



**THE BENEFICE OF ST MILDRED'S WHIPPINGHAM WITH
ST JAMES' EAST COWES**



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ST MILDRED'S AND ST JAMES PARISHES

THE DIOCESE AND THE DEANERY

The Parishes were once a part of the Winchester Diocese. The diocese of Portsmouth was created in 1927 and Island parishes were subsumed into it. The Island is an Archdeaconry with a resident archdeacon. There are two deaneries on the Island with St Mildred's and St James' in the West Wight Deanery. The Island Archdeaconry Group is currently producing an Island wide plan for the deployment of the ministry.

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

The Island a popular tourist destination is approximately 24 miles long (east to west) and 12 miles wide with a population in the region of 131,000. , there are ferry links to the mainland from Portsmouth, Southsea, Southampton and Lymington. There is good Island transport system with buses available from the ferries to the County Town of Newport and other parts of the Island.

The Island has a significant reliance on tourism to generate wealth although the hospitals, the schools, the prisons and technology manufacturing companies are also important sources of employment. It is also a popular location for retirement and for second home owners, both of these groups provide financial stimulus for the Island economy.



THE MINISTRY TEAM

The Ministry Team consists of the incumbent and currently two assistant priests, one retired and the other a chaplain to the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. Within the churches lay people are involved with sidespersons duties, administration of the chalice, lesson reading and leading of intercessions. Teams of volunteers help, year round, with the jigsaw festival and at St Mildred's run the coffee shop, acts as guides within the church and maintain the churchyard.

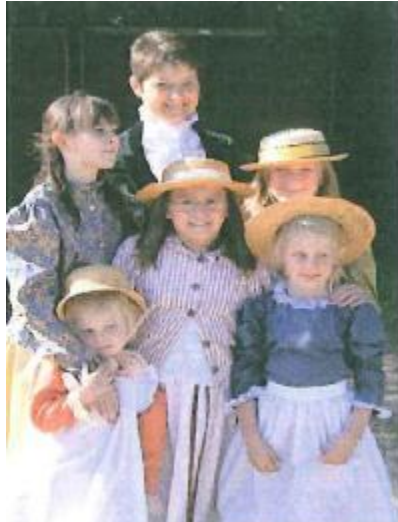
PATTERNS OF WORSHIP

St Mildred's

April to October	8am said Holy Communion (on the first Sunday of the month)
First Sunday of the Month	11.15am Family Service
Second & Fourth Sunday	11.15am Holy Communion (BCP)
Third Sunday of the Month	11.15am Holy Communion (CW)
Fifth Sunday of the Month	11.15 Matins

Due to poor heating in the Church the Bishop has given permission to hold services (apart from Christmas services) in the Church Centre from Mid November through to Easter. At Christmas there is a candle lit Nine Lessons and Carols service and Midnight Mass.

We have a small and ageing congregation, on average 15 attend regularly. Our Sunday School is taken by three volunteers. It is well attended and during the family service these numbers are increased.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

St James'

Sundays'	9.30 Holy Communion
3 rd Sunday of the Month	9.30 Family Communion
2 nd Sunday	18.30 Taize & Healing
Wednesday Morning	9.30 Holy Communion

Other services include, Remembrance Sunday when wreaths are laid at our war memorials, Easter and Christmas

THE RECTORY

The Rectory is situated in Victoria Grove about half way between St James' and St Mildred's churches. It has been refurbished to a high standard and is a very good family house. There is a conservatory on the first floor with views across the Solent.



SCHOOLS

There are two schools in the parishes, Queensgate Foundation Primary School and Holy Cross RC Primary School. A recent reorganisation of the Island educational system has changed a three tier system to one of two, bringing it in line with general mainland practice. Secondary schooling is provided in Cowes and Newport, all secondary schools are now academies or trusts. Christ the King is a joint Anglican/RC secondary school based in Carisbrooke-Newport. Queensgate is due to move into the Osborne Middle School buildings in Easter 2012. It is understood that the Whippingham school buildings have been sold to private school.

FINANCE

St Mildred's

A copy of the accounts for this financial year is attached. Tourism and weddings provide a major part of meeting the parish share and the essential maintenance costs of the buildings. Restoration work and major repairs have been covered by grants from English Heritage and the National Lottery.

The planned giving and covenants: Gift Aid 15

Electoral roll 36

Incumbent's expenses incurred as result of parish duties are re reimbursed against present receipts

St James'

General Income The finances of St James are in good order. We have no money to spare, but we pay our way each year out of income and our parish share is met in full.

