

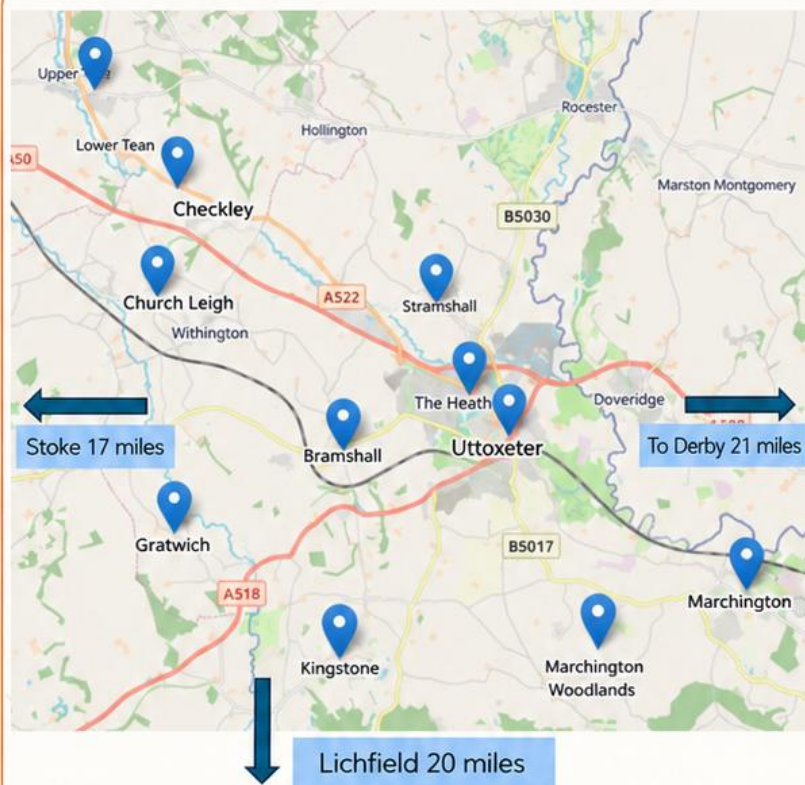
Welcome to Uttoxeter



**A community of faith,
serving our town and villages**

Our churches are at the heart of the communities we serve across the Uttoxeter Area of Parishes.

We are a welcoming, worshipping and outward-looking family of churches, seeking to share God's love and hope with all.



Info: The furthest Parish away from Uttoxeter is:
Christchurch, Tean at 7 miles



OUR CHURCHES

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| † Bramshall
St Lawrence | † Marchington
St Peter's |
| † Checkley
St Mary & All Saints | † Marchington Woodlands
St John the Baptist |
| † Gratwich
St Mary the Virgin | † Stramshall
St Michael & All Angels |
| † Kingstone
St John the Baptist | † Upper Tean
Christchurch |
| † Leigh
All Saints | † Uttoxeter
St Mary's Church
with Heath Church |



Worshipping
Together



Growing in
Faith



Serving our
Community



Sharing God's
Love

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."



QUICK FACTS



HISTORIC MARKET

Uttoxeter has a long history as a market town and continues to grow and invest for the future.



10 PARISHES

11 active churches across towns, villages and rural communities.



EXCELLENT TRANSPORT LINKS

Close to M1, A38, A50, A518 and M6. Train station, rail links to Manchester, London and Midlands – via Crewe, Stoke & Derby.



OUTSTANDING QUALITY OF LIFE

A welcoming place to live, work, worship and raise a family.



EXCELLENT SCHOOLS

Primary, middle and high schools with strong reputations, sixth form and further education opportunities.



BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE

Close to the Peak District, Staffs Moorlands, Weaver Hills, Churnet Valley and Dovedale, Perfect for walking, riding, wildlife and relaxation.



FAMILY ATTRACTIONS

Alton Towers, Peak Wildlife, National Forest Adventure Farm, Trentham Gardens, Sudbury Hall, Cinema, ice skating, leisure centre, gyms.



