



Part-time Priest-in-Charge
The Church of the Holy Angels
The Parish of Lilliput
Poole, Dorset



Our Vision:

Seeking to make Jesus known
it's the most important thing we shall ever do

Nurturing discipleship
*we are all on a journey of discovery to deepen our relationship
with God and answer the 'Why' questions*

Connecting with our community
Cherubs, Lilliput House, School & beyond

Welcome from The Bishop of Sherborne, Bishop Karen



This post offers an excellent opportunity for the right candidate to bring their own skills and gifts to a welcoming parish.

The Parish of Holy Angel's, Lilliput enjoys the variety of urban and harbourside ministry. The Church stands in the centre of what is now termed the 'village' of Lilliput on the edge of Poole Harbour between Sandbanks and Poole Park. The congregation are a mixture of traditional churchgoers, and families on the fringe. There are great links with the local and very popular school, which has created a family feel to church life and activities, nurtured by the previous incumbent. All of this offers many opportunities for creative outreach and ministry. The parish enjoys the support of an administrator, a Licensed Lay Minister and a retired priest.

The large Poole and North Bournemouth deanery is extremely supportive and has worked hard in recent years to cluster its clergy into smaller groups. The deanery shares good practice, is mutually supportive. The deanery has very much adopted the values of the Salisbury diocese, and with its aims and objectives for the future sees Making Jesus Known as its priority. Holy Angel's is part of a cluster of parishes which cover Sandbanks, Canford Cliffs and Branksome beach, and there are future possibilities for ministry and mission to the many activities around the beach and harbour.

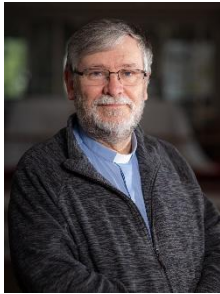
We are looking for a part-time priest who can build on all that is already happening to make the most of the church's position in the community, to build further links into the community and to work with the congregation in developing creatively the outreach of the church. The worship is varied and has developed over recent years to accommodate a variety of music styles, the involvement of families and quiet prayer spaces.

Ministry in Dorset is rewarding and enjoyable. In recent years significant changes have been made in the way clergy are supported and encouraged, leading to a greater sense of collegiality. Should you wish to know more about this post please do not hesitate to pay a discrete visit to take a look around or contact myself (01747 811960) or the Revd Canon Lucy Holt, Assistant Archdeacon.

We look forward to hearing from you

Bishop Karen

Welcome from the Rural Dean, Revd Canon Simon Evans



The Deanery of Poole and North Bournemouth is the largest in the Diocese in terms of population with around 187,000 people and growing. It comprises 21 parishes with 27 churches offering a wide diversity of worshipping life and expressions of church.

Within the deanery ministry is expressed in a variety of forms including incumbents, chaplains, curates, assistant and associate ministers, Licensed Lay Ministers, Lay Worship Leaders and Lay Pastoral Assistants alongside very many others who contribute in a myriad of ways to the life of the church.

We have a rich ministry of chaplaincies, in particular to the major NHS trust, the University, the RNLI HQ and the Police.

The social demographics show that this deanery contains some of the wealthiest areas in the Diocese alongside some of the most deprived. As with many seaside areas we are blessed with fantastic leisure opportunities and outstanding natural beauty, and yet many within our communities struggle with issues of deprivation and poverty.

We have a large commercial area, an international port, vibrant night-time economy, and significant numbers of homeless rough-sleepers; which each bring challenges and opportunities. A number of initiatives seek to reach out to, and serve in, these areas.

The Deanery itself is vibrant and there is a real sense of collegiality across different churchmanships and expressions of Church. The current Deanery plan has collaboration across different parishes at its heart, encouraging working together across parish boundaries and offering support for different groups of ministry. The Chapter meets regularly as a whole group and also in smaller informal cluster groups generally, for lunch, support and prayer. As a Deanery we share training for Lay Pastoral Assistants and Lay Worship Leaders, and our synod meetings regularly address wider issues of mission and ministry and explore new ways of working and being Church.

Whoever comes to be the incumbent of this parish will be welcomed and well supported by local clergy colleagues throughout the Deanery.

Revd Canon Simon Evans

Our Location & Church

Lilliput lies in the south-east of Poole and borders Sandbanks, Canford Cliffs, Lower Parkstone and Whitecliff and has a shoreline within Poole Harbour and views of Brownsea Island and the Purbeck Hills.

Holy Angels is the only church denomination in Lilliput and has a C of E Infant School next door. Lilliput also has a medical centre, residential care home, small parade of shops and cafes, marina, sailing clubs and a golf club nearby.

