

# **ST LUKE'S HOLBROOKS, COVENTRY**



## **PARISH PROFILE**



## BISHOP OF COVENTRY'S INTRODUCTION

Coventry is a great place to be. Known as the city of peace and reconciliation, it is now a very diverse set of communities with good relationships between the Faiths and a determination to work together among the churches. It's a growing city with a young population and many new housing developments. It's a city that prides itself on rising, phoenix-like, from the ashes. That seems to be happening at the moment, with the manufacturing base of the city becoming stronger again, employment rising and regeneration happening in various parts of the city.

The city gives its name to the diocese, which covers most of Warwickshire. We're a good size, neither too big nor too small, and a fairly compact coherent shape, allowing parishes and clergy to get to know each other. We're excited by the gospel, confident about the place of the Church in the purposes of God, committed to growing the life of the Church in quality and quantity, and determined to impact society through transformative presence and activity in our local communities.

So much of this has been modelled in the parish of St Luke, Holbrooks, over the years through its faithful ministry, none more so than in recent years through the leadership of Canon Kit Dunkley SSC. Father Kit, a missionary minded parish priest, has shown the capacity of a parish church deeply embedded both in the catholic tradition of the Church of England and in an area of the city that's not without significant need and challenge, to reach out to others with the light of Christ and to celebrate the presence of Christ among his people with joyful worship. We want that to continue and grow in the next phase of the parish's life.

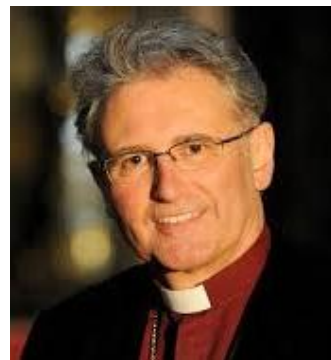
We are also looking to the new parish priest to continue and develop the parish's rich contribution to the atmosphere of positivity, mutuality and acceptance experienced across the diocese. We are very committed to the Five Guiding Principles of the House of Bishops and it is joy for me personally to work with Bishop Jonathan, Bishop of Ebbsfleet and Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Coventry, to deepen the life within and contribution to the diocese of traditional catholic parishes and priests.

The appointment for St Luke's comes at a symbolic and significant time in the life of not only the local but also the national Church. My hope and prayer is that the new priest for St Luke's will help to show all the people of God – and the wider community – what 'mutual flourishing' really means in practice.

I commend this post to you.

With my prayers

+ Christopher



## BISHOP OF EBBSFLEET'S INTRODUCTION

It has been a pleasure to have got to know the congregation of St Luke's, Holbrooks. They are a fun and delightful community of people, who are rooted in Anglican Catholic tradition and spirituality, and who have a very positive basis for a sound, prayerful and sustainable future.

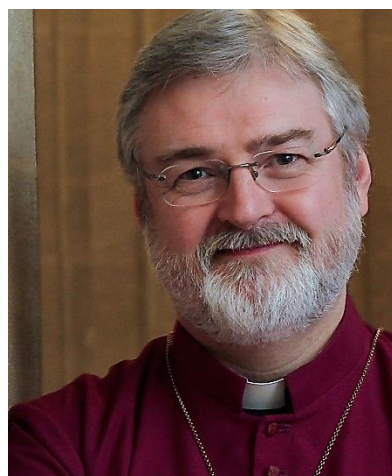
Their previous incumbent, Canon Kit Dunkley SSC, is a well-known and much-loved priest among Anglican Catholic parishes, and has done much, as Bishop Christopher has already mentioned, to help the Diocese and wider church to respect and value the Catholic tradition. St Luke's therefore has a positive history! And we're keen it should have an equally positive future. We are looking together for a priest who will take this community forward in its mission and ministry, enabling it to grow and flourish, and make a positive difference to the local community and beyond.

The Catholic tradition has at its heart a joyful vision of holiness and sacramental transformation of people and communities. It is time for us to celebrate and share that vision with confidence; and I am sure that the people of St Luke's are able to share it in diocesan and deanery circles to everyone's benefit.

But the service of a committed and purposeful priest is indispensable to that future.

