

# The Parishes of Prittlewell St Luke & All Saints, Southend



St Luke & All Saints

## Parish Profile 2024

# Introduction

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In May 2024 St Lukes went into vacancy after the prior priest-in-charge left for a post in Athens, Greece. Previously we have been a petitioning parish working with St Mary's, South Benfleet. With the departure of Fr Ben, we prayerfully reconsidered this and concluded that we wished to rescind the petition for alternative episcopal oversight. This has enabled us to happily anticipate working with All Saints'. All Saints Church went into vacancy a couple of months later after their long-time priest retired and moved away.

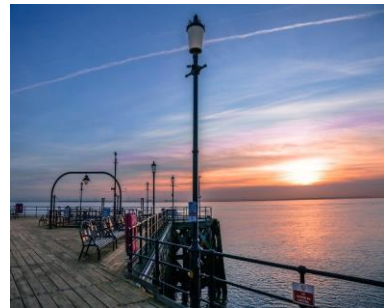
The PCC's together discussed changes they would like to make to bring new life to the Churches. By the grace of God all were in agreement that it would be a hopeful step forward to link both parishes through the sharing of the incoming priest.

There is a 0.7-mile walking distance between the church sites and the journey takes less than 5 minutes by car. This closeness is not the only benefit, we are fairly similar in missional attitudes with slightly different areas of desired growth and liturgically we now have similar approaches, with St Lukes having made adaptations to service orders. Both Churches have strong core teams of devout Christian parishioners who will work together with the next incumbent.

We have agreed that the next priest will live in the vicarage at St Lukes so the details of the property is included in the following profiles.

## Southend-on-Sea

Both Parishes are located in the coastal city of Southend. This is a lively place with seven miles of seafront, four blue flag beaches, Victorian parks and conservation areas, an amusements fun park, a sea life aquarium, a high street with two shopping centres, and the world's longest pleasure pier - all within two miles of St Luke's. The walkways on the sea front attract many tourists each year who come for the wide array of seafront sports, amusements, and shopping.



Southend is well-connected by road, rail, and air. There are two rail lines to London, which is less than an hour away. The highly rated London Southend Airport is a 10-minute drive from the vicarage:, it is still expanding and offers cheap flights to Europe and beyond. and has flight paths such that its flights cause low noise pollution over Southend.

Southend and neighbouring towns have plenty of activities to explore. It is the central commercial hub in this locality and includes the high street, a cinema, and plenty of places to eat and drink. Various events and festivals are held in our parks and green areas each year, attracting

visitors from across the country. The City has historic conservation areas such as Prittlewell Priory, Old Leigh, Southchurch Hall, Hadleigh Castle and others that are free/low cost to visit.



## About St. Luke's

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*You'll always be made welcome, someone is always available to help, explain anything and help you to feel included in church life. All backgrounds and walks of life come together here to worship the Lord who binds us together with love. Inclusion and encouragement are strong characteristics of the culture in this community and I am glad to be a part of it!*

*-Margaret. Church Warden*

### Community focused Identity

As a group, the people who make up the regular congregation are diverse. We come from different cultural backgrounds, generations and came to faith at different points of life. Often one person's strength is another person's weakness but this means we can better support the whole church as each contributes their gifts.

In the past we have worked closely with local schools, most recently with Temple Sutton Primary School and Bournemouth Park Academy. We extend yearly invitations for the whole assembly or groups of classes to visit for Easter, Harvest and Advent/Christmas services and to learn about aspects of Christianity.

We have also developed links with community groups and leaders who use the halls every week. Especially so with uniform groups who have crafted banners, wreaths and made bouquets for services including Mothering and Remembrance Sundays.

We work to include all ages in services with a developing monthly all age service, resources for younger children and we would like to re-develop a young church provision which had previously seen double figures of youth in attendance.

We keep an Anglican-catholic tradition with a preference for a mix of contemporary and traditional music, altar servers, incense, bells etc. During the vacancy we have changed from the Roman Rite to Common Worship, enabling us to be in greater communion with our sisters and brothers in the wider deanery of Southend.

