

st giles

PARISH PROFILE 2019

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**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME with
ST THOMAS, BUTTERTON**

Our aims are... to learn about God; to demonstrate his love for us; to share our faith with others.

THANK YOU for your interest in the life of our parish. We hope you will find the information in this profile interesting and informative – and maybe, with God’s grace, you will feel yourself called to consider a move here to minister among us.

The profile is organised in the following way to help you to get a sense of what is happening in our parish, the challenges facing us and the opportunities for a fulfilling ministry with us:

- ▶ Our strengths and our challenges;
- ▶ People;
- ▶ The year at St Giles and St Thomas;
- ▶ Worship;
- ▶ Resources (including buildings);
- ▶ Rectory and town;
- ▶ The way ahead – the person we are praying for.



Strengths

- ▶ Both churches in the parish have a strong core of worshippers who give of themselves to promote the kingdom of Jesus Christ. This is manifested in the love they have for each other and the encouragement they show to people who come into contact with the life of the church.
- ▶ A broad range of worship styles has developed, in response to the need to preserve the best of the past while exploring new ways to be a contemporary church.
- ▶ There is a warm and friendly atmosphere, which welcomes people into the fellowship of Jesus Christ and encourages them on their own journey to encounter Him.
- ▶ The parish's well-established and competent Ministry Team, loved and valued by the congregation.
- ▶ The team supports our minister, shares tasks and prays together, and it welcomes innovation while valuing the traditions of the parish.
- ▶ Strong links to the local community, particularly through the civic role St Giles has as the Parish Church, and also through our close relationship with St Giles' and St George's Church of England (C) Academy. We also have a ministry to local residential facilities for older adults, and a more rural ministry largely through St Thomas'.
- ▶ The support and fellowship which all members give to each other often quietly and without fanfare and with love and humour.
- ▶ The energy and enthusiasm to sustain our life together, and to embark on ambitious projects to help us to adapt to the future.
- ▶ St Giles is a financially secure church which pays its Parish share.
- ▶ We have recently completed three major structural projects - Churchyard restoration, organ and heating. There are, therefore, no major building issues outstanding.

Challenges

- ▶ In common with all churches, we need to continually question whether our

worshipping life meets the needs of the whole community.

- ▶ Although we have provision for children and young people, we need to review our approach and to develop it.
- ▶ We have had study groups throughout the year but a fresh approach needs to be taken to the development of Bible study and prayer, and how we develop our faith outside our regular services.
- ▶ Because there are different worship events and social events, the people who attend their preferred service or activity do not always meet other members of the community. We would wish to bring people together more.
- ▶ We have had exciting development in our worship and particularly in All Age Worship, Messy Church and a mid week Toddler Service (Praise and Play). We need to plan how we move forward with these and how they influence our other weekly services. We also need to investigate sources of funding to enable us to continue to employ our Children and Families Worker.
- ▶ Because we have a strong Ministry Team, we need to ensure that Lay Ministry is not neglected and develop people's spiritual gifts from within the congregation.
- ▶ A more systematic approach to pastoral care needs to be developed.
- ▶ Although St Giles is at the heart of the town, it is on the edge of the parish, so we need to develop ways of reaching the wider parish. The same applies to Butterton, although the challenge is different as the church is in a dispersed rural community. Butterton also recognises the challenges that come with a small rural church.
- ▶ How to develop town centre ministry in the context of struggling town centres. This is, of course, a national problem.

People



The Rector:
You?



Joshua Penduck:
Curate



Peter Nisbeck:
Non-Stipendiary Minister



Ann Taylor:
Ordained Local Minister



Jean Walker:
Ordained Local Minister



John Maddison:
Reader and
Associate Diocesan
Warden of Readers

ALTHOUGH there are many people who voluntarily and lovingly give of their time to St Giles, there are two paid people who you need to know about...



► Aidan Goldstraw, Director of Music: A professional musician, Aidan plays the organ and piano and also acts as both choirmaster and leader of the St Giles worship band.

Meet the St Giles ministry team ...

THE PARISH has a covenanted Ministry Team which meets Diocesan requirements and has recently had its Covenant renewed.

The team members take their work seriously – which doesn't, however, mean that they always take *themselves* seriously!

The team supports the Rector and each member draws strength from each of the others' mutual support.

All team members are very different and bring different styles and gifts to their leadership and teaching roles.

They have all had a great deal of experience of life both within and

outside church life, some of which has been extremely challenging.

The team is totally united in its aim to promote the work of the Gospel. Members love sharing their work and enjoy discussion and planning together.

The team meets regularly to support each other; to plan for the coming months; to raise issues of interest or concern; to pray together, and to develop a vision for the future.

An incoming incumbent can be sure of the team's commitment to welcome, love and support them in this challenging but hugely rewarding role.