You have got this far: I hope you will consider prayerfully if God is calling you to this task in Holbrooks. The diocese is committed to the health and growth of its parishes, and has a very clear strategy based on qualities that every Catholic parish can and should embrace. I am sure you will feel strengthened in your commitment and sustained in your ministry here, as you help the diocese and the Ebbsfleet family to contribute significantly to the future of our church.

In the name of the Lord:

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol followed by the name "Jonathan".

## DEANERY SUMMARY

St Luke's is part of Coventry North Deanery. Deaneries in the Diocese of Coventry are key strategic units for mission. Coventry North includes city centre, UPA, suburban and rural parishes, many of which include areas of deprivation. Almost all types of church tradition are within the Deanery - from Evangelical to Traditionalist, a Pioneer Church in the City Centre (Urban Hope), and the Cathedral!

We are committed to fulfilling the threefold Diocesan Mission Purpose of Worshipping God, Making New Disciples and Transforming Communities via the 8 Essential Qualities of healthy churches, and we want to work together to both support each other and see God's Kingdom come in Coventry North.

The deanery is seeking to grow churches and to become more missionally sustainable. We are increasingly aware of those areas of our parish demographics which are under-represented in our congregations, and therefore work with younger people in their 20-30s is one of our target areas in both the deanery and the diocese.

We are rejecting the narrative of inevitable decline, and are expectant that God will do great things among us. St Luke's Holbrook's is in a key area, with a growing mission field and we look forward to welcoming the new incumbent as we work together and support one another.

Alison Evans  
Area Dean





## BACKGROUND TO POST



This post has arisen after the retirement of Fr Kit Dunkley SSC, after serving the parish for 19 years. The PCC had previously passed Resolutions A, B and C, and has requested, on grounds of theological conviction, that arrangements

now be made for it in accordance with the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests. We come under the episcopal oversight of the Bishop of Ebbsfleet (who is an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Coventry) and are an associate both of Forward in Faith and the Society of SS Wilfred and Hilda.

St Luke's is a long-standing traditionalist church whose former priest (Fr Kit) did a huge amount to contribute to the warm and very positive relationships which exist not only with other Ebbsfleet parishes in the Diocese, but with churches across the Diocese of all traditions. This positivity arising out of our recent history means that St Luke's has an excellent foundation to become a thriving traditionalist church within a Diocese genuinely committed to the 5 Principles.

Saint Luke's has had a Catholic tradition since the foundation of the Parish, but we are not 'stuffy'! The worship is modern, relaxed and friendly. We enjoy a wide variety of musical styles across the traditional and modern repertoire, and we are always open to exploring new material for worship. Again, this will provide a good foundation for attractive, accessible, Catholic worship.



The parish is in a fairly deprived area of Coventry, with much new housing being built. There are increasing numbers of younger people moving into the area. In alignment with a Diocesan strategy for reaching younger people, we would like our new priest to help us reach these younger generations which are sadly mostly missing from our congregation.

Fr Kit's conscientious commitment to supporting the Ebbsfleet parishes within the Diocese, as well as being Master-General of the Society of the Holy Cross, has been widely appreciated for many years. However, inevitably, this wider ministry came at a cost of a reduction of time investing in the actual parish of St Luke's. We recognize that this post of St Luke's may well attract candidates with the potential for wider ministry and leadership responsibilities, but we would wish the initial priorities to be focused on building relationships in the parish and developing the health and growth of the congregation.

## ROLE SPECIFICATION

The role of this post is to lead the churches in fulfilling the Diocesan Mission Purpose of:

- Worshipping God
- Making New Disciples
- Transforming Communities.

This will be achieved by developing 8 essential qualities in the life of the church:

<b>Empowering</b>	Leadership
<b>Gift-oriented</b>	Ministry
<b>Passionate</b>	Spirituality
<b>Inspiring</b>	Worship
<b>Holistic</b>	Small Groups
<b>Need-oriented</b>	Outreach
<b>Loving</b>	Relationships
<b>Functional</b>	Structures

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

We welcome candidates who:

- Are passionate about leading a traditionalist Catholic church in a deprived context into greater health, flourishing and growth, especially with a younger generation.
- Will help us improve our areas of weakness, especially (initially) in empowering lay leaders, developing the small group life of the church, helping people come to Christian faith, and in functional structures.
- Know and love Jesus and the Bible, and communicate this engagingly in word and deed.
- Have a good track record of positive relationships within their deaneries and Diocese, and who can enable the Catholic tradition to make a positive contribution to the wider church.

