Life Groups in the three churches whose leaders meet regularly for mutual encouragement and training.

Third, in evangelism. For example, we have engaged in door to door outreach questionnaires and are presently seeking to distribute together 5000 gospels across the Parish.

Fourth, in shared services when we have guest speakers and specific services in the liturgical calendar such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Ascension. Once a quarter we set aside a day for focussed prayer and fasting in addition to a monthly Men's Breakfast and Ladies prayer breakfast. More regularly, as well as the cross parish Life Groups, we have recently marked our first decade of Waking the Dawn - a weekly time of open worship and prayer for across the parish and beyond.

The Parochial Church Council is the legal body of the parish. The Team Rector is chair. Each district church is equally represented on the PCC. The PCC devolves its powers to the District Church Councils of which there are three (one in each church district).

The PCC is responsible to the Diocese for paying the common fund.

The PCC agrees each church's proportionate share of the common fund.

The team has two churchwardens and each district church appoints its own district wardens (deputy wardens).

Alongside the DCCs each church has a leadership team who work with the Team Rector at St Mary's and the Team Vicar at the Good Shepherd and St James. There are two Readers, both based at the Good Shepherd, and one Authorised Minister at St Mary's who specialises in taking funeral services.

We are delighted to have a new Curate in post from Summer 2026.

As stated previously the clergy share the pastoral ministry of weddings and funerals. We would expect an average of 4 weddings, 40 funerals and 10 baptisms per year. St Mary's is regularly used for funerals and occasionally the other two churches; the crematorium is situated within the parish. Baptism numbers fluctuate, however, the trend across the parish over recent years is that there is an increasing number of adult baptisms by immersion and fewer baptisms of children, partly because we do seek to find genuine faith in the parents (See Baptism Policy in appendix 1).

Across the team we uphold the biblical conviction that marriage is between a man and a woman and is intended to be lifelong.

Currently the Team Rector is also Rural Dean. The Team Rector in consultation with the Team Vicar plans a three month Sunday service rota.

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PATTERN OF WORSHIP

The current pattern of worship in the parish is as below:

Sundays	St James' Church	The Church of The Good Shepherd	St Mary's Church
1 st	9:45am Service of the Word	11am Communion	9am Communion 10.30am The Gathering
2 nd	9.45am Communion	11am Service of the Word	9am Communion 10.30am The Gathering
3 rd	9:45am Service of the Word	11am Communion	9am Communion 10.30am The Gathering
4 th	9.45am Communion	11am Service of the Word	9am Communion 10:30am The Gathering with communion
5 th	9:45am Service of the Word	Koinonia Café Worship	9am Communion 10.30am Café Church

This pattern allows the Team Vicar to be at both services on a Sunday morning. On a regular basis time is built into the rota for the Team Vicar to be available to folks at the end of the service at St James rather than always having to leave for the Good Shepherd. This arrangement is recognised as an important aspect for the Team Vicar to be engaged with the congregation.

TEAM STATISTICS 2025 (2024 in brackets):

Total Electoral Roll: 140 (134)	St James' Church	The Church of The Good Shepherd	St Mary's Church
Electoral Roll	30 (29)	43 (42)	67 (63)
Usual Sunday attendance – Adults	21 (23)	26 (25)	54 (50)
Usual Sunday attendance - Children	5 (6)	12 (10)	7 (3)
Marriages	0 (1)	0 (0)	6 (3)
Funerals	5 (5)	3 (4)	21 (28)
Baptisms	2 (2)	1 (3)	5 (7)

Each district church is committed to give one tenth of its regular giving to mission and charities and to promote teaching on tithing.

The PCC would not seek funding directly from the National Lottery for church projects.

The PCC does not promote fundraising or raffles to support church finances.

The parish website www.bushburyteamministry.co.uk (bushburyteamministry.co.uk in Bing) is a work in progress and a small team meet to consider how this best reflects our current activities. Each church updates their page on the Church of England's A Church Near You platform.

As a parish, we are using the Diocesan Energy Footprint Tool to assist with the churches' target to meet net carbon zero by 2030.

