The Parish of
St. Luke, Prittlewell

www.thestlukescentresouthend.org.uk

Parish Profile 2018
About St. Luke’s

A Message from the PCC

Ours is a parish of extremes. We have been blessed with a close and active community, an excellent church and centre, and a commitment to the mission of the Church. However we live in a parish with high levels of deprivation, with parishioners in need of spiritual healing, and with the responsibility to continue and build on the extensive work we already do.

We need an innovative, envisioned, motivated priest who will help us to complete our mission and to grow together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

If you have any questions or doubts about life at St Luke’s then please do get in touch. We would be happy to welcome you to our church, to show you the good work that we do, and to introduce you to the family that we hope you too will become a part of.

In the name of Christ,
St Luke’s PCC Committee

“Since walking through the doors at St Luke’s I have been joyfully overwhelmed by the sense of inclusion and encouragement that seems to be an integral part of the church’s culture here, regardless of our individual differences everyone is welcome! It is, I believe, a true living representation of a church built up by diverse gifts and talents who all look to Christ.”

– Liz, Church Warden

Our Identity

St Luke’s is a welcoming, diverse, and open-hearted church in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. We are evangelistic and inclusive - the phrase ‘All are welcome’ is a motto that we live by. Over the last decade we have grown both in numbers and in the type of ministries we undertake, becoming a large church family who actively seek to include God in all that we do. Every generation is represented among us and we are delighted to have a high number of children who attend and take part in church life alongside other parishioners of all ages. We are a growing church which actively engages young people, encourages the use of lay people in the development of the church, and has a clear mission and purpose to enhance the lives of all of our parishioners. On 21/02/15 the PCC passed the Resolution under the House of Bishops’ Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests. The Parish receives pastoral and sacramental ministry from the Bishop of Richborough and is supported by the Deanery of Southend & Diocese of Chelmsford.

Situated in a poor area of Southend, our community has nurtured individuals and families of all walks of life and has brought them closer to Christ. The church doors remain open throughout the week so that anyone can come into the safe place of St Luke’s and feel the warmth of the Holy Spirit.

St Luke’s is a petitioning parish in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England, affiliated with The Society of Bishops. We participate fully in the life of the deanery, and where possible the diocese, and would like our new parish priest to continue in that vein.
Our Need

We are looking for a parish priest who will lead with vision for a community that has the church as its beating heart, whilst building upon the significant valuable work that has been established for the benefit of all.

What we can offer:

- An engaged and supportive congregation who are willing to ‘muck in’
- A friendly and wholesome community of equals, eager to grow in faith together
- Wardens committed to continuing to help after your arrival
- A recently renovated church and newly built centre, both in constant use!
- A large vicarage with beautiful gardens which are well-maintained
- A wealth of outreach opportunities to spread the love of Christ
- A congregation who are committed to living for Christ every day and not just on Sundays
- A warm welcome to our open church family

Vision of the PCC

Our church was formed as a Mission Parish amongst the growing number of houses on the outskirts of Southend. We want to grow this sense of mission and not simply maintain what has been done in the past. The PCC is passionate to continue to grow the church and to continue to influence the health and wellbeing of the parish of St Luke. Particularly we want to continue growing as a ‘Family Church’, one for all ages and stages of life. Over the past decade we have transitioned from a church with an older congregation to one filled with families. The buildings and surrounding land allow us the freedom to hold social events and welcome our neighbours and we should continue in this work, expanding our presence in the community to be a beacon of light for all who need it.

St Luke’s future hopes are for a church which continues to thrive with strong, effective and united leadership seeking to love and serve one another by responding to the will of God. A church which continues with its clear mission of inclusion and outreach, a church open and active in delivering ministries that meet spiritual needs. And one which promotes positive well-being services within the church and centre. We want to grow and flourish, to get as many of our parishioners as possible to commit to church and to know and love our Saviour as we do. We are excited to meet the priest who will join us in this mission.

