

DEANERY OF GUERNSEY

Under the Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Dover

The Parishes of Sainte Marie du Castel & St Matthew Cobo



A vacancy exists for the position of Rector of the ancient parish of Sainte Marie du Castel, Guernsey. Sainte Marie is a Crown living. The Rector is patron of the living of Saint Matthew Cobo.

The postholder will be Rector of the Castel and Vicar of St Matthew's Cobo, working with a team comprising retired clergy, a licensed lay minister and a range of other support people who work in the areas of Sunday Schools, parent toddler groups, facilities for the elderly, visiting teams, choirs and young people's groups.



The ecclesiastical parishes of Castel and Cobo are coterminous with the civil parish of Castel, which is a large parish on the north side of Guernsey. The two parishes include a variety of housing, some small businesses and some of Guernsey's most beautiful coastline in and around Cobo Bay.

Since the departure of the last rector in February 2017, the parishes have been cared for by an interim priest in charge, appointed for a term of 12 months. The parishes are now seeking a priest who will be rector of Castel and vicar of Cobo.

The parishes are ready for further initiatives for growth and for deepening their life, building links into the community and developing pastoral care.

The style of worship at both churches would best be described as 'central'. Vestments are available in both churches but the parishes are flexible about the vesture of the priest. Although the age of those attending services is predominantly over 50, there is a strong sense of commitment and engagement with the life of the church.

Our vision for the future:

1. To see both churches working together to build links with all the schools in Castel.
2. To support the organisations working to encourage young people.
3. To re-establish links with the other churches and Christian communities in Castel.
4. To encourage both churches to work together where this will further their life and mission, whilst being aware of the individuality and the identity of the two churches.
5. To develop the existing teams of parishioners undertaking sick visiting, bereavement visiting, home communions and links with baptism families.
6. To maintain and develop the loyal and friendly congregations.

The key qualities we hope our new priest will bring:

1. Enthusiasm to help us to build, develop and implement our vision, working with colleagues in the deanery in the emerging deanery vision. We have much appreciated the work of our interim priest but recognise that we are now ready to move confidently into the next stage of our life with our new parish priest.
2. We hope that our new priest will have both enthusiasm for and experience of building teams of lay people and encouraging lay ministry.
3. Good communication skills are essential, not least to keep in touch with the various church groups and to build on the good links with the civil parish and organisations in the community.
4. We hope that our new priest will be willing to be involved in the different aspects of parish and community life and to develop the many opportunities we have for working with the communities we seek to serve.
5. Guernsey is a community of diverse interests and backgrounds, we hope that our new parish priest will be willing to enjoy this diversity, and to bring a realistic attitude to family life in today's world.
6. Commitment to the best practice of safeguarding.

PARISHES AND APPORTIONMENT

The island is divided into ten civil parishes (the Castel parish being one) and fourteen ecclesiastical parishes. The map below shows the boundaries and locations of ecclesiastical parishes.

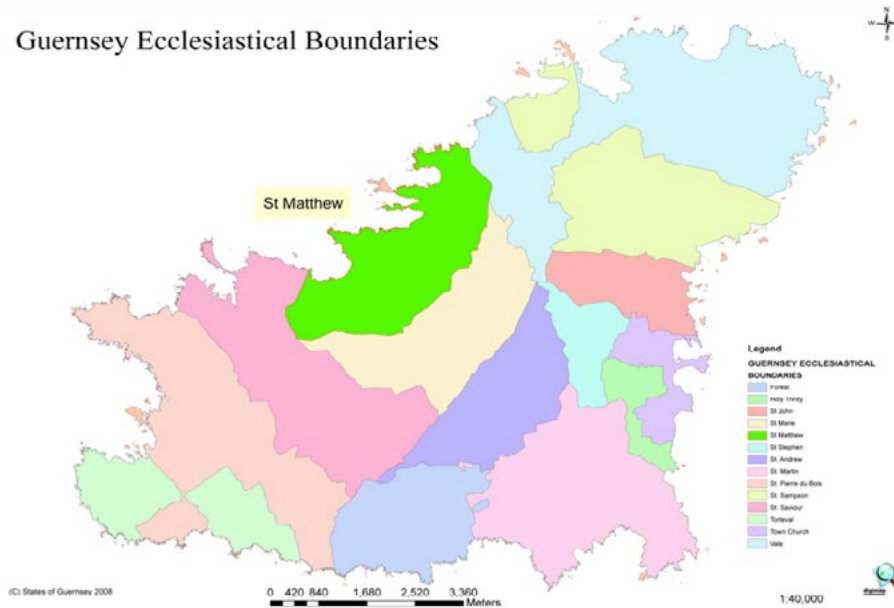
The Castel parish is situated in the central/western area of Guernsey and incorporates the ecclesiastical parishes of Ste Marie du Castel and St Matthew Cobo. The ancient parish church of Ste Marie du Castel serves the eastern/northern area of the parish, while the western coastal area is served by the church of St Matthew.