General income from regular giving and collections is good; there are regular contributors, 51 in the freewill envelope offering scheme, 4 through the bank and 25 are in the gift aid scheme. A copy of the current accounts is attached at the end of this profile.

Fundraising There are many fundraising events during the year, the most important financially being the Puzzle Week Festival; the profit from this has improved steadily over the years and in 2011 was over £9,500. However this does mean we now rely heavily on this event to survive each year.

Accounts & Investments We have a CBF investment fund which we regard as being for a dire emergency only and a CBF deposit account which is used for repairs and general maintenance. Two current accounts are used (Lloyds and Cooperative) for day to day transactions.

Expenditure A recent church roof repair necessitated our having to take a diocesan loan of £10,000; this was paid in full in September 2010.

Charitable Giving We have a regular charity giving policy (5 gifts each of £100) and in addition there are special collections for disasters and emergencies as they arise.

The electoral role is 85

RELATIONSHIP OF THE TWO PARISHES TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Membership of Churches Together in the East Cowes and Whippingham area brings both clergy and congregations from a wide range of denominations together for shared worship, Lent groups, Alpha courses, House groups, social events and shared breakfasts. A walk of witness, starting at St Mildred's is held on Good Friday.

The Parish Magazine (Jigsaw) involves most of the churches in the area with contributions from laity and clergy

A United Carol Service is held at St James' with a Town Carol singing in the Town Square (Outside Waitrose)

IFRO (Island Friends of Royal Osborne) hold fund raising events for St Mildred's' and take an active part in both the Christmas and Remembrance services. The newly formed Whippingham Parish Council has shown an interest in some of our services.

The two parishes have established good relationships with area schools with St James' being preferred, because of its capacity, for whole school events. After school clubs are run at a local school and members of the clergy take special assemblies, leaver's services, Remembrance and Christmas services.

An ecumenical youth club (Rock Solid) has been set up.

Both churches are collection points for the recently established food bank

Each parish has a distinctive style; however there is a fair degree of cooperation between each church community

ST MILDRED'S WHIPPINGHAM

Whippingham is a semi rural village on the east side of the River Medina and a couple of miles from East Cowes. With a population of about 800 and residences spread over a two mile area which encompasses new, old and mobile homes. The average age of the population is 50 plus.



THE CHURCH CENTRE

Whippingham was mentioned in the Domesday Book, but much of the old Whippingham we see today is a product of its royal connection with Queen Victoria when she bought Osborne House in 1845.

Whippingham has its own Heritage Trail a circular route encompassing most of the village and includes the Whippingham Community Hall built in 1931 by Samuel Saunders a famous local boat builder and aviation pioneer, the Forge was the originally the

smithy to the Royal Estate, and today is run as a family steel fabrication company. Whippingham Primary School, was built in 1864, funded by Queen Victoria who took a keen interest in the education of children of the estate workers. The Folly Inn, a historic and popular waterside inn with spectacular riverside views is popular with locals and yachtsmen alike. A short distance along the river is Island Harbour peaceful marina offering 200 berths to annual and visiting yachts. Other popular places of historic interest include Padmore House, Barton Manor and the Alms houses. Today's industry includes GKN Aerospace, one of the Island's biggest employers and Whippingham houses its research centre

ST MILDRED'S CHURCH

St Mildred's Church is set in a conservation area, was Queen Victoria's place of worship. It has many beautiful and historic features and it becomes quickly apparent what personal attention and loving care



it received from Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, and many other members of the Royal Family, from its very design and building to its many beautiful features and memorials within it. It houses a grade one listed "Father Willis" organ built in 1868 and is used each Sunday by our regular organist, but unfortunately we have no choir. The church is a popular venue for weddings and baptisms with 24 weddings in 2010. It is popular tourist attraction captivating approximately 25,000 visitors each year. A team of 35 volunteers manage to keep it open four days a week offering a wide range of facilities for coach parties and many visitors. Income from the visitors enables the church to pay its Parish Share and the essential bills. The graveyard is well kept by a team of volunteers; amongst its famous graves are Uffa Fox, Samuel Saunders and the parents of Earl Mountbatten. Separate from the church set in an ample car park, and adjacent to an orchard is the Church Centre, a spacious area with toilets and a well equipped kitchen. This area is used as a coffee/gift shop during the opening season, also for fundraising events,

meetings and the Sunday School. The grassed orchard is real sun trap where annual events include; jazz concert, May Fair, car boot sales, ecumenical barbeques, and on occasions wedding receptions.

