



WELCOME  
*to the Catholic Church of*  
**ST. JAMES THE GREAT**  
*in PettsWood*

“At the very heart of the Gospel is life in  
community and engagement with others.”

**Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (177)**

**Booklet prepared by Fr. David Camilleri  
and Parishioners at St James**



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# Welcome to our Parish

“The Parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration..... it is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.”

**Pope Francis in Evangelii Gaudium (28).**

“To be rooted”, Simone Weil, – the French philosopher, Christian mystic and political activist, once remarked, “is perhaps the most important and least recognised need of the human soul”. Can we as human beings deepen our souls and grow without such basic security?

We are living in an age of huge global movement. It is the age of the expatriate, the refugee, the stateless and the wanderer.

Enforced movement driven by chaotic, social, political or economic forces is increasingly common; persons, indeed whole communities are ruined sometimes overnight and become unwilling but long-lasting wanderers.

The destruction and disappearance of natural places also contributes to this sense of homelessness. Business and technology reach ever further into the wilderness, channeling resources for our use, and it becomes more and more difficult to imagine the living world as our home.

Gradually we are losing the sense of what it means to dwell within a particular place and community, to become

intimate with the landscape, to enter into, and be shaped by, its stories and culture. We are losing the sense of place.

It is not easy to calculate the costs of such loss, its effects on our sense of well being, on our sense of involvement in, and commitment to, the places we call home, even on our sense of the sacred.





Petts Wood is a village south east of London which attracts many younger families, and the not so young, who adopt it as their home. In Petts Wood we are blessed to live surrounded by woods and countryside. In this sense I feel that the landscape adds to the "Sense of place". To feel rooted however needs something more.

There are a number of people within the parish who have been born and bred in Petts Wood. It is also true that Petts Wood is a place of choice for many of us. Which means that, for some of us, our roots are elsewhere.

We need a community where we feel we can put down new roots and have a sense of belonging. There is no doubt that the church makes a unique and significant contribution to facilitate this.



A church is not solely concerned about the soul but takes its inspiration from the incarnation of God becoming man. It needs to see its mission holistically and to cater for the spiritual, psychological, emotional formation, and the social dimensions, of the human person.

Pope Francis, in *Evangelii Gaudium*, speaks of his preference for the Church: in paragraph 49 he states:



"I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. I do not want a Church concerned with being at the centre and which then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedure. If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences,

it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life. More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which gives us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel sage, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: "Give them something to eat." (Mark 6:37).

Pope Francis is encouraging us to be bold in our pastoral initiatives. He is encouraging us not to be frightened to open ourselves to the needs of our world today. To be communities of faith which are ready to be renewed, we must become agents of renewal in our world today. The Parish of St James the Great here in Petts Wood has this very pivotal mission in our lives and I hope that everyone will feel welcomed here.

I hope that, whether you are a new parishioner, have been in the parish for a long time or are just visiting for a short while, you will experience St James as a spiritual, nourishing, welcoming and joyful community.

We are part of the Roman Catholic Church led by His Holiness Pope Francis and part of the Archdiocese of Southwark. There has been a Catholic Church here on Lakeswood Road since 1939.

The Liturgy of the Mass, the Sacraments and the commitment to build a community spirit are at the centre of our

life here. We aim to provide a welcoming oasis amidst our hectic lives to truly see and support one another in our times of joy and of sadness.

We do this through active faith formation, attentive listening and cohesion in pastoral, voluntary, social and youth ministries within the parish.

We try to support members of our community who cannot get to Mass, or who need help in other ways and we meet with other communities and parishes in Bromley and Petts Wood.

We are also committed to helping developing communities abroad with support for Traidcraft and overseas missions.

We especially wish to welcome new parishioners and as a parish we are becoming increasingly diverse being blessed with parishioners from different countries.

If you are new to St James, and would like to become a parishioner, please fill in the registration form, available on the parish website, or in the church porch and hand it in to the parish office as soon as you can.

Once again, everyone is very welcome here.

I hope that we can all come together to support the mission of Christ at St James and actively participate in the life of the parish.

As Parish Priest here, I wish to facilitate, help to create and explore with you, "The Sacred" at this time in our lives.

