

Endon, St Luke's Church

Parish Profile



Introduction

Welcome to our parish profile. We hope that we have included all the information you need to consider applying for the post of incumbent and we look forward to hearing from you.

Challenges and Opportunities

Our previous incumbent retired at the beginning of July 2020 amid the Covid pandemic and these two events have been our greatest challenges. Churches were closed and we had no formal leadership. Although the Covid emergency has now passed there have been some understandable changes to our parish life. We were able to record services for a time but did not have the capacity to continue this although 'Connections' ran via Zoom each Sunday. For a long time, we were unable to sit together, sing together or enjoy social interaction. Some of our congregation have never been able to return to physical worship due to deterioration in their health. Only now are we fully up and running as we were before the pandemic. We are an aging congregation at the 9.15 service and have the challenge of translating the attendance of families at Connections to becoming part of the main church. Also, during Covid times giving to the church declined and has not fully recovered; we are also affected by energy price rises and maintenance costs. The quinquennial Inspection is overdue.

Despite these challenges we have many opportunities ahead of us. The church's relationship with St Luke's CE Primary Academy is extremely close and productive but there is always room for further links. 'Connections' Family Church runs weekly in the school hall and was set up to attract children and their families and is currently run by a lay team; this would be ripe for further innovation. The pastoral team visit people in their own homes or in a care setting and also organises activities such as walks which attract non church members; we would like to reach out more into the community. We have good links with the Methodist Church in Endon, sharing weekly midweek services.



1. Composite photo of church activities
2. Church building photo
3. List of Contents
 - Letter from Bishop of Lichfield
 - Introduction
 - Challenges and opportunities
 - Person Specification/ key tasks
 - What we offer
 - Comments from the congregation
 - The Parish
 - The Deanery
 - Services and Worship
 - Our discipleship
 - Church buildings
 - The Vicarage
 - St. Luke's CE Academy
 - Local area (Photos) eg Well, village,
 - Map/s (Photo)
 - Accounts

Flower & Craft Club



Some folk come to the group and knit squares. These are collected and taken to Biddulph Methodist Church where they are made into blankets and taken to a women's refuge centre in Calais.

The Flower & Craft Club meets monthly in the chapter house and is open to anyone who would like to arrange flowers or simply have a chat and a cuppa.

The members often create floral displays for weddings, funerals, Endon Well Dressing and other special services. We have two local floral artists who give demonstrations along with helpful, friendly encouragement.



Our Pastoral Team



Members of the Pastoral Team not only keep in touch with and visit with those no longer able to attend church services but organise walks and monthly short services at the local care home, Hillswood Lodge.

The walks are almost always followed by a cup of tea and a light lunch.

A telephone prayer chain ensures prayer needs are relayed to members.

Our Parochial Church Council

PCC members meet in the chapter house every two months.



Ecumenical Services of Holy Communion

are held every Wednesday morning alternating between St Luke's chapter house and the Methodist Church.



Lent Lunch

On Ash Wednesday a Lent Lunch is provided consisting of soup, a roll and fruit followed by cheese and biscuits.

Endon Well Dressing



Each year at the end of May (with the exception of the COVID pandemic) the church hosts a special service of thanksgiving for Endon Well which didn't dry up during a severe drought in the 1840s. The queens, retinues and maypole dancers attend the service where the address is given by a guest speaker. After the service all process down to the well where the water is blessed.



Each year at the well dressing Endon Community Choir treats us to a concert in church.

In 2023 as well as a flower festival we held a photography competition and also displayed paintings by local schoolchildren all on the theme of Fire, Water, Earth and Air.



Hallowe'en Greet 'n' Treat

On the evening of October 31st a group of volunteers go into the streets distributing goodie bags to any children and young people who are out and about.

Each bag contains a gospel message and some sweets. They are invited back to the chapter house for cocoa and marshmallows!



Remembrance



In 2018 the ladies of the church and others created this wonderful carpet of crocheted poppies to commemorate those who lost their lives during the world wars.

A community service is held in church on Remembrance Sunday each year followed by prayers at the war memorial in the churchyard.



Connections



'Connections' is an informal family-friendly service held in St Luke's school hall each Sunday. It starts at 11.0am and lasts about 40 minutes followed by refreshments and games for the children. There is a food bank collection every month.

COVID and how St Luke's kept going...

