

ST JUDE'S CHURCH PLYMOUTH PARISH PROFILE



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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
IN DEVON



ST JUDES

PLYMOUTH

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A Church with a heart for Community

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"GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS,
BAPTISING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY
EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND REMEMBER, I
AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE END OF THE AGE"

MATTHEW 28:19-20



Our vision in this diocese is that of Jesus in His Great Commission. We aspire to appoint leaders of our Christian communities who practise the presence of our Lord and enable others to do so; leaders who witness, act and relate in ways which make disciples and enable others to do so; leaders who serve in ways which intrigue, attract and engage the wider community, and enable others to do so. In short – pray, grow and serve!

So we are looking for ministerial leaders who:

- are intentionally missional, helping their Christian community to discern who God is sending them to, and who God is sending them,
- are developing missional habits and confidence in the faith for members of their congregations, enabling them to be invitational and ambassadorial,
- invest in their own discipleship and well-being, and that of those in their care,
- cultivate vocations, lay and ordained, actively recruiting for initiatives such as the Foundations course and the Exeter Ordination Pathway,
- place children and young people at the heart of our mission, orienting churches to be ever-more welcoming spaces for young people, using existing resources and networks, but also being pioneering in outlook,
- experiment with ways of being and doing church that engage the unengaged – we encourage ambitious plans such as creating two new worshipping communities in the first three years of a new ministry,

You can expect to find:

- support from senior leaders committed to enabling this mission and ministry,
- an outstanding diocesan team, second to none in terms of training provision and opportunities, comms understanding, finance expertise, buildings experience and care for our ministers,
- opportunities for personal and professional development in alignment with the vision of the Great Commission,
- a warm, relational diocese, where diversity is welcomed and honoured,
- a good-humoured, joyful, energetic culture grateful for the privilege of being called into ministry and supportive of missional experimentation, risk-taking and 'having a go',

If you're still reading then I suspect we might be on the same page and I pray that the Holy Spirit might inform, shape and direct your discernment concerning this post.

PLYMOUTH 2035: A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP JAMES



James Grier
Bishop of Plymouth

Now is an especially good time to be considering a post in the city of Plymouth. It is a great city: in 2024, in separate studies, Plymouth was recognised as one of the most underrated travel destinations in the world and the UK's best city to live and work in. As if that weren't enough, during 2025, we are launching Plymouth 2035. This is our vision and strategy for the next decade for Anglican mission and ministry in the city.

One of the key aspects is that we want to see 2035 more new disciples belonging to our churches in the city. This will roughly double our attendance. We also want to commit to having churches across the city which offer life in all its fullness – practically, emotionally and spiritually – to every parishioner, not predominantly those who faithfully attend. We are hoping to secure national funding to make the vision a reality, but we will pursue it whatever. As part of this we are looking for clergy and laity to be bold and willing to step out in faith for what can be, without abandoning what has been. We are praying for greater unity and partnership across the churches and communities.

In the coming months, 10 stipendiary posts will be vacant, which opens up all sorts of possibilities. That means if God is calling you to this post, you will be part of a wave of new ministers joining as we begin this next chapter for the city and God's kingdom. You will also be joining with wonderful, committed lay people and priests, who have been faithfully serving and preparing the ground over the years.

PLYMOUTH 2035: A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP JAMES

Plymouth 2035 is centred on some Bible verses and a prayer. The verses are from Acts 20:32–36 – with 20:35 at the centre.

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified... **we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’** When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed.”

We recognise that Plymouth 2035 is going to be costly for many of us, and so this verse offers a great reminder that we live sacrificially and helping the weak isn’t an optional part of our faith. I also love the fact that it sets it in the context of Jesus’ grace offering salvation and transformation for now and eternity. Oh, and it ends with all the people praying for it to happen.

