



1. Summary

St. Anne's is seeking a new Vicar to lead us forward into the next phase of our constantly changing journey. The Church was consecrated in 1837, a few years prior to the formation of the Parish of Aigburth; over time it has seen changes in both its physical structure and its way of worshipping. It sits in a popular suburban area with excellent transport links, good quality schools and local shops and restaurants.

As a church with over 180 years of serving its community we have an established presence and many strengths that have developed over this time to provide a solid foundation of who we are and what we do. We are a church that is confident and financially sound, yet mindful of the need to change and adapt to the continuous challenges of our times.

The consequences for church attendance of the Covid pandemic are well documented and like many churches we find that our attendance numbers have failed to recover to pre-pandemic levels. There is a real sense within the Parochial Church Council that, despite our many past successes, we now find ourselves at a crossroads as we seek a direction that leads to a revitalisation of our mission and once again sees our church grow in number.

Our Strengths

- Strong and experienced team of ordained, lay and volunteer leaders.
- Sound financial management.
- Compliant building, structurally sound and in good repair.
- A spacious 4-bedroom detached Vicarage in good repair with a large garden located just opposite the Church.
- A 5-strong preaching team including Ordained Minister, Reader, Deacon and 2 Lay Preachers
- Varied worshipping styles
- An established presence of children and young people
- Flexible and open space for worship and other activities



Vicarage

Our Challenges

- Falling attendance.
- Insufficient children's and youth worker volunteers.
- A poorly attended Prayer Meeting.
- A Service offering that could better meet the needs of young families.
- An entrance area in need of improved accessibility and a more visibly welcoming first impression.
- Limited presence, visibility and engagement in the wider community.

2. Person Profile

The people of St. Anne's want to understand and embrace God's vision for our church, whatever that may be. Consequently, we want a Vicar who shares this desire and will help us to discern and then live out the exciting future that God has prepared for us.

He or she will be:

- A godly leader who reflects and models the life of faith in Christ, marked by humility and integrity. With genuine love of the Bible, following God's word faithfully and living in accordance with the requirements of eldership in Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3 he or she will be a Spirit-filled Christian able to encourage others in operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- A catalyst for change whilst having an open mind and being prepared to listen and consult.
- Respectful of the traditions of the Church and understanding that forms of worship need to meet the needs of all the congregation, as far as possible.
- Appreciative that Children's and Youth Work is essential to the very future of the church and must inspire and motivate young disciples.

- Respectful of differing theological views with a focus on what joins us as Christians rather than what may divide us.
- A good communicator who can convey the Gospel in an informative, thought provoking and inspiring way.
- Able to lead and work within a team understanding collective responsibility is a balance to strong leadership.
- To be supportive of our recently appointed Deacon the Rev. Anne Campbell
- Mission focused through service in the community.
- Someone with a good sense of humour!

3. About our Parish

The parish of Aigburth is in the Diocese and Archdeaconry of Liverpool and the Deanery of Liverpool South. It is about 4 miles to the southeast of the city centre and is well served by buses, trains and cycleways.



Sefton Park Palm House

Aigburth means "Place of the Oaks". It still has many green areas and fits the description of 'a leafy suburb'. Its modern development dates from the beginning of the 20th century and continues up to the present day.

Over nine thousand people live in the parish and this level has remained broadly static over the past ten years. It is fortunate in that it does not suffer from the levels of deprivation found in other parts of Liverpool, although there are some variations within it. Compared with the rest of the city there are more older people, a lower ethnic minority population, house prices are higher and social renting is low, unemployment is lower, crime is lower overall but burglaries are a problem. Educational attainment is higher and people's health is better.



Map of Parish

The Electoral Roll contained 101 names at the time of the APCM in April 2025. There is no major employer in the parish and many of the population work in the city centre or in the industrial areas of Garston or Speke.



St. Margaret's Academy

Educational institutions within the parish include: Sudley Infant and Junior Schools both of which are usually oversubscribed; St Margaret's Academy, a diocesan school for boys with provision for girls in Year 12/13 which is adjacent to the church; and Palmerston Special School.

The parish is spread along two main roads and there are three small neighbourhood shopping areas, with larger supermarkets within a mile or two.

