

9. Harthill (or Lady) Chapel

Continuing towards the south wall you will enter the Harthill Chapel. The large wooden statue of Mary and her child comes from the now demolished church of St Jude's.

10. Crucifix

On the south wall, at the back of the church, hangs the crucifix donated by the family of world famous footballer Sir Stanley Matthews. The crucifix was held under the protection of the family of Sir Stanley's wife, Lady Mila, during the Second World War in Czechoslovakia. She escaped from the Nazis, taking the crucifix with her. It stayed in her possession and came to England on her marriage to Stoke's famous footballer. Sir Stanley was buried from this church in 2000.

11. Ceramic Sculpture

'Behold I am making all things new' is the title of this sculpture, made by local ceramic sculptor Philip Hardaker and gifted by Rev Edgar Ruddock (Rector 1991 -2002). It represents the sentiment of hope for the city.

12. Heritage corner

Here you will see a matchstick model of the present church. Guess how many matches it took!

Nearby is the list of known previous Rectors of Stoke. Viviane of Stoke is only known because he allowed his hunting dogs to damage the king's forest! Some Rectors were also bishops and deans elsewhere. There pictures of some of the Rectors.

Continue up the stairs at the back south end of the foyer (Narthex). Go through the doors to the toilets, climb the stairs and you will reach the balcony.

13. The Peace Chapel

Up in the balcony this extraordinary chapel commemorates on wooden panels all those who died in the Great War (1914-18). Originally called the Warriors' Chapel, it is now known as the Peace Chapel. Here can be found the beautiful stained glass window created by artists at Burslem School of Art in the north of the city. Please spend a moment praying for all who have died in wars and conflict, and for peace in today's trouble spots.

14. Organ

Stepping down, you can see the pipes of Stoke's impressive church organ. Can you spot a 'Green Man' carved into the wood? From here, you get a magnificent view of the church, but please don't lean over the barrier!

Further Information

Sunday services

8.00 Said Eucharist

10.30 a.m. Sung Choral Eucharist

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer

Midweek services

Monday 5.00 pm. Evening Prayer

Tuesday 5.00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Wednesday 10.30 a.m. Eucharist
5.00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Thursday 12.30 p.m. Eucharist (2nd Thursday)
after which pastoral ministers are available.
5.00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Weddings, Baptisms

*Enquiries for weddings & baptisms in this listed building should be made at the church office
Mondays 7.00 - 7.30 p.m.*

Contact details

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STOKE MINSTER

stokeminster.org



Guide to the Minster

Welcome to the Minster Church of St Peter ad Vincula (Stoke Minster).

The first church on the site would have been a simple wooden one erected in the 7th century and later rebuilt in stone in the early 9th century. This was extended in the 13th century but demolished in 1830, being replaced by the present, larger building. The existing church building was completed in 1829 at a cost of £14,000.

The church is dedicated to St Peter ad Vincula (in chains) and it became the Minster for the City of Stoke-on-Trent in 2005.

Official Visiting Hours

The Minster is also usually open at these times but we do rely on volunteers. It may also open at other times and for services and events.

Monday & Tuesday 12.30 - 1.30 p.m

Wednesday 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday 12.00 - 3.00 p.m.

There is also a guide to the Minster grounds.

1. Minton Hollins Wall Tiles

Along the left-hand wall of the church you will see some of the memorial tiles. The tiles date from 1830's and give a glimpse of many local families. The oldest is by the office door and is in memory of John Smith. Have you spotted William Dolby's tile? He died whilst ice-skating! Notice the early age at which many died.

2. Prayer Chapel (Oratory)

Above all, Stoke Minster is a place of prayer, so take a moment's quiet in this area where you are invited to light a candle and offer a prayer.

3. Stained Glass Windows

The beautiful windows are of different styles, but tell the story of the life of Christ although unexpectedly in an ante-clockwise order.

4. The Pulpit

The pulpit is traditionally where the sermon is given. Stoke Minster has excellent acoustics, as it was built for preaching. Within the pulpit hangs a Spanish crucifix made of ivory and mounted on Genoese velvet, which was given by Ronald Copeland in 1897.

5. The Chancel

During worship, the choir sit here leading the singing. As you enter the chancel you will notice several plaques commemorating famous names within the pottery industry. The bust of Josiah Wedgwood was made by his friend and sculptor Flaxman. Josiah Spode II was warden of the church at the time of its rebuilding. Stoke's most famous rector, Sir Lovelace Stamer, the first Bishop of Shrewsbury, also has several memorials.

6. The Sanctuary

At the East End of the church stands the **High Altar**. Under the cloth is the original stone altar slab from the medieval church with five crosses cut into the stone. These crosses were first ordered by the Bishop of Winchester in 1100 and are intended as a reminder of the five wounds of Christ. For over 1,500 years Christians have celebrated the Eucharist here in which we commemorate and celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Behind the high altar is the **reredos**, made of English alabaster and depicting the life of Christ; Rector Lovelace Stamer donated this.

If you look down, you will see that the **floor** of the chancel is covered in exquisite **Minton tiles** (some of which are glazed in an experimental luminous green), you will find more decorative Minton and pre-Minton floor tiles in other areas of the church.

7. Donations Plaque

This plaque, behind the font, lists all those who donated to the building of the current church. It is interesting to note the amounts given. Even the working people of Stoke donated from their meagre wages.

8. The Font

This Anglo-Saxon font comes from the first stone-built church. When the church was demolished, the font was sold and used as a flower-pot in a local garden! Thankfully, it was returned to the present church in 1932. Can you see the indent marks on the rim? These show where the hinges used to be. They supported a wooden lid, in accordance with Church ruling around 1236.

Floor Plan of Stoke Minster

