The Parish Profile of

St Athanasius Church, Kirkdale

St Lawrence with St Paul, Kirkdale







Diocese of Liverpool

OUR VISION FOR A NEW FUTURE



The churches of Kirkdale have agreed to work together over the next two years to form a Larger Single Parish as part of the Diocese of Liverpool's strategy to be Fit for Mission.

Becoming fitter and stronger to do God's work is not about becoming a homogenised group, but is about embracing our locality and rich diversity, supporting each other as we work towards our missional priorities, tackle key challenges, and grow closer together as brothers and sisters in Christ.



FOUR PRIORITIES, FIVE ACTIONS

In keeping with the Diocesan vision, we are committed to **four missional priorities**, and in support of these are **five actions**.

Four missional priorities

1. Introducing people to Jesus
2. Deepening discipleship
3. Developing Christian leaders
4. Working for justice

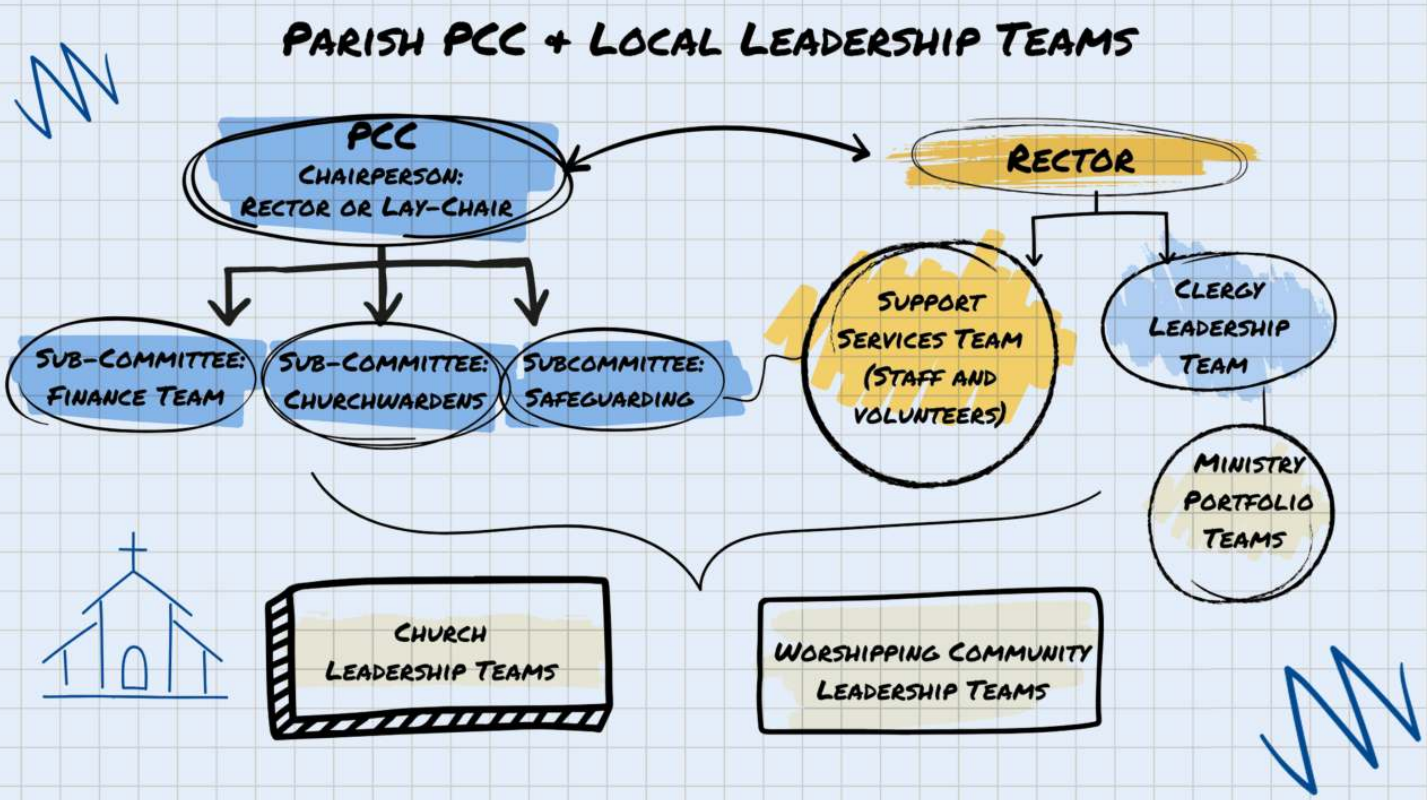
Five actions

1. Planting and revitalising
2. Working to our strengths in larger teams and portfolios
3. High quality support and clear lines of accountability
4. Having the right buildings to support future mission
5. Delivering a Larger Single Parish with high quality support services and simpler administration

LOCAL LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Working together as a larger single parish will enable us to work closer together, share our rich diversity of experience, tradition, and skills, and tackle some key challenges, preparing and nurturing the conditions for growth.

