



# St. Sampson, Guernsey



Parish Church



St. Mary's

## PARISH PROFILE

[www.stsampsonschurch.org.gg](http://www.stsampsonschurch.org.gg)



## INTRODUCTION - THE PARISH

The parish of St. Sampson is one of 10 parishes on the Island of Guernsey, the second largest of the Channel Islands.

### PARISH FACTS:

- Located in the north of the island, the parish has an area of 2.5 sq miles
- There is a small, detached section of the parish on the northwest coast.
- Of the ten island parishes, St Sampson is seventh largest.
- In 2017 there were 3,900 residential properties in the parish
- The population of the parish as of the last census was 8,592 inhabitants
- The commercial harbour and marina of St. Sampson is a stone's throw from the parish church.
- 'The Bridge' roadway, next to the harbour, is also the Island's second largest shopping area



The parish is home to the Island's prison (the chaplain is the Rev'd Penny Graysmith), Delancey Park, Oatlands Village (a tourist attraction built around restored brick kilns), the Guernsey studios of Channel Television and BBC Guernsey, numerous industrial premises, and fuel farm, The Track (sports ground), St Sampson's High School and Haute Capelles Primary and Infant Schools.





St. Sampson has one aspect of its history shared by none of the other parishes on the Island: it claims, with good reason, to be the Island's cradle of Christianity. Near the site of the parish church in around 555AD it is believed the Celtic St. Sampson of Dol landed and from this religious root a parish sprang up.

The parish church stands at the northern extremity of the parish on the harbour's south side.

The popular date of the church's dedication is 1111AD although without doubt a church building occupied the spot for many years before that.

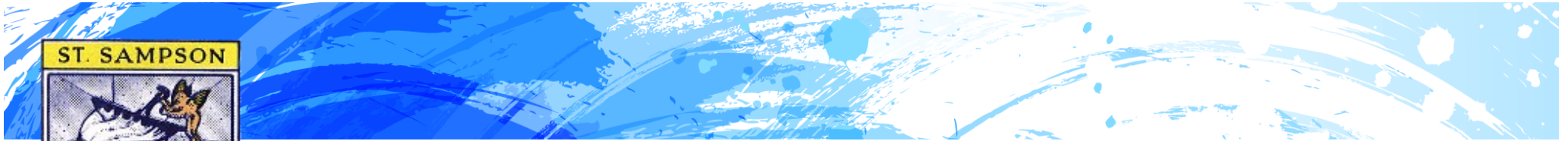
The patronal festival of St Sampson is on July 28th and is still observed.

The church building is of unusual design and resembles no other Guernsey church. While much of the stone is Guernsey granite there is also stone from Caen and the Isle of Chausey in the fabric. The stained glass windows are mostly Victorian.

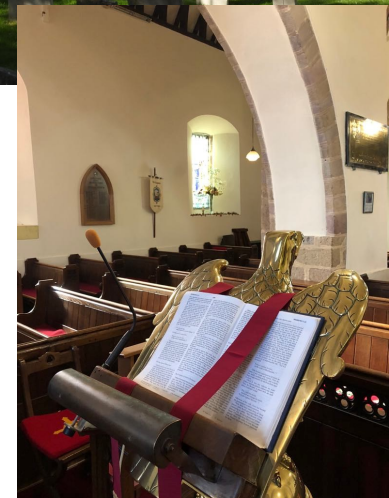
Parishioners have worshipped in St Sampson's Parish Church for almost 1,000 years.



