



Diocese of
Liverpool

Eccleston Team

St Luke's Church Eccleston



St Lukes Community Spirit

"Faith expressing itself through love"

St Luke's Parish Profile

Contents



Section One

Profile Summary

Section Two

The Parish of St Luke's

Section Three

About St Luke's

A Brief History

Parish map

The Church and its people

Our Mission statement

Vision for Worship at 10.30am

The Church and its community

The Church and its buildings



"Faith expressing itself through love"

St Luke's Church, Eccleston has been faithfully serving its parish, in the north western, suburbs of St Helens for over 80 years. During that time the housing and population has greatly increased, transforming what had been a mainly rural area into an urban one. As the wider parish has changed and developed St Luke's has developed too, with the building of a new Community Centre and several phases of re-ordering of the interior of the Church buildings. It is not, however, only our buildings which have developed.

Throughout its history and up to the present day the people of St Luke's have faithfully sought God's guidance as to how we should constantly grow and develop. Our desire is that the love and Good News of Jesus Christ is effectively communicated to the local population in a meaningful and relevant way. Thus, although the buildings and worship and witness styles have changed and developed, our driving passion has remained, to tell and show the love of Jesus to the local people and to bring them to a mature faith in Him.

Throughout its existence, St Luke's theological position has been low, evangelical and this stance is fundamental to our existence. During its lifetime, the Parish of St Luke's has been served and led in its life and witness by 11 dedicated Vicars. The most recent in this



long line of faithful ministers, Rev'd Paul Day, led the Church for 13 years. During that time, there have been significant changes to the interior and exterior of the buildings, our styles of worship and ways of caring for the wider community.

This Parish Profile has been produced by a specially formed Parish Profile Sub Committee of St Luke's PCC. In its production, we have sought to consult as widely as possible with Church members and the wider community. Through the Profile's different sections, we give vignettes of our parish, people, community and buildings. Our prime objective has been to give an honest, clear, comprehensive and accurate current picture of St Luke's. In addition, we have sought to outline our hopes and vision for the future growth into which we believe God is leading.

About the Parish

The Parish of St Luke's is a mainly residential suburb located 1.5 miles west of St Helens' town centre. St Luke's is a member of the Eccleston Team of 5 parishes. The parish is well served by bus services and there are, also, good road links both to the local area and to the motorway network.

The population of the Parish is estimated at 8,500. The area has a very mixed population in terms of age and social background. Ethnically speaking the population is overwhelmingly white British. The stability of the Parish's population is quite mixed with a large number of stable, well-established families and older people but, on the other hand, the younger population is much more fluid. Large areas of the Parish are recognised as suffering from high levels of economic deprivation.

The parish's housing stock is extremely diverse. The southern and eastern areas of the Parish are mainly Victorian terraced housing, some of which is owner-occupied and some private rental accommodation. To the immediate north of the Church building is a well-established area of inter-war social housing. There are, also, a number of new private housing developments, some of which are still being built.

There are no major industries located in the Parish. In common with the rest of St Helens, the decline of the former major industries of glass and coal mean that the Parish has high unemployment rates.

In addition to St Luke's Church, there are Catholic and URC Churches. There are 2 primary schools in the parish, our own Queen's Park CE/URC and St Teresa's Catholic



Primary School. Near to the Church is the Bethany Medical Centre whose GP owners are both Church members. A number of activities take place at the

medical centre including our “Bouncing Back” group. Over the last few years, the grounds of the Centre have hosted our annual community-orientated “Fun Day”. There are active plans for the Church to develop further joint community ventures including “Christians Against Poverty”.

Cambridge Road is a small shopping street of local independent shops near the Parish’s eastern edge and there is a variety of other independent traders scattered around the parish. The Church has built up good relations with the Cambridge Road businesses, offering a prayer ministry, Christmas Carol Singing and other seasonal outreach. There is a large Morrison’s Supermarket, including a petrol station, just outside the Parish’s eastern boundary, which draws its customers from the parish and from further afield.