We hope and pray for thriving church communities, run by Local Leadership Teams (LLTs). Local Leadership Teams will bring together those who are called to develop a vision for mission priorities in their local context. They will oversee the worship, mission, and ministry in their locality, encouraging people to use their gifts and talents in the life of God's church. The local team will implement the governance and be accountable to the PCC, which will handle the charity governance, freeing up local leaders to focus on mission in each local context.





BENEFITS OF WORKING TOGETHER

Parishes which have already forged this new way of working identify some key benefits to working together:

- **Stronger together** – working collaboratively and to our strengths – for lay and clergy, we can share our skills and gifts which means greater support, collegiality and opportunities for growth.
- **Streamlined approach to governance,** with a single PCC, local teams and support teams for treasurers, wardens and PSOs, ensuring each church's Local Leadership Team is fully informed and able to focus on their church's vision, mission and ministry.
- **Parish Operations Manager and Support Services Team** will offer support from the centre, resourcing churches, freeing up time and energy for local mission and ministry.
- **Encouragement and accountability** as together we commit to growing Christ-centred communities that enable everyone to flourish and prioritising the four missional priorities.





CHANGING CULTURE

Some of the benefits for clergy and churches of being part of a Larger Single Parish

A vicar in a neighbouring Larger Single Parish (LSP), Christ Our Hope Liverpool (COHL), had this to say:

> 'I've always worked as part of a team, firstly a multi-disciplinary team in my NHS role and then in smaller clergy teams in both my training parish and curacy church. Moving to my first incumbency in a small, faltering, urban poor parish setting would have been impossible without the wider support of the LSP and the Clergy Leadership Team (CLT). To go from always having others around to share ideas and concerns to working alone in a parish that doesn't have even the basic officers of the church and very few volunteers has been a huge learning curve. Add to that the massive step from curacy into incumbency and this parish's unique financial, interpersonal and historic difficulties, it would have been a recipe for failure and burnout without the wider CLT.
>
> I especially respect the integrity of members of the team who have no personal need of it. Those who have good volunteer or staff teams still being prepared to build up a team where we can all flourish fully, speaks to the values of God's kingdom and sets COHL apart from other workplace teams I've been in.'



WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU

This is a unique opportunity to shape the formation of a new parish. The team is just forming, and with your appointment the formal stages will begin.

You will be part of a new team, focus on your own gifting and skills, and establish together a new way of working which will ensure these communities have the opportunity to hear the Good News and are served by the Church of England long into the future.

In addition to all the rights and benefits that a post of this nature brings, to help with this we believe that we have some other great benefits. The new Parish will provide significant opportunity, support, and community. There are dedicated teams of volunteers and will soon also be paid and properly employed administration colleagues.

Coming to this point has been about bringing people together through prayer and connection. You will have the benefit of a prayerful support network and a developing Clergy Leadership Team. You will have access to funding as the team develops.

We are committed to your own development and will support you with this. Liverpool Diocese has a Changing Posts course to support new incumbents, and Fit for Mission includes provision for coaching and mentoring support.

The post of course is based in one of the world's most iconic cities and full of history, culture, amazing people, opportunities and a sense of fun!

KIRKDALE

Kirkdale is a neighbourhood to the north of Liverpool, bordered to the west by the docks on the river Mersey, Bootle to the north, Walton and Everton to the east and Vauxhall to the south. (A section of which is part of St Athanasius Parish).

The **neighbourhood** has always been a working class area and developed as cheap housing for dock workers and related shipping traders during the late Victorian age. Recently regeneration has taken place with areas of better quality housing.

The combined **population** of the 2 parishes is 16,924 (2021 Census) covering an area of approximately 2 square miles. According to Church Urban Fund statistics St Athanasius ranks 32 and St Lawrence with St Paul ranks 19 out of 12,239, where 1 is the most deprived, which means our parishes are among the most deprived in the country. However, the resilience and spirit of the people here are evident in the way they support one another and take pride in their local area.

