

St Giles - Church Profile

St Giles Parish Church - West Bridgford
Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

Priest in Charge – Rev Lee Proudlove

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West Bridgford

St Giles is the Parish Church of West Bridgford, Nottingham. West Bridgford is the largest town in the in the Borough of Rushcliffe, it lies on the south of the river Trent and though very close to the city of Nottingham it has retained a distinct identity. There is a defined town centre and housing consists mainly of large Victorian residences. In recent years the economy of the town centre has changed, local stores given way to established ‘upmarket’ chains such as Café Nero and M&S. West Bridgford is increasingly seen as a desirable place to live. The local schools are very good and attractive to young families, as is the good housing stock.

The parish is served by 7 primary schools, the closest to the church being West Bridgford Infants and West Bridgford Juniors, both being rated by Ofsted as outstanding. The Parish is also served by West Bridgford Comprehensive, Rushcliffe School and close by is the newly built Emmanuel Church of England voluntary aided Secondary school.

Local amenities include West Bridgford park, Holme Pierrepont – the National Water sports centre, the river Trent and associated canoe, rowing and sailing clubs. Within walking distance of St Giles lie the football grounds of Nottingham Forest and Notts County as well as Nottingham County Cricket club.

The Church in it's community

The population of West Bridgford as a whole is estimated to be around 37,000, and this community is also served by the neighbouring parishes of All Hallows Lady Bay, St Pauls Wilford Hill and St Luke's Gamston - parishes with good relationships with St Giles.

St Giles has an electoral roll numbering 300 and an average weekly attendance of around 240; we are broadly representative of West Bridgford with a growing contingent of young families and professionals as well as a number of older members. The church, in common with much of West Bridgford is predominantly white and middle class in make up although in recent years this has begun to change with the church becoming more diverse.

St Giles has a modern community hall that is used by community groups and is available for hire. This hall is used throughout the week for a range of church and no church related activities – Uniformed groups and activities, ballet and dance classes, keep fit, book groups etc.

There are good relationships with our local primary schools where the Rector leads assemblies and the schools visit us for Easter and Christmas services as well as concerts. We are developing relationships with local preschool groups.

Children and Families

St Giles has the following groups and activities for children and families:

Sundays

Sunbeams – A group for 2-4 year olds, this focuses on crafts and games and is led by a team of parents and volunteers, they meet in the small meeting room in the church hall during the 10.30am service.

Junior Church – For ages 5-11, the average number across year groups for these children is about 60. There is rota of leaders and volunteers who lead and the material used is Scripture Unions 'Light' series. Depending on which leaders are available sometimes there is worship together at the start of the sessions. They meet in the church hall.

Weekdays

Tiddlers – A drop in toddler group on Thursday mornings for children of pre-school age and their parents and carers. Normally numbering around 40 children plus carers – there is a play area with toys and 'carpet time' at the end.

Monthly

Messy Church – A growth area in recent years. Our Messy church runs monthly on the first Monday of the month. We follow the Messy Church programme with seasonal themes and a blend of crafts, games and worship. Parents and carers engage with the activities along with volunteer leaders. Numbers vary but an average would be 40 children plus carers.

All Age Worship – The first Sunday of each month is a service of All Age worship. We meet together as a church family and have an increasing number of unchurched families joining us for this service as their main church involvement.

Annual

Holiday Club – In the last week of the school summer holidays we lead a Scripture Union holiday club, attracting around 80 Primary school age children we have a good group of teenage co-leaders along with adult leaders.

We also hold an annual Nativity service for our Junious church children which will attract a congregation of over 400 as well as alternative Halloween parties and an All Age Good Friday Workshop.

Church life

Being a larger church St Giles has a rich and varied worship life.

The pattern of worship for Sundays is as follows:

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| <i>9am</i> | Common Worship Communion Service with robed choir
Usually attended by 50-70 – mixed ages |
| <i>10.30am</i> | The first Sunday of the month is a family friendly All Age service. Other Sundays are informal worship led by a worship band - 140 adults plus about 60 children |
| <i>6pm</i> | Second & fourth Sundays choral evensong with homily
Usual attendance – 20 mainly elderly |
| <i>7.30pm</i> | 'Something Else' - Mix of café church and a more charismatic expression of worship. Usual attendance – 30 predominantly 20-30's – a growth area in the church. |

St Giles has a number of home-groups meeting at different times during the week. These provide the main focus for pastoral care and discipleship in the life of the church. They meet weekly, and whilst they have a variety of styles members share a common commitment to Bible study and prayer for one another.

Church Leadership

Rector – Rev Lee Proudlove

Rev Lee Proudlove is the Rector of St Giles.

Ordained Deacon in 2000 and Priest in 2001 he brings experience of ministry in a variety of contexts to St Giles. Prior to ordination he worked in Advertising Sales for Channel 4 and as a youth-worker in a North London Urban Priority Area Parish. After ordination he served his curacy in South London suburbia after which he moved to the Philippines with his family and ministered with the Church Mission Society in church-planting and social projects. He also had some responsibilities for the training of Filipino Episcopal priests. He is married to Sally and has 3 children Ethan (13), Lily (11) and Aaron (9).

Administrator – Claire Sheard

Claire works 5 mornings a week. She handles the churches routine administration and also church publicity and bookings.

Youthworker – Andy Wright

Andy works 20 hours per week for St Giles. He oversees all of the youth ministry at St Giles which includes Impact an evening cell group for 15-18's, Discoverers - Sunday mornings 13-15 year; and Horizons – Sunday mornings 11 – 13's. Over the last year this area of church life has grown significantly as we have introduced a program of socials and weekends away.

Discipleship Co-ordinator – Katie Conley

Katie works voluntarily for St Giles for about a morning a week. She co-ordinates homegroups, and also our various courses – Marriage prep, Parenting courses etc

Prayer Co-ordinator – Sue Ferraro

Sue leads our prayer events – half nights of prayer and regular prayer meetings.

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator – Daphne Carter

Daphne co-ordinates the churches pastoral care. She leads the friends visiting group and also arranges hospital visits, home communions etc

Seniors Co-ordinator – Doreen Ottway

Doreen organises our seniors ministry which includes a couple of book clubs, theatre trips, outings, fellowship meals and community events.