“Over the past decade we have transitioned from a church with an older congregation to one filled with young families.”
More specifically, in 5 years’ time the PCC wishes to have:

- Achieved continual spiritual growth in both worship and theological knowledge firmly grounded in the Anglo-Catholic faith, responding positively to opportunities for teaching and learning through Christian study courses, bible study, and unified prayer
- Maintained St Luke’s as a welcoming sanctuary for the local community
- Furthered our commitment to utilise the church centre as a hub for the health, education and wellbeing of our community, continuing to support the essential services offered that enhance people’s quality of life
- Expanded our evangelical mission work into the wider community, ensuring continued growth and the spread of the Good News
- Responded to the needs of our Christian youth, ensuring that children are nurtured in their faith at every stage of their development
- Explored ways to reach out to people with barriers to regular church services, using campaigns such as ‘Fresh Expressions’
- Continued to develop skills of care for those in need: the sick, elderly, housebound, and those estranged from the Christian faith

We use ‘Evidence to Action’ principles to benchmark our progress at our regular PCC meetings.

Like any church we have strengths that will help us achieve our goals, and obstacles that we will need to overcome. We believe that, as a church, our strengths are:

- Our strong children’s ministry
- Our well-used church centre
- Our all-aged, family friendly, welcoming congregation
- Our organ and the quality of music at mass
- Our many strong community links and relationships with local schools

The time and commitment needed to fulfill all of our ambitions is a challenge that we need to overcome, but our biggest difficulty will be maintaining our wider community links during this interregnum. We may have to scale things back a bit during this period, and will need an active leader to help us restore these strong outreach links once he starts.

With God’s help, we will achieve our goals by praying together, by continuing open and directed discussion about our objectives, and by working together with our future vicar who shares our vision and our strong sense of purpose.

**Suspension of Living**

The Diocese is currently considering suspending the living for St Luke’s Church for up to 5 years, this is to enable any potential pastoral reorganisation. The Deanery is exploring the possibility of chaplaincy ministry in such places as the University of Essex, Southend Football club or Southend Airport.
Setting

The Parish and Congregation
The Parish was formed out of the ancient parish of St Mary the Virgin, Prittlewell, in 1931, though the building of the first church was begun in 1925. Its completion was followed by a small hall and Vicarage some years later. The present St Luke’s Church was built in 1959-60, its predecessor becoming what is now the large hall. The new church was built much larger, with a vision to fill all 250 seats. This is a vision we are still determined to fulfil today.

In the area are two primary schools and one secondary school, a number of retirement and respite homes, housing, and a few shops and small businesses. Despite being heavily built up, the northern boundary of the Parish leads into countryside and a golf course. On the Parish boundaries there is a small retail park, a swimming pool, a children’s play centre and a large sports and leisure complex.

The Parish is designated as an urban priority area. Earnings in the parish are below national average, with an above average number of parishioners who have no qualifications or are out-of-work. The Parish demographic is largely families, both married and single-parent, as well as retired people and young couples. St Luke’s is a predominantly White British and English-speaking parish, with no need for non-English services.

Like many parts of the country this parish has a growing population, a declining fraction of whom self-identify as Christian. Despite this the congregation at St Luke’s is growing. In the past 12 months our average congregation size has been 55 people - 18 under-16’s and 37 adults. This thriving youth community has been the result of continued outreach and mission in the parish. Since St Luke’s parish has a higher proportion of youths and young families than most churches, we are confident this growth can continue. Over the last 10 years we have invested time and money into training surrounding development of young church and toddler ministry, supported by a scriptural theme, and have seen a 30% increase in the attendance of youth and families on a regular basis. We run confirmation classes for the older children and adults to take forward in faith.

We have a growing number of both male and female servers from ages 8 – 50+. Currently we have 6 under-16 and 5 adult servers who regularly meet to rehearse assistance and movements during services. Our servers go on a ‘mini-pilgrimage’ day trip together each year, visiting religious sites to help them grow in faith together and keep their team strong.
For an idea of what St Luke’s young church means to its members, and what they get up to each week, here are two statements from members of our church youth:

**Amy, age 11**

Little church

I like young church because I learn about my faith there. I especially love having new leaders every week because they all have different ways of teaching and therefore the children get to experience new ways to learn every week. I like the new methods of teaching like the i-Pad, Kelly uses to get the message across. I thought this idea was really good because it shows a different understanding of the story and helps us to visualise it easier. I recommend young church to new children as it will help them to understand the bible and God in an easier and interesting way.