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District Church of St James



DISCIPLESHIP, VOCATION AND EVANGELISM

St James’ church was built not just to be a presence in the local area, but to serve and reach out to the community, showing God’s love and sharing the gospel, to which we are committed.

To put into words our longings to reach our community we have recently renewed and re-affirmed our Vision Statement: “To be a vibrant church that shares the good news of Jesus Christ and works to transform our community”. Along with our Mission Statement: “As a community of developing disciples, we want to see people encounter Jesus meaningfully and engagingly and demonstrate God’s love in our neighbourhood”.

However, the DCC and congregation recognise that St James is at a point of transition. There is a shared desire to move from a maintenance mindset to a more mission focused approach, strengthening the core membership and becoming a more significant presence in the local community. This shift is not simply about numbers but about energy, vision and a renewed sense of purpose.

Having recently seen individuals and families come to faith, a small increase in attendance, and with some adult baptisms and confirmations, we have been encouraged to believe that God is at work and that there is more to come.

Current outreach focuses on care of the elderly, support for the recently bereaved, contact with families seeking baptism and invitations to social events and services. Currently we send invitations to our annual Memorial Service, Christingle and Remembrance Sunday, but we would like to expand this to include Mothering Sunday, Easter and Harvest, offering more opportunities to invite the community.

Social events planned for 2026 include an Afternoon Tea and a Cheese and Wine evening, both open to the community. These gatherings provide gentle, relational ways for people to connect with the church.

Prayer is sustained in our regular worship, a Thursday prayer group and plans to introduce prayer triplets in 2026. St James has a Facebook presence, is part of the parish website and appears on A Church Near You.

Discipleship primarily takes place through services; however, life groups are recognised as a more effective model. Plans are in place for Saturday mornings of prayer, fellowship and teaching in 2026, offering space for deeper spiritual growth. St James has a history of being a place where the community gathers and the building continues to be well used. On Mondays, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides meet in the building. Their leaders are keen to be part of the church community, and they regularly participate in special services such as Christingle and Remembrance Sunday.

Tuesday mornings host a well attended Families and Tots group that is closely connected to the church. Many families who attend have no other link with church life, and the group provides a gentle and natural way for relationships to form. It is a place of welcome, support and friendship, and it has become one of the most significant points of contact with the wider community.

Thursday mornings begin with a prayer meeting, followed by a Coffee Morning, open to the local community. This is particularly valued by older residents, offering companionship, conversation and pastoral support. It has become a key part of our ministry to the elderly, and we hope to see it grow further.

Alongside these regular activities, the building is frequently used for family celebrations, fellowship events and outreach gatherings. St James has long standing links with the local Churches Together group and actively supports a local Foodbank. These partnerships reflect our desire to be part of the wider Christian witness in the area and to serve those in need. We see the need to re-connect with Elston Hall Primary School, where previous ministry has been appreciated and where there is scope for further development.

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THE DISTRICT

Fordhouses forms the north western edge of the parish and has a distinct character shaped by its geography, housing and community life. Unlike the more densely populated areas of the parish, Fordhouses is spacious, with housing that spans several eras—from 1930s semis to homes built in the 1980s. Most properties are owner occupied, though there is a small pocket of social housing and former council homes. These different housing types sit side by side, creating a varied and stable community.

The district is bordered by the M54 and dissected by the busy A449, which provides easy access to Wolverhampton and Stafford but also separates the church from a significant residential area that we hope to reach more effectively. The presence of the i54 development and the JLR Engine Plant nearby adds another layer to the local landscape, bringing employment and a sense of industry to the area. Along the A449, a small parade of shops and takeaways provide everyday amenities.

St James is one of three churches in the area, alongside St Anthony's Roman Catholic Church and a Baptist church. This shared Christian presence has shaped the district over many years and continues to offer opportunities for collaboration and witness.

THE CHURCH

Sunday worship is held at 9.45am every week, allowing time for the minister to continue on to the Good Shepherd. At least once a month, the minister remains after the service, giving the congregation more time for conversation and pastoral contact.