## **Our Need**

We are looking for a parish priest with a vision for a community that has the church as its beating heart. Someone who pushes for growth in the church: in congregation size, in the faith of each parishioner, and in community projects. Someone who is missional in works to put the Gospel into action and who seeks to include all people in church life, responding to the pastoral needs of congregation and community. They would encourage prayer, bible study opportunities, and fellowship in the congregation while maintaining the Anglo-Catholic traditions of the church. Youth and children's ministry are a key focus at St Luke's, so we need a leader who engages with local schools and maintains relationships with other community leaders. We would like to develop home groups, nurture courses and a youth club in the parish, and would need a priest to consider these.

What we can offer:

- A strong core group of parishioners, committed to the Churches.
- A thriving community centre with a large daily footfall of visitors
- A large vicarage with a large and beautiful garden
- A wealth of outreach and community potential to spread the love of Christ
- A small but regular congregation of faithful Christians
- A warm welcome to our 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. The PCC is passionate to continue to grow the church and to continue to positively impact the health and wellbeing of the parish. Particularly we want to grow as a family friendly faith church, one for all ages and stages of life. The buildings and surrounding land enable 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 promote the faith and share the Good News!

We want to grow and flourish, to get as many of our parishioners as possible to commit to church and to know and love God as we do. We are excited to meet the priest who will join us in this mission.

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 priest who shares our vision and our strong sense of purpose.

## **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 began 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, its predecessor becoming what is now the

large hall. The new church was built much larger than the original, with a vision to fill all 250 seats (in pews). This is a vision we are still determined to fulfil today.

In the area are two primary schools and one secondary school, sheltered housing/retirement homes, privately owned 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 and has several pockets of green spaces.

The Parish is designated as an urban priority area. Earnings for some in the parish are below national average, with an above average number of parishioners on low income, retired, in education and other. 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 an English-speaking parish (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> language speakers), with no current 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. In the past 12 months the number of people on our electoral roll is 47, and the average weekly attendance is 20, 17 adults and 3 children. Over the past decade we have transitioned from a church with an older congregation to 50:50 young/middle age to older than 65.

We have a small group of adult and youth altar servers who are committed to continue this lay ministry. We have one Licensed Lay Minister who is eager to continue to develop adult and youth opportunities for learning, lay led services including serviced of the Word. And to lead and encourage others in lay pastoral care of one another.

We have in recent years travelled together in pilgrimage to Our Lady of Walsingham Anglican Shrine. Most recently a group attended the national pilgrimage day. We have also previously organized youth groups



attendance as well as linking up with other local churches to share ministry including Mass and Stations of the Cross. In addition, a number of us attended the Bradwell pilgrimage and taken part in the fellowship and walk together to the Chapel of St Peter on the Wall.

In previous years we have enjoyed other trips together including mystery tours (mostly Essex and Kent) including Brightlingsea and Southwold. We also took a group of adults and youth to London Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral to encourage young people to visit places to expand their knowledge and experience of the Christian faith.

## **The Church building**

The church here is bright, spacious, and peaceful, with seating for 250 people. It has a Sacristy, a church office, and a toilet all attached to the south aisle. It also has a small Lady Chapel off the north aisle.

St Lukes has several artistic features including a painted ceiling and windows, both by artist Mary Filer, and an award-winning statue of the Virgin Mary. We have a working organ but no organist

currently. There is also a beautiful small memorial garden outside with the ashes of those who have been laid to rest.



Our church is in well maintained condition. We have a wired sound system and modern lighting, which are adjusted to set the mood for everything from prayerful meditation to joyous celebration. There is on-site parking, wheelchair accessibility, and the roof and contents have all been secured with Smart Water.



## The Vicarage

The vicarage is behind the church, set back from St Luke's Road with a long driveway from the road. It is a large house 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 a beautiful, large garden at the back, with a garage and a shared 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 parquet flooring on the ground floor. During the vacancy the diocese has invested in property maintenance so that it is ready in time for move in day.



## St. Luke's Centre

St. Luke's centre is a large hall complex building adjacent to the church. In partnership with supporters have raised almost £450,000 to build and develop the centre over the years. The entire space is modern, wheelchair accessible, and secured by CCTV, Smart Water, and an alarm system. It functions as a key location for outreach, a cornerstone for activities in the wider community, and is used by between 700 to 1000 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 09:00-19:00 on weekends.