Our historic church has recently been through extensive restoration work. Phases one and two saw the restoration of the tower and spires, roofs of the Royal Pew, chancel, The Battenburg Chapel and the Bell tower. Phase3 and the final one has seen the restoration work on the vestry, transepts, nave roofs, parapet gutters and valleys. Internal restoration of water damaged plaster work is due to start in mid September of 2011. Throughout the work members of the PCC have had monthly meetings with the architects and the builders to ensure that all work has been completed satisfactory.



ANNUAL MAY FAIR IN THE ORCHARD

ST JAMES' EAST COWES

East Cowes was the home of Queen Victoria who with her husband Prince Albert bought the Osborne Estate in 1845. Osborne House was one of her principal residences until her death in 1901. The town was also the home of John Nash who built the original church of St James whilst the church was rebuilt later in the nineteenth century the tower is the remaining part of Nash's church. The Gort Family bought the Nash home, East Cowes Castle, (General Gort commanded the BEF in France 1939/40) and family members are commemorated in a side chapel and also the reredos to the altar.



OSBORNE HOUSE

East Cowes was many centuries a ship building town. Indeed for many years lifeboats for the RNLI were built here. Today there is an inshore rescue boat repair centre. The main engineering business is now GKN Westland having premises on the waterfront and at Osborne.

The island is an important holiday destination, from the time of Queen Victoria, and remains so today. East Cowes is one of the ports of entry to the Island and makes the town very busy during the summer months. A number of large festivals (Rock, Bestival, Osborne House concerts, Cowes Week and sailing events) are held on the Island and swell the numbers passing through East Cowes.

The population of the town is about 6,000 with some areas of population in deprivation. The local middle school had 20% of its pupils on FSM. There can also be seen very strong contrasts of wealth within the town.

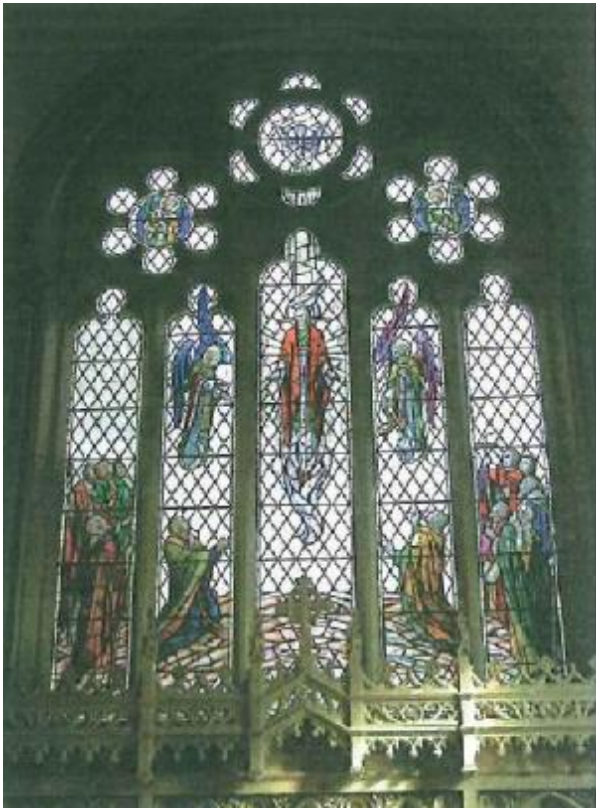
The town has a mixture of public and private housing and has an expanding community with nearly 800 houses being built at Osborne and a further 200 in the town. With the new opening of Waitrose last year and with GKN Westland securing contracts for foreseeable future the town is now seen to be on the up. Mainland families are also choosing to settle in the town with family members commuting to the mainland for work.

ST JAMES CHURCH

Princess Victoria laid the foundation stone of the original church 1831 which was then greatly enlarged between 1864 and 1868. The designer of the original church John Nash has a tomb next to the tower. The church can hold about three hundred people or about four hundred school children and is used by the town for carol concerts and Remembrance Day services. The local schools use the church for special services. There is choir and vicar's vestry.

The church hall is relatively new, built in 1989, and is well appointed with a good kitchen and toilets. This facility is used by the church for social events and meetings.

The church has an organ, a Walker listed grade II, and a clavichord, music is provided by an organist who is assisted when required by two female members of the congregation. The hymn book in use is "Hymns Old and New".



