

St James the Great

G A W S W O R T H

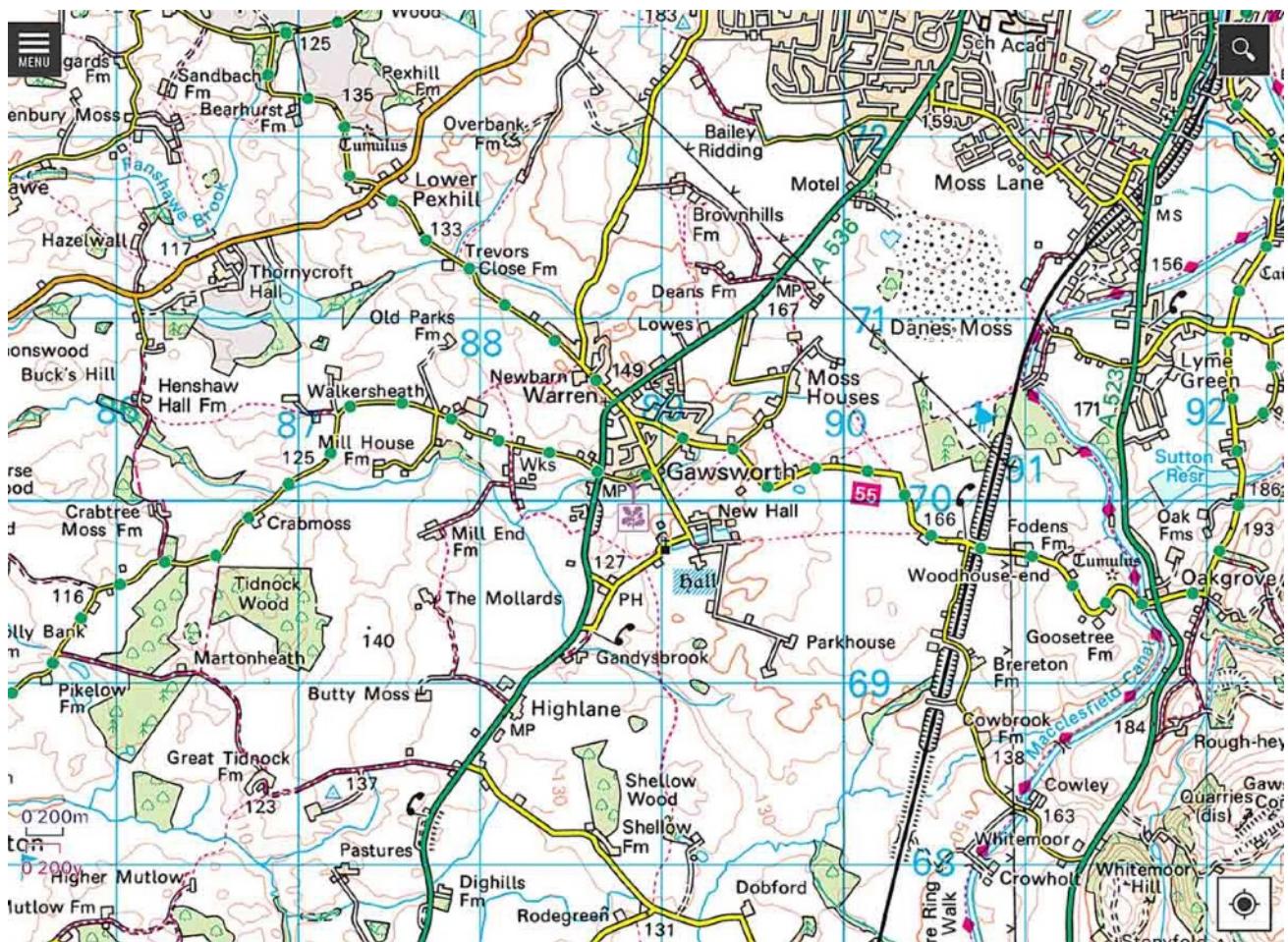


We are very proud of our beautiful Church and village and hope that in the following pages you will find much to interest you in the possibility of becoming our New Rector. Our last Quinquennial Report in October 2014 shows that Gawsworth St James is a well loved and looked after building.

