

# St Luke's - Holmes Chapel

Parish Profile – February 2019



[stlukesholmeschapel.uk](http://stlukesholmeschapel.uk)





## **PARISH PROFILE**

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# St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

## 1 INTRODUCTION

*"Making Christ known in the community of Holmes Chapel so that all can share in the joy of God's love."*



Holmes Chapel is a developing Cheshire village, previously known as Church Hulme. Today the name Church Hulme is mainly used for the Ecclesiastical Parish of Church Hulme, comprising the village of Holmes Chapel and the adjoining areas of Cranage and Cotton, and which together constitute the Benefice of Church Hulme for which the present vacancy for an incumbent arises.



Like all churches, St Luke's is on a journey in faith and mission and we have an exciting story to tell. Our previous incumbent was in post for fifteen years. Under his leadership and enablement much has been achieved but, unsurprisingly, challenges remain to be met and new ones have arisen.

We want to share our faith with the rest of our community, especially younger people, but we struggle to know how best to do this. Our new vicar will help us to grow as disciples who share God's love with the people we meet and make a real difference.



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)



As you read through the profile, we hope that you will consider prayerfully if God is calling you to fill this key role and help us deliver the next chapter in St Luke's mission. The role is a challenging one, but we know that, for the right man or woman, it has the potential to be deeply rewarding. We are mindful of the challenge of change but excited about the opportunity it brings and what God might have in store for us.

We look to be empowered with the guidance and enthusiasm of an inspirational leader, to deepen our faith in God and enable us to serve the local and wider community.



### ***Notes and Acknowledgements***

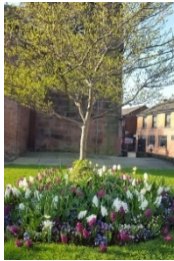
- **This profile is best read on screen online; further detail can be obtained by clicking the links.**
- In preparing the profile, we have had much help from the many excellent profiles produced by fellow Churches in their own search to fill their vacancies. We have drawn comfort from the similarity of challenges and opportunities faced in their own future mission as fellow Christians.
- We are also grateful for permission to use some images and text from the 2018 Village Guide produced by the [Holmes Chapel Partnership](#) and from the Neighbourhood Plan produced by [Holmes Chapel Parish Council](#) and adopted by Cheshire East



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

### 2 THE OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGES

Christian worship and mission following the Anglican tradition have been centred on St Luke's church in Holmes Chapel in mid-Cheshire for many centuries. Our worship pattern is "lower church" but based closely on Common Worship



liturgy with some less formal services aimed largely at family worship. Our mission statement is: *"Making Christ known in the community of Holmes Chapel so that all can share in the joy of God's love."*



The opportunities at St Luke's are many and varied. Our Grade I listed historic parish church dating from about 1430 is the prominent feature in the heart of the expanding village of Holmes Chapel. We are fortunate to have access to the beauty and stillness of the old church building as well as the flexible facilities of our nearby modern Church Hall.

We are a welcoming and friendly church with 203 members at the last update of the electoral roll. We have a committed congregational base providing good levels of giving in terms of time, talents and money. We are blessed with an active group of talented lay people taking a wide range of leading and supporting roles in the life of the church. The congregation has a desire to see the work of the church grow and has responded generously to requests to support church initiatives. They have given their time and money for the work they believe God wants us to do here.

Regular attendance at church services has stayed more or less the same in recent years but the age distribution has become increasingly skewed towards the more elderly. There is an increasing need to rebuild church membership embracing younger age groups if we are to sustain and expand our future mission.

Baptisms continue at about the same general level (16 in 2017) but there is a need for better follow up with parents. Our Sunday School Genesis group still has 12-14 children in attendance and their presence and participation in services is genuinely embraced by the congregation.



Our challenge is how to keep contact with these children beyond Confirmation now that our own youth group has ended through lack of numbers.



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)



Holmes Chapel is a growing community of about 6,000 people with many younger residents and their families moving into the new housing estates.

Yet St Luke's seems largely invisible and unknown to them apart from the Churches Together Christmas card delivery to all households and the Good Friday walk of witness with folk from the local Roman Catholic and Methodist churches.



There is an opportunity for expanded collaboration through Churches Together to reach out to teenagers and younger adults in the village.

Our new incumbent will be key to helping us address these urgent challenges. We see the continuing need for a collaborative ministry and therefore seek a confident incumbent, with a sense of humour, and a track record of building relationships across the Church and community, someone who is family oriented, young in heart (at least) and is able to motivate and direct a supportive congregation.

**If you feel able to help us with these challenges, we really want to meet you!**

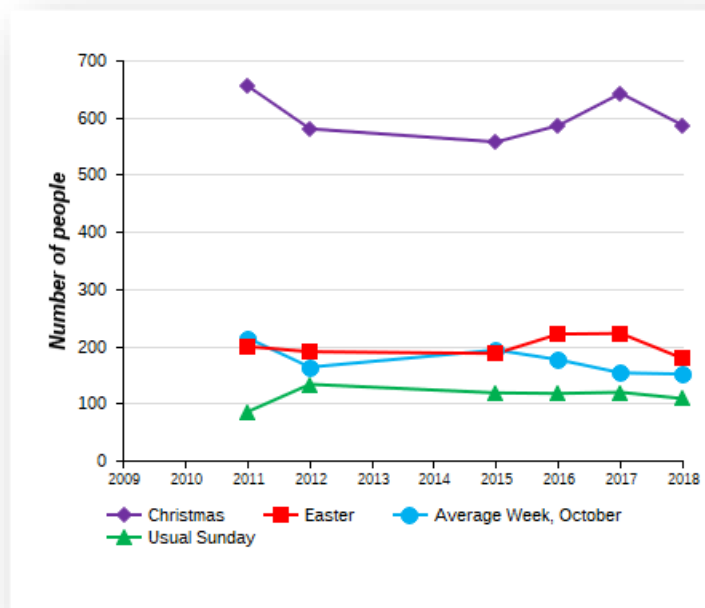


## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

### 3 ST LUKE'S AT WORSHIP



St Luke's follows the so-called central tradition of worship with Sunday services having set liturgy and musical accompaniment. Hymns are taken from Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New, adopted at St Luke's in 2015. Lay members of the congregation contribute by reading the lessons, bringing up the elements for Communion and frequently also leading the intercessions.



### REGULAR SERVICES<sup>1</sup>

#### HOLY COMMUNION

- Sundays 8.30am (sung service, alternately using Common Worship Order 1 and Order 2 traditional) – typical attendance 30-35
- Wednesdays 10.30am (said service, alternately using Common Worship Order 1 and Order 2 traditional) – typical attendance 10-15
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 10am (sung service, using Common Worship Order 1) – typical attendance 60-70

the President is normally robed in cassock, surplice and stole matching the seasonal altar frontal. A Server (not robed) assists at Sunday Communion services.

<sup>1</sup> See [Appendix 1](#) for more statistical data supplied in the annual return to [Statistics for Mission](#)



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

### MORNING PRAYER

- 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays: 10am (sung service using Common Worship) - typical attendance 60-70
- Weekdays (other than Wednesdays): 9am (said service using shortened form of Common Worship)

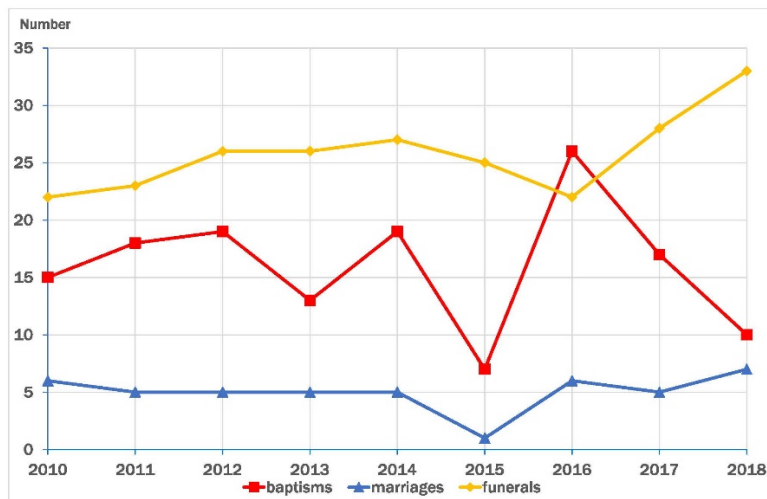
There is the opportunity for personal prayer support after most Sunday services. Coffee and biscuits are provided for the congregation in the nearby Church Hall after each Sunday 10am service. The Sunday School come into the start of Morning Prayer and for the Communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

### FAMILY WORSHIP

- From time to time, an informal contemporary worship style using slides, video etc is adopted at the 10am Sunday service, usually led by our Licensed Reader.



