

# God loves Bermondsey



St James & St Anne  
Bermondsey

Welcome to our Parish Profile  
for the United Benefice of  
St James & St Anne  
Bermondsey  
2025

**Diocese of Southwark**  
Walking Welcoming Growing



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# A message from the PCCs of St Anne's and St James



A recent joint PCC meeting held in the creche at St James to keep us warm

Thank you for expressing an interest in the post of Interim Mission Priest at St James & St Anne's Bermondsey.

As a church family we are excited and expectant as we enter this new chapter as a church and in our local community.

This profile reflects the voice of our congregations, the people and groups we serve in the community.

We pray that this will give you a taste of the life of the church community and the potential still to be realised and encourage you to consider applying for the position as you seek God's will for the next stage of your ministry.

Is God calling you to come and engage with the stimulating, changing and challenging place that is Bermondsey?

# Our vision for the future

OUR PRAYER IS THAT OUR MISSION PRIEST WILL HELP US EXTEND AND ENHANCE OUR

- ▶ vision to become a church ROOTED in Christ, GROWING in love and GOING in the Spirit's power to share the gospel with our neighbours
- ▶ efforts to develop the outreach of our two churches in ways that reflect their different characters, vision and gifts.
- ▶ spiritual growth and the involvement of our congregations in music, worship and lay ministry including developing small group life, prayer and confidence in sharing the gospel.
- ▶ excellent relationship and involvement with St James CoE Primary School;
- ▶ work with young families and greater outreach to teenagers within the Salmon Youth Centre, local secondary schools and newly resident students;
- ▶ engagement with other organisations within the community;
- ▶ regular door to door visiting, getting to know our parishioners and praying for them and improving communications generally including through social media;

## Our hopes for the next Associate

We are praying for a priest whose own relationship with Jesus will enable them to lead, encourage and equip us to share the gospel. As well as sharing with the vicar in the normal pastoral work of the parish, they will prayerfully help us to focus on the development and implementation of our vision to grow in love for God and each other and go to our community with the good news. We are looking for someone who is:

- ▶ Passionate about mission and gifted in evangelism;
- ▶ A leader with a track record in equipping others and encouraging growth in bible confidence and the gifts of the Spirit;
- ▶ Committed to children and young people;
- ▶ Experience of community pastoring in deprived communities;
- ▶ A people person, approachable, energetic, enthusiastic, outgoing and with a sense of humour;
- ▶ Keen to explore all opportunities to fulfill the church vision.



# About our Churches - 1

We are two parishes in the heart of a rapidly changing urban context. Our churches share the same theological character and are served by the same ministry team.

St James and St Anne's both enjoy friendly diverse congregations which reflect a wide social and ethnic mix and we welcome people of all ages. There are creche rooms for children under 4 (from where parents and carers can see and hear the services).

St James has a larger congregation with a good number of regular worshippers, complemented by many visitors passing through Bermondsey. St Anne's has a smaller, more close-knit regular congregation but because of its more hidden location welcomes fewer casual attenders.

Both churches have relaxed informal Sunday services with a mix of traditional hymns and modern songs, and a down-to-earth message from the Bible that connects with everyday life.

St James is working towards the Eco-Church Bronze award and both churches support Fairtrade.



**ECO CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



## About our Churches - 2

We are two parishes in the heart of a rapidly changing urban context. Our churches share the same theological character and are served by the same ministry team.

We hold orthodox Anglican belief in the historical creeds. We are members of the Evangelical Alliance.

The PCCs have discussed and welcomed the Diocesan Anti-Racism Charter and seek to implement its recommendations.

We are firm in our determination to make our churches show that God loves Bermondsey and wants to bless its people through the work and witness of his church family here. We are ready with great heart to go forward in the next phase of the life of St James and St Anne's wherever we are led by God's Spirit.



# Ministry Team

Vicar, Rev Katie Kelly

Reader:  
Penny Molyneux



Church Warden St Anne:  
Suzanne Adofo



Church Warden  
St James:  
Patricia O'Connor



Church Warden St Anne:  
Yvonne Lubwama



Church Warden  
St James: Cath  
Squelch

# What happens at our two churches now?



Holy Communion  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

Morning worship 2<sup>nd</sup> &  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
Family service 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday

St Anne's Service  
starts 9.30 am

St James Service  
Starts 11.00am

St James  
Sunday groups  
4-10 and youth  
groups 11-18

# Our Church Buildings - St James

**St James** is a grade 2\* listed building constructed in 1829 with an important and rare historic organ. Within Bermondsey, it is a very visible, illuminated, prominent building set within a churchyard. The churchyard, maintained by Southwark Council, is widely used by the community travelling to and from work, families enjoying the grass areas and benches and children at play in the playground and on our slide, particularly during the summer months. There is a crypt where we rent some bays out to local small businesses. We also rent out some rooms in our north aisle. We open our doors at least six days every week. The nave has a very good acoustic and is used for occasional concerts. The building itself is in a reasonable state of repair, having recently undergone extensive grant-aided restoration works of the tower and portico stonework, and roof areas. Southwark Council has financed York stone paving laid to the piazza at the west end of the church as well as the restoration of the drinking fountain.