**Emily, age 14**

Ever since my first day at St. Luke’s church, I have been privileged to go to Sunday school; it is a place where children of all ages are able to learn God’s will through fun activities like acting, cutout or writing. I believe that Sunday school is one of the church’s strongest things points as it helps me and many other children flourish in faith and learn to be steadfast in God. Also, it has helped many children find their place and gift from God. Finally, it is a place where everyone is loved and can be themselves.

-Amy, age 11
Southend-on-Sea

The parish is located in the seaside town of Southend-on-Sea, the largest town in Essex and one of the driest and sunniest parts of the country. This is a lively town with seven miles of seafront, blue flag beaches, Victorian parks and conservation areas, an amusements fun park, an aquarium, a busy high street, and the world’s longest pleasure pier - all within two miles of St Luke’s. The pedestrianised sea front board walk attracts many tourists each year who come for the wide array of seafront sports, amusements, and shopping available.

Southend is incredibly well-connected by road, rail, and air. There are two rail lines to London, which is less than an hour away. The newly developed London Southend Airport is still expanding and offers cheap flights to Europe and beyond. This airport has flight paths such that its flights cause no pollution over Southend.

The town itself has plenty of activities to explore. It is the commercial hub of the surrounding area with a busy high street, several market roads, a cinema, and plenty of places to eat and drink. There is a well-established cultural scene with two theatres, museums, art galleries, and a large new library/learning centre. Various outdoor arts and music festivals are held in our parks and green areas each year, attracting visitors from across the South-East. The town has a long history, with historic conservation areas such as Prittlewell Priory, Old Leigh, Southchurch Hall, ancient Hadleigh Castle and others that are free to visit or still in use today. The local Garon’s Park leisure centre was newly built to train our 2012 Olympic divers, the swimming pool and sporting facilities are comprehensive. In addition there are several miles of designated cycle path along the seafront and in several areas around Southend.

There are numerous Christian and secular primary schools across the town and twelve secondary schools in the area, including four grammar schools, two Roman-Catholic schools, and six comprehensive schools. There are also two colleges, a university, and a university hospital in town, making this an ideal location for a vicar with children of any age.

A key need in Southend-on-sea is help for the homeless, as there are increasing numbers rough sleepers and local charities are under strain. Previously we have supported soup for Southend by providing sandwiches but unfortunately this has been discontinued. This is an issue that St Luke’s would like to respond to with the right leadership.
The Church

The church is bright, spacious, and peaceful, with seating for 250. It has a Sacristy, a well-equipped church office, and a toilet all attached to the south aisle. The main altar is located on the north face of the church, where the tabernacle houses the reserved Sacrament. It also has a Lady Chapel off the north aisle, which has been recently redecorated and re-carpeted.

St Luke’s features works of art including a painted sanctuary ceiling and crystopal windows depicted scenes from the life, death and resurrection of Christ, both by artist Mary Filer, and an award-winning statue of the Virgin Mary. We have a working organ and an organist committed to playing at Sunday Mass twice a month and other gifted musicians regularly leading us into worship. There is also a beautiful small memorial garden outside with the ashes of those who have been laid to rest.

Our church is in excellent condition and equipped with all modern amenities. We have a new sound system and an extensive lighting array, which are adjusted to set the mood for everything from prayerful meditation to joyous celebration. We have on-site parking, wheelchair accessibility, and several security measures have been installed.
**The Vicarage**

The vicarage is located behind the church, set back from St Luke’s Road. It is a large house in the art deco style with five bedrooms, a study, a living room, a dining room, a kitchen, two bathrooms, three toilets, a utility room, a cloakroom and two outdoor storage cupboards. It has beautiful, large, and very well kept secluded garden at the back, with a garage and an off-street driveway with space for a number of cars at the front. The building is double glazed with modern central heating, two cosy open coal fires, and excellent quality parquet flooring on the ground floor.