Based upon our common Charismatic/Evangelical churchmanship, our worship is informal and flexible, celebrating Communion on the first and fourth Sundays and holding a Service of the Word on other weeks. A regular Sunday School meets during the service, offering age appropriate teaching for children.

Digital worship music is used, songs include traditional hymns and a variety of classic and modern worship; all displayed via projector using Easy Worship software. Refreshments are served after the service, providing time for fellowship and pastoral care.



THE CONGREGATION

St James has an active worshipping community of around 25 adults and a small number of children. The age profile is broad, from infants and juniors to those in their eighties. Members are involved in services and the day to day running of the church, including duty teams, cleaning, flowers, refreshments and maintenance.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

The leadership team at St James is intentionally small and relational, comprising Clergy (currently under the care of the Team Rector), selected DCC members and the churchwardens. The team meets regularly to pray, reflect and discern together, shaping the DCC agenda and supporting the life and ministry of the church. These meetings provide space to listen to God, to one another and to the needs of the community, helping the church remain grounded and responsive.

THE CHURCH BUILDING

Built in 1967, the church is a low maintenance, multifunctional building that serves as both church and hall. Its design reflects the practical needs of a growing community at the time, and it continues to offer flexible space for worship, ministry and community use. The building is generally in good repair, though some work to the fabric—mainly windows—is needed, and funds are being set aside for this.

The main hall includes two expansion spaces separated by glazed doors, which can be adapted for small groups, a prayer chapel or Sunday School. These spaces allow the church to be creative in how it uses the building, especially during family services or special events. Additional small rooms provide storage and potential for further group use. The building includes an entrance lobby, toilet facilities and a well equipped kitchen with servery. It is well adapted for those with limited mobility, ensuring that everyone can participate fully in church life. Next to the church is a diocesan owned property currently used as the curate's residence. Its proximity to the church has been helpful for ministry and pastoral presence.

CHURCH FINANCES

St James' finances are well managed and adequately supported by the congregation.

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District Church of the Good Shepherd

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DISCIPLESHIP, VOCATION AND EVANGELISM

The Church of the Good Shepherd seeks to show God’s love to the people of Low Hill and to help people grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. We are encouraged by signs of growth and opportunity and are committed to widening our witness in the community.

The church participates in parish wide initiatives and collaborates with other Christian groups - events including a summer BBQ, a multicultural festival and the Shine Your Light carol singing initiative have enabled us to be more visible as we share a passion to demonstrate God’s Kingdom in our locality. Our Life Group meets weekly, offering a place for prayer, learning and fellowship. Our Life Group meets weekly, offering a welcoming place for prayer, learning from the Word, and fellowship.

Toastie Pat’s Coffee Morning offers a weekly opportunity for people to gather informally over refreshments. Similarly, a new venture of quarterly social evenings such as quiz nights, games evenings and themed celebrations provide accessible ways for people to connect with church life and for bridges to be built.

The Shepherd Companions, a fortnightly group for the over-fifties, brings together church members and local residents for a variety of activities, friendship and support. While not a formal church group, the leaders and majority of the members are Christians and it provides a welcoming environment where faith can be shared naturally and relationships flourish. Over recent years three of the group have made a commitment and undergone confirmation. For many years we prayed for families to join our fellowship, and we are beginning to see answers to those prayers in recent years.

Digital engagement is an expanding area of mission; a small group are part of the parish team looking at modernising and improving the team ministry website to increase our online presence.

THE DISTRICT

Low Hill is a diverse and growing community within Wolverhampton. Significant housing development in recent years has brought new residents alongside long-established families. The community faces challenges, including high levels of unemployment and economic deprivation, yet there is a strong community spirit and a range of local initiatives that support vulnerable individuals and families.

The Low Hill area benefits from attractive tree-lined avenues, local shopping facilities, cafés and a local community centre. Several residential and nursing care homes serve older residents, including Showell Court, Primrose Hill and Highcroft Hall. Building on relationships established in recent years, we aim to continue and develop ministry among residents and staff.