# **ST LUKE'S AND THE DIOCESAN MISSION PURPOSE AND 8 ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF HEALTHY CHURCHES**

The Mission Purpose of the Diocese of Coventry is:

- Worshipping God
- Making New Disciples
- Transforming Communities.

St Luke's is fully committed to fulfilling these three aspects.

We believe that we will achieve this Mission Purpose by developing 8 Essential Qualities in the life of the church. For more on these qualities, please see [www.healthychurches.org.uk](http://www.healthychurches.org.uk). We completed the Healthy Churches questionnaire from Natural Church Development (NCD) as a congregation in February 2016 and the results are published on the Diocesan website alongside this Parish Profile. The results of the survey shows that we have many areas which need improvement!

## **Empowering Leadership**

The people of St. Luke's have a common catholic tendency to defer to the leadership of the vicar. 'Father knows best' might not be actually stated, but has been there under the surface. As a result, there has not always been the level of lay leadership development that there could have been. In a context where people lack confidence and are often hesitant about offering themselves or recognising their own gifts, it can be easier to simply do roles and jobs oneself rather than invest the time and energy in training others. However, we recognize that this model of leadership is not producing lay leadership at a level that we would wish. This is being felt during the interregnum where the lack of lay leadership is being exposed. The weakness in Empowering Leadership may also be a factor in our low score for Functional Structures (see below).

One positive example of lay leadership development has been with our coffee drop-in on Friday mornings. Begun originally by previous curates, this is now entirely lay run and is encouraging members of the wider community to become familiar with the church.

We would therefore like to build on positives like the coffee drop-in, and develop our ability to encourage, enable and support a wider share of leadership responsibilities within the congregation.

## **Gift-Oriented Ministry**

This is our second strongest area, though the overall score remains fairly low. It has been difficult to encourage people to recognise their gifts and to develop them within our life and work. We need to do more work on encouraging people to develop their own roles within the church community and for the congregation to realise that ministry is not just the preserve of the priest. We have seen some improvement of this attitude in recent years, especially as the previous incumbent has frequently had to minister supporting other Ebbsfleet churches as well as St. Luke's. One positive effect of this has meant greater opportunities for individuals to realise they had personal gifts which could be shared with everyone else.

Members of the congregation fulfil numerous roles both in worship and the broader life of the church, such as welcomers, readers and Sunday School teachers. Some members of the congregation act as Eucharistic Ministers, not only assisting with the administration of Holy Communion during services, but also taking the Sacrament to the sick and housebound.

We would however welcome efforts to broaden the scope of identifying people's gifts in ministry and mission within and outside the church.

## **Passionate Spirituality**

Building on its longstanding Catholic tradition, the heart of Saint Luke's spirituality has been the regular and faithful offering of the Sacraments. The daily Mass has been a regular feature of church life almost since the beginning. Although this has been curtailed during the interregnum, a revival of a fuller provision would be welcomed. Numbers attending during the week vary from a small handful to about twenty-five. The daily mass allows us to focus our life of prayer and intercession and to provide quieter more reflective moments for personal prayer and meditation. It also helps us focus missionally on the need to reach out to those on the edge with the love of Christ. A by-product is also that the church is open on a regular basis and this allows visitors (we have sometimes had visitors from other faiths) to drop in and spend some quiet time in a holy place. We believe this opportunity is especially important as modern life becomes more busy, noisy and hectic.

Saint Luke's people love the Bible and enjoy studying it and hearing it explained in teaching and preaching. A number of the congregation subscribe to the "Bible Alive" daily bible reading notes.

The people of Saint Luke's are also enthusiastic supporters of the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham and a group make an annual residential pilgrimage there. It has been for many individuals an opportunity to move on in their spiritual life and deepen their life of prayer.



## Inspiring Worship



This was very clearly our greatest strength in the life of St Luke's in the NCD survey, and it is much valued by our congregation. Our main worship is the 10 am Parish Mass on Sundays. We enjoy tuneful music of all styles and are very open to new material. This is often learned at occasional "Singathons" - an impromptu party where we have fun

having a meal and drink together while experimenting with new music and worship songs. There has been a worship band in the past, but at the moment there are no people within the congregation with musical skills. We enjoy the range of musical styles, but we also believe that variety creates a relaxed and joyful atmosphere in which visitors can quickly feel at home and be drawn to attend more regularly.