There is a selection of bars, several restaurants, a medical centre, dentist, veterinary surgery and children's day nurseries. There are two sports and social clubs in or immediately adjacent to the parish. Liverpool Cricket Club runs several teams and delivers junior coaching in the parish, as well as staging a county match or two for Lancashire most years. It also offers tennis, squash, bowls and snooker, rugby union and hockey in winter. There are other sports clubs in and around the parish, as well Sefton Park and Otterspool Promenade fronting the River Mersey.



Liverpool Cricket Club

The congregation spans a full range of ages and as far as possible, we maintain an open approach in our response to requests for baptisms, weddings or funerals. We give a generous welcome, seeing such occasions as opportunities to demonstrate the love of God to those seeking such ministry.



Otterspool Promenade

4. About our Church

At St. Anne's we welcome all and seek to provide a range of both traditional and contemporary services to appeal to the differing needs of our congregation.



Church interior (view from rear gallery)

We currently offer the following services:

Name	Frequency	Time	Attendance
Traditional Communion Service	Every Sunday	9.15am	18-30
Contemporary Worship	Every Sunday	11am	80-100
Mid-Week Communion	Every Wednesday	11am	12-25
Deeper Service	Monthly (Sunday Evening)	6pm	12-20

Note: During Summer holidays there is only a single 10am Sunday Service

Those attending the Sunday Traditional and Wednesday communion services are mostly older parishioners (over 90%) whilst the congregation at the Contemporary Service is mainly families and younger parishioners.

The “Deeper” service is for those Parishioners seeking to deepen in discipleship and involves Worship Songs, discussions on scripture and prayer.

In addition to the above, there is a Tuesday morning (10am) Prayer Meeting which at present is attended by an average of 3-4 people.

Extra services are held on Christmas Day, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Remembrance Sunday, when there is a Service for the Bereaved at 6:30pm in addition to the morning Remembrance Service.

Special services include Confirmation, Mothering Sunday, Harvest Thanksgiving, Christingle, Christmas Carol services and the Sunday Schools’ Anniversary celebration.



Refreshments after mid-week communion

Children’s and Youth Groups

At the Sunday Contemporary Service, we run the following children’s and youth groups.

Name	Age Range	Attendance
Sparks	0-2yrs	4
Flame	3-7yrs	8-12
Blaze	7-11yrs	15
Inferno	11+ yrs	10



We are a child friendly church and meeting the needs of our children and young people is an integral part of our worship and wider pastoral offering.

We are blessed at St. Anne’s to have a good number of children attending our services and we are keen to see them thrive and develop through their Christian journey.

We have had some success with our children's and youth work in recent years but we are not yet fully addressing the needs of our older children and young adults. Finding volunteers and developing children's and youth leaders to support this work has been challenging and the PCC sees this as an area of focus in its forward strategy for growth.

We have a great team of people at St. Anne's and have a core of people willing to give of their time to support the Vicar in the running of the Church and we have a great breadth and depth of experience in both spiritual and practical skills. We are fortunate to have individuals with expertise in areas such as health and safety, office administration, safeguarding, building management and IT and Social Media.

This team enables the Vicar to concentrate on missional growth and deepening discipleship whilst not being unduly distracted by the many routine tasks that running a church brings.



Working in Our Community

St. Anne's is not simply a place where you get baptised, married or attend a funeral. Though of course we do these particularly well!



We offer a range of activities that may be enjoyed by all within our local community and beyond. We wish to see our church at the centre of community life and our building bristling with activity.

Below are examples of some of our regular and periodic activities:

- St. Anne's Stars Toddler Group
- Friday Night Youth (11yrs+)
- Wednesday Lunch Club (once a month)
- Organ Recitals
- Film Nights
- Wine tasting
- Christmas Fayre
- Children's Summer Camp
- Hiking and walks
- Curry night
- Men's Breakfast
- Community Litter Pick
- Biennial Parish Weekend



Youth Orchestra Performance

Some activities are organised by outside organisations:

- Brownies
- Gospel Choir
- Alcoholics Anonymous Group
- Vintage Fayre
- Youth Orchestra



St Anne's Stars

St. Anne's Stars is a thriving toddler group attended by over 40 children and their carers, many of whom are non-church goers every Thursday morning between 9.30-11am. It is held in the Nave of the church.

The group is fully inclusive and is open to anyone with or without a religious faith.

This group projects a very positive image of St. Anne's within the local community and is much valued by those who attend. Its warm, welcoming and fun approach provides a place for young children to interact and play whilst also being a great opportunity for carers to socialise together and share their experiences of looking after children.

