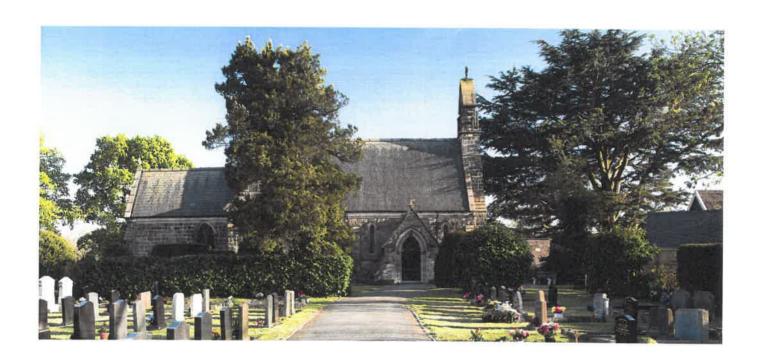
# The United Benefice of



Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon

and St. Leonard's Warmingham



# Parish Profile 2020

St. Peter's, Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon Middlewich Road, Minshull Vernon, Crewe CW1 4RD

https://www.stpeters-leighton.org.uk/



# St. Peter's, Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon

### Introduction

St. Peter's Church is situated to the north-west of Crewe on Middlewich Road, Minshull Vernon, Cheshire, one mile from Leighton Hospital. It is an active Anglican parish church in the deanery of Nantwich, the archdeaconry of Macclesfield, and the diocese of Chester. Its benefice is combined with that of St. Leonard, Warmingham.

Most services are conducted by the Vicar. We also have help from the Reader shared with St. Leonard's. In recent times our local ordinand in training has taken regular services.

St. Peter's is a delightful country church set in the glorious Cheshire countryside. The church was consecrated on 12th December 1849 and both church and churchyard are very pleasing to the eye.

The church, built in Gothic style, is a Grade II listed building. It consists of a north porch, nave, chancel and priest's vestry. An extension general purpose room was added in 1966. The pews original. Stained glass are windows have been fitted over the years in memory of loved ones. All are of the Victorian period.

The church building is in a good state of repair. The roof was replaced in 2004.

There have been significant upgrades in lighting, heating and décor, and the general purpose room has undergone a total face-lift (and was



re-dedicated by Bishop Peter in 2016 on the fiftieth Anniversary of its construction). The organ is being overhauled in the Autumn of 2020 (cost of £14,000).

The church has a warmth and intimacy along with a faithful congregation with a friendly atmosphere who worship in a central Anglican tradition.

We are inclusive and accessible, with up-to-date facilities for disabled people, a loop for the hard of hearing, toilets and baby-changing facilities (in the hall). We also have plenty of car-parking.

The new graveyard was consecrated in 2018 and has capacity for the foreseeable future with further land available which could be consecrated.

This was a huge project requiring reordering of access for the former vicarage, major landscaping, obtaining planning consents, etc.

The intention is that this beautiful park-like area should be as much for the living as the dead (wild flower area, pond, etc).

There has been a plan to reveal a section of the Roman Road which runs through part of the extension.



The church originally served a rural population. A great deal of new housing has been built in the parish with more planned for the future.

Nowadays the parish population is predominantly urban, though we retain significant rural links which are cherished by all. The parish serves as a meeting point for town and country.

The Parish has worked closely with the local Methodist Church (on Bradfield Road). We have shared the cost of an Outreach Worker based on their premises, in the belief that their location has local strategic advantages. (We also have been part of the Methodist Lent lunches).

We have a friendly relationship with the local URC Chapel.

The Parish has also contributed significantly to the cost of a Community Development Officer across parishes in the central part of Crewe.

We raise money for Christian Aid, Mission to Seafarers, The Children's Society, the County Agricultural Chaplaincy. We have responded to local and international relief appeals.

# Our Existing Structure and Vision for the future

St. Peter's holds a central Anglican tradition. Our vision is to use our tradition and resources to grow Christ's Kingdom in this place. Our church attendance figures are but one measure of what we seek to achieve. Our three services on most Sundays offer a variety of worship styles to suit a variety of tastes.

Electoral Roll: 131

Usual Sunday attendance: Sixty-six (sixteen years of age and over) across three services.

