

# ST LUKE'S CHURCH, GOOSTREY PARISH PROFILE



## Our Mission Statement

**To be a welcoming witness to the love of God in our community:  
Prayer + Care 4 our Community. Our door is always open.**

## OUR VISION

St Luke's Church aims to be at the heart of our village community, inspiring people of all ages to know Christ better through stimulating worship, engagement with the wider community, and pastoral support for all. To this end -

- We hold a 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday informal service to meet the needs of young people and families.
- We use non-Eucharistic services to be more accessible to all twice a month.
- We use the church for events for the whole village e.g., Concerts, Festivals and Special Services.
- We have a dedicated Pastoral Care Team.
- We have a Parish Magazine, Facebook page and are working towards improving the Website to communicate with the local community.



[Brass Band Concert](#)

## THE PARISH

Goostrey is a delightful village situated in central Cheshire, almost in the shadow of the Jodrell Bank telescope world heritage site, which is in the parish.

There are excellent road links to major conurbations, a village station within walking distance giving rail links to Manchester and Crewe, a daily local bus service and easy access to Manchester Airport.

There is a "good" (OFSTED) primary school in the village and a "good" (OFSTED) secondary school in Holmes Chapel, a short bus ride away. The village primary school has 207 children on its roll, with 75 – 80% living in Goostrey, and there is an active pre-school meeting daily. A number of children also attend private schools in the area.

In addition, there are over 30 different clubs and societies to meet all interests.

There are over 2,000 people over 18 living in the village, mainly professional and semi-professional. The population is largely middle aged, retired and young families. The housing is approximately 94% privately owned; 5% Housing Association; 1% privately rented. There are no significant social problems in the village.

Village sports facilities and several uniformed organisations exist locally, making Goostrey a great place for young families. A new scout hut has been built with funds mainly being raised within the village. The village sports ground, with multi sporting facilities, was also funded by the village. More information on the village can be found on

[www.goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)



[St Luke's in Winter](#)

The village has a ten-day annual Arts Festival - Goosfest - which is increasingly successful, and also has visits from the Rural Touring Theatre. More information may be found on [www.goosfest.com](http://www.goosfest.com)

## THE CHURCH

St Luke's occupies a prominent position in the village and the present brick-built building dates from 1792. It is Grade 2\* listed.

The interior of the Church was last re-ordered in 2013, with the choir pews being replaced by chairs thus making the chancel a more flexible area. Two rows of pews were removed from the back of the building making more room for children's activities during the services and space for post-service refreshments.

The old pipe organ was removed in 2008 and replaced with a digital 3 manual Makin organ, at a cost of £25,000 which was raised in nine months from the local community.

In 2021 a state-of-the-art audio-visual system was installed consisting of a digital projector, retractable electric screen and a pan tilt zoom camera for streaming.

We have plans to extend the building to incorporate a new choir vestry/meeting room, small kitchen and improved toilet facilities. We await planning approval.

The clock in the tower has automated winding and is auto-regulated for timekeeping, the cost being covered by a donation.

**The Churchyard** surrounding the Church is full but not closed and is maintained by our own contractor. The current burial ground, across the road, is maintained by the Parish Council but owned by St Luke's. Ashes are interred alongside the path running through the burial ground. Additional adjacent land, previously owned by the Parish Council, has recently been transferred to



St Luke's and was consecrated by the Bishop earlier this year, which will give space for about 40 burials in the future.

## CHURCH SERVICES

### Sunday Worship

8.00am Each week - Holy Communion – BCP

10.00am **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>** Sunday - Parish Communion (Common Worship)

10.00am **2<sup>nd</sup>** Sunday – Worship for the Whole Family of God

10.00am **4<sup>th</sup>** Sunday – Morning Prayer and Praise

Attendance at 8.00am is 6-14 people, mostly over the age of 60.

