

Welcome to St. James', Styvechale

Welcome to the buildings:

There has been a centre of worship here in Styvechale certainly since Norman times, and possibly even since Saxon times. The old Norman church was demolished in about 1810 as it was in danger of falling down, and a new church was opened in 1815. The present building dates from 1954 when the church was extended to accommodate the people coming to worship from the new housing built in the parish. This new building phase included a second Church Hall on the Styvechale Grange estate (about a mile from the Church). In 1994 a second Church was opened in this Hall.

If you are interested in a detailed history of the parish, there is a booklet by Frank Mosedale available in the parish office.

Although history can be interesting, St James' is a 'living church'. The word 'church' actually means 'called out' – those called out by God to respond to his love. We believe that God actually calls out everyone, and our task is to respond to his call. So.....

Welcome from the people!

There are over 300 people who are part of the community of St James' Styvechale. They worship at four main services, three in the Church and one at the Grange Church Centre. Details of the times of the services are published each week on the "*Signpost*" newsletter.

So we are a community where we honour, support, love and encourage each other. We enjoy being together and also joining with other churches. Our children and young people matter to us. They are part of today's church. We value them, seeking to give them the best we can, and encouraging them. We are relaxed. We recognise we sometimes get things wrong, so we forgive each other, and seek to resolve differences quietly and quickly.

We believe we all are chosen by God, and everyone has a unique job to fulfill. Clergy have a unique role of leadership, and we are lead by our Vicar.

The Vicar

Our present vicar is the Rev'd John Mills. He joined St James' in 1998, having moved down from Manchester. His home is in Armorial Rd, about 5 minutes walk from the church. He is married to Sue, and they have two children, and 2 dogs!

The Curate

Although there has been a tradition of having assistant clergy at St James, the last one left in 2002 and as yet, has not been replaced.

The Administrator

Mrs. Pat Bromley is our part-time administrator. She works from the Parish Office in Knoll Drive Hall. The office is open from 9.30am to 12.30pm. and the telephone number is [024] 7669 2299 messages - can be left out of office hours. Our Email address is office@stjameschurch.org.uk and emails are checked daily. If you need any information, Pat is probably the best person to contact. She will either provide the answer, or point you in the right direction.

The Wardens

The post of churchwarden is an ancient one, and carries great responsibilities for both the church buildings, but also the conduct of worship. There are two Wardens who are elected each year by the residents of the parish.

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC has 21 members who are elected by the members of the Church. The role of the PCC is to govern the Church.

The members of the Church are over 16 years of age and either live in the Parish or have been regular worshippers for six months. In either case, you can then apply to be included on the Electoral Role.

The Ministry Leadership Team

This a small group of visionary people who support the Vicar and provide guidance on the way the Church will exercise it's ministry.

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St. James' Styvechale Vision.

The vision of St. James' is:

*To love God with all our hearts
and to love our neighbours as ourselves*

We try to live our lives in the same way that Jesus did. However, this needs to be broken down into bite-sized bits, which can be built into our everyday lives.

There are five bits we focus on in trying to realise our vision as we go about our daily business. They are:

We **worship** to glorify and focus on God.
We share **fellowship** by living life together.
We grow as **disciples** to become like Jesus.
We **serve** others with compassion.
We accept God's **mission** to share the gospel.

To help us do this there are five teams each of which focuses on one area. The teams plan, pray and work towards fulfilling part of the Vision. If you would like more detail about our Vision and Values and the five teams, please take the 'Vision and Values' pamphlet from the Church porch.

As a general principle, most of the matters covered in this welcome Pack are further explained in leaflets which are kept at the back of the Church and at the Grange.

If you cannot find what you are looking for, please contact the Church Office, or, if you have just attended a service, ask the service leader.

St. James' Styvechale Steps

So, when you want to find out more about us, more than is written about in leaflets and vision statements, you can take it one step at a time!