**Fr. David**

# Celebrating our Faith

“Before all else, the Gospel invites us to respond to the God of love who saves us...” (EG 39)

## Sunday Masses

*We aim to celebrate all of our Sunday Masses with music.*

**6:00pm** Saturday (vigil)

**9:15am** With Children's Liturgy when children (aged 3 until they make their First Holy Communion) are accompanied into the Community Centre for their own Liturgy of the Word, music and other activities before rejoining their families just before the offertory

**11:00am** Mass and music

*Coffee and other refreshments are available in the Community Centre after both Masses on Sundays. The social club bar is open for parishioners and their guests after the 11am Mass and at other times when appropriate. Please come and join us.*

## Weekdays: Monday to Friday

**9:10am** Morning Prayer; everyone is welcome

**9:30am** Mass

*Come along to the Community Centre for coffee and a chat on Wednesday mornings after Mass.*

## Holy Days of Obligation

**8:00pm** Vigil Mass (on the eve of the holy day)

**9:30am** On the holy day

## Confession

**5:00–5:45pm** Saturdays or by appointment

*Mass intention envelopes are available in the church porch.*

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## Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina)

A quiet, reflective look at the following Sunday's Gospel. Mondays (excluding Bank Holidays), 11–12noon here in church. All are welcome.

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### Fr. David's Surgery

Fr. David offers a weekly surgery on Tuesday evenings. No appointment is necessary. Times vary so please check our weekly newsletter *Briefly* or our website.

### Music Ministry

Music plays an important part in the celebration of our faith. If you can sing or play an instrument please speak to one of our choir members after Mass or see the contacts list for more information.

### Prayers Around the Cross (Taize)

These ecumenical services are arranged from time to time. Information will be published in our newsletter *Briefly*.

# Faith Formation at St James

## Baptism

We have a programme to help parents to prepare for their child's baptism. This includes two evening meetings with other parents and catechists. Please complete an application form, available in the church porch, and post it to, or put it through the door of, the parish office, at 281A Crescent Drive BR5 1AY.

## First Confession and First Holy Communion

Classes for Year 3 children are held in the parish every year whether or not they are attending Catholic schools. Classes usually start in January and last until Communion in June. Please look out for announcements, and invitations to sign up, in our newsletter or contact the parish office at [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org).

## Confirmation

Following Baptism and First Communion, Confirmation unites us more firmly with Christ. Confirmation for young parishioners, in Year 9 and above, is scheduled according to two year cycles

depending on circumstances. Please discuss arrangements for adult Confirmation with Fr. David or contact him by email to [father.david@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:father.david@stjamespettswood.org).

## Lent, Easter and Christmas

We celebrate these special times with prayers, music and services. Information is published in our newsletter at the relevant times.

## Marriages and Funerals

Marriage preparation takes at least 6 months. Please contact Fr. David at [father.david@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:father.david@stjamespettswood.org) or the parish office by email or phone for information. Funerals are arranged with the funeral directors and the parish office.

## Faith Development and Spirituality

Those who would like to develop their knowledge of our Catholic faith are very welcome here. We provide support through a "Journey In Faith" Programme, so if you would like to consider this, please contact Fr. David at [father.david@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:father.david@stjamespettswood.org).



*More informally, we have regular discussions and liturgy group meetings. Please refer to the contacts list, our newsletter, or email the parish office for more information.*

# Pastoral Care

“The Church will have to initiate everyone, priests, religious and laity, into this ‘art of accompaniment’ which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other.” (EG 169).

The Pastoral Care Team at St James the Great aims to provide relevant, effective and accessible pastoral care and support services based on Christian insight and values. Sharing the joys and sorrows of people is one of our greatest privileges as it mirrors the love of Jesus for all those whom He met. Thus we consider the care of the members of the congregation and people who live in the Parish should be one of the most important acts in the life of St James. We are aiming to build up a group of Pastoral carers available to support individuals at difficult times, such as, long term sickness, bereavement, relationship breakdown, debt, victims of crime or abuse, local emergencies, terminal illness, addictions and many more. If you feel that you wish to be involved in one way or another for such a service please let the Parish Office or Fr. David know.