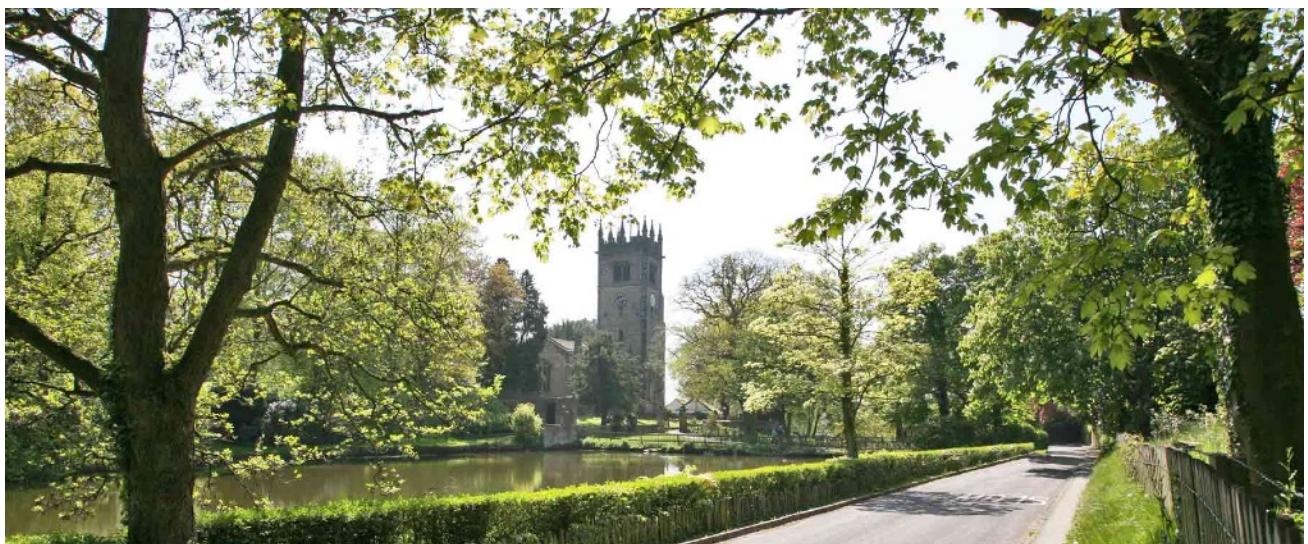
If you would like to visit Gawsworth St James, please get in touch with us via our email address:
gawsworthchurch@gmail.com

For more information please see: www.gawsworthchurch.co.uk

Location



Gawsworth St. James, is situated just off the A536 between Macclesfield and Congleton, Cheshire.



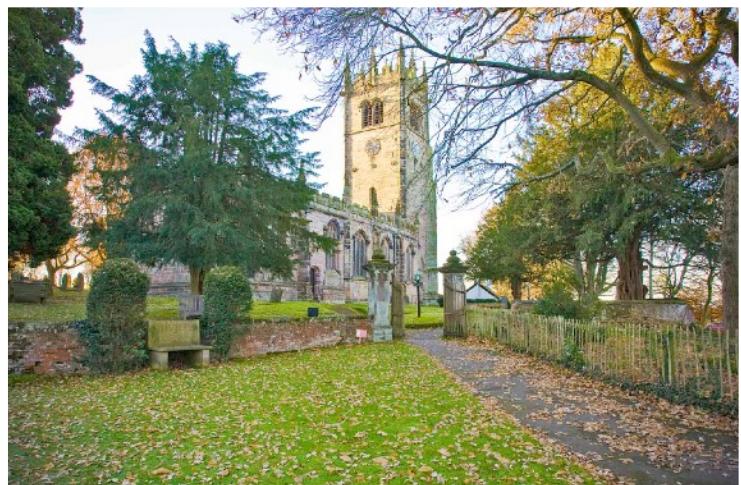
Benefice Profile

As a result of a parish reorganisation in 2014. St James the Great, Gawsworth and St Michael's, North Rode are both part of a new benefice sharing a Rector. There is an 80/20 split, respectively of Parish Share and Rector's time. Both parishes share a border, St Michael's Church is only 3 miles (by road) south of St James the Great, Church.

Both PCCs and Congregations are looking forward to recruiting a new Rector. He or she can build on our foundations to help each Parish grow both spiritually and in numbers over the coming years. We are very aware of the challenges that we face and need a Rector who can guide and help us to face the future with confidence and joy in worship.

