

# LEIPZIG ENGLISH CHURCH

## *Leipzig English Church (Anglican)*

### *1. Where we are*

Leipzig is a historic city in Eastern Germany. It is well located with Berlin to the north, Dresden to the south east (both an hour by train) and Prague to the south (3 hours). Over 1000 years old and with a long history of trade fairs and industry, Leipzig is one of the fastest growing and most international cities of East Germany. In 20 years its population has grown from 490,000 to over 600,000 while many of the derelict buildings from before the reunification have been renovated. Thanks to public transport (trams, buses and trains), numerous bike lanes, rental bikes and car sharing programmes it is not necessary to own a car in Leipzig (the majority of the church family don't, though most families with more than two kids do). Leipzig also boasts its own airport (alas without direct flights to the UK) and is three hours from Frankfurt am Main airport, or one and a half from Berlin's airport.

There are plenty of schools and kindergartens, including Christian schools and an English language, fee-paying, international school (Leipzig International School). The city is currently investing in schools and kindergarten facilities to meet the growing demand following a baby boom in the last ten years. Leipzig also has several universities and polytechnics and consequently several tens of thousands of students. Unemployment is generally low in the city; and there are several international firms with bases in or near Leipzig (Amazon, BMW, Dell, DHL, Porsche). Leipzig is a very pleasant place to live with many parks, forests to the west, and several former open cast mines that have been turned into lakes. The city centre is popular, with some historic architecture, plenty of shops and restaurants as well as the Gewandhaus concert hall and the city opera house. The city attracts many tourists for



its Thomaner choir and the Thomas Church where Johann Sebastian Bach worked. Luther's Wittenberg is also close by. The legacy of East Germany is seen in Leipzig's openness to visitors from diverse backgrounds, with the city showing itself to be very welcoming to the recent influx of refugees in Germany since 2015. A different legacy can also be seen in the widespread atheism and religious apathy; the population is over 80% irreligious according to a recent

survey, with less than 1% of the city attending a church service on any given Sunday. There is a healthy local Evangelical Alliance, comprising ca. 20 local evangelical churches and organisations from different denominations. Apart from a small Nigerian Pentecostal church we are the only English speaking church in Leipzig, located just south of the city centre. People often come to us having searched for "English Church Leipzig" online.

## 2. Who we are

### 2.1. Mission Statement

We are committed to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, worshipping Him primarily in the English and German languages. God has gathered us together in Leipzig from many nations, cultures and confessions, to be a church family with unique opportunities to 'glorify God and enjoy Him for ever'. We believe that when the Bible is taught, God's voice is heard and only this can meet our deepest needs. We aim to be a church built by God not man!

Please see the appendix for our full mission statement.

### 2.2. History

#### 1995 - 1999

In 1994, the Intercontinental Church Society discussed with the Bishop in Europe the idea of establishing new chaplaincies behind the former Iron Curtain. The Bishop suggested Leipzig or Dresden, and after a feasibility study carried out in September 1994 by Revd Martin Reakes-Williams, (the outgoing Chaplain) the decision was taken to establish a new chaplaincy in Leipzig, where there had been an English speaking Anglican church before the First World War. Generous funding had been offered by a member of the Cannes chaplaincy, and at the ICS Chaplains' Conference in May 1995. And so Martin Reakes-Williams arrived in Leipzig on 20th June 1995.

During his visit in September 1994, he had got to know the minister of the Andreas Church. They were very welcoming and supportive, and offered their building for services. The first official service, an evening service, was accordingly held in their Gemeindehaus (En: Parish centre) on October 15th 1995, after a trial run two weeks before. In this first phase, the church was predominantly students, with strong links to the Campus für Christus and SMD groups. Alongside these were a number of expats. As far as families were concerned, it was a case of chicken and egg: it was hard to attract families without a good children's ministry; it was hard to establish a good children's ministry without families attending regularly.

