



Parish Profile

Welcome

Thank you for taking an interest in this opportunity to lead and serve at our united benefice of Holy Trinity, Formby and St Michael and All Angels, Altcar. Our two Churches are distinctive and yet united in our mission to bring more people to know Jesus across the benefice. The United Benefice has been in place for 14 years and the two Churches have integrated as worshipping communities. Holy Trinity Church is situated within the town centre of Formby. It is a focal point for the 'Village' and a community hub. St Michael and All Angels serves three small rural communities, a short distance from Formby. We hope that this profile will offer you some insight into our benefice.



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AND ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, ALT CAR**
EVERYONE: INVITED INCLUDED IMPORTANT



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Our Journey

During the tenure of our outgoing vicar, we have seen a radical reordering of Holy Trinity Church and we have, along with everyone else, experienced a pandemic. The reordering at Holy Trinity opened up a number of possibilities for us, and the pandemic challenged us to sustain our worshipping community without the use of a Church building. These experiences have resulted in us being adaptive and innovative in our mission.

Recently both our Churches have engaged with 'Leading your Church into Growth'. We have woven the Mission Prayer into our liturgy and our prayer life. This engagement has underpinned our outreach work and informed our thinking as we work to grow our Churches.

We now find ourselves at another significant juncture in our journey. This will also be true for our new leader. A successful appointment will result in a meeting point of these two journeys which moves all of us forward in our mission here in Formby and Altcar.



The Vicar we are praying for

In preparation for writing this profile we sought input from across our congregations via a discussion and brainstorming event. We are praying for a vicar who has the energy, vision and courage to help us to grow our Church by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in ways that are attractive to the communities we serve.



We are hoping that our new vicar will:

- have a strong personal faith which they are able to communicate in order to inspire and motivate others.
- have experience of LYCIG and/or a passion for growing disciples and new leaders.
- be approachable and able to engage with people of all ages and characteristics. In particular, bringing strategies to build our engagement with children and families.
- be creative in leading and working with us to develop our worshipping life, balancing tradition with innovation.
- show energy, commitment and dedication in pastoral work in our community.
- be able to build relationships and extend our network further.

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HOLY TRINITY FORMBY

About the Parish

Formby is a small town with approximately 25,000 residents at the last census. It is a pleasant place to live with plenty of local amenities, good schools, transport links to Liverpool, and access to pinewoods and the beach. The town itself is mainly residential in character and most inhabitants commute to work in Liverpool, Southport or further afield. Employment within Formby is mainly concerned with the service sector although a small industrial estate is located on the eastern fringe. The town also has a large retired population with many retirement flats and residential/care homes being constructed over the last couple of years. As well as its human inhabitants Formby provides home to colonies of red squirrels and natterjack toads.



The parish of Holy Trinity covers the central and southern areas of Formby, to the west lies the parish of St Luke's and to the north the parish of St Peter's. The residential make-up of the parish ranges from large double fronted Victorian dwellings to small pockets of social housing. The parish also contains two large 1960s housing estates, and several new estates made up of privately owned detached and semi detached houses and bungalows.

Holy Trinity church itself lies in the commercial and shopping heart of Formby known as the 'Village'. The village provides a central and bustling location for everyday shopping opportunities with chains like Boots, Iceland, Waitrose and Marks & Spencer Simply Food outlets but also smaller family run businesses. Larger or more specialist purchases need to be made in Southport or Liverpool. Formby has a modern swimming pool and fitness centre. Local healthcare is available via a small clinic and several doctors surgeries. Southport and Ormskirk District General Hospitals are approximately 9 miles away, and University Hospital Aintree and the Royal Liverpool Hospital are 10 and 16 miles respectively.



Holy Trinity is thus a parish set in a typical dormitory town in a busy semi urban location north of Liverpool. On initial viewing it would appear to be 'middle class, middle aged and middle income' but on closer examination this is not the case. The parish has a diverse and varied catchment and caters for a population that is equally unique providing many challenges and opportunities for development by a new incumbent with the ministry team.

