

St Ann's Church, Rainhill

Parish Profile 2025



*Go therefore and make
disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the
name of the Father
and of the Son and
the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 28:19



Our Vision for the Future:

- ◆ To keep Christ at the centre of all we do and enable people to grow as His disciples.
- ◆ To become a more diverse church which is truly for people of all ages and backgrounds and which can hold the children as they grow.
- ◆ To continue to build a church where every member feels valued and involved, and everyone feels they have a voice which will be heard.
- ◆ To continue to be a friendly, welcoming church family.
- ◆ To become a more mission-minded congregation, and to increase our outreach and service of others.



We are looking for a Vicar...

- ◆ Who is a Godly visionary leader shaped by the life of Jesus and open to the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Who will develop a more vibrant worshipping community.
- ◆ Who can passionately teach the Bible and preach in an accessible and engaging manner.
- ◆ Who will inspire more of the congregation to become committed disciples and encourage outreach and support for mission.
- ◆ Who is a team player, enthusiastic about lay involvement in all areas of church and community life and who will nurture and develop the gifts of the laity.
- ◆ Who is a strong, diplomatic and spiritual leader who will work with the PCC to further God's work within the parish.
- ◆ Who has the skills and experience to maintain and further develop our work with children and young families.
- ◆ Who will empathise, encourage and support people at different stages of their life journey.
- ◆ Who will maintain and strengthen our relationships with staff, parents and children at the church school and other schools in the parish.



As a Church our strengths are...

- ◆ Having different forms of services: All Age Worship, Common Worship—Holy Communion and Service of the Word, Book of Common Prayer, and a fresh expression of church for young families. A small choir and small music group complement our worship.
 - ◆ We have an excellent relationship with our Church Primary School and are developing links to our local High School through TNT (Tea and Toast).
 - ◆ We are financially stable with increasing numbers committed to the Parish Giving Scheme.
 - ◆ We have a faithful and committed PCC, supported by the congregation.
 - ◆ We recognise the local community has a sense of 'ownership' of the church and Millennium Centre; the latter is a great asset to the church and both buildings are regularly used by schools and other groups, such as Mothers' Union.
 - ◆ We have strong community links;
- Stanley Bear Group is a weekly group for 0-5's and their carers,
 - TNT is a weekly group after school for secondary school pupils.
 - A Farmers' Market meets monthly on a Saturday morning run by the Church.
 - The Community Choir regularly practises in church and puts on concerts.
 - The Rocket Magazine has a print run of 500. All of the above are lay led.



However, we recognise we need help in other areas...

- ◆ We need to further develop our strong community links and need gifts of evangelism to encourage people to come to faith.
- ◆ We need to develop the prayer life of the church and have inspirational, relevant Biblical teaching.
- ◆ We need to encourage small group ministry for people to encounter Christ and grow in faith.
- ◆ We need to find ways to encourage our older children and make more contact with teenagers
- ◆ We would like to keep working with our Ecumenical links

Where are we?

- ◆ Rainhill lies on the outskirts of Liverpool diocese, 12 miles from the city and 4 miles from St Helens. It is part of the Deanery of St Helens.
- ◆ There are excellent transport links (road, rail and bus).
- ◆ St Ann's Church lies in the hearts of the original village.
- ◆ The postal address is:
 - *St Ann's Church, Warrington Road, Rainhill, L35 0NS*



The Church



St Ann's Church is a Grade II listed building which was consecrated in 1839. It is a large church seating 400 people. The building is in good order. The most recent quinquennial inspection found only minor issues, most of which have now been rectified, and work is ongoing. The graveyard is closed. Some pews have been removed, and this more flexible space has proved very useful.

St Ann's Millenium Centre (pictured right) is a separately registered charity which stands alone. It was renovated in 2000 with grant funding and is a community facility for use by both the church and the wider community and houses the Parish office.



Life in Rainhill

- ◆ The population of Rainhill was last approximated at 16,000 and continues to grow due to several new housing developments. The area is socially mixed with areas of significant wealth, pockets of deprivation and everything in between. The population spans all age ranges and is predominantly White British.
- ◆ There are 8 schools in the parish: 2 nurseries, 4 Primary Schools, 1 Secondary and 1 Private School for ages 0-16. Medical care is readily available with 3 medical centres, 2 Pharmacies, a dentist, 1 clinic and Whiston Hospital. There are also several residential homes for the elderly. There are 3 other churches within the Parish (Roman Catholic, Methodist, Independent Evangelical) and a Village Hall.
- ◆ Despite the rapid growth of the population of Rainhill, the centre of the Parish maintains a “village feel”. There is a good selection of shops, including a Post Office, small supermarket, butcher and a card gift shop.
- ◆ There are several cafes, restaurants, wine bars and a selection of pubs.
- ◆ There are a large number of voluntary organisations and interest groups in and around Rainhill, catering for all ages and interests. These include amongst others; a Rotary Club, a Civic Society, Toddler Groups, Sports Clubs, Pensioners Lunch Club, Scouts, Guides, Dance Groups and Amateur Dramatic Society, WI, Rainhill Community Guild and Bell Ringers.
- ◆ Rainhill has a unique place in history, being the site of the famous Rainhill Trials, carried out in 1829 to decide what locomotive should work the world's first inter-city railway. Rainhill will celebrate the 200 year anniversary of these trials in 2029 and the Church is currently fundraising for the installation of a specialist commemorative stained-glass window.