SHOPS AND SERVICES

Supermarkets, cafes & eateries, weekly market, banks, post office & essential services, close to home.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

GP Surgeries, dentists, pharmacies, swimming pool, wide range of sports & wellbeing groups.



The Uttoxeter Area of Parishes

The Uttoxeter Area of Parishes occupies one of the most attractive areas of East Staffordshire and the Staffordshire Moorlands, combining the character of a traditional market town with the peace and beauty of rural villages.

At its heart lies the thriving town of Uttoxeter, surrounded by 10 welcoming parishes and communities, each with its own identity, history and community life.

Whether you are looking for schools, beautiful countryside, easy commuting, community life or opportunities for outdoor recreation, this area offers an exceptional quality of life.

Our clergy enjoy living in a place where ministry is genuinely rooted within communities, while remaining exceptionally well connected to the wider Midlands.

It is a place where faith, family and community can flourish together.

The accommodation:

Rectory – 12, Orchard Close, Uttoxeter, ST14 7DZ



4 bedroom, detached property at the end of a cul-de-sac, detached garage, garden, greenhouse, parking for multiple cars. Walking distance to schools, shops & churches.

More information later in the profile.

A Well Established Team

One family, sharing the journey...

We are blessed with a committed, experienced and supportive team of clergy, lay ministers and volunteers.

Together we share ministry, support our communities and build God's Kingdom.



TEAM RECTOR

Vision. Leadership.
Pastoral Care

Who guides and encourages us all

Working across the Area
and supports worship
and mission



ANOTHER FULL-TIME
STIPENDIARY POST
IN ABEYANCE

Once the Team Rector is in place,
0.2 HfD post can be released.

Together in Christ.



BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR

The heart of our teamwork,
ensuring coordination,
care and connection.

- All administration
- Communication
- Records & compliance
- Rotas & scheduling
- Support for clergy and PCCs



TEAM VICAR

Leading and
supporting worship

Mission and pastoral
care, in partnership
with the Rector.

Working across
the Area.



PTOs (2) COVERING CHECKLEY AND BRAMSHALL

Leading worship

Pastoral care
and mission

Working across
the Area



PTOs (2) ST MARY'S UTTOXETER AND HEATH CHURCH

Leading worship

Pastoral care
and mission

Working across
the Area



3 READERS

Leading worship

Pastoral care
and mission

Working across
the Area



MANY LAY VOLUNTEERS ACROSS THE AREA

Many lay volunteers give
their time, skills and hearts
so generously.



ADDITIONAL PTOs

Offering flexible support
across all the Area
when needed.



13 OCCASIONAL PREACHERS

Help lead worship
across the area
each month.



ONE BIG FAMILY OF FAITH

We share the load.
We celebrate together.
We pray together.
We serve together.



Many parts. One body. One mission. Together in Christ.



How we worship



UTTOXETER

AREA OF PARISHES

Growing Faith Together

We come together in many ways to worship God, grow in faith and share His love. Each church has its own character, together forming one benefice, rooted in prayer and service.

TEN PARISHES – ONE BENEFICE – ALL WORKING TOGETHER

Churches	Holy communion	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer	Regular Informal worship	Weekday service	Study Home groups
Bramshall	CW	BCP	N/A	No	No	No
Checkley	CW	CW	N/A	Yes	No	No
Gratwich	CW	CW	CW	No	No	No
Kingstone	CW	CW	N/A	Yes	No	No
Leigh	CW	CW	CW	No	No	No
Marchington	CW	CW	N/A	Yes	No	Yes
Marchington Woodlands	BCP or CW	N/A	BCP	No	No	No
Stramshall	CW	CW	N/A	Yes	No	Yes
Teian	CW	CW	N/A	No	CW HC	No
Uttoxeter St Mary's	CW 8am BCP	CW	N/A	6pm	CW HC	Yes
Uttoxeter Heath	CW	N/A	CW	No	No	No

CW = Common Worship

BCP = The Book of Common Prayer



Informal worship ranges from regular evening worship, with contemporary music, at Uttoxeter, through to monthly café church on Saturday or Sunday in two of our churches and one-off specifically targeted services in others including Messy church and Brick church.