Introduction to St James the Great

At St James there are a large hard-working team of volunteers that help to run the Church, these people bring their very diverse talents and personalities to the combined team and PCC. *See the St James team:-* <https://www.gawsworthchurch.co.uk/people-at-stjames>



The congregations are also very diverse. We see ourselves as ministering to all the people of Gawsworth and the surrounding area. We have a very strong tradition for the 1662 St James prayer book service and have more services than some other rural churches. We are members of the BCP Society.

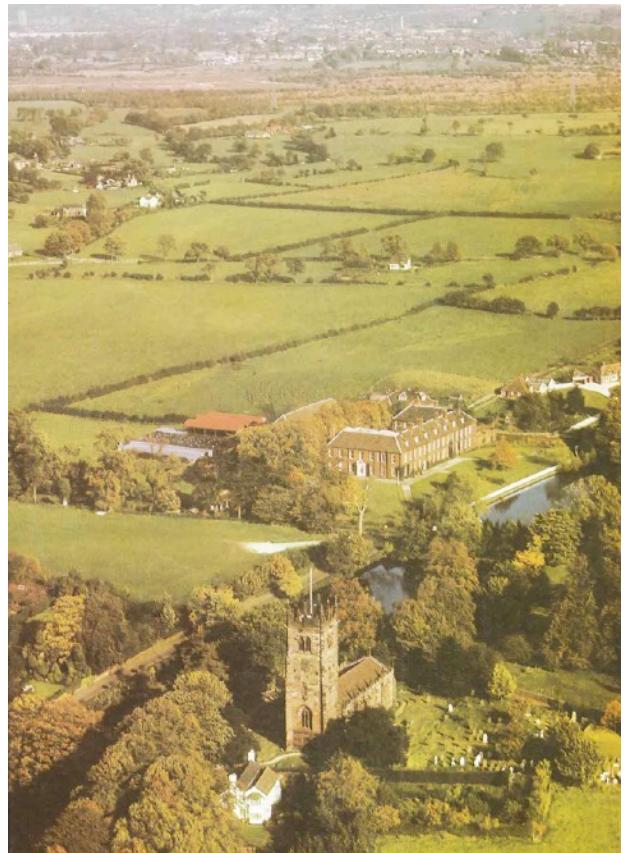
Our Family Service is in a completely different format to reach out to the younger generation and uses Junior Praise Hymn books.



Gawsworth is primarily a rural farming community, so more of a quiet backwater in comparison to our nearest towns of Macclesfield and Congleton. Some of our residents are retired and have different support needs, with families spread far and wide. We do however, have a very welcome and gradually increasing number of young families joining our congregation.

There are a good number of families with children living here, with most of the youngsters attending Gawsworth Primary School. There are also the usual children's groups in the village; scouts, beavers, girls brigade etc.

With the new drive to build more affordable housing, Gawsworth's population may be expanding. Our challenge will be to connect with all these new families so that they can be welcomed into our midst and become involved in our Community and spiritual life.



THE PARISH OF GAWSWORTH

Named Goursourde in the Domesday survey of 1086. The eastern boundary of Gawsworth Common lies 370 metres above sea-level. The western boundary stretches across undulating hummocky countryside, extending into the Cheshire Plain. From all round the parish there are magnificent views of the surrounding countryside which all of us living in the parish value.

Much of Gawsworth comprises agricultural land, predominantly grass and pasture for dairy cattle, along with some sheep. Farmers are now struggling and some are trying to diversify to help make a living.

Residents & Parishioners are unanimous in their commitment to retain this unique and outstandingly beautiful environment that we are privileged to live in, and feel it is their responsibility to protect and care for it.

History

The first knowledge we have of Gawsworth is of it being the home of feudal Knights and warriors. It came into the hands of Randle the Earl of Chester in the eleventh century, passing on by marriage to the Orreby family. In 1316 Isabel Orreby (heiress) married Thomas Fytton of Bollin and the estate stayed in the family until the eighteenth century when it passed by marriage again through Mohun, Griffith and then to the Harrington family in the nineteenth century. In the twentieth century, passing by sale to the Ferranti and then the Richards family. In 1936 and 1955 parts of the parish were transferred to Macclesfield.



Gawsworth now includes houses on the main Macclesfield road on the left-hand side up to and including Penningtons Lane, Danes Moss, Dighills, Gaws Moor Hill, High Lane, Moss Houses, Shallow, Tidnock, Walkers Heath, Warren, Whitemoor and Woodhouse End.

