

Role Description

Signed off by: Archdeacon of Liverpool
Date: 5th March 2026
Role title: Vicar, Knotty Ash St John the Evangelist (full time stipendiary role, Common Tenure)
Deanery: West Derby
Archdeaconry: Liverpool

The Context:

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.

The 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. Alder Hey children's hospital is nearby.

St John's is a warm, friendly, and increasingly intergenerational congregation. In recent years, the church has rebuilt its foundations after periods of instability and financial strain, and is now in a season of growth not only in numbers, but in confidence, vision, and purpose. The church has embraced a vision to create a vibrant, welcoming, inclusive environment that encourages spiritual growth, fosters new disciples, and meets the needs of all ages - especially families with young children. In the vacancy, the PCC has developed a confident Strategy for Growth which outlines a clear, phased journey that includes deepening discipleship, strengthening the welcome, evolving service formats, expanding community outreach, and improving financial sustainability. The building has had significant work carried out in 2025 including a new audio visual system and a neurosensory room.

St John's are looking for a vicar who will join them as a partner in ministry—someone who will lead with them rather than for them, who will listen well, encourage the gifts of others, and help shape mission together. 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 St John's build on current strengths, to further develop a vision as you journey forward as a parish? Could this be you?

The Priorities:

- Quickly build good relationships with and establish collaborative working practices with PCC, lay leaders and the wider parish
- Develop children and families ministry
- Deepen connections with the local community, notably local schools and hospitals, and further develop the use of the community hall for mission
- Work with the parish in delivering and further developing the Strategy for 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.

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.

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 vicarage is a detached four bedroom house set back from the road in lawned gardens, on the quiet residential street on which the church is situated.

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.