All churches take the opportunity to serve their communities with Festival services at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. Also Remembrance, All Souls and special celebration services e.g. Coronation and Rogation.



5th Sundays are generally an Area Service, they are themed outside the Lectionary, and are rotated around the churches. These services are often planned by the creative and music team, they can be Informal or Holy Communion.



Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day are formal Area Services at one of the churches.



Study/home groups are for all in the area. Other Lent groups happen across the area.

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”



10 PARISHES working as a team



From rural villages to the market town of Uttoxeter, our churches are at the heart of our communities across the Uttoxeter Area.



TEN PARISHES – ONE BENEFICE – ALL WORKING TOGETHER

Church	Listed	Church Capacity	Village Hall	Church Hall	No of schools	No of Church schools	Churchyard Status	Population	Facilities & Toilet	Accessible access
Woodlands	II	120	✓	✗	0	0	Open	300	✓	✓
Gratwich	II	60	✗	✗	0	0	Open	60	✓	✓
Uttoxeter	II*	326	✗	✗	8	3	Closed	15500	✓	✓
Heath	-	40	✗	✗	0	0	-	-	✓	✓
Bramshall	II	100	✓	✓	0	0	Open	650	✓	✓
Tean	-	180	✓	✓	2	0	Closed	3200	✓	✓
Checkley	I	150+	✓	✗	1	1	Open	1250	✓	✓
Leigh	II*	150+	✓	✗	1	1	Open	1030	✓	✓
Marchington	II*	120+	✓	✗	1	1	Open	2129	✓	✓
Stramshall	II	100	✓	✗	0	0	Open	1617	✓	✓
Kingstone	II	150	✓	✗	1	0	Open	670	✓	✓

Church	Heating	Wi-Fi	Meeting room	Bell Tower	Bell ringers	Ave heads @ HC	Ave heads @ MP	Ave heads @ EP	Ave heads @ at special events	No on PCC
Woodlands	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	8	-	8-15	30-60	5
Gratwich	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	6-8	10	25-35	8
Uttoxeter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	45	40	20	100-200	12
Heath	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	10	-	10	40	-
Bramshall	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	20	20	-	25+	11
Tean	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	30	26	-	130	13
Checkley	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	23	60-80	-	50	14
Leigh	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	3-10	3-10	-	40-150+	5
Marchington	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	15-20	15-20	-	80+	6
Stramshall	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	5-10	5-10	-	60-80	4
Kingstone	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	12	12	-	60	5



“We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”



SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

Caring for every stage of life.

We walk alongside people in happy times and difficult times.
Together we share faith, hope and love in practical ways.



UTTOXETER

AREA OF PARISHES

Growing Faith Together

WHAT WE DO ACROSS OUR AREA



PASTORAL CARE

- Pastoral Visiting
- Home Communion
- Prayer Support
- Wedding and baptism preparation
- Bereavement Journey



FAITH IN LATER LIFE

We value and support people at every stage of life.

- Pastoral Care
- Home Communion
- Friendship and Fellowship
- Support and Prayer

Visiting all 8 care homes in our Area



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Uttoxeter Cafe
- Supporting charities home & abroad
- Concerts
- Creative Workshops
- Community Meals
- Warm Welcome
- Festivals
- Coffee mornings
- Foodbank Support
- Chuffers in Church
- Tean Cinema
- Dementia Cafe

SCHOOLS – PARTNERS IN FAITH



14

Schools in our benefice



6

Church Schools



6

Non-church schools



2

Catholic Primary schools

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER



Supporting school worship, in both school & church setting



Open the Book in many schools



Clergy and lay links with staff and pupils



Supporting Christian values and pastoral care



Encouraging young people to explore faith



Schools Governance



Growing faith and friendship between church and school

UTTOXETER YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST



Uttoxeter Young People's Trust

Charity number 1108893

We help to fund the work of a dedicated Christian School's Worker, who works across the area in most of our schools, and we help to fund organised trips and activities.