The Parish has good leisure facilities with the recently rebuilt Queens Park Leisure Centre on its eastern side. The Leisure Centre’s excellent indoor facilities include a Swimming Pool, Sports Hall and Gymnasium. The leisure centre is located in Queen’s Park. This large public park has bowling greens, tennis courts and an Astroturf football pitch as well as lawned areas and a children’s playground. In addition to Queens Park, there are a number of smaller public green spaces scattered around the Parish.

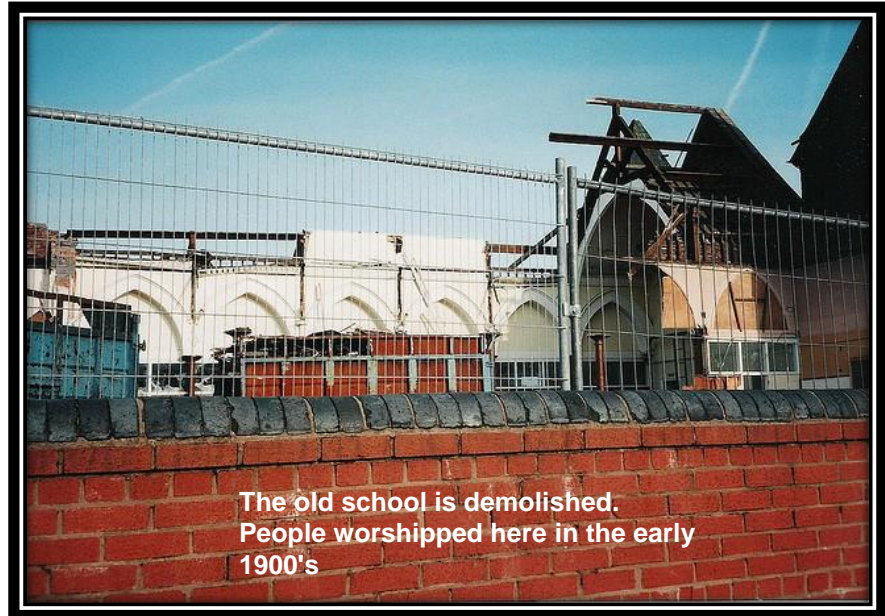


Just outside the south western boundary of the Parish is Taylor Park. This extensive public park includes a large lake and tree-lined, landscaped, open spaces. The park, also, has a large, and popular, children’s adventure playground.



A Brief History of St Luke's

There has been a Christian presence in the area for over 100 years. The original fellowship of St. Luke's worshipped in the mission church of Christ Church. This building was also the local school. In the early 1920's plans were made to build a new Church building further along Knowsley Road. It was a difficult struggle and over the following years the congregation worked long and hard to accumulate the necessary finance. Many of them 'paid' for a brick in the new Church building.



