



St George and All Saints

Parish Profile



The Diocese of Sodor and Man
Together making Christ visible





Description of the Church

“We long to serve the communities of the island and our parish, by being a welcoming and inclusive church, where all can feel at home and accepted by God and by us.”



We are a diverse and inclusive group of people, of all ages, ethnicities, and different outlooks, who meet in a wide range of church services. The breadth of the worship styles we have developed reflects this: ‘Messy Church’, Taizé, Celtic-style, Civic, All age praise, Holy Communion (BCP and CW) to name but a few of the regular styles which may be formal or informal, depending on the context.

We enjoy a variety of hymns old and new, some Taizé chants, the Peruvian Gloria and of course, seasonal service cards.

We are very proud to be a church which attracts young families and lively children.

Our current parish of “St George and All Saints” was formed five years ago, by the re-merging of two independent parishes, who had spent the previous century as a parish Church and Daughter Church. We are now a well-integrated church family.

For our very youngest members we have developed a busy ‘play-space’ in the west end of the Nave. We also offer a monthly Messy Church in All Saints Hall on first Sunday mornings and an interactive ‘All Age Praise’ in Church, as well as Children’s ministry in the lobby when it’s a Eucharist.

The 10.30am Sunday Services, as well as the Friday evening Compline service are live streamed for the housebound and a wider audience and we have developed e-giving to enable our virtual congregations to donate in support of our ministry.

We enjoy fellowship over fair traded tea and coffee after Sunday morning worship and on special occasions we enjoy wine and cake together as well.

Safeguarding is a priority, and we have a strong track record in this respect. In our recent safeguarding audit, the auditors stated that a “significant majority of our processes and practices are considered Gold-standard”.





Style of Worship

- Our general ethos is Open, Inclusive, Accepting Evangelical.
- Lay people share in the ministry at all services in various ways.
- Our worship is a careful liturgy of a very seasonal nature, with musical settings composed and/or arranged by our organist, including a Peruvian Setting (used regularly at Sunday Eucharist) and a Taizé Setting which we tend to use in penitential seasons.
- We are committed to a visual style of worship, having installed several HD TV screens around the nave, chancel and aisles which display liturgy, hymnody, and teaching material at all 10.30 services. This approach is important to us and we would expect it to continue.
- We use liturgical language which is inclusive: we believe, for example, that God was in Christ, reconciling the *world* to himself, and *not* just 'mankind' or 'men'.
- In the sermons, we expect the Scriptures to be handled with intelligence, faithfulness, and creativity; in a way which helps us apply them to the issues we face in our lives and the world.
- We have an Organist, an Assistant Organist, and a small but committed choir.



We also have a small music group who regularly play for our 'All Age Praise' services, as well as occasionally adding a different dimension to other services.

We sing a range of hymns and worship songs at all services.

We have an authorised Liturgical Assistant who acts as Deacon.

We have service cards for all the main seasons. There are President's books and Deacon's books for each of them.

We have recently welcomed the island's Open Table group to St George and All Saints.

Pattern of Services

First Sunday of the Month

- 10.30 Holy Communion with Baptisms
- 11.00 Messy Church in All Saints Hall
- 18.00 Evening Prayer (usually Common Worship)

Second Sunday of the Month:

- 10.30 Holy Communion
- 18.00 Taizé style

Third Sunday of the month:

- 09.00 Holy Communion according to the BCP
(said with a Thought for the Day)
- 10.30 All Age Praise
- 18.00 Evening Prayer

Fourth Sunday of the Month:

- 10.30 Holy Communion
- 18.00 Evening Prayer

Fifth Sundays:

- 10.30 Holy Communion
- 18.00 Evening Prayer
(with Prayer for Healing and Wholeness)

Every Friday:

- 18.00 Compline



Our Services

As the Civic Church we also host many National (Isle of Man) Services for the Government and local Douglas Borough Council, for example the Royal Air Forces Association and the Royal British Legion. There is a strong military and veteran connection in the Island.

We host an annual commemoration for both the commencement and end of the First World War and also hosted a National Service of Reflection following the first Lockdown. Other services have included those for the Transplant and Organ Donor Team, the Freemasons and the RNLI.

We work closely with the parish schools who use our church regularly for their school events, including their Christmas services.

Throughout December is very busy at St George's; typically, over 3000 people - including school pupils - attend services in the main church building.

Church Activities

- Pastoral Care Team, which is lay led.
- Occasional home study groups, Advent and Lent Courses (paused during Covid-19).
- Monday afternoon Tea'n'Chat, which is an 'open house' style drop-in at All Saints Hall.
- Monday evening Snooker Club.
- Tuesday morning Prayer Meeting.
- Tuesday evening Bell Ringing.
- Mothers' Union.



- Social evenings e.g., popular Quiz Nights, Film and Supper evenings (all of which raise money for charities home and away). These are usually held in our well-equipped parish hall.
- Our church is left open most days. We regularly welcome members of the local community who come for individual private prayer, reflection or indeed just seeking peace and quiet.
- Our church building is used regularly, without charge, in some cases weekly, by the following groups: the IoM Government Choir, a local group of Christian business people, Cordaillys Choir, EPSA Committee, the IoM Gov War Memorials Committee, the Royal British Legion's Women's Section County Committee, a Poetry Club, and several diocesan Committees.
- All Saints Hall (our parish hall) is a recently refurbished, well-equipped venue that is a popular choice for clubs, groups and families to hire.





