

St Jude's, Peterborough

Parish Information



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Who are we?

We are a small, inclusive congregation of all ages, from a wide variety of church backgrounds, a diversity which enriches us. We would hope that wherever you are from, church background or not, you would quickly be able to find a home amongst us. Our parish is within West Ward of Peterborough, a diverse city in North Cambridgeshire.

Church Wardens



Mathew Dore



Sue Dunthorne

Map of Peterborough Diocese, and St Jude's Parish



We are a church community in the modern catholic tradition, using Common Worship, with our main Sunday service at 10.00am which includes a Sunday Club for our younger members and coffee afterwards in the Community Hall. We hold bring and share lunches two or three times per year, to gather as a church family.



Other weekday said services are held on Tuesday morning, Wednesday evening and Thursday morning. A regular Sunday evening Prayer Service is held every second Sunday. Once a month we have a healing service and anointing with oil. We celebrate our patronal festival in October and during Advent we hold a Carol Service, in support of the Children’s Society.

St Jude's is a modern church building with a small separate side chapel, Garden of Remembrance, and a Community Hall. The church has disabled access and a loop system for the hard of hearing. Its interior is modern in design, the absence of a screen making it easy to observe the altar area during the service.





We have links with the Mar Thoma congregation who recently moved to their own church near to us, but still attend services with us. A Syrian church have also used our building, both church and hall, as a base for their services and community gathering.

In addition to our services, we have a small Walsingham Cell which visits Walsingham each year for a weekend in October. We run a Lent Course for our congregation, and we are open to communion before confirmation for young people.



Our worship is Eucharistic, accompanied by a mixture of musical styles – we have an organist who plays two Sundays per month, guitar and drums one Sunday per month and an electronic hymnal run by members of the congregation for the other Sundays. We use Common Praise and Mission Praise as our hymn books.

Our average weekly attendance is around 25-30, with about 30% of us living outside the parish.



Throughout the recent pandemic, we have been open when the lockdown rules have allowed us to. We have kept in touch with members of our congregation with phone calls, and through Facebook, by uploading videos and doing Facebook 'Lives'.

The History of St Jude's

In the early 1960's when Westwood airfield was redeveloped for housing, the then incumbent of St. Botolph's in Longthorpe saw the need for a church to serve the people coming to live there.

The Conventional District of Westwood was formed in 1964 from parts of the parishes of Longthorpe, All Saints Paston and St John the Baptist, Peterborough and for 5 years the church community used a former RAF hut for worship.

Earl Fitzwilliam (via the Fitzwilliam Trust) gifted land for the erection of a church and his wife requested that it be dedicated to St Jude, and so the first part of the present church was built in 1968-9. The Bishop of Peterborough dedicated the building on 17 January 1969 and St Jude's became a Parish with the Bishop as our Patron.

Phase 1 was a relatively modest building comprising the present hall, Damascus Room, toilets, and kitchen and under the second incumbent, the church was enlarged in 1977. Phase 2 saw an extension to the hall, corresponding to the 'nave' of the present church and the building of the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, then known as the Chapel of Christ the Servant. Folding screens separated the two parts of the hall.

In July 1979, the PCC planned to extend the dual-purpose building into a church with a separate church hall. The architect for this building, Mr Joseph Robotham, designed the sanctuary, tower, and sacristy, as well as the passage round the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The walled garden also belongs to this development. The extension was built by John Lucas Ltd of Peterborough and consecrated by the Bishop of Peterborough, on the 14 July 1984.

The Local Community

The parish of St Jude's is a mixed area – parts of our parish are within the most deprived areas of Peterborough, whilst there are parts which are more affluent. According to the 2011 census we have around 7,500 people living within our parish boundary, 58% of whom live in areas considered as public and social housing. Peterborough has a higher than average transient population, and schools in our parish are regularly working with around 20 different languages from Europe and from Asia. The parish encompasses several opportunities for outreach including the Peterborough Hospital, Care Homes and three junior schools, along with 115 Squadron of the Air Cadets. In addition, we have Peterborough Prison on the boundary of our parish which is a category B prison, with both male and female residents.

The young people in our congregation usually attend the Kings School, which is the Church of England Secondary school in Peterborough and has strong links to Peterborough Cathedral.



We would like to engage with our local community more and would like someone who will:

- Improve the visibility of the church and encourage stronger links between church and community organisations.
- Support us in working with children and young people – not only in the church context but also in local schools. The local schools have told us that they would like us to work with them
- Help us to recognise the needs within our community and empower us to respond to them with the love of Christ.

St Jude's Community Hall

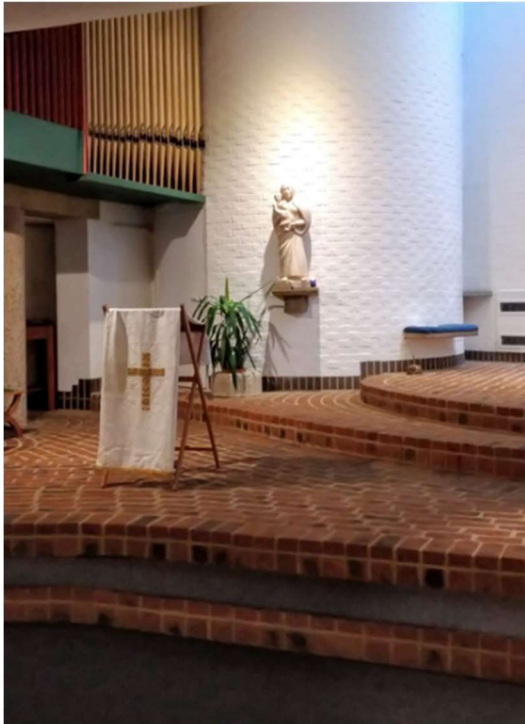
The Community Hall, which was the original worship space, remains part of our church building. It can hold up to eighty people and is available for private hire. It hosts a number of organisations, including: -

- St Jude's Mums and Tots Group
- Netherton Women's Fellowship
- Probation Service
- a Line Dancing Group
- Recorders Galore
- a Zumba Group
- U3A Belly Dancing
- Kickboxing
- Ballet

In the last ten years, the Community Hall has been improved by essential renovation work for which St Jude's obtained a grant funded through the Landfill Communities Fund of the Waste Recycling Group (WRG) administered and distributed by Waste Recycling Environment (WREN).



The Future



Our previous incumbent was with us for 23 years and has recently retired. We are hoping that whoever joins St Jude's will support us through the transition from such a long-lasting incumbency and lead and encourage us in our Christian journeys. We understand that this will bring change and are looking forward to exploring this with you.

We want to welcome someone who has prayerfully considered this position and been prompted by the Holy Spirit that this might just be the right post for them. We pray that they feel able to discern what God wants for our community, both inside and outside of the existing church family, and that they are attracted to a parish which offers opportunities, excitement, and challenges.

Some of the qualities we would like to see:

- Teacher, leader, pastor – someone who can walk with us, helping us to grow in faith, understanding and discipleship through Bible-based teaching – equipping us to share our faith, our hope and the love of God within our communities and beyond.
- Able to relate to all ages – a people person who is always approachable and understands the needs of all members of our congregation.
- A good communicator with the ability to recognise everyone's gifts and encourage these to be used within the church and its activities, during worship and also in outreach.
- A heart for mission and community – someone with a vision for how the church can play its part in the wider community and who is able to lead and encourage us in developing new ways in which St Jude's can interact with its parish.
- Adaptable – able and willing to try new things such as developing our online presence and be open to a variety of worship styles.
- A sense of humour.