### LIFE EVENT SERVICES







## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

### BAPTISMS



Baptisms, mainly of infants but also of adults, often take place during a 10am Sunday Service. The number has remained steady at about 10-15 each year.

### WEDDINGS

As is the case nationally, the number of weddings at St Luke's has declined in recent years (7 in 2018). Only one wedding took place in 2015 when the church was partly clad in scaffolding during the roof and tower refurbishment works.



### FUNERALS

Sadly, these are steadily increasing in number, with 33 in 2018, 12 of which were at a crematorium.

## FESTIVAL SERVICES

### CHRISTMAS

- The Crib and Christingle service on Christmas Eve is very popular and is held as two back-to-back events attended by 441 adults and children in 2018.
- Our Lord's birth is then celebrated with Holy Communion at 11am on Christmas Eve and 8.30am and 10am services on Christmas Day. In 2018 there were 145 communicants.



### EASTER

- On Maundy Thursday evening there is a final Communion with Iona style liturgy.
- On Good Friday, St Luke's congregation joins at midday with those of our fellow Methodist and Roman Catholic churches in a Walk of Witness through the village. This is followed by an hour of readings and meditation in church before the Cross.



- On Easter Day all the congregation are invited to place a flower in a symbolic cross as they go to receive Communion. There were 153 communicants on Easter Day in 2018.



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

### SPECIAL SERVICES

We hold a number of other well attended special services celebrating different events during the year, including a Community Service to which the Parish Council and representatives of the local community organisations and churches are invited. Other special services include:

#### Remembrance Sunday



Held with the Royal British Legion and attended by uniformed groups of all ages. The village War Memorial is in St Luke's churchyard.

#### Harvest Parade Service



Held to give thanks for a successful harvest and attended by the uniformed youth organisations. Gifts of non-perishable food are donated and given to the [Barnabus](#) charity.

#### Memorial Service



Held on a Saturday near to All Souls Day and attended by the recently bereaved and those remembering loved ones.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL - GENESIS



St Luke's Sunday School is staffed by a small team of dedicated and able teachers led by Fiona Pullé and was relaunched as *GENESIS* to be a place for young people of 2-11 years to explore faith through craft, music, drama and friendship and prepare them for Confirmation. The aims continue to be to provide a regular pattern of worship and teaching to the children and to reach out to families in the wider community. There are currently about 14 regular members and they join the congregation in church for part of the Sunday 10am service, taking part in the service on occasions. There is no *GENESIS* on the 3rd Sunday to encourage families and Sunday School leaders to join the 10am service in Church.



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

The *GENESIS* annual Nativity presentation in the Church Hall takes the place of a 10am church service and is always enthusiastically received.



Sadly, our **FAITH GROUP** for young people of 11 upwards closed for lack of numbers, even after discussions about merger with a similar Group from the Methodist Church. Finding a way to reestablish the Group is an urgent need.

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

St Luke's provides several opportunities for continuing adult Bible study and development of individual faith:

**MIDWEEK** – a small informal Bible study discussion group, led by the vicar or Reader, which meets in the Church Hall twice a month on Wednesday evenings.

**HOUSE GROUP** – an informal fellowship group, usually lay led, which meets in a parishioner's home twice a month on Monday evenings, enjoying Bible study, singing and prayer, after sharing in homemade cake and hot drinks.

**BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP** – about 12 people now take the helpful New Daylight daily study notes

### PRAYER NETWORK

Our Prayer Networking Scheme has been running for nine years embracing around 200 people connected to St. Luke's Church family. The success of the scheme depends on the commitment of individual networkers and the considerable behind-the-scenes efforts of the Network Leader and Coordinator. Each networker prays daily for a small group of people/families, supplementing the pastoral work provided by the vicar and other clergy. Our *GENESIS* staff complete the networking by extending their prayers for the children in their groups and for their families.

### OUTREACH

The Church Council is committed to outreach to the wider Church and local community as part of St Luke's broad mission.

**CHURCHES TOGETHER** – St Luke's is an active member of the local ecumenical group bringing Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic Christians to work together and



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

pray regularly for the local community. St Luke's provides the current chair of the coordinating group which meets twice a year to organise events which include:

- **PULPIT EXCHANGE** by the three Ministers for the Sunday morning services in Church Unity Week.
- **GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS** around the village centre, stopping five times for a reading, prayer and a hymn.
- **CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERED TO VILLAGE HOUSEHOLDS** - we designed, printed and distributed the Christmas Card in December to 3,300 homes in Holmes Chapel and Cranage.
- **NATIVITY CRIB** - the crib and banner are erected on the north side of St Luke's Church during Advent until the Epiphany.
- **WELCOME PACKS FOR NEW RESIDENTS** - these include a summary sheet about each of the three Churches.
- **CHURCHES TOGETHER NOTICE BOARD** - updated weekly with information about services, notices etc.
- **CHRISTIAN AID ACTIVITIES** - such as Lent frugal lunches in the Church Hall, house-to-house CA Week collection and an annual CA Service usually in a secular venue such as the local Comprehensive School.



**BARNABUS** - Many members of St Luke's support the [Barnabus](#) Christian charity providing food and clothing to the homeless and vulnerable on the streets of Manchester. Donations of food and clothing are collected from parishioners in the church porch and taken to Barnabus each week together with contributions from the Methodist Church.



**BRINNINGTON - ST LUKE** - For several years now, we have supported our sister parish of St Luke's Brinnington in a deprived area of Stockport with regular donations of cash and good quality goods for reuse or sale. Our Church Council has agreed to continue that financial support with a donation of £1,250 in 2019. St Luke's Brinnington is going through a very challenging period with demolition of the existing church built in the 1950s and redevelopment of the site.

### PARISH SHARE AND CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Similarly, as part of its commitment to support the wider Church, the Church Council is resolved to continue to pay a higher than average rate of Parish Share (based on a 1.25 band multiplier against the norm of 1.05<sup>2</sup>). As a result, St Luke's Parish Share will increase by 2.5% in 2019 to £78,620.

In 2018, the Church Council made charitable donations including to the Prisons Fellowship and the Churches in Congo amounting to £4,191.

<sup>2</sup> see comparative figures for other parishes within the Chester Diocese [here](#)



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

### 4 RESOURCES - OUR PEOPLE

#### MINISTRY

**Vicar** – vacant (formerly Revd Paul Mason, retired 31 Dec 2018)

**Licensed Reader** – Anne Smith



#### CHURCHWARDENS

Alastair Cragg, Jayne Weaver



#### ASSISTANT CHURCHWARDENS

Val Cragg, Stephen Haigh, Peter Cotton



#### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Secretary** - Steve Smith



**Treasurer** – William Hall



Rachel Copley	Peter Cotton	Val Cragg	Alison Dale	Raymond Davies
Tim Fryer	Stephen Haigh	Trevor Jenkins	Wendy Macdonald	
John Oram	William Paton	Fiona Pullé	Alan Rickards	Jane Thomson

**Ex Officio PCC members:** - Vicar (Chairman), Reader, Churchwardens and Deanery Synod Reps (Barbara Smith and William Hall)

#### STANDING COMMITTEE

Vicar, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer, plus Assistant Churchwardens and Reader on an agenda basis.