The Good Shepherd is the only church building in this district of the parish however; we enjoy positive relationships with other Christian groups who use a variety of community spaces. We regularly share fellowship and seek mission opportunities with congregations from the New Testament Church of God and, more recently, the Redeemed Christian Church of God reflecting our shared desire to demonstrate the Kingdom of God within the community.

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THE CHURCH

The Good Shepherd traces its roots to 1929, when the first mission church was established at the heart of the developing Low Hill estate. Throughout its history the church has combined worship, community engagement and practical service.

Our mission statement captures this continuing purpose:
 "The Church of the Good Shepherd exists to show God and his love for the people of Low Hill."
 Sunday worship is held at 11am every week, celebrating Communion on the first and third Sundays and holding a Service of the Word on other weeks. Members of the congregation contribute through readings, prayers and practical service, which encourages a participatory church culture and develops fellowship. Based upon our Charismatic/Evangelical tradition the worship is supported by a music team providing vocals, keyboard and guitars.

Where five Sundays occur in the month, we break with tradition and hold Koinonia Café Worship; the service contains the recognised elements of our usual liturgy, however, the setting is intentionally informal as we sit around tables, creating opportunities to connect Sunday worship with the outworking of discipleship during the rest of the week.

THE CONGREGATION

The congregation is small but growing, with an average worshipping community of around twenty-six adults (2025) most of whom live within the parish and have longstanding connections with the area and the church. In answer to years of prayer, God has enriched our fellowship with some younger, mainly Nigerian families, creating a rich and diverse expression of kingdom unity, however, "growing younger" remains a challenge for our limited resources. We provide a targeted children's teaching session to run alongside the Communion service once a month, and on Second Sundays the young people are purposefully invited to participate in the readings, intercessions and welcoming duties.

Remarkably, there are now regularly around 10 under 16s each week. Good Shepherd members also actively support and staff the small team of leaders for the combined parish youth group (11 – 14s) meeting weekly across St Mary's and St James'.

While the majority of the congregation are aged 60+, there is a growing desire to engage younger generations and welcome new families into church life. Memorial services, Christmas celebrations and community events provide valuable opportunities to connect with those on the fringes of church and invite them into deeper involvement.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Leadership at The Good Shepherd is shared between clergy, two Readers and two lay leaders who work collaboratively in seeking God's guidance, shaping vision and discerning the agenda to support the church's ministry. District Church Council, Parish Church Council and Deanery Synod places are well supported.

We are particularly blessed by the ministry of our Readers, the most experienced of whom is able to support the Clergy by preaching and conducting services, including Communion by Extension at both St James and the Good Shepherd. Strong relationships with our sister churches provide encouragement, mutual support and opportunities for shared mission under the oversight of the Team Rector.

THE CHURCH BUILDING

The present church building is an important resource and building on past occupancy, offers significant potential for future mission, hospitality and outreach. It is modern, well maintained and flexible, enabling it to be hired for a variety of activities during the week. The first floor has a number of offices to lease or hire, plus a larger room useful for teaching/training, although only one of the five rooms currently has a tenant.

The ground floor combines a dual-purpose hall which on Sundays can be transformed into an expanded sanctuary via a moveable wall. During the week the hall can be hired out, continuing the long tradition of serving both church and neighbourhood.

CHURCH FINANCES

As a congregation reflecting the demographic of Low Hill, we recognise that we are a small church in a relatively poor area of a relatively poor city, but we believe that we have seen God's blessing in many ways over the years as we have sought to honour the biblical principle of being generous givers. Despite the financial challenges we believe that there is still more work to do in sharing the good news of God and the kingdom in Low Hill. Building on our heritage of service, community engagement and our commitment to discipleship and mission, we look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.



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Parish Church of St Mary's



DISCIPLESHIP, VOCATION AND EVANGELISM

St Mary's has three priorities.