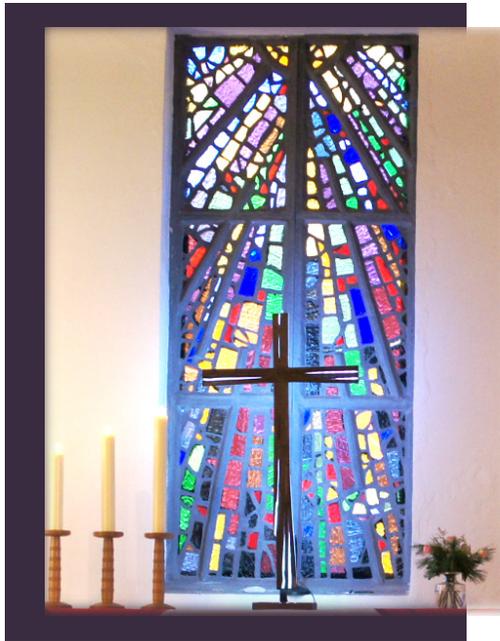
#### 2000-2012

In 2000, the opportunity arose to use the Gemeindehaus of the Luther Church, which was free for morning services. A monthly family service was started, increasing to twice a month a couple of years later. In spring 2004, the morning service was increased to weekly, and the evening service moved to 6pm. Consideration was given to discontinuing the evening service, but since it was spiritually the more vibrant and mature service, it was felt that such a move would be counterproductive.

The move in 2000 coincided with the arrival of Mike and Clare Cain, supported by Emmanuel Church in Wimbledon to help build the ministry. Mike did important work in discipling young men, and helped to get us working more effectively. Clare was involved in the development of the Women's Bible Study into a place of deep discipleship, spiritual growth and pastoral care.

After the Cains returned to the UK in 2002, Alastair and Angela Steven arrived, a couple in early retirement who for the next five years laid foundations in many lives. Alastair shared the preaching and together they ran a gamut of courses from Christianity Explored to the Moore College Course. In 2009 LEC moved out of the Gemeindehaus: The morning service moved to the Philippus Church in Plagwitz, which worked well for the families, although the room soon became quite full.

It was felt, however, that the location down a dark side-street in a less salubrious area of town could be an obstacle to attendance at the evening service. So the evening service was held in a very elegant room in the Villa Thomana.



## 2012-2021

In November 2012, the move was made back to the building of the Andreas Church where things had begun 17 years before.

In summer 2012, the Hickel family had arrived from Australia, with the vision of starting a German language ministry at LEC. There was less interest than hoped and expected from German families at the morning service, but the Lord steadily brought together a group from inside and beyond LEC to pray together. At the anniversary service in October 2013, the new service was launched.

Mirroring the early years of LEC, it has been a hard journey with many setbacks and disappointments along the way, but the Lord has been steadily building up this ministry, so that currently 40-50 adults and a dozen children gather each Sunday at 3.30pm. In July 2015 Rob Horne and his family, who had been leading the evening service for the previous 6 years moved to plant a church in Linz, Austria. LEC then called Larry Norman, along with his wife, Sinéad, to continue pastoring the evening service. This was accompanied by a "20th Anniversary Appeal" to fundraise for his position.

During the COVID pandemic the morning service was run twice to enable maximum attendance, with 70-90 adults and 40-50 children attending in total. Both the morning service and the German service are currently live-streamed on YouTube.

The evening service attracts 45-60 people, mostly in their 20-30s. All services have several music groups serving them in a contemporary worship style. There is also a monthly traditional Prayer Book Service with about 10 people in attendance. Overall we have 130 on the Electoral Roll.

The Andreas Church Gemeindehaus has proved an excellent facility, with space for all three services to meet under one roof. The garden is also a great asset, walled off from the road so safe for children, and conducive to people staying on long after the service to enjoy time together. The morning congregation has steadily grown in spiritual depth and commitment. The majority of the families are now not expatriates, but German/foreign bi-national and thus longer-term; most of the children speak at least two languages.

Only time will tell what the longer-term impact of the pandemic has been, but at this point we can say with Ezra that "the gracious hand of the Lord has been on us".