Ecumenical information

We are part of Churches Together and are developing a Young Person's Ecumenical Group. Ecumenical Services during the year, eg, World Day of Prayer, take place at various churches.

CELEBRATING LIFE TOGETHER



37

BAPTISMS

In the last 12 months



32

WEDDINGS



66

FUNERALS

Services taken by various clergy including Readers

OUR ECO CHURCH STATUS

Church	Bramshall	Checkley	Gratwich	Kingstone	Marchington St Peters	Stramshall	Uttoxeter	Tean	Leigh	Woodlands
Eco Church status	Bronze	Bronze	Registered	Silver	Bronze	Registered	Silver	Bronze	Registered	Registered

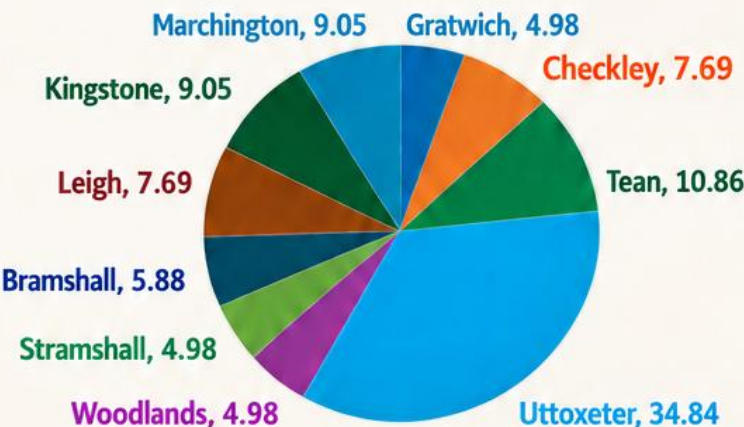


All churches in the Uttoxeter Area of Parishes are responsible for their own finances, and have their own treasurers. As the Area developed and we were able to employ a Benefice Administrator we brought some of our expenses into an Area Account.

The Uttoxeter Area of Parishes account is managed by the Area Treasurer and pays the costs of Area activities. Currently this includes clergy mileage, telephone and computer expenses, the costs of running the Area office including provision of photocopying facilities, some church consumables and CCLI licences for all churches. The Area account also funds part of the employment costs of the Benefice Administrator.

The account receives most of its income from a quarterly levy paid by each of the ten parishes. Clergy mileage expenses are reimbursed by Lichfield Diocese.

In order to raise money to support our shared ministry and mission, we use Gift Aid on donations, hold fundraising events, offer card payment facilities and use QR codes to make giving easy and accessible.



Common fund split %

2.2 paid clergy, anticipated common fund is £141,314.

Common fund for 2024 and 2025 was paid in full by all churches, however, some churches are having to use reserves.

Our parishes have supported a variety of charities home and abroad, and we are encouraging financial stewardship across the area.

Communication



WEBSITES

All our parishes are on A Church Near You

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/20-383BR/>

Woodlands Church	www.woodlandschurch.co.uk
Uttoxeter St Mary's	www.utttoxeterstmarys.org.uk
Marchington St Peter's	www.stpetersmarchington.org
Checkley Church	www.checkleychurch.org



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Keep up to date and join in with our community online.

Uttoxeter Area of Parishes	www.facebook.com/UttoxeterAreaOfParishes
Woodlands Church	www.facebook.com/woodlandschurch
Uttoxeter St Mary's	www.facebook.com/UttoxeterStMarys
Marchington St Peter's	www.facebook.com/St.Peters.Church.Marchington
Stramshall Church	www.facebook.com/stramshallchurch
Checkley Church	www.facebook.com/checkley.church.1



UTTOXETER

AREA OF PARISHES

Growing Faith Together

Where we are Today

We give thanks for all that is good in our churches and communities, and we are honest about the challenges we face.