Our prayer is bold and disruptive and is that of Sir Francis Drake, one of Plymouth’s most famous people:

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst for the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wilder seas where storms will show Your mastery;
Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes;
And to push back the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.
This we ask in the name of our Captain, who is Jesus Christ.
Amen

Thank you for taking the time to read this profile and please do get in touch if you would like to chat to me further about this post or Plymouth 2035.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ARCHDEACON'S FOREWORD



Jane Baker
Archdeacon of
Plymouth

Plymouth 2035 is an ambitious, decade-long project to bring transformation to the Church of England across the city. Its aim is to breathe new life into mission and ministry, shaping a vibrant future for Plymouth. This role offers a unique opportunity to be a part of reshaping the church in the centre of the city.

Within this vision, the parish of St Jude's stands out. In recent years, they have demonstrated remarkable commitment and creativity, viewing their building not simply as a place for worship but as a missional hub for the city. Their vision was matched by extraordinary fundraising efforts (whilst continuing to pay their Common Fund in full) to complete a major reordering project. Today, St Jude's boasts a beautifully appointed space that serves as a popular centre for meeting, training and community engagement.

Looking ahead, the parish is exploring a proposed expansion to include part of Sutton Harbour, anticipating significant development in that area. Informal consultations have shown strong support from the PCC and congregation, who warmly welcome the opportunity to extend their outreach into neighbouring communities.

The leadership team is committed and hardworking, offering robust support for the incoming Priest in Charge. The congregation is missionally minded, welcoming and ready for new challenges. They are praying for someone who will bring dynamism, creativity and a deep heart for mission to the team.

We aim to be a diverse and truly representative diocese, and particularly welcome applications from women and those from black and minority ethnic groups. Not only is Plymouth a great place to call home, but the Diocese of Exeter is a great community of which to be a part. If you would like more information about this post, particularly around the pastoral reorganisation, please be in touch for an informal chat.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane'.

Archdeacon of Plymouth
01752 858382
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INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Our vision is for our Church to be a place where everyone is welcomed, accepted and introduced to Jesus. A place of joy, compassion and care, where together we can learn from each other and grow as disciples of Jesus.

We are on an exciting journey. Our main church building was completely refurbished and modernised in 2024 to create a space that will meet the future needs of the church as well as the local community. Along the way we have learned to be faithful and patient, and rely on God for his direction and provision. Our prayer life has deepened and our fellowship has strengthened by seeing God at work among us.



We remain focussed on reaching the next generation for Christ and being an evangelical church 'with a heart for community', however, we look forward to embracing the opportunity to begin a new chapter following formal consultation to enlarge our parish. In 2026, the church will celebrate 150 years since consecration and we are trusting God will lead someone to come and share in the expanding ministry and mission set before us.



OUR CHURCH LIFE

Our church members are drawn from a very diverse community, with a large number travelling from many areas of Plymouth, which gives a richness to our church family.

Over the years the church has built a reputation for its preaching and teaching and sending people on mission as well as training for ministry. We engage with the local community on many levels and friendship evangelism is our main way of connecting people with Christ.

St Jude's has become my second family, also changed me it has helped me grow and given me confidence"

Church member



We have many community contacts through a weekly Community Hub Café, a Tots Time group (parents/carers with children aged 1-3), Boys' and Girls' Brigades for young people aged 5-18 and a monthly community Saturday lunch. All these ministries are led and run by volunteer church members. We aim to build bridges from our community contacts into the church family so people can find their own personal faith and become "The Next Generation" at St Jude's.

"As someone who has grown up at St Jude's and now having young children of my own, I can say that St Jude's is one big family. It is lovely that my children can interact with the older generations and I think it provides joy to both parties."

Church member



FOUR KEY PRIORITIES

The main challenges, which are further developed in the parish profile, sum up our direction of travel as a church, and will help inform any applicant about the work ahead.

Outreach in St John's

The PCC of St Jude has been informally consulted on the possibility of taking on the area of the parish of St John the Evangelist, Sutton on Plym, without the church building, which is undergoing a closure process. A process of formal consultation is planned in early 2026. This proposed pastoral reorganisation will bring an opportunity to introduce the gospel and church in a fresh way to this new area.

