

church
St Helens
Renewing Hope

Portfolio lead:

For either Evangelism
or Communications

Team Vicar:

With responsibility for
the worshipping
communities at St Pauls
and St Phillips Parr.



Some key things you need to know:

Portfolio Lead and Team Vicar

These roles are key to Church St Helens. We have eleven churches that agreed to work together as one single larger parish. That means that we currently have a team of fifteen stipendiary clergy (including curates and two part time roles). We are learning together what it means to work as a team to the glory of God in St Helens.

As a larger single parish we are aiming to work more closely with one another: bringing together our laity and clergy to be more effective in mission, discipleship, leadership and justice. This continues to be a work in progress and we are looking for a dynamic leader who can continue this journey of change with us. It promises to be exciting, challenging and innovative.

As a clergy team we are building on the good relationships that we have and learning together what being a team could mean.

We are encouraging clergy to work to their strengths and sense of calling. One way is for clergy to lead a portfolio or learning community. We are hoping to find someone with gifts in either evangelism or communication who can lead a portfolio. This doesn't mean doing all the work but ensuring that we deliver with good practice and oversight.

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Some key things you need to know:



Support services: We have a team of part-time staff that support the parish. Yvonne is the manager and buildings officer, ably assisted by finance officer Nic, and admin staff Lorraine, Emma and Kim. They are based in new offices at St Thomas' church in the town centre. This is a friendly and versatile team that aims to lighten the admin load of clergy and amongst other things: manage funeral bookings, reimburse expenses and support comms. For example this team has helped to bring our church buildings from 24% to 81% compliance.

Eleven Growth and Vision Teams, One PCC: Each local context has a Growth and Vision (GV) **leadership team** whose role is to focus on mission in the local area. Each church building also has a **wardens team** that looks after all of the practical aspects. We have **one single PCC** for the whole larger parish: members were elected at our first PCM in May - not every community will have an elected member but the PCC serves every context. We learned a new word 'subsidiarity': we aim to make decisions as close to the context as possible. The PCC is great at agreeing policy for everyone, it is important that GV teams make local recommendations and decisions.

One Treasurer: eleven finance officers: We have a volunteer treasurer who helps keep our finances in order and manages a team of local finance officers in collaboration with finance officer Nic.

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Worshipping Communities

Cultivate

Buildings



Worshipping Communities and Cultivate: Our growth strategy is based on deepening discipleship and releasing lay people into leadership. We now have a lay/clergy team that is running regular 'Grow' and 'Cultivate' courses to equip and enable people to discern and realise vision. (More info at: <https://www.cultivateleaders.co.uk/>). We have been really pleased with the number of new worshipping communities set up and the refreshing of some already in existence. Mentoring leaders and managing this growth is a big task.

St Helens participants gave this feedback about the Cultivate course:

'I really loved the chance to come together from different churches to be inspired, stirred and challenged to be missional with a spirit of urgency, courage and perseverance'

'Great course, I would encourage all Christians to attend this course. Given me so much encouragement especially in one week when I felt like giving up. God has really spoken to me during these times. I started with no vision but now realise my vision is already started. Thank you'

We have undergone a **Right Buildings** process to audit our buildings. We decided to close one building and a further four are currently in a feasibility process. This will change the shape of the parish and how we work. We do still reference the geography of the LSP in terms of the original parishes but we consider them as a focal point from which worshipping communities are connected. We are not all about the building.

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Clergy Team



It is not all about the clergy!

We currently have a team of 10 clergy in a mixture of full and part time posts plus five curates. Whilst clergy still retain leadership of a significant worshipping community our aim is to work to our strengths and share tasks when possible. Our focus is to develop a wide range of worshipping communities that may be lay-led and are not necessarily based in one of our buildings. We are developing a range of portfolios and learning communities based on key specialist areas. This is still all in development. We have a team coach who has been facilitating us to take more risks and develop as a team. It is a great time to welcome a new full time team member who would like to join us on this journey.

