

## PARISH PROFILE

# ST. LUKE'S KINGSTANDING



"LIVE BY FAITH, BE KNOWN BY LOVE, BE A VOICE OF HOPE."



# CONTENTS

## Introductions

<b>Preface from the Bishop of Birmingham</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Preface from the Bishop of Oswestry</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>5</b>

## About Us

<b>Our Vision</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>The Parish Setting</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>The Parish Church</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>A Church for God's People</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>A Church for the Community</b>	<b>17</b>

## The Future of St Luke's

<b>Our Hope for the Future</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Our Hope for a New Priest-in-charge</b>	<b>19</b>

## General Information

<b>Staffing</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Housing</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Administration &amp; Finance</b>	<b>22</b>

# From the Diocese



**BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM**  
The Rt Revd Dr Michael Volland



Bishop's Croft  
Old Church Road, Harborne,  
Birmingham B17 0BG  
0121 427 1163  
bishopsadmin@cofebirmingham.com

## Words of Welcome to Church of England, Birmingham

Thank you for showing an interest in a post within this Diocese.

This is an exciting time for Church of England Birmingham, as we seek to share the good news of Jesus in the West Midlands and pursue our vision of a *Transforming Church* in order to see *growing churches at The heart of each community*.



To give some context to our city and region, Birmingham is the UK's second city, is super-diverse, and has the youngest urban population in one of the most lively, diverse and creative city regions. As a diocese, Church of England Birmingham (CofEB) was founded in 1905, is geographically small but densely populated, covering an area of nearly 300 square miles and includes parishes in Birmingham and parts of Solihull, Sandwell, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, and often to people's surprise, our rural parish communities make up 15% of our family.

Birmingham is the 'poorest' CofE diocese (based on IMD rankings) but also one of the most generous (based on giving as % of income). We are recognised for being innovative, making good use of scarce resources, which resonates with the character of Birmingham being known as the 'city of a thousand trades'.

Churches in our Diocese embrace a wide spectrum of traditions from evangelical and Catholic, liberal to conservative and choral to charismatic in their outlook on mission and ministry. I am committed to ensuring that all can find a home, and flourish alongside lay and ordained colleagues within Church of England Birmingham.

Finally, thank you for showing interest in this post, and I hope the profile provides all the information you need. Be assured of my prayers as you discern whether this might be the role and region to which God is calling you. Please pray for Church of England Birmingham as we seek to witness to Christ and see lives, families and communities transformed by the power of the Spirit and to the glory of God.

Yours in Christ,

**The Rt Revd Dr Michael Volland**  
**Bishop of Birmingham**



# From the Bishop of Oswestry



*I am delighted to write a preface to the Parish Profile of S. Luke's, Kingstanding - a wonderful place. This highly articulate, honest, and open-hearted profile tells you all you need to know about the good people of St Luke's and their hopes under God for the future. With its roots running down deep in the Catholic Faith, this parish and its people witness in the most attractive and authentic way to the glory of God in Christ; they are eager to welcome others into the life-giving communion of the Church, and they are hungry to see others fed by the sacraments of Christ. They want the Lord's name to be known and adored!*

*In this next phase of their life, they are looking for a priest who with vigour, spiritual depth and authority, good cheer, and imagination will deepen their life still further and lead them in new ways of reaching out to the wider community of Kingstanding. Any priest appointed to serve at S. Luke's will be loved and welcomed by this most loving and welcoming of congregations. It is a happy parish; its people know how to laugh in the Spirit! The successful priest will be a committed and devoutly catholic priest of The Society. His life of prayer will be disciplined and deep, and his reverence for the Sacred Liturgy, for preaching, and for pastoral care will be notable. He will also be a priest who willingly participates, be that in Deanery and Diocesan life, as well as in the life of the See of Oswestry and the local Pastoral Region of the See.*

*In this parish of which S. Luke the Evangelist and Physician is patron, many people find healing in Christ from the wounds inflicted upon them by the world. May Blessed S. Luke pray unceasingly for this parish, and for you if you are considering applying for this exciting post.*

✠ Paul Oswestriensis



# Welcome!

Welcome to this profile of the Parish of Saint Luke, Kingstanding.

The Church of Saint Luke is a beautiful and unexpected building standing at the centre of the Kingstanding Estate, a challenging but highly rewarding place in which to work.