First Step

Many people know something about the Christian Faith, and are drawn to it, but it remains slightly 'distant, remote, inaccessible'. **Alpha** is a course we run several times each year, in which people gather together for about 10 evenings, to listen to a short talk, get to know each other, and discuss aspects of the Christian faith. It has proved time and time again to be a brilliant way to get to know God better, and others in the group

Baptism and Confirmation Step

Each year we prepare people for both Baptism and Confirmation. This is when people have discovered a new vitality or reality about their faith, and they want to move forward. Baptism and Confirmation are 'markers' on our spiritual journey and involve making a public commitment to faith in God.

The Network step

Sometimes it is good to pause, and reflect just what God wants us to do. We are all gifted in some way, and He wants us all to use our gifts in His service. Our problem is discovering just what He wants from us. This Network course usually runs on two Saturday mornings, and will provide a framework for you to discover what God wants you to do.

Your next step...

The Response Sheet at the end of this pack gives an opportunity to find out more about all these steps. Part of finding out will involve talking and listening to God, or praying.

Prayer at St. James' Styvechale

At Christmas we sing many carols including the one '*Emmanuel*'. This is a name which means 'God with us', and that is what we believe happened when Jesus lived on earth 2,000 years ago. However, we also believe that 'God is still with us' for Jesus promised to be with us forever. We believe in the power of prayer – but prayer is not something like a slot machine, in which you say your prayer and out pops an answer, it is more like a dynamic relationship with a Father who wants the best for us, and wants to hear our needs. There are many ways to pray, and we offer a variety to meet many needs.

During services

We include prayers for people who have asked for help to be healed. There is a book kept in which such requests are recorded. The service leader can put your name, or that of someone you know, in the book if you so request.

After most services

There are people available who will pray with anyone for any subject. If you are not sure who they are, ask the service leaders. It will be completely confidential.

Prayer Line

There are also two groups of people who feel particularly drawn to prayer. These groups are called the 'Prayer Line'. If you would like them to pray please contact Maro Whitehead on 7650 3704 or Christine Binks on 7650 6371

We really value any feedback following prayer, so if you are able to tell us how things are going, it can be a real encouragement. It also provides an opportunity to thank God for answered prayers.

St. James' Styvechale Children and Young People

The Gospels show us that Jesus made a point of welcoming children and young people. At St James' we believe that children and young people are valuable members of the church community. We seek to encourage them as followers of Jesus and to enable them to contribute fully to the life of St James' and to serve God enthusiastically in the world in which they live.

Sundays, 10am at St James' Church

The children usually come into church for the start of each service and then go to groups. On the first Sunday of each month (and in holiday times) there is all-age worship in church.

Mondays, 7.15pm to 9pm

Firestarters is the name for our young people's groups (age 11 and above). They meet during term-time and share food, fun and fellowship as well as discussing hot topics and some Bible study.

All Stars

What is it – or rather who are they?

These are two groups of toddlers and those who look after them. They meet on Wednesday mornings from 10 am to 11.30 am either at the Grange Church Centre (All Stars) or in the Church Hall on Knoll Drive (All Stars Too). They aim to provide a friendly, relaxed and supportive place for all pre-school children together with their parents and/or carers.

St. James', Styvechale Church Services

In the Church on Leamington Road Sundays

- 8am Holy Communion
(about an hour, with two hymns, without children's groups)
- 10am Holy Communion for families or Family
Worship (with children's groups)
- 5pm Traditional Evensong

Wednesdays

- 10.15 Holy Communion

At the Grange Church Centre, Lonscale Drive Sundays

- 10am St James on the Grange: Holy Communion
monthly otherwise Morning Worship. Children
welcome.

You are most welcome to come along to any of these or other services which you will find advertised on the weekly "Signpost".

We have a philosophy that "church" is not what happens on Sunday, but is how we live each day. To help us in this we meet in small groups during the week to enjoy each others' company as we enjoy being with God. We read and study the Bible, sing, pray and relax together, sharing our happy moments as well as our problems. In this way we try to become better disciples of Jesus.

