



ST JOHN'S CHURCH BIRKDALE

PARISH PROFILE

www.stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk



GOD CENTRED
RELATIONSHIP DRIVEN
LIFE TRANSFORMING

WELCOME TO BIRKDALE



**GOD CENTRED
RELATIONSHIP DRIVEN
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The parish of St John's is based in Birkdale in the North Meols Deanery, Southport.

As you read through our Parish Profile we really hope you will feel a sense of passion to further the mission and ministry of the Gospel within our Birkdale community. We believe that by working with energy, direction, purpose and prayer, we can see the church reaching beyond its walls, making new disciples and seeing God's Kingdom grow in Birkdale. We aim to be a God centred, relationship driven and life transforming presence in our community. Our church particularly feels there is a great need to nurture and reach out in the key area of young adults' ministry. The seeds of this are already being sown at St John's.

The Deanery plan is for 2 posts in Birkdale – an incumbent at St John's and an incumbent at St James' who will also be Priest in Charge at St Peter's. We have made some progress recently in building stronger links with St James' and St Peter's alongside furthering our relationship with Liverpool Road Methodist. This has included lay leadership beginning to build relationships with the intention to have regular meetings to enable us to work better together, support each other and plan for the future. We have also introduced opportunities for joint worship and social events. We would like applicants to be able to build on this positive start and help us develop these links and collaboration further.

SUMMARY OF THE PROFILE

Who are we?

- A committed, passionate group of Christians who have strengthened a church under lay leadership
- A church that has faced significant challenges over the past few years including the long term absence of the Priest in Charge and also navigating the pandemic. Despite these difficulties, under lay leadership the church has galvanised a refreshed vision and strategy and is on the journey to becoming God centred, relationship driven and life transforming. We want our new vicar to help us continue on this journey with the full support of the lay leadership team
- A welcoming church in a vibrant and attractive part of Southport
- A church working more closely with St James' and St Peter's to be a more effective Christian presence in Birkdale



What do we do?

- Aim to bring people to a personal and growing relationship with Christ
- Face challenges proactively and positively
- Embrace technology to facilitate our worship and maintain contact with our parishioners and wider community
- Care for our congregation pastorally
- Support our local community through the Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry and the Wellbeing Centre



How do we go about doing it?

- Hold Bible-based worship services
- Have regular prayer meetings and growth groups
- Proactively involve the members of our congregation who cannot attend church in person
- Care for each person associated with our church

“ I FELT SUCH A WARM WELCOME AT ST JOHN'S ”

What do we want from our Vicar?

Someone who will build upon the foundations we have established and help our church to grow spiritually and numerically

Please read our 'Vision and Strategy' document which is attached

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?



SOMEONE:

- Whose personal life is grounded in prayer and who has a passion to bring others to Christ
- Who leads by personal example in their discipleship
- Who can bring the gospel alive and relevant in their preaching
- Who is interested in building and maintaining relationships
- Who can work with the existing leadership team and whoever is in post at the other two Birkdale churches
- Who can recognise the potential in others and encourage it
- Who is happy and confident in leadership
- Who is willing to get out into the local community to be known and recognised
- Who takes ownership of our vision and who will develop and renew it

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BEING RUNG UP EVERY WEEK DURING
LOCKDOWN MADE ME FEEL PART OF THE
CHURCH AGAIN, I FELT YOU REALLY CARED FOR
ME

”

**THE PCC DID NOT PASS ANY RESOLUTIONS UNDER PRIESTS
(ORDINATION OF WOMEN MEASURE) 1993**

WHAT ARE WE OFFERING?

AT ST JOHN'S YOU CAN EXPECT:

- Support in prayer from our congregation and leadership team
- An established and committed leadership team to work with
- Experienced leaders who can support with leading services and preparing and delivering talks
- Commitment to our vision and strategy but with an openness to further development
- A hard working PCC with all key roles covered
- Fully supportive of a designated day off and time for rest
- An understanding of the need for good mental health and having a supportive team to talk to
- Annual holidays protected and encouraged
- Support for ongoing professional development



“ I REMAIN THANKFUL
TO YOU ALL FOR
YOUR SUPPORT AND
PRAYERS AND
THANKS TO GOD ”

ABOUT THE PARISH

WHERE ARE WE?

