

# The parish Profiles of

St Athanasius  
and



St Lawrence with  
St Paul

Kirkdale



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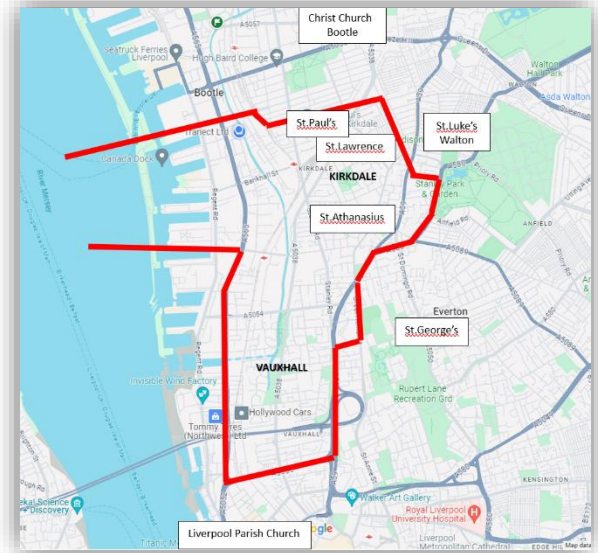
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# 1. Kirkdale

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). See map.

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.

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.

## 3 best things about living in Kirkdale

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

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.



## 2. The Priest in Charge We Seek

The Kirkdale Churches have a sense of excitement about where God is leading us on this next stage of our journey and who will travel there with us.

The key things we are praying for in our next Priest in Charge are:

- A leader who is prayerful, servant hearted and compassionate, able to delegate and to motivate others.
- Someone who is Spirit led and Bible based
- Someone who will be a visible and active presence in our parish and community a “people person”—welcoming and friendly, family-orientated, a good communicator and inclusive, understanding and able to engage with all ages.
- Someone who has the ability to embrace and grow a culture of acceptance and welcome, allowing people the space to experience God in their own way.
- Someone who has an understanding of the meaning of community and our churches role in it both internally and beyond the walls.
- Someone who has the skill to continue and develop the churches intergenerational worship.

We asked our congregations and local community what they wanted in a new priest:





# ST ATHANASIUS CHURCH

PARISH PROFILE



Shining as a light in the heart of  
the community

<http://stathskirkdale.co.uk>



## 3.1 Welcome

Thank you for your interest in St Athanasius Church. This Parish Profile has been prepared by our congregation to guide both you and us as we seek to decide who God is calling to be our new Vicar. We hope it serves as a helpful, informative, and inspiring resource throughout this process.

We are a church that loves to worship, seek God together, and grow in Christ likeness as we live and love each day. Our goal is to create a community that is safe, inclusive, welcoming, and nurturing. We are proud to be known for our positive reputation in the local area.

Although we are a small congregation, we have seen steady growth over the past two years. As a church, we are deeply family-focused, ensuring that everyone feels welcomed, safe, and valued. Our congregation includes a strong number of children, which is a testament to our commitment to nurturing the next generation in faith. For over ten years, we have continued to thrive in our local community despite being without a vicar, thanks to the dedication and strength of our members who have kept the church vibrant and engaged.

We are looking for someone who will breathe new life into the structures of our church, deepen our love for Jesus, help us understand His love for us, and guide us in continuing to make a positive impact in the community. We hope this profile helps you discern whether St Athanasius is the right place for you, and whether you feel called to lead us on our continued journey of faith.





## 3.2 Summary of the profile

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.



## 3.3 About the 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.

Our church is a welcoming and growing community, with an increasing number of families and children playing an active role in church life.

We are blessed with a diverse congregation from a variety of backgrounds, creating a vibrant and inclusive worshipping community.

While we have many committed members, reaching out into the wider community remains a challenge due to limited volunteer availability. However, we continue to seek ways to strengthen our presence and share God's love beyond our church walls.