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HOLY TRINITY FORMBY

The church in the Village

Holy Trinity Church is a large Victorian building dating back to 1890. Since then the village has become a small town but nobody would ever consider describing it as anything but a village. It is not surprising therefore that many refer to our Rosemary Lane buildings as – ‘The Church in the Village’. It was reordered in 2015 as the culmination of a process known as ‘The Vision’. Pews were replaced by flexible seating, a new foyer was added with a range of facilities and a mezzanine floor was created at the west end of the nave. This opened up a number of opportunities for styles of worship and community use. The building houses a Norman & Beard pipe organ built in 1892. This was renovated in 2004 and is still used in our worship today.

The Church site also includes a number of venues for meetings and community activities. All of these facilities are used widely by Church groups and are also available to hire by the general public and are used by the wider community. All Church buildings are well maintained and extensively used. No building has any major repairs outstanding.

Parish Hall

The Parish Hall has a capacity of up to 200 and is used on a regular basis by a range of Church and community groups. This building also contains a smaller room (The Jubilee Hall) with a capacity of up to 60 people. There is a large kitchen and several areas of storage. This building is due to be rewired this year.

The Workshop & Prayer Room

‘The Workshop’ is a separate building on the Church site. The uniformed organisations meet here and it is used for Saturday coffee mornings. This building also includes a small meeting room known as the ‘Prayer Room’.



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THE VICARAGE

The vicarage is a short distance from the Church in the heart of Formby. It is a well-maintained, spacious and modern 4-bedroom house with lovely gardens to front and rear. The house has provided a happy, family home for the previous three vicars. The property is currently let during the process of recruitment.



There is also a curate's house, a little further from the centre of Formby. This is currently occupied by a long term tenant.

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HOLY TRINITY FORMBY

The Church as a Worshipping Community



We provide a variety of worship at Holy Trinity, designed to meet the different needs of our members. Our approach is broadly Liberal Evangelical. We often follow the lectionary but regularly enjoy embarking on a sermon series to encourage Spiritual growth in a particular area and to give a freshness to our teaching and preaching. For the last two summers, and during Advent last winter we have had a combined service held at 10.30am which has been well received. Recently we introduced a summer evening service at 6.30pm which again has been well received and well attended.

The average weekly attendance across all services for 2024 was 108 adults and 9 children. On major church festivals and harvest the numbers attending increased.

Our occasional offices for last year were:

Baptisms: 2

Weddings: 0

Funerals: 16

Finances

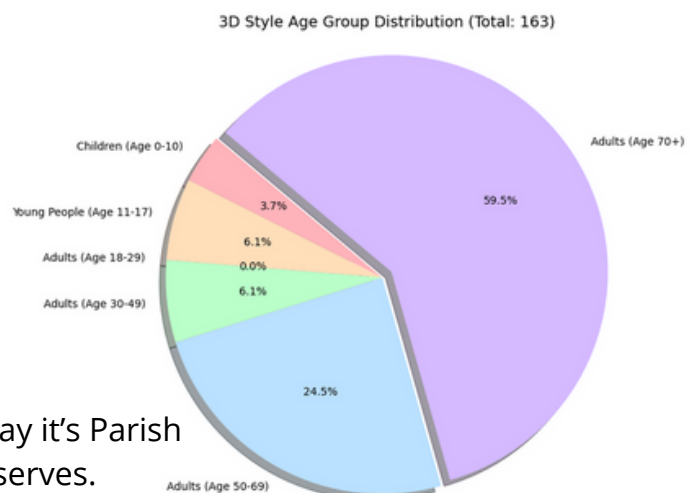
Through generous giving Holy Trinity is able to pay it's Parish Share and is in the fortunate position to have reserves.

Where are we now?