Ste Marie du Castel and St Matthew's being held in plurality have a full Share apportioned between them, 60 percent to Ste Marie and 40 percent to St Matthew. It has been set this way by the Deanery Finance Committee. In the last forty years the Castel parish has seen a large increase in domestic properties, the majority of which have been created in the St Matthew's Ecclesiastical Parish.

There are no PCCs in Guernsey and the legal responsibility for each parish church rests with its Rector or Vicar and the Churchwardens. The nearest PCC equivalent is the Advisory Committee which meets regularly as required, the level of authority given to each Advisory Committee is decided by the priest and Churchwardens.



Guernsey Ecclesiastical Boundaries



SOCIAL MIX

The parish population is engaged in a wide range of employment, including the finance industry, agriculture, horticulture, tourism, service, building and light industry. There are a significant number of retired people.

Housing ranges through States Housing Estates (equivalent of UK council estates), modern private estates, farmhouses and converted barns, fisherman's cottages and millionaire mansions.

The Castel parish is predominantly a residential area containing a range of amenities, services and facilities, including high schools, primary and infant/preschools, supermarkets, doctor's surgery, pharmacy, optician, bank, hotels (one with a golf course), restaurants and pubs, post office and petrol stations and garages.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Ste Marie du Castel	50
St Matthew	57

STE MARIE DU CASTEL MINISTRY

We have an average weekly attendance is 25 on Sundays and 12 on Wednesdays. Our current church services are detailed below.

Sunday Services:

- First Sunday of the month at 9.30am - Family Eucharist
- Second Sunday of the month at 9.30am - Parish Eucharist
- Third Sunday of the month at 9.30am - Parish Eucharist
- Fourth Sunday of the month at 9.30am - Parish Eucharist
- Fifth Sunday of the month at 9.30am - Joint Parish Eucharist with St Matthew, Cobo
- The Remembrance Sunday service is attended by officers of the civil Parish of Castel.

Other weekly services & meeting:

- Tuesdays at 6pm - Junior Choir
- Wednesdays at 10am - Holy Communion BCP
(This service has our largest growth in attendance)
- Wednesdays at 7.15 p.m. Senior Choir

The choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. Juniors are encouraged to sit RSCM examinations. The Junior Choir sings hymns and anthems suitable for children at the Family Eucharist. The Senior Choir has a repertoire of Motets and Anthems taken from the Oxford books of Anthems, the Church Anthem book and other resources. The choir amalgamates with St Matthew's choristers for practices at Ste Marie du Castel.

Annual services:

- Christingle Service
- Service of Nine Lessons with Carols by candlelight
- Christmas Eve Crib Service (3pm)
- Sung Eucharist of Christmas Midnight by candlelight
- Christmas Morning Said Eucharist with carols
- Ash Wednesday Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
- Palm Sunday Procession (led by a Donkey)
- Maundy Thursday Sung Eucharist followed by Vigil
- Good Friday Liturgy
(Previously with Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament)
- Easter Eve – Compline
(Previously Service of Light with renewal of Baptismal Vows)
- Easter Day - Easter Eucharist

Annual and other events:

- Fortnightly Farmers' Market
- Castel Donkey Day
A Castel community event run by the church.
- Gift Day

Occasional Services

2016 - Baptisms 13, Weddings 5, Funerals 18.

2017 (as at September 2017) - Baptisms 11, Weddings 5, Funerals 15.



STE MARIE DU CASTEL (continued)

In addition to the information at the beginning of this profile, we have these hopes & aspirations for the new Rector:

Recognise and affirm the individuality of Sainte Marie du Castel and Saint Matthew while encouraging co-operation between the two churches.