#### CHURCH HALL MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

John Murfin (Chairman), Judy Copley (Treasurer), Derek Copley, Val Cragg, Alison Dale, Mary Ford, Bob Monks, Graham Ratcliffe, Barbara Street, Mike Street

#### SIDESMEN

Douglas Cragg	Raymond Davies	Kevin Fryer	Richard Gabbitas
John Jack	Glen Jackson	Sandra Jackson	Trevor Jenkins
John Land	Alan Lane	Anne Lane	James Lindsay
Jane Massey	John Oram	Jean Paton	William Paton
Rod Pickles	William Pullé	Lew Riches	Pat Riches
Lucy Suchland	David Thompson		



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

### **ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER**

Wendy Bond – note: a new Electoral Roll is in preparation for April 2019

### **SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**

Anne Smith

### **PARISH GIVING OFFICER AND DATA PROTECTION OFFICER**

Jayne Weaver

### **CHURCH MAGAZINE EDITOR**

Alan Rickards

### **MOTHERS UNION**



St Luke's has an active branch of the worldwide Mothers' Union run by a small but dedicated committee, with 34 members meeting monthly in two groups on the 2nd Tuesday evening or the 3rd Wednesday of each month. There is a Prayer Circle so that if any members are ill or need our prayers the Committee is able to contact all members to let

them know. Firm friendship and good contacts have been made with other MU groups, aiming to help families in the Diocese in as many ways as possible. Some members help in the baby changing tent at the annual Cheshire Show. Others knit premature baby items for the Neo-natal department at Leighton Hospital.

### **CHURCH MUSIC**

St Luke's has a fine pipe organ and a modern digital piano providing regular musical accompaniment to Sunday services. There is also another digital piano in the Church Hall. Wendy Macdonald, our Director of Music, is also our principal organist, sharing that task with a small team of dedicated assistants. We are also fortunate to have several other talented musicians who help accompany in a music group during some of the 10am Sunday services.

The reordering work in the church chancel, including the removal of the fixed choir stalls, has created a more flexible space for choir and music group during services and also for concerts. As part of this change, the choir is no longer robed. It is currently reduced in numbers but is supplemented occasionally by singers from the congregation to allow an anthem to be sung.



There is also an expanding Community Choir of 15+ members drawn from the church and community. This meets weekly in the Church Hall and sings a range of music mainly for fun, but it has performed in church and at several outside venues.



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)



### CHURCH GROUPS

Activities at St Luke's are sustained by a wide number of groups of committed and talented individuals. These include our Bell Ringers (team of 11), Brass Cleaners (team of 6), Fairtrade (regular stall at coffee time after 10am Sunday service), Floristry (altar flowers), Social Committee (catering for Harvest Supper and other Church based social events). Details can be found in our Annual Reports<sup>3</sup> presented before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This is held in church on an April Sunday morning as part of the only service of Holy Communion.

### COMMUNICATIONS

St Luke's uses a broad approach to communicate its mission to help develop Christian faith in the local community.

The **Church Magazine** is commercially printed with added Diocesan material and published at an affordable price (50p per month, with the support of local advertisers) and is delivered to over 300 subscribers, many of whom are not regular churchgoers.

The **Link Newsletter** contains current service details and notices and is prepared and printed weekly in the Church office on the back of a Redemptorist publication themed according to the lectionary. Everyone attending a Sunday or Wednesday service is given a copy.

The **Church Website** <https://stlukesholmeschapel.uk/> and **Facebook page** ([@holmeschapelchurch](https://www.facebook.com/holmeschapelchurch)) are regularly updated with contacts, pictures and other topical items.

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<sup>3</sup>The latest reports for the year 2017, as presented to the APCM on 22nd April 2018, can be found [here](#).



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

### 5 RESOURCES - OUR BUILDINGS

#### ST LUKE'S CHURCH

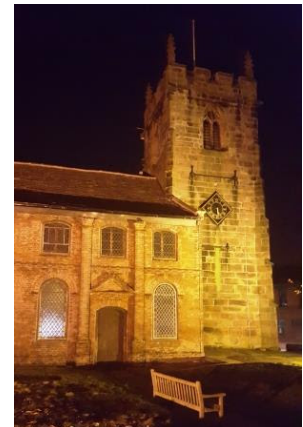


St Luke's is the prominent imposing feature on entering the centre of Holmes Chapel. It is a relatively small, Grade I listed Perpendicular timber church with Perpendicular sandstone west tower, although the chancel and nave were encased in brickwork early in the eighteenth century. The church building dates from about 1430 with later, mainly 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century, alterations/ extensions including an internal gallery.



Its Grade I listing applies to the interior as well as the exterior because of its extensive timber framing and mediaeval roof truss arrangements which were revealed again after the plaster ceiling was removed in 1935.

The church is floodlit at night and is prominently situated within a small elevated churchyard within the village Conservation Area in and adjacent to the main London Road (A50). The churchyard is largely grassed and houses the village War Memorial on the north side. The churchyard is no longer used for burials which are carried out in the separate Knutsford Road (A50) churchyard nearby.



The church building is in good overall condition in view of its age, all of the significant works needed from the last (2014) quinquennial inspection having been completed. A further inspection is due at the end of 2019.





## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

During 2015/early 2016, the roofs of the Nave, Aisles and Tower were completely replaced at a cost of almost £240,000 with partial Heritage Lottery Fund Grant assistance and the generous donations of church members, the local community and Holmes Chapel Parish Council, raised in just over 12 months.



The imposing stained glass, 1st World War memorial, East Window had been earlier restored and repaired and the external protective grilles replaced in April 2013. The nineteenth century lower leaded glass windows and frames in the south aisle were also restored later in 2013.

Photos of some of the various historic artefacts within the church can be viewed in the porch.



In 2017, the redundant transverse choir pews were replaced with wooden chairs and the pulpit relocated to create a more open flexible area for musicians and clergy and for the congregation to view the altar.

### CAPACITY AND ACCESS

The maximum seating capacity of the church is about 180 on the ground floor and 80 in the gallery. This can be accessed by internal wooden stairs or external stone steps which have recently been refaced. Consequently, the building is adequate for most services.

However, improved access for the disabled and safe access for all across the busy A50 outside the main west door remain to be addressed. Various project options are currently under consideration with the church architects. These will also consider provision of WC facilities within the church itself.

### LIGHTING

Following evaluation in early 2017, we will soon be converting our lighting to a modern LED solution with significantly reduced energy consumption and maintenance. It will also eliminate the important safety issue of needing to use a long ladder to replace the current halogen lamps.



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

### CHURCH HALL

The Hall is owned and maintained by the Church Council and is an important part of St. Luke's outreach to the village community, as well as being an essential resource for Church activities. It is well used by a wide range of community and Church groups, benefitting from recent internal extensions, modern catering facilities and roof solar panels, paid for from Council funds.



The current modern building is situated 150m to the west of the church behind the Co-op supermarket but across the main A50. It replaced the previous wood and corrugated iron structure further away in Westmorland Terrace. It has a large ground floor hall (seated capacity 120) with good storage, an adjoining kitchen fully fitted to catering standards,

and disabled access toilets. Upstairs, there is a Parish Office and the Massey meeting room (seated capacity 30). Parking is shared with the adjacent Co-op supermarket although the Church Hall has eight places specifically for its use.

### VICARAGE

There is a substantial vicarage associated with the benefice. It is situated in a large mature garden and has been the venue for the annual parish garden party. It is in need of some renovation, arrangements for which are being discussed with the Diocese.



### CHURCHYARDS

The churchyard besides St Luke's Church itself was closed for burials in the 1930s and all burials and interment of cremated remains of anyone living in the parish now take place in the large churchyard some 600m north of the Church in Knutsford Road (A50). This was approaching capacity but has recently been extended with the generous donation of a piece of adjoining land by two parishioners. The new land was consecrated by Bishop Libby in 2017 and has now been prepared for use after final landscaping.



