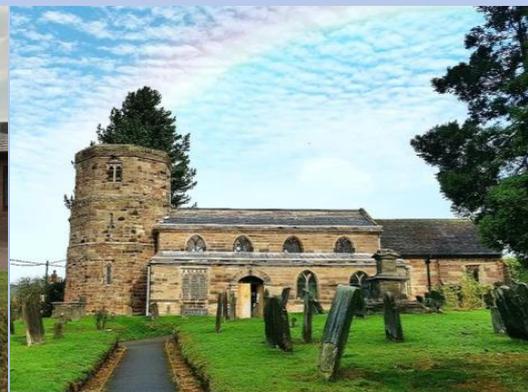


BENEFICE PROFILE

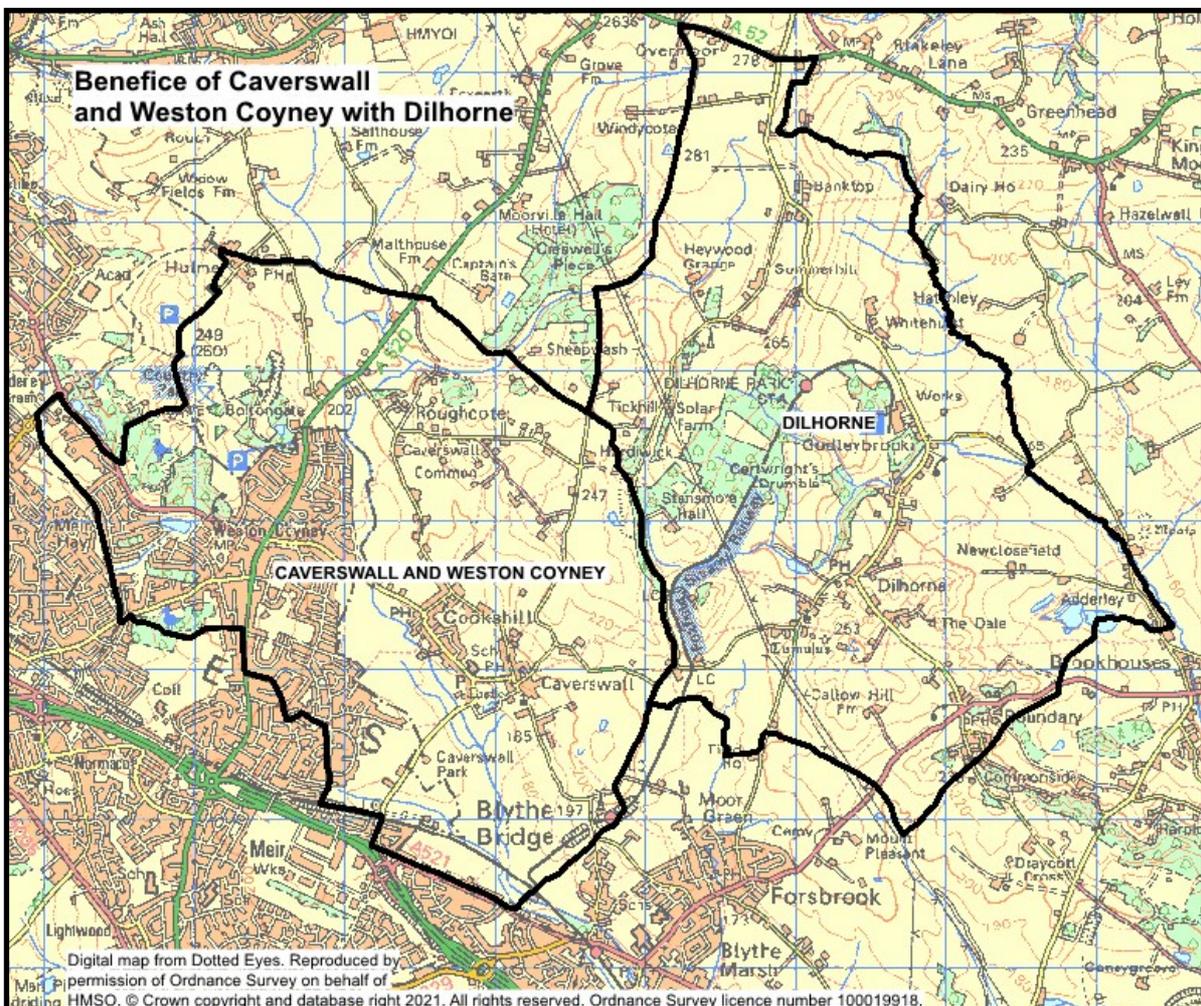
The United Benefice of
St. Peter's Caverswall and
St. Andrew's Weston Coyney with
All Saints Dilhorne



“Career Shepherd wanted for a willing flock”

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The Benefice

Our two parishes, with three churches, are located in North Staffordshire in both rural and suburban environments. Caverswall and Dilhorne have two beautiful ancient church buildings. The more suburban area of Weston Coyney has a bright modern church and centre.