With the right leadership, structure and team work, we can see where God is working and move forward in faith, ministry and mission.



Strengths

- Small town and villages make getting to know people easy
- Collaborative ministry across the Area
- Good support from Team vicar
- Active retired clergy team
- Full time employed administrator
- Team of Readers and Occasional Preachers
- Very good connections with schools and community groups across the Area
- Middle of the road churchmanship
- Most congregations are willing to adapt to a variety of services
- Common Fund paid in full 2024 and 2025
- Some PCC tasks centralised
- Safeguarding awareness embedded
- Area worship and music team

Worries

- Some ageing congregations, with fewer willing to step up and take on roles.
- Some churches using their reserves to pay Common Fund.
- Ongoing pressure to pay Common Fund, utilities and building maintenance.
- Few children in church.
- Some congregations have a strong preference for HC.
- Future availability of non-stipendiary clergy.
- Sustainability of churches.
- Diocese paper requirements, combined with slow response time, discourages volunteers.
- Discouraging stories sometimes arise about the national Church of England.

Opportunities and Aspirations

- For mission and discipleship across the Area, and encourage willingness to try new things.
- To make prayer a more central part of living in each church.
- To develop more training and discernment of vocations.
- To develop a greater sense of Area – helping congregations to look beyond their own church.
- To develop a mixed ecology of services across the Area.
- Deepen connections between church and community.
- Connect baptism, wedding and funeral families into the church community.
- Develop school and youth ministry.
- Some congregations have high expectations of stipendiary clergy.
- Many challenges, what do we concentrate on?
- To reignite Stewardship.
- Establish more unity across the Benefice.

LOVE AND WORRIES



UTTOXETER

AREA OF PARISHES

Growing Faith Together

*Comments made by our congregations about
"What do you love?" and "What are your worries within your church?"*



WHAT WE LOVE

"Warm, friendly welcome to all comers"

"Close community, team spirit and welcoming attitude"

"Everyone rallies round to give support"

"We love the people in our parish / church"

"A place of peace, belonging and safety"

"Seeing God at work in our school community is a joy"

"Strong community spirit and team work"

"Church in the centre of the community"

"Friendly people always ready to help"

"A sense of fellowship and friendship"

"Beautiful church building and setting"

"Scenic rural parish but convenient for amenities"

"Many activities going on – new ones being tried"

"Services are a source of joy and uplift"

"Church is a spiritual centre for many"

"We can use our gifts and benefit from the gifts of others"

"Great welcome – it feels like home"

"Strong connections with schools and local groups"

"Church family – like a big family who look out for each other"

"A lovely big family who love to chat and always look out for each other"

"It has a feeling of safety and homeliness, set in a rural location"

"Church is a spiritual centre for many"

"Much of the town population see the church with visible spire as a spiritual centre"

"Good variety of worship and services"



WORRY ABOUT

"Worried about our ageing congregation and fewer young people"

"Dwindling numbers"

"No Sunday School or activities for children"

"Financial burden of maintaining old buildings"

"Need more opportunities for children and young families"

"Lack of engagement from the wider community"

"Building needs work – accessibility, flexibility and future proofing"

"Not enough people to share the load"

"Lack of support from above"

"High expectations of stipendiary clergy"

"Dwindling income and rising costs"

"Worried about the future and lots of uncertainty"

"Too much to do – what do we focus on?"

"Cliques and lack of unity"

"Disheartening national stories about the Church"

"Without clergy continuity – hard to sustain community and warmth"

"Some congregations are small and elderly or struggle with change"

"Some communities can be insular"

"Church doesn't seem to be sustainable financially"

"Sometimes doesn't seem welcoming"

"Services can seem very separate and not part of a whole church"

"Not rooted enough in prayer and faith"

"The very limited opportunities for young families and children to encounter the Christian faith"

“

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace.”*

”