# St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

## 6 RESOURCES – OUR FINANCES

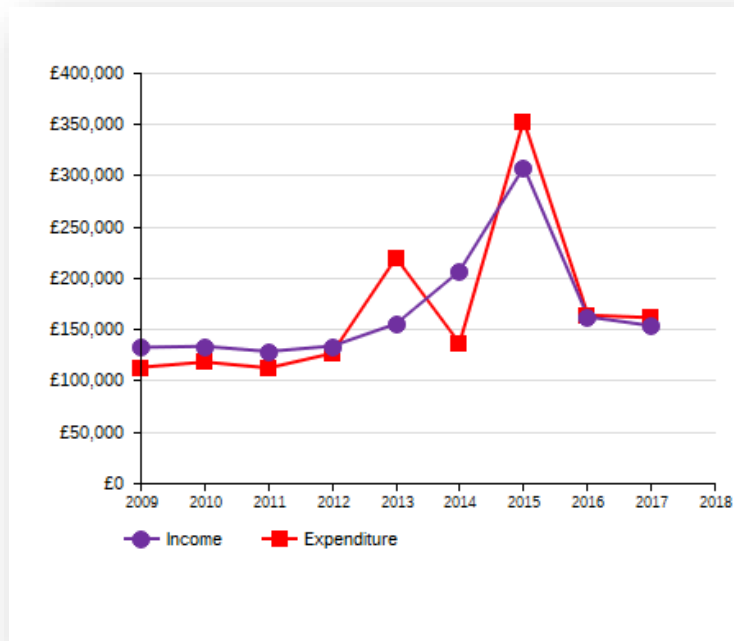
### INCOME AND SPENDING<sup>4</sup>

The full financial reports and Annual Report of the Church Council for the calendar year 2017 submitted to the Charity Commission are available at:

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/CharityWithoutPartB.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1132587&SubsidiaryNumber=0>

Calendar year	Income	Spending	Filed with Commission	View on line
31 Dec 2017	£153,243	£161,073	27 Oct 2018	<a href="#">Accounts</a>
31 Dec 2016	£161,941	£163,507	13 Oct 2017	<a href="#">Accounts</a>
31 Dec 2015	£154,319	£120,703	29 Oct 2016	<a href="#">Accounts</a>
31 Dec 2014	£206,732	£135,373	30 Oct 2015	<a href="#">Accounts</a>
31 Dec 2013	£140,001	£216,335	28 Oct 2014	<a href="#">Accounts</a>

The Annual report for 2018 will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting at St Luke's Church on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019. However, the provisional year-end income for 2018 is £124,785 against expenditure of £127,457, a deficit of £2,672 to be met from general reserves.



<sup>4</sup> Graphical details of the breakdown of income and spending etc. can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

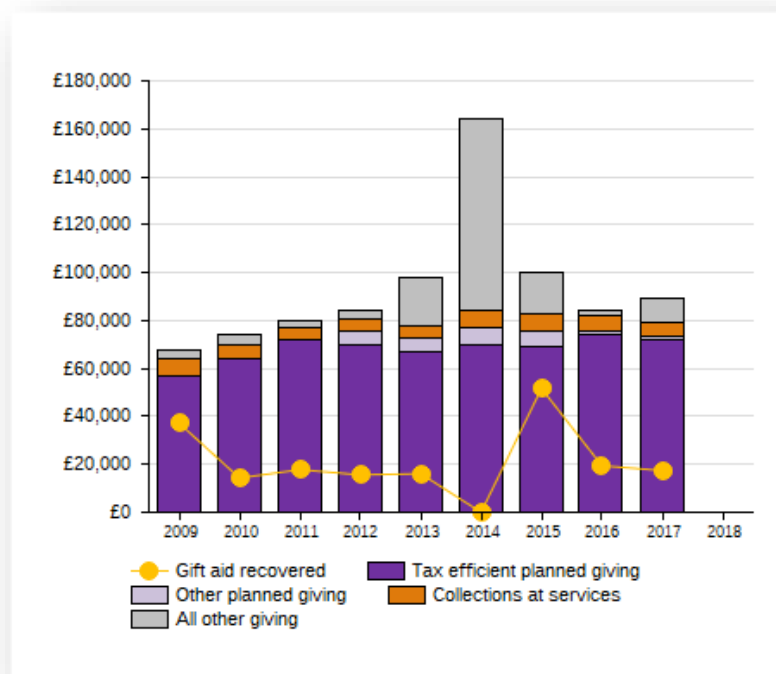


## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

The increase in income and expenditure between 2013 and 2016 coincided with the refurbishment works on the Church Roof and Tower and the associated fund-raising efforts in the parish and local community.

### GIVING IN THE PARISH

St Luke's has been committed as a church to active Christian Stewardship for the past 30 years. There are currently 109 people enrolled in the Planned Giving Scheme, 51 using weekly brown envelopes and 58 donating by regular standing order. There is a high provision for Gift Aid tax relief amongst those eligible to do so. Four new people have joined during 2018 replacing four who have left. The Scheme is forecast to raise about £75,000 by the end of 2018.



### GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Holmes Chapel Parish Council has periodically provided grants towards the upkeep of the churchyards in the village conservation area and the established burial grounds in Knutsford Road. It has also given "one off" sizable grants towards the cost of roof refurbishment in 2015 and the cost of preparing the new burial land in the Knutsford Road churchyard. The new land was generously gifted to the Church by two parishioners.

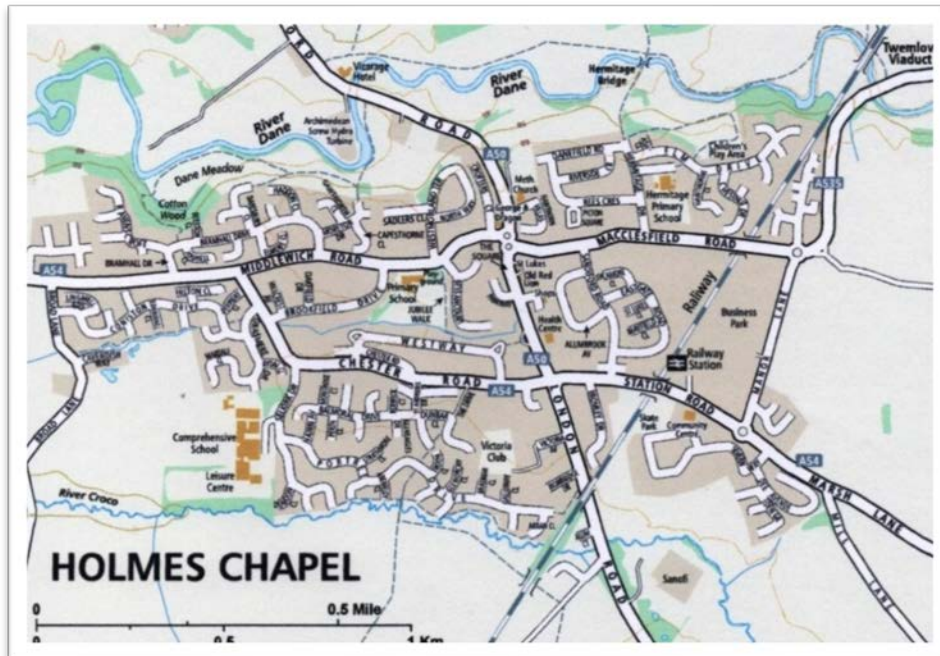
Individual donations have been given by anonymous parishioners in remembrance of loved ones towards the significant cost of the new wooden chairs in the reordered area of the chancel.



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

### 7 HOLMES CHAPEL

#### THE PLACE



Plan from the [Village Guide](#) produced by the Holmes Chapel Partnership in May 2018



Hermitage Bridge

Holmes Chapel is a large village of around 6,000 residents in the municipal district of Cheshire East 20 miles north of Stoke on Trent and 25 miles south of Manchester.

It is still quite compact and open countryside can be reached within a mile of the centre in any direction. It has kept its village character based round St Luke's, several pubs and a good range of shops, restaurants and small supermarkets.



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

A wide range of services and facilities are available, including a library, medical centre, dentist and post office and many shops and other services<sup>5</sup>. The village is well served with good schools, having two primary schools and a comprehensive school with a 6<sup>th</sup> form college, all of high standard.

Many of its population commute to work because of Holmes Chapel's excellent communication links. The village centre is just over a mile from Junction 18 of the M6 with access to the national motorway network. Central Manchester is less than an hour's drive and Manchester Airport half an hour away. Holmes Chapel railway station provides regular services to Manchester Airport and the city centre and a high-speed service via nearby Crewe reaches London in around two hours.