Not every context is the same and our clergy reflect the breadth of tradition in the Church of England. We have loved learning from each other and need a colleague who values our diversity.

As a clergy team we are building on the good relationships that we had already in the deanery and learning together what being a team can mean. We commit to meeting weekly from 11-2pm each Tuesday for worship, discussion, etc.

Could you imagine being part of our team?
What qualities would you bring?

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St Helens

Location of St Helens



The Place: St Helens is part of Liverpool Diocese, it is more or less sandwiched between the East Lancs and M62 and has the city of Liverpool to the west and Warrington and Manchester to the east.

St Helens is a town with a distinct identity and a proud heritage. Rugby league runs in people's veins. St Helens has a strong industrial history with generations connected to the mining industry, to the glass industry or pharmaceuticals. As the fortunes of the town have changed there have been challenges to face. Whilst there are many positive developments some areas do experience significant long-term unemployment, low incomes, low aspirations, child poverty, and poor health outcomes. Considerable new building in the wider area of roads and housing reflects the new businesses and occupations of its residents.

Parr: Parr is in the east of St Helens. The areas covered by our churches are largely residential, with a few small industrial estates, local shopping precincts and parks.

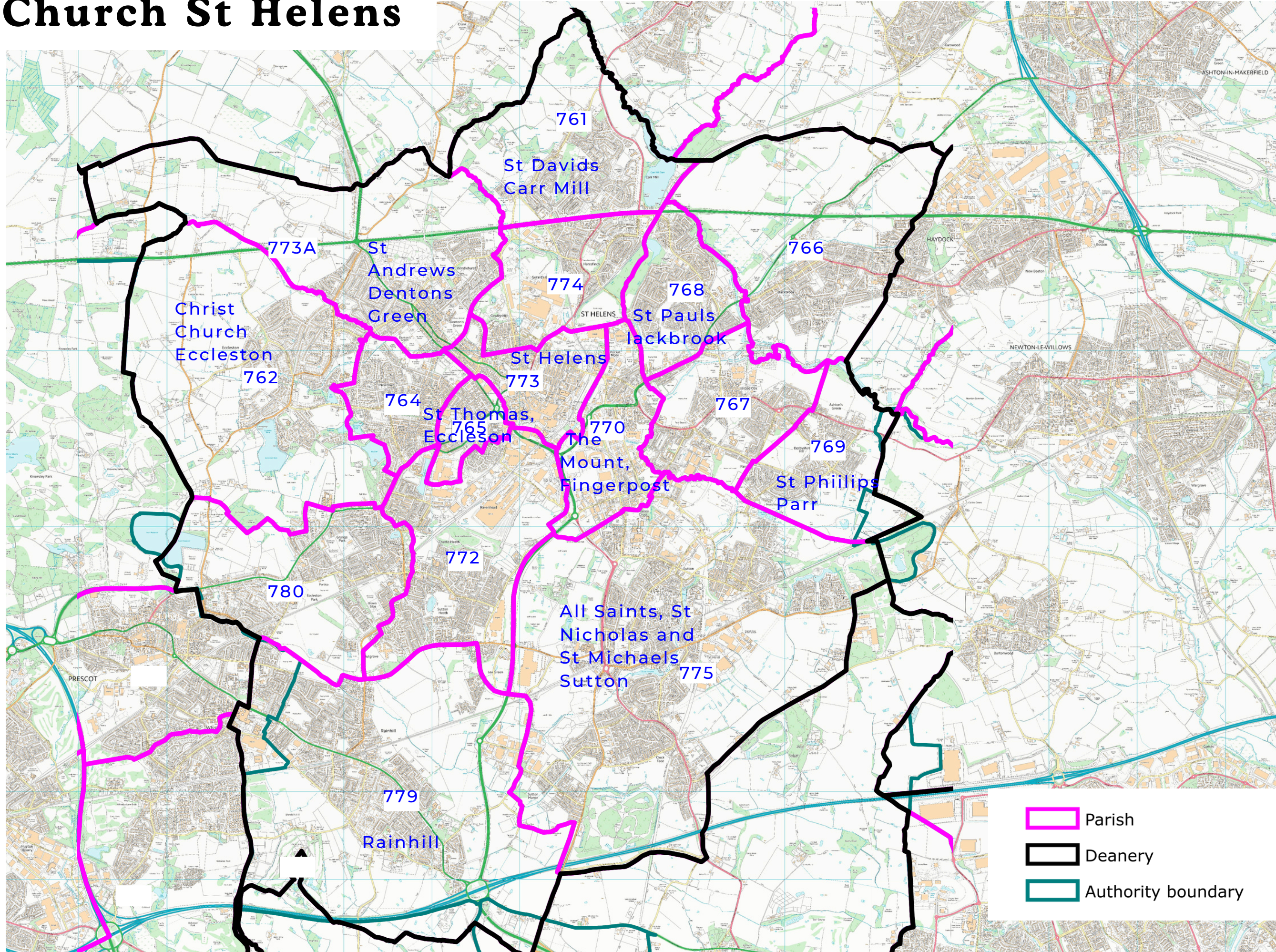
The housing includes:

- owner occupied 1970's housing,
- social housing developments, mainly 1950's & 60's, including one known as "Cement City" because houses were built quickly and cheaply using cement blocks.
- some new housing developments

The residential areas are interspersed with a significant number of parks and green spaces, including: Bosworth Fields, Ashurst Park, Merton Bank Open Space, Nanny Goat Park and The Licker, Gaskell Park, The Duckeries, and Colliers Moss Common.

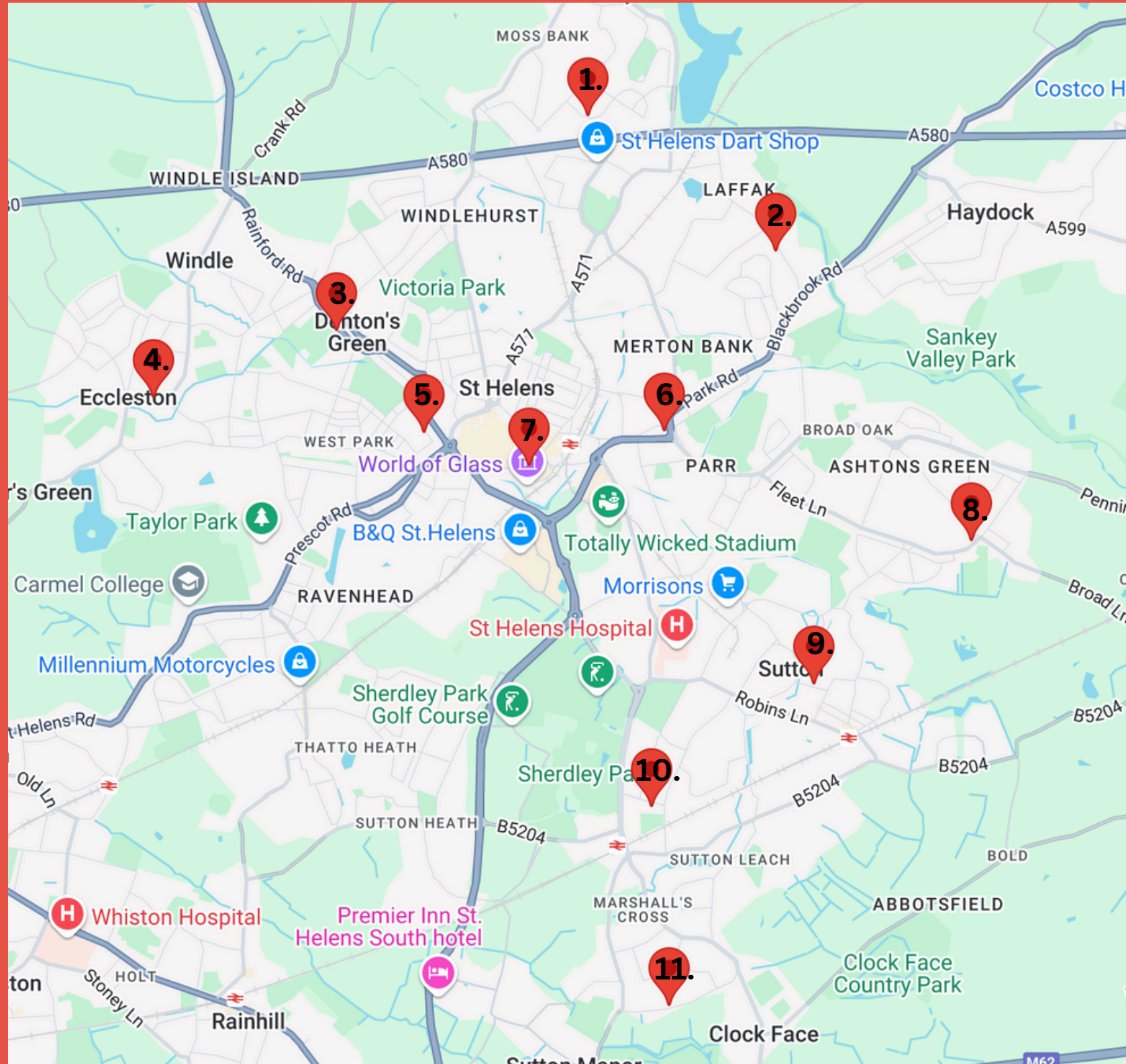


Church St Helens



Church St Helens church buildings:

interactive map available: <https://www.churchsthelens.org>



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8. St Philip, Derbyshire Hill
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10. St Nicholas, Sutton
11. St Michael & All Angels, Sutton

St Paul's Blackbrook is situated on Chain Lane, St Helens, WA11 9QF.

St Philip's Derbyshire Hill is situated on Derbyshire Hill Road, St Helens, WA92LJ

The Growth and Vision teams introduce St Pauls and St Phillips churches in Parr.

Population and demographics

The People

Overall Population: 20,000 people across 8,300 households

St Philip's Church: local population

- 26% under 18
- 36% aged 45+
- 1% most deprived parish in the Church of England
- 36% child poverty
- High unemployment and low income
- Over 40% of adults lack formal qualifications
- Over 40% of households in social housing
- Over 40% of households with children are lone-parent families