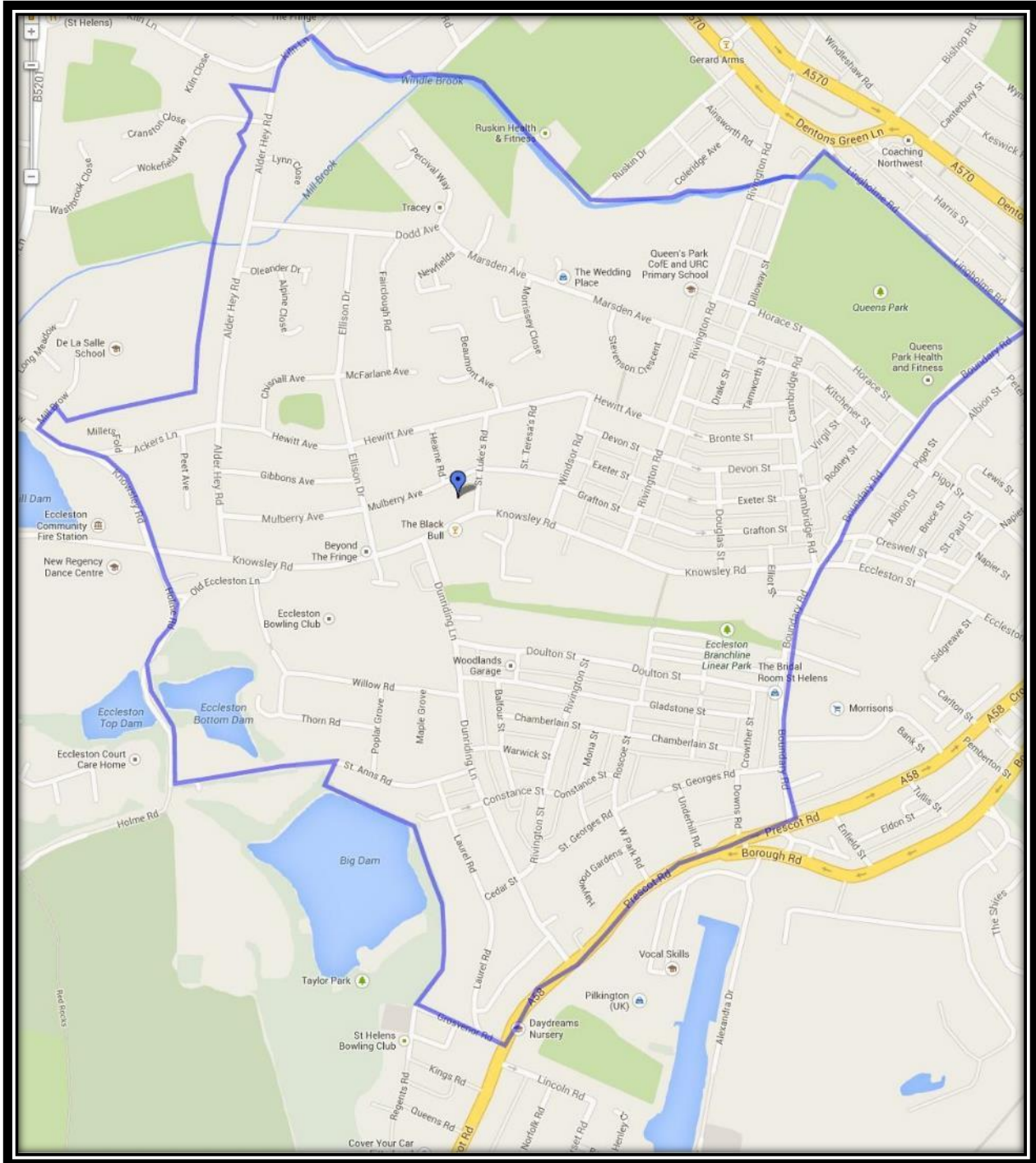
The foundation stone of the 'new' build was laid on 20 July 1929 by Colonel W N Pilkington, "To the Glory of God and in the Faith of Jesus".

The present church building was finally opened on 1 February 1931. The fellowship has always been of a low evangelical tradition and since those early days the people of St. Luke's have continued to worship God and to share His love with those in the local area.



St Lukes
Community Spirit

Parish of St Luke Eccleston



"Faith expressing itself through love"

Personal Biography – Rev Peter W. Gilroy



Rev'd Peter, Team Vicar at St. Luke's, is happily married to Bridget (29 years now). Originally from Crosby, Liverpool, Peter did part of the training for the Catholic priesthood as a young man, but went on to work as a civil servant, a webmaster, as well as serving in 'Youth With A Mission' and Vineyard Churches in Europe and the USA.

After completing a Master of Theology degree from the University of Wales, Bangor (based at Mattersey Hall near Doncaster in 2009), he followed the call to ordination and trained at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, where he earned further qualifications in Theology. Peter served in a

successful curacy at St. Helen's and St. Luke's, Stapleford, West of Nottingham, where was able to take on greater responsibility for the daughter church of St. Luke's.

Peter is a self-starter, not afraid of a challenge, and yet deeply committed to working collaboratively and effectively in sharing the Gospel and caring for people. Peter is a people person, with a good mind and caring heart, with a commitment to keeping relevant and releasing ministry in a down-to-earth style. He enjoys walking in the countryside, the occasional pint of real ale, classical and rock music, Liverpool FC, American Football and baseball.



"Faith expressing itself through love"

The Church and its People

St Luke's Church has always been low evangelical in its Churchmanship and we continue to hold true to that position today. With our clear foundation of a strong commitment to Biblical teaching and principles we seek to:

- ♦ Meet together to praise and worship God, both in traditional and in more modern ways
- ♦ Grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Christian faith
- ♦ Grow together in love and Christian fellowship
- ♦ Reach out to our local community with the Good News of Jesus Christ, presented through our words, care and love and in a relevant and understandable way
- ♦ Bring others to personally know Jesus Christ and help them to grow into mature disciples

In all that we say and do, corporately and individually, we have the all-encompassing desire to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ.