Worship

The first Sunday of every month is All Age Worship. There is a midweek Communion service each Thursday at 9:30am, alternating between BCP and Common Worship.

Platform 2 (following Rainhill's Railway theme) is a fresh expression of worship specifically for families with young children.

There are two Bible study homegroups which meet fortnightly. Periodically we run Alpha Courses and Start Groups. There is a Friendship Lunch hosted monthly by one of our members.

Baptisms usually take place during a separate service at 12:15 once a month and are led by a retired priest alongside a team of lay people. A welcome to the church family takes place within All Age Worship.

Other special services throughout the year include: Christingle, Carol Service, Christmas Eve Carol and Crib Service, Midnight Eucharist, Ash Wednesday Service, Mothering Sunday, Lenten Lunches, Good Friday Service, Easter Sunrise Service, Harvest thanksgiving service, Memorial service, Merchant Navy Service and Remembrance service, (in conjunction with the Royal British Legion). There are also occasional pastoral services such as blessing on wedding anniversaries

The church school and other schools within the parish use the church at various times of year for special services and other activities. St Ann's is the original home of CEFAA (Church of England Flower Arrangers' Association) and an active Flower Guild continues to enhance the worship space and organises popular flower festivals involving the community.

This past year there have been 3 weddings, 42 baptisms and 27 funerals.



Clergy Support

- ◆ The staff team at St Ann's currently includes 4 retired clergy, supported by a lay pastoral team and an all-age planning team. There is also part time administrative support.
- ◆ St Ann's is part of St Helens Deanery, the first cohort in the diocesan initiative "Fit for Mission" but St Ann's, up to now, has voted not be part of it.
- ◆ Chapter meetings are well attended, and the chapter takes a yearly retreat together.
- ◆ Clergy from within the Deanery and beyond are willing to provide holiday cover.

The Church's Involvement in the Community

- ◆ The Socials Committee organises meals out, race nights etc.
- ◆ Monthly Communion services at local residential homes led by teams of lay people.
- ◆ Monthly Home Communion.
- ◆ Volunteer church cleaning group supplemented by 2 x Parish Churchyard Clean Up Days and the Community Payback team regularly works within the grounds.
- ◆ St Ann's is a collection point for the St Helens Food bank.
- ◆ Church Members sit on the Village Hall Committee and Rainhill Gala Committee.
- ◆ The Church has excellent support from the Independent Parish Councillors.
- ◆ The Parish Council actively supports the Church with the facilitating of the Farmers' Market.



St Ann's Church of England Primary School

- ◆ St Ann's is part of a multi-trust academy. In 2025 it was assessed by OFSTED and deemed Good with areas of Outstanding. The Church has a good relationship with the school; currently every child new to the St Ann's receives a Bible from the PCC.
- ◆ The Vicar has led assemblies, and held end of term services amongst other activities.
- ◆ There is good lay involvement, with singing, tech support and occasional invitations to help with RE. We have two church members who sit on the Board of Governors; the Chair of which is a valued Church member. The school are keen for both clerical and lay involvement to continue to develop further.



"If you can believe, all things are possible to those who believe."

Mark 9:23



St Ann's Church of England Primary School

The Vicarage



- ◆ The large vicarage which is situated next to the church was built in the 1960s.
- ◆ The ground floor comprises of; entrance porch, study (accessible without entering the rest of the property) hallway with cloakroom, living room, dining room, family kitchen, utility area (with shower room) and attached single garage.
- ◆ On the first floor there are 5 bedrooms and a bathroom with separate toilet. There is a very large garden to the rear and a small garden at the front. The property is in a good state of repair and has a full alarm system and CCTV.
- ◆ The church also owns a property for the use of a Curate, which is currently privately rented out on a 6-month rolling contract.

Finances

- ◆ St Ann's is considered 'healthy and viable.'
- ◆ We successfully embarked upon a process of encouraging the congregation to increase their monthly giving via the Parish Giving Scheme and this is something which needs to be continued.
- ◆ Financial statements are attached in appendix 2.



St Helens Deanery (Add from Area Dean)

St Helens Deanery

We have a diverse chapter of clergy that have worked well together. We are 13 stipendiary clergy plus curates, NSMs and retired clergy who represent 8 parishes. Previously we were 18 parishes however as part of the diocesan Fit for Mission initiative 11 parishes agreed to work together as one Larger Single Parish that is now called Church St Helens.

We are currently working out how to be chapter now that 9 clergy are working together closely as part of a Larger Single Parish. We continue to have regular monthly chapter meetings. When we have diocesan events such as retreats and study days chapter gather more informally. Our chapter meetings are usually convivial – we like to learn together, share food, humour and prayer. There is a good sense of support for each other and we communicate regularly via Whats App.

Our deanery is focussed around St Helens town which gives us a shared identity and culture. We have longstanding relationships with the council and our ecumenical neighbours.