- 30% single-person households leading to social isolation
- Above-average ill health
- Many local schools have 50%+ pupil premium

St Paul's Church: local population

- 20% under 18
- 50% aged 45+
- 15% most deprived parish in the Church of England
- Merton Bank and Ashurst Estate face high deprivation
- North and west ranked average for the UK

CURRENT SUNDAY WORSHIP PATTERN	<u>St Pauls</u>	<u>St Philips</u>
Wednesday Morning Communion		11-00am
1st Sunday of the Month	9-00am Holy Communion 10-15am Service of the Word	11-00am Service of the Word
2nd Sunday of the Month	10-15am All Age Worship 6-00pm Holy Communion	11-00am Holy Communion
3rd Sunday of the Month	10-15am Holy Communion	11-00am Service of the Word
4th Sunday of the Month	10-15am All Age Worship with Baptism or Holy Communion 6-00pm Praise and Worship	11-00am Cafe Church
5th Sunday of the Month		11-00am Worship for All
Occasional Offices (in the last 12 months)	<u>St Pauls</u>	<u>St Philips</u>
Baptisms	4	12
Weddings	1	0
Funerals	3	3

St Paul's Blackbrook

*Our vision is to come alongside the
people of Blackbrook and make
disciples of Jesus*



About

St Paul's church is in a largely residential part of the parish on the north edge of St Helens. It is home to around 8,000 people. There is some local industry, a shopping precinct, a supermarket and a community centre. There are three primary schools within the parish, Merton Bank, Ashurst, and St Mary's RC Primary. The parish also contains two care homes (one residential and one respite/assessment centre).