Men & Women's Ministry

We have an active Men and Women's ministry and through the year arrange walks, meals out, film nights, camping trips etc.

These events are designed to deepen ties between fellow members of the congregation and strengthen the sense of fellowship as well as finding opportunities for shared prayer and worship.



Men's walk to Pen-Y-Ghent

Lunch Club



Our lunch club is held on the first Wednesday of each month following the mid-week communion service. It is open to all for a small charge and but is predominantly aimed at the "Elderly Alone".

This friendly and sociable lunch club gives people a great opportunity to meet, enjoy a delicious meal and hopefully make new friends. It is just another part of our mission to reach out to those in our community who may otherwise feel isolated.

Alcoholics Anonymous

As a church we host an Alcoholics Anonymous group which takes place each Wednesday evening.

Whilst the service is run independently, we feel that hosting the service sends a message that the church is there for those vulnerable members of our society who need support.



St. Margaret's Academy



We enjoy a close relationship with the Church of England Secondary School Academy adjacent to the church. The Academy regularly makes use of the church building for school activities, and the Vicar provides support for school admissions based on a Christian faith.

Uniquely St. Anne's provides an Organ Scholarship for two students from the Academy who wish to learn to play the organ, this has been running for 2 years and is supported through restricted funds raised by the St. Anne's Organ Restoration Committee.

Overseas Mission



The PCC regularly makes an annual charitable donation to worthwhile causes whether at a local, national or international level. This year has seen church members joining the International Needs charity on a trip to Buikwe, Uganda to assist in both physical building projects and Christian Mission.

It is hoped that this missionary work will deepen and develop with church members sponsoring a child to enable them to have adequate food, clothing and pay for their education. The church responded magnificently in raising the funds to sponsor three members of our congregation to join this year's mission.

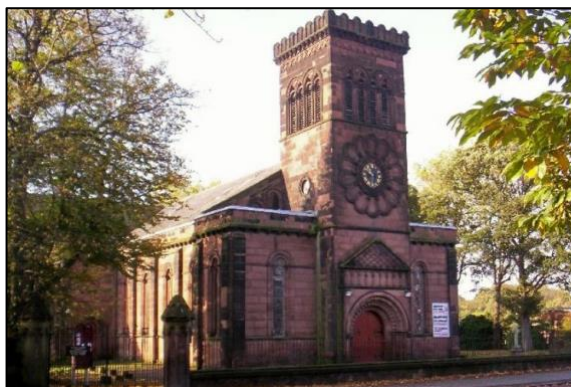


Food Club



We support the Everyone's Aigburth Food club, just a short distance from the church. We have a regular food collection point for members of the congregation to make food donations and offer both the Church and the Aigburth community the opportunity to recycle good quality local school uniforms, 'from pre-loved to re-loved' addressing both financial and eco awareness.

Our Building



Our Grade II* Listed Building is only one of two surviving places of Christian worship in Aigburth, with the Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches having both been closed and converted into apartments. The other Christian place of worship is Aigburth Community Church in Dundonald Road who use the former Parish Hall which they purchased from us.

Overall, the church is in good condition and is well managed with a volunteer Building Manager supporting the Churchwardens in ensuring statutory compliance and maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

Space2Grow

Having sold our hall, and only having our church building, has necessitated the need for re-modelling to make it a more flexible space suitable for a variety of activities. This was achieved through the removal of the church pews, the laying of a new floor to the Nave and introducing a kitchen and two additional toilets. We have termed the project Space2Grow and plan to implement a second phase to improve the entrance area and accessibility. Plans for this second phase have been approved by the PCC and funds are available for the work.

A Dynamic Space

The changes made to the building 4 years ago have transformed how the church is now used and there is an activity of one form or another, almost every day of the week. From formal or informal worship to toddler groups, gospel choirs, Brownies, school lessons and a hub for recruiting care staff the building is being made to work.

Our project is not yet complete, and we have some challenges with access and storage, lighting and decoration which we hope to address in 2026 with the capital raised from the sale of our church hall.