St. Luke's holds 2 Services in the Parish Church on Sunday: 9.00am and 10.30am and we offer a variety of worship Services over a monthly period. The following pattern is generally used although this is varied for special celebrations and seasonal Services.

9.00am Service		
Week	Service Type	Further Details
1st	Service of the Word	A more traditional Service based upon "Common Worship"
2nd	Communion	A traditional Communion Service based upon "Common Worship"
3rd	Service of the Word	A more traditional Service based upon "Common Worship"
4th	Service of the Word	A more traditional Service based upon "Common Worship"
10.30am Service		
Week	Service Type	Further Details
1st	Baptism	Informal contemporary themes and music
2nd	Parade	Our Uniformed organisations actively participate
3rd	All-Age Café Church	Contemporary all-age worship and discussion in a café-style layout
4th	All-age Café Communion	Contemporary Communion in a café-style layout



St Lukes
Community Spirit

The 9.00am and 6.30pm Services use more traditional styles of liturgical worship based on "Common Worship". Although hymnbooks and Service leaflets are available for these Services all of the liturgy, Bible readings, "PowerPoint" slides and song lyrics are projected using the digital projectors.

The 10.30am Service is more experimental, relational and experiential in nature. A variety of audio visual aids are used including "PowerPoint" slides and "clips" from contemporary films. Various teaching styles are used including small group discussions in café-style layouts and sharing of members own Christian experiences.

The children worship with the adults on 3 of the Sundays per month. At the Baptism Service the children stay in



The crèche area



Café communion

Church for the first part of the Service but can leave, just before the main teaching, to take advantage of children's groups and a larger crèche. These groups are organised in the Community Centre. There is a crèche area available during all Services for pre-school children and their parents at the rear of the Church. There are plans to further develop this crèche facility in future re-ordering.

An analysis of the average adult attendance for Sunday Services at the parish Church over the last 12 months (Sept 2012 to October 2013) shows the following:-



9.00am: 43 (The figures are reasonably similar and constant for all types of 9.00am Service)



10.30am:

- Baptism: 120 (This figure varies according to the number of children being baptised)
- Café Church: 46 (This figure has remained reasonably constant)
- Parade: 80 (including special Services, e.g. Toy Service which tend to be higher)
- Café Communion: 48 (This figure has remained reasonably constant)

The majority of the above adults only attend one Service each Sunday. The Sunday congregations are predominantly made up of people who are aged 50+ yrs. There are a



small number of middle-aged couples and younger families with children but these are very much in the minority. As of April 2013, there are 156 people on St Luke's Electoral Roll, of whom 59 (38%) are resident in the parish and 98 (62%) non-resident.

We have 7 Readers who are involved in Services on a rota basis and some are involved in taking other Services within the Team. Church members regularly lead the intercessions and read the Bible readings. Prayer ministry is available privately after each Service and provided by the Prayer Ministry Team. Recently-appointed Congregational Pastors assist with the pastoral care of the 9.00am and the 10.30am Services. There is a specific Café Church Team which plans and organises the Café Service.

During the Parade Services, members of the uniformed organisations take part in prayer and Bible reading assisted by their leaders. They are sometimes involved in the delivery of the teaching sessions through drama, etc.

Musical leadership and accompaniment is provided at a number of our Services by our music group "Shekinah" which consists of keyboard players, guitarist and several singers. In addition the pipe organ is used for some 9.00am Sunday Services, Weddings and Funerals.

Recorded music on CDs and MP3 tracks and recorded music on videos supplement the live music when necessary. The PA and AV Teams manage their respective systems at every Service on a rota basis.

A number of church groups meet throughout the week. There is a fortnightly prayer group in the Church and several house groups also meet on a fortnightly basis, in church members' homes.

"Start" courses are run for Confirmation Preparation and for others enquiring about the Christian faith. A "Moving On" course is about to start as a follow-up course to the "Start" courses to help participants to grow as Christians. There is, also, a monthly "Ladies' Learning Group" which meets for Bible study.