Children and Young People

Secondly, we need to build on our existing work with children and young people to reach families and young people for Christ. Our present youth and children's work provides a launch pad for greater work in this area, including connections with local schools and work with other churches to reach the next generation.

Discipleship

Thirdly, we need to provide opportunities, through small groups, for new church members to grow in fellowship and discipleship. We have a steady stream of new people dropping into church (part of the 'Quiet Revival') who need to be encouraged to explore faith more deeply, discover Christ in a personal way and become life-long disciples.

Resourcing Mission

Finally, we want to use our finances in the best way possible to support our mission to reach the next generation of followers of Christ at St Jude's. Thankfully, God has blessed the church with sound finances that offer the potential to invest in people and projects that will further the gospel.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for someone who is excited about working with an urban church that is moving forward on several different fronts.

We are looking for someone who:

- Has a heart for mission, is able to communicate the gospel and can preach and teach from God's Word.
- Prayerful and open to the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Able to encourage people to explore faith more deeply and grow as disciples of Christ.
- Good with people, who is welcoming and compassionate, and especially able to engage with families and young people.
- A leader with the ability to listen, reflect and collaborate as we develop vision and strategy together for the next few years
- Encourage people into lay ministry and help match resources to meet our priorities and respond to the new opportunities that lay ahead.

We would support the new Priest in Charge to adapt to any new challenges they encounter and provide resources where needed most to enable our vision for growth.

THE CHURCH FAMILY

There are 70 people currently on the electoral roll. Of these, only 31% live in the parish. However, there is a regular and diverse group of people who attend worship. Each Sunday, we have between 60-70 people in the congregation. Plymouth is a dispersal city for asylum seekers and we often welcome people of different ethnicities for worship.



MINISTRY TEAM

We are blessed with a small team of Licensed Lay Ministers who lead services (Jane, Jackie and Peter) and we also have our church wardens Jean and Rob; Rob is currently on the LLM Course to qualify as a LLM. We also have youth and children's work leaders who run long-established Boys and Girls Brigade groups as well as leaders for Sunday 'Jude's Club'.



Jane: LLM



Jackie: LLM



Peter: LLM



Rob: Church Warden
LLM in Training



Jean:
Church Warden

We firmly believe in working together as a church family and encouraging everyone to find and develop their particular ministry and ways of building one another up. Our two church wardens, together with the PCC, are supported by teams who help with the smooth running of the church.

These include a Finance Team, the Building Management Group, the Safeguarding Team, the Pastoral Care Team, Mission Partners Group, Worship Group and Youthwork Leaders Team.

WORSHIP: MODERN & CHARISMATIC

We have a service at 10:30 am on a Sunday, which is based around a modern liturgy, is evangelical and mildly charismatic in style, with an accent on bible teaching. Our worship is led by a pianist or guitarist, with a small group of singers and music ranges from contemporary songs to traditional hymns. The majority of the Sunday services are live streamed on YouTube, which enables members of the church family to still participate wherever they are.



Each service finishes with tea and coffee and a time for fellowship, together with an opportunity for prayer ministry with a dedicated team who offer prayer support to those who need it. Sunday services follow a regular alternating pattern of Morning Worship, Communion, informal brunch-style service and all age worship.



"It has been a place of healing, safety and encouragement.."

Church member

On a Wednesday morning there is a more contemplative midweeker service which is a member led bible study and previously included a monthly Communion Service, which has not been possible during the vacancy period. Throughout the week there are a small number of regular home groups which meet providing opportunities for bible study, friendship, and support.

*"The fellowship and the friendship keep me coming back, and the more I am involved the closer I have become..
St Jude's."*

Midweeker member

PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE

Prayer is a significant part of our church life and everyone is encouraged to have individual and collective times of prayer over the week. A quiet prayer room at the back of church provides a calm and confidential space for those seeking prayer. Two members of the Prayer Ministry Team are available each Sunday to pray with people after the service. In addition, there are regular in-person prayer meetings and a weekly 'Zoom' prayer meeting every Wednesday evening, plus we support the weekly city-wide 'Pray Plymouth' meetings.