First to grasp opportunities so that seekers become believers. To this end we recognise that we have been greatly blessed by the work of the Holy Spirit as we have seen many young folk turn up to church already seeking and often with a sense of conviction of their spiritual need. We really do believe that 'The Quiet Revival' is a thing! We also do outreach events such as free BBQs, door to door evangelism and host the Parish Alpha courses. Other outreach opportunities include Little Angels, which is a carers and toddler group that supports young parents, especially mothers, with their children. We outreach to two local primary schools with lively assemblies led by both Clergy and Lay. We have good relations with the local uniformed groups who regularly participate in church services.

Second, to make disciples. This of course requires investment of our time with individuals and in groups that gives emphasis to what can happen when obedience and the Holy Spirit collide, but at the same time seeks to be pastorally sensitive. Whilst this process happens at a congregational level, it is more accelerated and intentional in the 3 Life Groups at St Mary's. Some of these young disciples are growing into significant leadership roles. Supporting this priority is both a ladies group called 'Oasis' and a monthly Men's Breakfast.

Third, to encourage an atmosphere and culture of worship, prayer and listening to the Word of God. This is most clearly demonstrated Sunday by Sunday, but we also seek to promote this atmosphere and culture in the Life Groups.



THE DISTRICT

St Mary's area is a mixture of pre-war and post war housing much of it owned originally by the local authority. This is especially true of the 1950's developments which form the core of housing around the church. The area maintains a pleasant outlook with Bushbury Hill as a backdrop and a small park and recreation ground in the area. There are significant pockets of deprivation, the council have taken action to redevelop some of these areas over the past few years to change the socio-economic balance.

A 1980's development falls within the district and a new build is taking place on the site of a former senior school.

THE CHURCH

We have two Sunday services: a 9.00am Common Worship communion service and a 10.30am more contemporary service (The Gathering) which is attended by a wide range of ages, including families and children. Sunday Club for children and young people takes place each week. We promote the charismatic/evangelical emphasis of the Parish.

THE CONGREGATION

In the last two years the congregation has grown significantly younger with many folk coming to faith especially in their late teens through to early forties. The overall average adult attendance has held steady around the mid-fifties and the average number of children is seven, but this is increasing.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Alongside the District Church Council, the DCC has appointed a Mission and Ministry Team which looks to give a steer on these areas of church life. This meets monthly for prayer and discernment, and outcomes are fed into the DCC meetings. Presently this Team has 8 members.

THE CHURCH BUILDING

St Mary's is a grade II* listed building and is one of the oldest parish churches in Wolverhampton. We are building on a long history of Christian witness, probably stretching back to early Celtic missionaries in the area. From the mid 1970's to well into the 90's it was a thriving centre of charismatic renewal and healing ministry which continues to inform and inspire the life of the church up until the present day.

CHURCH FINANCES

Our finances are stable with regard to the day to day running of the church, but there are major challenges in terms of the need for significant building repairs, which are being addressed.

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THE TEAM VICAR HOUSE

The vicarage is situated in the Good Shepherd district, less than five minutes’ walk from the church. It is of similar style to the surrounding houses but has been extended and regularly modernised to maintain the standards for clergy accommodation. It is an ideal family home, briefly comprising: reception hall, cloakroom, study, large living room with a fitted flame effect gas fire, modern kitchen with separate utility, and a smaller room ideal as a dining room, upstairs there are five bedrooms, a separate WC and a bathroom.

It has double glazed windows and full central heating. Occupying a corner plot, the property has a gated front garden extending around three sides of the house. There is off road parking in front of the single car garage and there is access to the rear garden through the garage. From the front of the property, there is a secured gate to the small rear garden which is surrounded by mature shrubs that provide an effective privacy screen.

MORE PHOTOS IN APPENDIX 5



THE DEANERY

The churches are part of an active deanery with a supportive chapter, of which the Rev’d Ian Poole is Rural Dean.