Our People

We are a warm and welcoming congregation in which a lot of people play an active role. There are currently 45 people on the electoral roll. The current Sunday morning attendance is usually 20-30 people. The congregation are predominantly aged over sixty, with a handful of younger adults and families with school-aged children. Our congregation includes a strong team of 5 lay readers (three of whom have PTO) who help to lead worship across the two churches.

Our Building

The church building was built in 1973, extended in 1974 and then again in 1994. It's a wooden frame, multipurpose building with worship area, office, kitchen, and halls. There is a good-sized car park at the rear. As well as church activities, the building is used by some external users, including Silver Swans Ballet and community craft group.

Our Church Life

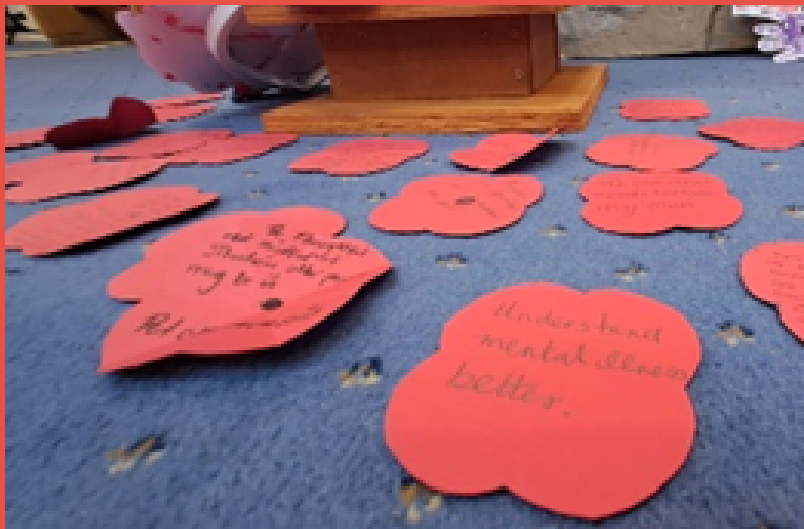
Children's activities are an important part of our church life:

- **St Paul's pre-school** runs Monday – Friday mornings during term time. There are five qualified staff who are supported by a Voluntary Management Committee (currently chaired by the Curate in Charge). Three members of this management committee volunteer in the pre-school on a weekly basis. There is also now a weekly TnT (tea and toast) group for parents run by the curate as a way of reaching out to families in the community.
- **Tiddlers**, is our baby and toddler group, that has run for over 40 years. It continues to meet weekly and currently serves approx. 15 families.
- **Special Worship for Everyone** takes place over Christmas and Easter. Tiddlers and pre-school families are always invited to these.

We have a **monthly lunch club**, open to all members of the community, providing light lunches and activities for all. We serve approximately 30 lunches each month; Children and Parents from pre-school are invited to attend at the end of their morning session, and many members of the community craft group come before their group begins. This is an exciting and growing area of our ministry.

Gladness Singers meet weekly in church. This church-led community choir began in 2019 and has given performances throughout St Helens. They have led worship experiences over Easter and Christmas at both St Paul's and St Philip's.

Worship: On Sundays, we worship in an informal style, liturgy and songs are projected on screen. We mostly use iSing, with occasional live music.





Building on our tradition of **welcome and hospitality**, over the last twelve months we've held coffee mornings, quiz nights and afternoon teas open to all in the community. As well as socialising and contributing to a sense of community, these events also raise funds for the church.

Finance: Financial resources are sufficient but there are limited reserves. The Church pays its Parish Share in full. We currently tithe our annual income to chosen charities (namely these are Tear Fund, Scripture Union, CMS, St Helens Foodbank, Willowbrook Hospice and the Hope Centre). From volunteers in our congregation, we have strong links with St Helens foodbank and food pantries, The Hope Centre and Street Pastors.