The Parish is a classic outer-city housing estate which historically has housed a working-class population.

Saint Luke's is very much a family church and we would warmly welcome a priest to come and join us, engaging in the wide range of activities and opportunities that our Parish offers. Anyone with a true sense of mission and a zeal for living out an authentic priestly life will find St Luke's a most fulfilling place.

In return, the benefits are potentially enormous and Kingstanding offers opportunities for having a truly rounded and uplifting time as a Parish Priest-in-charge in a straightforward Catholic setting.

Our welcome is a real one - our many visitors frequently comment on the warmth of the welcome they receive. We have a deep longing for someone to come and be part of this, a man of God and a man of prayer, who will help generate fresh impetus for inspiration and growth.

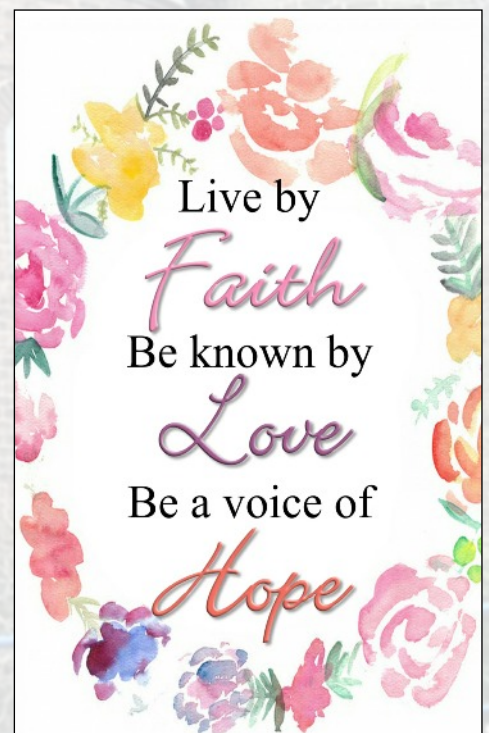


## **"Live by Faith, Be Known by Love, Be a Voice of Hope."**

On the surface, St. Luke's is primarily a Parish Church, serving the needs of the people of Kingstanding and speaking with and for them. Beyond that, it is a parish family that quickly works its way into your heart, with an overwhelming sense of genuine warmth and welcome. Situated at the heart of a deprived outer-city area that is often the focus of bad press, our mission involves meeting people 'where they are' through recognising the diversity within our community, and embracing the goodness and community spirit that exists there, building upon it to ensure that St. Luke's is a place where all are welcome and can feel at home. St. Luke's is a much-needed sanctuary in the local area; a parish that brings people together, looking for the 'hidden diamond' within each person and ensuring that everyone feels valued.

It is our mission to not just nurture the spiritual needs of our community through our witness of faith, but to embrace their wellbeing as a whole, whether that is socially, mentally, physically, materially or emotionally. This is summed up in our mission statement which was created by our children and young people - *"Live by Faith, Be Known by Love, Be a Voice of Hope."*

St. Luke's is not just about Church on a Sunday - there is always something going on and the potential is there to grow so much more. As a community church, St. Luke's shines in the local area as an example of the true meaning of Christianity - genuine warmth, generosity, kindness and a sincere welcome for all.