Like every church we have experienced a reduction in attendance following COVID however we believe that we have built some strengths which include:

- Our 10am family service has attracted some new families, some of whom are becoming embedded in the life of the Church. This, along with our other services, offers a diverse range of worshipping styles.
- We adapt and innovate in our patterns of worship in seeking to create and build up our congregations.
- We offer a range of outreach activities in the community including 'cuppa and chat', worship coffee mornings, Alpha and Start courses, 'Sweet Friday Ladies' evening
- We build community through events such as our Burns Night Supper and barbecues.
- We serve our community through strong connections with Compassion Acts and Foodbanks.
- We work closely with Trinity St Peter's primary school to nurture faith.
- We work to engage children and young people through Tiddler Toddlers, our 'Pizza Eaters' group for Y6+, and the uniformed groups

We would like to consolidate and extend in these areas, and to create new growth.



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HOLY TRINITY FORMBY

Patterns of Worship

We have the capacity on the ministry team to support a varied programme of services.

Sunday

8.30am A traditional Holy Communion service with hymns. This service has an established congregation of, on average around 30. (Robed)

10.00am A contemporary family service (Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month) led by our music group and featuring modern worship songs. This service typically draws 20–30 people and has seen encouraging growth in recent months. (Not robed)

11.15am Common worship (Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month). This service moved into Holy Trinity from a local primary school following the pandemic, having been established as a satellite Church on the Redgate estate some years previously. The congregation is typically around 40. (Robed)

Wednesday

11.00am Holy Communion (Robed)

Morning Prayer is said each weekday morning online.



Seasonal services

On occasions, e.g. harvest, the three services are combined and the uniformed organisations attend. Holy Trinity has a highly distinctive 'Wreathing' service during Advent. This involves a number of the Church community in gathering and preparing the wreaths which are raised around the Church. Periodically, the Benefice will worship together too.

The Civic Remembrance service for Formby is also held at Holy Trinity Church.

Worship in the Community.

We have very close links with many housebound members of our congregation as well as those residents in care homes within the area. Members of the Ministry Team take out Communion to the sick monthly, as well as leading short monthly communion services in local Nursing Homes and retirement apartment complexes.



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HOLY TRINITY FORMBY

Groups and Activities

Pizza-eaters

This is a group for Year 6 plus students which meets once per month during term time at Holy Trinity Church, with young people attending from both Church communities. The group engages in discussion around Bible passages and current issues and they have some time to spend together. Some trips are organised. The group also help with Church services and events such as coffee mornings and fund-raising activities.



Prayer Group

A small group of people meet each Thursday for an hour of prayer. Starting at 7pm, in the church prayer room or in each other's home in cold weather, the group prays for the needs of the world. They are often contacted by people who ask them to pray for specific situations. This group is open to all. There are, at present, 7 regular attendees.



Bible Study.

Holy Trinity has three small bible study groups that meet in people's homes. These groups meet according to the schedules of the participants but generally every two or three weeks. Each group has a lead person who guides the group through a given study.

Mothers' Union

Holy Trinity has had an active Mothers' Union for many years. They meet on the second Thursday of each month and receive Holy Communion at their special services held periodically.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Bereavement Course

The Bereavement Journey is a nationwide 7 week video based journey through loss, no matter whether recent or many years previous. It is held in the comfort of a private home, with a small group. Started at Holy Trinity at the end of 2023, in groups of 2 - 5, there have so far been 30 people who have been with us, all of whom have said the Journey has helped them. The discussion sessions have proved particularly helpful, enabling people to talk about their loss as well as cope a little better.

The Bereavement
Journey
a place to talk

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HOLY TRINITY FORMBY

The Church & the Community

Coffee Mornings/Community Singing

Every Monday and Thursday, Holy Trinity hosts a coffee morning open to all. These gatherings provide a welcoming space for conversation, connection, and companionship. Each month there is a popular sing-along offering a fun and engaging opportunity for people to come together through music.



Compassion Acts.

A poverty reduction charity, which was launched in its current format in 2019, that today encompasses a number of Food Banks, Food Pantries as well as welfare and debt advice around both Southport and Formby. Holy Trinity has its own collection bin for food donations, as well as volunteers at Compassion Acts main Warehouse and one of the busy Food Banks each week.