The **community** is predominantly white, with Asian/ Asian British, Black/Black British, and other ethnic minorities also represented. While the majority identify as Christian, there are also Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, and Buddhist residents reflecting the area's diversity; because of this diversity of cultures it makes for a very interesting place to live.



3 best things about living in Kirkdale

- Strong sense of community
- Diverse cultures
- Excellent public transport

We are a nine-minute drive to Liverpool city centre with great road and rail links.

There is a local C of E primary school as well as two Roman Catholic primary schools within our boundary. Secondary education and further education are nearby.

Ministry is challenging because of the diverse ethnic mix and relatively transient population but there are opportunities to develop a multiracial ministry with financial support from the local business community along the docks, including the new Everton football stadium at Bramley Moore Dock.

We want to become more and more a part of our community sharing the message of God's love so that residents and businesses see the church being at the heart of the community.



ST ATHANASIUS CHURCH

St Athanasius Church is a welcoming, lively, and inclusive community in the heart of Kirkdale. We are a relaxed, low-church parish where everyone is valued, and children and families play a central role in church life.

Our worship blends traditional hymns with children's action songs, and our services include Holy Communion, Morning Prayer, and an interactive Family Service. We take great care in making special moments meaningful—our baptisms are personalised celebrations, birthdays are marked with cards and singing, and our strong links with local nursing homes ensure those unable to attend in person remain part of our worshipping family.

Thanks to the dedication of our congregation, our church building is well cared for, with recent accessibility improvements and ongoing work to enhance our facilities.

Beyond Sundays, we are a hub of community life with activities for all ages, including Stay and Play, Family Fun Club, Coffee Mornings, and Scouting Groups. Our pre-loved item giveaways and monthly community events, such as quiz nights and bring-and-share lunches, allow us to support local people practically.

While Kirkdale faces social and economic challenges, it is also a resilient, close-knit community with a mix of housing, green spaces, and good transport links. We are looking for a vicar who will embrace our family-focused, outreach-driven mission and help us grow in faith and service. If you have a heart for community ministry and want to make a real difference, we would love to welcome you to our church family.



ST ATHANASIUS CHURCH

Our church is a welcoming, relaxed, and inclusive community where worship is both engaging and accessible.

We follow a regular pattern of services, with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month, a Family Service once a month, and Morning Prayer on other Sundays. Special services, including Easter, Christmas, Harvest, and Remembrance Day, bring us together for key moments in the Christian calendar.

For those seeking quiet reflection, the chapel is always available.

Children and young people are at the heart of our church. Sunday School runs weekly, except for Family Services, where children take on roles in prayers and readings. A dedicated children's area and activity stations ensure younger ones feel included, and we encourage full participation—parents can relax knowing all are welcome, noise and all!

Music is an integral part of our worship, blending traditional hymns with children's action songs. Our informal, joyful approach makes our church a place where all can grow in faith, find fellowship, and experience God's love in a meaningful way.







St Athanasius Church

WHAT'S ON?

Our church is more than a place of worship—it is a hub of activity, bringing people of all ages together throughout the week.

Mondays, we host Stay and Play for children, a welcoming session for children aged 0–4 and their caregivers to enjoy play, friendship, and support.

Tuesdays begin with our Coffee Morning, where people can enjoy toast, coffee, and a friendly quiz. Alongside this, our PreLoved Items initiative offers clothes, shoes, toys, and homeware free of charge to those in need. Once a month, we welcome the Credit Union Bus, providing financial support and advice to the local community.

Wednesdays are filled with adventure as we host Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts, giving young people the opportunity to learn new skills, make friends, and have fun.

Fridays, our Family Fun Club brings all ages together for games, crafts, and themed nights, creating a space for families to relax and connect.

Once a month, we also hold Men's and Women's Social Evenings, offering time for fellowship and community in a relaxed setting.

We hold community events every month which includes seasonal events as well as quiz nights and family fun afternoons.

ST LAWRENCE WITH ST PAUL



History of St Lawrence with St Paul

St Lawrence Kirkdale and St Paul Kirkdale were separate parishes founded in the late 19th century, both worshipping in traditional Victorian churches. For differing reasons both of these original churches became unsuitable in the 1970's forcing them to relocate to their current buildings.

It wasn't until 1st January 2004 that the Parish of St Lawrence with St Paul Kirkdale was formed. This followed a short interregnum at St Paul's and a Deanery Parish Boundary change. The parish is part of the North Liverpool and Walton Deanery and within the Diocese of Liverpool.

Neither church is a registered charity or listed building. As relatively new buildings St Lawrence and St Paul churches have not been consecrated, but were both dedicated by the Bishop of Liverpool.