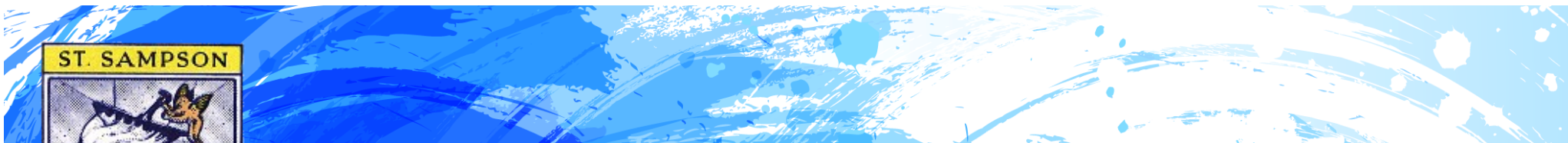




## BUILDINGS - ST SAMPSON'S PARISH CHURCH



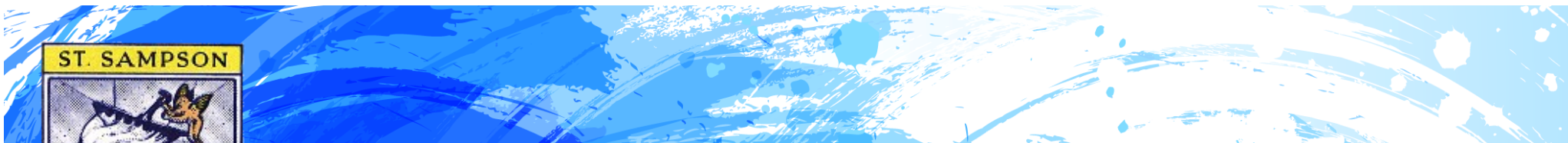




## BUILDINGS - COMMUNITY HALL







## THE RECTORY



The current Rectory is just a five minute walk from the parish church.

Built around 1920 as a Rectory, the house is a substantial three story 5/6-bed family home. There are two reception rooms and a study as well as a good size kitchen, separate utility room, walk-in larder and a basement room.

Most of the upstairs rooms have sea views and there is a good size garden and garage.

Under Guernsey Law the Rectory belongs to the Constables of St. Sampson. During the current vacancy, the Constables have considered the replacement of the Rectory but the listing of the house for its heritage value by the States of Guernsey means that this is no longer under active consideration.



## OUR PARISH CHURCH

St Sampson's Parish Church has a warm, friendly welcome and we have been very encouraged by recent growth. We are open to the work of the Holy Spirit and to change so that we are increasingly relevant to all ages in our community. Although the congregation is mainly made up of adults there is great opportunity for further growth in all areas.

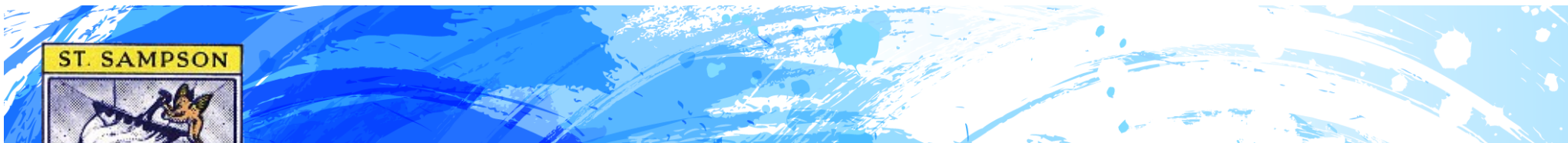
Our Sunday worship is centred around three services:

- Our 8.00am service is a traditional 1662 Service of Holy Communion
- Our 10.30am service is a Family Communion Service with a mixture of older and modern hymns and choruses, led by organ or piano
- We have two evening services in a month: 1st Sunday, Holy Communion and reflection (with Taize, Plain Chant and Celtic worship) 3rd Sunday, Service of Healing and Wholeness

The services are supported by a team who assist with bible readings and intercessions.

Following our 10.30am service we gather for coffee and cake in our specially created fellowship area in the church—this is always well attended.

A key facility for the church is our church hall. Situated just down the road from the church it provides excellent facilities for use by the church in its developing mission and social welfare ambitions. We run church coffee mornings, a monthly market, toddler group and craft club and put on frequent church social events. The hall is extensively used by the community including a pre-school, Girl Guides, Brownies and Rainbows and a drama group.



## OUR PARISH CHURCH - MINISTRY OF GIVING

Here are a few ways our church is involved in supporting others, sharing our faith and transforming lives:

**Shoeboxes:** For many years folk at St Sampson's Parish Church have supported the Rotary Guernesiais Annual Shoebox appeal. In 2018 we filled 140 shoeboxes with children's gifts and essentials which were sent to Romania.