Through our worship, fellowship, and the involvement of all ages, we strive to be a place where faith is nurtured, friendships are formed, and everyone is valued.



At St Athanasius Church, we are always delighted to celebrate the union of couples as they begin their journey of marriage. While we do not have many weddings each year, we regularly read banns of marriage and warmly welcome those who choose to exchange their vows in our beautiful church



Our church offers a relaxed and personal approach to weddings, ensuring each ceremony is meaningful and tailored to the couple. Whether an intimate gathering or a larger celebration, we strive to make the day special, providing a sacred and welcoming space where love is blessed in the presence of family, friends, and God



At St Athanasius Church, we believe that a christening is a joyful and significant moment in a child's life and in the life of the church. Each baptism is a celebration, welcoming the child into the family of faith with warmth and love.

We encourage families to make the service personal and meaningful. Parents can choose hymns and music that reflect their hopes for their child's spiritual journey. A personalised service is displayed on PowerPoint, incorporating photos of the child and family, making the occasion even more special. To ensure these precious moments are remembered, a designated family member is welcome to take photos throughout the service.

As part of the celebration, the church presents each child with a special gift, such as a prayer blanket or a Bible, as a symbol of our love, prayers, and support for them as they grow in faith.

We are always delighted to welcome families for christenings, whether they are regular members of our congregation or new to church life. We strive to make each baptism a warm and welcoming occasion where families feel supported, and the whole church joins in the joy of the day.





## 3.4 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 Pre-Loved Items initiative offers clothes, shoes, toys, and home ware 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 e.g. quiz nights, family fun afternoons.

## 3.5 Our Building

The Church in Kirkdale has a rich and resilient history. It was originally founded in 1880, serving the local community for many years. However, during the Blitz of 1940, the church suffered significant damage. After a period of repair, it was able to reopen on Easter Sunday 1941, offering hope and continuity in difficult times. Tragically, just weeks later, the church was completely destroyed in the May Blitz. Despite this devastating loss, the determination of the congregation remained strong.

In 1956, the foundation stone for the present church was laid, marking a new chapter in our history. It is bright and colourful inside and often amazes people when they first enter, as it's not what they expect from the plain exterior. It is versatile in that the main church is also used as a hall, plus we have several other rooms of varying size. Outside, there is an enclosed garden space to the rear and an enclosed open space to the front; various groups regularly use these for activities in the summer.

The building is well maintained and heated.

Today, our church stands as a testament to faith, resilience, and community spirit, continuing to serve the people of Kirkdale as a place of worship, support, and fellowship.



The original church in 1880



Laying foundation stone in 1956

# Welcome to St Lawrence with St Paul Kirkdale



## PARISH PROFILE

[www.stlawrencewithstpaul.co.uk](http://www.stlawrencewithstpaul.co.uk)



## 4.1 About our churches

### History of St Lawrence with St Paul

St Lawrence Kirkdale and St Paul Kirkdale were separate parishes founded in the late 19<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

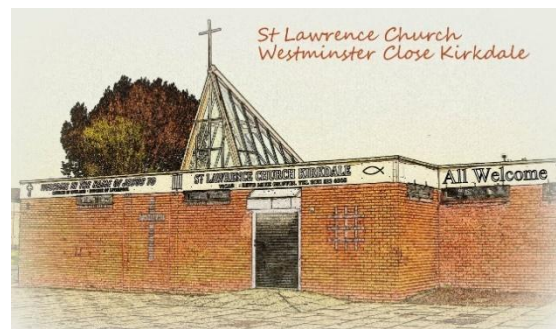
Neither church is a registered charity or listed building. As relatively new buildings St Lawrence and St Paul churches have not been consecrated, but were both dedicated by the Bishop of Liverpool.