The Challenges

- To keep developing prayer through house groups and other initiatives.
- To become united disciples of Christ in more challenging places.
- To serve the local community, demonstrating God's love.
- To grow and strengthen links with the entire diverse community, making everyone feel welcomed and included.
- Engage young people and families.
- To grow new leaders and volunteers.

Person Specification

We are seeking a gifted leader who:

- is prayerful, seeking to grow their own church life;
- has a heart for mission and evangelism;
- is a person of vision;
- works well with others;
- is able to work sympathetically across a range of contexts, both urban and rural;
- is committed to promoting diversity at every level of church life;
- is committed to the pastoral care and welfare of the parishes;
- is able to relate to and value all traditions within the Church of England;
- can listen, question, encourage, enable, admonish and inspire trust and confidence;
- can manage and delegate with sensitivity;
- can communicate and work confidently with people of all ages.

What We Have To Offer

- We are enthusiastic, with talents and the willingness of volunteers to help.
- Support of an experienced parish administrator.
- Finance team.
- Music Group.
- "Open the Book" team.
- A vicarage in an attractive village setting.
- Four readers.
- An experienced team of Church Wardens.
- A prayer team available after services and for emergencies during the week.
- A Safeguarding team, all training & DBS renewals are up to date.

Styles of Worship

The churches have an evangelical tradition and our services use a range of traditional and contemporary music and liturgy. The life, teaching, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ are absolutely fundamental to our worship and ministries. Lay Ministry is a vital part of our church life.

We have had to be flexible with our service patterns in order to serve the needs of each church.

Church Buildings

St. Peter's Church, Caverswall

A 12th Century church (Grade II*); toilet and small kitchen, bell tower with six bells. In recent years we also upgraded to a digital organ. We are currently producing a faculty for an auto clock winder and kitchen refurb. The church has a closed church yard and is situated next to Caverswall Castle.

St. Andrew's Church, Weston Coyney

This modern church built in 1984 (with adjoining hall and meeting rooms) is a large space with flexible seating and a stage.

All Saints' Church, Dilhorne

A 12th Century church (Grade II*) with a good sized kitchen, disabled toilet and sound system. It was reordered in 2018 to improve heating and to create a large meeting room for outreach events, Sunday school and children's activities. There is a bell tower with 6 bells and a pipe organ (refurbished in 2019).

The Vicarage

Built in the 1960's in the heart of Caverswall, located on a quiet crescent that backs onto the grounds of St. Peter's School. It has a large lounge looking onto the gardens. Separate dining room. Large family kitchen. Four good sized bedrooms. Study.

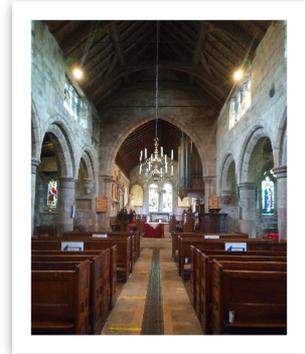
Schools

There is a church school in each parish.



St Peter's Church Caverswall

St Peter's Church is a 12th century (Grade II*) church at the centre of a busy Staffordshire Moorlands village. Caverswall, with a population of 1000 is more of a suburban village; it still has farming and rural activities at its heart and even a neighbouring castle and village stocks! It is within a closed churchyard, and there is a cemetery across the road.



St Peter's Church School (Primary) and nursery, has a roll of 170 approx, and is adjacent to the Vicarage. There are a number of church Foundation Governors.

We value our links with the school. In Easter 2025 children visited the church over two days for crafting and bell ringing activities. The children decorated the church beautifully for Easter. Staff, children and volunteers had a wonderful time.

Over the last 14 years, Open Doors events have proved very popular. In the summer, Afternoon Teas are served attracting a lot of people who value the fellowship. Children's activities are provided. The Christmas Fayre goes from strength to strength. It has a wonderful atmosphere and is always packed with visitors who enjoy the welcome, and are very much part of our community.*

Our activities:

- Open Doors Afternoon Teas and activities for children and local people



- Open Doors Christmas Fayre which attracts many folk
- Parish funerals verged by a dedicated team, for whom it is a ministry
- Carol Service with a community choir and children from St Peter's School and refreshments
- End-of-term school services and refreshments for parents
- School "Open Doors" crafts over several days at Easter
- Bell ringing and special events for the North Staffs Association
- Civic Services as requested
- Wreath-making workshops with Caverswall Gardening Association
- Marriages
- Baptisms



- Celebration of national events like the Coronation of King Charles III
- Special events such as the Doves for Peace Project

There are strong relationships between St Andrew's and St Peter's: the two churches share many activities such as Alpha courses, Agape suppers, Foodbank, social and Open Doors events, and members support worship and outreach in both places.