The centre houses a large hall with wooden flooring, a dance hall/studio with mirrors and harlequin flooring, washroom facilities, kitchen, clinical rooms, conference suite and media room plus several storage cupboards.

St Luke's Centre has a 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.

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 but built on a sound Christian ethos.

## **Worship and Community**

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### **Worship**

Our values encompass ecumenical principles and preserve catholic traditions within Anglican liturgy. Laity are encouraged and supported as Lectors, Intercessors, and other leadership roles within the church.

A Sung Mass/Communion is celebrated at all principal Sunday services and a said Mass is held during the week. We also hold a \*monthly Rosary prayer and occasional service of Benediction. All principal feasts and solemnities are celebrated. 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.

Here is a full list of the services regularly practiced at St. Luke's:

- Sun 8:45am Morning Prayer, 9.15am Sung Eucharist
- Sun 4pm Rosary prayers\*
- Tue 9.15am Morning Prayer, 5pm Evening Prayer
- Wed 9:15am Morning Prayer, 10am Holy Communion, 5pm Evening prayer
- Thu 9:15am Morning Prayer, 5pm Evening prayer
- Fri 9:15am Morning Prayer, 5pm 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 five baptisms, three funerals, ten interments of ashes and one All Souls Service. Our most recent annual Confirmation Service saw two families confirmed and baptized. We do not often get requests for weddings however renewal of wedding vows and other services are more popular.

## Pastoral Ministry

A small group of parishioners undertake weekly welfare check-ins with the elderly, unwell and they also visit at home and hospital. 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 21<sup>st</sup> century means.

## Church and community Links



Other churches in the parish are Ferndale Baptist Church and the Cornerstone URC with whom St Lukes doesn't currently have links but has had previously.

On Sundays the Zimbabwean Apostles church worship at the large hall in St Lukes centre.

We have had 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.

One 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. This worked well to encourage families into Church.

We host school assemblies and tours at least once per year. Often this has been at Easter, Harvest or Advent but sometimes we help to host year groups to aid in learning about the Christian faith in practice.



## **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:

### ***NHS Therapy for you***

Low and high intensity mental health support by referral (self or via GP).

### ***NHS Respiratory rehabilitation (for COPD)***

A local clinic which utilizes the space to educate, monitor and rehabilitate people with breathing difficulties.

### ***Tango for Balance***

For Parkinson's disease and MS sufferers: gentle dance steps to improve balance and confidence.

### ***Active Life*** (supported by the local authority)

Zumba, Pilates, Aerobic Toners, and Yoga for women and men

### ***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

### ***DiddiDance***

A franchise offering weekly 'dancercise' for accompanied toddlers

### ***Line Dancing***

### ***Rainbows & Brownies***

### ***Beavers, Cubs & Scouts***

### ***Strollercise***

### ***Kangoo Jump, Yoga4all and more...***



## Finances

St. Luke's finances are in good health. We meet our quota of £28,710.00 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 is the main source of income for the parish and is managed well by the parish administrator and centre supervisor. Other income includes 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 2023 is as follows:

**PARISH OF ST. LUKE PRITTLEWELL**  
**Assets as at 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

	£ 2023	p	2022				
Current a/c Santander	43,025	49	27,394				
C. B. of Finance Deposit a/c	23,010	74	22,296				
Chelmsford B of Finance	12,357	46	11,974				
	<u>78,393</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>61,664</u>				

**Parish Church of St. Luke Prittlewell:**  
**Receipts and Payments Account for Year Ended 31<sup>ST</sup> December 2023**  
**General Account**

<u>Receipts</u>	£ 2023	P	2022	<u>Payments</u>	£ 2023	P	2022
Balance b/fd	37,496	64	37,569	Parish Share	28,710	00	28,901
Collections Loose	16	35		Organ & Organist	417	00	397
Planned	5,779	30	6,108	Insurance	2,216	00	2,196
Donations/Walsing	120	00	2,166				