We have by and large remained united, despite a wide range of opinions being held. Lockdown regulations have been less draconian in Germany than in other countries, so that it has been mostly possible to keep 'in the flesh' services going. Attendance has held up well in all services, and new people have joined the church family. Giving has not fallen off a cliff, though the outlook is nevertheless challenging.



### 2.3. Doctrine & Church family background

Our church family is made up of people from a wide variety of denominational backgrounds (e.g.: Presbyterian, Baptist, Lutheran, Pentecostal, Catholic and even Anglican!). Therefore our unity is primarily located in the gospel as confessed in the essentials of historic, classical evangelicalism, and not in our denominational orientation. Therefore we allow room for church members to hold differing views on secondary matters, (e.g.: we celebrate both infant and believer's baptism), and welcome all who are exploring the claims of Jesus Christ.

There is widespread agreement on word-centred expositional ministry, complementarian approach to family and church life (the church family passed a resolution on the matter in 2016, included in the appendix), and the historic biblical teaching on gender and sexuality.

### 2.4. Leadership & Staff Team

Currently LEC employs three pastors. Klaus Hickel (right) is responsible for the German

Service; Larry Norman (left) for student and youth work along with the Evening Service, and the outgoing Chaplain (middle) who, alongside his responsibility as Senior Pastor for the whole church, particularly oversees the Morning Service.

Throughout the years LEC has always aimed to practise eldership according to the New Testament model so that the Chaplain shares his pastoral responsibility and is accountable within the local church. New elders are nominated by the Chaplain and the eldership, and confirmed through a vote of confidence by the church family at each AGM. Currently there are seven elders representing all three

services. By God's grace the elders enjoy a great deal of trust among each other and the church family. (See the appendix for how this system operates within Church of England structures.)

The church council is active and mature, with each of the three services well represented. Legally we are recognised as a non profit

under the German legal system. The church office is staffed by a part time office coordinator, as well as several volunteers dealing with safeguarding, finances, and publicity. Ministry teams are led by their respective team leaders with rota systems organised on an online platform.



## 2.5 Local Ministries

LEC is an international church in an increasingly international city. Nearly every week we see new faces of people who have come to LEC; some looking for a community where they can worship Jesus, others just looking for English speaking community. This gives us a unique mission opportunity to reach people looking for a home away from home. This welcoming international atmosphere also attracts many Germans.

As previously described, LEC meets across three services each Sunday. Additionally there are:

### Groups:

Central to our 'one anothering' each other are our home groups. We currently have over half a dozen of these, with the majority of the church family attending one. There is an active youth group for teenagers each week, as well as two weekly women's Bible study groups and a monthly men's fellowship. In the first week of the month groups come together on Wednesday for the church's monthly prayer meeting.

Since 2020 a new young adults initiative has started meeting every fortnight. There is also a (currently dormant) training group for young preachers. Both the Morning and the German services have children's ministry with a large number of volunteers serving over 50 children. There is also a weekly, well-attended, evangelistic parents and toddlers group.

Additionally, a sizeable minority of the church family are engaged in personal 1-2-1

discipleship and Bible reading. Several of the church family take part in cold contact evangelism in the city parks.

LEC is a committed member of the local Evangelical Alliance, with a yearly city-wide prayer week, and joint service in a city park

in the summer, and a joint service on the repentance bank holiday (Buß- und Betttag) in November. The pastors attend a monthly Evangelical Alliance prayer fraternal as well as a quarterly pastors' meeting.

### Specials:

Advent at LEC is always busy with a number of popular evangelistic events: a gingerbread house workshop for children and parents, a women's evangelistic arts and crafts evening, a children's nativity and three Christmas Carol services (two in English, one in German with a full orchestra from the church family, including many professional musicians and music students).

Whilst requiring significant time and energy from the church family, these are widely seen as highlights in the church year. In addition to the evangelistic events, Christianity Explored courses in German and English are run regularly.