"Helped me through depression with prayer, friendship and support"

Church member



Pastoral care – looking out for everyone

A group oversees pastoral care of the church family, making sure that people are supported and connected with small groups or other networks. We have two active home groups, plus the Midweekers, but the Pastoral Care Team tries to make sure everyone is being looked after or followed up in some way. In the past, small groups have often grown out of running an Alpha or discipleship course and this is a priority for the church moving forward, to encourage new members of the congregation into greater fellowship and deeper faith.

*"The love and care I've had from the church has really helped me"
and "Church gave me an extended family when mine were far away".*

Church members

YOUTH WORK: FROM TOTS TO TEENS

Tots Time meets on Monday mornings in the church hall and garden during term time for parents and carers and children for ages from birth to 3 years old. It's led by a rota of church members providing an extensive range of toys and equipment, free play in the garden, crafts, puzzles, singing time and snacks and drinks. Its aim is to help parents connect and children begin to socialise. Responsibility of the children remains with the parents but the adult helpers are there to build relationships and lead the activities. Invitations are given to special church services, and at Christmas and Easter simple videos are used to highlight the reason for celebration. Approximately 25-30 children are registered with the group, the majority from our local area but several travelling from other parts of Plymouth.

"Tots Time is a friendly, caring environment where adults and children can meet and explore together."

Tots Time mum



Jude's Club is our children's group on Sunday mornings for ages 4 -14, running alongside our morning services. It starts at 10:15 with breakfast and runs until 11:30 when the children either return to their parents in church or are collected by parents who are not in the service. The mornings are run by a rota of church members and consist of games, crafts and activities all based on the bible teaching for that day. It's a small group at present, 8 regular attendees, but we feel it is a really important ministry for families.



Boys' and Girls' Brigades are international uniformed christian youth groups, for ages 5-18, which have been part of the church family youthwork of St Jude's for a long time - Boys Brigade for 123 years and Girls' Brigade for just over 40 years. The work offers a wonderful opportunity to reach out to families who we often would have no contact with. At present there are approximately 55 - 60 young people in the 2 groups.

"St Jude's is a great supporter of our Girls' Brigade through prayer and attending our various fundraising events. The majority of our families are not church members and it's great when the church members can sit and chat with our families."

GB Leader and mum

ST JUDE'S COMMUNITY HUB- AT THE HEART OF OUR MISSION

This is a project by the church for the local community, and was always at the heart of the Next Era project which transformed the church building into a modern, flexible and accessible space. Every Tuesday morning, we provide a warm, safe space 'café' style in the main church and serve free drinks and biscuits to those who drop in. There is also a very popular walking group that takes various routes around our local parks, leaving and finishing at the Hub. Each week 50-60 people enjoy the opportunity to join in with a walk or simply drop in and connect with friends or enjoy a moment of quiet in a beautiful church building.

We have partnered with several local organisations to add value to the Hub, promote health and wellbeing, and to be able to signpost people to places where they can receive help. This includes links with St Luke's Hospice, social prescribing by GPs, and services from the NHS and Plymouth City Council.



"This is such a warm and welcoming space – we love coming here."

NHS mass vaccination team leader

The Hub presents a great opportunity to serve and connect with our local community and is supported by our local Councillors, the Police and Plymouth Community Homes who regularly drop in to meet with people. There are many opportunities to collaborate with local groups who see the value of the modern space provided by the church.

"The Hub is a true community asset, built and supported by the church family. For many in the community, it has become their extended family and for some it is the much-needed lifeline when they are lonely or experiencing difficulties."

Plymouth Community Homes Development Worker

CHURCH BUILDINGS: BUILT FOR MISSION

The church site has 5 buildings: the main church built in 1875, and two medium-sized church halls built by the early 1900's with a sizeable walled garden, plus a 3-bedroom church cottage and a modern vicarage.