St. James' Styvechale Small Groups

Home Groups

Most weeks many church members meet in groups in each others homes to worship, discuss, pray and learn more about God. These complement the formal Sunday worship. They meet at different times, on different evenings, but all are enjoyable, creative and supportive. Why not come along and see for yourself?

The Mothers Union (MU)

Oddly enough, the MU membership is not just limited to mothers or to women. It's aims are to uphold marriage, to encourage parents in bringing up their children, to maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians, to promote a good society in which to raise children, and to help those whose family life has met with adversity. In case this all sounds very 'heavy', the MU is fun, supportive and well worth visiting

St James Fellowship

This is similar to Home Groups, but members meet monthly for friendship and fellowship. After six months, each group is 'reshuffled' to create a different mix. There is less time commitment than Home Groups, but a similar sense of support and fellowship.

Other Activities at St. James' Styvechale

Parish Breakfast

The first Sunday of each month 8.45am in Knoll Drive Hall. An excellent social occasion for the everyone (young and old) to meet each other whichever service they go to.

Parish Lunch

On the first Thursday of each month at 1.00pm in Knoll Drive Hall, an opportunity to share a simple lunch and meet with others, including those recently bereaved. Contact Phyl & Frank Noakes 76412021.

Tea and Chat

Every Thursday afternoon from 2.00-4.00pm. Come and make new friends: Contact Maria Pettifer 76415726

A second Tea & Chat Group meets on the first Sunday of each month 3-5.30pm at Knoll Drive Hall. An opportunity for anyone, but particularly people who don't get out much, to share the company of others in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. If possible let us know who is coming. We can arrange lifts. Contact Rachael Hansford 76503850 for further details

Widowed Group

Occasional meetings & social events, especially for those bereaved at younger ages. Contact Christine MacDonald 01926 855919.

Uniformed Groups.

We are thrilled to have uniformed groups linked to St James' (Rainbows; Brownies; Guides; Beavers; Cubs; Scouts). They attend a regular Parade Service, and are brilliant places for children and young people. Each group meets in St James' Church Hall, off Knoll Drive. Contact the Parish Office for details of Group Leaders

St. James' Styvechale

Money Matters

This is perhaps the most difficult bit to talk about, but there is a strange truth at work here – it is in giving that we receive! Our giving is always in response to God's giving to us. He gave us everything in Jesus, and He wants us to offer all of our lives in service to him.

Each year in the Autumn we have a Gift Day, when we give to projects outside the Parish. This is an exciting time of year. Then early in each New Year, we review our regular giving, and also our commitment to God in terms of our time, talents and money.

As a body the people of St James give away 15% of our receipts. If you would like to contribute to the ministry of St James, please complete and return this form and you will receive relevant information. All giving is kept confidential. Not even the clergy know who gives and how much.

Name.....

Address.....

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Please send me information about planned giving, and Gift Aid. (If you pay tax, we can reclaim the tax on any gift you make without any extra cost to you).

Please return this form to Mrs. Mary Haywood,
65, Babbacombe Road,
Coventry , CV3 5NZ.

And how about you?

We have tried to provide information about a wide range of our activities and events, but space prevents great detail. If you would like more information about anything, please complete this form and post it to the office, or hand it in at the back of church to the service leader, or take it to the office (weekday mornings). Your personal information will be kept in the office and by the clergy.

Name.....Phone

Address.....

.....Post Code

Email address

Please tick the boxes below to receive more information. This might involve a telephone call from one of the group leaders.

1. To receive a 'Welcome Visit' to talk about the life of this church
2. To receive a copy of St James Vision and Values
3. To meet with John Mills (Our Vicar)

Alpha		Mothers Union	
Baptism		Mens Group	
Confirmation		St James Fellowship	
The Network Step		Parish Lunch	
Prayerline		Tea & Chat	
All Stars		Widows Group	
All Stars Too		Uniform group (please specify)	
Homegroups			