Henry Willis Organ

The most significant internal asset is our magnificent Henry Willis pipe organ which, through the work of our dedicated Organ Restoration Committee, we have been working hard to fully refurbish through fund raising and grant applications. For more information see <https://www.stannesaigburth.com/about-us/organ-restoration-campaign/>

5. The Wider Context



The Deanery embarked on the Fit for Mission process over 12 months ago, culminating in a vote by St. Anne's PCC not to join a Larger Single Parish. Whilst this period of discernment saw us remain a separate parish, the process did identify a need for change and revitalisation of our mission in Aigburth if we are to generate growth and address falling attendance numbers.

The Deanery

Our Deanery is led by the Area Dean (Rev. Nicola Milford), Lay Dean (Ian Crowe), Assistant Lay Dean (Paul Roberts) and the Deanery Leadership Team

Liverpool South Deanery .

The Deanery is entering fresh territory as it seeks to adapt to the challenges of the formation of one Larger Parish (9 Worship Communities) and 7 separate singular Parishes. The Deanery Leadership Team is keen to promote a spirit of collaboration between the different worshipping communities and to maintain the strong links that have been developed within the Deanery. The Vicar we seek will need to recognise that, whilst St. Anne's has chosen to remain outside of Fit for Mission, this does not mean that it sees itself as separate but rather an active partner in a wider and diverse Deanery that fosters team working, the sharing of best practice and the development of real and lasting fellowship.

Our Priorities

The PCC supports the four Diocesan key principles of:

- Introducing more people to Jesus
- Deepening discipleship
- Developing Christian leaders
- Working for Justice

On making its decision not to proceed into a Larger Parish the PCC has embarked upon developing its own strategy for renewal and growth, highlighting 7 key areas to be addressed as follows:

- Children and Youth
- Prayer
- Community
- Finance
- Mission
- Space2Grow Project
- Marketing & Visibility

A member of the PCC has been appointed to lead on each separate strand of activity and will co-ordinate and drive small teams to develop strategies and an action plan to deliver outcomes.

To help us evolve into a growing church, we need a Vicar who has the energy and dynamism for such a challenge and who relishes the opportunity to shape change and re-energise God's mission in Aigburth.

They will need to bring an ability to manage and motivate the various teams, have a strong focus on developing Children's and Youth Work along with a passion for delivering a vibrant and inviting Gospel of Jesus that excites people to come through our doors.

The PCC is open to change, and new ideas and any new Vicar would need to be able to help shape these as well as providing a stimulus for new and innovative ways of reaching out to our community to help them see the benefits of having Jesus in their lives.

Supporting a New Vicar

St. Anne's is extremely fortunate to have a Deacon (Rev. Anne Campbell), Reader (Paul O'Brien), Lay Preachers (Tim Hughes & Pelumi Ojuri) and an Ordained Minister (Rev. Gary Rennison). Gary is a member of our congregation and also holds the role of National Discernment Adviser within the Church of England. This team would be able to assist any new Vicar in delivering mission and worship.

Additionally, the PCC has a Standing Committee with delegated authority to take decisions outside of the regular PCC meetings. This comprises the PCC Vice Chair, 2 Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary and Building Manager, these people will be key in providing practical support to any new Vicar. The Standing Committee coincidentally has both the Deanery Lay Chair and Assistant Lay Chair amongst its membership.

A valued volunteer supports the vicar and church team by preparing digital and paper materials for worship and communication. Each week they create PowerPoint slides for both Sunday services, as well as for religious festivals such as Easter and Christmas, and other special occasions (Harvest, and Remembrance Sunday, for example). These slides include visuals to support both Holy Communion and the sermon, song lyrics, bible readings, prayer prompts and weekly notices. These are then uploaded into Easy Worship software each week to be used, via the projector, during services.

In addition to service preparation, this volunteer sends an email to the clergy team each week detailing roles and responsibilities for the Sunday services and paper copies of the order of service are produced for the team on the day. They also manage the distribution of the weekly church newsletter using Mailchimp (a web-based tool), ensuring timely and effective communication with the congregation, which is sent out each Thursday. Finally, they assist with other small administrative tasks, including preparing paperwork for Baptisms.

On average, this role involves around 2.5 hours of work per week, though this can vary depending on the season and church calendar.

House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Women Priests

The PCC has passed no resolutions and fully supports the ordination of women priests.

House of Bishops decision on Living in Love and Faith

The PCC has passed a resolution that supports the House of Bishops position.

Thank you for showing an interest in our Vacancy we hope this profile has provided the information that you need. If you do have any questions, then please email these to iscrowe@yahoo.co.uk.