The Grade 2 listed main church building has been completely overhauled outside and refurbished inside over the last 10 years by the Next Era project, with a vision to create a flexible and accessible 7-day a week space that is able to serve the modern needs of the church and the local community. A total of more than £900,000 was raised to complete the work, mostly through sacrificial giving by the church family who have committed to providing a legacy for the next generation.

"We saw many miracles unfold during the Next Era building project and were guided by the watchwords of Patience and Faith."

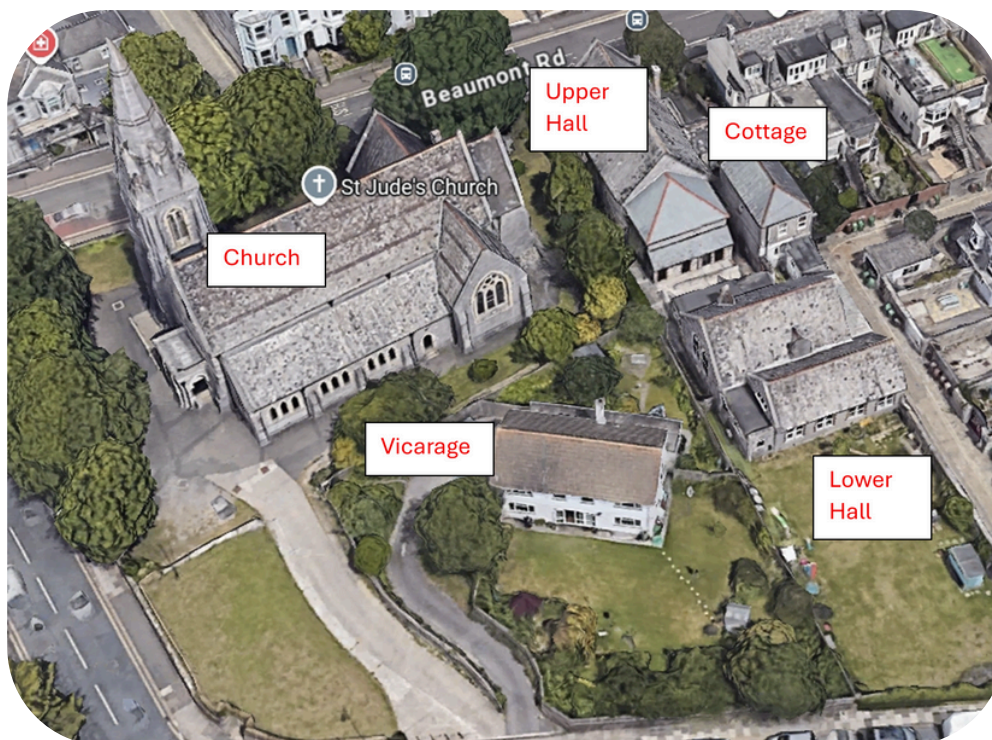


Next Era project team member

Today we have a church that is easily accessed; spaces that are well lit and easily heated; facilities to safely serve refreshments; accessible toilets; seating that can be arranged to suit the occasion and smaller rooms that can be used for different activities. Most of the items in the last Quinquennial inspection in 2021 have been resolved by the completion of the Next Era project and apart from ongoing maintenance there are no major building works outstanding. Videos showing the interior of the church are on the [St Jude's website](#).

CHURCH BUILDINGS: BUILT FOR MISSION

The church halls continue to be used for youth and children's work as well as a monthly community lunch called 'Snack and Chat' which is served from the kitchen in the lower hall to some 40 people. The church garden adjacent to the lower hall provides a safe and enclosed space for children as well as church family events. A monthly volunteer work party (aka 'The Doughnut Club'!) undertakes routine maintenance of the church buildings and grounds.



The church cottage was completely refurbished in 2010 and is currently occupied by one of our church wardens and his family.