Lilliput is a community of 3663 people (Census 2021) and ranks amongst the least deprived in the Deanery, Diocese and Country. It is a popular area to live, being an area of high affluence, education, employment, health and living standards; 80% of houses are privately owned, 20% rented, with less than 0.5% social housing. The age profile shows 19% aged 0-19, 16% aged 20-44, 39% aged 45-67 and 26% aged 70+ (Deanery figures 2024).



The Church of the Holy Angels dates from 1874, when it was a chapel-of-ease to St Peter's Church, Parkstone, but became a separate parish in 1962. In 2024 we celebrated our 150-year anniversary.

The church seats 150, has a working bell and a 3 manual draw stop digital Allen organ, installed in 2016. We have an occasional music group and choir, drawn from members of the congregation, who perform at special occasions and Christmas.

In May 2025 a new sound system was installed, comprising 2 TV screens, 2 radio mics, an outdoor speaker and streaming camera; this was a result of raising nearly £12,000 from events, donations, grants, gift in memory and a legacy.

Eco Church: recognising the importance of caring for God's creation

In 2023 we started an eco-friendly audit and as a result made several initial steps to change our worship and administrative practices; we were awarded the A Rocha UK Bronze Church Award in 2024. We hope to continue this work in future.

Nature Church: This is a new bold expression of church that resulted from the Eco church audit. It meets in the afternoon on the fourth Sunday of the month in the church grounds, or hall if wet. Centred around a Bible theme the young people have undertaken a range of fun activities from building our bug house, den making, planting bulbs and even making cucumber face masks. This new style of worship appears to be increasingly popular with our young people, parents, carers and grandparents.



Church Grounds

Our church grounds are attractive and well maintained. The Garden of Remembrance, to the west of the church, is consecrated for the burial of ashes. In Spring 2025 young people from Nature Church planted a herb and sensory bed in the Garden of Remembrance and a wild-flower bed was sown at the front of the church, adjacent to our bug house.



The gardens have been entered into Poole in Bloom, winning Bronze in 2023, Silver Gilt in 2024, with 2025 still to be confirmed. Volunteer garden tidy days are held 2-3 times a year.

What We Can Offer our New Priest in Charge

As part of compiling our church profile we sent out a questionnaire to church members and the PCC. The PCC then held an away day to identify our strengths and challenges for the future. The key outcomes of these discussions are listed below and we believe these are a true reflection of what we offer:

- Friendly, open and welcoming church
- Varied pattern of worship
- Established, supportive and well-functioning church and ministry team comprising a retired Associate Priest with PTO, LLM, LPAs
- Church building, hall and grounds are well maintained and used by a variety of community and Church groups
- Our relationship with Lilliput C of E Infant School is strong and long-standing
- Cherubs, our weekly term-time, Carers & Toddler Group is popular and well attended
- Monthly Holy Communion at Lilliput House, Residential Care Home
- Fantastic location

Our Future Aspirations

- To be more outward focused, strengthening our outreach, support and fundraising across the local community
- Encourage, support and develop our young people, families and older members to step into new areas of ministry
- Offer more opportunities for learning, faith enquiry, study and development
- Further develop our Nature Church Worship, Eco Church and Dementia Friendly Church
- Promote and encourage more regular planned giving, gifting & legacies; whilst our fundraising events are well supported our regular giving has always been an issue
- To update and improve our website and use of social media

What Essential Qualities are we seeking from our New Priest in Charge?

- **Seeking to make Jesus known** in their own lives and helping us to do the same through a varied pattern of worship, prayer and Bible study; honouring the traditional whilst engaging with new ways of worship
- **Nurturing discipleship** by being an effective and adaptable leader with a pastoral heart and an ability to engage with children and young families. Nurturing, supporting and encouraging each church member to step into new areas of ministry
- **Connecting with our community** by continuing our relationship with the local school and care home whilst enabling us to engage more effectively with the wider community

Church Membership & Worshipping Community

At the end May 2025, our Incumbent since 2017, left to become Archdeacon of Wiltshire and at the end of July 2025, our Assistant Curate from 2022, left to take up a job as a University Chaplain.

There are currently 60 names on our May 2025 Electoral Roll of whom 23 are within the parish and 37 from outside the parish. Our Ministry Team comprises the Vicar (vacant), 1 Licensed Lay Minister, 1 Church Warden (1 vacancy), 5 Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs) and a retired Associate Priest with Permission to Officiate (PTO).

The PCC employ a part-time Parish Administrator (currently 15 hours per week). As of September 2025, there are 10 PCC members, including a Treasurer and Secretary, 1 member of Diocesan Synod, 2 members of Deanery Synod.

