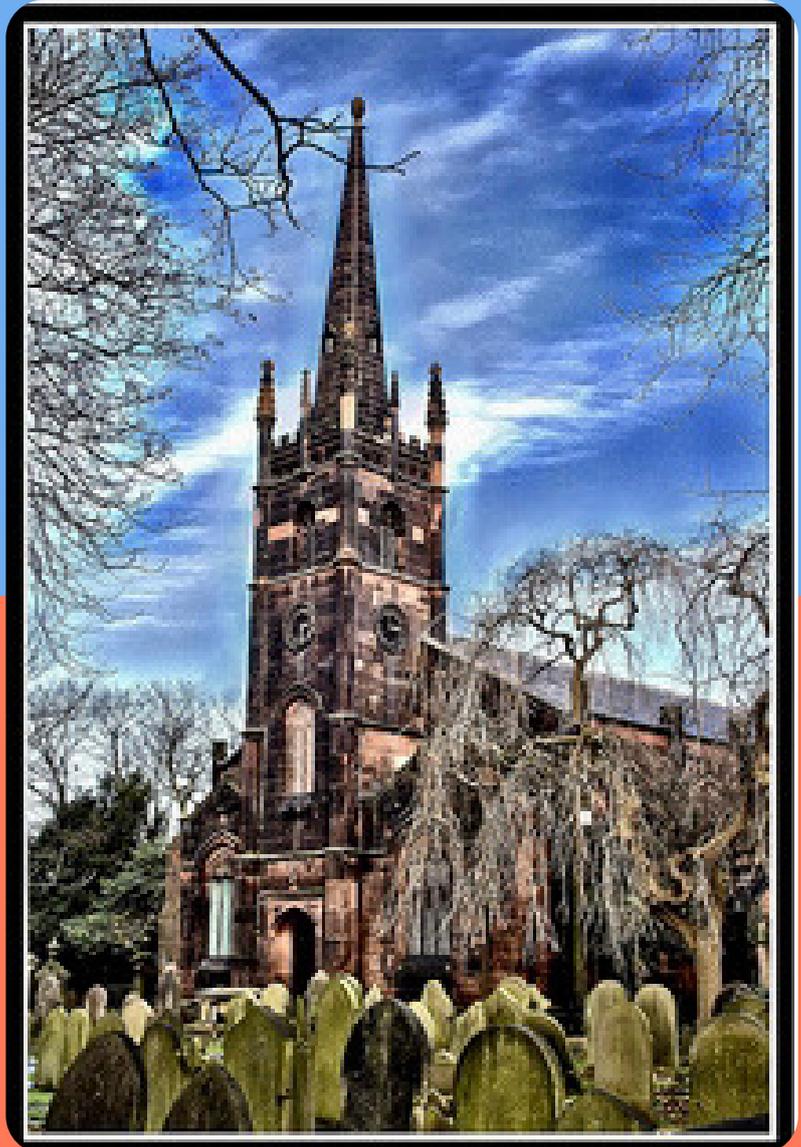
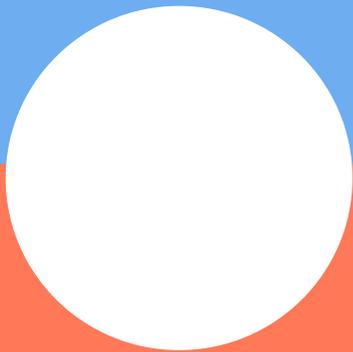


PARISH PROFILE



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST KNOTTY ASH

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WELCOME

**The things we believe in
that help make this church
extraordinary.**

St John the Evangelist is a warm, friendly, and hopeful parish on the eastern edge of Liverpool. We are a church with deep roots and a renewed sense of purpose — a community that has rebuilt itself with courage, faith, and a desire to grow.

We are praying for a vicar who will join us in this next chapter: someone who will walk with us, pray with us, laugh with us and help us become the church God is calling us to be.

ABOUT THE PARISH

WELCOME

St John the Evangelist has been part of the life of Knotty Ash since 1836, standing as a familiar landmark and a place of spiritual refuge for generations. Our church was built to serve a growing community on the eastern edge of Liverpool, and nearly two centuries later, it continues to hold a central place in the story of this neighbourhood.

Knotty Ash is a community with deep roots and a strong identity. It is a place shaped by humour, resilience, and a fierce sense of belonging - qualities embodied so clearly in the legacy of Sir Ken Dodd, whose life and generosity continue to bless our parish. The Sir Ken Dodd Happiness Hall for Church and Community, located opposite the church, is a living reminder of that legacy.