A letter from the Assistant Rural Dean:

The role of Team Vicar in Bushbury Parish is one of exciting opportunities. Both St James’ and The Good Shepherd have relatively small yet deeply committed congregations, who have worked well during the vacancy to maintain their ministry and mission. Both churches have a strong sense of identity and have proudly served their communities for many years. The ministry and mission of the three churches in Bushbury Parish are centred on discipleship and evangelism; deepening faith, growing disciples and sharing the Gospel with those they serve. However, there is also a commitment to making the Gospel relevant to the needs and concerns of their communities. St James’ and The Good Shepherd parishes together cover a wide spectrum of demographics, from urban priority areas to the relatively wealthy. This offers exciting opportunities to connect and walk alongside people in the diverse reality of their everyday lives, sharing the Gospel both in Word and action. There are already a number of valuable outreach initiatives taking place across the two churches and some links with local schools. The Team Vicar role is strongly supported by the Team Rector based at St Mary’s Church, by lay colleagues and through membership of Wulfrun Deanery Chapter. Our Chapter enjoys close and supportive relationships across traditions and meets together regularly to share food, worship and prayer. If you have a heart for the Gospel, for discipleship, evangelism and community engagement, I commend this exciting role to you.

Rev’d Rosanne Wilshire

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THE AREA

Primary Schools within the parish include Bushbury Hill, Northwood Park, Elston Hall, Whitgreave and Fallings Park. Moreton School and Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy provide secondary education within the parish; Ormiston NEW Academy is just over the St James boundary in Oxley; St Peter’s Collegiate Academy is within easy reach. Up to date provision of nursery places can be found at <https://wolverhampton.gov.uk>.

There are several medical practices within the area and New Cross Hospital is 10 minutes away. This is a large general hospital including an Out Patients Department and 24 hour Accident and Emergency services. For further details go to <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp> and <https://royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk>.

There is supermarket shopping within the parish and a range of supermarkets within easy reach. Each district has a selection of local shops. Wolverhampton City Centre provides a range of high street shops with small out of town developments at St John’s Retail Park, Peel Retail Park and Bilston Road Retail Park. Close by, in the Wednesfield area, is Bentley Bridge Leisure Park, an extensive modern leisure/retail park that has a multi screen Cineworld cinema, a choice of restaurants and a state of the art bowling alley, plus a choice of larger supermarkets e.g. Sainsbury’s, Aldi and Lidl.

The National Trust Moseley Old Hall is within the parish and other properties such as Wightwick Manor, Attingham Park and Shugborough Hall are 20 to 40 minutes away. Also in the parish is Northcote Farm which is a council owned farm open to the public; there are animals on view, pleasant walks and light refreshments. The city has a good art gallery and the Grand Theatre is well supported. There is a Nuffield Gym with swimming pool within the parish and a swimming and leisure centre nearby in the Wednesfield area. There are several golf courses available locally.

The area has good bus links to Wolverhampton City Centre and is approximately a 10 minute drive away.

There are good bus and Metro links to the rest of the West Midlands. The M54 is within a few minutes’ drive for destinations such as Telford, Shrewsbury and the Welsh Borders. The beautiful countryside of Staffordshire and Shropshire is minutes away. Main roads to Cannock and Stafford run through the parish. The M6 and M6 Toll Road give easy access to the South, East and North. Rail access from Wolverhampton is good to all areas of the country. Birmingham Airport is about 35 miles away and Manchester Airport about 65 miles.

APPENDIX 1 - BAPTISM POLICY

When a baptism request is made, the clergy will visit the family and offer them thanksgiving with no preparation required; or if they would like their child baptised then the understanding is that they would need to be Christians

If it is clear they are already committed, practising Christians then dates can be discussed. If they are not yet Christians but want to explore the Christian faith then this will be done through a course such as Alpha or similar.

The understanding would be that Baptism would be available for their child, if in the process of exploring the Christian faith they become Christians. However, no promises from the clergy will be made that doing a course or attending church will in, and of itself, make them eligible.

The clergy will also take into account how the parents see themselves, so they will take seriously the claim that they feel they have become Christians in the process of exploring the Christian faith. However, the clergy will be keen to see evidence of this transformation,

such as the start of an active prayer life, beginning to enjoy and value attending church and exploring the bible in their own reading.