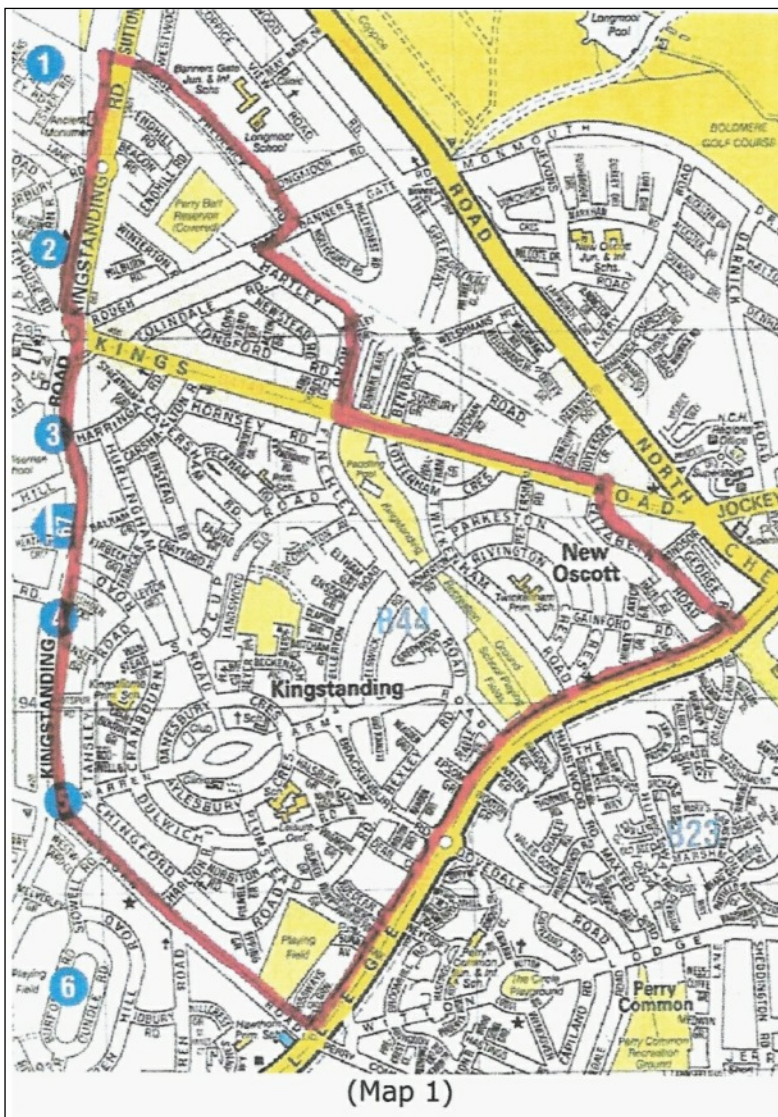
# The Parish Setting

## Population

Saint Luke's Church lies at the heart of the Kingstanding Ward on the north side of the City of Birmingham; over 21,000 people live in the Ward, some 13,000 of them within the Parish of Saint Luke.

Although many within the parish do not attend St Luke's on a regular basis the community value and respect the presence of the church, and post Covid, a number of locals commented how lovely it was to see the church open and hear the bells ringing again!

## Geographical spread



Kingstanding is set just six miles from Birmingham City Centre.

The Parish boundaries are marked by three dual carriageways the A453 (College Road), the B4138 (Kingstanding Road) and the B4149 (Kings Road).

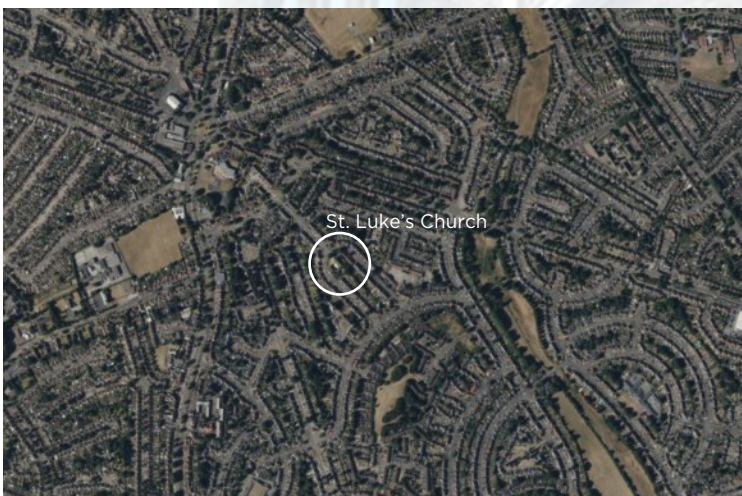
A small section north of the Kings Road also falls within the Parish (see Map 1 - Parish boundary outlined in red)

## Social Mix

The area is predominantly white, working class. There is one public house, a leisure centre, a community centre, an ex-servicemen's club and a health clinic within the Parish, with three shopping areas, the Kingstanding Circle, Hawthorn Road and College Road. At the Circle, a large Lidl will shortly replace a derelict 1960's shopping centre.

## Housing

The majority of housing in Kingstanding was built by the City Council during the 1920's and early 1930's as part of the city's slum clearance and suburban expansion programmes. At the time, Kingstanding was the city's largest Council Estate with over 6,600 houses. The geometric layout of the estate and its spacious garden areas drew influence from the early town planning movement. Much of this housing is now in need of refurbishment and investment.