Be welcoming to people of all ages and spiritual development.

Provide leadership for spiritual development at all stages of the Christian life.

Encourage and support the prayer life of the church.

Continue to make provision for BCP Holy Communion - the BCP midweek service has our best growth in attendance.

Ensure that the Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday at Ste Marie du Castel.

Encourage our church family to grow in numbers with people of all ages who are learning, worshipping and growing together in their knowledge and love of the Lord.

To ensure that our church continues to be an outward-looking community whose worship and faith life are an inspiration and light to the surrounding world.

Confidently encourage extending the present Stewardship Programme.



STE MARIE DU CASTEL BUILDINGS

The church:

The church is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is generally in very good condition. There is a continuing programme of improvement to the internal fabric (funded by the congregation) and to the external maintenance and repair of the church (funded by the civil parish). Recent work has included the construction of a toilet at a cost of £30,000 (paid for by the congregation). The toilet is suitable for disabled persons and has baby change facilities.

The interior of the church will need to be repainted in the near future. The cost is estimated at between £65,000 - £80,000. Funds are in hand.

The hall:

The hall is managed by trustees. It is in a very good state of repair. There is a continuing programme of repair and maintenance. Facilities include a large hall, smaller meeting room, kitchen and toilet facilities.

A pre-school for vulnerable children uses the hall on weekdays, while various church and secular groups can make use of it at other times.



ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH MINISTRY

Monthly service pattern:

- 8.00am - Holy Communion BCP every Sunday (Attendance 10 – 16)
- 11.00am - Sung Eucharist on all Sundays the first Sunday of the month being a Family Eucharist (Attendance 35 – 40)

We appreciate the ministry of our retired priests and our licensed lay minister, Mrs Caroline McMeiken. There are lay teams who administer the Chalice, read lessons, lead prayers, ring bells, serve the church as sidespersons, sing in the choir supported by an excellent organist. In addition we have a hard working team who provide after service refreshments, cover day to day issues, provide flowers, brass cleaning (and so the list goes on).

Variations:

In addition to major festivals, St Matthew's provides additional special services:

- Mothering Sunday
- Sea Sunday Service
- Liberation Day Beach Slipway Service
- Remembrance Day
- Christingle
- Carol Service
- Birthday Party for Jesus

Additional activities, support groups and organisations:

- Sunday School - known as The Guetaways (named after the area known as 'Le Guet')
- Afternoon for the elderly known as 'The Guet Together'
- Parent Toddler Group - recently ended but attempts are being made to restart
- Summer Concerts
- Visiting the sick
- Advisory Committee - (similar to PCC in United Kingdom)
- Bazaar - Largest annual fund raising event, this year raised £7,500
- Coffee Mornings - very significant on Liberation Day
- St Matthews Wives Group
- Whist Drives/Pancake Evening/Harvest Lunch

It is an attractive church, popular for weddings with one of only three lychgates in the island.

Occasional offices:

2016 - Marriages 8, Funerals 13, Baptisms 18

2017 (as at September 2017) - Marriages 9, Funerals 9, Baptisms 8



ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH (continued)

The Future....

Whilst it could be construed from the foregoing information that clergy life is idyllic in Guernsey with little or no challenges and problems... in reality nothing could be further from the truth!

All parishes have problems and issues of one sort or another - St Matthew's Cobo is no exception.

As with many parishes we have an aging congregation, however we see congregations at least doubled, sometimes trebled, at major festivals. This tells us that within our parish the light of belief is still lit. The challenge is, how do we turn this interest into regular attendance and find ways of making outreach more effective?

We regularly see a good attendance by our young people's organisations affiliated to St Matthew, the Birthday Party for Jesus on Christmas Eve has seen attendances in excess of 200 and our Sunday School is showing signs of increased attendance. The challenge is how do we nurture and develop this interest?

Links with our parish schools are good, particularly with the Castel School and La Mare de Carteret Primary and High School. The challenge is to develop the links and build on them.

Our congregation are mindful of and willing to help the less able and those dealing with infirmity. The challenge is to provide a meaningful service of support in this area.

The church services are something which should be looked at in terms of the service formats, and the need to provide Sunday Worship that complements the outreach effort of the church.