We value the contribution of our young people in worship and our tradition is to ensure that altar serving is carried out by our young people.



Over recent years the church interior has been modernised and brightened with the introduction of new seating, refurbishment of the parquet floor and opening up the sanctuary. A modern heating system ensures that we are always warm and comfortable for worship. These factors, combined with the striking interior of the church, constitute valuable elements in our ability to provide a warm and inspiring experience of worship for ourselves and visitors alike.



Two Sundays a term the Parish Mass is a Parade Service where we welcome the members of our thriving uniformed organisations, who are invited to participate. Music and preaching is adapted to suit their particular needs. Frequent use is made of a screen and projector on these occasions.

Over the years the older stalwarts of the congregation have gradually been replaced by newer younger families. Worship and activities are organised to cater for their particular needs and lifestyles. However, most modern families lead active social and recreational lives not connected with the church, and this has had an effect on Sunday attendance, which is sometimes lower than the actual membership might suggest. Although efforts have been made to include younger people in positions of leadership and responsibility, this has not always been successful in the long run, due to family and work commitments. We would like to see more imaginative ways of engaging the young families in the life and worship of St Luke's.

As well as the usual Lenten devotional service on Palm Sunday, we have a very full Easter programme, including feet washing and Watch on Maundy Thursday, the Passion on Good Friday, a candlelit service on Holy Saturday and Stations of the Cross during Holy Week. We also have a Carol Service before Christmas with music supplied by the City of Coventry Festival Band, and the midnight Mass is a candlelit service.

All this is to show that we wish our worship to be Catholic, flexible, accessible, inspiring, Bible based, relevant to people's lives, and which draws us closer in our relationship with God.



## **Holistic Small Groups**

This was significantly our weakest area, with a very low score. Apart from the different groups that meet for daily mass, the people of Saint Luke's really enjoy meeting as study groups, particularly in Lent. These are on a wide variety of subjects including bible studies, courses on spirituality and prayer, and exploration of the faith through different media such as film. The Friday morning Coffee Drop-in has created a coherent multi-cultural group of people mainly drawn from parents with young children. We want this to develop into introducing them to the wider life of the church. A group of younger parents also meet together regularly to plan work with younger children, especially at the Sunday School which meets during the Parish Mass.

Overall however there is no strategy for the role of small groups in the life and growth of the church. We understand that this is a common issue in Catholic churches, but recognize the need for it if we are to grow significantly. We would welcome a priest who has experience of developing small groups, or who can see their importance and is willing to learn from others (including different traditions who are better at this) within the Diocese.

## Need-Oriented Outreach

Government statistics indicate that Holbrooks has a higher proportion of single parents than most communities in Coventry and the rest of the United Kingdom. We have pondered how we can help in this situation. One result of our thinking has been to establish the Friday coffee drop-in which attracts a regular clientele of parents with pre-school children. Most of the parents are from Europe (Poland, Romania, Kurdistan, Ukraine) as well as a few from the African continent. We would like to develop this further and use it more effectively as a means of introducing newcomers to the life of the church.

We recognised some time ago that on our own we do not have the resources to tackle social issues which arise in the parish. In response to this we have tried to work in collaboration with other community groups and individuals in the area. The previous incumbent was a Trustee for most of his time here of the Holbrooks Community Care Association, which has provided free advice to local residents. Relations with our local Elected Members are very warm and effective, and we are seen to be an important element of life within the community.

In terms of helping people come to Christian faith, we have no effective processes at the moment for enabling this to happen. We would therefore welcome a priest with experience of leading people to faith in Jesus Christ, and who can help us develop appropriate 'maternity wards' for spiritual 'new birth' to happen.

## Loving Relationships

This was low-scoring overall in our survey, which surprised us as we thought we were a fun and loving community! Tensions and disagreements can occur, but overall we believe that we have a loving and supportive community that really cares about one another. At every PCC there is a regular item on the agenda to allow us to share any pastoral concerns about anyone who needs care, especially with illness or disability. Our members who are now in residential care are regularly visited by members of the congregation, and the sacrament of Holy Communion is taken weekly to those who are housebound and unable to worship with us regularly in church.





