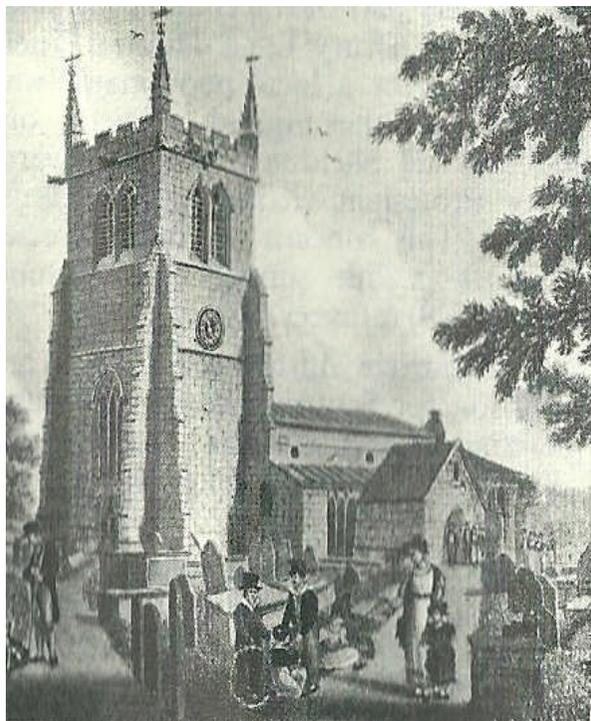


The old church before its demolition in 1830

This print can be seen hanging in the gallery in Stoke Minster.



The ruins of this building can still be seen in the Minster grounds. The arches were reconstructed with the medieval church stones on the original pillar foundations. The site of the high altar is also clearly visible behind the railings.

Opening Hours

The grounds are always open.
The Minster itself relies on volunteers and has more restricted opening.

The official opening hours are:

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

Thursday 12.00 - 3.00 p.m.

Friday 12.00 - 3.00 p.m.

Saturday 12.00 - 3.00 p.m.

However, the Minster is often open at other times & also for services & special events.

Services

Sunday

8.00 Said Eucharist

10.30 a.m. Sung Choral Eucharist

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer

Midweek

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

Rector 01782 747737

Minster Office 01782 747785

Email: stokeminster@yahoo.co.uk

www.StokeMinster.org

STOKE MINSTER

stokeminster.org



Guide to the Minster Grounds

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

This short guide will direct you around the church grounds and highlight some of the most interesting features.

There is also a guide to the church, so do come in and have a look round the inside.

As to be expected, there are many items that relate to the pottery industry for which this area is famous, but the church also contains fascinating features from Saxon and Celtic times. We hope you enjoy your visit and you are welcome to stay awhile for quiet reflection and a cup of tea.

1. Saxon Preaching Cross:

The remaining shaft is the oldest man-made structure in Stoke-on-Trent dating from 750-780, ornately decorated with Celtic patterns.

These intricate designs remind us that the Saxon Church owed its foundation to Celtic missionaries such as St Aidan. Can you see the cut-out section that shows it was re-used as a door lintel in the 11th century Saxon church?

2. Spode Family Tombs: the burial place of the famous pottery family.

3. The Arches and High Altar: these are reconstructions from stones reclaimed from the nearby Boothem area where they had been taken after the original church was broken up. Architect Charles Lynam restored these stones on their original bases.

4. Josiah Wedgwood's Grave: Stoke's most famous potter and entrepreneur was buried outside the original church because as a Dissenter he was not allowed to be interred inside. However, he has the last laugh, as, when the church was demolished in 1830, even those buried inside now found themselves out in the cold!

5. Elijah Fenton, the poet (died 1730): he wrote the epitaph inscribed here on his father's grave.

6. The Grave of Sybil and Henry Clarke: this long, thin gravestone dated 1684 marks the site of Sybil and Henry who both died aged 112! Were they man and wife, twins; were they really that old?

7. Freemason's Grave: the grave of Herbert Stansfield of Middlewich is one of the curious inclusions in the graveyard, and the inscriptions have intrigued local children and adults alike for many years. It is known locally as 'The Devil's Grave'.

8. Millennium Seat: this was designed by ceramic sculptor, Philip Hardaker, and created with help from children of Bishop Stamer School (now Stoke Minster School). It celebrates the life of the city.



Plan of Stoke Minster grounds