# Our Church Buildings - St Anne

St. Anne's was constructed in 1869 and includes a large attached parish hall. The church buildings are situated in the middle of a pedestrianised square, surrounded by a 1960s development of social housing. The parish hall has separate entrances on the south and east and is hired out to a number of local community groups, as is a small church office.

St Anne's has suffered from a lack of investment in maintenance for a number of years and is in a fairly poor state of repair. The PCC is in ongoing discussions with Christian developers who specialise in restoring old run-down churches using finance raised from developing part of the church and ancillary buildings into residential accommodation. Should this project go ahead it will provide a newly refurbished combined worship/community space fit for purpose to equip St Anne's to serve the people of the parish for the next 50 or 60 years.



# The Vicarage

The accommodation for the Associate is the Vicarage of St Anne's Parish church. This house, held in trust by the Diocese, is in Thorburn Square adjacent to St Anne's. Constructed in the mid 60s as part of the Thorburn Square development of social/assisted housing, it is a three storey four-bedroom town house with a study, garage and front and rear gardens.



# Bermondsey Group Ministry - Part 1

We are members of the Bermondsey Group Ministry which, in addition to our two parishes, includes the Parish of St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey and the Salmon Youth Centre.

St Mary Magdalen is in Bermondsey Street, and the Rector is Charlie Moore, one of our Patrons and recently appointed Area Dean. The first known record of the church of St Mary Magdalen is around 1290, when it was recorded that 'Mary Magdalen Chapel is in the hands of the Prior and Convent of Bermondsey'.

The Group Ministry churches hold joint services several times each year including Ash Wednesday, a shared meal with Communion on Maundy Thursday, an open-air service of witness in 'The Blue' marketplace on Good Friday with other local churches and a sunrise service on Easter Day.

The ministry teams of the churches and Salmon centre meet for regular morning prayer services.



## Bermondsey Group Ministry - Part 2

We are also members of Churches for Transformation in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe (C4T), an informal gathering of evangelical churches of all denominations and none

For a number of years, St Mary's has had a stronger relationship with the Salmon Youth Centre than St James and St Anne's but recently our new 11+ group have been attending youth events at the centre. We would like our Mission priest to work with youth across the churches and strengthen this link further. The vicar and youth leader took a group with Salmon to a youth festival in August 24 and seek to repeat this in 2025.

St James, St Anne's and St Mary's are all part of the small Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Deanery made up of 7 Church of England parishes as well as the Norwegian and Finnish churches in Rotherhithe. Strong relationships exist, across theological difference and the churches work well together and support each other.



# The Salmon Youth Centre

**Salmon Youth Centre**, formerly Cambridge University Mission (CUM), has been reaching out to young people in inner city London for over a hundred years. It is fully independent with its own Trustees, a strong staff including apprentices and a large team of volunteers and young leaders. The Centre inspires young people to reach their potential and contribute positively to the community in which they live. Every week they welcome around 500 young people from all backgrounds aged between 6 and 25.



**SALMON YOUTH CENTRE**  
*a place for you!*

are you aged 6-19?

we offer weekly sessions in Art, Adventure, Cooking, Dance, Drama, Fitness, Football, Music, Sewing, Tennis, Trampolining, and much more!

**50p per session!**

**Mentoring & Volunteering**  
opportunities available

visit [www.salmonyouthcentre.org](http://www.salmonyouthcentre.org)  
or just pop round to find out more!

The poster features several images of young people: a girl drawing at a table, a boy climbing a rope, and a group of children sitting together. The background is a vibrant purple and green.

# Parish Statistics

St James	
Parish population	11,100
Social housing	48%
Single parent households	41%
People living alone	39%
Average attendance	83
Average attendance pre-Covid	108
Electoral Roll - April 2023	123

St Anne's	
Parish population	7,000
Social housing	51%
Single parent households	40%
People living alone	36%
Average attendance	20
Average attendance pre-Covid	30
Electoral Roll - April 2023	41

# Our Church school

Our church school is an important aspect of our church life, so we look for someone able to relate to children and desirably with experience of a church primary school (or willing to learn) and to be hands-on. The school is situated on two sites. The Nursery and Infant site is situated adjacent to St James and the Junior site is nearer to St Anne's. The school is two-form entry and is rated good with Ofsted, and outstanding by SIAMS.