The survey results show that there are definitely strong areas in relation to our loving relationships, but there are also areas which need attention, such as helping one another to share personal problems (outside of PCC meetings), dealing with some perceived bitterness in the church, and being more open with one another about our spiritual journeys.

## Functional Structures

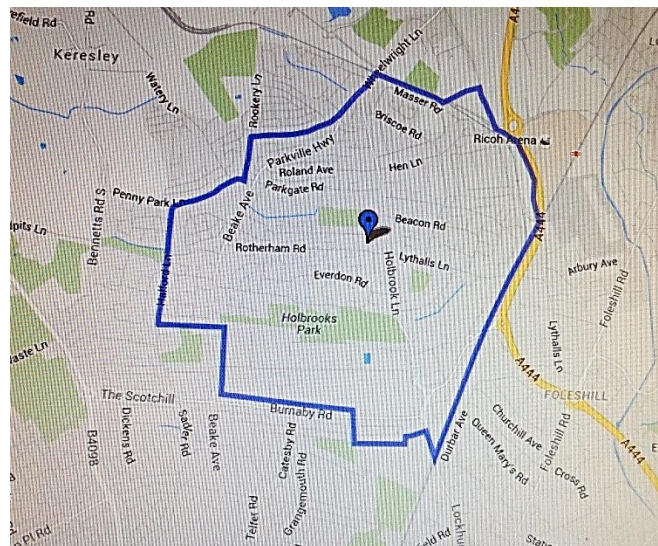
This was the second weakest area in the life of the church, showing that people overall did not fully understand what the goals of the church were, how the organizational structure of the church worked, that leaders did not meet regularly for planning, and a perception that we did not try out new things. This is balanced by stronger areas in relation to the support of people who volunteer in the church.

The eleven members of the PCC meet for formal meetings about five times a year, but we have also found that circulating material via email enables us to consult and make decisions more flexibly. We encourage members to think about any agenda items before the meeting and to read thoroughly any discussion papers so that discussion and debate at the meetings are informed and constructive. The Standing Committee meets occasionally when required and the PCC will usually delegate to its members decisions which do not require a full meeting.

There is a Parish Administrator who prepares material for worship on Sundays and also publicity material for special occasions. We keep an active database of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals that have been taken at St. Luke's and this is used to make contact again for occasions such as extra Christmas and Memorial services.

We have a website which is managed by Bright Eyes Design (but this needs updating), and we also have a Facebook group.

## THE PARISH



## **History**

Formerly an area of fields with the odd small-holding and farm dotted around, Holbrooks began to change its nature during the course of the First World War. The building of a munitions work at the then northern limit of the City of Coventry meant that housing for the workers had to be constructed in a very short time.

The earliest church of Saint Luke's was constructed in 1916 of cinder blocks at the junction of Lythall's Lane and Holbrook Lane. It was started as a mission church from Saint Paul's, Foleshill in which parish Holbrooks was originally situated. Next door a wooden hut served for many years as a venue for local community activities. With the opening of many more factories and works locally, the area soon expanded very quickly and plans were made for a purpose-built church.

The parish of Holbrooks was created in 1935 with Fr Charles Dodd as its first parish priest. From its beginnings, Saint Luke's has fostered a Catholic tradition and regular sacramental worship was maintained. The new church was built in Rotherham Road and completed in 1939 to the designs of N F Chachemaille-Day. The exterior was of red brick and notable features were an external altar and pulpit and concrete windows. Sadly, only a few months after its consecration, the church was rendered unusable by bombing in the 1940 Coventry Blitz.

After several years the church was repaired and restored to its original appearance. A Parish Centre was added in the 1960's during the nearly 40-year incumbency of Father Henry Hughes.

Alterations of the interior over the years have opened up the chancel, improved lines of sight and brought more light into the building. A major refurbishment in 2007 saw the installation of a new state-of-the art heating system and new upholstered seating.

Saint Luke's gives off a welcoming atmosphere, and visitors say they feel instantly at home.