The parish is within walking distance of Birkdale village which is a thriving community with a continental flavour.

There are several wine bars, excellent restaurants and a wide range of independent retailers.

Southport is known as 'England's Golf Capital' and has excellent transport links to Liverpool, Manchester and Preston with their cultural heritage.



The parish of St. John's Birkdale is at the southern end of the North Meols Deanery stretching from Birkdale village in the north to Ainsdale village in the south and has a population of approximately 11,000 people. It is predominantly a busy suburban area with some small shops, light industry and farms to the eastern side of the parish. There are very few people in the parish from ethnic minorities. The parish is socially mixed with some pockets of deprivation. There is private and rented accommodation, some housing association homes, some local authority housing and a few pockets of new housing developments. There is a range of good primary and secondary schools in the area.



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OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

WHO ARE WE?

We are an outward looking church with a passion for spreading the gospel. We currently have an electoral roll of 66; 15 live outside the parish. Visitors and newcomers regularly say that we are a friendly and welcoming church family.

ACTIVITIES WE DO

A fortnightly prayer meeting is held via Zoom which is attended by around 20 people and two Growth Groups - young adults and adults - which meet twice a month.

We have a growing number of young adults joining our congregation and are running activities specifically for them. The children's and young people's groups we have are Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. Our annual Charity Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Market is a highlight of our calendar; around 25 charities each decorate a tree sponsored by the church. We also arrange an annual summer fair.

SOCIALS

We have a reputation for arranging regular and popular social events including themed meals, film nights, concerts and during lockdown arranged several quiz nights and bingo via Zoom. There is a separate programme of social events for young adults.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Parishioners are kept up to date with what is happening in the church through the website, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp group, weekly phone calls to those unable to access the internet and our monthly Parish magazine 'The Word'. Sermons are sent out by email and also recorded to be available on a free phone line and via the website.

SUPPORTING OTHERS

We support the Southport Soup Kitchen which provides meals to the homeless and supports families and have links with the local Food Pantry. We also support families referred to us by the Family Wellbeing Centre at the local Primary School with food vouchers and festive hampers. We support CMS, ReVive International and The Children's Society financially each year.

WE ARE OPEN TO REVIEWING OUR CHURCH LIFE AND LOOK FORWARD TO OUR NEXT VICAR TAKING US FORWARD WITH OUR VISION

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

Worship and Discipleship

During lockdown we moved away from formal liturgical services and now hold a service of Praise and Prayer at 10.30am every Sunday. This service is also zoomed live from church.

The average weekly attendance is between 50-60 across church and on Zoom. These services are led by the worship team of six people including one retired Vicar with PTO, one Reader with PTO and four people with authority from the PCC. Their ages range from mid-twenties to seventies.

The service includes a mixture of old and new hymns/worship songs, a Bible-based talk and prayers. On the first Sunday each month this service is followed by Holy Communion.

We have a monthly mid-week service of Holy Communion. This is a formal, robed, BCP service followed by refreshments.

Together with St James' we have been holding a monthly, informal time of worship, Sunday@7. This is currently under review.



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I'M SO BLESSED TO HAVE YOU ALL IN MY LIFE



BUILDINGS

The church is a Grade II listed building designed by Austin and Paley dating back to 1890.

It is light and airy and provides seating for approximately 350 on chairs and in pews. It has a three-manual pipe organ and a piano. The building is well maintained and has an Audio Visual and loop system installed. The church building is fully accessible, has a children's area at the back and a car park for 30 cars. The grounds are attractive and well maintained. The church is linked by a corridor to the hall which is also very well maintained.

THE HALL

Comprises a large hall which can seat 120 people and is fully accessible. It has a stage with an electric screen and sound system. There is a small hall which is carpeted and has a large flat screen TV and piano. There are toilets which are accessible to all. The kitchen is equipped to commercial standards.