**Friends of Romania:** As a congregation, we support and raise funds for the local charity Friends of Romania which delivers humanitarian aid to the town of Bistrița in Romania. Our volunteer driver makes several trips a year, taking four and a half days to get there by ship and road.

**Children's Society:** We hold a well-attended Christingle Service in December in support of the Children's Society.

**The Leprosy Mission:** For many years the congregation has supported the Leprosy Mission, usually by collecting funds from a special offering.

**Monthly Market Outreach:** This is a new initiative to reach out to our community. Once a month, colourful market stalls fill our church hall, attracting many people to whom we offer free lunch and refreshments.

**PACE:** We pray and support PACE which has for over 25 years worked in Guernsey schools, engaging with students of all ages. PACE has a dedicated team of schools workers and volunteers who support teachers by leading assemblies, lessons, lunch clubs and Prayer Spaces.

**Northern Churches Working Together:** Recently formed, 'Northern Churches Working Together' is a group of churches of different denominations based in the north of the island, meeting to pray and working together on joint outreach events.





## FINANCE & STATISTICS - PARISH CHURCH

**2017**

Baptisms 9  
Weddings 4  
Funerals 15



### The Share

At present the Parish Church meets 80% of the allocated share. Of that, 50% comes from regular giving and income with the other 50% from accumulated capital.

On this basis the share can be met for up to the next five years but the challenge is to continue to work on growing giving and income.

50 members of the congregation took part in a recent church survey:

#### AGE GROUP:

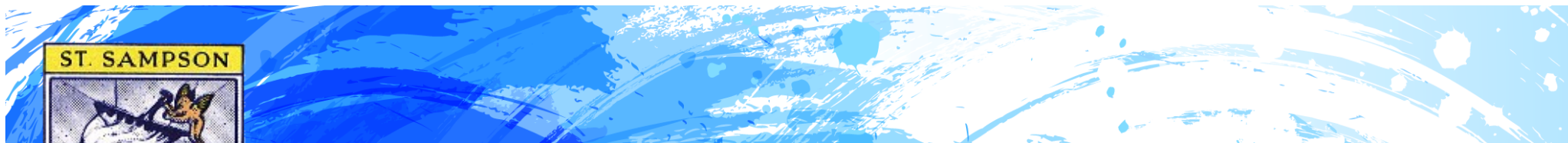
20-29	30-44	45-59	60-74	75-89	90+
3	5	12	12	13	5

#### YEARS AT ST. SAMPSON'S PARISH CHURCH:

Visitor	0-1	1-3	4-10	11-20	20+
5	2	12	5	5	20

#### SUNDAY SERVICES ATTENDED REGULARLY:

8am	10.30am	6.30pm
6	35	13



## PARISH CHURCH IN ACTION



Toddler Group stall at the annual Christmas Fayre



Children's Summer Party



Packing Christmas Shoeboxes



Remembrance Sunday



Preparing Lunch!





## SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE - PARISH CHURCH

We asked our church family what good things about our church we can celebrate, here's what they said:

A warm welcome  
& great  
fellowship

Recent  
growth

Great opportunities  
for children & youth  
ministry

Saturday  
Outreach

Sharing the  
Word

People open  
to change

Our Church  
buildings

Working with  
other churches

Popular Healing  
Service

Variety of forms  
of worship  
& music



Built in 1880 and originally known as L'Islet Mission Church, the Church was built to serve the part of the parish known as St Sampson's 'detached'. Services were originally in French but in 1927 the church was dedicated to St Mary and services in English commenced.

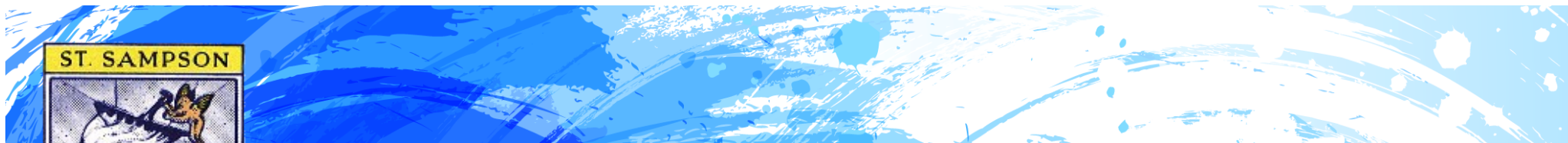
Currently the congregation meets at 10.30 each Sunday for morning service with an average attendance of 20. A small but faithful and enthusiastic congregation with an appetite for change and growth. St Mary's youth organisations parade on the 2nd Sunday of the month with up to 120 in the congregation and on the 4th Sunday there is a service of Holy Communion.