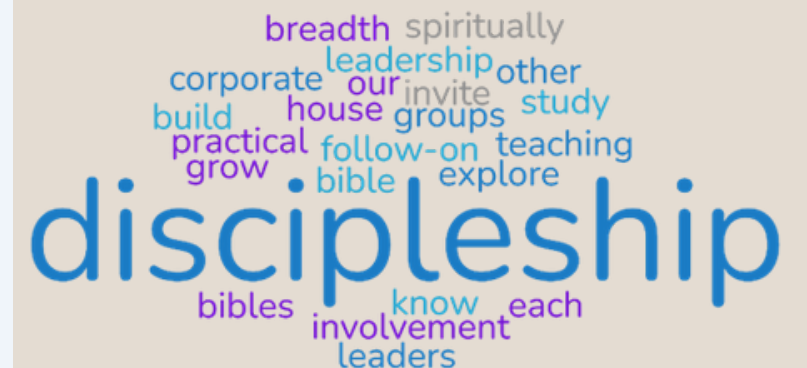
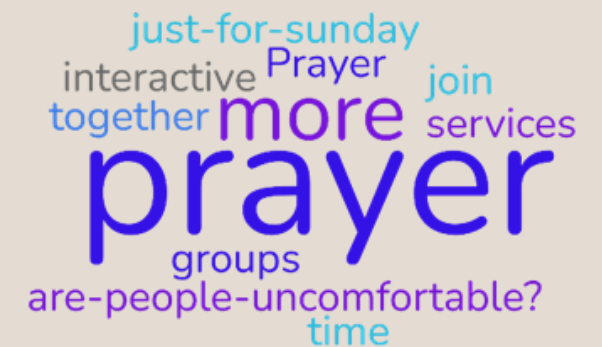
Key Challenges include:

- Growing our congregation, leading our members in a life of discipleship and prayer.
- Reaching out to better serve our community.
- Staying connected to church members who are not physically able to join us for worship.
- Re-establishing links with Ashurst Primary School, maintaining links with St Mary's Blackbrook RC primary.

Key Opportunities include:

- Nurturing faith among families through Pre-School, Tiddlers, Lunch Club and Worship for Everyone.
- Building Community events through our generous welcome social events (Curry & Carols, TnT, Coffee Mornings)

Over the last 12 months, St Paul's Growth and Vision team have discerned 4 key areas for our future development. Worship, Community, Mission & Leadership, and their ideas are:



St Philips Church

Derbyshire Hill

Our vision is to share the love of God with the people of Derbyshire Hill in a practical way.



About

St Philips church is small but friendly, with a modern building located in the Derbyshire Hill area of Parr. It is situated close to a number of primary schools and community centres. St. Philip's began life as part of the mission of neighbouring St. Peters Church, serving as its hall. In 1973, St. Philip's gained its own vicar and was established as its own parish.

Our People

The electoral roll currently has 37 members registered. The average Sunday attendance is 25 to 35 worshippers. Just less than half of the congregation live within the parish boundary. The congregation are predominantly over the age of fifty, but in recent years several younger families have joined.

We hope that our members feel that they are part of an extended family. The congregation are down to earth, and visitors often comment that they receive a warm welcome. We are a prayerful church, and in all situations support one another and our community in prayer.

Our Building

The current church building was erected in 1992, it has a large hall with dividing screens. There are three smaller rooms, which can be used for various activities. There is a large kitchen and three storerooms, one of which is in the main hall. A PA system, along with a static projector and electric screen, were installed in 2016. There is a car park with a grassy area and access to a rear garden, which is shared with the neighbouring Community Centre. In the Right Buildings assessment St Phillips was in the amber category.

During the week St. Philip's building is available for rent to community groups and is in use most days. Our users include uniformed brigades, community groups, and social housing partners, supporting better physical and mental wellbeing of our community. The building is also used as a Polling Station during elections.