## Local Economy

One of the distinguishing features of Kingstanding is the almost total absence of any traditional industrial activity. Local shopping needs are met in part by the shopping areas mentioned above. Within a mile of St Luke's is a small retail park which is home to a number of national stores, with Tesco, Aldi, Lidl and Sainsbury's (coming soon) within or just outside of the complex.



## Public Transport

There are no direct rail links to Kingstanding; the nearest train stations are at Perry Barr, Wylde Green, Sutton and Erdington, all offering free parking for rail passengers. The area is served by a number of bus routes, several of which are on a direct route to Birmingham City Centre.

## Institutions

There are a number of residential homes and sheltered units within the Parish. There are four State Primary Schools and one Roman Catholic Primary School. The church has an excellent relationship with these schools. Historically, incumbents have been on the Governing Body of three schools and some schools visit church for their Christmas Service and as part of their RE curriculum. There are no Secondary Schools in the Parish.

## Beyond the Parish

Just beyond the parish boundary lies the magnificent Sutton Park - at 2,200 acres it is one of the largest urban parks in the UK. Stratford-upon-Avon, the Peak District and the Shropshire Hills are all within an hour's drive of St Luke's.



# The Parish Church

There is only one Anglican place of worship in the Parish. St. Luke's Church is a locally listed building with only one other building of architectural merit being the former Odeon Cinema (which is now a bingo hall). Saint Luke's is a brick built Church, constructed largely during the 1930's and added to in the 1960's. 1995 saw the completion of a massive rebuilding programme in which over £300,000 was spent on refurbishment and the creation of a new Community Hall with kitchen, Day Centre and office space.

The Church was re-roofed in 1997 and the year 2000 saw the completion of our beautiful Walsingham Chapel. In 2001 came the addition of a disabled toilet and baby-changing station. In 2005 a gallery was added to the Church, as a response to the overcrowding of the worship area, and to allow the organ to be re-sited. A whole new entrance was built in 2007, adding more meeting rooms and offices.

There is a rolling programme of regular improvements to the building. We are fortunate in having a restricted bequest that stipulates the interest can only be used for the maintenance of the church fabric which ensures our building is kept to the highest standard.



Of course a church is so much more than a building, but we are hugely privileged to worship in such a beautiful place. Our grounds are immaculate (they are maintained through a contract with a local housing association). In order to further, actively commit to our Catholic tradition and evangelise within the local community, in 2021 we planted a Tree of Hope in the grounds (funded by our congregation as a beacon of hope for years to come). In 2023 we took receipt of a profoundly moving 8' Calvary which is situated in the grounds, is lit at night and is a focal point for anyone driving/walking towards church.



More recently we have established a Rosary Garden where individuals or groups can undertake prayerful walks.

## **A Church for God's People**

### **History**

Saint Luke's was carved out of the original Parish of Saint John in Perry Barr, along with Saint Matthew's, Perry Beeches and Saint Mark's, Kingstanding. Saint Luke's has formed a Mission Partnership with Saint Mark's, and together they represent a convinced and lively Modern Catholic approach to worship and witness as the Church of England in Kingstanding.

### **Tradition**

Saint Luke's stands firmly within the Modern Catholic tradition. Extended Episcopal Oversight is provided by the Bishop of Oswestry.

The liturgical year is observed faithfully, occasionally jointly with Saint Mark's, Kingstanding. Lent and Advent are marked by study groups, and by traditional devotions such as the Way of the Cross or Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered and used.

## Congregation

In terms of numbers attending Mass we flourish. At present, with just one Mass, the communicant figure numbers around 60, with an average Sunday attendance of over 60. There is an electoral roll of 50. The congregation is mainly local but with several people travelling some distance to St Luke's as they value the ethos and/or stance of the Parish. Our Church abounds with many stories of healing, self-acceptance and growth, and our greatest joy is to see people flourish and mature even when the odds are clearly stacked against them.



Our Christmas services are extremely well supported with a number of local residents joining us in our celebration of the Birth of Christ.



## Worship

Sunday Parish Mass is the centre and summit of our Church's life. Vestments are worn, the Blessed Sacrament reserved, and incense and bells used. Worship is lively and flexible.

There is currently a Solemn Mass at 11.00am, using a modern Common Worship Rite with customary additions. The congregation at this Mass is mixed and encompasses a wide variety of ages. Our worship is evangelistic, involving and engaging, and draws widely on the whole spectrum of Christian tradition.