**St. Luke’s Centre**

St. Luke’s centre is a large, newly refurbished-and-extended building adjacent to the church. As a partnership we have raised almost £450,000 to build and develop the centre over the last decade. The entire space is modern, wheelchair-accessible, and is well secured. It functions as a key location for outreach, a cornerstone for activities in the wider community, and is used by one thousand people each week. The centre is open 7 days a week for at least 50 weeks of the year, 08:30-21:00 on weekdays and 08:30-19:00 on weekends. Different halls and rooms remain available to rent for ongoing activities and one-off functions.
The entrance leads to a medium-sized refectory with seating for at least 25 people and a wall-mounted TV. There are men’s, women’s, and disabled toilets with baby changing facilities here. There is a well-equipped kitchen, containing a new induction stove, a dishwasher, a fridge/freezer, a washing machine and other essential kitchen appliances. The large main hall has been refurbished and is used for a wide range of activities.

The newly extended part of the building includes an IT Suite, two clinical rooms, a double function suite, and a dance hall. The IT Suite has five computers and provides WiFi to the whole centre. The clinical rooms come fully equipped with a doctor’s desk, patient’s bed, and other medical equipment. The double function suite is currently used as a dementia day-care centre and is furnished with armchairs, televisions, and other decorations but can be re-organised and used for meetings still. The dance hall has a mirrored wall and special Harlequin floors, used at the Royal School of Ballet and perfect for the daily dance classes hosted there.

As well as being fresh and spacious, the community centre is fully stocked. Numerous storage spaces contain materials for all the groups that use the centre along with provisions for events and functions for the church such as fundraisers and meals.

This centre is key to the pastoral mission of St. Luke’s and has received heavy investment from the church and Southend Borough Council over the last decade. It is an incredible resource that we must continue to use for the benefit of our community. We have had plans drawn up with a view to future works such as extending the kitchen and installing more toilets.

St Luke’s Centre is now consolidating its reputation as a venue for delivery of activities which have a positive impact on the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health of all visitors and their colleagues or supporters. Independently we have raised many thousands of pounds in charitable grants solely for the purpose of enhancing the safety, accessibility, and aesthetics of the centre and the site on which it stands. We have been grateful for the contributions of other professionals and volunteers who keep the centre clean, well-used, and welcoming.

The centre has developed alongside the church so that it remains a practical expression of the church’s ministry in the community – open to those of all faiths and none.
Worship and Community

Worship

We rejoice in our Catholic tradition and Laity men and women are encouraged and supported as Lectors, Intercessors, and other leadership roles within the church.

A Sung Mass is celebrated at all principal Sunday services and a Spoken Mass is held during the week at various times. We also hold a monthly Rosary prayer, monthly modern prayer, Benediction, and a weekly Bible reading group led by an individual with a Theology degree. All principal feasts and solemnities are celebrated (usually on the day) at 19:30. Vestments are worn at all celebrations and incense is used during Mass.

We have a ‘Young Church’ provision on a Sunday, a children’s crèche area, and we regularly hold all-age worship with contemporary music alongside more traditional worship, with our young people taking an active leadership role. Each month we have a Parade Mass with the Baden Powell groups that use our centre and occasional services for the local schools that we are linked with.

Here is a full list of the services regularly practised at St. Luke’s:

- Sun 10:00  Morning Prayer
- Sun 10:30  Sung Eucharist
- Sun 17:00  Prayer and Worship (Modern)
- Tue 09:15  Morning Prayer
- Tue 17:00  Evening Prayer
- Wed 09:15  Morning Prayer
- Wed 10:00  Holy Communion
- Wed 11:30  Acts of Worship (Fortnightly, for people with Dementia)
- Wed 17:00  Evening Prayer
- Thu 09:15  Morning Prayer
- Thu 19:00  Evening Prayer
- Thu 19:30  Holy Communion
- Fri 09:15  Morning Prayer
- Fri 17:00  Evening Prayer
- Sat 09:15  Morning Prayer

Pastoral Services

The Parish is established in the area and has a firm social foothold through the centre. Each year St Luke’s has around eight baptisms, twelve funerals (with additional service at the crematorium), two weddings and one All Souls’ Service. Our most recent annual confirmation saw five children and four adults confirmed.
**Pastoral Ministry**

Pastoral ministry is performed by the priest, a pastoral assistant, and a team of laity who are adept at visiting. The duties of pastoral ministry that fall under the care of this team include home visits, hospital visits, contacting and inviting those in need of the sacrament of healing, and whatever else may be needed for the spiritual wellbeing of our parishioners.