The histories of both churches can be found on our website  
[www.stlawrencewithstpaul.co.uk](http://www.stlawrencewithstpaul.co.uk)

### Our church – buildings and resources:

#### St Lawrence Church Westminster Close

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**

Alcohol Anonymous meet twice a week, on Monday afternoons and Thursday evenings. Acorn community group hire St. Lawrence hall once a month to train local residents on rights of renters.

A coffee morning is held each Wednesday during term time; originally this was set up for school parents but everyone is welcome. This is followed by a "Warm Space" session.



A local housing company caring for local families in temporary accommodation use the hall each Thursday morning.

The Church Music Group meets each Tuesday evening for practice and prayer. Breakfast club for church and community meet the 4th Saturday of the month and a monthly Sunday Lunch Club has begun

### **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.

Messy Bambinos meet every Saturday morning.

Training sessions for Exemplar Care home staff and Black Cab drivers are regularly held at St. Paul's Hall.

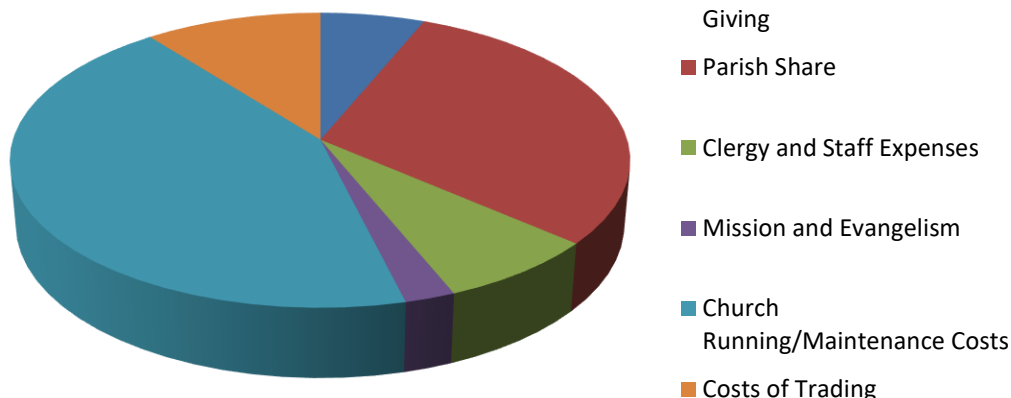
There is a 10.30am Sunday Inter- Denominational service run in the upstairs meeting rooms by Pastor Joe Ewiwilem for the local West African community and an associated Saturday evening band practice. They typically have 50+ adults and 35+ children

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

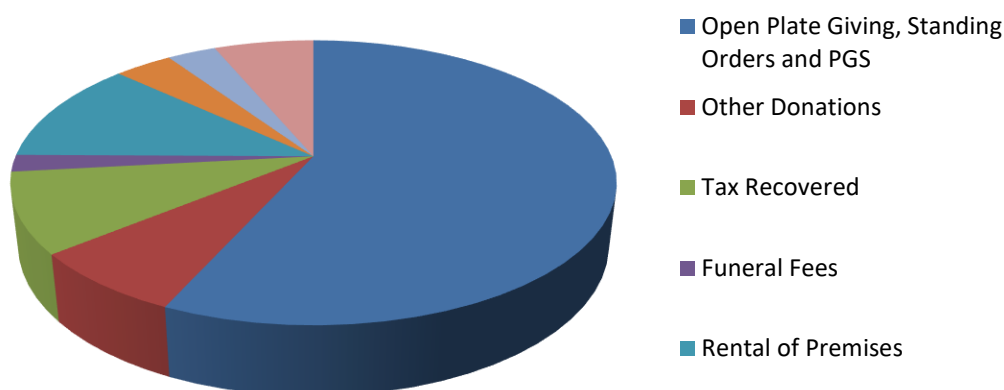


## 4.2 Our Finances

### Expenditure 2023 - £52321



### Income 2023 - £54,924



Finances	2020	2021	2022	2023
Incoming Resources	£33,948	£39,996	£51,267	£54,924
Resources Expended	£51,291	£39,222	£51,084	£52,321
Gain/Loss	-£17,343	£774	£183	£2,603
Reserves	2020	2021	2022	2023
Unrestricted	£59,409	£54,928	£60,498	£62,847
Restricted	£8,257	£13,512	£8,125	£8,379
Total	£67,666	£68,440	£68,623	£71,226

## 4.3 Our Church – as a Worshipping People

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 41 members on the Electoral Roll.