APPENDIX 2 - FINANCE

PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING SOFA DOCUMENTS:

St James Church Fordhouses					
Statement of Financial Activities					
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Donations and legacies	21,433.93	-	-	21,433.93	22,549.44
Income from charitable activities	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	1,681.25	-	-	1,681.25	3,685.50
Investments	72.77	-	-	72.77	103.06
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
Total income	23,187.95	-	-	23,187.95	26,338.00
Payments					
Raising funds	-	-	-	-	218.91
Expenditure on charitable activities	28,898.97	-	-	28,898.97	29,199.89
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	28,898.97	-	-	28,898.97	29,418.80
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(5,711.02)	-	-	(5,711.02)	(3,080.80)
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	2,231.00	-	-	2,231.00	2,464.00
Gross transfers between funds - out	(2,231.00)	-	-	(2,231.00)	(2,464.00)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(5,711.02)	-	-	(5,711.02)	(3,080.80)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	22,975.30	177.42	-	23,152.72	26,233.52
Total funds carried forward	17,264.28	177.42	-	17,441.70	23,152.72

The Church of the Good Shepherd					
Statement of Financial Activities					
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Donations and legacies	19,216.28	3,709.18	-	22,925.46	19,758.06
Other trading activities	9,105.00	-	-	9,105.00	9,559.60
Investments	116.43	-	-	116.43	132.34
Income from charitable activities	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
Total income	28,437.71	3,709.18	-	32,146.89	29,450.00
Payments					
Raising funds	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	36,574.40	643.42	-	37,217.82	31,725.11
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	36,574.40	643.42	-	37,217.82	31,725.11
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(8,136.69)	3,065.76	-	(5,070.93)	(2,275.11)
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	1,010.00	300.00	-	1,310.00	-
Gross transfers between funds - out	(300.00)	(1,010.00)	-	(1,310.00)	-
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(7,426.69)	2,355.76	-	(5,070.93)	(2,275.11)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	22,043.06	1,533.36	-	23,576.42	25,851.53
Total funds carried forward	14,616.37	3,889.12	-	18,505.49	23,576.42

St Mary's, Bushbury					
Statement of Financial Activities					
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Donations and legacies	90,602.84	1,665.00	-	92,267.84	120,568.39
Income from charitable activities	842.50	100.00	-	942.50	880.00
Other trading activities	6,700.00	-	-	6,700.00	5,024.00
Investments	933.12	125.00	-	1,058.12	1,039.24
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
Total income	99,078.46	1,890.00	-	100,968.46	127,511.63
Payments					
Raising funds	115.68	-	-	115.68	286.84
Expenditure on charitable activities	88,680.76	5,299.67	-	93,980.43	97,668.98
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	88,796.44	5,299.67	-	94,096.11	97,955.82
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	10,282.02	(3,409.67)	-	6,872.35	29,555.81
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	12,292.01	-	-	12,292.01	37,359.58
Gross transfers between funds - out	(12,292.01)	-	-	(12,292.01)	(37,359.58)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity/s own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	10,282.02	(3,409.67)	-	6,872.35	29,555.81
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	178,278.85	32,838.67	-	211,117.52	181,561.71
Total funds carried forward	188,560.87	29,429.00	-	217,989.87	211,117.52

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APPENDIX 3 - SAFEGUARDING

The Parish of Bushbury values its links with children, young people and vulnerable adults. It will, therefore take all reasonable care to ensure the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults for whom it bears responsibility. This responsibility extends to any of our children’s or young people’s groups or any activity that brings adults and children together or any activity involving vulnerable adults.

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Bushbury fully accepts, supports and adopts the House of Bishops safeguarding Policy Statement.

The parish safeguarding officer meets regularly with the district church safeguarding officers to monitor and ensure compliance.