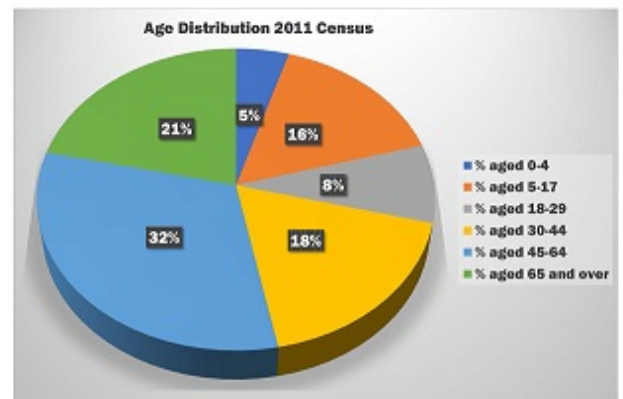


Originally on a drovers' route and then on coaching routes from London to the North, it was a farming community which had good transport links with surrounding towns. These links were further enhanced by the coming of the railways and more recently the M6. The impact on Holmes Chapel has been a growth from about 400 residents in the 1800's to around 6000 now and most of that

growth has occurred since the 1950's.

### DEMOGRAPHICS

Based on the 2011 Census data, Holmes Chapel is relatively affluent: deprivation rank: 12,290 (12,443 = least deprived) and of predominantly white (98%) ethnicity. The age distribution is shown opposite.



UK CENSUS results for Holmes Chapel Parish	1981	1991	Change 81 to 91	2001	Change 91 to 01	2011	Change 01 to 11
All people	4,151	5,465	+1,314	5,669	+204	5,605	-64
Males		2,682		2,788	+106	2,699	-89
Females		2,783		2,881	+98	2,906	+25
Density (people per hectare)				11		10.9	
All households		2,035	-	2,294	+259	2,419	+125

<sup>5</sup> See [Parish Council website](#) for detailed information



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

According to the Holmes Chapel Neighbourhood Plan for 2016-2030<sup>6</sup>, further growth on the 2011 Census figure is projected, based on additional residents in the 613 house planning applications already approved. Assuming 2.4 persons per house, this will increase the population by 1,471 when all these houses are delivered. There may be some decline in population in existing houses due to the growing older population with younger residents moving away. This cannot be quantified and so a population of about 7,000 with 3,032 houses is predicted by 2030: a population growth of 26.5% and 25.3% in dwellings since 2011.

### VILLAGE ACTIVITIES



Despite its increasing size, Holmes Chapel still retains its village feel as a friendly welcoming community. It has many clubs and organisations catering for most past-times and interests. Holmes Chapel Partnership works closely with the local and Cheshire East Councils facilitating local community projects. They produce an excellent [booklet detailing village activity groups](#) for all

ages. They also organise the annual village Christmas Market in the car-park beside the Church Hall each December with over 30 stalls and general entertainment.

### OTHER CHURCHES



[Holmes Chapel Methodist Church](#)  
Knutsford Road

Minister: Revd Yvonne Pearson



[St Margaret Ward Roman Catholic Church](#)  
Macclesfield Road

Minister: Fr Peter Dutton (based at their mother Church of St Mary's Middlewich).

### CHRISTIAN COMMUNICARE

Holmes Chapel and District Christian Communicare is a voluntary service formed over 25 years ago after a meeting between members of the three churches and the Health Centre. Its main activity is to provide the Car Service where volunteers drive people who have no other means of transport to the Health Centre, Hospitals, Dentists etc.

<sup>6</sup> [Holmes Chapel Neighbourhood Plan \(2016-2030\)](#) made by Cheshire East Council, 9 March 2017



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

### 8 OUR EXPECTATIONS – What kind of vicar do we want?

Based on suggestions from our congregation, desirable qualities in our new vicar include:

<p><b><i>Collaborative Enabling Supportive</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to delegate</li> <li>• Welcomes talents of others</li> <li>• Supports and develops others</li> <li>• Content to lead or be one of many</li> </ul>	<p><i>“Confident to work with a strong lay team”</i></p>
<p><b><i>Leader Teacher Strategic</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listens first and then leads (NOT leads then listens!)</li> <li>• Thinks of the bigger picture</li> <li>• Challenging and clear thinker</li> <li>• Strong positive leader seeking solutions – not controlling or with a pre-set agenda</li> </ul>	<p><i>“Engaged listener and teacher”</i></p> <p><i>“Decisive when need be”</i></p>
<p><b><i>Enlightened Considered Experienced</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can draw on own life experiences</li> <li>• Mature in faith, faithful in prayer</li> <li>• Grounded in reality and discernment, but open to new ideas</li> <li>• Good sense of humour</li> <li>• In tune with modern technology</li> </ul>	<p><i>“Honest about life’s struggles”</i></p> <p><i>“Wise, mature–youthful and young in heart!”</i></p>
<p><b><i>Unifying Balanced Broad</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accepting of traditional and contemporary liturgies</li> <li>• Can relate to all ages and complement our leadership and management skills</li> <li>• Open to questioning</li> <li>• Welcomes diversity</li> </ul>	<p><i>“Builds on what St Luke’s has achieved so far”</i></p>

**BUT** we recognise that no one mortal is going to have all these desired qualities (and if he or she did, we probably couldn't relate to them!).

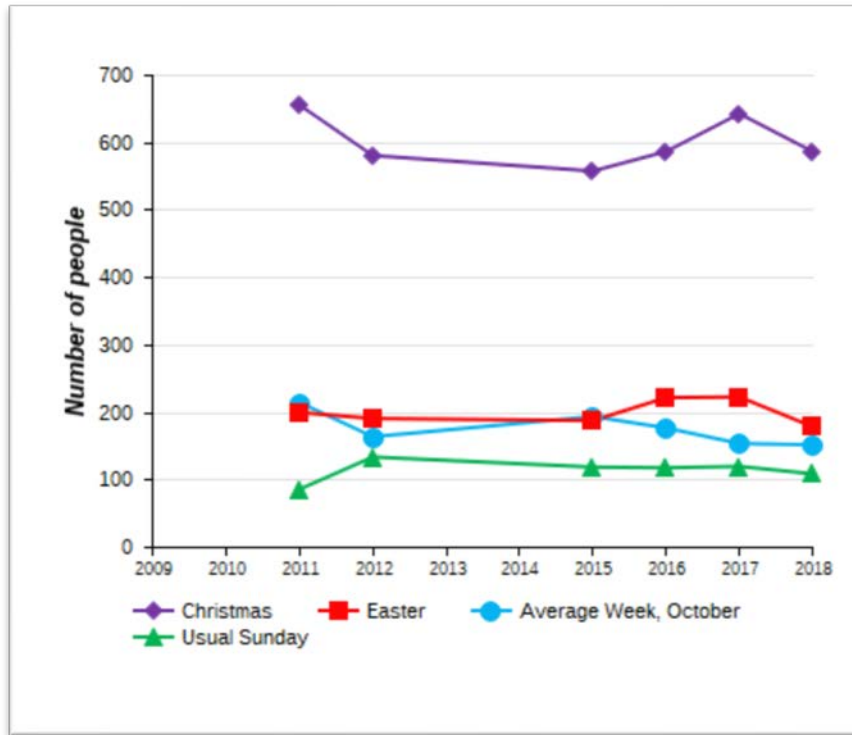
**IN A NUT-SHELL, St Luke's wants and urgently needs someone who:**

- **is empowered by the Holy Spirit,**
- **can build on where we are,**
- **can shape and help us deliver our vision to engage effectively with the wider community, AND**
- **can continue to develop and sustain our existing congregation.**