Our parish is diverse, with areas of significant deprivation alongside strong community networks and long-standing local pride. Many families face economic challenges, and there are high levels of health inequality, disability, and social isolation. At the same time, Knotty Ash is full of warmth, humour, and neighbourliness - qualities that shape the way St John's seeks to serve.

We believe God has placed St John's here for a purpose:

- together, as one, inclusive without exception
- to be a place of hope
- to be a place of joy
- to be a place of belonging
- to be a place where faith is lived out in practical, compassionate ways

ABOUT THE PARISH



2.1 OUR PARISH & COMMUNITY

St John's is a warm, friendly, and increasingly intergenerational congregation. We are blessed with:

- families with young children
- long-standing members
- newcomers drawn by our welcome
- people exploring faith
- individuals seeking healing and hope

Our average weekly attendance is around 60, with numbers rising significantly for baptisms, family services, and festivals.

2.2 OUR STORY: A CHURCH REBUILDING AND RENEWING

St John's has known seasons of challenge, including periods of instability and financial strain. But in recent years, the church has rebuilt its foundations with courage and faith. We are now in a season of growth - not only in numbers, but in confidence, vision, and purpose.

We are a church on a journey - learning, adapting, and trusting God for the next steps.

OUR VISION, MISSION & VALUES

“We seek to be a welcoming community where God’s love is shared and nurtured as we grow together, embracing all without exception.”

3.1 OUR VISION

To create a vibrant, welcoming environment that encourages spiritual growth, fosters new disciples, and meets the needs of all ages - especially families with young children.

3.2 OUR VALUES

- Faith in Jesus
- Inclusivity
- Fellowship
- Service

3.3 OUR ROADMAP FOR GROWTH

Our Strategy for Growth outlines a clear, phased journey that includes:

- deepening discipleship
- strengthening our welcome
- evolving our service formats
- expanding community outreach
- improving financial sustainability

WORSHIP & MINISTRY

4.1 OUR WORSHIPPING LIFE

We currently offer:

- Two Sunday Holy Communion services each month with young people's groups
- Café Church
- Two intergenerational services each month
- Baptisms once a month during family services
- Weekly communion services on Wednesday mornings
- Seasonal services that draw large numbers

Music is an important part of our worshipping life, supported by a choir and our music group.

4.3 BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

- Baptisms: welcoming and joyful
- Weddings and blessings: a beautiful historic and traditional setting
- Funerals: compassionate and dignified

4.5 DISCIPLESHIP & FAITH FORMATION

Current opportunities include:

- Bible study
- Confirmation preparation
- CAST (Caring and sharing together)
- Jesus In Me Men's group
- Bereavement support
- Lent courses
- Bible courses

4.2 CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

We offer:

- Praise and Play toddler group
 - A developed and established area: Tots Church for the under 5s and their parents/carers
 - Children's groups for the 5-11's
 - Preparation for communion prior to confirmation
 - Plans for youth engagement
 - A sensory area that supports the needs of those who are neurodiverse
- NB. All of the above reflect the Church of England Growing Faith Initiative

4.4 PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is rooted in kindness and presence, with particular focus on:

- the elderly
- the isolated
- those living with illness or disability

COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS

St John's is a place of belonging, laughter, and shared life.

5.1 THE SIR KEN DODD HAPPINESS HALL

A vibrant centre for:

- events
- celebrations
- community groups
- outreach
- partnerships

5.2 EVENTS THAT BRING US TOGETHER

Including:

- The Big Community Sing
- Christmas Tree Festival
- Heritage Day
- Open mic nights
- Seasonal celebrations
- Feast of fun – Together Liverpool
- Harvest Lunch

5.3 PARTNERSHIPS

We work with:

- Together Liverpool
- Local schools
- Broadgreen Hospital
- Alder Hey Hospital
- Local food bank
- Local Community Groups including:
Women's Institute, Girlguiding and the Air
Training Corps and The Red Rose Band
- The National Beekeepers' Society

5.4 A COMMUNITY WITH REAL NEEDS — AND REAL STRENGTHS

We see our parish's challenges as opportunities to serve with compassion and creativity, trusting that God works through every circumstance to deepen our faith and strengthen our community. Rather than being discouraged by what is difficult, we commit ourselves to responding with hope, imagination, and a willingness to grow. In all things, we seek to embody Christ's love by supporting one another, welcoming new possibilities, and working together for the flourishing of our parish and community.

BUILDINGS & RESOURCES

The things we believe that help make this building extraordinary.