Challenges for which we need your support and leading:

- To strengthen links with St Peter's School through volunteers and visits
- To welcome children to participate in Sunday services
- To encourage more pupils and volunteers to help at Open Doors events
- To explore how to encourage Open Doors visitors into worship
- To develop skills in leading worship by laity
- To deepen our faith and understanding



St. Andrew's Church

Weston Coyney

St. Andrew's with St. Peter's Pre-School

The hall and large kitchen are used during the week by St Andrew's with St Peter's Pre-school, which provides childcare for children aged 2–5. Established over 50 years ago, the pre-school has a long and valued history and warmly welcomes closer involvement with the church. This offers a significant opportunity to engage regularly with a large number of children and parents who use the facility each day.



St. Andrew's Church

The various meeting rooms, hall and church are used during the week for various activities including:

- The Bereavement Friendship Group - held once a month.
- Parent and Toddlers - weekly meeting offering play for toddlers and chat for their carers.
- Morning Coffee - held on the last Friday in the month.
- Rainbows - once a week.
- Weight Watchers - every Saturday.
- Model Railway Group - every Monday evening.
- Foodbank - every Friday.
- Concerts featuring Christian comedian Andy Kind, Paul Jones (Manfred Mann) and his wife Fiona, alongside a choir and the Uttoxeter Brass Band.
- Agape supper.
- Alpha courses.
- We are a growing church with 60+ and 14 children at the moment.

Foodbank

Since June 2014, St Andrew's Church has served as a distribution centre for the Trussell Trust's Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank. The work is supported by a team of 20 active volunteers drawn from across the three churches, who give their time on a rota basis. Two dedicated rooms are used to store food and additional items for guests.

In addition, St Andrew's has a team of volunteers who collect surplus food each evening from the local Co-op, redistributing items that would otherwise be thrown away.



Recent Alterations

In 2024, work was completed to provide the centre with a disabled toilet and a kitchen area. This has created a usable and safe space for additional activities during the week, particularly when the main hall, toilets and meeting rooms are unavailable due to pre-school use.

St Andrew's is also in the process of installing a staircase to improve access to the upper floor and storage areas.

Local schools

There are a number of nearby schools, including Weston Infants Academy, Weston Junior Academy, Park Hall Academy (Primary) and The Crescent Academy (Primary). St Andrew's has a strong and positive relationship with both local primary schools, regularly welcoming children into church for special services such as Easter and Christmas. We are keen not only to maintain these relationships but to develop them further. Although these are not church schools, there is a real openness to involvement, and Park Hall Primary has previously prepared and performed plays within the church.

Open the Book

Very recently, a team drawn from all three churches has begun taking part in the Open the Book initiative, bringing Bible stories and Christian teaching into local schools. The reception from both staff and pupils has been very positive.

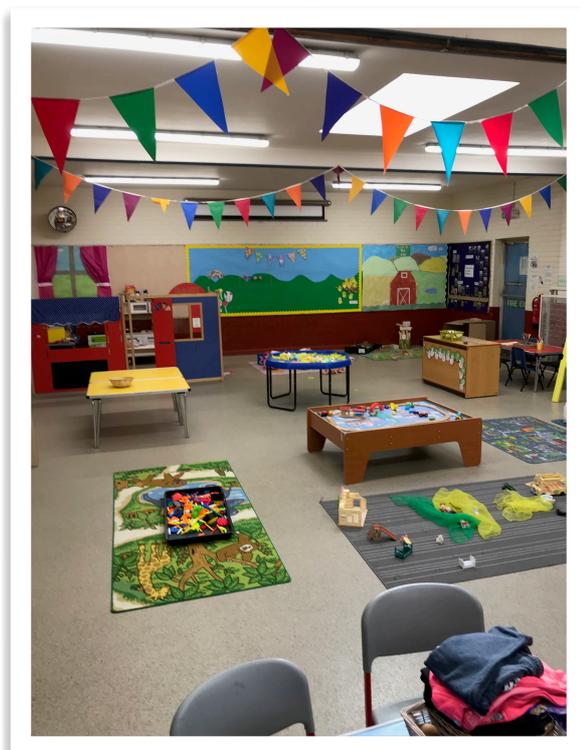
Other Shared 5th Sunday Activities

The two churches in the Caverswall Parish have joined together for some 5th Sunday worship activities.

- Used a coach on the Churnet Valley Steam Railway for a service.
- Harvest Festival in the barn at a local farm.
- A walk round Tittesworth Reservoir followed by a time of worship.
- Cafe church at St. Andrews.