"Living in the cottage is a blessing, there are times when I just sit among the grounds and feel God. For our children the church is a place of fondness, a place that is as much a part of their day as the playground."

Church Cottage resident

CHURCH FINANCES

St Jude's has amazing financial support from a relatively small congregation who firmly believes in the vision to spread the good news of the gospel through word and deed. The PCC keeps a financial policy under annual review; this covers such things as a policy for a Church Reserve. Annual turnover is in the region of £100,000, with some 70% of church income given via the Parish Giving Scheme. We make provision for annual maintenance of the buildings as well as more expensive repairs which are expected over time. We have no debts outstanding.

The church has consistently paid its Common Fund contributions (circa £40k per annum) and was able to give an additional £5,000 to the Diocese in 2025 as a thanksgiving offering for all God's provision for the Next Era building project. From our unrestricted regular parish giving, 8% of regular giving is allocated to our mission partners in the city of Plymouth and abroad.

Members of St Jude's congregation, past and present, have been called to serve in a variety of city missions, such as Plymouth City Pastors, Refugee Support and Shekinah Mission. Others have gone abroad and served with Overseas Missionary Fellowship – Japan, Sharing of Ministries Abroad, Mission Aviation Fellowship and the Church Mission Society. Our strong links with these organisations help to keep us outward-facing and mission-focused as a church.

We don't currently have any employed paid staff but we do pay for a weekly cleaning contract, but careful stewardship of our finances provides the opportunity to consider employing staff to support our mission to reach the next generation.



THE WIDER CHURCH IN PLYMOUTH & BEYOND

St Jude's is a city church with several other places of worship in the area; closest is 'Piety', the Islamic mosque, and nearby to the south is Plymouth Christian Centre, a large and thriving Pentecostal church; also in the vicinity are Salisbury Road Baptist church and Mound Gould Methodist church; to the east is St Simon's, a recently re-opened Church of England church plant from 'St Matts' on North Hill; while less than a mile to the west is the Minster church of St Andrew.

There are over 120 churches in Plymouth and we are a committed member of Churches Together in Plymouth (CTiP) working across denominations "seeking unity of vision and mission for the church in Plymouth" with one of our LLMs, Jackie, the chaplain for CTiP. In addition, three members of the congregation are also Plymouth City Pastors, volunteers patrolling the streets of central Plymouth on Saturday nights, engaging with the homeless and vulnerable young people; with other members of the church family giving their time to a variety of other local outreach initiatives.



"St Jude's is a place where I came to faith, due to excellent teaching and the prompting of the Holy Spirit which led to a passion for preaching to the lost, and a compassion for the vulnerable"

Church member and Plymouth City Pastor

Our refurbished church building has been utilised in various ways by the Diocese and Deanery, such as hosting the Diocese Foundations in Christian Ministry, Mission Sheds, an Inclusivity event, and a Bishop's learning morning. A recent music concert to raise funds for the local St Luke's hospice proved very popular and showed how adaptable the church building can be for hosting such events.

WHATS ON OFFER FOR THE NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE

The Vicarage

The Vicarage is adjacent to the church, with five upstairs bedrooms, a family bathroom and a separate WC. Downstairs, there is a good-sized shelved office alongside a WC, beside the front door and porch, both can be separated from the rest of the house by another door. The lounge is light with south-facing large patio doors onto the lawn, alongside a separate dining room. The kitchen is well fitted, with an additional large shelved pantry. To the back of the house is a utility room with a door to the back garden. There are two further built-in storage spaces in the garden.

The south-facing Vicarage gardens are private and secure, surrounding the house on three sides, with lawn, shrubs and some mature fruit trees. To the west of the house is the driveway to the garage, which is accessible from within the home. Parking for up to three cars is straightforward, and there is an external 'Ohme' electric car charger.

Education

There are three primary schools within walking distance ('Prince Rock' and 'Salisbury Road' and the Roman Catholic 'Holy Cross'), a large secondary school ('Lipson Co-operative Academy') a little over a mile away and also several Grammar Schools in the city. Plymouth University and Plymouth Arts University are both within a 15 minute walk and the University of St Mark and St John is a 20 minute drive to the north.