Each year the church family across all three services enjoys a church weekend away over the Pentecost weekend. Many look forward to this as a church holiday together with precious time for fellowship and renewal. For the last few years we have supplemented (and, more recently, due to the pandemic replaced) this with a church away day at a nearby village.

In normal times there is also a monthly church bring-and-share church lunch which gives people a special opportunity to invite friends and get to know church members from other services.



## 2.6 Lighthouse ministries

As well as our local ministries in recent years, God has opened the door for LEC to engage in various ministries with a wider reach. We have named these our “lighthouse ministries” which we pray resource the wider German-speaking church.

### **Evangelium21:**

Our outgoing Chaplain has served on the leadership team of Evangelium21, a German language equivalent to The Gospel Coalition. We have hosted several Evangelium21 Ost regional conferences over the past years and there are plans for this to continue. These conferences have been aimed at strengthening Christians, particularly those in active church service, and in Bible-handling skills.

### **InterAction:**

In 2018 LEC launched a German branch of the InterAction bilingual youth camps (alongside InterAction France and Belgium). Two of the elders run this with considerable help and support from across the church family. These camps are growing, attracting leaders and campers from LEC and beyond.

### **Bibel für Alle:**

We have translated the Moore College Correspondence Course into German and are currently running this for LEC church members. Since its inception the course has been passed on to Evangelium21, with over 1500 having subscribed.

### **EMU:**

Jude Hickel, Klaus's wife, is the director of EMU Music Germany. Under her oversight, and with involvement from many church members, several German language EMU albums and children's books have been published. LEC also hosts occasional EMU conferences.

### **Mission Partners:**

We have eleven mission partners serving the Lord locally, nationally and internationally, with several of the church family currently exploring full time service. We support them in prayer, and some of them financially from the missions tithe of the church's local giving.

### **Student work:**

Several staff for Campus für Christus are members of LEC, as is a local school SMD (IFES) worker whilst Larry is an associate staff worker for the local SMD group.



## 2.7 Finances

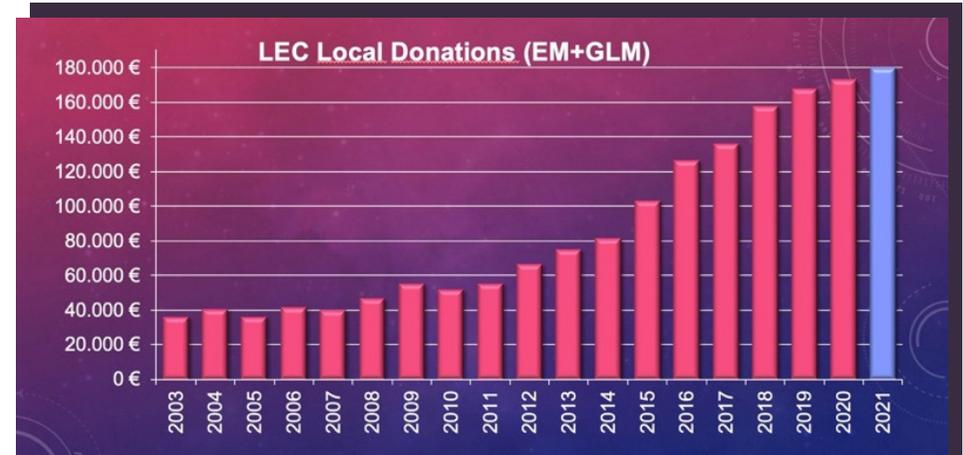
The overall budget of LEC is between 250.000 – 300.000. € annually. 75 % of the budget is spent on our three pastoral positions and the full-time position for EMU Germany (100% financially supported by CMS Australia).

There is also a minijob for the office worker with around 200 €/month. Around 15 % is spent on renting and maintaining the church building (36.000 €/y). We aim to support mission partners with 10% (15.000 €/y) of our local giving and try to run all other activities (book-stall, events etc) on a self-covering basis. We keep our administrative costs at around 3000 €/year.