Little Tiddler Toddler Group

We meet every Monday morning during term time from 9:15 to 11:00 a.m. Our sessions offer a warm, friendly, and relaxed space where children can enjoy a wide range of toys, puzzles, games, and a craft corner for older ones. While the children play, adults are encouraged to chat and connect with others. Refreshments are served around 10:30 a.m., and we usually end with music time. We also celebrate special occasions like Easter and Christmas—with a festive party and a visit from Father Christmas!



Holiday at Home

Holiday at Home is an annual 2 week community event organised jointly by Formby Befriending Scheme and Formby Luncheon Club. It aims to provide elderly people in our community with a holiday they wouldn't otherwise have. This involves around 30 events over a fortnight hosted in various community buildings by various groups, local businesses and churches. Holy Trinity supports this venture and hosts an event.



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HOLY TRINITY FORMBY

Groups and Activities

Uniformed Organisations

The relationship between the Church and the uniformed organisations is very important to our community and there is a strong tradition of mutual support. Members of the groups are involved in parade services at Holy Trinity and they play a very significant role in the annual 'Wreathing' service. We are proud of our Holy Trinity 'Wreathing' badge, which recognises their commitment to this service. The uniformed groups also support Saturday coffee mornings, the hospice coffee morning and have also provided barbecues for Church events.

We have a strong membership with 79 young people across **Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts**. We also have Explorer age young people who help with the delivery of sessions. There is a waiting list of 16. The challenge currently is finding adult volunteers.

Guides and Brownies have been running for over 90 years at Holy Trinity Church with very experienced leadership. At present, groups are modest in size and the recruitment of new members is a priority.

The involvement of our vicar with the young people, including attendance at some meetings, is valued very highly.



Sweet Friday and The Loft

Sweet Friday is a gathering for women which takes place 5 times per year. Guest speakers are invited in a range of topics. The aim is to reach out and welcome the local community. The Loft is a weekly discussion group for men which meets on a weekly basis in the local Wetherspools.



Fell-walking Club

The fell-walking club organises walks on a monthly basis and is a significant, long-standing feature of the broader Church community.



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TRINITY ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Trinity St Peter's is a single-form entry Church of England Voluntary Aided school with strong ties to Holy Trinity and St Peter's Churches. It was rated 'Excellent' in its latest SIAMS inspection and 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in 2024. The school's five core Christian values are: **Serve, Hope, Imagine, Nurture, and Enjoy.**



Established in 2005 through the merger of Holy Trinity and St Peter's VA schools, it occupies the former St Peter's site and has seen major building developments since.

The school regularly holds services at Holy Trinity Church, with clergy actively involved in school life. The vicars of both churches serve as governors at the school.

The Headteacher comments on the school's link with Holy Trinity Church:

'Holy Trinity Church lies at the heart of our school community. As a Church of England school, our Christian ethos is central to everything we do, and we are proud of our close and active partnership with both Holy Trinity and St Peter's Churches.

Clergy from the parish regularly lead collective worship, and our children play an active role in the church throughout the liturgical year. These moments not only enrich the children's spiritual understanding but also deepen their sense of belonging within the church community.

Holy Trinity is seen by our children as an extension of their classroom — a place where faith and learning naturally come together. Staff also deeply value the support of the clergy, who bring insight and expertise that enhance both RE lessons and wider classroom discussions. This strong, reciprocal relationship helps pupils to encounter faith as a lived experience and to recognise themselves as members of a broader worshipping community.

Our most recent SIAMS inspection praised the strength of this church-school partnership, highlighting the mutual benefit it brings to both church and school life.

Our partnership with Holy Trinity Church is central to our identity as a Church of England school. It helps our children experience faith in action and understand themselves as part of a wider Christian family.'