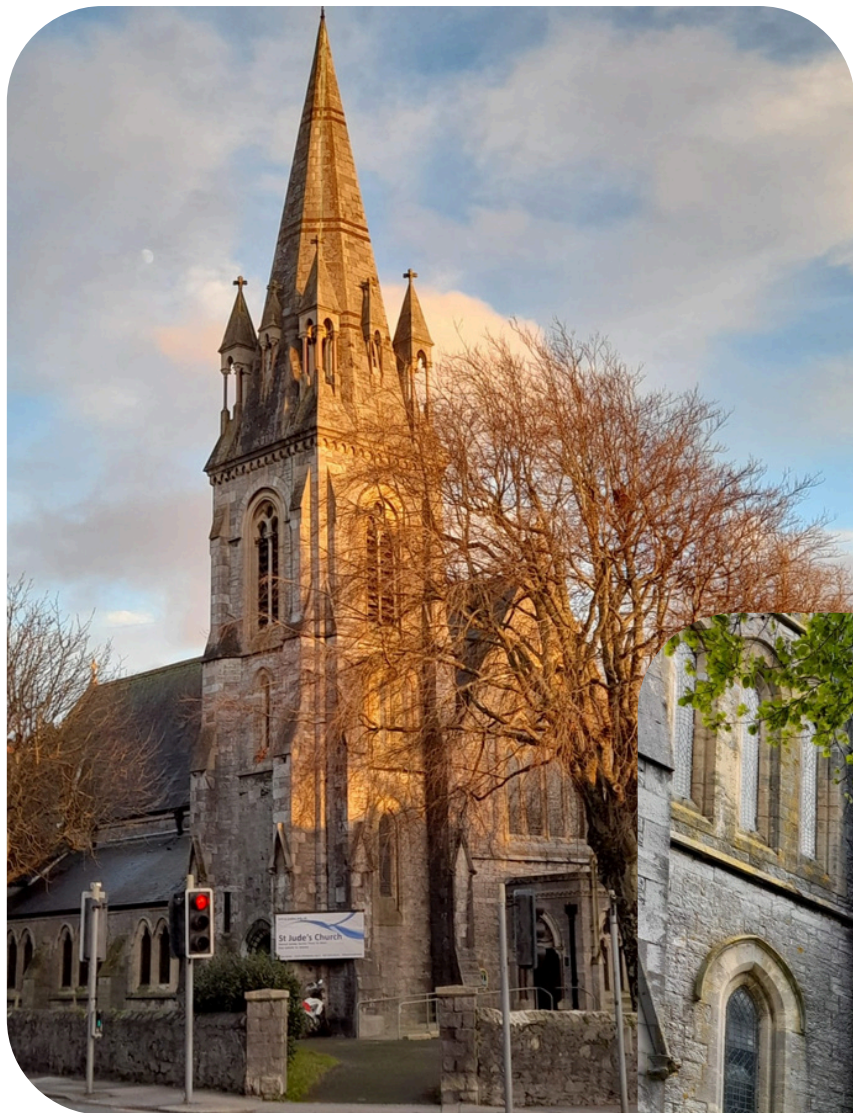


Local Facilities

The Vicarage is located within a 10 minute walk of the city centre, with Tesco's, Sainsbury's and local shops all nearby. Even closer is leafy Beaumont Park, which is 2 minutes away across the church car park. On the other side of the crossroads there are two doctor's surgeries and a few yards further a dentist, with Derriford Hospital a 20 minute drive away. Although you are within the city, you can see the sea from the Vicarage bedrooms and it is only a 15 minute walk to the historic Barbican area of Plymouth; as Britain's 'Ocean City' there is easy access to all the coast, and everything Dartmoor and Devon offers, with Cornwall just a 20 minute drive away across the Tamar Bridge.



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