Music is adventurous and important to the quality of our worship. 'Just Hymns Old & New' (Catholic Edition) is our chosen hymnal. Our accompanying music is live - we are supported every Sunday by loyal visiting organists who are accompanied on flute by two of our congregation. The Liturgy is computer projected onto the sanctuary wall with technology being used as an accessory to homilies and other forms of worship.

Throughout the last incumbency, the Divine Office was recited and midweek Mass offered regularly. The offering of the Mass in which God is glorified and God's people nourished on the riches of Word and Sacrament is central to all we do.

At present, in addition to our Sunday Mass we celebrate Mass in the Walsingham Chapel on:

Tuesday at 10am Average attendance 20

Thursday at 7pm Average attendance 12

Coffee and fellowship is shared after our Tuesday Mass.

## Occasional Offices

There are approximately 12 baptisms per year, 4 weddings, and a significant number of funerals, many at local crematoria.

## Collaboration

Saint Luke's formed a part of the North Birmingham Group Ministry and is now in a Mission Partnership with our sister church in Kingstanding, Saint Mark's, Bandywood Crescent. Both parishes have a common Catholic identity and serve two halves of the same community.

We are keen that the Priest appointed has a commitment to collaborating with other churches of our tradition.

## Wider Church

The Parish plays a full part in the life of the Deanery with the clergy plus three lay people being members of the Handsworth and Central Deanery Synod. Links with Parishes in our own and other Dioceses are fostered. Through the Diocese of Birmingham we are linked with the Church in Malawi, part of the Province of Central Africa. For a number of years now we have financially supported the ongoing education of an orphan at a school in India.

## Lay Involvement

Lay people are encouraged to take a full participatory liturgical role - welcoming, reading, interceding, serving and administering the Blessed Sacrament. Away from our acts of worship lay involvement continues with members undertaking home visits to distribute Holy Communion and offer fellowship to the sick and housebound.

We have over 40 members of the Congregation supporting St Luke's in a range of volunteer roles, all of whom have completed the relevant Church of England Safeguarding Training. We believe that if people are nurtured, affirmed and valued, great work can be achieved.



## Young People

We embrace the small group of young people who attend church regularly - they are respected, valued and engaged. They are encouraged to be actively involved in our Sunday Mass with three currently serving. Historically, we had an established pattern of pilgrimage to Walsingham and ran other outings and activities for them, including a Summer Play Scheme. A small, but active Sunday School has recently closed but we hope this will begin again. We have capitalised on good relationships established with local schools over a number of years.



## Smaller Group Work



During the course of the year, there are opportunities for our congregation to participate in a number of spiritually driven activities including Quiet Days, Bible Studies, Prayer Groups, Stations of the Cross, pilgrimages to Walsingham and other holy places. Holy Hour with Benediction and Liturgies for wholeness and healing are offered on a regular basis. We have an established system of self-support pastoral groups within the church that are well received. The groups

offer individuals who may be feeling isolated, lonely and in some cases bereaved, a sense of connection.

## Parish Organisations

A Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham, the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, and the Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary are all represented at Saint Luke's.

## Social Life

St Luke's is a church that 'prays hard and plays hard'. Over the years a wide range of social activities have helped create a cohesive and vibrant parish community. We have a regular programme of theatre trips to London, Leicester and locally.



Our in-house Parish lunches are very well attended as are quiz nights, day trips and shopping outings. Amongst other places, our enjoyable day trips have taken us to Lincoln, Gloucester, Blackpool, Liverpool, Sheffield and Manchester. Whilst visiting the latter two we were grateful of the opportunity to develop links and share

Mass with other Society churches (St Matthew's, Sheffield and Church of the Holy Family, Failsworth).

Curry Club has been a regular feature of the social life at St Luke's since 2018 with around 20 people visiting a range of local curry houses every six weeks.





In 2022 we initiated 'Walkie Talkies' - a group that takes us on both local walks and those further away. Of course, at a physical level it has enormous benefits but just as importantly, it connects us to the glorious world of nature. And it is through nature that we can see God's beauty, creativity and most of all, his loving care.

Our wide range of events all help build up the rich tapestry of social activity that complements the worshipping life of St Luke's.