Of course, as the pandemic spread, churches all over the country had to close their doors for several months from mid-March 2020. For a time services were recorded and shown on You-Tube. PCC meetings were held on Zoom which was quite a novelty for most of us. However, later in the year when a maximum of 30 in the congregation were permitted, St Luke's re-opened with social distancing, antiseptic wipes and face masks.

Unwilling to miss holding a Carol Service at Christmas, members of the PCC decided to hold an outdoor service. Loud speakers were set up and a guest vocalist invited to lead the singing. Word had got around the village and we were delighted with the response when over 50 folk turned out to enjoy singing carols and listening to bible readings.

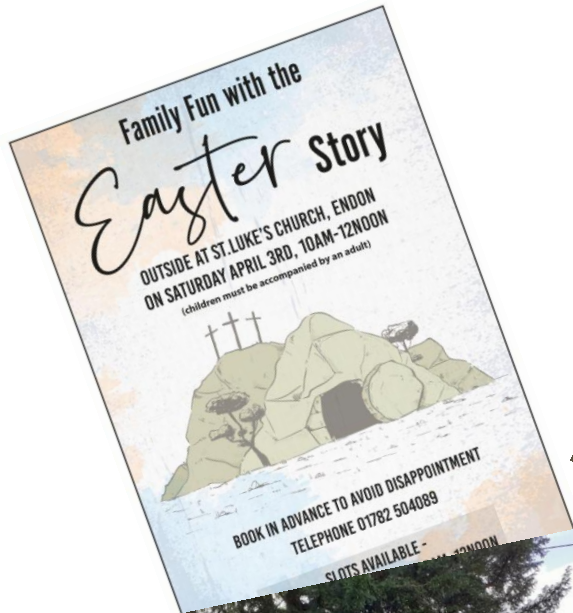
People clearly wanted to celebrate together after the months of isolation. It was cold too but everyone wrapped up and sensibly dotted themselves around the churchyard for a most memorable December evening.



A pandemic Easter...

Despite having no formal leadership since July 2020 St Luke's has held services every week even through the recent pandemic due to the sterling efforts of our lay reader, church warden, visiting clergy and a truly amazing support team of volunteers.

An outdoor Easter Story experience was organised in 2021 and attended by about 30 families, socially distanced due to COVID restrictions.



Person specification / Key Tasks

We are praying for a vicar to advance the Kingdom of God in Endon through leadership, collaboration and example; someone who will lead us in developing and maintaining our relationships. We are looking for someone who: -

- Has a secure, strong Christian faith and confidence to be a strong leader.
- Seeks direction from God in his/her leadership of the people.
- Knows the Scriptures and has the ability to provide inspiring sermons.
- Recognises and encourages the need for all believers to be involved in Christian ministry.
- Is a 'people person' with a sense of humour with good listening and communication skills.
- Is keen to work with children and families and increase their number in our church.
- Is an effective delegator and manager of his/her time.
- Is able to provide spiritual support and Christian guidance.
- Will explore and develop innovative ways of delivering the Christian message.
- Will develop discipleship through prayer and small groups including Alpha courses.
- Will maintain and extend existing links with our school and the local Methodist church.

What We Offer

We can offer a committed community of worshippers who have kept the church thriving during a long interregnum plus:

- Supportive and active PCC
- Two church wardens one of whom is a Licensed reader and Funeral Minister
- Two retired clergy with PTO
- Lay worship team at Connections
- Organist/keyboard player
- Projector and screen
- Fortnightly small group meeting
- Prayer breakfasts
- Welcomers, readers, tea makers, brass cleaners, gardeners etc
- Pastoral Team which visits people both in their own homes and in care settings and takes part in services at a local care home. The team also organises local walks, coffees and lunches to which all members of the community are welcome.
- Excellent links with St. Luke's CE Primary Academy
- Flower Club which meets monthly in church
- Fund raising team.
- Endon Art Group which meets monthly in church

Comments from the Congregation

My church is a constant blessing to me.

I always love coming to Connections.

When my husband died I felt wrapped in love and kindness.

The hands of friendship were a great support when I moved at to the area at a difficult time in my life.

St. Luke's has a lovely warm welcoming atmosphere.

There is always something for the children to do at Connections.