## **Location**

Holbrooks is a residential area about 3 miles north-west of Coventry city centre, with four brooks running through it. Most of the length of the four brooks which pass through the area are now covered or culverted. The area was largely developed for private and council housing during the 1950s to replace the many homes destroyed by air raids during the Second World War. Some areas are pre-war, for example Farm Close, which was built in the 1920s as local industry expanded.



A lot of terraced houses were built in Holbrooks around the mid-1930s. One 1930s housing estate is locally known as 'The Dales', a somewhat tired housing estate close to the Ricoh Arena, and separated from it by a railway line and a main road, the A444 Phoenix Way. The Dales estate was mostly built in 1936, locally named because of street names with 'dale' on the end of the names.

Today this estate is troubled by parking problems, a lack of green spaces and any play areas for children.

The 'Stadium' housing estate stands at the rear of Lythalls Lane, is so called because the terraced houses and flats there were built on the site of a former dog racing stadium. In 1928 the Stadium speedway track opened. The track was closed in 1936 and the following year a greyhound track opened on the site, which remained in use until 1964 when it was replaced by housing.



Although there is a large park on Holbrook Lane, the rest of the area is mostly densely populated.

Holbrooks is close to the Ricoh Arena (built in 2005) - the subject of much heated debate recently over its future. It is now used by the Wasps for rugby and Coventry City for football. The arena is also a pop concert venue, has a large casino and conference halls.



Another notable social housing estate in Holbrooks is the area of Everdon Road, often used by learner drivers to practice, due to there being many corners, curves and reversing opportunities.

Holbrooks has a diverse and large cultural mix which includes a large number of Polish people. There are two Polish food stores along Holbrook Lane, and several other food outlets and ethnic restaurants. Holbrook Lane is the site of the Former Dunlop Factory, on which a large new housing estate is being constructed.



Holbrooks is near to one of the largest Tesco Superstores in Europe. Located in the neighbouring ward of Foleshill and built in 2003, the store has an entire aisle dedicated to foods imported from around the world to satisfy the cultural diversity. Marks and Spencers and Next stores are also located adjacently and Starbucks. Morrisons food store opened in 2010 in Parkgate Road on the site formerly occupied by Somerfield and is an important part of the Holbrooks shopping scene.

Holbrooks is also a short distance from the former British Coal Keresley Colliery site which is now a large industrial estate of warehousing called Prologis Park. The large wheel from the winding tower was cut into two, and placed on Prologis Park as a reminder of the site's former activity. This stands in monument to the past.

Under the ground of Holbrooks (and surrounding areas) are several mined coal seams at a depth ranging of 600–1,500 metres. These coal seams are known as the 'Warwickshire Thick', locally extracted to the pit head at Keresley from 1917 until its eventual closure in 1991. The site was then used as a homefire plant until its complete closure in the year 2000. In 1939, at its peak, a million tons of coal was being extracted per year. Keresley coal was distributed via the railway line which still runs through Holbrooks and crosses Wheelwright Lane. The line was completed in 1919. Today, the line carries freight from Prologis Park, along the same route the coal had taken.

## **Population.**

The population of Holbrooks parish is about 12,790, though this will increase with new housing being built within the parish boundary. About 12% of the population are from other faith backgrounds.

## **Buildings**

An excellent view of the church, Parish Centre and vicarage can be found by scrolling on Google 'Streetview'

[https://www.google.co.uk/maps/uv?hl=en&pb=!1s0x48774c71318c077b:0x3bb226c2331ac0a1!2m5!2m2!1i80!2i80!3m1!2i100!3m1!7e1!4s/maps/place/@52.4427384,-1.5108036,3a,75y,12.92h,90t/data%3D\\*213m4\\*211e1\\*213m2\\*211sMFFTDa11O5UCrVvrY9Balg\\*212e0\\*214m2\\*213m1\\*211s0x0:0x3bb226c2331ac0a1!5s+-+Google+Search&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjZ3637ofDLAhVIcBoKHRmiBWsQ3RoIFzAI](https://www.google.co.uk/maps/uv?hl=en&pb=!1s0x48774c71318c077b:0x3bb226c2331ac0a1!2m5!2m2!1i80!2i80!3m1!2i100!3m1!7e1!4s/maps/place/@52.4427384,-1.5108036,3a,75y,12.92h,90t/data%3D*213m4*211e1*213m2*211sMFFTDa11O5UCrVvrY9Balg*212e0*214m2*213m1*211s0x0:0x3bb226c2331ac0a1!5s+-+Google+Search&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjZ3637ofDLAhVIcBoKHRmiBWsQ3RoIFzAI)

St Luke's building has a particularly warm and friendly atmosphere which is regularly commented on by visitors. Its striking interior has a "wow" factor for those entering by the main door and seeing the unusual east end for the first time, especially on a sunny day. The church seats about 200 people, though this capacity is frequently exceeded at funerals and baptisms.