There are a variety of other adult groups meeting throughout the week. "Luke Lunch", a lunch club, is held every month in the Community Centre. This is staffed by church volunteers and well attended by folk from the local community.

We hope to provide this more frequently in the future. "Luke Inn", a group for those who are 50yrs +, meets monthly in the Community Centre on a Monday afternoon and

provides opportunities for church members and others to meet socially over refreshments. The group is organised by church members, including pastoral care from one of our Readers.



Other church members organise the Ladies' Fellowship, which meets weekly with refreshments and visiting speakers. The Walking Group meets monthly on a Saturday. Church members and others gather for a pre-planned ramble in the countryside, followed by lunch at a local hostelry. The Church also provides specific pastoral care through 2 distinct groups. "*Bouncing Back*" is a self-help group for those

who have suffered relationship breakdown. It is organised by church members and has met fortnightly at the nearby Bethany Medical Centre. "*Helping Hearts*" is part of the Church's bereavement support ministry and meets monthly in the Parish Room. A small team of specially-trained church members visit members and their families who are ill at home or in hospital. Regular phone contact is also maintained with a number of housebound members. In addition those with particular short or long term needs, and those who have recently been bereaved, are prayed for during the intercessions.

A wide range of children and young peoples' groups meet on weekdays. Our long established uniformed organisations, *Rainbows*, *Brownies*, *Guides* and Junior *Boys' Brigade* meet, on a weekly basis under the dedicated leadership of church members.

"*Teddies*", our popular carers and pre-school children's group, meets in the Community Centre every week. The children have the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of play activities in a safe environment whilst the carers can enjoy a chat and refreshments together. The session finishes with a sing-song where the children sing well-known rhymes and songs. Four times a year "*Teddies*" has a special Service in church with Christian songs, a reading and a prayer. These Services celebrate Easter, Harvest, Christmas and the summer break.



It is estimated that approximately 100 church members lead and organise the above groups, which contribute much to the Church's life and growth and witness to our wider community.

"Faith expressing itself through love"



St Luke's Mission Statement

‘Knowing Jesus, Growing in Jesus, Showing Jesus to Others’

Background

From the April of 2010 the new PCC felt that the time was right for change to draw more people to God. There was a view that we needed to change the way some of the Services were led/conducted while still keeping a more traditional Service too.

The first thing was to replace the pews with chairs. Although this was the source of some misgiving in some sectors, the people of St Luke's donated enough money to buy the chairs necessary without the need for a loan.

This vision grew out of the Rev. Paul Day's Study Leave in 2010, which majored on Fresh Expressions/Missional Church, as he had discerned this to be the key need as he led St. Luke's forward. It built on his first Study Leave in 2002 when he looked at the "spirituality of those who don't go to church", on the CofE's Mission-Shaped Church Report.

THE FOUR "M"s

Mission-shaped church Missional communities of different sizes and styles need to be formed - mission-shaped Christians, mission-shaped congregations/Services, mission-shaped groups/activities... Some of these will grow around "acts of loving Service" to our community

Mixed Economy A church committed to being 50% traditional/inherited church, 50% new ways of being church/ fresh expressions. This values and safeguards inherited models of church, which still have the potential to disciple new people for whom this model is effective.

Multiple Congregation/groups The way forward for the UK church is through having a number of smaller congregations / groups meeting on various days and in a variety of locations and forms, rather than seeking to build one or more large Sunday congregations. "Small is beautiful" and bigger is okay too, so some may be larger gatherings than others: variety is key - "menu" of opportunities to engage with God and His people. To enable "fresh expressions" we need to assess the resourcing of Sunday Services. We, also, need to be willing to try and fail, close, move on, try again. Prayerful, bold experimentation has to be encouraged. **The Net**, our new community meeting monthly at Queen's Park Leisure Centre, is a good example of what we hope to create. However, other new missional communities may look very different to The Net! They will grow from a God-given vision and passion

MEN - a statistic - bring a man to Christ and in 98% of cases others in the family will follow, so we need to answer questions like: How can we reach men effectively? How can we make gatherings more "man-friendly"?