Our Benefice

St Luke's, Endon is a medium sized parish in the Deanery of Leek, in the Diocese of Lichfield. The church belongs to a 'middle of the road tradition' with traditional services of Holy Communion and Morning Worship at 9.15 am alongside a more informal all age worship service every Sunday morning in the school hall at 11 am. We are a friendly and welcoming church and there are about 60 currently on the Electoral Roll. There has been an incumbent in Endon more or less continuously since the church was founded in 1730. The last vicar retired in 2020 just as Covid was in full swing.

Leek Deanery

The deanery has undergone the 'Shaping for Mission' process in recent times and new groupings of churches have been arranged. St Luke's continues to be connected with St Chad's, Bagnall but a new member of the group suggested is St Michael's, Horton. Discussions are ongoing.

Services and Worship

Day	Time	Service	Led by
1 st and 3 rd Sunday	9.1 5am	Holy Communion	Retired Clergy
2 nd , 4 th and 5 th Sunday	9.15 am	Morning Worship	Wardens/ Lay Reader
Each Sunday	11am	Connections Family Church	Lay Worship Team
Each Wednesday	9.15 am	Ecumenical Holy Communion	Methodist Minister or Retired Minister

We have an organist to accompany hymn singing in church either using the pipe organ or keyboard. In the event of the organist being unavailable we have a sound system that plays CDs. We have a projector, screen and laptop.

Special Services

Year	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals	Confirmations
2020				
2021				
2022				

Baptisms usually take place on Sunday afternoons, but Services of Thanksgiving can take place during the 11 am service in the school.

We host Christingle, Harvest and Nativity services for the school; Remembrance Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Toy Services, Well Dressing, Foodbank Sundays etc take place throughout the year.

Our Discipleship

Prior to the Covid emergency we had two Home Groups running and we continued to meet via Zoom for many months. However, we now have one group that meets fortnightly. We have had some Saturday prayer meetings to pray for our church and its future and it is planned to make this a monthly Prayer Breakfast. In the past Alpha and Start courses have been run but are not currently planned. There is an annual Lent course jointly run with the Methodist Church. At Halloween church members go out into the community and distribute Bags of Hope to local young people plus invitations to visit the church for hot chocolate and biscuits.

Church Buildings and Grounds

St Luke's stands on the brow of a steep hill overlooking Endon village. Built around 1730, before The Reformation, the bell tower is the original part of the building. Georgian and Victorian additions enlarged the church to seat up to 160 people. The building houses some valuable altar cloths embroidered by the Leek Embroiderers and the beautiful East Window was designed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones. The building is cleaned regularly by paid help and volunteers. In the early 1980s an octagonal chapter house was built and later new toilets. The chapter house is used for meetings of all kinds, including the Flower Club, and for serving tea and coffee after services.

The church is surrounded by a lawned churchyard which is now closed for burials and the parish cemetery is situated to the rear of the church. Both areas are maintained by the District Council.

There is a large car park below the church and disabled parking outside the church.

Our Quinquennial Inspection is overdue having been delayed by Covid restrictions and the need to find a new architect to undertake the inspection. New, more economical, lighting has been installed which makes the church brighter and more environmentally friendly.

The Village Hall is located in the village but is too far away to be of practical regular use. Now known as Endon Village Hall it is run by a Management Committee, but we have 12 free sessions each year which are often used for fund raising events such as gin tasting evenings and Christmas Wreath making workshops.

Communications: Newsletter, Facebook and Website

There is a monthly newsletter which includes information about church and community activities and events. This can be accessed either by hard copy, email or via St Luke's website. There is a church Facebook page which has new posts uploaded daily. There are WhatsApp groups for PCC members and the 'Connected' group keeps people in touch with happenings at Connections and is a place where prayer can be requested. There is a Prayer Chain which is activated by a church member and prayer requests are passed along the chain.

The Vicarage

St Luke's Vicarage is situated in a private cul-de-sac off the main A53 in the centre of Endon. 'The Close' is a quiet road but is within easy walking distance of the church, schools, shops and other amenities.

The red brick and tile detached house has 4/5 bedrooms, gas central heating and generally follows the conventional layout of a mid-1970s vicarage set in its own gardens with a large driveway.

The front door leads into a spacious vestibule off which is a study to the right. The study window overlooks the driveway and there is a small walk-in storeroom. The vestibule gives

access to the main hall off which is the kitchen, dining room, lounge and separate toilet and cloakroom.