There is an enclosed children's play area between the church and the hall. Both the church and the hall are cleaned weekly by paid cleaners. The hall is used by the uniformed organisations and a variety of regular hirers including Zumba, bridge group, gardening group, ballroom dancing, U3A group, children's tag rugby and is also available for other bookings such as children's parties. The hall bookings are managed by a hall lettings team.

THE VICARAGE

A 1930's detached five bedroom house in an attractive, quiet residential area (17 Kirkstall Road, PR8 4RA) and is within short walking distance of the church. It has three reception rooms, kitchen, garage, outhouse, gas central heating and gardens to the front and rear. The master bedroom has ensuite facilities. It is in a good location for primary and secondary schools.

MAINTENANCE

- There is some work required to the brickwork of the west wall (specified in the last quinquennial report).
- Some stone work and glazing to the large west window needs attention within the next five years and repairs could amount to approximately £70,000.
- We have reserves of £77,000.



OUR CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY



In recent years one of the highlights in the church calendar has been our Charity Christmas Tree Festival which has been well supported by local schools and individuals. It has brought large numbers of visitors to the church. We also support the Southport Soup Kitchen and the Family Wellbeing Centre. The church hall is used weekly by various groups and private lettings.



Recently there were both infant and adult baptisms, a wedding and a number of funerals in church. Those bereaved during the past five years are invited to an annual memorial service. We also invite the local community to this service and it is publicised on the church website and through social media. We also maintain a Book of Remembrance. Communion is available each month to those who are housebound.



The local primary school, Farnborough Road participates in the Christmas Tree Festival and our last Priest in Charge used to go into the junior school to take assemblies. We have good relationships with the school and have recently restarted links between our congregation and the children.



Within the parish there is one Methodist church and two Roman Catholic Churches. We have good links with the Methodist church and with St James' and St Peter's.

“ST JOHN'S IS SO WARM AND WELCOMING”

GOD CENTRED, RELATIONSHIP DRIVEN, LIFE TRANSFORMING

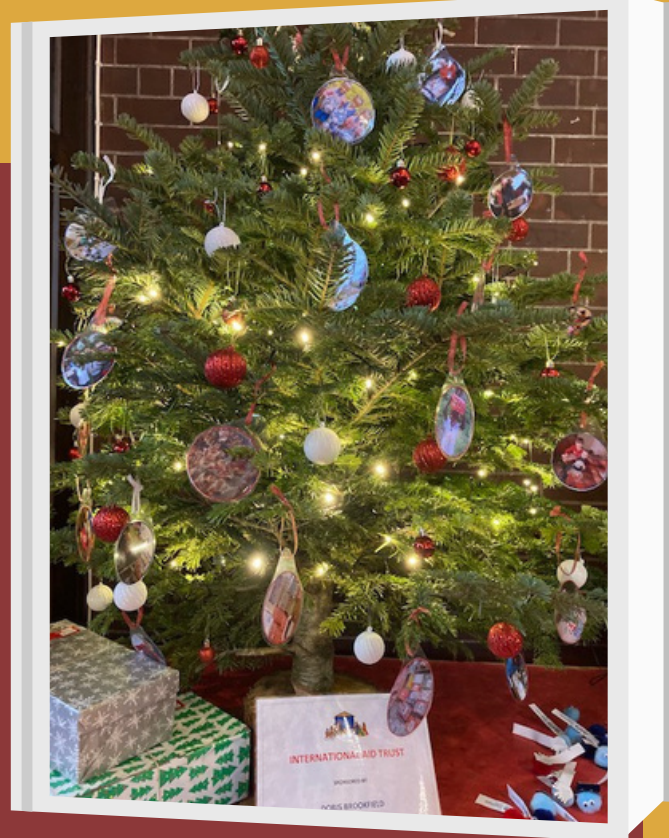
THE CONTEXT FOR MINISTRY

The PCC has a positive attitude, recognises the need for change and is looking forward to working in a supportive and collaborative way with our new Vicar. This is an exciting new chapter for St John's and we hope for you too.

We have spent time with our PCC working on our Church Strategy 2022 to articulate what we want to achieve and how we could get there, please take time to read the document and see how you could work with us on our vision as we aim to be a God centred, relationship driven and life transforming church in Birkdale.