The histories of both churches can be found on our website:
www.stlawrencewithstpaul.co.uk





ST LAWRENCE WITH ST PAUL

Our Buildings and Resources

In 1980 a single storey detached building was purchased from Liverpool City Council. This had originally been built as a supermarket for the new housing estate, but had never been occupied. It was converted to a place of worship which would seat 120 people.

The building has a good size Worship Area which can be partitioned to create an additional meeting room. There is a Vestry and two small rooms at the front of the building (used as storage at the moment). There is Wi-Fi and viewing screens installed.

We have a reasonable sized hall adjacent to the Worship Area with a fully equipped and functional kitchen, two separate toilets one for the disabled also baby changing station. The building is heated by gas central heating.







ST PAUL'S CHURCH, CELIA STREET

The substantial two storey church hall was built in 1908. In 2000 the Hall underwent extensive alteration/extension. A new worship extension was constructed and the hall was internally reordered with a first floor added: this was named the Sheppard Centre and was specially designed with facilities to be used by the local community. There is a private, secure car park.

It has a spacious worship area and vestry. The double height and vaulted fan shaped worship area includes modern stained glass windows. The seating is individual chairs which can be arranged to suit the event. There is a separate side chapel/prayer room with a stained glass window. Wifi and a retractable viewing screen are installed.

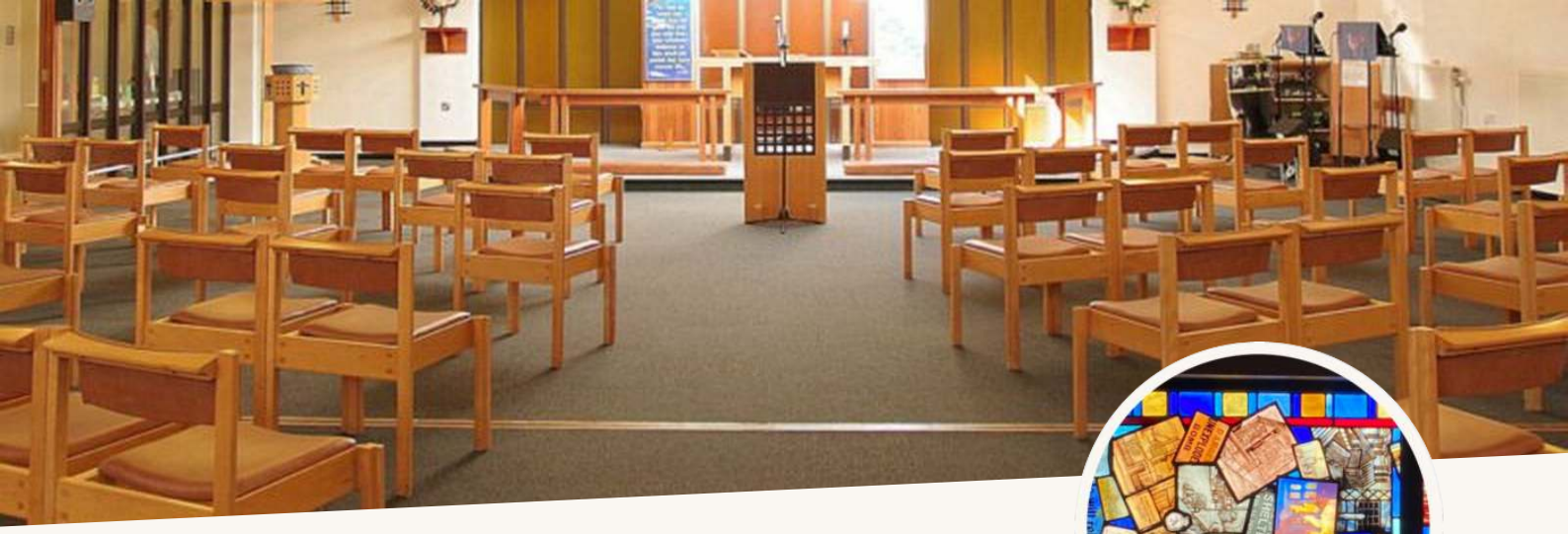
The worship area opens directly into the hall which is of considerable size and has a fully equipped functional kitchen.

Toilets are available on both floors; a disabled toilet is available on the ground floor. There are also a few storerooms. There are several other rooms of assorted sizes available on the second floor.

Our last Quinquennial was in 2014, due to the Covid lock down there has not been a more recent inspection; the Diocese have apologised and are hoping to arrange an inspection in the not-too distant future.