VITAL INGREDIENTS — "THE 3 Ps"

Prayer... both personal and corporate...

Passion... the best comes from people of passion!

People... who are growing to be more and more like Jesus

revised for Parish Profile September 2013

Vision for Worship at 10.30am

*[This seminal document was the basis for change three years ago and has been used to develop Services or change others. It does not reflect where we are **NOW** but we felt it needed to be seen in its original form.]*

This vision needed to be seen against the **backdrop** of change we had been engaged in over the previous four years. Our worship times, our worship area and the *character* of worship at 10.30am have all changed. The **purpose** of all these changes has been to offer styles of worship that many existing members appreciate, whilst creating the opportunity to offer new styles that will attract new worshippers and keep in fellowship several members who had longed for something different.

Three Services have been created at 10.30am that are more **radically alternative** - Baptisms, Cafe Church and Cafe Communion. They make good use of the more flexible and informal worship area. It is acknowledged by many that we have yet to reconstruct Parade Services. We have developed **a monthly pattern** for 10.30s, with a different style each week, which attracts a "core" of worshippers every Sunday, and others for certain styles.

Crucial elements within these changes can be summed up in three words:

RELATIONSHIP, WORSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP

Relationship.....These Services - and church life in general - aim to be **about relationships...**

We use activities and give opportunities that enable us to relate more to each other as well as to God, achieved in a variety of ways, such as:

- ☐ small informal discussion groups (eg: around a table at Café Church)
- ☐ sharing God's story with our story (through opportunities like our current Good News slots)
- ☐ informal fellowship over refreshments - sometimes WITHIN Services rather than before or after

It may be appropriate to try having informal prayer groups for intercession sometimes.

Worship....This needs to be **more informal** so **less liturgical**... sometimes with less or **NO** singing...We sometimes use a special prayer, a Psalm, an affirmation of faith, etc. - but try not to have too many in the same Service. We use elements of liturgy sparingly and imaginatively... and, hopefully, to maximum effect! We don't use Service Sheets very often, and sometimes don't have any recognizable "liturgical" elements - but we worship God still! Our worship is well-planned, well-prepared and structured and usually well presented. It could also have more freedom and spontaneity in the Spirit... but that will come with the growing confidence we have. We sometime have Services where **we don't have to sing!** There may be songs/music sometimes but no compulsion to join in - people can listen, reflect, just join in a refrain, worship in the Spirit.

DiscipleshipWe are developing a variety of learning styles, especially ones that are **more experiential** - that is, "hands on"... less reliant on preaching/teaching and use more ways of learning that connect with people's experience, and/or allow them to experience something that makes the learning more real, the truth more relevant to their lives. This is achieved through discussion and sharing, through "prayer or activity stations", through creative/craft opportunities, etc. Such ways are enabling us to develop a truly all-age and all-abilities approach - generally more inclusive worship - that is attractive and engaging.

Service planning must continue to reflect these three key elements of **relationship, worship and discipleship** whilst varying the ways in which they are blended, focusing on one or two more sometimes but ensuring that each is significantly present in every Service. *This is true for ALL of our Services, be they at 9.00am, 6.30pm or at the 10.30s highlighted here.*

revised for Parish Profile September 2013



The Church and its Community

St Luke's Church has an excellent relationship with our local community and we are fully committed to strengthening this further in the future. Our wide-ranging service to our community is recognised and applauded by St Helens Council, with whom we have established close ties.

We have used various grants to improve the Church Centre by the installation of a new catering-standard kitchen and a large car park to facilitate wider community use.

The Church Centre has become St Luke's Community Centre and "*Luke Lunch*" was established soon after the alterations were complete. The Centre has its own Organising Committee, which meets 4 times a year, preceding PCC meetings.