6.1 OUR CHURCH BUILDING (1836)

St John's, built in 1836, is a beautiful and much loved landmark at the heart of Knotty Ash. Its historic architecture, peaceful interior, and sense of continuity across generations make it a treasured place of worship and community gathering. As with any building of its age, it requires ongoing care and thoughtful stewardship. We recognise this responsibility not as a burden but as a privilege: an opportunity to preserve our heritage, ensure the church remains safe and welcoming, and adapt the space creatively for the needs of today's parish and future generations.

The Sir Ken Dodd Memorial Chapel

A cherished space for prayer, reflection, and small gatherings, renamed to honour Sir Ken's lifelong connection to St Johns and Knotty Ash.

6.2 A SEASON OF RENEWAL: TECHNOLOGY, ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION

In 2025 we completed:

- a new modern sound and vision system which includes new speakers installed throughout the church, 6 screens that are used to make the service interactive and accessible for all
- 360-degree cameras that cover all of the church with the opportunity to broadcast the service
- A developing technical team to operate during the services
- Auricast: new hearing system which includes noise-cancelling headphones
- a neurosensory room with appropriate resources

These improvements were supported by successful funding applications.

BUILDINGS & RESOURCES

6.3 A VISION FOR FUTURE FLEXIBILITY

We are looking ahead with hope as we consider how our buildings can better serve both our congregation and the wider community. This includes exploring the reordering of our worship space to support a more flexible and welcoming environment, refreshing the café area so it can continue to be a warm hub for fellowship, and improving our entrance and visibility to ensure that St John's is easy to find and inviting to all who pass by. Together, these aspirations reflect our desire to honour our heritage while creating spaces that support the life and mission of the parish today and in the years to come.

6.4 ESSENTIAL REPAIRS

We remain committed to addressing the Quinquennial Report (up-to-date report on request)

6.5 THE SIR KEN DODD HAPPINESS HALL FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

A beautifully restored and extended building, providing a major asset for mission, outreach, and community life



PARISH FINANCES

6.6 PARISH FINANCES, STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY

Our parish has a committed outlook to finances. Our Parish Share is paid in full each year.

For 2025, our income included:

- Donations and legacies: £83,408
- Income from charitable activities: £23,403
- Other trading activities: £3,376
- Grants and additional donations: £46,880
- Closure of small accounts: £6,167

These resources help us sustain our ministry, pay our Parish Share, care for our buildings, and support our wider mission.

We take good care of our church and hall through regular maintenance contracts, covering the clock, organ, alarms, fire safety, electrical certification, and twice-yearly roof inspections and clearing. We work in line with our quinquennial report to stay ahead of any major issues.

Our well-used church hall provides a steady source of income and, when needed, has help with restricted funding for maintenance.

Generosity is an important part of our parish life.

- Many of our regular givers use the Parish Giving Scheme, and we continue to encourage others to join.
- Digital giving is available in both the church and the hall.
- We highlight the importance of giving at our AGM, helping the congregation understand our financial needs.
- We are exploring a new stewardship initiative to support long-term sustainability.

We aim to ensure that our finances can support the ongoing needs of both the church and the hall.

Recent steps include:

- Installing a new A-rated energy-efficient boiler.
- A new sound and vision installation with a redesigned and equipped under-5s area and Sensory Room
- Continuing to follow the quinquennial report (available on request) with environmental responsibility in mind.
- We have explored the Eco Church framework.

We hope our new incumbent will enjoy working alongside our experienced treasurer and PCC as we continue shaping a sustainable and forward-looking financial strategy.

GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP & MINISTRY

7.1 PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Our PCC and leadership team are a real strength of parish life. We work together in a spirit of collaboration, listening well to one another and discerning prayerfully as we seek God's guidance for St John's. There is a shared commitment to serving the parish with integrity, openness, and mutual support. Members bring a wide range of skills, experience, and perspectives, yet we are united by a common desire to see the church flourish.

This culture of trust and teamwork enables us to navigate challenges with confidence and to approach new opportunities with hope and creativity.

7.2 LAY LEADERSHIP & MINISTRY TEAM

A deeply committed team supports the worshipping life of St John's, offering their time and gifts with generosity and faithfulness. They play a vital role in sustaining the rhythm of our services, nurturing pastoral care, and encouraging discipleship across the parish. Their dedication creates a sense of stability and warmth, ensuring that people are welcomed, supported, and helped to grow in their faith. This team embodies the quiet strength of the church, serving with humility and a shared desire to see the whole community flourish.

We have one licensed Lay Reader.