Gawsworth Hall

An ancient Manor House built in 1567 a successor to the original thirteenth century manor house which stood farther to the north and was probably moated. It was the home of Mary Fytton, the supposed 'Dark Lady' of Shakespeare's sonnets, with whom the "Bard of Avon" was enamoured, upon whose beauty he gazed with such admiration and wrote about her with such intense feeling. Mary Fytton was a Maid-of-Honour at the Court of Queen Elizabeth, and from the monuments in the Church, one might easily suppose her to be the Lady of the Sonnets. She was on all accounts a very beautiful woman, but alas for the honour of the Court, it seems she was by all accounts a very beautiful woman, but perhaps something more of a free spirit than was entirely acceptable at the time in the Court of Queen Elizabeth. She was on intimate terms with Kemp, the actor, and others. Mary Fytton was baptised at Gawsworth Church on 20th June 1578 and was twice married. She was the mother of two sons before either of her marriages, the Earl of Pembroke who was the cause of this, was imprisoned and because of the insult to her Court was heavily fined by the Queen. Following this she had several affairs until her marriage to Captain Laugher in 1636, when all went quiet until her death in 1647.

The house is now the family home of the Richards family, Rupert being our patron. The present house with fine pictures and furniture presents features of some interest, retaining one of its many three-decker windows, and what appears to be the remains of an altar and confessional box temporarily constructed in the Reformation. The bulk of the building was destroyed or fell into decay in the eighteenth century. What remains, however, is of great beauty and significance. An open-air theatre in the grounds encompasses a range of summer entertainment and is well worth a visit.



Elizabethan Garden

In the grounds is an eighteen-acre Elizabethan garden surrounded by coped brick walls dating back to the sixteenth century. Some say this was constructed for the purpose of jousting and tournament, others that it was laid out as a garden pleasure. Recent archaeological research supports this theory. The land surrounding the Hall used to be part of Gawsworth Hall Park and some of the land is still designated a Conservation area.

Pools

There used to be a run of five pools running from one side of the old Hall and across the front of the Hall and Church, but one has now dried up. Opinion differs regarding the origin of the pools and their use. They were possibly constructed as fish ponds to serve the manor, or as views from high points in the Elizabethan garden. Church records show that there were once some stocks against the church wall and also a ducking stool for punishing bad tempered wives and other wrong doers. The ponds still afford beauty and charm to the tranquil village of Gawsworth, along with the Manor house and Church.

New Hall

Built by Lord Mohun in the early eighteenth century. It lay uninhabited for some time in the nineteenth century and has had a variety of tenants through its life. Recently it was converted into apartments, which are now fully occupied and very desirable.



Old Rectory (Grade I listed)

Is now privately owned and no longer used by the Church. This is a magnificent black and white building set in splendid grounds. We used to have all our Patronal Village Fêtes in the grounds.

Harrington Arms

Also, in the Conservation Area is The Harrington Arms, an old coaching public House. The building and some of the contents are Grade II listed.

This can be seen from the Rectory at the end of the Lime Avenue. A great place to have a drink, enjoy pub food and get to know the locals.



WORSHIP

Our congregation is very strong in their wish for us to keep to the 1662 St James prayer book format for all services, apart from the one deviation from this for the Family Service once a month. We have 65% of people on our electoral roll that attend our service from outside the Parish, this is mainly due to the traditional service format.



Regular Services: A typical month consists of:

Day	Time	Description
First Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Family Service for All
	6.30pm	Sung Eucharist
Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion
Second Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Choral Matins
	6.30pm	Sung Eucharist & Healing
Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion
Third Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
	6.30pm	Evensong
Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
	6.30pm	Evensong
Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion
Fifth Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
	6.30pm	Compline
Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion

Other Services

St James is a High Catholic Church where we celebrate all the traditional services and feast days.

We are a popular venue for Weddings, Baptisms and Memorial Services.

Because of our farming heritage we regularly hold celebration services such as Plough Sunday, Rogation Sunday and Harvest Festival.



Music

Under the direction of our Organist, decorated for his dedication to music and his charitable work in Macclesfield and the surrounding area.

The Organ

The Allen Renaissance Digital Organ in St James' Church, Gawsworth, replaced the old ASP Pipe organ, and was installed in 2006 at a cost of £26,000.

It has two manuals, specification given below, and a Midi box with a further 100 different sounds and combinations.

There is a swell pedal for each manual, and a crescendo pedal which has been disconnected. This can be a mixed blessing!

There are six pistons for each manual, and ten general pistons over all.