## A Church for the Community

For a number of years, Saint Luke's operated a Day Centre for Elderly People which met within the Church Centre Tuesday - Friday, providing day-care and food for 30+ each day. Sadly, like many others established at the same time, this has been a victim of the change in Government spending priorities and has had to close because the funding has been removed.

A local councillor holds his monthly surgery at St Luke's but, that apart, the church hall and offices are presently much under used which gives a huge potential for further expansion. Kingstanding is a community with very few facilities. We know our premises could be used to a great effect by the wider population.





## Our Hope for the Future

We rejoice in all that is presently good, positive and worthwhile, yet we recognise the need to explore and find new ways of continuing to be a pro-active, high profile church. With a healthy church attendance every Sunday we are open to thinking about ways of establishing other acts and expressions of worship, to both widen our appeal and allow us to grow numerically, spiritually, and in service to the community.

We want to forward the growth and joy that has been the hallmark of the Parish over the years. While many have been dispirited over the last decade or more, Saint Luke's has successfully fostered the vision of a former Bishop of Ebbsfleet, who dared to hope for 'centres of excellence' within the 'traditionalist' constituency from which others might draw inspiration and hope - 'beacon churches'.

**Spiritual education** is one of our mission priorities. It is important that our lay people be empowered to reach out in pastoral love to their neighbours.

We want to maximise the opportunities afforded us by so many Occasional Offices and take forward the cordial relationships we presently enjoy in schools and community with the many young people for whom this estate is home. With those who already belong, we want to explore how best to serve their needs and retain them as part of the church family as they grow beyond childhood into young adulthood.

The PCC is happy to embrace change in order to bring more people to a saving knowledge of their Saviour, and better serve the Lord we meet in his people.



## Our Hope for a new Priest-in-charge

We want an active and energetic priest in the modern Catholic tradition. He will be a Priest, affiliated to The Society and probably a member of SSC, who shares the PCC's commitment to working within the framework of mutual flourishing and is happy to work with the Bishop of Oswestry and the Bishop of Birmingham.

We want a priest-in-charge who engages with people, has a pastoral heart and who will be sensitive to the needs of this church and community.

We need a good organiser who has the vision to lead us further forward into growth and service. He needs to be a team player, able to work across the complete age spectrum of Saint Luke's. He will want to work with our sister church in Kingstanding, Saint Mark's and will take his place in the life of our Deanery and Diocese.

We hope our new priest-in-charge will be an inspiring preacher who is able to present the gospel in an attractive and accessible way and that he will celebrate the liturgy such that it will be clearly seen as source and summit of all that we do. It goes almost without saying we are clear that we want the Mass to remain absolutely central to our life, mission and witness.

We desire a Priest whose leadership will enable us to look forward with hope, building on the work of the past with parish organisations, local schools and community initiatives.



In return we promise our new Priest support in prayer and love, by faithfulness at Mass weekdays and Sundays, through generous giving of time and talents (and money) and by displaying a willingness to change our hearts and minds to become ever more open to new ways of thinking about and serving God. We offer no less than our full commitment.



## Staffing

In recent history our ministry team has comprised a sole incumbent. However, Saint Luke's represents an excellent training environment and we would welcome the additional support of a curate, although decisions on staffing are made by the diocese.

## Housing

Saint Luke's PCC and the Diocese of Birmingham have ensured that Saint Luke's Clergy House is a safe, warm, comfortable home environment and over the years it has undergone quite extensive modernisation and improvement.



The house benefits from double-glazing, cavity wall insulation and loft insulation. The ground floor consists of an entrance porch, ground floor study with bespoke fitted furniture, toilet and cloakroom, separated off from the rest of the house by a locking internal door. A large sitting room with French windows looks out to the side garden; there is a modern electric fire.



There is a separate Dining Room as well as a recently refurbished kitchen/breakfast area, which has plumbing for washing machine and dishwasher, space for fridge/freezer and cooker. The kitchen looks out onto the rear garden.



From the kitchen the back door leads to a private paved yard, which has drying facilities and a door into the garage. There is also a boiler room, with venting for a tumble dryer as well as further storage.

The bright stairwell presents an airy and spacious approach to the four bedrooms, one of which has bespoke fitted wardrobes and three of which are large enough to accommodate double beds. There is a recently refurbished bathroom, with a shower over the bath. There is a separate W.C., large airing cupboard and a store room, which leads into the roof void and provides extra storage if necessary.