Local organists and our occasional music group can be approached to play at special services.

At the end of 2024, according to the Statistics for Mission Return, there were a total of 111 in our worshipping community: 35 children (aged 0-10), 4 young people (aged 11-17), 39 adults (aged 18-69), 33 adults (aged 70+).

Average attendance at our regular Sunday services during 2024 was 37 adults, 11 young people (under 16).

Attendance at other services:

Easter Day: 93

Advent and Carol services for the congregation and local community: 177

School Christmas services: 581

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day services: 385



Revd Aiden Smith PTO Associate Priest and Caroline Wehlau LLM at our Angel festival



Pattern of Worship

Sunday	8am (BCP)*	9.45am (CW)**	11.15am	3.30pm
1 st	Holy Communion	Holy Communion with Sunday School		
2 nd		All Age Rise & Shine (non-Communion)	Holy Communion	
3 rd		Holy Communion with Sunday School		
4 th		Holy Communion with Sunday School		Nature Church
5 th		Holy Communion with Sunday School		

**Suspended during Interregnum and under review due to low numbers attending*

*** Sunday School under review due to low numbers attending*

Our All-Age Rise & Shine Service offers coffees, pastries and soft drinks in church before and after the service. Refreshments are also served in church after our Holy Communion service on the other Sundays.

Prayer, Bible Study, Meditation & Quiet Days

Our ministry team and a few others meet weekly on Tuesdays at 11.00 am in church for prayer.

Our previous incumbent and curate ran *ad-hoc* Bible Study courses, including 'The Bible Course', a Quiet Day at Hilfield Friary, a Healing Course followed by a service of healing and Advent meditations. In Lent 2025 the 6-week Lent group was led by our LLM and an LPA. Attendance ranges from 4-12 people and engagement has been strong and feedback extremely positive.

We hope these vital forms of self-discernment and seeking will continue and develop in the future.

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

We are a welcoming church family and in 2024 baptised 14 candidates. Our baptismal policy is to offer baptism to those who worship with us, live within the parish, and those who have a special connection with our church, such as through the school, Cherubs or knowing someone within the church. We baptise children irrespective of the parents' relationship status. Our baptisms are often conducted at the main morning service but also at separate times.

There was one wedding at Holy Angels during 2024. Our previous incumbents have married couples where one or both have been married before. Wedding Blessings are available to couples who have been legally married elsewhere. Our PCC supported our previous incumbent's wish to offer Prayers of Love and Faith as part of a service.

We conduct the funerals of church members, those that live within the parish and those who have a connection to the church. In 2024, 5 funerals were held both in church and at Poole or Bournemouth Crematorium. Space is available within our Garden of Remembrance for the burial of ashes.

Church Hall and Car Park

The hall premises consist of the large hall, a stage, kitchen and toilets. It is used by church and community groups, such as Cherubs, Cameo, Brownies, Parkstone Flower Club, Tai-Chi, Bounce. It is let on a commercial basis and generates a much needed source of income for church funds.

On the north side of the hall, attached to the main hall, is a room that is used as the Church Office; this also has a separate entrance off the car park.

Hall bookings are run by the Church Administrator and the hall and church are cleaned by a company on a regular basis. In 2024, following a grant funding application from BCP Council, we received £13,228.44 which was spent on new tables, chairs and curtains. A further £15,832.00 was awarded for 2025 and spent on restoring the parquet flooring, decorating, hot water and hand driers in the toilets and roof repairs.

The Church car park, which is used by church and hall users, is to the east side of the church and has 17 spaces, plus 2 disabled bays. In March 2025 the parking bay markings were repainted.



Lilliput C of E Infant School

- We enjoy a very strong and happy relationship with Lilliput C of E Infant School. The school is a four-form entry of three year groups (360 pupils) and enjoys an excellent reputation locally. In 2020 the school became part of the 16 schools Coastal Learning Partnership Academy Trust (CLPAT). The school was graded as 'good' in their OFSTED Inspection (2023) with the school's ethos and atmosphere being particularly praised as well as the school's excellent academic results. The culture of the school was also highlighted in the last SIAMS inspection (2019) which rated the school as 'excellent' and noted that 'The contribution of the local church is excellent' - reflecting the strength of the relationship between the school and our church.
- Our previous incumbent was at different times both a governor and a trustee of the Academy Trust.
- Collective Worship is held in school every week. On festivals, other major feast days and at the end of term our children come to church for worship and parents come to join us on some of these occasions. The number of pupils means that we hold two services each time so that we can accommodate everyone.
- At Harvest the school helps us to collect food for the foodbank and pound coins for St Francis Hospital in Katate, Zambia, that our church supports. The school often contributes to events and initiatives that the church organises, such as the Angel Festival in December 2023 and the Flower Festival in May 2024, that formed part of our 150 years celebrations.