## Ministry to the Sick at Home and in Hospital

A very significant ministry within the Pastoral Care Team is our ministry of Holy Communion being taken to parishioners who are sick at home and unable to attend Mass. Visits to patients in hospital can also be arranged and there is also a Chaplaincy service at the Princess Royal Hospital. So please ask when admitted to hospital if you would like to see a chaplain. Please also ask a friend or relative to let Fr. David know by email if you are ill on [father.david@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:father.david@stjamespettswood.org) or phone the parish office on 01689 827100.

## Bereavement Support

If you are grieving for the loss of a loved one, and need support, please contact Fr. David at [father.david@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:father.david@stjamespettswood.org) or phone the parish office.

## Safeguarding

The parish has arrangements in place for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. If you need help, please refer to the separate contacts list to speak to our safeguarding team or refer to the parish website.



# Youth Ministry

“The rise and growth of associations and movements mostly made up of young people can be seen as the work of the Holy Spirit who blazes new trails to meet their expectations and their search for a deep spirituality and a more real sense of belonging.” (EG 105).

We have an active “Youth Ministry” involving our younger parishioners in pastoral and social events, a newsletter called “Youthly” and a “Youth Café”.

**Please see part two of this booklet about parish groups for more information.**

## Primary School Children

Young parishioners attend both Catholic and non-Catholic, primary schools, depending on a school's independent eligibility criteria and where families live. All Catholic children are welcome members of the parish here for both Sunday Mass and First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

## St James Primary School

St James Primary School is a successful school at the heart of our community. There are strong links with the parish and the school is committed to providing a high standard of Catholic education in a friendly and welcoming environment. Admission depends on its independent eligibility criteria and on where families live.



# Being a Parishioner at St James

“The mission of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ has a universal destination. Its mandate of charity encompasses all dimensions of existence, all individuals, all areas of community life and all peoples.” (EG 181).

## Becoming a Parishioner

Being a parishioner offers the potential to become more fully included in our community. You would be very welcome. If you are a Catholic and would like to become a parishioner here, please fill in the Registration Form which accompanies this booklet.

Information about how to get involved in parish ministries and groups follows in later sections of this booklet.

## Meeting our Parish’s Financial Needs

As parishioners we are all asked to contribute to our parish’s income. For further information, please see “Making Our Financial Contribution”, which follows the information about the Finance Committee later in this booklet.

“ Proclaiming Christ means showing that to believe in and to follow him is not only something right and true but also something beautiful, capable of filling life with new splendour and profound joy even in the midst of difficulties.” (EG 167).

## If you are not a Catholic or not currently practicing your faith

If you are not a Catholic, or have not practiced your faith as a Catholic for a while you are of course very welcome. If you would like to discuss this or find out more, please email Fr. David at [father.david@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:father.david@stjamespettswood.org).



# Parish Ministries

“The church which “goes forth” is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice.” (EG 24).

## The Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council's (PPC) mission is to work together as a team to support the mission of Christ within our parish, discern strategies to build a vibrant, inclusive Faith Community, and include and involve the whole parish in response to its needs. The pillars of the PPC's work include evangelisation, communication, liturgy, young church, social activities, maintenance, finance, and pastoral care.

The PPC has 15 members, including parishioners involved in a broad range of parish activities and interests, a teacher from St James Primary School, and Fr. David.

Parishioners are welcome to come and talk to PPC members for half an hour before each meeting and raise suggestions and queries. Meetings dates are published in our newsletter and our online diary. To raise an issue for discussion by the full PPC, or to make an enquiry, please email [ppc@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:ppc@stjamespettswood.org), or drop a note into the Parish office (281a Crescent Drive) so that your issue can be considered.

To raise an issue with the PPC or an make an enquiry, please email the parish office at [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org).

## The Parish AGM

The Parish holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) every year to review the year gone by and to discuss plans and set the scene for the year to come. This includes a presentation from Fr. David, information about our yearly financial accounts and news from, and about, parish groups. Parishioners are very welcome to attend and the date of the AGM is published in our weekly newsletter at the relevant time.