The following table shows the many activities that occur in the Church Premises:

Group/Activity	Age	Centre	<u>Weekly/ Monthly</u>	Special Notes
Teddies	0-3yrs	CC	W	Mums & tots group term time
Boys' Brigade	Junior Section	CC	W	Term time
Rainbows	5-7yrs	CC	W	Term time
Brownies	7-11yrs	CC	W	Term time
Guides	10-18yrs	CC	W	Term time
PCC	Adult	Church	M	In Parish Room
Prayer Meeting	Adult	Church	fortnightly	In Parish Room
Helping Hearts	Adult	Church	M	Bereavement support group, Parish Rm
Ladies Fellowship	Older	Church	W	In Parish Room
Luke Inn	Over 50s	Church	M	Home-made tea and cakes. Guest speakers
Dance School	Primary	CC	W	Term time Saturday mornings
Evergreens	Over 60s	CC	M	Pilkingtons Pension Club
Political Surgery	Adult	CC	M	

"Faith expressing itself through love"

In addition to these groups, there is a group called "Bouncing Back", for those recovering from a relationship breakdown. This has been held in the local Bethany Medical Centre (neutral ground) thanks to the generosity of the Doctors, who are members of St Luke's and are generous with their time and their premises.

Outreach Events

We promote events when we can meet our neighbours and they can meet with each other. We have annual events to celebrate our church anniversary:-

- ♦ **Fun Day**. This is held in the grounds of the Bethany Medical Centre. The community members who come and engage in the many fun activities eagerly await this event. A Christian witness is not only available in the "Quiet Tent" but evident in the church volunteers around them during the day's various activities
- ♦ **Social Nights**. There is an annual Summer Quiz Night, which is part of the Church's anniversary celebrations. Other similar nights are organised through the year. These are sometimes "bring and share" occasions and everyone is encouraged to - 'bring some food—and a friend'



Others:-

- ♦ **The Net** A *Fresh Expression* of church held monthly at Queen's Park Leisure Centre
- ♦ **Carols by Candlelight Service** A well-attended Service each Christmas
- ♦ **Crib Service** On Christmas Eve for very young (and young at heart) and their families
- ♦ **Prayer Ministry on Cambridge Road** A church member has developed this ministry.
- ♦ **Luke Lunch** A monthly Luncheon club
- ♦ **Baptism Services** These are planned as an opportunity for outreach
- ♦ **One-off events** In 2012 we celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a **Big Lunch** for the community

** The social nights are usually held in venues other than church to help new friends enjoy a 'church' event in a less threatening environment.



School Links

Our Church School is “Queen’s Park CE/URC Primary School”. This flourishing, “controlled”, school was an amalgamation, in 1995, of the parish’s former “aided” CE school and the URC School. Located, in newly remodelled premises, near the eastern boundary of the parish, the School has very close links with St Luke’s. St Luke’s is keen to actively build relationships between school families and the church.



Occasional Offices

The Vicar conducts Weddings and Baptisms. The Vicar works to prepare couples wishing to marry at St Luke’s. Funeral Services are conducted by the Vicar and one of our Readers, who provide support to bereaved families before and after the Funeral. In the past 12 months there have been 25 Baptisms, 5 Weddings and 28 Funerals at St Luke’s.

We have two Memorial Services each year, intended for all those bereaved in the previous 6 months but also for anyone feeling the loss of a loved one no matter when.

Readers and other authorised church members take Holy Communion to house-bound members and to a local Care Home.

Missionary Links

We have two couples, serving with CMS, who are our Missionary Link Partners - Eric and Sandra Read in the Philippines and Bishop Peter Bartlett and his wife Sally in Paraguay. Both couples visit us regularly when they are in the UK and we are kept informed by our church representatives who pass on regular news and prayer requests. In addition the Church financially supports a number of home and overseas Missions and Charities.

The Church and its Buildings

St Luke's Church building, completed in 1932, is situated on Knowsley Road, St Helens. It is a traditional style building constructed in sandstone and brick, with a slate roof. Adjacent and to the rear of the main Church building is the St Luke's Community Centre. The Church Centre, opened in 1985, is constructed of brick with a flat roof.

The Church Building itself is in very good structural condition and regular maintenance has been undertaken as necessary throughout its life to ensure that this remains so.

The main entrance to the Church building is on Knowsley Road. On this side of the Church, there is a small car park, which was recently considerably extended using grant funding. Grass, flower beds and mature trees border the car park. This attractive frontage makes St Luke's a popular Wedding venue.