Both buildings are in relatively good condition. Our building maintenance is carried out weekly by faithful members of our congregation. Certified contractors are called in when necessary.

We encourage the local Community to use our facilities this helps to draw people in and helps with the upkeep of our buildings. We have those who regularly use our church Halls as well as occasions such as Children's Birthday parties etc.



St Lawrence with St Paul

WHAT'S ON?

ST LAWRENCE

Alcoholics Anonymous meet twice a week, on Monday afternoons and Thursday evenings.

Chair Yoga sessions are held each Thursday, these are free sessions run for the community by The Rotunda Charity who also use the hall for other events on an ad hoc basis.

The Church **Music Group** meets each Tuesday evening for practice and prayer.

ST PAUL'S

Young at Heart Club with lunch, entertainment, outings, social events for the older people in the community, meets monthly.

Simply Technique holds **dance classes** on Wednesday evenings.

Rutland **Morris Dance Troop** hold their practice sessions each Thursday evening.

Training sessions for **Exemplar Care home** staff are regularly held at St. Paul's Hall.

There is a 10.30am Sunday **Inter-Denominational service** run in the upstairs meeting rooms by Pastor Joe Ewiwilem for the local West African community and an associated Saturday evening band practice. They typically have 50+ adults and 35+ children.

Both St. Lawrence and St. Paul Church Halls have been used for a number of years now as voting stations for Local and General Elections.

ST LAWRENCE WITH ST PAUL



St Lawrence with St Paul is a church of Evangelical Low Church tradition. We have 2 services every Sunday – 10.30 am at St Lawrence and 6 pm at St Paul's. The service at St Paul's is the only evening service in the deanery for people who prefer evening worship. After each service there is an opportunity for everyone to stay for a chat and a cuppa.

There are currently 36 members on the Electoral Roll.

Both churches have two communion services, a Service of the Word and a café style service each month. We currently do not have a Sunday School, but this is something we would like to reintroduce to run alongside the morning service.

There are rotas for members of congregation to assist with leading services, leading intercessions and reading the bible. Lay people also assist the priest with distribution of communion. On occasion some of the congregation have also preached, this has happened more regularly during the interregnum.

Services are projected onto a screen including hymns, songs and bible readings to help the congregation follow and participate in the worship. We use recorded music for the hymns/songs which are a mixture of modern and traditional and there is a music group at St Lawrence who choose the hymns and lead the singing.

At Christmas and Easter, we hold special services and during Lent and Advent we normally have weekly group sessions of bible study and prayer.

We have run a number of Alpha Courses and aspire to begin a course every January.

St Lawrence with St Paul

OUR CHURCH SCHOOL

Kirkdale St Lawrence CE Primary School

We have had excellent links with our local Church of England school in the past, however since the interregnum we have not been able to maintain these links as we would wish, but our Associate Priest Rev Gill Hoy is still available when needed for pastoral care.

For special seasonal events i.e. Harvest and Christmas, the school and families are invited into St Lawrence Church for worship. In July 26 the school celebrated its 25th anniversary with a service in church.

For the past 4 years a Tree and Treats event is held in St Lawrence for the school children and their parents to come and decorate the Christmas tree in Church in time for the first Sunday of Advent. In the Hall, a variety of food and drinks are served, card and decoration making, dressing up fun. Then the children are taken into the church with their parents to decorate the Tree. It is always well attended and enjoyed by Children and parents alike thanks to Rev Gill building strong links with the school community over the years. It is our hope that this will continue.

The school is well attended with over 300 pupils and potential to increase entrance to two forms per year. The school welcomes diverse communities within the parish and is pastorally orientated. A high number do not have English as their first language and there is also a high number of students with Special Education Needs, so there is a large focus on inclusion and support which is embedded within the vision and running of the school.

The school has had a change of governors and unfortunately, we now only have one representative on the board, which is Ross Flanagan who is also Vice Chair.

OUR PRAYER

Generous God, we thank you for calling us together. We praise you for the blessings of the past. We seek the power of the Holy Spirit in the present. We pray for ever-growing Christ-centred communities in the future. Lord, by your Spirit, may we be renewed in hope and inspired to share the Gospel, as we serve Christ and each other. In Jesus' name. Amen.

If you can see yourself ministering here, or you're simply curious to know more, we'd be really pleased to hear from you. An informal conversation with the Archdeacon is a great place to start, and when you're ready, we'd love to receive your application through **liverpoolcofe.org/vacancies**

Archdeacon

The Ven Dr Miranda Threlfall-Holmes

Contact

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Diocese *of* Liverpool