Recently there has been a growth in other Christian communities using St Luke's for occasions such as weddings and funerals, where their own places of worship are not adequate. Occasionally this has meant welcoming the ministers of these churches to participate in worship and we have built up a friendly relationship with several local pastors, particularly those serving the Caribbean community.

The age profile of the population of Holbrooks is changing as its original residents die and are replaced with younger families. This has been accelerated by the building of new housing within the parish. One of the effects this has had on our church life is the decrease in the number of funerals that take place and the increase in the number of baptisms that are requested. Presently, Holy Baptism is celebrated at 12 noon on the third Sunday of each month, though this is probably not frequent enough for the numbers applying. The church is regularly full for the celebration of baptism and we have given a lot of thought as to the style and content of these services. We have considered expanding them to become a brief Family Service which will offer a little more in the way of Christian teaching to those who seldom attend church except on these occasions. On our wish list is the possibility of installing permanent state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment to make the presentation of this really effective.

Although the building is generally in good condition, there is a rolling programme of repairs to be undertaken. Some of these are the result of the repair after the bomb damage which have not stood the test of time. Unusually, St. Luke's has a loft space into which insulation was installed at the same time as the new heating system. It is hoped that the clear window at the west end will be eventually double-glazed, to



improve thermal efficiency even further. The drainage outside the church needs looking at and the roof needs further repairs, and damp on the inside needs treating/curing in various places.

The church sanctuary has been re-modelled in recent years. It enables the celebrant and other participants to have a good rapport with the rest of the worshipping community. All the furniture is moveable, which comes in useful for occasions such as concerts and school productions.

The church benefits from a much used Parish Centre. This was an addition in the 1960's to replace halls on the original site of the church which had served the community well since the 1920's. A considerable amount of money has been spent in recent years upgrading the property, making it warmer and more comfortable and enabling it to be compliant with current regulations for health, fire and the disabled. It is now used extensively every day of the week by differing groups of people, including our own uniformed organisations comprising Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Cub and Scouts. These organisations have very close links with the church and previous incumbents and curates have joined in their activities and camping trips. This means that the Centre now generates sufficient income to continue to maintain it at its current level and make further improvements. Whenever there are free periods (especially during school holidays) the Centre is very popular with local ethnic-minority groups who use it for community and family events. We are very pleased to welcome these groups when we can, as we would like St Luke's to be seen as a welcoming, tolerant and open place which encourages community cohesion and neighbourliness.

## **Vicarage**

The vicarage is in the same grounds as St. Luke's Parish Church. It has tidy gardens to the front and a large garden to the back, with a driveway up to a brick garage. The vicarage comprises an entrance hall, ground floor WC, study, lounge, dining room and a large kitchen. Upstairs has four bedrooms and a separate bathroom and WC. It has radiators throughout and an alarm system is fitted.



## **Services**

The main Sunday act of worship is the 10 am Parish Mass, during which there is a Sunday School for primary school age children. Up to the beginning of the interregnum there had also been a said celebration at 8 am plus daily masses at various times in the day. This has lately been attracting a congregation of not much over a dozen people and will be discontinued during the interregnum, due to the lack of availability of clergy.

Our Thursday 9.30am Mass can attract as many as 25 people, usually drawn from the more senior members of the congregation and those unable to attend on Sundays. This is followed by a Coffee Morning and a Seniors' Exercise Class.

## School Links

Holbrook's Primary School is in fact in the adjacent suburb of Foleshill. Schools for primary age (4–11) children in Holbrooks itself include, Parkgate (one of the largest primary schools in Coventry) using the motto “Opening the Gate to Success” a school which had been two separate but adjacent schools. Also for primary ages, Holy Family and John Shelton School.