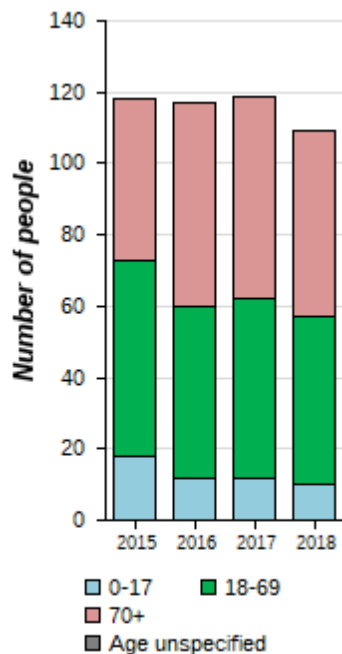
**COULD THIS BE YOU?**



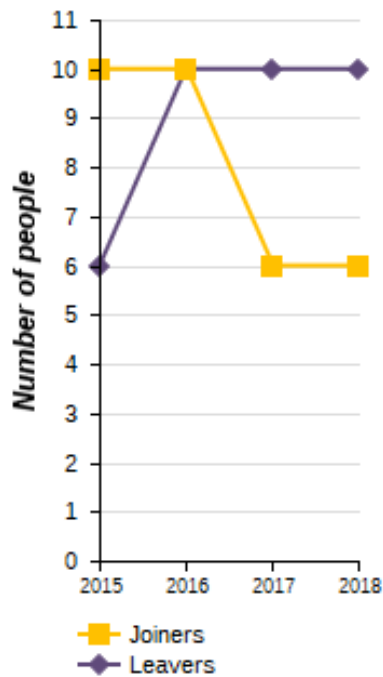
**Church Attendance**



**Worshipping Community**

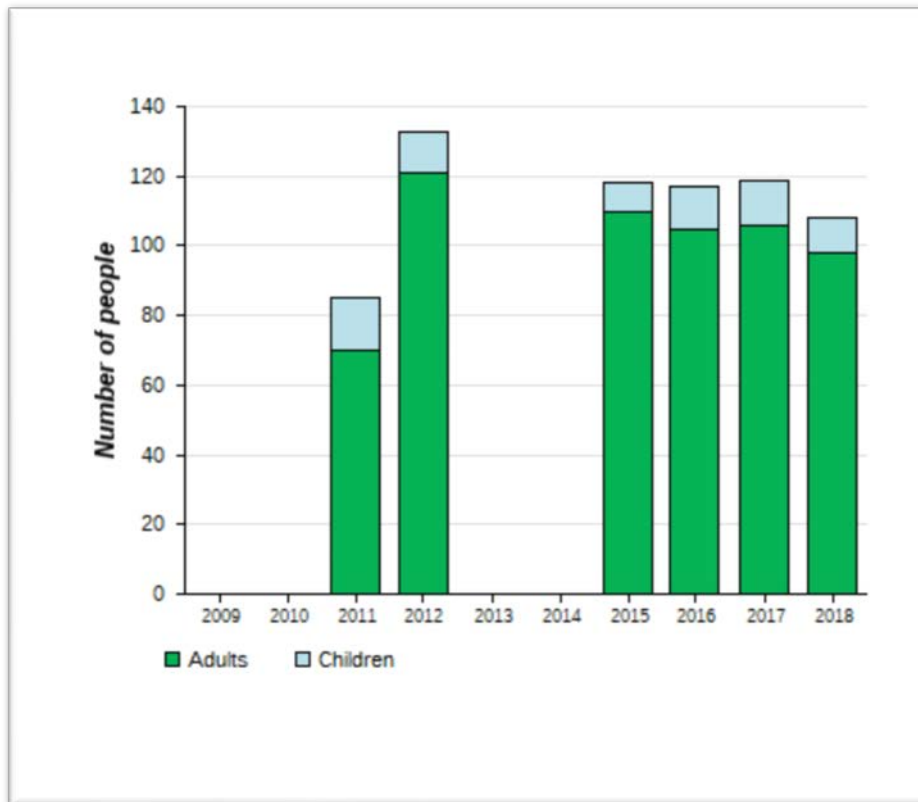


**Joiners and Leavers**

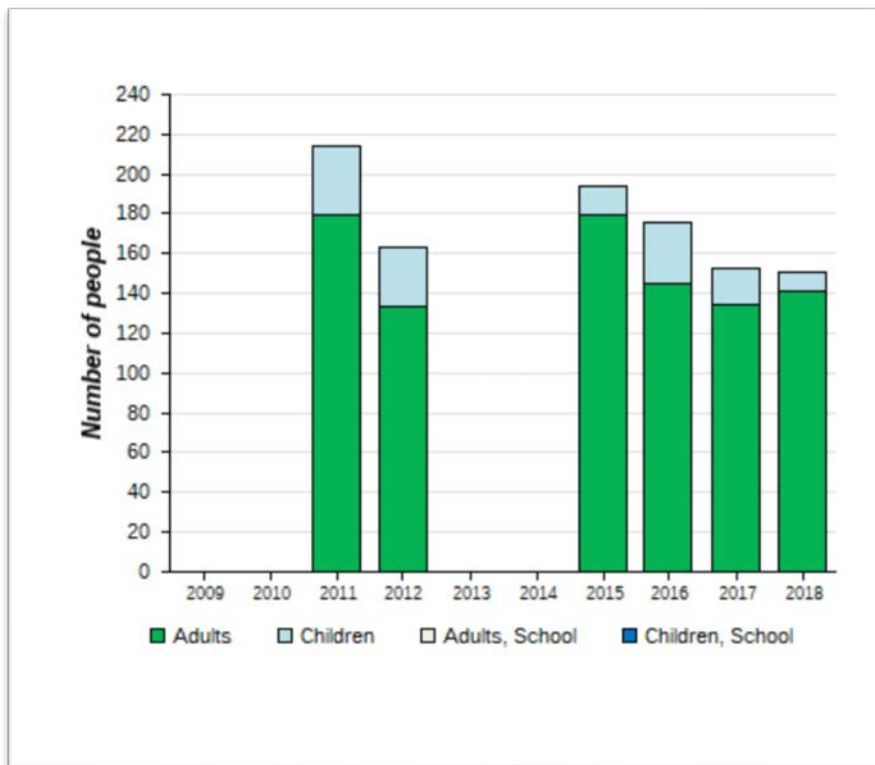


*Note: Unrestricted and Restricted amounts have been combined in all these charts*