SECONDARY EDUCATION IN FORMBY

Formby has two 11–18 secondary schools (Formby and Range High), each with around 1,000 students and rated 'Good' by Ofsted. Together, they provide strong educational provision for the town. One of the schools regularly uses Holy Trinity Church for concerts and productions

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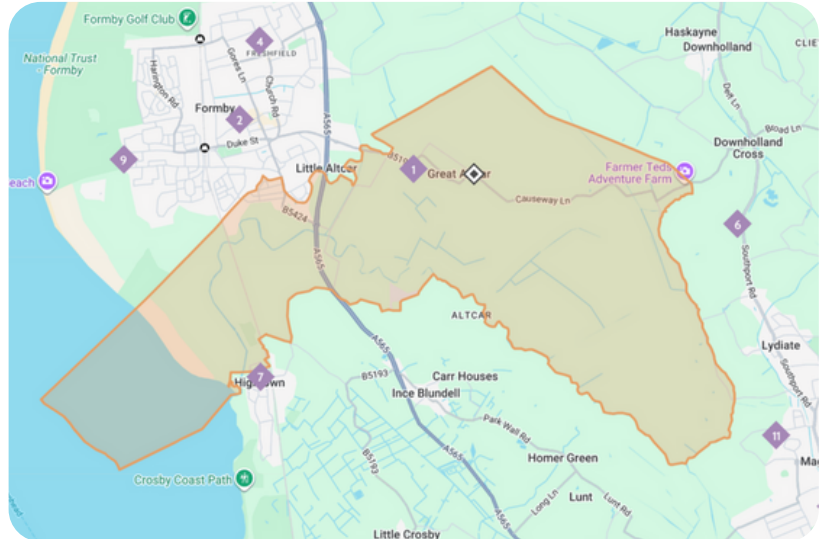
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ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, ALTCAR

About the Parish

The parish of St Michael and All Angels comprises three small communities. Great Altcar, where the church is situated, is an ancient ribbon development which strings out between Formby and Lydiat. The furthest outposts inland to the west are “Farmer Ted’s” (more correctly Worrall House Farm) and Bells Lane. The parish stretches from there to the coast, including Little Altcar where the boundary is contiguous with Holy Trinity, also Altcar Range, including the Army Camp.



Mark Road in Hightown, forms the southern boundary of the parish. Our population is around 3000, most of whom live in Little Altcar. Historically residents in Great Altcar were involved in agriculture or in the running of the Leverhulme Estate. In the last few years, Little Altcar has grown considerably with the building of a new estate, Pinewood Park, which is situated adjacent to the bypass and with the building of several new houses on Altcar Lane.



Great Altcar is a farming community, with most of the parishioners being tenants of the Leverhulme Estate although many tenants are no longer agricultural workers. Little Altcar, in contrast, is a suburban residential area. Altcar Range only houses about a dozen people on the military estate, but many more at times of training or mobilisation of forces.

There are no schools and no nursing or residential homes in the parish. Farming is the main activity in Great Altcar, centred now on 2 large farms. The village is also home to “Farmer Ted’s”, an agricultural themed attraction. We are a small rural parish whose congregation support and in turn are supported by our local community. We have been part of the United Benefice with Holy Trinity for the past 14 years. As the “Church in the Fields” we welcome our shared mission with Holy Trinity and have enjoyed getting to know each other through shared social events and worship.



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ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, ALT CAR

St Michael's is a welcoming and caring church. Many of our congregation were drawn in by their cares and concerns, others may have come when they found the church was open, and they've stayed with us. Week by week the sharing of worship and fellowship helps build and strengthen our loving church family.

At St Michael's we aim to fulfil our mission by growing in 3 ways: growing together as a congregation, growing out into the community we serve, and continuing to grow towards the God we love and worship.

We have our own website altcarparishchurch.co.uk, a page on A Church Near You and a Facebook page.

The Church in the fields

St Michael's is an attractive grade 2* listed building and this brings great possibilities for mission, but also carries great responsibilities.

We have many visitors and requests for occasional offices. We are open during the day for people to drop in as they drive by, and over the years we have held several artists' days, retreats, open days and guided tours. St Michael's is the meeting place for Great Altcar Parish Council and the only public building in the whole parish.

The maintenance of the building is always a concern. Our current project is to get a new thermostat and to look at the lighting in line with NZC targets.

We have an extensive church garden and graveyard. We leave areas of the grounds unmown to encourage wildlife and we have placed several bird and bat boxes in the surrounding trees.