There have been two virtuoso recitals, one by Professor Ian Tracey, from the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, and two by the renowned recitalist Carlo Curley. They were both delighted by the sound and quality of the instrument. The present organist was mainly responsible for its installation. Visitors are welcome to come and play it, on application to the organist.

Technical Specification of the Two Manual Allen Renaissance Digital Organ

Pedal		Great		Swell
Contra Violone	32'	Double Diapason	16'	Double Diapason
Open Diapason	16'	Open Diapason	8'	Viola Diapason
Bourdon	16'	Clarabella	8'	Lieblich Gedackt
Echo Bass	16'	Dulciana	8'	Viola Celeste
Octave	8'	Principal	4'	Octave Principal
Flute	8'	Harmonic Flute	4'	Flauto Traverso
Choral Bass	4'	Fifteenth	2'	Nazard
Mixture	III	Mixture	IV	Fifteenth
Trombone	16'	Trumpet	8'	Tierce
Trumpet	8'	Cremona	8'	Mixture
<i>Great to Pedal</i>		<i>Tremulant</i>		Cornopean
<i>Swell to Pedal</i>		<i>Swell to Great</i>		Oboe
				<i>Tremulant</i>
Second/alternate Voices				
Principal	16'	Principal	8'	Clarinet
Sub Bass	16'	Metalgedackt	8'	Cor Anglais
Octave	8'	Octave	4'	French Horn
Super Octave	8'			Orchestral Flute

The console, with tab stops, is finished in dark oak to blend with the Rood Screen and the Pews. Four Allen HR-200F external speakers, also finished in dark oak, are positioned one on each wall to the east of the Rood Screen, and two on their backs on top of the Screen in the centre.

The Choir

We have a robed choir who lead singing during both the 10am and 6.30pm Sunday services. The choir sing during communion, and sing Psalms and anthems where appropriate. Choir Practices are every Wednesday evening.

Occasionally the church choir is joined by The Thomas Cranmer Choir when singing special choral works at church festivals.

Bell Ringers

We have a team of bell ringers led by our Tower Captain, who ring bells before the 10am service and at weddings. Recently numbers have increased following advertising for new members. Practises are on Tuesday evenings and Training new ringers on Thursdays.

Hand Bell Ringers

We also have a new hand bell ringing group that meets weekly. They play at some services and some care homes around Christmas. Bell practise is on a Wednesday evening before Choir practice.



BUILDINGS

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES THE GREAT GAWSWORTH

Situated on Church Lane, next to Gawsworth Old Hall and Opposite the Old Rectory. Both are Grade I listed buildings along with the Church.

The buildings are much treasured by local people and congregation alike. Most of whom were Baptised and/or Married here. We have some families who go back several generations so have family members buried in the Churchyard.

Construction

The walls of the nave were built of limestone in 1430 and the Chancel and Tower of pink sandstone in 1480. Previously a Norman Chapel stood on this site, probably resembling the chapel which now stands in the churchyard at nearby Prestbury.

Roof

The splendid stone covered roofs are five hundred years old: the nave roof is of a barrel beam design, and unique in this Diocese. There are still considerable traces of its original brilliant colouring and gilding. The chancel roof has an arch camber beam construction and with rare panelled sections with tie beams. It was never painted but the design of both roofs is of exceptional beauty and in excellent condition.



Choir Screen

The choir screen occupies the site of the original rood screen and was erected in 1893 to replace a similar medieval screen which had been destroyed earlier. The cross and figure you can see standing above the screen were added in 1978.

The Fitton monuments

The Fitton monuments are situated in the Sanctuary. The tombs of four generations of the Fitton family stand on each side of the altar. The oldest monument is the table tomb nearest the communion rail on your right as you face the altar. It commemorates Francis Fitton, Knight, who was buried at Gawsworth in 1608. The tomb, constructed in freestone and alabaster, is the earliest example of Renaissance work in Cheshire.