► Jean Buckley, Children and Families Worker: Jean co-ordinates Sunday Club, Messy Church and the 'Praise and Play' service, as well as leading some All Age Worship.

St Giles has a team of two Wardens and four deputy Wardens as well as a dedicated and active PCC. St Thomas's has an active Church Committee.

Life at St Giles and St Thomas . . .



Worship

ST GILES

Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion, 2nd and 4th Sunday and major festivals.

10.30am (Principal Service) Holy Communion, Common Worship with hymns, worship songs and a sung setting. Family Service (2nd Sunday) with welcome to those newly baptised, worship band providing the music.

Wednesday

1.10pm Holy Communion – a short service including a reflection on the scripture of the day.

Friday

10.45am Service of Prayer.

ST THOMAS

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday (Common Worship or BCP). Morning Prayer 3rd and 5th Sunday (CW and BCP alternating) and more informal worship on the third Sunday of each month.

Occasional Offices

We have a welcoming approach to these services which are so important to people at significant times of their lives.

We aim to be available to all within legal requirements and do our best to accommodate their needs without imposing unnecessary restrictions.

Weddings

We have on average 10 weddings throughout the year. Currently, we run a fun and relaxed afternoon session early

in the year for couples planning to get married at either church.

This is an opportunity to discuss the Christian nature of marriage, the ordering of the service, the choice of music and any issues or concerns the couples may have. This is followed up with individual pastoral visits.

Baptisms

Baptisms are conducted after the main parish Worship on Sunday.

Parents seeking baptism for their children come to the All Age Worship to make a booking and receive an information pack.

This is followed up with a visit from the officiating minister to talk about the importance of baptism and the obligations it brings.

Families and the children return to a subsequent Family Service to be greeted by the congregation and to receive the baptism certificate and a copy of a gospel.

Funerals

The Ministry Team conduct three or four funerals a month, mainly at St Giles or the local crematoria. Many families return to St Giles as they see it as 'their' church, often because of long family links.

Styles of Worship

The principal objective of worship at St Giles and St Thomas is to draw near to God and to offer a warm and accessible style of worship which encourages people in their journey of faith.

The Eucharist is central to our worship and is the principal service at St Giles for all Sundays except the second Sunday.

Worship is relaxed and dignified, with a place for informality and humour.

The sermon is valued and congregations have high expectations of clear and sound teaching and preaching.

For the principal services, the dress for presiding clergy is cassock, alb and stole, and cassock, surplice and scarf for non-Eucharistic services. For All Age Worship and other informal services, leaders do not robe.

Music is very important in the life of the parish and is eclectic in its variety, from traditional hymns to the latest worship songs at all services.

St Giles has a robed choir which takes a lead in singing a setting for Holy Communion services and sings anthems and special seasonal music as required.

The Worship Band leads the music for All Age Worship and some other services.

Praise and Play meets weekly on Monday morning and is an opportunity for carers and toddlers to have fun and enjoy simple worship together.

As part of its Civic mission St Giles hosts the town's main Remembrance Service, as well as the Battle of Britain Service. The annual Civic Service marks the commencement of the Mayor's term of office.

'Immerse' is a new alternative multi sensory experiential form of worship, offered quarterly.

Parish life and resources

ANY ORGANISATION'S greatest resources are its people and that is true at St Giles and St Thomas. The people keep the church running, but also reach out to the community. To give you a flavour of some of the ways people are involved we have, for example:

Friday morning Coffee Bar offering a relaxed atmosphere for anyone from the community. Twice a month this also includes a 'Mini Market' 'Rainbows' Pre School Playgroup meeting on a Wednesday morning providing a safe place for carers to bring their children to play and socialise.

Social Events throughout the year. Particularly popular are the annual Pancake evening, heritage Open Day, Harvest Supper and Christmas Fair.

The church also hosts concerts and community events such as the town's Christmas tree Festival. Other activities include:

- Choir and worship band;
- Flower arrangers;
- Cleaning teams;
- Mothers' Union;
- Social Committee;
- Food Bank workers;
- Reading helpers at the church primary school;
- School Governors;
- Youth Uniformed Organisations;
- Bell ringers;
- Gardening Team;

St Giles – the building

The Parish Church of St Giles is the fifth building to occupy the site, although the tower has been in place since the 14th century.

The church was designed by George Gilbert Scott and is a Grade II* listed building. It is a wonderful, flexible space for worship and other events.

Moveable staging is available to increase flexibility and a recently-installed new sound system has enriched sound reproduction in the church. The building itself inspires worship but it

is understood that it is the house of the church and is seen as a place of encounter in many and varied ways, from enthusiastic All Age Worship to silent prayer and the place to light a candle in peace.

The size of the church offers scope for flexibility and imagination in liturgy, including the use of technology.