As a congregation we see the importance of our role as stewards of God's creation. We achieved the Silver Eco Church Award in August 2021 and have joined the "Caring for God's Acre" scheme.



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ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, ALTCAR

The Church as a Worshipping Community

We hold a weekly communion service following Common Worship at 09:30 every Sunday followed by coffee.

Together with Holy Trinity, we often follow the lectionary but sometimes enjoy embarking on a sermon series to encourage Spiritual growth in a particular area and to give a freshness to our teaching and preaching.

The average weekly attendance across both services for 2024 was 44 adults and 2 children. A usual Sunday service attendance was 24 adults & 0 children.

On major church festivals and harvest the numbers attending increased.

Finances - Through generous giving St Michael's is able to pay its Parish Share but has limited reserves.

Patterns of Worship

Sunday

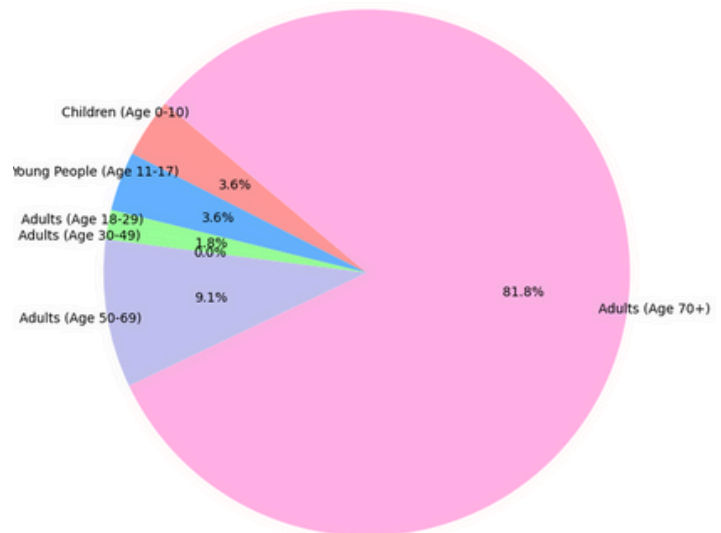
9.30am Weekly communion service following Common Worship followed by coffee. (Robed)

Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion which is attended by a small but faithful congregation. (Not robed)

In addition to our regular services, a number of services are held which are part of rural tradition. Rogationtide is celebrated where we pray for and bless our local farming community. Our traditional Harvest Festival service is held in the morning and is a highlight for our rural community. Before the Evensong we invite members of Holy Trinity to join us for tea. After Harvest Evensong local produce is sold with the proceeds going to support RABI (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute)

Age Group Distribution (Total: 55)



Our occasional offices for last year were:

Baptisms: 2

Weddings: 1

Funerals: 3



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ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, ALTCAR



We have an excellent organist and a robed choir. Our regular attendance is around 20 at our usual Sunday service but much greater for major church or agricultural festivals. We would normally expect a good congregation at Midnight Mass, Harvest or Remembrance Day and on Easter morning



In the summer, St Michael's holds an annual church fair in the church grounds and a Christmas Coffee morning with stalls at Holy Trinity Workshop in November. We also host, well attended, open days at Harvest and Easter and concerts featuring Formby Male Voice Choir have also been popular community events.

Most of our regular congregation do not live within the parish boundary. Many have been drawn in by our occasional offices and stayed because of the welcome they received. Our approach is fairly "middle of the road" and the congregation is equally comfortable with cassock and surplice or alb, stole and chasuble.



The Church & the Community

Being part of Churches Together in Formby, Altcar and Hightown, we are involved in activities and outreach organised by them. We have hosted the popular Churches Together annual summer Evensong and we are a 'Holiday at Home' venue.

Members of both Great and Little Altcar Parish councils attend special services in our church including of course, Remembrance Sunday. We have recently been approached about the possibility of using St Michael's as a polling station for elections and Great Altcar Parish Council use the church for their meetings.



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THE UNITED BENEFICE Ministry Team

As part of a united benefice, St Michael's and Holy Trinity share the benefice ministry team, which includes an associate priest who is leading us during the interregnum. There are 3 retired clergy who make a significant contribution to our service rotas. It also includes five lay readers and three informal worship leaders and preachers. There are two Churchwardens at Holy Trinity and at St Michael and All Angels.