ST MATTHEW'S BUILDINGS

The church:

For 20 years the maintenance of the church building has been undertaken under the guidance of local building surveyors Lovell Ozanne and Partners (Surveying) Ltd thus ensuring the quality of work done and value for money. Within that period the following works have been undertaken:

- New roof on the nave and chancel
- All dry rot has been eradicated and remaining timbers treated,
- Internal replastering has taken place in some areas.
- External repointing as directed by the surveyors.
- New heating boiler and piping
- Replacement organ
- Repaired and re-installed communion rail
- Refurbished entrances to Priest's Vestry and South Chancel door.
- Windows repaired and re-installed as required.
- Creation of a refreshment area at the rear of the church
- Refurbished Lychgate and a "hoggin" type path to the porch

The only remaining tasks are a refurbishment of the doors and porch gates and a review of the lighting.



The hall known as Cobo Community Centre:

Approximately 12 years ago the decision was taken to knock down our much loved church hall and build a Community Centre on the site. It took a long time to see the dream become a reality, our fund raising team raised £1.4m from an issue of Bonds, donations, events, etc. Demolition of our much loved old Church Hall, which held many memories for so many people began in September 2015 with construction of the new centre following on.

After much planning and organising the Church set up a company, limited by guarantee, to administer the project. The Vicar and Churchwardens are ex officio members of the Board of Directors and the company leases the site from the church.

The building was priced at £1.6m and building works began in September 2015. The contractor finished work on time and under budget and the building became operational in September 2016. After the first year of trading, which also saw the end of the "defects period", the contractor is now paid and we ended the year with a surplus of £15k. The projected return for 2016/17 is a surplus of £22k. Regular payments are being made into a reserve fund from which we will begin to repay our bond holders.

The building comprises of one large hall which can be sub-divided into two, three good sized first floor meeting rooms, a fully equipped kitchen and all modern toilet and baby change facilities. In addition there is parking for approximately 25 cars and permission has recently been obtained to use the field opposite for overflow parking.

The centre is proving very popular with individuals and organisations throughout the island and amongst other things has hosted a weekly Parent Toddler Group, a fortnightly gathering for the elderly, weekly Whist Drives, a Pre-School, Church meetings, numerous dance groups, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides . These are but just a few of the activities, in addition there a many one off events such as private parties, Quiz Nights, Wedding Receptions that use the facility.

The facility is currently operated and administered by a small team of unpaid volunteers. This was considered vital to give the centre a good start by limiting overheads. This needs reviewing in the future.

From this...



To this...



THE RECTORY

The Rectory, formerly the Vicarage of St Matthew, is situated adjacent to St Matthew's Church and approximately 1.5 miles from Ste Marie du Castel. It was purchased from the Trustees of St Matthew in February 2000. Extensive repairs were required before purchase.

The Rectory, which was built in 1854, is owned by the civil parish of the Castel and was completely renovated both internally and externally in 2012. It is in excellent condition. The house is of granite construction.

Ground floor: Entrance hall, study, large lounge, small sitting room, kitchen/diner with oil fired Aga and gas hob, toilet. An utility room and a fuel store are attached to the building.

First floor: 4 double bedrooms (1 en suite), 1 bathroom, shower room/toilet.

The second floor is currently unoccupied and sealed off from the rest of the house to prevent heat loss.

A small barn can be used as a garage. The house has oil fired central heating and double glazing.

The civil parish of Castel, represented by the Constables who are the sole trustees of the building, is responsible for external maintenance. The congregations of Ste Marie du Castel and St Matthew are responsible for internal maintenance.

The appointed person will live in the parsonage house situated next to St Matthew's Church, but will be expected to spend his or her time equally between the two parishes or as needs demand.

LIVING IN THE AREA

It is difficult to accurately describe the area, some would say it is rural, some coastal and some might even say urban. However it is described, no one can deny that it is a beautiful part of Guernsey. One of the main features of the area is the beaches of Vazon, Cobo and Port Soif, the summer season sees them very well used and the hotels in the area busy with residents and non residents. Visitors find us on many Sundays.

If a short list was required listing the three best things about living in Guernsey, it might be, a very good community spirit, very low levels of crime and quality of life.