Note the splendid effigy, the interesting armorial bearings, and the representation of a headless skeleton in a shroud. The next oldest is on the opposite side of the sanctuary and shows Dame Alice Fitton (d. 1626) with her two sons and daughters beside the tomb-chest of her husband, Sir Edward Fitton (1550 - 1606). The effigy of Mary, the alleged dark lady of the sonnets, and a Maid of Honour to Queen Elizabeth I, is the second figure behind her mother. The monument

originally stood away from the wall with the figures of the four children at the corners. The tomb behind and to the left of the altar is that of Sir Edward Fitton, the first Baronet (1572-1619) and his wife, Anne. The corresponding tomb on the south side of the altar is that of his son, Sir Edward Fitton, second and last baronet (1603-1643) and his wife, Jane; the small figure is that of their daughter, Margaret, who died in 1631 at the age of 7. Sir Edward, who was the last of the "Fighting Fittons" was a soldier who distinguished himself in the Civil War in the Royalist cause and died at the siege of Bristol in 1643.

Windows

We have some lovely stained-glass windows in the church:

East: The stained glass in this window is reported in Wikipedia as being by William Wailes
South Chancel: Medieval glass – reglazed

South Nave: St George for England in memory Fred Trueman

South Nave: Suffer little children to come unto me In memory of William Donald Lawton aged 9

South West corner: St James in memory of Susan Hockenhull

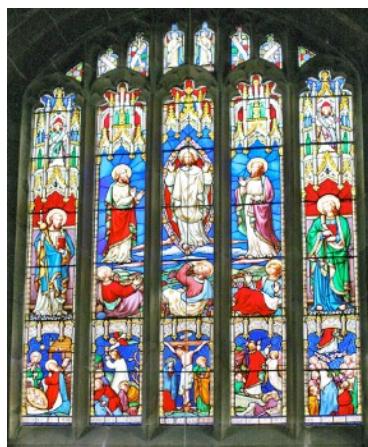
North West Corner: Remember Walter Reginald Sherratt,
Chorister

North Nave: St Christopher, In memory of George Stevens

North Chancel: St Benedict, in memory of The Venerable
Rennie Simpson

North Sanctuary: In Memory of Henry Coleman of Dover

On the south wall near the pulpit is a small statue of the Virgin
Mary set in a niche above the votive candles.



Paintings and Artefacts

Of note hanging on the walls are some rather poor sketches of the original murals of St Christopher, St George and The Judgement which were removed from the walls in the violent "restoration" of the Church in 1891. Also we have some interesting framed paintings.

The font with its octagonal basin is original 15th Century work and has a splendid carved and gilded font-cover.

In the Churchyard

Outside the church the great 15th Century tower is 103 feet high. There are many excellent window corbels and drip stones, shields of arms and gargoyles. The Sanctus Bell Cot is at the East end of the Church, combined with the cross, and not, as usually placed, at the junction of the nave and chancel.

The Churchyard stone cross in front of the South Porch is of interest being of the same date as the church. It has carvings of animal grotesques representing the expulsion of evil spirits.

Skull & Cross bone Gates as you walk up the path from the Lych gate are Grade II listed an interesting and imposing feature.

Church Hall

Our Church Hall is next to the Rectory and is a converted coach house. This has disabled access, two toilets (one disabled), a large kitchen, 2 store rooms and large multipurpose room with two sets of French windows. This is used for coffee after church, social & fundraising events, and in addition is available for hire to offset running costs. This Church Hall is of immense value to our Church community, being so close to the Church and Rectory. There are plans to extend further to provide an Office space and possibly an outside seating area in the future.



PCC Meeting in the Church Hall



Fundraising dinner

Rectory (Grade II listed)

The house currently used as the Rectory was built in 1707 by Lord Mohun as the village school house, surviving as such until 1832. The late Rector Polehampton thinks it was turned into two cottages and served as a post office, village shop and parish reading room.



The late Raymond Richards recovered the property by auction in 1949, and as a result of the decayed condition of the structure much rebuilding had to be done before it was possible to extend southwards. In the surviving older part of the house all the roof beams were exposed and the new building fitted throughout in oak, with the exception of the bedroom fireplaces which have pine 18th Century period mantelpieces (reclaimed from Woburn Abbey). The porch was purchased from Brook House, Knutsford, also all the cobble stones around the house, when this early 18th century house was demolished.



During the process of remodelling, the adjacent fields were added to the property, also the coach house building and stable erected by Thornicrofts of Thornicroft Hall, Siddington in about 1850. This enabled the building nearest the house to be converted into a detached study, and some Jacobean panelling purchased many years ago at Pershore hall,

Worcestershire, was introduced into the apartment with outstanding success. Similarly, the carved stone Jacobean fireplace from Pershaw hall was adapted to the needs of the dining room of the house. A carved restoration plaque was added to the west chimney stack and renamed Gawsworth House. In May 1953 Rev. William Edgar Clarke took up residence and the house was renamed The New Rectory.