### **Our Parish**

The parish of Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon comprises a varied mix of residential dwellings, mainly on modern estates, and a dwindling agricultural community. Population 6660 (according to the 2011 Census – now much increased).

There are several local shops and two public houses. There is a large thriving primary school (see page 11), a major District Hospital (see page 11) and a popular Garden Centre.

# **Church Sunday Services**

Before the vacancy the following was the pattern of services:

### 9.00am Holy Communion

Said service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer (except on the last Sunday of the month when the incumbent takes said Holy Communion at 9.00am at St. Leonard's, Warmingham).

### 10.30am Sunday School

Held in the Community Hall on 2nd and 4th Sundays

# 10.45am Family Service 1st Sunday of each month Family Communion 2nd, 4th and 5th

This is our main Sunday service which attracts the largest congregation of about thirty-five worshippers. On the third Sunday of the month this service is sometimes a lay-led, non-Eucharistic service of the word. (Incumbent takes Holy Communion service at St. Leonard's along with a baptism during the service if required).

(Tea and coffee served on 1st and 3rd Sundays after the 10.45am service, also on special occasions)



A recent Sunday morning service in the sunshine

### 7.00pm Evensong

Sung Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer. On the last Sunday of the month this is followed by a short service of Holy Communion.

Average attendance fifteen.

Maisie
A regular at
Evensong



### **Occasional Services**

We have approximately forty baptisms a year (mostly on a Sunday afternoon), about ten weddings a year and eight funerals. All these services provide vital links to the people of the parish.

The church worship tradition is considered central. Hymns Old and New is the hymn book used. The customary vesture for clergy is alb and stole for the Eucharist, and choir dress on other occasions. Plough service, Remembrance of Lost Loved Ones, Sea Sunday and Rogation are some of the regular special services which have been held in recent years as well as a special service for those who have lost babies which is held in conjunction with Leighton Hospital which is within the bounds of the parish.

There have been occasional `Songs of Praise', `St. Peter's Got Talent', World Mental Health Day, Flower Festival and special Dedication Services. We usually have held a bi-annual Confirmation Service.

The worship of the church is greatly enhanced by the dedicated church choir and organist. Weekly practices are the norm. Anthems are part of the choir's repertoire with such favourites as `Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring', `The Holy City' and `The Hallelujah Chorus'. While the organ provides the usual accompaniment, we occasionally sing to wind instruments or a guitar.

# A typical year in the life of St. Peter's (services and associated social events)

January Burns Night Supper after 6pm Evensong in the Hall

February Plough Service followed by Supper in the Hall

March Lent Lunches start weekly at Coppenhall Methodist

Church

April Easter, drawing, painting and colouring competition

Easter Egg Hunt followed by refreshments in the Hall Charity Fayre / Coffee Morning at Nantwich Parish Hall

Remembrance Service for Lost Loved Ones in the Churchyard followed by refreshments in the Hall

May Warmingham Wakes, St Leonard's

June Pet Service at St. Leonard's

Vintage Tea Party / Summer Concert

Confirmation Service at St. Peter's followed by

refreshments

August Re-charge batteries!

September Harvest Service followed by supper in the hall

October Charity Fayre / Coffee Morning at Nantwich Parish Hall

November Remembrance Service at Bradfield Green

Remembrance Service for Lost Loved Ones

followed by refreshments in the Hall

Christmas Flower Demonstration by Ann Gater

(mulled wine/mince pies)

December Visit by St Nicholas to the Church / Hall with collection of

presents for The Salvation Army. Invite Mablins Lane

School

**Brass Band Concert** 

Three Christingle Services

Nine Lessons and Carols (sherry/shortbread)



This year we were due to hold a Flower Festival and Art Exhibition which we try to hold every five or six years.



## **Church Magazine**

#### **Church Window**

There is a joint magazine produced for the two parishes of the United Benefice. This is edited and printed in-house (copies produced approx. three hundred and eighty per month). The magazine is distributed free. Together with the website, it is a significant part of the communication and outreach of the Parish. It is highly regarded.



### **Financial Statement**

From 31st December 2019 year end accounts, not yet approved by APCM.

Total income for the year of £60,000 per annum, which includes some rental income from a small property portfolio.

Expenses for the year of £90,000, which includes £14,000 donated to support many external organisations like the Youth Worker for the Methodists, the Community Development Officer based at St. Andrew's, and the Wishing Well `Stay and Play' for Parents and Tots, as well as supporting our sister church, St. Leonard's Warmingham.