There is a separate brick built garage. The drive, which has been tarmacked, can accommodate up to seven cars. The garden, which runs to the side and the back of the house, is protected by a wall and is easily maintained as it is predominantly grass.

The house has smoke detectors in three prominent positions, an intruder alarm, security lights and movement sensors. Sited between other properties, it is a secure building and there have been no break-ins over the last 30 years.



The parish is committed to covering the cost of redecorating throughout the house. The diocese will give the usual moving in grant which will assist in carpeting and curtaining the property. The house will also be subject to incoming works, to be agreed between the new incumbent, Diocesan Surveyor and Archdeacon.

## **Administration**

Historically there has been voluntary assistance with administrative and clerical work including the production of a weekly newsletter. The incumbent handles his own correspondence although clerical assistance as required is freely available. The Parish Priest's expenses are paid to an agreed maximum limit.

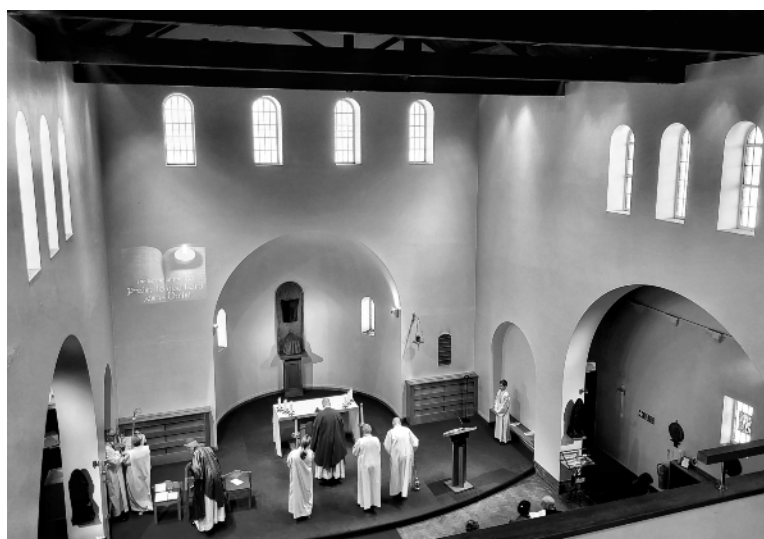
Given the context of Saint Luke's, a predominantly working class community with high levels of deprivation as scored on all the government and local authority scales, the overall income profile of the congregation is fairly low. There are 27 people in our Gift Aid Scheme and 12 people who are not taxpayers but are part of our Planned Giving.

The parish has a designated account (ring-fenced) for pilgrimages and outings. We place money aside for our Common Fund and there is specific money for our Youth Work. There are two investment accounts, both ring-fenced: Interest from the Robin Whittall Memorial Fund (which last year stood at just over £171,763) supports essential building work and the general maintenance and upkeep of our Church. The May Curtis Memorial Fund which stands at just over £99,776, the interest from which can be used towards clergy expenses.

The largest expense Saint Luke's has is the Common Fund which in 2024 was in excess of £22,000. We have a standing order to the Diocese each month which helps budget for this huge expense. Over the years Saint Luke's has always prioritised the paying of their Common Fund, as will be the case in 2025.

The parish has been supported regularly by a number of charities. The Additional Curates Society has made a contribution towards the Parish Priest's expenses. In recent years we have received grants from Baron Davenport's Charity (to support activities for Children & Young People and Older People), The Church Union and The Harlow Trust. We have not had any formal stewardship campaigns as we have always felt the important thing is to get people to commit themselves to regular attendance and hope that out of this springs quite naturally a commitment to stewardship.

There is no parish debt on the building and no large expenditure anticipated.





 **Saint Luke's Church**  
Serving the People of Kingstanding  
**SUNDAY MASS: 10.30am**  
[saintlukeskingstanding.co.uk](http://saintlukeskingstanding.co.uk)



ST. LUKE'S CHURCH  
KINGSTANDING

49 Caversham Road, Kingstanding  
Birmingham B44 0LW.

[www.saintlukeskingstanding.co.uk](http://www.saintlukeskingstanding.co.uk)

"LIVE BY FAITH, BE KNOWN BY LOVE, BE A VOICE OF HOPE."