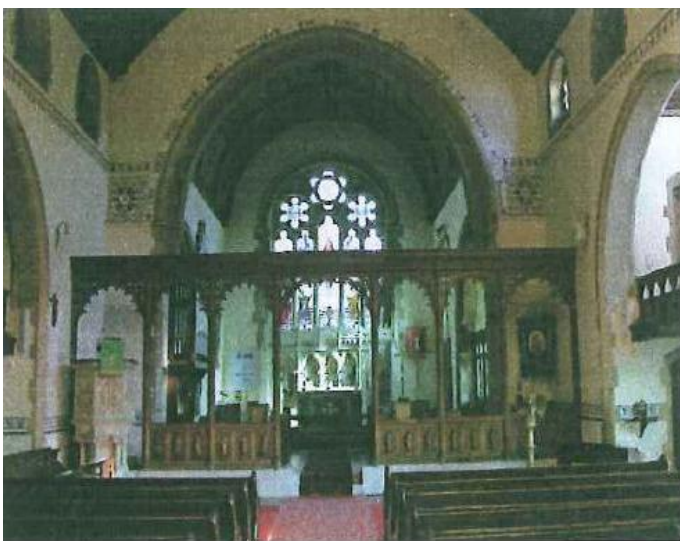
A Sunday club caters for primary school age children. House study groups are run during Lent. There is also a tradition of house study and prayer groups being run throughout the year. Confirmation classes are offered when required.

A Teddy Club is available for all young children and meets in the church hall. The church also offers a number of activities contributing to a wider fellowship:

The Mothers' Union
Friendship Guild
Monthly coffee mornings for the town community
Jigsaw Festival
A Fete & a Bazaar

The Jigsaw Festival is an all year activity with collecting jigsaws and involving the wider community in making up the puzzles.

THE EAST WINDOW



ST JAMES' NAVE



ST JAMES' FONT

CONTACTS

St Mildred's

Church Wardens:

Jean Kirby 01983 291295 e-mail jj@kirbyiow.freeserve.co.uk
Bunnie Triggs 01983 200276

Treasurer:

Sue Richmond 01983 297883

Web site [iow.uk.com/whippingham church](http://iow.uk.com/whippingham_church)

St James'

Church Wardens:

Robert Hall 01983 298278
Rose Mitchell 01983 294075 e-mail rosejmitchell@googlemail.com

Treasurer

Jill Traill

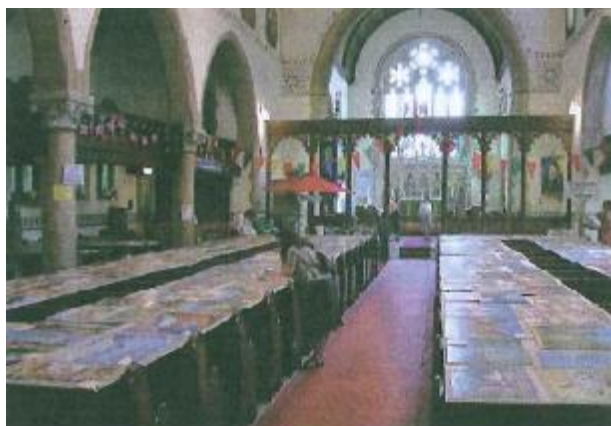
Web site stjamesateastcoves.co.uk



ST JAMES' SUMMER FETE



JOHN NASH'S TOMB



ST JAMES' JIGSAW FESTIVAL

BENEFICE SUMMARY

Parishes St Mildred's Whippingham, St James' East Cowes

Patrons The Queen (currently suspended)

Number of PCCs Two

Number of church Wardens Four

Buildings St Mildred's Church. Church Centre
St James Church Church Hall
The Rectory Victoria Grove East Cowes

Church Yards Both are closed
St Mildred's Open for current graves
St James' Area designated for cremated remains

Average Sunday Attendance

St Mildred's	15
St James	50

Number of occasional offices per annum

Church	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
St Mildred's	5 to date in 2011	12 to date in 2011	None to date
St James	8 to date in 2011	2 to date in 2011	6 & 7 cremations to date in 2011

Resolutions if Passed N/A

Church Tradition Middle of the road

Pastoral Reorganisation N/A

Population No ethnic mix. Predominantly white community

Further Information

Local Schools Queensgate Foundation Primary School
Holy Cross RC Primary School

Residential Homes Eight (Regular contact with three)
Osborne House
Boat building
Small Trading Estate
GKN Westland

ST MILDRED'S & ST JAMES'
INCUMBENT-PERSON PROFILE

We pray that our new incumbent will;

- Be person rooted in prayer and desiring to grow in holiness.
- Be a people's priest with his/her feet on the ground.
- Be a good listener and communicator, approachable and pastoral.
- Be able to support and develop our existing ministry of youth and children's work.
- Be willing and able to actively engage with the wider community to further God's work in renewal and mission in the World.
- Have the necessary leadership skills to work collaboratively and delegate effectively.
- Discern and use the gifts of the lay people in the ministry of the church