What do Lilliput Pupils say they want in the new Priest in Charge?



Lilliput House Residential Care Home

We have a dedicated team of LPAs who visit once a month to give Holy Communion by extension and to spend time chatting with residents. In December a group of church members go in to sing carols. We hope to continue this good relationship in the future.



Outreach & Fundraising

Cherubs

Our Cherubs Carer and Toddler Group is very popular and meets every Monday in term time in the Church Hall for play, refreshments and friendship. It is run by a group of parents, with support from church members in setting up, putting away and serving refreshments. Our previous Curate and now an LPA attend regularly to chat with the parents, grandparents and carers and to provide pastoral support where needed. Up to 50 children, parents or carers can attend, with the usual weekly attendance being around 40.

Cherubs is an important aspect of our outreach and the challenge going forwards is to encourage more of its members to engage more widely with the church.

Cameo (Come & Meet Everyone) and Knit & Natter



Cameo is an adult-focused church and community project whose aim, through welcome, caring and social activities, is to build connections, friendships and reduce social isolation. Everyone is welcome

from both the local community and church. There is a yearly programme of events, talks and outings and the group meets on the third Thursday of the month in the church hall.



Knit & Natter is a group of knitters, made up of members of both church and community, who meet in each other's houses to knit and chat. They make and sell unique and fun gifts for Easter, Christmas and other special occasions and last year raised £1,141.70 for church funds. Their knitted Angels and Crib figures are displayed in the windows at Christmas, and many knitted Holy Angels adorned our church during our 150-year celebrations.

The challenge for both groups is to find new ways to take things forwards if they are to continue.

Brownies

1st Lilliput (Holy Angels) Brownie Pack meets weekly on a Thursday teatime in the hall. They take part in our Remembrance Day service and have been involved in events like our flower festival and peace doves. The previous incumbent was Snowy Owl and going forward we shall need to consider how that link can be maintained.

Lilliput Sea Scouts also joined our Remembrance Day service in 2024. This may be an area for improved outreach in future.

Flower Arrangers

We have a group of talented flower arrangers made up from members of the church and the local flower club who arrange wonderful flower arrangements for our services and special celebrations.



Fundraising

We hold several events throughout the year to raise funds for the church, such as a Spring Fayre, Wedding Dress Festival and The Annual 'Ride and Stride' organised by the Dorset Historic Churches Trust.



May 2024 saw a weekend of celebrations to mark 150 years of the church that included a flower festival, music from across the years by our music group, hampers, a fayre, ploughman's lunch, afternoon tea and the sale of memorabilia. It was well attended across the 3 days by church members and the local community and raised substantial funds for the church.

Finance

In reading our 2024 End of Year accounts (as attached) it is important to note that our bank accounts were closed in error by Barclays Bank at the end of October 2023. A new account with Lloyds was eventually opened in January 2024. As a result, in early 2024 there were significant payments in and out that would have previously happened in November and December 2023. This included the Autumn term hall rental income and the payment of Parish Share out to the Diocese. In the light of this, in 2024 we achieved a turnover of £112,787.

As a result of exceeding £100,000 we were required to register with the Charity Commission and the PCC completed this process in June 2025. Our unusual turnover predominately came from four key areas:

Giving: £30,000 (planned giving, card donations and cash collections)

Hall income: £28,157.73

Hall Grant Funding from BCP Council: £13,228.44

Historical 3-year Gift Aid rebate: £16,765.70

Other Fundraising events from our 150-year celebrations, Knit & Natter, Christmas Hampers and the Flower Group also contributed.

2025 is proving to be a challenging year but we are hoping to submit a further smaller Gift Aid claim. Investment in refurbishing the hall and applying for more grants will continue.

Challenges for the future: to restart fundraising, continue applying for grants and encouraging and securing more regular planned giving, gifts and legacies. Currently our regular giving is not reflective of the affluence of the area.

The Vicarage

The Vicarage is adjacent to the church in Lilliput Road and within walking distance of the Lilliput shops. There is a pedestrian gate at the front from Lilliput Road.

The house is a 1960 purpose-built, two-storey, four bed family home. The ground floor contains a lounge, dining room, study, kitchen and cloakroom. Upstairs are four bedrooms, bathroom and separate toilet. Outside there is a utility room and storeroom, garage, parking area and garden to the front.