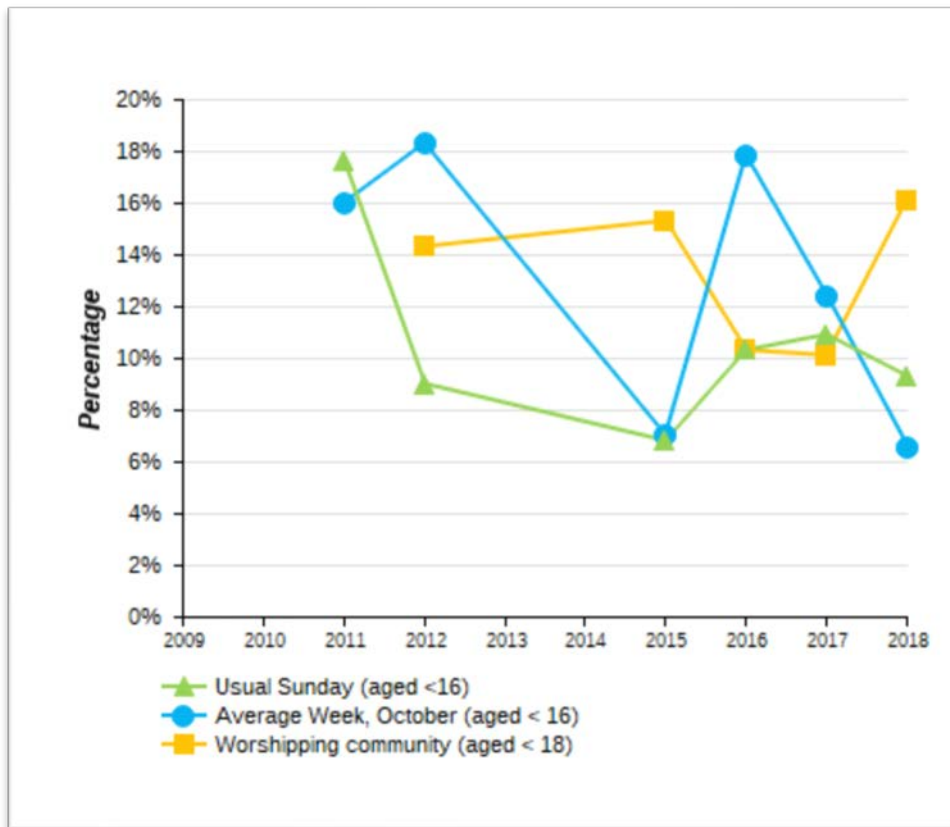
### Usual Sunday Attendance



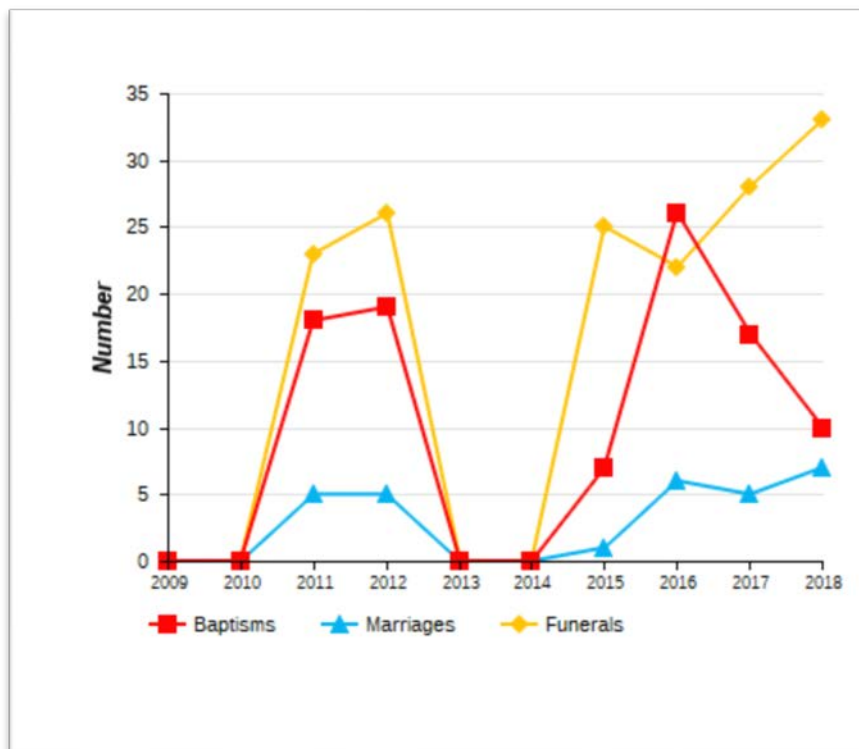
### Average Weekly Attendance



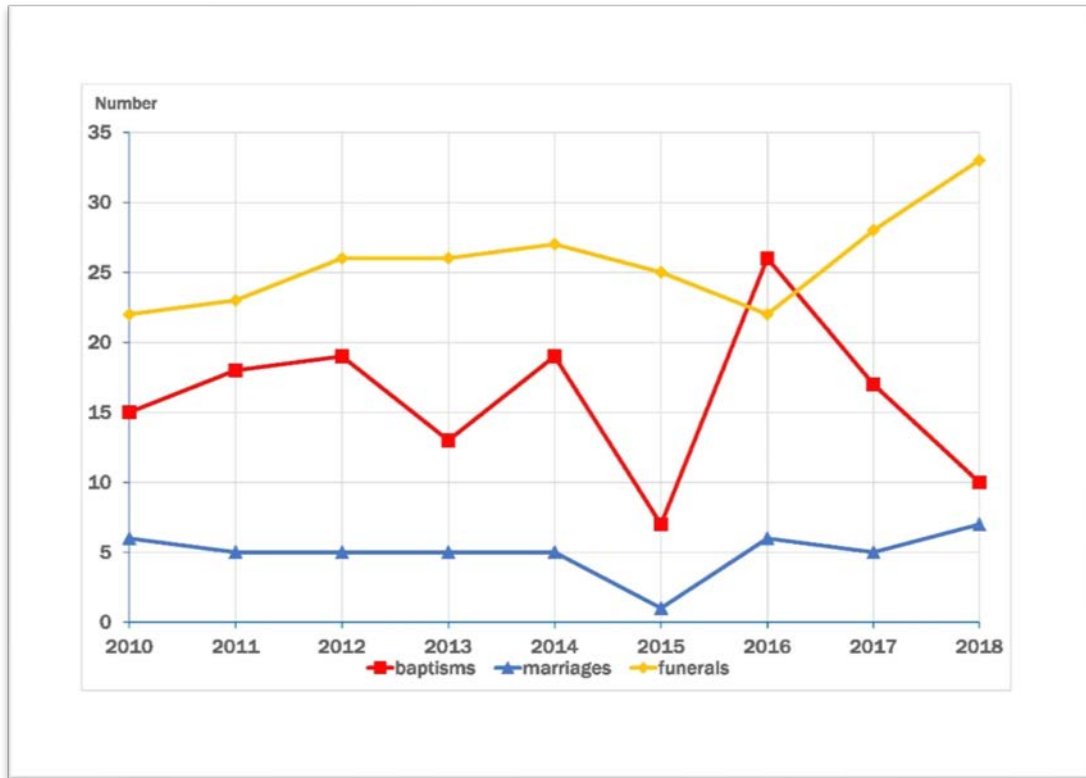
### Percentage Children



### Baptisms Marriages Funerals



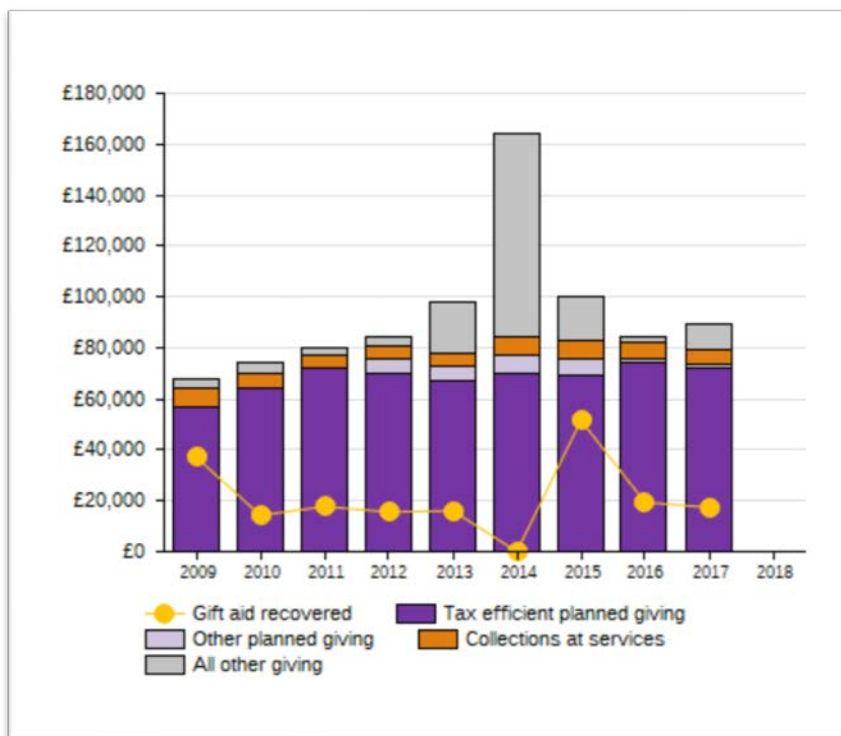
**Life Events** [note: updated with 2013 and 2014 figures]



