

Role Description

Signed off by: Archdeacon of Liverpool
Date: 12th June 2025
Role title: Priest in Charge, Kirkdale Churches
The two parishes of St Athanasius, and St Lawrence with St Paul, held in plurality. This post is initially offered as a 3 year interim post pending potential pastoral reorganisation.
Deanery: Liverpool North & Walton
Archdeaconry: Liverpool

The Context:

Kirkdale is a neighbourhood just to the north of Liverpool city centre, bordered to the west by the docks. The neighbourhood has always been a working class area, with some recent regeneration taking place – notably the new Everton stadium. Liverpool is a fabulous place to live and work, with world class sporting and cultural facilities and excellent transport links. In 2024 Liverpool was named as one of the friendliest cities in the world by Conde Nast Traveller, who said:

"Liverpool is now a capital of cool, where vintage shops, art galleries and art venues inject a creative atmosphere into the streets. Stretched along the Mersey's sweeping shore, Liverpool is a port city bursting with life, as locals here are wildly outgoing and good-humoured, not to mention fond of a great night out."

This post brings together two parishes with three churches, which together serve c.17,000 people. Statistically, they are two of the most deprived parishes in the Church of England, ranking 19 and 32 out of 12,239 in the CUF statistics. This post is initially offered on a three year interim basis pending pastoral reorganisation. In this interim period the churches want to grow closer together and explore, with others in the Deanery, becoming part of a larger single parish through the diocesan Fit for Mission strategy – or otherwise joining together on a more formal basis. This post would therefore suit *either* someone wishing to offer an intentional interim ministry, *or* someone who would like to see this period of change through, shaping a new organisational future in which they could potentially have a longer term future.

The congregations and PCCs are excited to be working together in this new way, and are looking forward to the opportunities that this new way of working will bring. Might you be the person they are praying for, who can love and serve this place, lead these churches and the wider Deanery closer together in mission, identify new opportunities for growth and service, and grow the Kingdom of God here?

The Priorities:

- Lead the congregations of the three churches in further embedding and developing new ways of partnership working
- Lead the Kirkdale churches through change, engaging with and shaping a new future together, with a particular initial focus on Fit for Mission.
- Be committed to and further develop the community focus of these churches, affirming existing activity and developing new partnerships
- Build on existing relationships (eg with Scouts and other groups) to find suitable ways to introduce people to Jesus
- Develop and deepen discipleship with new and existing church members, intentionally growing new leaders and identifying new missional opportunities

- Lead the PCCs and others in developing more robustly sustainable finances, with a focus on generous giving, increasing other sources of income, and church growth.

The Leadership role in Liverpool Diocese:

For many years we have been working to achieve growth in our diocese. We have used different ways to express this but the aim and direction of travel has remained the same – consistent with the whole of the Church of England. We have articulated a vision for this growth by saying

**we are asking God for a bigger church so that we can make a bigger difference:
more people knowing Jesus and more justice in the world.**

In our diocesan vision we have identified four priority areas for our work in mission in this season:

- Introducing people to God through Jesus Christ
- Deepening discipleship, especially by means of our Rule of Life
- Developing Christian leaders in every place
- Working for justice

Like everyone entering a new role in the Diocese, you will accept the priority of these areas, and will measure your ministry by effectiveness in these areas. You will be supported and expected to be accountable (through the Ministerial Development Review as well as through regular meetings with your colleagues) for how they are being implemented within your area of responsibility.

In common with all clergy in the diocese, you will work together with others and be committed to:-

1. Establish a culture of invitation in evangelism within the local church.
2. Start new worshipping communities and maintain existing healthy worshipping communities that are accessible to all.
3. Establish a culture in the local church of expecting a deepening of discipleship and putting into practice the 6 disciplines of the Rule of Life.
4. Develop prayerfully a strategy for mission and church growth and aligning it with the Diocesan strategy Fit for Mission.
5. Identify, train, release and support new Christian leaders and teams.
6. Encourage vocations by identifying the gifts of others and assisting people to seek God's calling for their lives.
7. Develop the distinctive ministry of the local Church within the wider context of the Diocese, Deanery and local ecumenical setting by establishing and maintaining good collaborative working relationships with clergy and lay colleagues.
8. Lead your congregations both to pray for justice in the Church and the world and to recognize how, working with others, your congregations can work for more justice in the Church, your local communities, and the world.
9. Ensure that safeguarding, financial and other governance disciplines are followed.

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You will be expected to be committed to attending Deanery and Diocesan events, such as Chapter, Clergy Leadership Team meetings arising out of and engaging with Fit for Mission, and Diocesan clergy study days. You will be committed to conducting yourself in accordance with the relevant professional guidelines, to your own personal practice of prayer, and to continuing ministerial education.

This Role Description will be reviewed annually at the Ministerial Development Review (MDR) and may be updated subsequent to the MDR to reflect important changes in the ministry of the priest and the context of that ministry, including wider responsibilities in the diocese. Significant changes to this role description should be agreed with the church wardens in consultation with the PCC, in a team ministry with team clergy and with the area dean and signed off by the Archdeacon.

Housing

The post is a full time stipendiary post, on Common Tenure. Housing will be provided with this post for the better performance of your duties.

The house is 54 Fonthill Road, a detached four bedroom house in a quiet modern residential street which has been redeveloped in recent years.



The floor plan briefly comprises:

An entrance porch leads on to a hallway, with built in storage. Off the hallway is a downstairs toilet, and three main reception rooms. As you stand with your back to the entrance door, the room usually used as a study is on your right, and on your left is the dining room/second reception room. A door straight ahead leads to the main living room, which in turn has garden access on your right, and a door leading to the kitchen on your right. Between the kitchen and the dining room is a small utility room/side porch.

Stairs lead off from the hall to the left (above the utility room). Upstairs there are two double bedrooms to the front of the house, one of which has an additional annexe above the garage which would be suitable for either storage or as a hobby room. At the back of the house there are two more bedrooms (a single and a double), and the family bathroom.

Externally there is an integral garage to the front of the house, and easily managed gardens with lawns, paving and shrubs to the front and back. There is parking for 2-3 cars on the front drive.