Whilst we are a relatively small Church we are significantly involved in outreach to the wider community – particularly through our uniformed youth organisations (The Boys' Brigade, Guides, Brownies, Rainbows) which have maintained a strong presence at St. Mary's since 1947. Indeed, when monthly Church Parades are held we enjoy a "full house" and sometimes even having to use the choir stalls! The Boys' Brigade itself managed to raise in the region of £200,000 a few years ago in order to develop our Community centre. Opportunities continue to exist to further develop our relationship not only with these young people but also with their parents. The Boys Brigade is an integral part of our church and our new Rector would be invited to become Chaplain to The Boys' Brigade.

We hold monthly fellowship lunches for 30 or more persons where a full two course meal is provided without charge (although donations are accepted) to help the recently bereaved. The congregation also supports USPG, The Leprosy Mission and Tumaini Fund – the latter with a 20+ team of "knitters" providing hundreds of items of clothing.

St. Mary's provides a warm and friendly welcome with excellent premises including its well used Community centre. Although St. Mary's is keen to contribute fully towards the share, this has not been possible in recent years because of the cost of building maintenance works.





## BUILDINGS - ST MARY'S







Our Company was formed at L'Islet in 1947, but the worldwide organisation has been around since 1883 and is part of the boyhood experience of many adults. We resist the temptation to live in the past because our function is to serve today's young people.

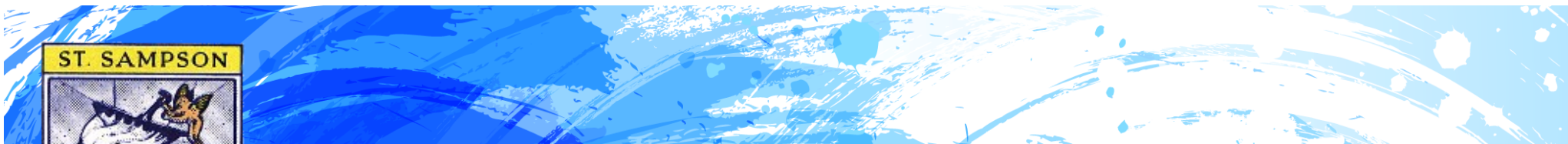
The Object of the Boys' Brigade is "The Promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness" and that has not been changed. What has changed is how we go about promoting that object. We recognise that the influences surrounding our young people are not always helpful and that too many lose control at great cost to themselves, their families and the community. The answer is to catch the energy and enthusiasm of youth and to channel it purposefully.

Our purpose-built headquarters opened in October 2005. We are all very proud of what we have achieved and our facilities and equipment are second to none. At St Mary's, our Company is staffed by unpaid officers. The officers give of their time to provide the activities within our local unit, which itself is part of the Church.

Our new [Rector](#) will take on the role of [Chaplain](#) to our Company. Chaplains are key members of the Company Staff and normally represent the management body of the Church, playing a pivotal role in ensuring that the Company contributes fully to the Youth policy of the Church. Apart from the initial DBS check, Chaplains are not subject to re-registration and are not required to undertake BB training, but as Chaplain they are asked to lead a 4 week Christian Education class for the older boys and offer support to the leaders of the 2nd Guernsey Company. They will also be invited to attend the Guernsey Boys' Brigade Battalion AGM, and can attend any of the weekly meetings and join in as much or as little as they wish.







## SAFEGUARDING

The churchwardens and the Church Council have adopted the [safeguarding policies and procedures](#) of the Church of England as they apply in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. In particular we are committed to:

- The safeguarding of all [children, young people](#) and [vulnerable adults](#).
- Carefully selecting and training paid and voluntary staff who might come into contact with children or vulnerable adults, using the Disclosure and Barring Service amongst other tools, to check their suitability
- Responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed
- Cooperating fully with Guernsey Police, Guernsey Health and Social Services and any other appropriate statutory body in any investigation
- Ministering appropriately to anyone, child or adult, who has experienced abuse
- Extending pastoral care to those known to have offended against children or vulnerable adults whilst ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are protected from them.



