

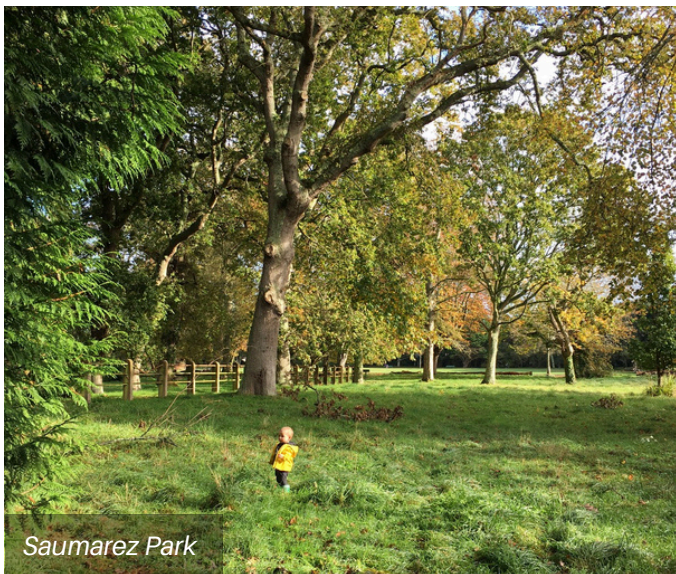


Ste. Marie du Castel Church



We are seeking to appoint a House for Duty priest to lead our church community in worship, mission and fellowship.

We are seeking a prayerful, outward-looking priest with a heart for growing Christ's Church in depth and number, rooted in the Sacraments, Scripture and joyful worship. A warm, collaborative leader, they will unite the parish in mission, communicate the gospel to all ages, and welcome families and individuals at every stage of faith.



Saumarez Park



Midsummer Fayre

**Our stated Mission is:
To know Jesus and make Him known.
Through worship, fellowship,
discipleship and outreach.**

Person Profile

We are looking for someone who will:

- Have a real passion to see Christ's Church grow in both numbers and maturity.
- Have a ministry grounded in the Sacraments, prayer and the Holy Scriptures.
- Be collaborative in working with members of the congregation who assist with worship.
- Unite the congregation in mission and fellowship
- Communicate the gospel with ease to people of all ages.
- Be personally involved in a visiting programme, especially in support of elderly church members and those in need.
- Help to provide a safe church environment where families feel comfortable.
- Be open and welcoming to parishioners especially in their requests for marriage and infant baptism, whether they are churchgoers or not.
- Support and strengthen the development of outreach to young families, especially at our "Cake and Play" group, building up our contacts with families bringing children forward for baptism and encouraging them to attend specific family orientated services.

Desirable but not essential:

- Discern and develop a vision for the Parish whilst being sensitive to the needs of established church members.
- Encourage church members to discover their unique contribution to the life of their Parish Church.
- Build on our relationship with the staff and children of "Little Buttons" the nursery in our church hall that makes provision for vulnerable children.



State of Harmony Concert



Birthday Celebration

Parish Profile

The Heart of the Parish

Sainte Marie du Castel is a living parish church serving the historic parish of Castel. We are a small, diverse and welcoming congregation, rooted in Broad Church tradition and committed to worship, pastoral care, safeguarding and stewardship in line with the Five Marks of Mission. We value our positive relationships with other Christian denominations and church groups across the island and see ourselves as part of the wider Christian witness in Guernsey.

Regular worship forms the heart of our life together, alongside local activities and a warm welcome to visitors. Average Sunday attendance is around 21, with a faithful midweek Holy Communion congregation. There are currently 27 people on the Electoral Roll.

The Community We Serve

The parish of Castel has a population of approximately 4,000 people and reflects a wide mix of ages, backgrounds and housing. Many parishioners are engaged in employment across finance, agriculture, horticulture, tourism, construction, service industries and light industry, alongside a significant number of retired residents.

The parish has no single village centre, but community life is shaped around its schools, residential homes and local amenities. Clergy and lay workers from several churches are actively involved in visiting the parish's three schools and four residential homes. A recent formal division of pastoral responsibility within the parish provides clarity and opportunity for focused ministry.

Parish Profile cont.

Ministry Opportunities and Outreach

There is considerable scope for pastoral, family and community-focused ministry. The Castel Church Hall (Les Eturs Schoolhouse) is currently licensed to a charitable preschool working with vulnerable children, and the church is keen to build and strengthen a positive working relationship with them.

The parish offers opportunities to develop engagement with families, schools, and older residents, as well as to encourage deeper connection between worshipping life and everyday parish life. Ministry at Castel is collaborative, with clergy and lay members working together in worship, pastoral care and outreach.

The Church Building and Facilities

The church building and grounds are carefully maintained by a paid sexton and a committed team of volunteers. Alongside preserving its historic character, the church has invested in modern facilities in recent years, including an accessible toilet, refectory area, carpeted play space, restored organ and an up-to-date audiovisual system. These facilities support both worship and community use, enabling the building to serve the needs of all ages.