Caverswall Parish Financial Statement

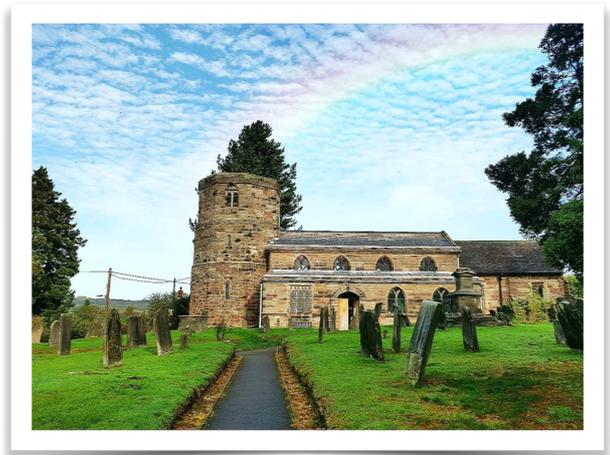
The parish Common Fund payments are always paid in full and on time, with other contributions being made to various charities.



All Saints Parish Church, Dilhorne

Worship, Ministry Team & Fifth Sundays

Church services are held at 9:30am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month, attracting a regular group of around 28, joined by a few members from St Peter's when their church is closed. Our first Sunday features Holy Communion, while the second offers a Service of the Word. On fifth Sundays, we host 'Cake & Company,' a casual gathering with coffee, chat, and occasional activities like last Advent's 'Stir up Sunday' for making Christmas puddings.



Our Ministry Team supports the Benefice and commits to attending All Saints monthly to deliver or lead services, with additional support from congregation members who read lessons and lead prayers. The eight-member PCC aims to make worship inclusive and welcoming through prayer, scripture, music, and fellowship.

Bell Ringing Community

- The bell ringing group consists of ten members who ring regularly for Sunday services, weddings, and special events.
- Host outreach activities to share bell ringing and the church's history with the community.
- The increased number of ringers and events has benefited the congregation.

Music

- The Parish caters to both traditional and contemporary musical tastes.
- Two organists provide music for services
- A modern Worship Band leads family services once a month with more contemporary selections. The worship band occasionally plays at outside events, recently supporting the Rock Choir at an event in the nearby town of Leek.

Traditions and Community Events

- The carrying of crosses from the church to the top of the hill behind the building on Good Friday. This event has grown over time.
- Remembrance Sunday is a significant occasion for All Saints and each year it is recognised with an event, bell ringing, the service, attending the village memorial with the school children.
- Festive lunch for community members and congregants who may be alone or enjoy socialising, inviting guests as well. The space is arranged with decorated tables, and attendance has increased over four years, making the event a valued part of the festive season.

Charitable Activities

- The village hall is central to community life, hosting joint events such as the May 2025 celebration marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day
- We actively support the local Foodbank within the Benefice and regularly organise collections for charities such as the Children's Society and the Leprosy Mission.

Communications

- Facebook
- Benefice Office keeps our website current

- Leaflets remain the most effective way to inform villagers about special events or holiday arrangements. Hand-delivered by congregation and PCC members, these leaflets help newcomers connect with the Church.
- Our annual Christmas card, including service details, is distributed throughout the village and parts of neighbouring Boundary.

On our 'To Do' Wish List

- Outdoor Service at a farm
- Festive lunch
- Music concerts
- Bell ringing - continue to attract new recruits
- Cards to baptisms and marriages from 2025 inviting them back on their anniversary.
- Nativity/Christingle at Christmas
- Traditional Christmas Carol Service
- Annual service of Remembering (a lost loved one)

School and Church Partnership

All Saints Church enjoys an excellent relationship with Dilhorne Endowed Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, a farm school, which currently has 54 pupils.

Statement from Craig Broome, Executive School Leader

“We are a Church of England primary school with strong ties to our village parish. Our partnership with All Saints Church includes annual Christmas, Easter, and End of Year services, as well as regular visits for religious education. Parish members, especially the 'Open the Book' team, have supported us during interregnum, enriching pupils' learning with engaging Bible stories. We look forward to welcoming new clergy and continuing our close relationship with the church community.”

All Saints' Church Finances

Church finances overall are healthy. This is due to a legacy that was left to the Church in 2012, which also included some arable land around the church. The legacy has partly been used to have the Church reordered and the remainder is invested and is used to generate income and beyond to sustain refurbishment and fabric of the church for future generations. The land is leased by farmers. Detailed accounts can be obtained from the Treasurer of the PCC.

Growth

We have grown in Christianity and have appreciated the Ministry of our previous vicar, even though it was only four years pre-retirement. We are looking forward to a new Vicar who will build on all our previous one has done.....' grow the areas we can see opportunities for spreading God's love.