Pastoral ministry includes traditional means of communication but more frequently tends to be via social media or texting, keeping up with the needs of people in the parish using 21st century means.

**Social Life**

St Luke’s is blessed to have an incredibly active community, who enjoy various social activities with each other and the wider community throughout the year.

We use the church minibus to go on ‘Mystery Tours’ to various UK towns and cities together several times a year, for trips out in Southend such as bowling nights or visiting Hadleigh Castle, and for our annual youth pilgrimage to Walsingham. We also use our centre and church gardens for a variety of communal events: coffee mornings, fundraising events, quiz nights, monthly community lunch, Burns night, an annual charity dance event, cheese and wine after feast day celebrations, and of course the church summer barbeque. Our largest annual event is Gemma’s farm and St Luke’s Craft Fair, a free event which attracts over 1,000 people to our grounds each summer.
**Church Links**

The other churches in the parish are Ferndale Baptist Church or The United Reformed Baptist Church, with whom St Luke’s does not have any formal links. The ecumenical link with the Roman Catholic church Sacred Heart, who are on the border of our parish, is strong and positive. We have hosted joint day pilgrimages to the monastery at Tolleshunt Knights and to Maldon in the past and during lent we meet to pray together for station of the cross.

We also share the St Luke’s Centre hall with the Zimbabwean Apostles church, who use this space to hold their own Mass on Sundays.

**Community Links**

We’ve established very good links with the local authority and local health organisations and are very close to a number of local schools: Bournemouth Park Academy, Temple Sutton Primary School, and Cecil Jones Academy. We are also developing links with St. Nicholas’ special needs school, which is at the parish border. The previous priest was particularly involved in school governing body roles, being chair of governors at Bournemouth Park and Cecil Jones, community governor at Temple Sutton, and trustee at Bournemouth Park.

We host services for these schools several times a year in the church building. We host Temple Sutton with 800+ students and staff; Bournemouth Park with 600+ students, 125+ parents, and staff; and Carol Celebrations for about 80 students and staff at St Nicholas’.

Many of our school connections have been running strong for over 10 years and we encourage the incumbent to continue this pastoral tradition. We believe these links are of great importance for pastoral outreach, let alone religious education, and present the opportunity to assist valuable decision making as a governor.

We have worked hard to develop links with the local non-church schools in our parish. This has led to them welcoming the church into their schools and holding school services in St Luke’s, with over 2000 pupils now being open to theological education where they previously had none.
St Luke’s Centre Activities and Links

The centre is the heart of the church’s community outreach, hosting a wide array of activities and services. Details of the activities currently running at the centre are listed below:

**Silver Birch Specialist Dementia Day Care**
Activities and respite for dementia sufferers and their carers

**Tango for Balance**
For Parkinson’s disease and MS sufferers: gentle dance steps to improve balance and confidence.
Partners frequently with Silver Birch Dementia Day Care and Southend Hospital COPD Treatment

**Midwifery clinic**
Ante-natal clinic hosted in partnership with a local children’s centre provider

**Confidential one-to-one counselling**
A free service to local people, led by fully qualified counsellors who give their services voluntarily

**Helen Rollason Cancer Centre**
Bi-weekly support sessions for those affected by cancer

**Diabetes clinics**
Consultant clinics for diabetes care and advice, including the “SMILE” programme

**Community Lunch**
Community lunches hosted by St. Luke’s Church offer an opportunity for community members to enjoy a two course meal together, meet new people, and catch up with friends in a casual environment

**Activise through Recovery**
Charity partnership supporting cancer patients and their families with advice and exercise for mind and body

**Active Life** (supported by the local authority)
Zumba, Pilates, Aerobic Toners, and Yoga for women

**Allotment Project**
All volunteers welcome to enjoy the therapeutic, physical, and mental benefits of gardening. It is an opportunity for many people to meet people and reduce feelings of isolation or exclusion

**Parent & Toddler group**
Run by volunteers from the parish

**Apostles Church**
A Zimbabwean worship group who hold their Sunday service here
**Tina Phelps Dance Classes**
Ballet, Tap, Modern, Jazz, Contemporary, Singing, and Musical Theatre classes for children aged 2-16 years