Secondary education is provided at President Kennedy School locally referred to as 'PK' in Rookery Lane. Built during the 1960s the site was due for a complete demolition and re-build, until these plans were abruptly stopped by the Coalition Government in 2010 due to immediate financial cuts.

We value our links with schools, and the previous Vicar was a community governor at John Shelton School (where he was elected Chair of Governors) and President Kennedy School, as well as being invited into schools to conduct assemblies and to teach. The primary schools also come into the church for various services, especially at Easter and Christmas.

## Ecumenical and Other Church Links

Coventry North Deanery has a wide range of traditions within it, though the Deanery has some complexities, not least within the ‘Ebbsfleet’ constituency. 5 churches were traditionalist Ebbsfleet parishes (St Luke’s Holbrooks, St Nicholas Radford, St Thomas Longford, St James Ansty and St Andrew Shilton). These 5 parishes, with Deanery and Diocesan support and approval, created the ‘Coventry North Mission Partnership’ in 2011 as a means of providing mutual support in mission to these traditionalist churches. However, two of the churches (St Nicholas and St Thomas) suffered numerically when people left for the Ordinariate. St. Thomas PCC has recently voted to rescind their Resolutions and is no longer an Ebbsfleet parish, though still with a Society vicar. The church building of St Nicholas Radford needs to be demolished, and the congregation have decided to create a new parish around their church hall (which is currently what they use for worship), and allow the Diocese to use the remainder of the site for regeneration linked with a neighbouring parish (St Francis, North Radford).

Supporting all these churches has taken up a lot of the previous vicar's time. Given the current situations, some still unresolved, we cannot at this moment in time forecast what the future of the Coventry North Mission Partnership will look like. From our perspective, we would like the next vicar to concentrate on developing the life of St Luke's, and this has the approval of the Deanery, Diocese, and Bishop of Ebbsfleet.

Relationships with other clergy have been excellent, and we have felt supported by the Deanery, Diocese and Bishop of Ebbsfleet (who is an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Coventry).

We also have good relationships with the ministers and congregations who use our church buildings when their own buildings do not suffice.

## Administration

There is a small amount of paid administrative support (£2,000 per annum including cost of paper, copying etc). We have a Parish Administrator who prepares material for worship on Sundays and also publicity material for special occasions.

## Finance and Stewardship

The table below summarises our financial situation for 2015. Full sets of accounts for the last three years are available on request.

	St Luke, Holbrooks
General Income	£53,233
Planned Giving	£9,443
Gift-Aid	£13,676
Fundraising (eg fetes)	£3,892
Grants	£8,776
General Expenditure	£21,219
Parish Share Contribution	£25,834
Unrestricted Reserves	£7,337
Restricted Reserves	£74,900
Any special considerations, future expenditure etc?	£16,346

Clergy expenses are met in full.

The congregation owns a house which was bought off-plan about twenty years ago on a new estate to provide accommodation for a curate. It is currently rented out and provides a valuable part of our monthly income.

Holbrooks is not a well-off area and this is reflected in the income that the church generates. At present our Parish Share pays for half the cost of a full-time priest. In the Diocese of Coventry, Parishes are expected to fund the costs of their own ordained ministry. This in effect means paying the full cost of all clergy. Currently the contribution for a vicar with all ancillary costs is approximately £56,500/annum so St Luke's recognises there is a large shortfall between current contributions and the full costs. St Luke's is therefore very grateful to those churches elsewhere in the Deanery and Diocese who help to support our ministry. It is our every intention to contribute more ourselves towards these costs as the congregation grows, but this is proving difficult as older members of the congregation who were our bigger givers are dying, and the newer members of the congregation take longer to realise that giving is part of their discipleship.

## **FURTHER DETAILS**

For further information about the post please contact the Area Dean, the Reverend Alison Evans on tel: 02476591994 (E-mail: [aevans@talktalk.net](mailto:aevans@talktalk.net)) or the Archdeacon Missioner on 07506 731892 ([Morris.Rodham@CovCofE.org](mailto:Morris.Rodham@CovCofE.org)). An application form can be downloaded from the Diocesan Website:  
[http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/vacancies/current\\_vacancies](http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/vacancies/current_vacancies)

Applications to be received by noon Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Interviews to be held Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May.