The charming old early eighteenth century porch was brought to Gawsworth from Knutsford after serving as an entrance to the house of Lady Jane Stanley.

This Rectory is a delightful dwelling and with Gawsworth Hall, Gawsworth New Hall, The Old Rectory, St James Church and the Church Hall, making up the centre piece of our village. All sitting in the Gawsworth Conservation Area.

The house has two front doors, one for the Rector and his or her family and one for visitors on Parish business.

Downstairs there is a Galley style kitchen, a dining room with a galleried oak staircase. There is a downstairs toilet/cloakroom off the dining room, and a large light sitting room. Through an adjoining door is a hall with a second downstairs toilet and an oak panelled study, which can easily be separated off from the private part of the house by closing the door.

Upstairs there are 4 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom and 1 Shower room.

During the Vacancy, extensive repairs and modernisation need to be done on the Rectory. We await assessment from the Chester Diocesan Housing team.

There is a large rear garden, garage and parking area next to the Church Hall.

Most of Gawsworth Housing is in the main village which is a little distance from the Church, Rectory and Church Hall complex. The whole community is justly proud of the History and Heritage and it is a favourite place to walk, feed the ducks, sit quietly on a bench, light votive candles, pray quietly or even parents and children come to play with the children's area equipment at the back of church (provided by our Mothers Union).

At Gawsworth we have an established and much appreciated "Open Church" policy: this has been facilitated over many years by our out-going incumbent who regularly undertook to open and close the church building. However, we are conscious that the operation of this present arrangement may need re-negotiating so as to share the burden of locking and unlocking the church and/or the church hall more widely between the incumbent and the PCC.



BIBLE STUDY GROUP AND FELLOWSHIP

Bible Study Group

This is held once a month and we are in the process of trying to encourage more attendance by moving the time to an afternoon. This group have encouraged a selection of bibles to be available in Church for everyone to read. This includes some children's bibles to encourage the young ones.

Fellowship with Methodist Chapel

We work closely with our sister Methodist Chapel holding some joint services such as Harvest Praise in the Park and several coffee mornings. There are plans to create and deliver joint welcome packs to new residents.



Mothers Union (MU)

Has a membership of 22 and meets monthly, usually with an interesting talk by a guest speaker or slide-show. Some annual fixtures are the AGM, the Wave of Prayer, Summer Outing and Christmas Meal. Mothers union also provides flowers for Mothering Sunday, and a card for couples getting married. Most of the members are heavily involved in voluntary work for the church and rotas. Church members are encouraged to donate to the local food bank which the MU deliver for us. Our Mothers' Union provide books and colouring equipment at the back of Church for any families wishing to attend any of our services.

PASTORAL CARE

Our last Rector was good at Pastoral Care and visiting at home or in hospital. We live in a rural village which has a tradition for caring for the community and our PCC encourages members of the congregation to look out for those who are sick or disabled and in need of help.

Two members of the PCC have been on a recent Safeguarding course and also attended a lecture on Dementia. Notes have been written up and kept at Church for information purposes.

Our Church Hall has recently had work to upgrade the insulation, lighting and heating. Now that it is warmer and brighter we are actively promoting the Hall and looking for further ways to reach out to the community using these facilities.

MISSION

Part of our funds raised are given to charities. Charities supported last year were: Children's Society, Windy Ways Animal Rescue Centre, Air Ambulance, and The Melanesian Mission. Our Mother's Union collect food for the local distribution centre in Macclesfield.

OUTREACH

Communication - Magazine

We try and communicate well with our congregations and the community through our Parish Magazine which has a circulation of over 350.



Communication through Technology

Gawsworth is a tiny rural parish, 3 miles from Macclesfield but we have international links with the South Pacific and the rest of the world via our new Facebook page and Website [www.gawsworthchurch.co.uk]. We received over 6,000 hits when we published details of our Christmas Tree Festival on our website and Facebook. We raise £5,000 pounds approx, per year with this event.

As we have 'Friends' and family members spread across the whole of the British Isles and indeed the World, we are embracing technology to help us keep in touch and spread information. We post the monthly Services, The Rectors monthly letter, Calendar of events, Rota lists, Church history, Picture galleries of Church and community activities, with plenty of other information on topics such as Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, and Friends charity. There is a page highlighting events coming up during the coming month. Our website which is only 2 years old, gets over 250 hits per month for 11 months; this increases to 1000 hits in December.