The lounge has a wood block floor, a stone and tile fireplace and windows looking out over the garden. The spacious dining room leads through to a large fully fitted kitchen with a walk-in pantry. Access to the back door is via a laundry with spaces for washer and dryer.

At the back of the property is a small courtyard with a gate leading through to the main drive and a side door to the single garage.

The stairs from the hall lead to the balustrade landing off which there are four bedrooms, a small box room and a walk-in airing cupboard. One of the bedrooms has a wash basin and built-in wardrobes. Natural daylight is provided by a large window at the end of the landing. Access to the loft space is via a folding ladder concealed in the ceiling.

All windows have locks and the building is fully alarmed.

The grounds have mature gardens and lawns. There is room on the driveway to park a caravan or motorhome and several vehicles. There is a flagged walkway around the entire property.

Most rooms have fitted carpets and there are curtains in some of the rooms and the house has been kept in a good state of repair.

St Luke's CE Academy

St Luke's CE Academy is a loving family that has a heart to be at the centre of the community. Our pupils learn to be positive change makers looking to our own and others' needs. This is underpinned by a holistic approach to life with the golden thread of our Christian values.



St Luke's CE Academy is part of the Staffordshire University Multi Academy Trust and is located on the main A53 in the village of Endon. It was inspected by OFSTED in March 2023 and retained its 'Good' rating. However, there was enough evidence collected to suggest that a grading of 'Outstanding' would be given in a graded inspection. We are therefore waiting for a graded inspection to confirm the 'Outstanding' rating. Our SIAMs inspection grading was 'Excellent' at our most recent inspection. We have a good relationship with our Christian Distinctiveness

adviser. Our Chair of Governors' is one of two Foundation Governors currently in place and a new incumbent would be expected to join the governing body. Our headteacher has been at the school for three years and is looking forward to working with a new incumbent.

'As a school we would absolutely love to welcome a new minister and their family fully into our wonderful school. We highly value the strong links with the church, which are due to the committed volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure that these links have grown from strength to strength. These links and opportunities have included enabling visits each half term, conducting assemblies and arranging events for our children to be a part of.

We would also love for our new minister to work alongside us in our Christian vision.

Visitors to our school comment that there is a lovely 'feeling' when they enter our building, and we know that this is because of the lovely team and children that we have, who are guided by our Christian values and we are sure that our future minister will love the school and our community just as much as we all do!

Nicky Danylyk , Headteacher

Our Local Area

Endon is situated in the Staffordshire Moorlands between Stoke on Trent and the market town of Leek. There is a bus service between these towns and a railway station in Stoke on Trent. There are good road links to Manchester, Birmingham and the south of the country. For those who love outdoor activities Endon is within easy reach of the Peak District, Rudyard Lake and Tittesworth Reservoir and has great local walks along the Caldon Canal and through many local footpaths. Amenities in the area include two primary schools and a high school, a day nursery for pre-school children, a doctor's surgery, a dental practice, physiotherapist, tennis, cricket and boat clubs, a small general shop and news agents and a café selling oatcakes - a local delicacy! It is an area steeped in history and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The old village features 16th Century stone cottages by the ford and the well given to the village by the Heaton family in 1843. There are two pub restaurants in the village.

The Well Dressing Festival takes place each year in May and lasts for three days. The festival has just celebrated its 179th anniversary and attracts large numbers of visitors. The well in the village is dressed by local people and a queen and retinue is elected. The festival begins with a service in church led by the Vicar of St. Luke's which is followed by a parade to the Well Dressing Field. St. Luke's organises a Flower Festival and serves tea and homemade cakes in church; this year we added a photography competition and a children's art competition.

OUR LOCAL AREA MAP

The church* is at the top end of Church Lane off the A53 near The Plough pub restaurant. The vicarage is also off the A53 in The Close halfway between Hillswood Drive and Church Lane.



- Canal (thick line indicates towpath) with lock (arrow points uphill)
- Waymarked Footpaths from Deep Hayes Country Park, Consall Forge Nature Reserve and Froggall Wharf
- Staffordshire Way
- Other Public Footpaths
- Railway Line
- Point of Interest; Church; Canalside Pub
- Built-up area
- Other Pubs nearby
- Woodland
- WR Water+ Refuse } Canalside
- S Sanitary Station } Canalside

