

St Andrew's, Chew Stoke - Facilities & Features

The church is normally open during day-light hours; refreshments are available on a self service basis for visitors and passers by.

Children's Activities

- ⑩ Activities for children of primary school age are organised at most morning services, particularly on the first and fourth Sundays of each month.
- ⑩ Older children are most welcome and will be invited either to sit in the pews with the adults or to help younger children with activities if they would enjoy this.
- ⑩ Books and toys are available in the pews for children who feel more comfortable sitting with their parents.
- ⑩ Percussion instruments are available so that children can play and sing with the rest of the congregation during the last hymn.
- ⑩ A supervised play area is available at the back where younger children and babies can be left to play and where their parents can see and supervise them if desired.

The ***Family Service*** on the first Sunday is intended for ***all*** ages from babies to great-grand-parents. However the ***Parish Communion*** on the fourth Sunday is an adult services but with activities for children available. Details are published on the website and in the Parish Magazine.

Facilities & Accessibility

- ⑩ Level access to the church from the carpark
- ⑩ Accessible toilet
- ⑩ Two disabled parking spaces outside the church
- ⑩ Wheelchair access from the car park
- ⑩ Wheelchair available in the porch
- ⑩ Large print hymn books & service sheets
- ⑩ Hearing loop
- ⑩ Guidebook, notes & children's quizz
- ⑩ Reference file giving names & locations of churchyard interments

There is a kitchen where drinks and cold snacks can be made: passing walkers and visitors are welcome to drop in and help themselves to refreshments.

Features

The most noticeable feature of the church is the 156 angels that look down from the ceiling and walls, some in plaster and others in wood. They contribute to the light and airy feeling of the church.

There are three beautiful stained glass windows:

- ⑩ the east window depicts the life of St Andrew's
- ⑩ the west window depicts the early life of Jesus
- ⑩ the south window depicts St George, commemorating the dead of WW2

The War Memorial to the WW1 dead is located just inside the south door, over the Ellershaw chest.

The Lady Chapel was dedicated to St Wilgefortis, a Portuguese Christian princess, who it is said prayed for God to make her repulsive to her future husband so she could avoid the marriage. Miraculously, when she awoke she had sprouted a beard!

The organ is a two manual Vowles organ dated 1883; it has recently been refurbished and is in excellent condition.

The acoustics are excellent for small group music – and the atmosphere, being situated away from the main roads, is quiet & peaceful.

The tower has a ring of six bells including three Bilbie bells, including the oldest Bilbie bell still in use; a retired Bilbie bell and a linked clock which used to hang in the belfry are displayed in the north aisle of the church.