## The Finance Committee

The parish's Finance Committee helps to record and manage the parish's income and expenditure, meets regularly to review finances and reports annually both to the parish and the Diocese. Members are appointed by our parish priest.

## Making Our Financial Contribution

In common with all Catholic parishes, ours depends on us as a community for all of its income. The parish is responsible for maintaining pastoral care, and our parish premises, in the most effective way possible to ensure that the work of the church can continue. The parish's expenses include normal upkeep and housekeeping for the church, hall and presbytery and essential maintenance and refurbishment to buildings when necessary as well as contributions to Diocesan expenses. Please consider your financial contribution to our parish, both to the main offertory and the regular collections for the maintenance fund.

## Gift Aid and Standing Orders

If you are a UK taxpayer please gift aid your donations by joining our gift aid scheme. If you do this, the parish will be able to claim an income tax

repayment from HMRC at no extra cost to you. This is a really great way to help our Community.

In addition, you might like to consider making your regular donations, both to the main offertory and the maintenance fund, by standing order. This helps us to plan our work based on predictable income.

To find out more about Gift Aid and/or Standing Orders, please contact our gift aid administrator at [gift.aid@stjamespetswood.org](mailto:gift.aid@stjamespetswood.org) or see the Contacts List.

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## Premises Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee takes an overview of the Parish estate, which comprises the Church, the Community Centre, the Presbytery and adjacent property. It considers the strategic and operational matters affecting the buildings and grounds and reports its findings to the Finance Committee. Its overriding purpose is to help ensure that the Church and associated buildings are maintained for current and future generations.



# Other Ministries in the Parish

“When the Church summons Christians to take up the task of evangelisation, she is simply pointing to the source of authentic personal fulfillment. For here we discover a profound law of reality: that life is attained and matures in the measure that it is offered up in order to give life to others.” **(EG 10)**.

Could you be a minister of Holy Communion, a Catechist, Reader, Altar Server or Sacristan?

Perhaps you could be a Welcomer – greeting those arriving for Mass on Sundays and periodically hosting events for newcomers? Or maybe you would like to help with Children’s Liturgy?

Are you a musician or singer? Could you help with the collections at Mass and with counting and recording the funds donated each week?

Would you like to help with flower arranging, church cleaning, or with serving tea and coffee after Sunday Masses?

Many parishioners help as volunteers across a wide range of parish ministries and/or join committed parish groups. This is a wonderful contribution to parish life and helps to make the parish a thriving and successful community.

If you are interested in helping with any of these or other ministries, or have some ideas of your own, please complete the application form which is enclosed with this booklet and return it to the parish office.





### St James Community Centre

Our Community Centre is actively used by parishioners, and parish groups, and is also available for hire. Please contact the parish office for enquiries and bookings. Please note that the Community Centre and play area used by St James Pre-School is absolutely restricted for their sole use during pre-school hours.

Care of the Community Centre is led by the Community Centre Manager. Any matters relating to this care should be referred to him – see the Contacts sheet.

### The Social Club

The parish has a licensed social club for parishioners over age 18 and their guests. The bar is open after the 11:00am mass on Sunday and at other times as appropriate.



## The *LiveSimply* Garden

Parishioners, age 18 or over, are very welcome to use the *LiveSimply* garden, for quiet contemplation and prayer. The garden is behind our Community Centre and is usually open between 10am and 6pm Monday to Sunday. Please note that the small part of the garden that is fenced around the presbytery is private. Please always keep safeguarding issues in mind and ensure that children are never left in the garden, or invited to use it, without a responsible adult being present.

## The Repository

The Repository has a range of cards and other religious items for sale and is open after all of the weekend masses.

## The Library

The parish has a library of about 500 religious and spiritual books situated in the main corridor of the church. Books may be borrowed and taken home. Please contact [library@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:library@stjamespettswood.org) for more information.

## The Parish Office

The Parish Office is staffed Monday to Thursday from 9:00am until 2:00pm with the aim of providing essential and consistent administrative support. Please phone 01689 827100 or email [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org).



The *LiveSimply* Garden and Map (Above) and the Justice and Peace Group working in the garden (right).