Music

All of our musicians are volunteers. We have two organists/directors of music serving the two Churches. There is a worship group at Holy Trinity and a choir at St Michael and All Angels.



Online: Services & Daily Reflection

A programme of daily online reflections is delivered by members of the ministry team along with other members of the Church community across the benefice.

Each Sunday a service is videoed from either of the churches and then broadcast on YouTube the following Sunday.

Morning Prayer is said each weekday morning online.

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF HOLY TRINITY, FORMBY AND ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, ALTCAR

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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FORMBY, ALT CAR & HIGHTOWN

There is a strong tradition of collaboration between the parishes in Formby and Altcar, together with Hightown which is a short distance away. Churches of all denominations work closely together with a Walk of Witness on Good Friday, a Nativity Play performed in the town centre. There also shared services on Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day. Churches Together opens up possibilities for further collaboration in the future.



DEANERY & CHAPTER

The Benefice is in the Sefton North deanery. Clergy and Parish representatives from each of the parishes in the deanery meet 3 times per year, rotating meetings around the parishes. Generally a speaker is invited for the first part of the meeting and there is an opportunity for questions. After a break for refreshments the general business of the deanery is discussed, including a report from the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee, it's finance and grants which have been given to parishes for missional activity.

The Chapter is active with clergy meeting regularly. There is good support between colleagues, and a WhatsApp group allows for easy contact between meetings. There is an annual overnight retreat in February giving colleagues time to meet, plan and socialise together.

The Chapter has a link with Überlingen-Stockach deanery in Germany and visits are arranged between the parishes. In 2023, on the 30th anniversary of the link being established, most of the deanery clergy joined the German clergy on retreat. They journeyed to Eisenbach and Erfurt in eastern Germany, where Martin Luther had lived and worked. This reinforced good relationships with our German clergy colleagues, and it was also an opportunity for fellowship amongst the local clergy.



FIT FOR MISSION

The Diocese of Liverpool has embarked on a journey known as 'Fit for Mission' (<https://liverpoolcofe.org/fitformission/>). This involves creating larger single parishes across deanery areas. Each PCC has been required to vote on whether to join the Fit for Mission journey. Holy Trinity and St Michael and All Angels went through this process in early September 2025. There was a plurality of views expressed when the matter was discussed. The outcome of the vote in both cases was that the PCCs did not choose to start out on the Fit for Mission journey. Notwithstanding this decision, both Churches are supportive of the broad intentions and purposes of Liverpool Diocese.

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THE LOCAL REGION

Transport links from Formby are good. There is a frequent train service to Liverpool, with Formby Station within the Parish, and buses to Liverpool, Southport and surrounding area. There are also good rail and road links to the rest of the country and Liverpool and Manchester Airports are around an hour's drive away.



Holy Trinity & St Michael and All Angels are beautifully located, surrounded by peaceful farmland, enchanting woodland, and just a stone's throw from the stunning Formby beach. It's a nature lover's dream, with plenty more to explore nearby!



You'll find fantastic attractions close by, like the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust Centre at Martin Mere, the historic Rufford Old Hall (National Trust), and the relaxing Formby Hall Golf Club. If you're up for a bit of a drive, within two hours you can reach the scenic coasts of North Wales, or head inland to the breathtaking landscapes of the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales, and Peak District.

For arts and culture, there's lots going on locally. Formby Little Theatre and the Atkinson Arts Centre in Southport offer a lively mix of visual and performing arts. And just a short trip away, Liverpool shines as a vibrant cultural hub, famous for its music, theatre, and arts scene.



You'll have easy access to top venues like the Liverpool Everyman Theatre, Liverpool Empire, Philharmonic Hall, and the Liverpool Arena. Art lovers will enjoy the rich variety of galleries including Tate Liverpool, the Walker Art Gallery, and Bluecoat.

And of course, if you're into football, Liverpool is home to some of the best clubs around!