Any shortfall for the year is supplemented from social events, like the Burn's Night Supper, Flower Festivals and investment income thanks to a recent generous legacy.

Our Parish share is £47,000, with insurance at £1,500 per year and heating and lighting at £2,200 per year.

We also have £20,000 "invested" in two Credit Unions.

# St. Peter's Community Hall



St. Peter's has a modern, well appointed community hall (built 2010) within the Church precincts which is well used by outside groups and generates an income through bookings. A number of the bookings come from baptism and birthday parties. It is seen as a major point of contact with the community. For example, we sponsor a 'Stay and Play' session every week, we allow free use by the (Civil) Parish Council. The hall has been in regular use by music groups, dance groups, charitable groups and art groups.

The hall is reserved for the church to use on a Sunday morning for tea/coffee/fellowship plus social events throughout the year.

The hall has a seating capacity of about sixty, but over a hundred if people are standing.





There is ample car parking space available for baptisms, funerals, weddings and social events.

The hall is administered by a committee and managed by a team on a day-to-day basis. It has financial reserves of over £20,000.

There is an aim to put this towards an extension to the hall.

# The Vicarage



We have a large modern vicarage house (built 1970) with extensive gardens situated behind the community hall. The house is ideally suited for a growing family.

# **Sunday School**

Sunday school is normally held in the community hall on the second and fourth Sundays of the month during term time. Numbers have dwindled in recent years. The very successful "Saturday Church" (a version of Messy Church) in the parish of Warmingham has been considered in the past as a model for moving forward.



# Safeguarding

This year at St. Peter's we have continued with safeguarding principles and measures to promote and build a good safeguarding practice.

It was identified twelve months ago that the safeguarding officer should attend each APCM and every PCC meeting where possible. At each PCC meeting safeguarding has become a formal item on the agenda.

The PCC has used this time to raise any issues regarding general safeguarding within our church.

At each meeting the Safeguarding Officer has used the opportunity to raise awareness of many specific areas and knowledge of safeguarding eg. what is abuse and neglect of children? What is abuse of vulnerable adults or the elderly?

There have been handouts for each member and the opportunity to discuss or ask questions.

We continually promote a safer culture and safeguarding practice at St. Peters Church.

Also this year we have been required by the national church headquarters to check through our records of many years for any past incidents from a safeguarding point of view. A notice was placed in the church magazine regarding this.

A declaration and Report was signed by the appropriate church persons and forwarded to the church national headquarters.

Safeguarding is part of our core faith and an integral feature of Christian life in our church.

## **Leighton Hospital**

Leighton Hospital, a major district hospital, is situated within the parish, a mile from the church. We have had very close links with the hospital. The incumbent has been a chaplain at the hospital available on a clergy rota within the deanery.

Beyond that, we hold an annual service in church for babies lost in the hospital, in the past we have held an annual service for lost loved ones in ICU, we have participated in events in the hospital chapel, and in the recent past ran a Listening course for interested parties in the hospital.

### **Mablins Lane School**

A large community Primary School of over five hundred pupils, (rated "Good" by OFSTED) is situated centrally within the parish a mile and a half from the church. We have enjoyed outstanding links with the school. Their choir has sung in church on many occasions, for example. The vicar has taken weekly Assemblies in the school, has been a long-term School Governor, and has participated in very many school events. The potential for fulfilling the mission of the church in the broadest sense in the school is considerable.

### We seek:

- A prayerful priest from the central tradition of the church, faithful in the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament in its various forms, who lovingly supports the priestly ministry of the whole People of God, regardless of age, colour, gender or sexual orientation.
- A strong collaborative leader and team player with vision, empathy and humour. We hope that they would be committed to developing

lay ministry in all its forms. We would be glad of a priest who would foster links and partnerships with local community organisations.

- An excellent communicator, preacher and teacher with sound administrative skills, who will develop pastoral ministry in conjunction with the laity.
- A determination to grow the church in numbers, mission and spirituality.
- Keen to involve Christians of all traditions and to foster the links with other traditions in the area.
- Keen to build up a strong spiritual life for all, especially young people, and able and willing to be actively involved in the local primary school.
- Ecumenically minded, sympathetic to rural affairs.