# Part Two

## Parish Groups

### The Catenians

The Catenians are an association of Catholic laymen who are committed to their Faith, their families, to those in need and to each other. Our primary purpose is to establish a network of friends, which enhances their family life, strengthens their Faith and sustains them in difficult times. We support each other, the Catholic Church, young people and those in need.

Our friendships are developed through meeting together locally once a month and enjoying a varied programme of social events together with our families and the widows of members.

For more information see our website – [www.thecatenians.com](http://www.thecatenians.com) or contact [catenians@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:catenians@stjamespettswood.org).

### The Catholic Women's League

The Petts Wood Catholic Women's League is part of a worldwide association of Catholic women, and meets on the last Monday of every month at 8:00pm. Activities are social, charitable, and spiritual, including an annual day of recollection and various outings. New members of any age are always welcome, for more information email [cwl@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:cwl@stjamespettswood.org).

### The Friends of St James

The Friends of St James is an inclusive and friendly association of parishioners, organising social events and educational and spiritual activities. Please complete the Application Form if you would like to join the Friends (parishioners are invited to contribute £10 a year for their membership and everyone is welcome) or email [friends@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:friends@stjamespettswood.org) to find out more.

### The Justice and Peace Group

Our Justice and Peace Group focuses on social justice and environmental matters and meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, excluding August and December. New members are always welcome. Please email [jandp@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:jandp@stjamespettswood.org) if you would like to find out more.

### The Knights of St. Columba

The Knights is an order of Catholic laymen, dedicated to the service of the church, who meet on the third Wednesday of the month in our Community Centre. Membership is open to Catholic males age 16 or over. For more information, please email [ksc@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:ksc@stjamespettswood.org).

### The LiveSimply Group

This group helps the parish to understand and support the *LiveSimply* principles of living sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. Please contact [livesimply@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:livesimply@stjamespettswood.org) for more information.

## The Monday Club

The Monday Club meets every week between 1:30 and 4:30pm. Everyone is welcome. Activities include crafts, boules, board games, table tennis, indoor curling and lots more. Tea and coffee are provided (a contribution of £1 is welcomed). Alternatively, if anyone could spare half an hour to show some of the senior members of the Monday Club the basics of using computers and email, it would be much appreciated. Please see the Contacts List for more information or just go along.

## The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (the SVP)

A branch of the SVP as it is more commonly known, was established in the Parish in 2011, and is run by a small group of parishioners. The SVP can offer confidential, practical assistance, friendship and support to those in need and can visit them in their own homes.

Some recent examples of their work include transport, purchase of clothing and food vouchers or financial help with utility bills and the purchase of a bunk bed where children had been sleeping on a floor.

If you wish to contact us for any reason in confidence, including joining us as a new member, please email **svp@stjamespettswood.org** or contact us through the parish office.

You can find out more about the Society at its national website, which is **www.svp.org.uk**.

## St James Youth Ministry

Our youth groups are for children / young people of St James the Great, and St Swithun's, parishes.

**The Junior Youth Group** is for children aged between 10 and 15 years, i.e. in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. We meet on Saturday afternoons (term time only) every three weeks where we aim to provide a safe place so that children can participate in activities. They can make and maintain new friendships, and become more fully involved in the activities of the church. Please email **youth.junior@stjamespettswood.org** for more information.

**The Senior Youth Group** (post Confirmation) is still in its infancy. The aim is to facilitate social sessions for the young people of the parish, with the emphasis very much on them making decisions on how those sessions will run. A small room in the Parish Community Centre has been set aside for their use. Please email **youth.senior@stjamespettswood.org** for more information.

## Uniformed Groups – Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers

**Brownies** take part in indoor and outdoor activities and games. Please email [brownies@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:brownies@stjamespettswood.org).

**Guides** have a wide range of activities, special events and camping. Please email [guides@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:guides@stjamespettswood.org).

**Beavers** enjoy a varied programme of games, making things, going on visits and learning simple scouting skills. Please email [beavers@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:beavers@stjamespettswood.org).

**Cubs'** activities include day trips, district events and camping trips. Please email [cubs@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:cubs@stjamespettswood.org).