**Peter Nash Academy**
Latin and Ballroom dancing lessons for adults and children

**Line Dancing**

**Rainbows & Brownies**

**Beavers, Cubs & Scouts**

**Family Action: Stay & play**
Early years intervention scheme aiming to enhance resilience and support a good start.

**DiddiDance**
A franchise offering weekly ‘dancercise’ for accompanied toddlers

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**Finances**

St. Luke’s finances are in good health. We meet our quota of £26,665 and our clergy expenses in full and on time each year, which is an achievement given the levels of deprivation in the parish. The centre has become a large source of income for the parish and is managed well by the parish administrator who works 10 hours each week. Other incomes include that from fundraising events that we hold each year, rent from a church-owned property, and regular giving from the congregation.

The breakdown of our finances for 2017 is as follows:

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## Receipts and Payments - Parish General Account

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<th>Payments</th>
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<td><strong>83</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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## Receipts and Payments – Hall Project Account

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<th>£</th>
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<th>Payments</th>
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<th>P</th>
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<td>575</td>
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<td>SBC &amp; Tina Rent</td>
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<td>Materials &amp; Works</td>
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<td>Allotment</td>
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<td>PA</td>
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<td>Fund Raising/Grants</td>
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<td>90</td>
<td>Cleaning/Materials</td>
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<td>Admin</td>
<td>20</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,301</strong></td>
<td><strong>03</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,301</strong></td>
<td><strong>03</strong></td>
</tr>
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The PCC and treasurer carefully monitor expenditure throughout the year, while the parish administrator and incumbent priest manage the centre to make as much use of the space as possible for charitable and income-generating activities.
A Message from Bishop Stephen Cottrell

In the Chelmsford diocese we believe that God is calling his church to be a transforming presence. Our vision is that the church – that is the people of God here in Essex and East London - should be a transforming presence in every one of our parishes.

These are our priorities –

- To inhabit the world distinctively
- To evangelise effectively
- To hold ourselves accountable to one another and to God for the stewardship of the gospel
- To reimagine the way we minister so that each ordained minister and each individual Christian discovers their part in God’s ministry and so that each church flourishes.

To this end we are looking for priests who are excited by this vision of becoming a church which is itself transformed, and which is becoming a more visible and effective presence in the huge diversity of communities that make up this most exciting and energetic part of England.

There are many challenges ahead of us. We are a diocese generously subsidised by the national church. We need to become financially self-sufficient.

Leadership often seems distant. We are creating patterns of leadership that are closer to the parishes. And we are looking to develop missional leadership at all levels of church life.

Nearly half of our clergy will retire in the next ten years. We need to find out how to minister with less stipendiary clergy and with a re-imagining of how stipendiary ministry works. We need to re-organise the way parishes relate to each other and we have begun clustering parishes and other expressions of church into what we are calling mission and ministry units.

Some of our congregations still think ministry is what Vicars do. We have a vision of ministry where the whole people of God are involved in the whole of God’s ministry. We are also experimenting with new forms of authorised lay ministry.

Levels of church going are below the national average. We need to get evangelism onto the agenda and into the lifeblood of every church. Each year we are inviting every benefice to put on a weekend of mission and outreach, and we are training people in every church for this ministry. One of our aspirations is that every benefice should have a trained lay evangelism enabler.

Despite planning for a future with less stipendiary clergy, we remain as committed as ever to the local church. And what is the local church, but that community of men and women gathered around Christ, and living and sharing the gospel in the networks and neighbourhoods of their lives? But we need priests to lead and to serve.

We know we need to change. We can only be a transforming presence when we have allowed God to transform us. Therefore at the heart of all we do is a longing for intimacy with God and a renewed life of prayer. First and foremost a priest is a minister of word and sacrament. All ministry flows from this. But
a priest shares the ministry of the bishop, therefore presbyteral ministry will increasingly be a ministry of oversight, guiding, nurturing and directing the mission of God’s church in the communities we serve.

It is an exciting time to be part of God’s missionary movement for the world, and the diocese of Chelmsford is an exciting place to serve. We have a clear vision and we are looking to appoint clergy who will share this with us. In every parish we long to see each person and each community grow in faithfulness and ministry so that together we may serve in the world and Christ may be made known.