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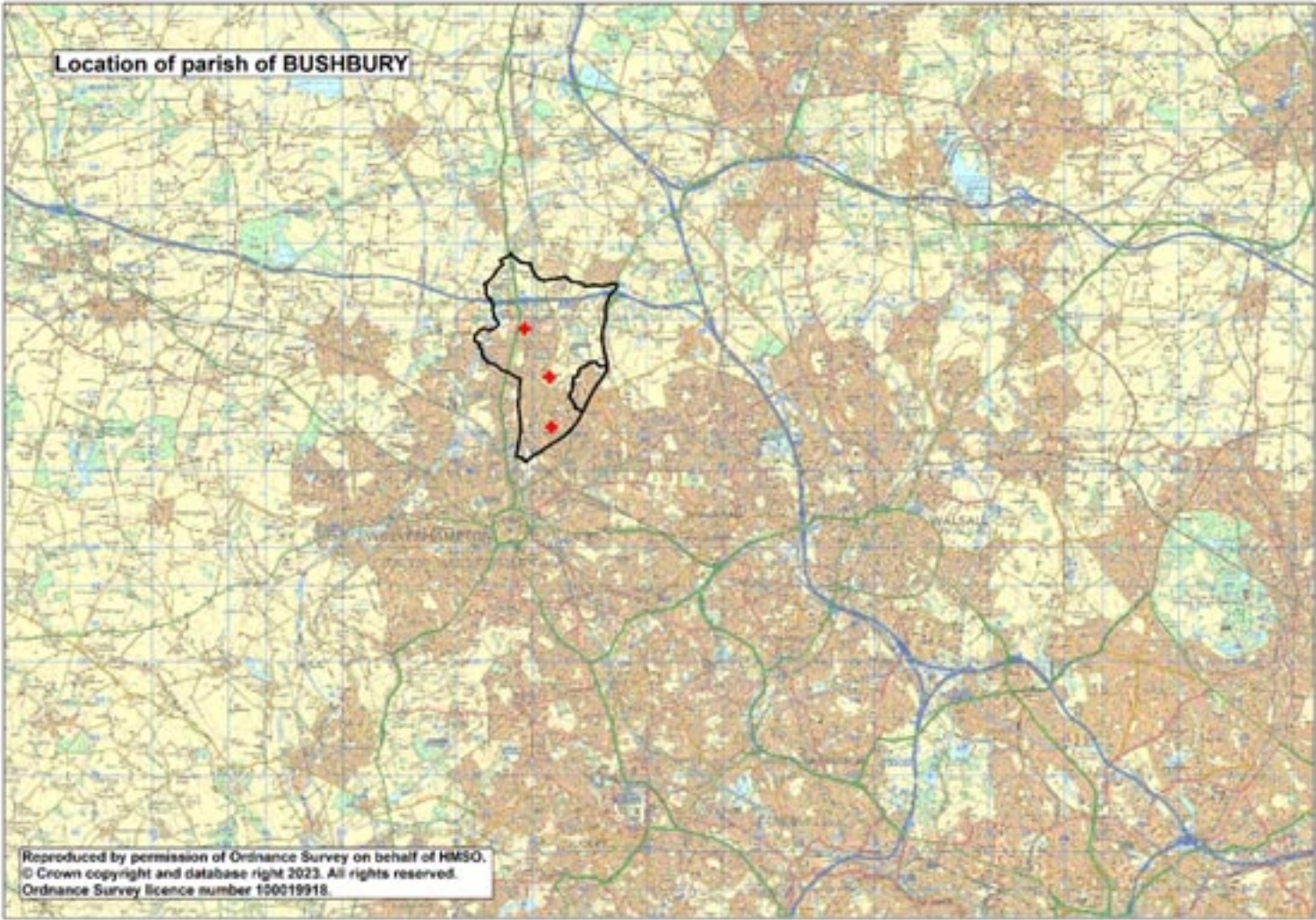
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APPENDIX 4 - MAPS

PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING MAPS:



Addresses:

St James' Church
Taunton Avenue
Fordhouses
Wolverhampton
WV10 6PN

The Church of the Good Shepherd
Second Avenue
Low Hill
Wolverhampton
WV10 9PE

St Mary's Church
Bushbury Lane
Bushbury
Wolverhampton
WV10 8JP

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A Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for your wonderful provision over the last six months in the Team Vicar vacancy for St James' and The Good Shepherd.

As we trust you for our future, so we ask you would prompt your unique candidate for this post and that we would be given Your discernment in identifying and welcoming them amongst us.

Amen



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