Weddings and Baptisms

Part of our 'Outreach' strategy is to encourage the principles of Christian Marriage, and by doing so hope that couples will visit us again in the future because they feel a close connection with St James and Gawsworth.

We have an open invitation to everyone to come and be baptised.

We are currently looking at ways to keep in touch using modern technology.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The future of our Church

Our future Mission is to attract the younger generation to St James and further expand our congregation. This all hangs on the ability to expand the Church Hall and make better use of the ‘Rectors field’ for Church functions and outreach.

We are constantly looking at ways of appealing to the younger generation and children, as they will be the future caretakers of our Church. The new housing initiative by Cheshire East may help to change this dynamic. If so, we will attempt to take full advantage by putting in place initiatives that will appeal and draw them in to our community.

Archiving

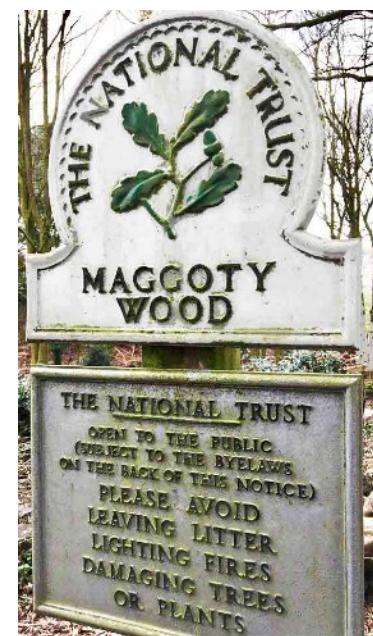
Managing the historic paperwork is proving to be a challenge as it is quite often needed for referral. Paper documents degrade in time and it is also proving difficult to find paper documents when stored locally. Therefore, it is necessary to file these documents in the Chester Archive for safe keeping. We are working towards an electronic pdf local filing and document recording system that can be quickly referred to in the future, once the originals have been safely archived in Chester.

Parish Office and better use of the Rector’s Field

We are sorely in need of a Parish Office, which at present is shared amongst several members of the congregation, with differing functions being carried out in people’s homes. This is not a sustainable situation due to regular changes in personnel, on the PCC and working for the PCC.

A consolidation approach would provide better management of the Parish Archives, which we are currently trying to pull together, file and

digitalise. Our preferred plans would be to either use the Rectory Office or build an extension to the Church Hall to accommodate this.



Macclesfield and Congleton (our nearest towns):

- They are small enough to have real character and identity, but big enough to have reasonable leisure facilities, Libraries, Cinema, shops, places to lunch or just coffee/tea and cake and socialise.
- Near enough to easily get to the theatres, galleries, shops, and other facilities of Manchester (approx. 19 miles), the Potteries (approx. 22 miles) and the Trafford Centre (approx. 22 miles).
- We are on the doorstep of the wild countryside, the beautiful little villages of the Peak District, and the lush countryside of the Cheshire Plain.
- Local walks include country lanes and the canal, and beauty spots within a short car ride include the Middlewood Way, White Nancy (hilltop monument), and Tegg's Nose (a former quarry with great views).
- Further afield are such delights as: Buxton, Leek, Peak Caverns, Pennine Way and Dove Dale to name but a few.
- Significant Visitor Attractions are within a few miles: Jodrell Bank radio Telescope; The black-and-white Cheshire houses of Gawsworth Hall and Little Moreton Hall; Capesthorne Hall; Tatton Park, house, deer park, farm, and gardens; Old Trafford; Alton Towers; and probably the best stately home in England, Chatsworth House.
- We are within easy reach of the motorway network – the M6, M60 (Manchester Ring Road), M62 and M56 all being nearby.
- Trains from Macclesfield run direct to London in under 2 hours, stopping only at Stoke-on-Trent.
- For international travel, Manchester Airport is 12 miles away.

FINANCE

A copy of the most recent Annual Report is to be found attached.

We have a very busy fund raising programme, monthly giving envelopes and Gift Aid envelopes to help keep sufficient funds coming in. We are just about breaking even but it is a constant battle.

There was a Friends of Gawsworth Church (St James the Great) charity set up some years ago which also fund raises in order to help pay for significant repairs and regeneration of the Church, Church Hall and Churchyard. We would not be able to manage without their help.

Signed on behalf of Gawsworth St. James P.C.C.