Beyond the Parish

Here at St George and All Saints, we fully accept the fact that our Vicar is also the Archdeacon and empathise with the need for balance in this situation. We also recognise the benefits that this can bring to our parish.

We play a full part in the 'Eastern Mission Partnership'; a group of Church of England churches based in the east of the island.

Our new Vicar will be committed to the weekly gathering of ministers for Morning Prayer and the quarterly meeting of the Eastern Mission Partnership Council.

Our elected reps are committed to the Diocesan Synod, and our "lead rep" submits a written report on all their meetings to our PCC.

We aspire to give away at least one tenth of our income to charities and mission agencies, home and away.



Description of the Church Building



We are the oldest church building in Douglas, and very likely the second oldest surviving building still in use.

Building began in 1761 and it was consecrated in 1781. It has changed a great deal since then. The church was extensively re-ordered 15 years ago and has subsequently had a Nave Table introduced on an extended chancel platform, some choir stalls removed, new internal west doors fitted to open-up the Lobby at the west end, and the War Memorial "Chapel of Remembrance" has been extended.

The building is in very good condition, with efficient heating and its high state of repair. We have removed all the 1960s cementitious pointing to the east end and the south walls, redecorated the chancel, improved the lighting (and made it flexible) and redecorated the kitchen, the Lobby and all but one of the vestries and offices.

We have recently developed and installed storyboards around the churchyard which help visitors and worshippers understand the rich history of the Isle of Man.

The churchyard, which is fully maintained by Douglas Borough Council – at no cost to the church – is now only available for cremated remains.

We have an excellent Pipe Organ, built, and installed by Harrison & Harrison in 2003.

St George's is also home to a full ring of 12 bells and we have an enthusiastic team of bellringers who meet regularly for practice.

We have a sophisticated sound desk with a 16-channel mixer, an iMac and a PC which manages the audio-visual dimension of our worship.



The Future

Who are we praying for?

- An Open, Inclusive and Accepting Evangelical who will bring creative and wide-ranging liturgy.
- Someone with a pastoral heart, that is approachable to churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike.
- Someone who loves children and young people and will be a role model of Christian discipleship to children of all ages from 0 – 100+.
- A person who has joy in faith, discipleship, and worship.
- Someone who can lead our worship in an uplifting, joyful, creative, and engaging manner, who is comfortable with 'visual projection' and audio-visual presentation of liturgy or hymnody and who will use it effectively in their preaching and teaching.
- A person with a sense of humour.

What are we hoping to do?

- Continue to grow in faith and love for the Lord and one another.
- Continue to grow in numbers across all ages.
- Actively grow our outreach.

What are we offering you?

- We are a generous and accepting fellowship and we promise not to use "we've always done..." as a response to a challenge.
- We are an energetic group who support our clergy in their public ministry, encourage them in their personal discipleship of Jesus and strive to protect them in their time off with family.
- We have a well-equipped children's ministry.
- We have a well-equipped Parish Office which handles the (online) church diaries.
- Our Parish Administrator will be retiring soon after many years. The office is being staffed temporarily by the PCC Secretary.



Church Finances

The church benefits from several revenue streams. In addition to our regular stewardship and plate collections, these include income from All Saints Hall, lease arrangements on the former St George's Hall, as well as other bequests and investments. As such, our finances are in a healthy state. We are up to date with all commitments, including our contribution to the shared ministry fund.

Church Officers

Our vicar is supported by a full team of officers, with all positions filled as below:

Parochial Church Council Members & Parish Officers:

Chair/Vicar	(Vacant)
Lay Vice-Chair	Mr. Andrew Willoughby
Wardens	Mr. Ernie de Legh-Runciman Mr. Gareth Price Mrs. Ros Wilson
PCC Secretary	Mrs. Sam Derbyshire (not PCC member)
PCC Treasurer	Mr. Andrew Baxendale
PCC Standing Committee	Mr. Andrew Willoughby Mr. Ernie de Legh-Runciman Mr. Gareth Price Mr. Andrew Baxendale
Verger	Mrs. Joyce Walker
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Ms. Emily Wilde
Data Protection Officer	Mr. Charles Flynn
Health & Safety Officer	Mr. Martin Blackburn
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs. Margaret Rattigan (not PCC member)
Communications Team Leader	Mr. Martin Hazell
Eco Representative	M. Charles Flynn
Deputy Wardens	Mr. Martin Hazell Mrs. Cath Cringle Mr. Graham Platt



Church Officers (*cont'd*)

Diocesan Synod	Mr. Charles Flynn Mr. Ernie de Legh-Runciman Mrs. Melanie Dowling – PCC Reporting Lead
Eastern Mission Partnership Rep	Mr. Gareth Price
Elected members (3 yrs remain.)	Mr. Ian Quayle Mrs. Joyce Walker Ms. Emily Wilde
Elected Members (2 yrs remain.)	Mr. Martin Blackburn Mrs. Cath Cringle Mr. Martin Hazell
Elected Members (1 yr remain.)	Mr. Andrew Baxendale Mr. Alan Cooper Mrs. Jenny Walmsley
Co-Opted Members	Mr. Andrew Willoughby Mr. Charles Wilson
Parish Representatives	Ms. Emily Wilde Mr. Charles Wilson

NB: Churchwardens and Diocesan Synod Reps are ex officio members of the PCC and therefore do not need to be elected members.



Our Parish Boundary