Income comes mainly from local giving through standing orders (about 100) of church members (70 % of income) and has continually increased over the last 10 years.

There are currently three external ministries serving in accepting donations on behalf of LEC and transferring the funds to Germany when we ask them to. The organisations are ICS (Intercontinental Church Society, [ics-uk.org](http://ics-uk.org)), UFM (United for Mission, [ufm.uk.org](http://ufm.uk.org)) and ICC-E (International Christian Community, [icceurasia.com](http://icceurasia.com)). We depend on external funding to fill funding gaps in the English ministry since we started to have a second pastor in 2015.

LEC does not own any property. We rent our church building from a nearby Lutheran congregation that outgrew their buildings. The church also rents an office.



## 2.8 Looking ahead

As we look to the future, trusting in the kindness of our risen Lord Jesus, we are aware of several significant areas for growth:

### Teams:

As LEC has grown in the last ten years from a small to a medium sized church our internal structures have struggled to adapt. After many stop-start attempts to implement a “team” orientated ministry mindset among the church we are beginning to make progress, however there remains much room for improvement.

### Marriage Preparation:

In God’s goodness there are several LEC weddings most years. Currently a lot of the marriage preparation for those couples falls on a few heads. It would be good to expand this, as well as offering marriage enrichment courses for married couples.

### Volunteers:

LEC relies a lot on lay involvement and every member ministry. However, while there is a solid core of families and individuals who are geographically rooted in Leipzig, many volunteers are only here for a season and so there is a perennial need for more volunteers in many areas.

### Children’s Worker:

The number of children continues to increase. Given this it would be a strategic investment to hire a children’s worker, if only on a part-time basis to begin with. This would also better position us to offer yearly holiday Bible clubs for the children. At the moment we do not have the finances to do so.

### Evangelism and publicity:

We would like to be better at equipping those the Lord sends to us for a season to share the gospel, as well as offering clearer pathways for non-Christians to explore the gospel and grow to be mature disciples of Christ.

### Interns and Gospel Partnership:

We would love to have interns more often in the church as a way of giving young men and women a taste of what church ministry looks like. Linked to this is a desire among the pastors to work with likeminded evangelicals to set up something along the lines of the Gospel Partnership lay training schemes in the UK.

### Prayerful dependence on the Spirit:

Our strengths are often in danger of being our weaknesses. We have a tradition of strong Bible teaching and being a loving community. The danger is that we will assume we can sustain these things on our own, instead of seeing them as gracious gifts from the Lord Jesus.

### German ministry:

The German service started with the possibility in mind that it might one day become an independent church. LEC continues to weigh up prayerfully the costs and benefits of this possibility.



### 3. Who we are looking for?

We are praying for a godly man as our future chaplain. We are convinced that the Lord Jesus loves LEC and are eager to welcome our next Chaplain as a gift from the Lord for His glory.



#### Character

Our future chaplain should model for us

- Jesus' kindness and wisdom in humble servant-heartedness
- Commitment to personal faith, growth, prayer and delighting in Jesus
- Relational openness, a love of people, and a heart for listening and showing compassion
- A godly lifestyle whether he is single or married
- Awareness of his weaknesses, and dependance on God's grace

#### Convictions

Our future chaplain should display a clear commitment to

- Reformed evangelicalism as expressed in the 39 Articles, Homilies and the Book of Common Prayer
- LEC's evangelical identity and understanding of primary and secondary issues
- Expository preaching that aims at winning both heart and mind
- A complementarian view of ministry and marriage; as well as the historic biblical teaching on gender and sexuality
- Have a heart to reach both Germans and internationals in Leipzig

#### Skills

Our future chaplain will

- Have experience of pastoral ministry and team leadership
- Have experience of cultural adaptation and multicultural ministry
- Be able to teach the Bible faithfully and carefully so that we delight in Christ together
- Lead the church family across all three services deeper into a gospel culture that reflects the Lord's goodness
- Be able to work with the associate ministers and general staff team
- Ideally have conversational German and be willing to learn or improve it