# ST. MARY'S IN ACTION



Monthly knitting group making items for the Tumaini Fund



Monthly Fellowship Lunch



Annual Boys' Brigade Presentation



Monthly Fellowship Lunch



St Mary's Guides celebrating their 70th anniversary in 2018!





## SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE - ST MARY'S

We asked members of our church family what good things about St Mary's Church we can celebrate, here's what they said:

Great hall  
buildings and  
parking

Faith  
classes

Uniformed  
Children &  
Youth Church  
Parades

Confirmation  
Candidates

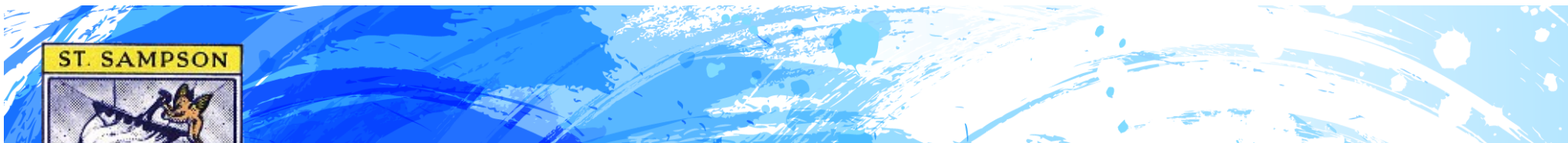
Fellowship  
Outreach  
Lunch

Harvest  
Service

Popular  
knitting  
group

Joint Church  
Initiatives

Christmas  
Crib Service



## CHALLENGES AND HOPES

Our **Vision**, shared by both the **Parish Church and St Mary's** is to grow, not only in numbers but in discipleship, faith, ministry and prayer and to be a shining light for Jesus in our community.

With our new Rector, our **hopes for the future** include:

- To attract and minister to families, having a more organised outreach to our community
- Widening collaborative ministry between both churches
- Continuing development of our ministry teams and nurturing of gifts and talents of the congregation
- A deeper interaction with youth groups attached to the Church and the development of a relevant format of service
- Fostering a vibrant prayer life and spiritual persistence to recognise that God calls us all to share His mission and ministry
- Creating a discipleship and nurture programme and initiatives to build a deeper faith
- Continuing to offer different formats of services, both formal and informal and to continue to try new things
- Exploring new ways of meeting our contribution to the 'share' and working towards greater financial stability



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The Guernsey Deanery is encouraging every church in the Deanery to engage in a Mission Action Planning process using the 'Evidence to Action' resource. This process involves a training day for all church leadership teams to set some clear goals for the following 18 months during which time each leadership team will be assigned a MAP accompanier to encourage action and results. The Deanery is also encouraging every church in the Deanery to engage in a Stewardship campaign with a training day for church leadership teams in the Spring. St Sampson's and St Mary's are keen to be involved in each of these initiatives.





# WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW RECTOR!

**ESSENTIAL** We are seeking a leader with **experience, a mature outlook** and the **ability to relate to all ages**.

Our churches traditionally provide a relaxed order of worship and you will need to **provide both formal and informal services**.

Both churches are at an interesting point, still small but eager to build on recent success, so you will need to **lead with vision** and develop realistic programmes of implementation.

To take us forward, you will be an **encourager, motivator, and enabler who is spirit led**, nurturing unity and faith amongst the people.

You will **enthusiastically lead us** as we strengthen community links and further develop our social welfare outreach initiatives.

You will need to have a particular **heart for young people**, helping to make the most of the links and opportunities with affiliated youth groups.

You will be prepared to be **Chaplain of our Boys' Brigade Company**, encouraging and supporting both Officers and Boys and developing relationships with parents.

**DESIRABLE** An **interest in the music of the Church** and a will to grow this area.

An **approachable, 'hands on' person**, willing to join in at all levels.

A good **sense of humour!**