



St Philip and St James Church, Chatham in the Diocese of Rochester



The present St Philip and St James church building was opened in 1962 and merged two previously separate congregations meeting in Wayfield and in Walderslade village centre. The church is part of the Church of England Diocese of Rochester which was founded in 604AD and covers West Kent and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley. The Diocese extends to an area of 542 square miles with a population of 1.2 m, divided into 17 deaneries. One of which is Rochester Deanery to which St Philip and St James church belongs. The parish has a population of 11,500 people of which 21% (2400) are under sixteen years old.

The church is overseen by the Parochial Church Council, the chair being the vicar. Membership of the PCC is via election of those on the electoral roll of the church.

Mission Statement

St Philip and St James church, being part of the Diocese of Rochester, and thus of the Church of England and the world-wide Christian Church, seeks, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and to proclaim the Word and Work of God so that humanity is redeemed, community restored and creation renewed.

It does this by:

- ❖ Enabling people to worship God so that they serve God faithfully.
- ❖ Equipping people to learn more of Christ from God's Word and God's World.
- ❖ Encouraging people to witness boldly to what God is doing in their lives.
- ❖ Engaging with people to work for justice, compassion and healing.

For more information on the Church visit our website at: www.pipnjims.co.uk

Vision Statement

Our vision at this time is:-

- To engage with a renewed or charismatic way of life – including Sunday worship.
- To connect with our local community (principally our geographic parish) with the intention of long term mission and discipleship.
- To be a church which resources other churches.

Ethos Statement

The ethos of St Philip and St James church, which is based on the doctrine and practice of the Church of England is the motivation for all our work. It is to work together to extend the Kingdom of God on earth by living out a lifestyle of love, truth, justice, mercy and forgiveness, according to his teaching. We are inspired by the message, life and example of Jesus through which God's unconditional love for all people is expressed.

Our ethos is given life through our relationships. The way we work together and behave with one another, and those we seek to serve, demonstrates and authenticates our ethos. It is through these relationships with each other and those whom we seek to serve, that we practise our ethos.

Our ethos or motivation, and therefore our relationships, are rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ and in his love, which compels us to serve others. This faith directs and influences our internal relationships as well as our work with those who the church is seeking to serve. Our activities are an outworking of our faith. The link between who we are and what we do cannot be broken.

Values about the organisation

Integrity

We believe that our mission and purpose – to extend the Kingdom of God on earth – is indissolubly linked with how we operate internally. The values, which we promote for ourselves as an organisation, should be matched by those that we practice when relating to others. The link between who we are and what we do should not be broken

Authenticity

This organisation believes that its purpose – to extend the Kingdom of God on earth through our activities – flows out of our desire to work towards the same for ourselves as an organisation. The love and care with which we serve others should be authenticated by the same love and care which we have for each other

Transparency

We believe that we should be open and transparent about our beliefs and the link between our beliefs and our mission in matters of publicity, fundraising, employment etc.

Accountability

We believe that all we have comes from God and that we should exercise wisdom, integrity and responsibility in using the resources entrusted to us.

United effort

We are committed to maintaining our distinctively Christian ethos by ensuring that Christians are appointed to those positions, which we have agreed, require Christians to fill them

Diversity

We believe that we have a duty to maintain our Christian distinctiveness by recruiting those who are committed to Christ's teaching about the Kingdom of God. However, at the same time we want to embrace the values of inclusivity and diversity by welcoming and involving where appropriate, those of other faiths and none

Servant leadership

We believe in working for the common good, where appropriate through partnership with other Christian organisations, churches and voluntary and statutory agencies. We seek to encourage, serve and build up other bodies recognising their role within local communities

Values about people

Equality

We affirm the God-given value of each person and believe in equal value of all. We stand for respect and freedom for everyone and tolerance and understanding between people of different opinions

Discipleship

We believe that as we serve others we learn as much about ourselves and our relationship with God as about the work

Well-being

We believe that God created people in His image, to be whole human beings and to flourish. We believe that well being should characterise our dealings with staff and volunteers

Transformation

We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to develop and change, realising their potential and thus making a full contribution to the organisation and society in general. We believe that as we grow and change, not only are we transformed but also the world around us. We believe that everyone is a learner and should be encouraged, supported and challenged to become who s/he can be. Learning who we are in God is as important as learning how to do the job.

Values about the way we work

Commitment to each other

We believe that a tolerant society is one in which people of different opinions can live together in peace. In working together to deliver the work of the organisation we want to endeavour at all times to trust one another, being patient and forbearing. We should work at paying attention to the way we speak to one another, attempting to listen well, even when it is uncomfortable to do so, being able to confront difficulties carefully and with compassion

Interdependence

We believe that each person has his or her own part to play and contribution to make to the whole. We believe that every opportunity should be taken to exchange views so that we can improve our understanding of ourselves, of one another and of the work we do

Community

We believe that a healthy community is one to which people feel that they belong. Within this organisation we are committed to the same way of life where volunteers and staff experience a sense of belonging to and identity with the organisation. We believe that successful delivery of our mission happens when people feel they belong and have a role.