The PCC and the Diocese appoint two thirds of the governors and the incumbent is an ex officio governor. The church team go into school weekly to lead collective worship and there are at least 8 services for the whole school in St James Church every year.



## Key Relationships - Church

The St James congregation shares its building with the Rhema Assembly black majority church which meets on Sunday afternoons.

The St Anne's congregation shares its buildings with the Tower Bridge Christian Fellowship which also meets on Sunday afternoons.

St James has an active team of bell ringers who meet regularly on Thursday evenings and who ring on Sunday mornings and for other special occasions. They come from all ages and backgrounds. They have Ringers from a number of neighbouring bands who often join their practice sessions. They work closely with the ringers at St Mary's Rotherhithe and Christchurch Isle of Dogs to ring 'methods' up to Cambridge Surprise and attempt regular 'quarter peals'.



Bell Ringers

# Key Relationships - Community

- St James holds some of Bermondsey's biggest funerals working closely with **F.A. Albins** our local funeral directors.
- **Age UK Lewisham and Southwark** has a centre in St James Parish serving local older people, working towards a future in which they are valued, safe and empowered to make choices about their lives.
- **Southwark Council** maintains the garden by St Anne's as well as St James Churchyard, trees and Memorial Garden. Within the churchyard is the new memorial '**Joy Slide**'. The original slide was the brainchild of Arthur Carr of Peek Frean's Biscuit Factory who noticed local children using the steps of St James's Church as a slide. First installed in 1921, it gave much enjoyment to Bermondsey children for years until it was demolished in the mid-1980s after being vandalised. The new slide was designed by Fergus Carr, an architect and great-great-grandson of the factory owner.



# Our Area - 1

Bermondsey, rich in history stretching back to before the middle ages, is on the south bank of the River Thames and close to Tower Bridge.

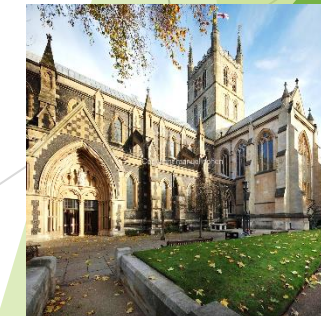
- There are excellent transport links providing connections to all attractions and activities in central London. Millions use Bermondsey Underground Station (Jubilee line) in St James parish, and there are many bus routes through both parishes.
- Modern day Bermondsey is a thriving multi-cultural and mixed socio-economic community with a strong sense of identity and pride in its history.
- As well as four primary and four secondary schools in the Benefice, there are two CoE secondary schools with sixth forms nearby.
- There are several local Tenants and Residents Association halls.
- Under the railway arches near to St James are the Spa Terminus artisan food workshops and the micro breweries that make up the 'Bermondsey Beer Mile'. These are visited by many people from all over London especially at weekends.



## Our Area - 2

**Bermondsey, rich in history stretching back to before the middle ages, is on the south bank of the River Thames and close to Tower Bridge.**

- The Blue Market is the shopping centre at the heart of Bermondsey with a mix of shops, a number of market stalls, a library, various cafes and takeaways.
- The route of the London Marathon runs through St James Parish as did the queue for the Queen's lying in state which started in nearby Southwark Park, the first municipal London park.
- A short walk along the river is Rotherhithe Village with the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Mayflower pub near where the pilgrims set sail on the Mayflower for the new world in 1620 and the Brunel Museum on the site of the world's first tunnel under a navigable river.
- We are within walking distance of Southwark Cathedral, Borough Market, the Tower of London, Tate Modern, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, Guy's Hospital, the Shard and in the opposite direction Millwall Football Club.
- There is easy access to three other major teaching hospitals.



# Thank you

## Walking Welcoming Growing

Thank you for taking the time to read our parish profile. For further details please explore our websites through the following link: [www.godlovesbermondsey.co.uk](http://www.godlovesbermondsey.co.uk)

We hope that the profile has given you an insight into the flavour of our parishes and our community and has encouraged you to apply for the post. We believe Bermondsey is one of the most exciting and vibrant places in Britain, full of opportunities.

We pray that God will guide you and lead you to wherever he is calling you to minister.

We are really looking forward to the next steps forward in our journey as members of Christ's body here in Bermondsey.



St James & St Anne  
Bermondsey



The Diocese of  
**Southwark**