**Income & expenditure 2009 -2017**

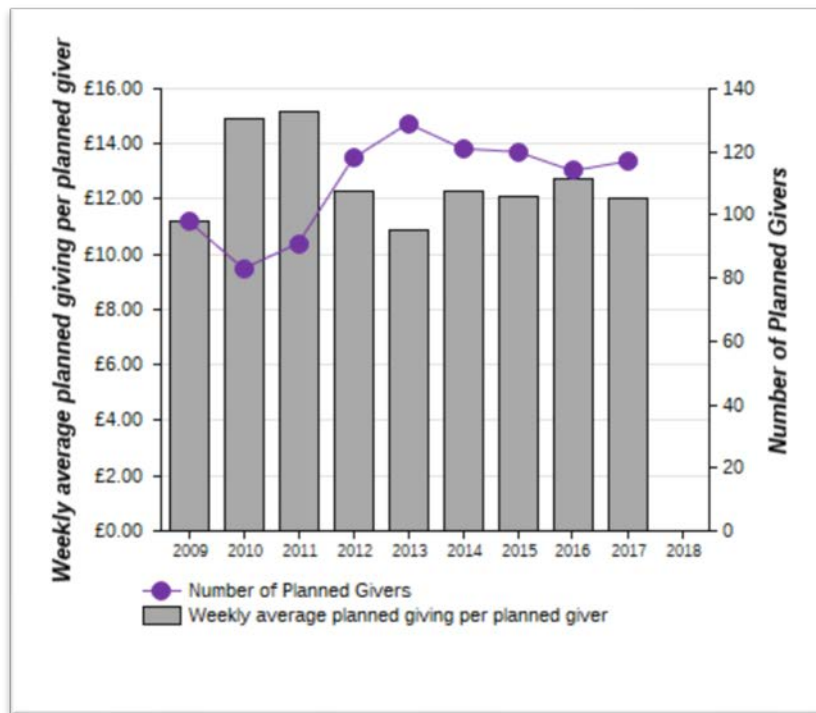


**Giving & Gift Aid recovered 2009 -2017**

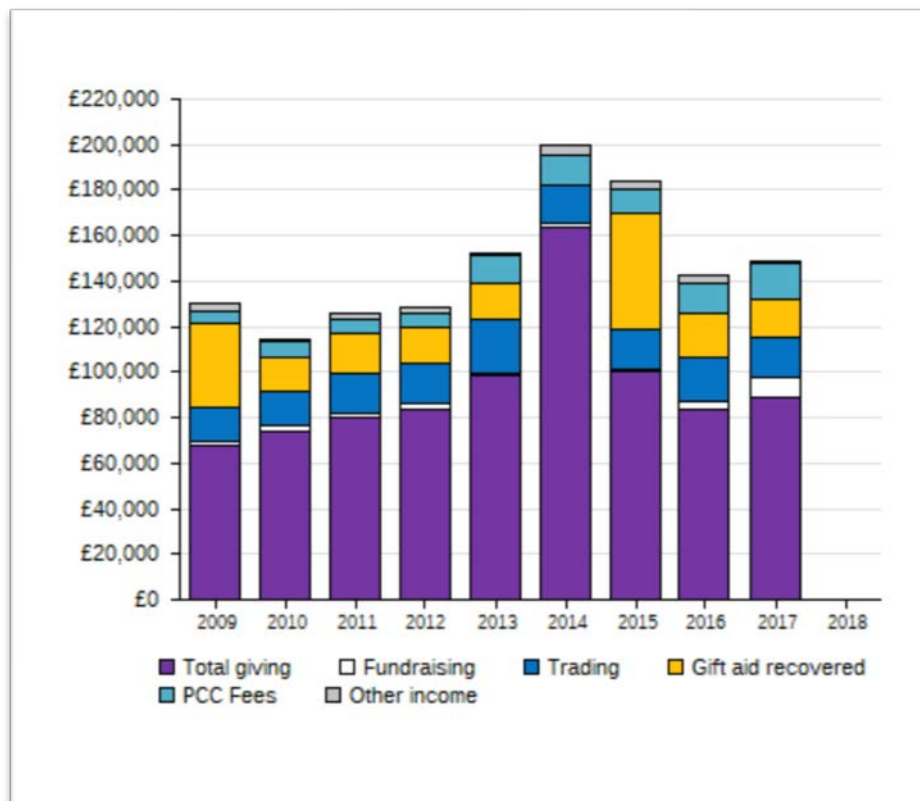


*Note: Unrestricted and Restricted amounts have been combined in all these charts*

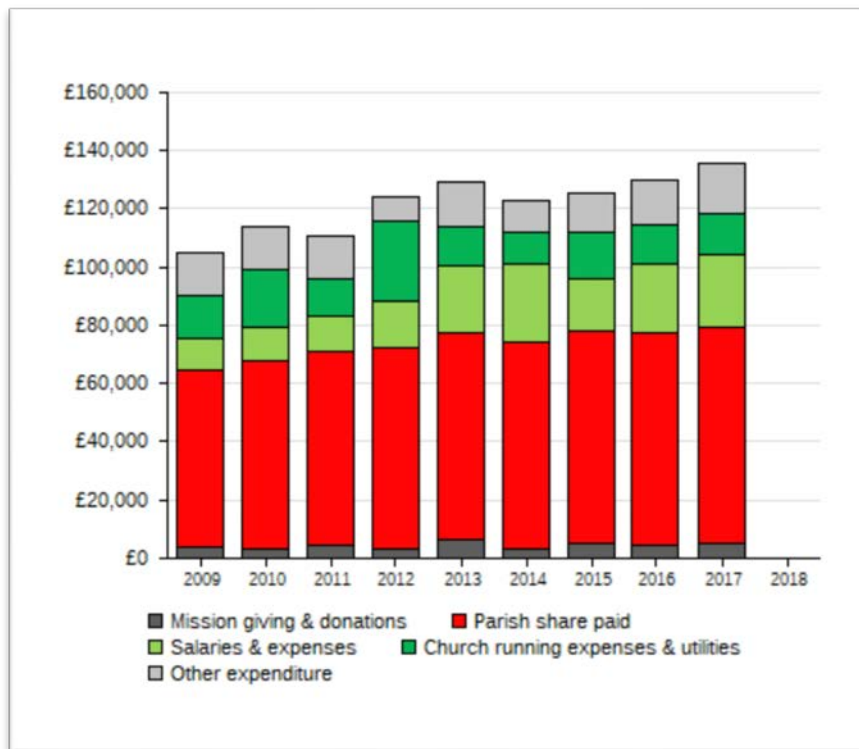
### Planned Giving and Planned Givers 2009 -2017



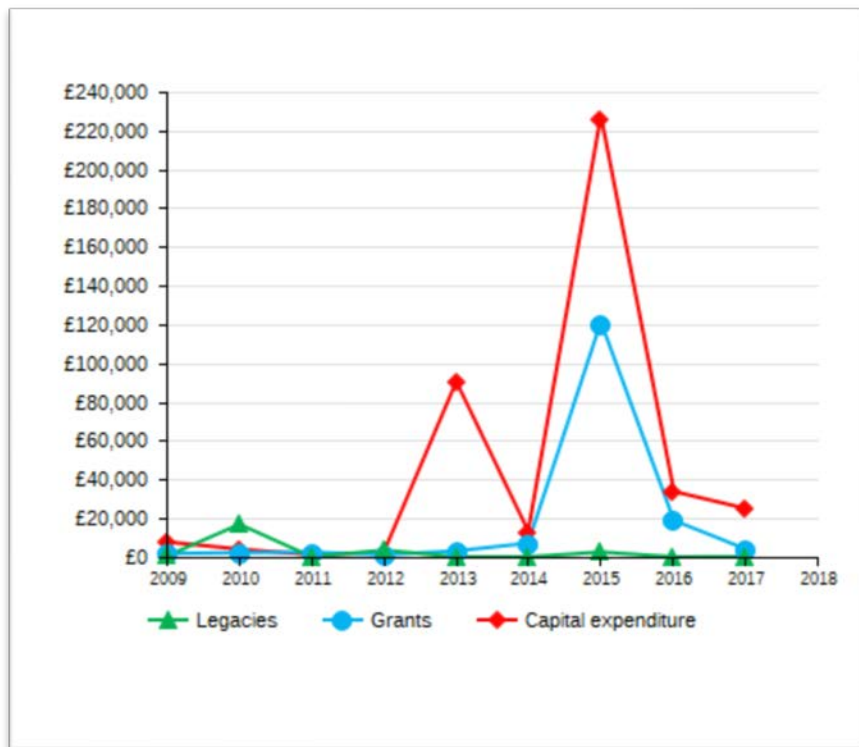
### Income Breakdown



### Expenditure Breakdown



### Legacies Grants & Capital Expenditure



### Reserves – restricted and unrestricted