The Side Chapel is an intimate worship area and is used particularly for 8am Holy Communion, the mid-week Holy Communion and Friday morning prayers.

Church Hall

At the rear of the church, a hall and gathering space was built within the nave in the 1980s with good catering facilities for social events, the Friday morning coffee bar and the Rainbows playgroup. It is hired out to community groups e.g. uniformed organisations and a community choir.

Bell Tower

The tower has, unusually, a ring of 12 bells, eight of which date from 1732. The tower frequently hosts visiting teams of ringers because of the number of bells.

St Thomas's

St Thomas's is a small and historically significant beautiful village church. The church is three miles from the town centre and is the only building of any capacity in the village.

Special services, concerts and other social events are held in the church, often arranged in conjunction with the Friends of Butterton.

Communications

Web: www.stgilesnewcastle.org.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/stgilesnewcastle

Twitter: @stgilescastle

We also have a monthly printed Parish News magazine and (at St Giles) a weekly notice sheet distributed at services to inform the community of events and prayer priorities.

The Rectory



THE RECTORY is a detached property dating from the mid-1970s. It is well maintained and consists of the following accommodation:

- ▶ Lounge;
- ▶ Dining room;
- ▶ Kitchen;
- ▶ Study (with access without going into the main house);
- ▶ Downstairs cloakroom and toilet with access from the study;
- ▶ Four bedrooms;

▶ Bathroom.

The house is set in a lawned garden with trees and shrubs, and is private even though it is situated in a popular residential area. It has an integral garage.

There are local shops literally across the road and the town and church are within easy walking distance.

The house has recently benefited from the installation of double glazing throughout, including the front door.

The garden, although large, has also been adapted to make maintenance relatively easy.



The town and environs



THE TOWN was originally founded by King Henry II who granted it a Royal Charter in 1173. It is proud of its historical heritage and bears the title of 'The Loyal and Ancient Borough'.

Newcastle-under-Lyme has a wide range of shops, although it is not a major shopping centre.

Larger shops are available in the nearby 'Six Towns' of the city of Stoke-on-Trent (Hanley being its main retail centre) and at local retail parks. It is a pleasant environment in which to spend time and has recently seen an increase in cafés and eating establishments.

Newcastle has weekly markets and a monthly Farmers Market. The borough council has appointed a Town Centre Manager to enhance local facilities and encourage commercial developments. The church is a member of the Town Cen-

Above, Newcastle town centre on market day. Below, the much-admired Staffordshire Moorlands are easily accessible for lovers of the outdoors.



tre Partnership and has contact with the manager.

Newcastle is also home to Keele University and Science Park, and has a range of excellent local schools and educational facilities, including Newcastle College, with which the church is currently involved in a fashion and design project.

The church controlled primary school of St Giles and St George's has been rated by

Ofsted as 'Good with Outstanding features'.

The highly-acclaimed New Vic theatre is a short distance from the town centre.

Other nearby cultural venues include Hanley's Victoria Hall (a nationally-renowned concert venue) and the Regent Theatre, which hosts national touring companies as well as local productions.

Stoke-on-Trent also has other theatres and hosts a Literary Festival, as well as an annual concert series.

Transport links are excellent, with the M6 being close by and Stoke-on-Trent railway station providing convenient and frequent links to most parts of the country.

The beautiful Staffordshire countryside is easily accessible, while the Peak District National Park and other areas of natural beauty are also easily reached.

The way ahead

THE PERSON we are praying for to join us in the joy and challenge of our life together will:

- ▶ Have Sacrament and Scripture at the heart of their personal spirituality;
- ▶ Be rooted in prayer and confident of the guidance of the Holy Spirit;
- ▶ Be dedicated to the pastoral needs of people, love them and be loved by them;
- ▶ Be a team player who is comfortable working with a Covenanted Ministry Team, valuing the gifts of others in the life of the church;
- ▶ Be comfortable with a visible profile in the life of the town, the civic role of St Giles and the rural community of St Thomas's.
- ▶ Enjoy a close working relationship with the church primary school;
- ▶ Value a central Anglican tradition with a variety of styles in worship, and be happy to continue this tradition;



- ▶ Enjoy working with other Christian leaders in Churches Together in Newcastle;
- ▶ Have an understanding of the diverse needs of different age groups;
- ▶ Take a lead in the challenges and opportunities facing the church;
- ▶ An experienced priest who

has held at least one previous incumbent position – we would prefer someone willing to make a longer term commitment to the church, preferably 7+ years, to lead us into the future;

- ▶ Be confident in the use of information technology.

AND FINALLY . . .

We hope you have enjoyed reading our parish profile and will consider joining us.

If you would like to discuss anything in the profile or any aspects of life at St Giles and St Thomas, please do not hesitate to contact either of our churchwardens, David Wildman on 01782 614982 or Christine Bailey on 01782 618431.