10.00am **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>** Sunday is 28-55, predominately but not exclusively aged 50+.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Sunday is 28-55 of all ages, including children

**4<sup>th</sup>** Sunday is 28-55. Again, older but we are working towards involving younger people in the service.

**Mid-Week** (Common Worship) at 9.30am on Wednesday attracts a small but regular group of worshippers.

The average number of communicants, on a normal Sunday, post Covid-19 Pandemic, is 40 (28-55), however in previous years the number attending and receiving communion was in the region of 60-70. Several members of our congregation have still not returned to regular worship. Members of the laity conduct Intercessions and read lessons and we have a number of people who administer the chalice.

We hold an annual Plough Service on one of our local farms each January, a service for Education Sunday in our Village Hall, a service of Pentecost Praise, a Goostrey Rose Day Service and an annual Service of Remembrance, together with the local Royal British Legion, on Remembrance Sunday, which the village uniformed organizations attend. These are Ecumenical Services with our local Methodist Church. Attendance at these services and others within St Luke's, such as Festivals, Mothering Sunday and Christmas is greatly increased.



[Remembrance Sunday](#)

We hold a Christingle Service at 4.00pm on a Sunday during December, a Crib Service at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve followed by Midnight Communion at 11.30pm - all very well attended. On Christmas morning there is BCP Communion at 8.00am and Family Communion at 10.00am.



### Christmas Nativity

Refreshments were served at the back of Church following the 10.00am Service each Sunday which created a social conclusion to the worship experience. Unfortunately, this was suspended during the Covid-19 Pandemic, but it has been resumed for some special services.

Our churchmanship is central.

The **bell ringers** usually ring before the morning services each Sunday, for weddings, if requested, and for other special services/occasions during the year. Due to dwindling numbers, it is hoped that more people can be recruited to carry out this important part of our Church life.

The **choir** practices regularly and robes for the 10.00am services and the hymn book we use is "Hymns Old and New". We also incorporate other modern music in our services. We have two organists who play for the 10.00am services in turn.

There are 122 names on the **Church Electoral Roll** with about 5% of those living outside the parish.

Our website is currently being upgraded, but more information about St Luke's may be found on [www.stlukesgoostrey.org.uk](http://www.stlukesgoostrey.org.uk)

### **Young People's Groups**

We provide informal children's activities during the 10.00am services to encourage families to attend. We hold Children's Workshops on Good Friday morning and at Harvest and just before Christmas when about 30 children attend.



### Noah's Ark

## Occasional Offices during 2021

Baptisms – 14

Weddings – 4

Funerals in Church – 31 (including burial of ashes)

Funerals In Crematoria – 5

The last Confirmation Service was in September 2021.

The church has four sets of chasubles and stoles relating to the season of the church for use at Festivals. We also have Altar frontals/Communion linen and banners for different seasons.

## ACCOMMODATION

The current Vicarage is a large four-bedroomed house in the centre of the village.

## THE PARISH TEAM

Incumbent	Vacant
Churchwardens	Mr Andy Gill, 30, Brooklands Drive, Goostrey, CW4 8JB Tel: 01477 537284 Mr Martin Corbishley, 8, Lingmell Gardens, Holmes Chapel, CW4 7LH Tel: 01477 534392
Treasurer	Mr John Harris
PCC Secretary	Mrs Liz Foster Clark

## ST LUKE'S LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM

In the mid 1990's we introduced a Local Ministry Team with five sub-groups: Worship and Learning (WaLT); Outreach; Pastoral Care (PasCa); Events and Fundraising and Fabric. Each group meets



[Mothering Sunday](#)



regularly to discuss items needing attention and reports to the PCC who discuss and ratify, if agreed. They also report on actions taken.

Team Members are recruited from the PCC, with others from within the congregation invited to join. St Luke's has continued ministering through three Interregnums in the past 25 years, brought about by retirements and ill health, mainly because the LMT system has been in place with shared responsibility.