We have started to develop a ministry with young adults through social events and the growth group. This has been done through the youngest member of our leadership team. We see this as an area for future growth at St John's.

Our finances are in a healthy position. We believe in direct giving, and a large number of parishioners are on the Parish Giving Scheme. We have an experienced and competent treasurer together with a Gift Aid Secretary. We support Diocesan guidelines for clergy expenses, working practices and holidays and appreciate the need for a recognised day off.



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'To equip his people for works
of service, so that the body of
Christ may be built up'

Ephesians 4:12

PLEASE GIVE THIS APPLICATION
PRAYERFUL THOUGHT

Find out more about us
on our website

www.stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk

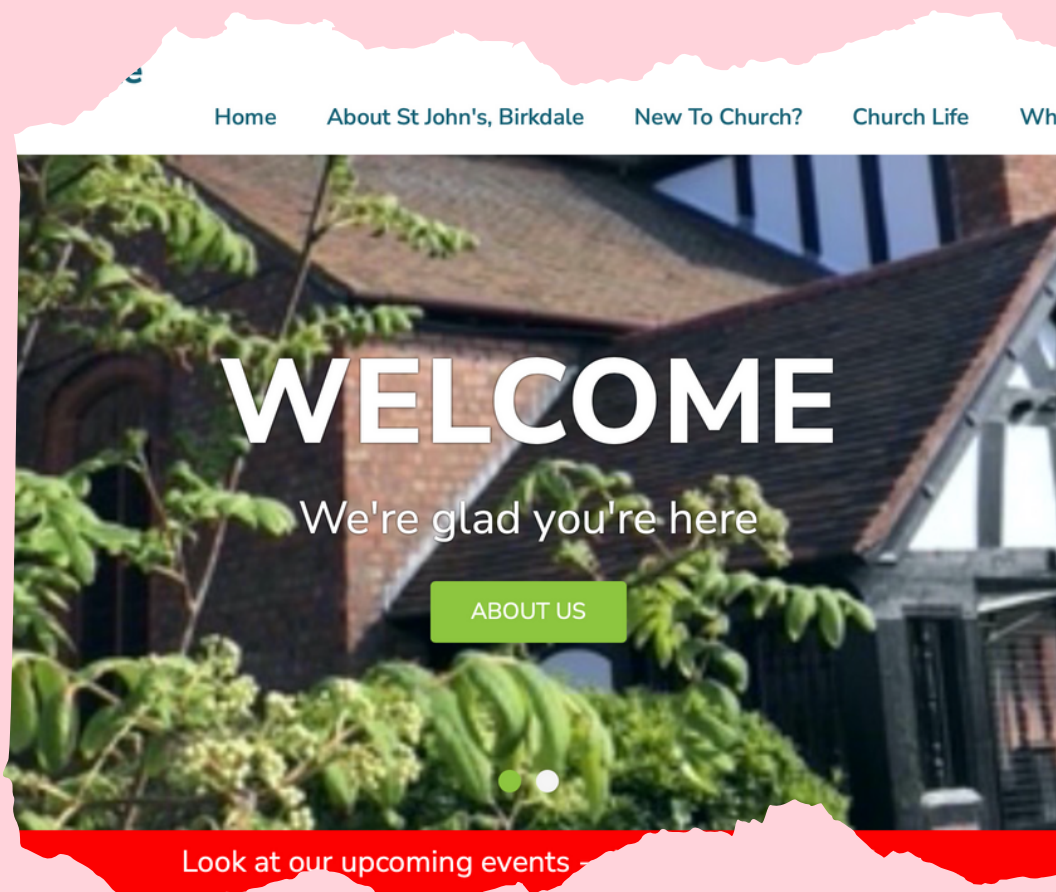
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THANK YOU FOR INSPIRING ME TO KEEP ON
WITH MY FAITH

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APPENDIX

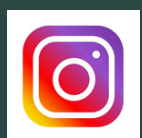
Please read the Vision and Strategy Document attached and look at our website for additional information.



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