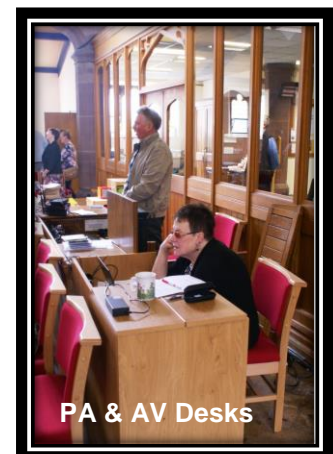
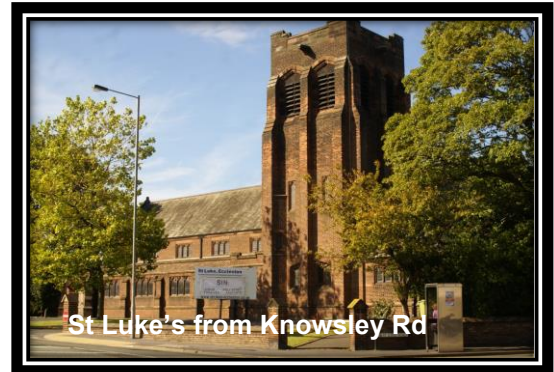
Internally the Church is traditional in its layout with a nave and elevated chancel. Double oak doors lead to an internal porch and then into the Jubilee Lounge.

The Jubilee Lounge was formed in 1981 by partitioning off the rear of the nave with a screen of wood and glass.

The Jubilee Lounge is carpeted and has an adjacent toilet, small kitchen and independent heaters. This Lounge is used for as a meeting place for refreshments and fellowship before and after Sunday Services.

The nave is a light and airy building with a barrelled timber ceiling,

light oak woodwork and sandstone support pillars. There is a PA system, including a Hearing Loop, which is controlled from the AV desk at the rear of the nave. There is, also, an Audio Visual System, which utilises 4 digital projectors to project material onto 4 screens, 3 at the front and one at the back, of the nave. The Church has a gas central heating system, which has recently had the boiler refurbished. The main body of the Church building has been subject to several phases of interior re-ordering. In 1998, the choir pews on the chancel were removed and the chancel and central aisle carpeted. At the same time, a new movable Communion Table and movable communion rails, for location on the chancel steps, were commissioned. A more major phase of re-ordering in 2011 saw the original oak pews removed and replaced with individual upholstered chairs. Window blinds have recently been fitted. The most recent re-ordering has done much to warm and brighten the building and make it more welcoming.



The Chancel is used by “Shekinah”, the church music group. This area has an electric piano and other equipment used by the group. The tower interior is currently used only for storage.

The main Church building is used for Sunday Worship Services. The fact that the chairs are not fixed offers a good level of flexibility. Varied seating layouts are used for different styles of worship, eg, Café Church worship, and other events.

From the Jubilee Lounge there are connecting doors and a corridor linking the St Luke’s Community Centre building. The Community Centre can, also, be accessed via an external door and so both buildings can, and are, used independently. The Community Centre consists of 2 meeting rooms, one carpeted, and a large hall. In addition, there is a kitchen, which has recently been refitted to a professional catering standard. The Centre has separate toilet facilities, which include a, recently built, toilet for disabled.

In the Centre's main hall additional insulating tiles have recently been fitted to the walls to improve the acoustic properties. The Centre has its own independent gas central heating system with relatively new boilers. The Community Centre facilities are used for a variety of church and other community groups, both on Sunday and throughout the rest of the week. A number of independent community groups and private parties hire the premises on a regular basis. However, the revenue is not enough to make the Centre financially self-sufficient and its running costs are subsidised by the church. The Centre is structurally sound but will need internal redecoration in the near future.

A Building Sub-Committee of the PCC has recently been established to assist with the on-going maintenance and development of the church buildings and they work with the Churchwardens to manage this important area. The church has a good relationship with local tradesmen, who give good service at fair prices.

The church has contracts for servicing the:

- ◆ Central heating systems
- ◆ Organ
- ◆ Fire extinguishers
- ◆ Portable appliance testing

There is a cleaning team and, also, a small group of willing volunteers who assist with more minor maintenance tasks. We believe that our buildings provide a good base for our worship and witness with potential for further aiding the church’s growth and development in the future.



A gifted flower-arranging team beautify the church interior with lovely floral arrangements