



# CHRIST OUR HOPE LIVERPOOL TEAM VICAR

## ALL SAINTS STONEYCROFT



# WELCOME



Thank you for your interest in All Saints Church. We hope you will find this profile helpful, informative and inspiring. We are a church that loves to worship and seek God together. We aim to be a community that is safe, welcoming, nurturing and keen to show the love of Jesus.

# SUMMARY

All Saints is a friendly welcoming church. Our faith in God and our friendship have sustained us through a recent difficult time when, in February 2023, our Vicar was arrested and suspended for what was later discovered to be child related offences. The Vicar pleaded guilty in court and resigned in September 2024.

Our church leadership, Church Warden Paul Carhart and Reader Catriona Richardson, were supported initially by retired clergy in the Diocese, particularly to sustain our Sunday worship, for which we were very grateful. In May 2023, Ven Ricky Panter and Rev Anne Murray were more formally engaged by the Area Dean and Rev Helen Edwards, the Rector Designate of Christ our Hope, to provide additional support. This arrangement is still in place and the whole church have pulled together remarkably as we have experienced the love of God bringing healing and restoration. We are optimistic for the future and look forward to the appointment of our new Vicar.

We are a mixed bunch of people who love the tradition of the weekly Eucharist. Some of us, including our newer (and younger!) members are on the weekly rota for reading the Bible and leading intercessions. While we love traditional hymns, we are also enjoying singing newer songs led by our recently reformed worship group.



We recently held a vision day to help us discern and embrace God's vision for our church, and to help us identify the gifts and skills required in the person who might lead us in this next chapter.

## OUR VICAR

We would like our next Vicar to be someone who helps us to move forward in God's purposes for us.

Our new vicar will share our passion to build God's kingdom in Old Swan and throughout the Parish of Christ our Hope, by encouraging and nurturing whole life discipleship, ministering to our congregation, reaching out to the community and embracing the many opportunities that we have on our doorstep.

### THEY WILL:

- Lead by example and demonstrate gifts of preaching and teaching.
- Be open to different styles of worship.
- Be a good pastor, caring, with support from others, for the church family and those with whom we are in contact through our occasional offices, Thursday Coffee and Cake morning and Foodbank.
- Be a good communicator; listening, and engaging with all ages, both in person and across all media.
- Be someone who can see and nurture potential in others, enabling them to grow in their faith and to step out into new roles (we currently only have a small core of people who do things).
- Have a heart for the community and for social justice.
- Be a team player, both within All Saints and across the parish of Christ our Hope.
- Nurture individuals in their discipleship and help to develop a culture of discipleship throughout the congregation.
- Be IT literate; to be able to fully engage with Church Suite and SharePoint and to help us develop our Social Media presence.
- Embrace the recent and growing connection with our Uniformed Organisations.
- Help us, as a church, to connect with local schools especially Broadgreen Primary School which is just across the road!

## ABOUT THE PARISH

The parish of All Saints Stoneycroft lies around the main entrance to the City of Liverpool. Coming by car along the M62, one is slowed to 40 MPH, negotiates a major junction passing under the flyover of the city circular, Queen's Drive, and you are already in the parish. If you take a right turn immediately, resisting the urge to continue along what is now Edge Lane Drive, which would take you directly into central Liverpool, you are on Broad Green Road and the church will be on your left in a quarter of a mile.

It's a diverse area with two primary schools (one RC, one CP) and a secondary academy, an extensive retail park, two major supermarkets, Tesco and Aldi, as well as high street shops and a myriad of small businesses in the area known as Old Swan. There's also the busy Joseph Lappin Community Centre, May Place and Arcesfield sheltered housing and quite a few pubs.

There is a mixture of housing; terraced streets with small houses, larger terraces with small gardens, some roads with wide tree lined boulevards and mainly semi-detached houses, and behind the church a more recent estate of detached higher band houses. There's quite a high density of social housing for an area that is neither inner city nor outer estate.





Overall, there is a high level of need and deprivation. The figures show the parish as ranking 276 out of 12239 where 1 is the most deprived parish – putting All Saints into the lowest 3% in terms of general need. Life expectancy for boys and girls is well below average and child poverty, pensioner poverty and working age poverty are all well above average. The Foodbank, which operates on Thursday mornings from All Saints, is meeting real needs.



Within the parish there is St Oswald's King and Martyr RC church. Oakvale, the URC church closed last year but the building may soon become home to the Salvation Army Citadel.



All Saints is also home to Ebenezer Chinese Church, Gospel Faith Ministries and New Creation Church, all of whom use the buildings every Sunday. Their congregations mostly travel in, taking advantage of the parish's easy access.

The church is easily accessible too for Broadgreen Primary school, just across the road, where the door is open for continued and developing engagement.