7.3 OUR HOPE FOR PARTNERSHIP WITH A NEW VICAR

We are looking for a vicar who will join us as a partner in ministry—someone who will lead with us rather than for us. At St John's, we value collaboration, shared discernment, and the belief that the life of the parish flourishes when clergy and laity work side by side. We hope for a vicar who will listen well, encourage the gifts of others, and help us shape our mission together. This partnership approach reflects our desire to grow as a community rooted in prayer, mutual trust, and a shared commitment to serving God and the people of Knotty Ash.

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

8.1 OPPORTUNITIES

We see many encouraging opportunities ahead for St John's as we continue to grow and serve our community. There is real potential to develop our family ministry further, building on the relationships and foundations already in place. We are also excited about making fuller use of The Sir Ken Dodd Happiness Hall for Church and Community, exploring how it can become an even more vibrant resource for both church and community life. Alongside this, we hope to deepen our connections with local schools and hospitals, strengthening partnerships that allow us to support, encourage, and be present with people across Knotty Ash in meaningful ways.

8.2 CHALLENGES

Like many churches, we are mindful of the practical realities that shape our life together. We continue to navigate questions of financial sustainability and the ongoing care of our historic building, while also recognising the need to strengthen our volunteer base and deepen our engagement with children and young people. We hope to grow our visibility within the community and remain attentive to the wider social and economic challenges that affect the people of Knotty Ash. These are areas that invite thoughtful attention, steady hope, and a shared commitment to the future of St John's.

8.3 A PARISH READY FOR PARTNERSHIP

We believe St John's is a parish ready for genuine partnership. We are not seeking someone to arrive with all the answers or to fix everything on their own, but rather someone who will walk alongside us as we continue to grow, learn, and serve together. Our hope is for a vicar who will share the journey with us—bringing their own gifts and wisdom while valuing the strengths already present within the congregation. Together, we look forward to shaping the next chapter of our life and mission in Knotty Ash.

NOT YOUR ORDINARY CHURCH



What We Can Offer a New Vicar

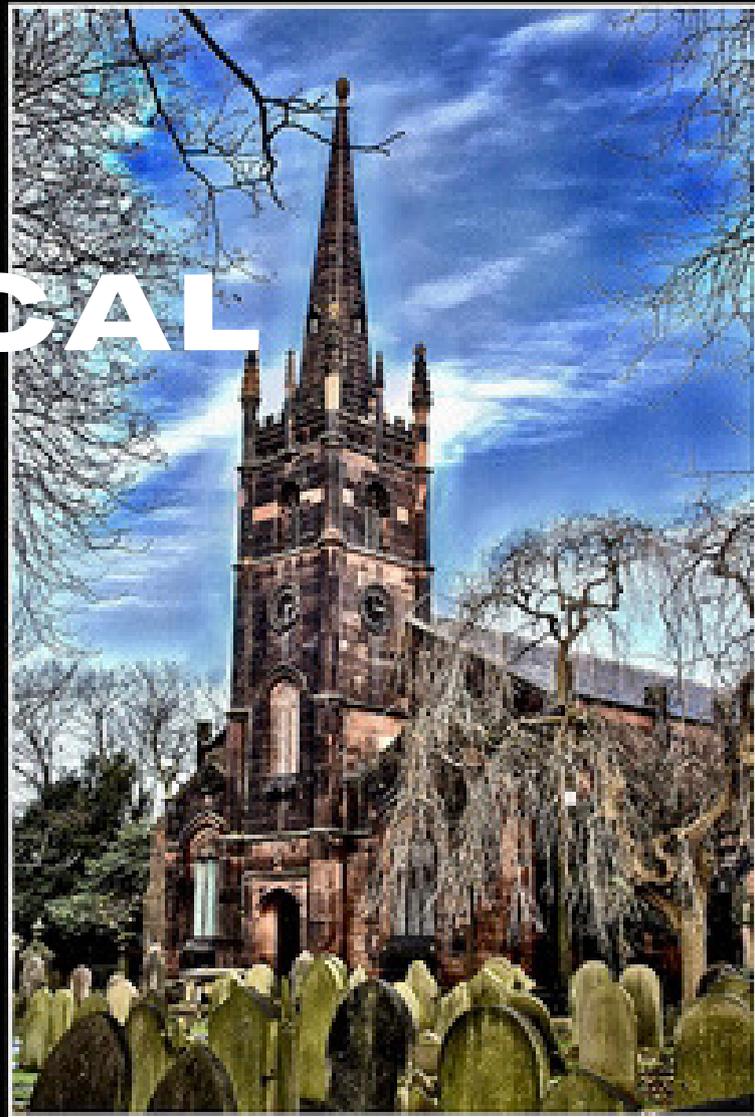
St John's offers a warm and welcoming community, rooted in faith and inclusive without exception, ready for the next chapter of growth. The parish has strong foundations for ministry, with committed lay leaders and a culture of collaboration that supports shared decision-making and mutual encouragement. We are blessed with The Sir Ken Dodd Happiness Hall for Church and Community, a vibrant and flexible space that opens up exciting possibilities for church and community life. Alongside these strengths, we recognise the importance of clergy wellbeing and are committed to creating an environment where our new vicar has the space to lead, breathe, and flourish. We hope to offer a place where ministry is both joyful and sustainable, supported by people who value partnership, prayer, and genuine care.