Our Church Life

Worship: Our worship is middle of the road, with an informal style. Café style church was recently introduced one Sunday each month, providing an informal environment for sharing and worship. In the past year Kids Church has restarted on a Sunday morning, having an average attendance of 8 children each week. *Gill says: "In recent months members of the congregation have been encouraged to take a more active role in leadership at services. Together with contributing readings and prayers, members also now lead worship services. Whilst this is outside of my comfort zone, encouragement received from the congregation is an inspiration and has given me the confidence to continue."*



Teaching at Breakfast Club

A **Holy Communion service** is held on Wednesday morning, with an average attendance of 10. The service is followed by our **Community Hub**, a light touch missional opportunity, a safe place for people to encounter the love of God. Some people who joined the hub now worship on a Sunday.

Breakfast Club is a new worshipping community held monthly on Saturdays at 11 the aim is to feed people both physically and spiritually. Free breakfast and drinks are offered to all members of the community followed with a time of craft and worship. We have seen people come to faith and join our Sunday community.

St. Philips has a good relationship with the **local primary schools**, inviting groups of children into church to explain God's love for them. Recently a team has been established to take "Messy Church" into Broad Oak school once a month after school hours. Activities are open to children, accompanied by parents, offering worship time through crafts.

Bible study is held weekly on Monday evening, to develop discipleship, attracting 6-8 people. The opportunity to meet as a family for prayer is offered on a Sunday, prior to morning service.



Sunday Service - Café Style

Finance: Financial resources are limited and upkeep of the church i.e. cleaning and gardening are undertaken by the congregation, or a local payback project. The Church pays its Parish Share in full and donates 10% of its annual income to chosen charities. Rental income is good and fund raising events are held throughout the year to boost Church finances and support local groups.

The Church is involved in a variety of **outreach and community activities** including:

- Children's meals and activities in synchronization with the hub during school Summer holiday;
- Remembrance services attended by our uniformed brigades;
- Christmas events: Community Lights switch on; Carol Service with Brass Band; Christingle service; and
- Distribution of donations to our local community at harvest, and Christmas.

Key Challenges include:

Growing our congregation, leading our members in a life of discipleship and prayer.

Reaching out to better serve our community.

Staying connected to church members who are not physically able to join us for worship.

Re-establishing links with Ashurst Primary School, maintaining links with St Mary's Blackbrook RC primary.

Key Opportunities include:

Nurturing faith among families through Pre-School, Tiddlers, Lunch Club and Worship for Everyone.

Building Community events through our generous welcome social events (Curry & Carols, TnT, Coffee Mornings)



Where would you live?



We have a number of options with regard to clergy housing:

There is a four bedroom house adjacent to St Pauls church building that was used by the previous incumbent. It is in good condition and includes a downstairs study, private garden, garage and driveway access.

Alternatively there is a vicarage to the left hand side of St Phillips church that was, until recently, occupied by an incumbent. This also meets the normal standards of bedrooms etc.

We appreciate that clergy needs vary and there are other options available within the larger parish. You may wish to discuss your requirements with Archdeacon Simon Fisher. We want you to be happy in your home.

A final word from the team rector

Our key priorities:

- **Introducing people to Jesus**
- **Deepening discipleship**
- **Developing Christian Leaders**
- **Working for justice**



It has been challenging to summarise this role in a document like this and give you an idea of what working in Church St Helens would really be like. I hope that it has given you a taste of what we are trying to achieve and maybe a desire to find out more.

We are still in the process of change and whilst we have made some progress there is still so much more to work on. We need someone who is keen to work as part of a clergy team but who can also take responsibility and play a key role. Being able to think missionally whilst supporting our lay leaders and developing new leaders and teams is key.

I have lived in St Helens for a number of years. I love living here and it has been a good place to raise my family. There have been lots of good options for schools/sixth form for my children. It is a great town and has much to offer in terms of sport, the arts and leisure. I also love how accessible St Helens is to a city when I need one or the countryside when I need a break. We also have lots of green space of our own and lots of local activities – not just rugby league!

This would be a great time for a new colleague to join us. If you think you might like to be part of our team then why not give me a ring and find out a bit more? I'm happy to have an informal chat or to show you around our town. Ring or text me to arrange an informal conversation: 07914760021.

Chris

Revd Canon Dr Chris Daniel

VISION

Renewing hope