**Scouts** meet weekly and their activities include, e.g., hiking, wide games, archery, climbing and camping. Please email [scouts@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:scouts@stjamespettswood.org).

**The Explorers Scout Unit** is a group of boys and girls, aged 14–18, who take part in a wide range of activities. Newcomers are welcome and need not have any previous experience of the Scouting Movement. Please email [explorers@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:explorers@stjamespettswood.org).



Top: Cubs on camp around an indoor campfire;  
Above: Guides recently ice skating;  
Below: Cubs cooking sausages around a campfire.





### The Parent and Toddler Group

This group meets during term time for play and chat on Fridays between 1:30 and 3:00pm. Parents and carers with children under 5s are very welcome to come along. There is a small fee and refreshments are provided. Please email [parent.toddler@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parent.toddler@stjamespettswood.org) if you would like to find out more.

### Dad and Me

This playgroup meets monthly usually on the third Saturday for fun, crafts, toys and music. It is specifically aimed at dads and their children under 7s and sessions normally run from 10:00 until 11:30am. For more information please visit our website or email [dad.me@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:dad.me@stjamespettswood.org).



## Other Groups Contributing to Parish Life

### Firm Believers

This is an inter-church Fun-Fitness class to music for ladies of all abilities. It is friendly, informal and costs £5 per session. You can come along on Tuesday evenings, 7–7:45pm, during term time to give it a try, or you can contact [firm.believers@stjamespettwood.org](mailto:firm.believers@stjamespettwood.org) to find out more.

### Sequence Dancing

This group meets on Tuesdays, from 1:30 until 4:30pm. Beginners are welcome with tuition provided by a professional instructor. There is a small fee and this includes a break for tea and biscuits. Please see the contacts list for details.

### The St James' Pre-School

The Pre-School is an independent charitable organisation based part-time on Monday to Friday in our Community Centre. The Centre and play area used by the Preschool is absolutely restricted for their sole use during Pre-School hours. Please contact the Pre-School directly at [stjamespreschool@live.co.uk](mailto:stjamespreschool@live.co.uk) for all enquiries about their schedule and curriculum.

### Petts Wood Churches Together

This is an ecumenical group of local parishes which meet to provide support for ministers and to arrange shared services from time to time, e.g., One World Day and the Week of Accompanied Prayer.

### Bromley Deanery

The Deanery comprises 13 local parishes in the Archdiocese of Southwark consisting of Anerley Beckenham, Biggin Hill, Bromley, Bromley Common, Chislehurst, Chislehurst West, Farnborough, Hayes, Orpington, Petts Wood, St Marys and St Pauls Cray, and West Wickham. The Dean is Canon Tom McHugh (Bromley) and the Deanery provides a forum for support and sharing resources together with a local link to the Archdiocese.

### CAFOD

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and its title stands for "Catholic Agency for Overseas Development". CAFOD works alongside the world's poorest people and is recognised by a mandate from the Bishop's Conference in England and Wales. For more information about how we can help CAFOD in our parish, please email [cafod@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:cafod@stjamespettswood.org).



# Our Parish in Brief

- St James is part of the Archdiocese of Southwark.
- The current St James Community Centre was the original church and Mass was first celebrated there in 1939. The first Mass in the present church was celebrated in December 1963.
- The parish has an active community, with about 700–800+ regular attendances at Sunday Masses and there are many parish groups.
- Since 2007, substantial refurbishment work on parish buildings has been on-going and the Parish's Finance Committee has been actively engaged in planning and overseeing this.
- In July 2014 we reached our 75th anniversary. His grace, the Most Reverend Archbishop Peter Smith presided at Mass here and preached the homily. On the same day the parish was awarded the *LiveSimply* award. In addition one of our parishioners was awarded the Fideliter Servienti award and three others were awarded the papal Benemerenti medals.
- In 2015 we completed a parish survey and established a Parish Pastoral Council.
- In 2016 the parish launched a new association called the Friends of St James to help build a strongly cohesive social environment.



# About Fr. David

I was born on the Mediterranean island of Malta.

My parents' names were the late Edward and Josephine. I am a twin with my sister Barbara and brother to Godwin. Both my siblings have their own families and still live on the island of Malta. I was brought up and educated at Catholic schools.