Are you a vicar who brings warmth and presence to parish life, someone who is inclusive and at ease among people of all ages? Do you offer confident and thoughtful leadership in worship, helping us to encounter God with depth and joy through intergenerational worship? Might you be a nurturer of discipleship, encouraging faith to grow in the everyday? Are you creative, engaging and ready to help us build on our current strengths, enabling us to develop a vision as we journey forward as a parish?



PRACTICAL DETAILS

- Parish: West Derby Deanery, Diocese of Liverpool, not in the larger single parish of CoH (Christ Our Hope)
- Vicarage: modern, comfortable, adjacent to the Church
- Stipend: diocesan rate
- Working pattern: balanced, with one full day off
- Prioritising Clergy Wellbeing and Safeguarding
- Support: deanery, PCC, volunteers
- Transport: locally well connected, trains, motorway and city centre (c3miles)

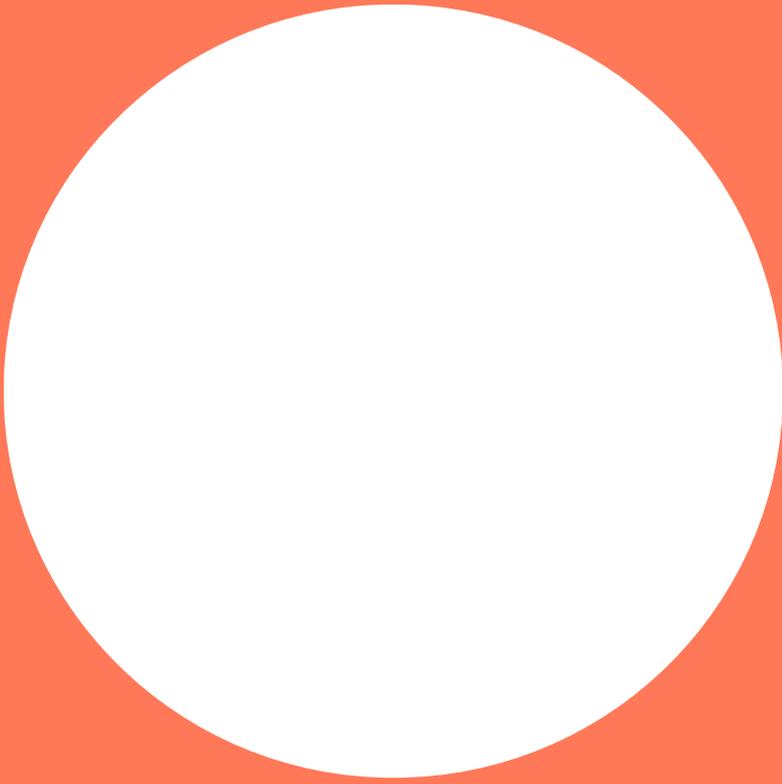


FACTS & FIGURES

Knotty Ash is a long-established residential community on the eastern edge of Liverpool, with a parish population of around 12,400–13,300. It is a predominantly working-class area with a broad age mix, including many families, single-person households, and long-term residents, and a slightly higher proportion of older adults than average. The parish sits within some of the most deprived areas nationally, with high levels of economic disadvantage, unemployment significantly above national averages, and many households on lower incomes. Housing is varied, ranging from terraced and semi-detached homes to newer developments, with a substantial amount of social and affordable housing. Despite these challenges, Knotty Ash is known for its strong identity, community spirit, and good local amenities, including schools, community centres, and transport links into the city, offering real opportunities for pastoral care, partnership, and mission.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Parish Dashboard (Church of England tool)
- Parish Spotlights from the Church Urban Fund
- Local authority statistics
- Office for National Statistics (ONS)
- IMD data for England



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST KNOTTY ASH

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