Ste. Marie du Castel Church

Heritage and History

Sainte Marie du Castel stands on a hill in the centre of the island, commanding spectacular views and serving as a long-standing navigation point for sailors. The church has occupied its present site for at least 870 years, first recorded in a papal bull of 1155, and contains medieval murals of significant historic interest.

Excavations reveal that the site was previously a Roman fort and possibly a place of pagan worship in much earlier times. Over the centuries, the church has been served by monks from Mont Saint Michel, Calvinist pastors following the Reformation, and later became part of the Anglican Church. Throughout this long history, it has remained a place of Christian worship, teaching and outreach to the people of Castel.

Governance and Church Context

Sainte Marie du Castel is a Crown Living within the Deanery of Guernsey and the Diocese of Salisbury. The parish follows diocesan guidelines, with particular attention to safeguarding, stewardship and mission, and values cooperation and mutual support within the wider church.



One of the stained glass windows



Maundy Thursday meal

Church Activities

Worship:

Weekly service at 10 am on Sundays. First Sunday of the month – informal All age worship using a locally devised order of service, and child-friendly activities including craft and songs. On all other Sundays we currently celebrate the Eucharist/Holy Communion using the Common Worship liturgy. On Wednesdays at 10am we celebrate the Eucharist/Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer (1662).

Children are welcome at all our services, and particularly encouraged to attend our All-Age Service at the beginning of every month.

There is a small and faithful choir of 4 with a regular organist. We use the hymn book “Anglican Hymns Old and New”. We celebrate the 9 Lessons and Carols on either of the two Sundays preceding Christmas Day, usually with the assistance of a visiting choir.



Christingle Service

Traditionally as a Parish Church we observe the major festivals in a variety of ways: Christingle, Christmas Eve Crib Service and Midnight Eucharist, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Mothering Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Day, Patronal Festival, Harvest, All Souls commemoration, and Remembrance.

Attendances for our Christmas and Easter services 2025:

- Carol Service: 2 children, 78 adults
- Crib Service: 47 children, 28 adults
- Midnight Communion: 44 adults
- Christmas morning: 1 child, 10 adults
- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday: 8 adults
- Easter Day: 2 children, 26 adults



Knitting for Ukraine

Occasional Offices:

- In 2025 there were 9 funerals, 4 baptisms and no weddings.



Cake & Play at Easter



Wedding



Church on a hill

Church Activities

Discipleship:

In addition to a thorough programme of Biblical preaching, based on the Revised Common Lectionary, courses are held during Advent and Lent, and at other times, allowing for a mixture of virtual and face-to-face study and discussion. We enjoy socialising and meet over coffee after the service on both Sunday and Wednesday. We have occasional fundraising lunches. We support three charities: Tumaini, Christian Aid and the Youth Commission, and seek to develop a global vision and involvement in local charities such as Guernsey Welfare and the Kindred centre.

There is a play area for younger children in church. We hold an annual children's party in order to make Christingle oranges prior to the Christingle Service.

Mission:

Following several fruitful contacts with baptism families, a weekly Cake and Play group is held in the church building during the holidays, which is well attended by children and carers. Some of these subsequently attend the monthly all-age service.

A fortnightly Farmers' Market is held at the church, which provides a welcome income, in addition to a presence in the community. A Midsummer Fayre was held in 2025 at the Friquet Garden Centre, building on several years of similar events in the parish, offering fun and friendship.

Occasional concerts are held in the church, and retiring collections have provided support for charities such as Aid to Ukraine, Parkinson's Guernsey and Cancer Research.



All Age Service



Decorating the church

Parish Vision

Our longing is to reach out with God’s love, and for others to come to know Jesus. We have an active facebook page, and limited website, as well as producing regular flyers and posters for church events.

Our stated Mission is: To know Jesus and make Him known.

Through: Worship, fellowship/discipleship and mission/outreach.

In the next few years we would like to see:

Continuity. A church continuing to operate, and grow from the base. A broad spread of commitment, training and support in the discovery and use of gifts amongst the team at the heart of the congregation.

Consolidation, learning and communication about the achievements of such initiatives as Cake and Play, and Farmers’ Market, balancing friendship and fundraising.

Growth. Spiritually and in numbers. Making disciples, encouraging confirmations, especially of younger families. Centrality of children in a safe environment. Consider employment of a families and youth worker.

Quality. A church where all are loved, purpose is found, and lives are changed through faith.

Intentionality. In stewardship, evangelism and discipleship. Self-sufficiency fuelled by planned giving. A sensible and enthusiastic use of available technology (such as sum-up machine, on-line banking, use of audiovisuals, and maintaining records).

Relevance, especially in outreach and worship. A clear spiritual connection for those “looking for more”. Experimentation in times and styles of worship and activities. A sharing of love and forgiveness. A more practical commitment to care for creation.

Collaboration with other churches. Engagement with the parish, posing the question “Would you miss us if we weren’t here?”

We look forward to taking forward this vision for the parish with the new incumbent.



High Street in St Peter Port



Vazon Beach



St Peter Port Harbour



West Coast of Guernsey