My primary schooling was at St Joseph's School Paola, the town where I grew up. The school was led by the French order of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition. I did my secondary education at St Paul's Missionary College administered and led by the Priests and Brothers of the Missionary Society of St Paul. After doing my Sixth Form education at the State Sixth Form, I joined the Missionary Society of St Paul as a seminarian.

I began my novitiate in October 1982 and was ordained in 1992 during which time I did my BA degree in Philosophy and Human Sciences, a BA in Sacred Theology (BSTH) and Licentiate in Pastoral Theology at the University of Malta. During this time I also taught part time at secondary level at St Paul's Missionary College and was involved with youth ministry within a voluntary missionary association led by the same order on the island. I also had the privilege of spending some months working as a deacon in Pakistan.

After my ordination on the 3rd July 1992, I was assigned to work in Melbourne Australia where I was involved in Vocation Ministry, was a Chaplain at a Sixth Form College (Emmaus College,

Box Hill Campus) and was part of a team which ran together with the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary the Centre – Wominjeka – a Mission Spirituality Centre in Melbourne.

I left Australia in 2001 and moved to Ottawa Canada where I did my MA in Pastoral Counselling for two years. This was also a time of soul searching for me and at the end of these two years I made the hard decision to leave the Missionary Order, but remain a priest.

Providence brought me to Southwark Diocese. I was first assigned as a curate at St Anselm's Parish in Dartford for 10 months. I was then asked to take over the parish of St Benet's Abbey Wood. I stayed there for 5 years. After which my ministry took me to the South West of the Diocese to minister to the sick and dying at St Helier Hospital and St Raphael's Hospice Cheam. During this time I was also fortunate enough to minister sacramentally at St Teresa's Parish Church Morden.

In 2014, I had my sabbatical which I spent both in returning to my roots in Malta for some months but also went to Rome to do a theological refresher course with other English speaking priests at the North American College. During this time I had the privilege of attending diverse services and Masses celebrated by Pope Francis and also visited the Holy Land for the first time in my life, which I consider to be the highlight of my sabbatical.

In April 2015, I was asked by Archbishop Peter to become the Parish Priest of St James the Great in Petts Wood. I feel honoured and privileged to be ministering in this very welcoming and vibrant community.



## Finally.....

Please see our website at:  
[www.stjamespettswood.org](http://www.stjamespettswood.org)  
for more information

email:  
[father.david@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:father.david@stjamespettswood.org)  
and the Parish Office which is  
located at **281A Crescent Drive**  
by email at:  
[parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org)



 We also have a facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/Stjamespettswood/](https://www.facebook.com/Stjamespettswood/)



WELCOME  
*to the Catholic Church of*  
**ST JAMES THE GREAT**  
*in PettsWood*

Our Parish is in the Archdiocese of Southwark  
Archbishop Peter Smith  
St George's Metropolitan Cathedral, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 7HY  
Archbishop's House, 150 St George's Road, SE1 6HZ

Our Area Bishop is Bishop Patrick Lynch  
Park House, 6a Cresswell Park, Blackheath, London, SE3 9RD

## Sunday Masses

*We aim to celebrate all of our Sunday Masses with music.*

**6:00pm** Saturday (vigil)

**9:15am** With Children's Liturgy when children (aged 3 until they make their First Holy Communion) are accompanied into the Community Centre for their own Liturgy of the Word, music and other activities before rejoining their families just before the offertory

**11:00am** Mass and music

*Coffee and other refreshments are available in the Community Centre after both Masses on Sundays. The social club bar is open for parishioners and their guests after the 11am Mass and at other times when appropriate. Please come and join us.*

## Weekdays: Monday to Friday

**9:10am** Morning Prayer; everyone is welcome

**9:30am** Mass

*Come along to the Community Centre for coffee and a chat on Wednesday mornings after Mass.*

## Holy Days of Obligation

**8:00pm** Vigil Mass (on the eve of the holy day)

**9:30am** On the holy day

## Confession

**5:00–** Saturdays or by appointment

**5:45pm**

*Mass intention envelopes are available in the church porch.*