## FINANCES

St Luke's has a planned giving scheme and a Covenant Officer. Fundraising activities over the past two years have been greatly reduced due to the Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions, however we have been able to hold a Harvest lunch, Christmas Fair and Brass Band Concert. We are gearing up to increase our fundraising and have planned a 'Goosfest' Organ Recital and Flower event in October this year. PCC income (unrestricted) in 2021 was £78,112. Planned Regular Giving to the church during 2021 amounted to £33,115 and represented 42% of the total unrestricted income for the year. The total Parish spend in 2021 was £72,225, which included the Diocesan Parish Share of £40,554. This payment equated to 50% of the Share for a full-time priest, but loaded at 125%.



### [Palm Sunday Walk of Witness](#)

As with many Church of England Churches, St Luke's struggles to balance the finances. This is due mainly to the rising average age of the congregation, with few younger people and families taking their place. The Financial Statement for 2021 is attached, together with a comparison of Income and Expenditure over the past 16 years.

The last **Quinquennial** was in 2021 and the urgent work identified is being dealt with on an ongoing basis, including major repair works to the Churchyard retaining walls.

We are awaiting planning permission for further re-ordering the back of the Church building to create new toilet facilities and a small kitchen and a new Choir Vestry/Meeting Room. There is a dedicated fund of £38,000 towards this.

## MISSION LINKS

St Luke's donates 5% of giving and events income to charities, local, national and in the developing world.

Details of donations are in the financial accounts. Our Harvest Project, which is held jointly with the local Methodists each year, supports the developing world.

In addition, we have a link with the Asha Project, based in Stoke, which is a Charity formed in 2005 to help men, women and children seeking refuge from persecution. They actively promote social inclusion for asylum seekers and refugees.

We serve a lunch on every Saturday during Lent, together with the local Methodist Church and the proceeds are donated to charity.

St Luke's also collects donations for the Food Bank in Congleton

## OUTREACH IN THE VILLAGE

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Outreach has been restricted, however the previous incumbent visited and ministered to many people on a one-to-one basis. We currently have a Drop-in Group for older people which meets on the first Thursday of each month for coffee and a chat or an outing. St Luke's Friends meet every month to discuss topical spiritual issues. Mothers Space meets on the third Friday of each month, however opportunities for study groups and courses have been limited over the past two years. There is also potential for building on relationships with baptism families in the future.



[Preparing St Luke's Easter Cross](#)





[Goostrey Rose Queen laying a wreath at the Cenotaph](#)

## **We acknowledge that there are several challenges facing our Church**

- To improve the current inadequate facilities, to enhance the Church usage that will benefit St Luke's and Goostrey in the future.
- To increase and grow our 50-year-old and younger congregation, especially young families.
- Existing and new worshippers to be challenged to give realistic support to the Church structure, both financially and in practical ways.
- To expand and develop the musical and choral experience in worship.
- To expand engagement within the village.
- To upgrade safeguarding.

## **Our new Vicar**

### **We are looking for someone who is:**

#### **Worship**

- A priest with vision.
- A priest willing to lead a variety of styles of worship that appeal to all ages.
- A prayerful person who will help us to grow spiritually.

#### **Mission**

- A good leader, willing to listen, communicate and delegate.
- Keen to forge links with the local schools and organizations. Some experience and/or skill in an area such as music or drama would be particularly valuable.
- Keen to promote and encourage the upgrading of safeguarding in the Church.
- Able to identify gifts in lay people and willingness to support them in their ministries.
- IT literate and willing to use modern technology, such as holding Zoom meetings and services when required and using the audio-visual system recently installed in the Church.

#### **Personality**

- Has a warm personality and who is at ease and can engage with people of all ages.
- Has a good sense of humour, someone who will be a lively and visible presence in the village and wider community.
- Sociable and hospitable in the use of the Church to enhance the social life of the Church and Parish.
- Has good financial awareness to maintain our future sustainability.

### **In return, we offer you...**

- **A strong Local Ministry Team.**
- **A welcoming and loyal congregation.**
- **A caring Parish that looks after the wellbeing of the Incumbent.**
- **An active PCC open to new ideas, such as Living in Love and Faith.**
- **A wonderful place to live and make new friends.**
- **All in all, a delightful village!**

Encl.  
Financial Statement