San/Votive Candles	441	59	322	Electricity	677	16	444
Garden of Rest	2,115	00	1,017	Gas	804	69	777
Fees	1,337	00	885	Printing/Postage	162	37	26
Charities	295	50	775	Charities	341	00	618
Fdraising S Coffee	2,231	37	1,329	Sanctuary	995	13	734
Gift Aid Tax	1,525	23	1,489	Church Maint	5,259	52	2,396
Donations/Grants				Transfer to CBF			
				Garden of Rest	377	00	230
Grounds Maint	480	00	480	Church Grounds	212	06	201
Misc	54	24	54	Fees	1,164	00	548
CBF Transfer				Vicar's Exp	682	62	1,791
Insurance Claim/ Project Transfer				ChExp/Fraising etc	5,123	87	3,296
Energy Grant	2,280	00		Insurance Claim Rf	-	-	
				Walsingham Fees			2,858
				Admin & Cleaning	15,106	73	11,086
				Surplus on Gen a/c			
<b>106 The Grove</b>	9,800	00	10,200	<b>106 The Grove</b>	1,172	58	1,859
Rent				Maint & Insurance			
<b>Hall Rents &amp; Dona</b>	64,256	75	49,250	<b>Hall Electricity</b>	2,403	88	2,427
				Gas	2,797	18	2,119
				Maintenance	4,396	55	9,300
				Insurance	2,081	41	1,943
				Balance c/fd	53,128	22	37,497
	<b>128,228</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>111,644</b>		<b>128,228</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>111,644</b>

## Message from the PCC

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Ours is a diminished congregation yet we remain a strong Church with a great deal of potential and continued blessing from God. We have been blessed with a close and active community, a large 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 work we 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.

In the name of Christ,  
St Luke's PCC

# Appendices

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## Appendix 1: A Message from Bishop Guli

### THE DIOCESE: A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GULI



Covering Essex and East London, Chelmsford is one of the largest, most diverse and exciting dioceses in the Church of England. We are home to more than 3 million people representing many socio-economic, ethnic and faith groups and a fantastic variety of cultures and traditions. We have enormous opportunities for mission and service and considerable challenges to face and resolve as we continue to deal with the long-term implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and global challenges that have a direct impact on our parish churches and the communities we serve. My sense is that the whole Church of God is in a liminal season when we cannot clearly see the future and so don't quite know what it will look like. But we know that the Church has faced profound challenges in the past and as we look to the future we do so with faith that when we open ourselves up to being changed and transformed, we are best placed to serve God and God's people. It is within this context and following a period of listening and discernment that started when I became Bishop of Chelmsford in 2021, that we have begun to articulate our future direction of travel as a Diocese with a focus on travelling well together:

- Our purpose is to love God and to love our neighbour; to worship faithfully and empowered by the Holy Spirit, witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ as we serve the extraordinarily diverse array of local communities in Essex and East London.
- Our approach is to enable and empower parishes and worshipping communities to discern how they are to be God's people in their own very different local contexts and as part of one diocesan family.
- Underpinning our approach is an invitation to a way of being articulated by shared diocesan values which might shape how we travel together, support each other and provide mutual accountability.

Since I became Bishop of Chelmsford, I have witnessed people's great warmth and I have seen first hand, the wonderful things going on in our parishes. Any new priest joining us in the Diocese of Chelmsford does so at a time of challenge, a time of change and most significantly a time of hope for our Church in this most diverse and exciting of dioceses.

**+Guli**

**Bishop of Chelmsford**

**Find out more about our Diocesan Direction of Travel and Values:**



**[www.chelmsford.anglican.org/travelling-well-together](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/travelling-well-together)**

### **Appendix 3: A Statement from the Area Dean of Southend**

Welcome to Southend Deanery!

It's good to know that you are considering applying for the vacancy at St Luke's and All Saints.

You will find a warm welcome from both congregations. Although not large in number they are prayerful, outward looking churches who will work with you to grow in faith and numbers.

The Deanery Chapter meets monthly for lunch and fellowship. We are a varied group of people but you will be made welcome.

Southend is a great place to live with good schools, fast links to London and the seaside!

We are praying for the right person to come and share in ministry in our City and our prayers are with you as you seek God's guidance.

Louise Williams, Area Dean