Both churches have two communion services – (one 1662 and the other contemporary) 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.

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 started running the Alpha Course in 2023 and aspire to begin a course every January.

### **Attendance and Demography:**

St Lawrence	20-30 adults plus 5 children
St Paul	8 -15 adults plus 2 children

We are a praying church and those taking part in the services along with the church wardens pray before each service. The music group also pray together before the service.

We have a Prayer and Praise meeting each Wednesday at St Paul's between 12 noon – 2 pm. This starts with lunch before a time of worship and prayer. There are approx. 10 people attending.



Prayer Warriors have access to a well used WhatsApp Group. People request prayer knowing they will be prayed for and dealt with confidentially.

Worship helps us to experience God's presence  
Worship helps us to experience God's transformation  
Worship brings us God's blessings  
Worship increases our faith

## 4.4 Our Church School

### Kirkdale St Lawrence CE Primary School

We have excellent links with our local Church of England school. Our associate priest Rev'd Gill Hoy pops into school throughout the week to lead a whole school worship and individual class worship. She is well known to the whole school community and offers pastoral care to all, including Baptisms and Funerals when requested.

Rev'd Gill offers Year 5 and 6 the opportunity to be Junior Chaplains, to learn more about Jesus, find their way around the bible and other faith lessons; they also help with the whole school worship. This group is inclusive to members of other faiths to encourage diversity and extend learning



For special seasonal events i.e. Harvest and Christmas, the school and families are invited into St Lawrence Church for worship.

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'd Gill building strong links with the school community over the years.

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 board of governors includes three members of our congregation:

Rev'd Gill – Foundation Governor  
Bill Barrow – Governor



## 4.5 Our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

### Strengths

Prayerful Church  
Great Fellowship  
Financially Stable  
Full PCC, Treasurer and Secretary  
Core group of willing volunteers

### Weaknesses

60% of Electoral Roll lives outside the parish  
Small and aging congregations  
No Youth Groups  
Need to reach out more to those in the parish

### Opportunities

Working together with St Athanasius  
Fit for Mission  
Expand Community Engagement  
Plans for a Youth Worker

### Threats

Diocese' financial situation – increased parish share  
Three CofE churches in Kirkdale with small congregations - rationalisation.

## 4.6 How We Can Support You

**Associate Priest** - Rev Gill Hoy, part time and self funded

**Administrator** - Rev Gill Hoy, 20 hours per week funded by the parish.

### Lay leadership:

- Wardens
  - St Lawrence - Val Maclean and Barbara Hughes
  - St Paul's - Ruth Smart and Don Rivers
- Treasurer - Joe Kilshaw
- Safeguarding Officer - Bill Barrow
- PCC members
  - Alison Tyrell - Secretary
  - Liz Allan
  - Bernie Garner
  - Lil Mulvey
  - Pauline Worthy



We'll do all we can to help you feel at home at St Lawrence with St Paul. Whether that's practical assistance as you move in and settle down or simply being a friendly face to greet you on a Sunday morning, we'll make sure you soon feel a part of our church family. We'd like to think of ourselves as flexible and open to new ideas; we'll do our best to encourage and support you in your vision and play our part in bringing it to life. And as you journey with us we'll support you in prayer, asking for God's wisdom and guidance to lift you up (along with us) to make great things happen in our church and parish. We're excited for what the next chapter holds, and can't wait to discover it with you.

We will pay in full all legitimate working expenses, provide holidays and days off and will allow you time for training, reading weeks, personal development, retreat and academic study.