+ Stephen
Bishop of Chelmsford

A Statement from the Bishop of Richborough

Saint Luke Prittlewell

Saint Luke is an evangelist, doctor and artist, whose Gospel records two of the best loved parables of Our Lord Jesus, the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. If ever a parish has taken to heart the Gospel message of its patron, it’s Saint Luke’s Prittlewell. In a modest church building set in a quiet residential area, S. Luke’s is a powerhouse of prayer and social action, where the parables of Jesus are lived out with generosity and love. Here is a church grounded in prayer and centred on the sacraments that takes the Good News very seriously and actions the imperative to support the poor and care for the needy. It is also a community that has lots of fun and a rich variety of social events and where the congregation so obviously enjoy their worship fellowship and outreach in the local community.

The profile speaks for itself.
Parish life at Saint Luke’s will always be rewarding, dynamic and challenging.
The congregation are most definitely looking for an energetic and prayerful priest keen to help take them forward into the next and exciting stage of Christian witness in Prittlewell.

+Norman Banks
Bishop of Richborough

A Statement from the Rural Dean of Southend

The deanery of Southend is a very varied one, not only in terms of the sort of area it covers but also in terms of church traditions. It is nonetheless true that there is a high level of mutual respect between the clergy and the parishes, and this is reflected in a preparedness to offer cover, to engage in chapter meetings and to work collaboratively at a local level.

The development of the ministry and mission units envisaged by ‘Reimagining Ministry’ is at an early stage in Southend, which will provide every opportunity to the new priest at St Luke’s to shape the future of the provision of ministry. St Luke’s is the only Society parish in Southend deanery but has always kept engaged and connected to its neighbouring parishes, maintaining cordial and mutually fruitful relationships. In particular the ministry of St Luke’s to local bodies concerned with health and wellbeing as well as local schools has commanded wide respect.

Fr Jonathan Collis
Rural Dean of Southend
Statement of Needs and Theological Conviction under the House of Bishop’s Declaration

by The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St. Luke, Prittlewell

We reaffirm our desire to flourish within the life and structures of the Church of England, in accordance with the Five Guiding Principles set out in the House of Bishops’ Declaration and our commitment to Christ’s mission in the Diocese of Chelmsford. We recognize the diocesan bishop and other bishops of this Diocese as the true and lawful holders of their offices, and wish to maintain the highest degree of communion with them that is consistent with the theological convictions that underlie our Resolution.

The theological convictions set out below are held by a significant number of worshippers in our parish. The Resolution will ensure that the episcopal and priestly ministry exercised in our parish is such that can be received with integrity by all who worship here. Our Resolution contributes to the Church of England’s wider commitment to sustaining diversity’.

Women have always exercised various ministries in the Church. However, those who are unable to receive the sacramental ministry of women as bishops and priests hold that neither Scripture, nor apostolic Tradition, nor the great majority of the Church throughout the world today endorse the ordination of women as bishops and priests. There is therefore doubt as to whether the roles of bishop or priest are, sacramentally speaking, roles that women can exercise. We ask that episcopal and priestly sacramental and pastoral ministry in this parish should be exercised by those whose sacramental ministry is not subject to such doubt.

The unique sacramental ministry of a bishop is to ordain bishops, priests and deacons. In receiving their ministry, we receive the ministry of the bishops who ordained them. If there is doubt about the sacramental ministry of women as bishops, there will be doubt about the sacramental ministry of those whom they ordain. We therefore ask that episcopal and priestly sacramental and pastoral ministry in this parish be exercised by male bishops at whose consecration a male bishop presided and who stand in the historic, apostolic succession of bishops so ordained, and by male priests ordained by such bishops.

We are pledged to maintain the highest possible degree of communion with the Bishop of Chelmsford and the other bishops of this Diocese, and we reject any suggestion that ordaining women to the episcopate and priesthood renders a bishop’s episcopal ministry invalid. However, our flourishing requires the flourishing of our priest. We understand that our priest can only flourish if he is in full communion with a bishop and with all those whom that bishop ordains to the priesthood — a full communion made visible when he stands together with them at the altar. Therefore we request that episcopal sacramental and pastoral ministry in this parish be entrusted to a bishop who ordains only men to the priesthood.

Approved by the PCC on 21/02/2015
Contact us through our website www.thestlukescentresouthend.org.uk