## CHURCH AND ITS PEOPLE



### Services – Sunday 10am Holy Communion, occasional Café Style Worship

We meet for worship every Sunday morning at 10:00am. The current congregation averages 33 adults and 3 children. We don't at present have any provision for children's ministry although we would love to do so. There has been a long tradition of the Eucharist at All Saints which is celebrated most Sundays. The clergy robe in cassock and surplice. We have a gifted, paid, organist, and the music consists of mainly traditional hymns, but with an openness to more contemporary songs. A small worship group, who are growing in confidence, also lead on occasion.

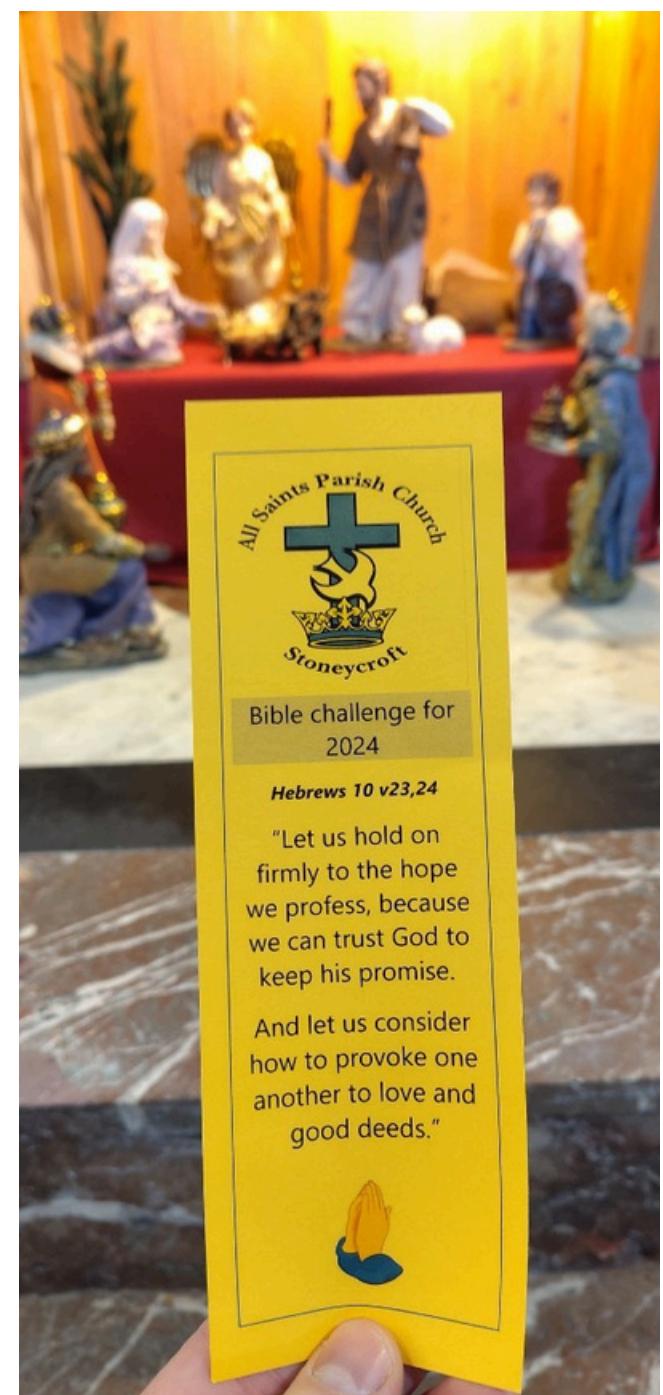
Baptisms take place during the Sunday morning service.

We also have occasional café style services, creating a relaxed, conversational atmosphere.

This year, we are hoping to have 3-4 parade services, helping us connect further with our Uniformed Organisations.

There is opportunity for fellowship after the service over a cup of tea or coffee, although this time is somewhat constrained by one of our other congregations (who rent the space) setting up for their service shortly after we finish.

There is a monthly communion service in the Chapel on the first Thursday at 11.00am, mainly attended by those who have been to the Coffee (and Cake!) Morning.





Coffee and Cake, led by two volunteers, runs every Thursday morning and is open for both church and the local community. In particular we welcome visitors from the Foodbank (running at the same time in the church) who sometimes pop in for a drink and a chat. We also offer a Bible Conversation table during this time for those who wish to join in that.



We love to have fellowship (and sometimes raise money) over food, and over the past year we have hosted a Christian Aid Big Breakfast, a MacMillan Afternoon Tea, a Seder Meal and a Harvest supper.

# STATS

2023

Electoral roll 75

Usual Sunday 35 adults, 5 children

Easter Day 46

Christmas Day 12

Baptisms 9

Confirmation 3

Marriages 2

Funerals 6

2024

Electoral roll 77

Usual Sunday 33 adults, 3 children

Easter Day 56

Christmas Day 20

Baptisms 8

Confirmation 0

Marriages 0

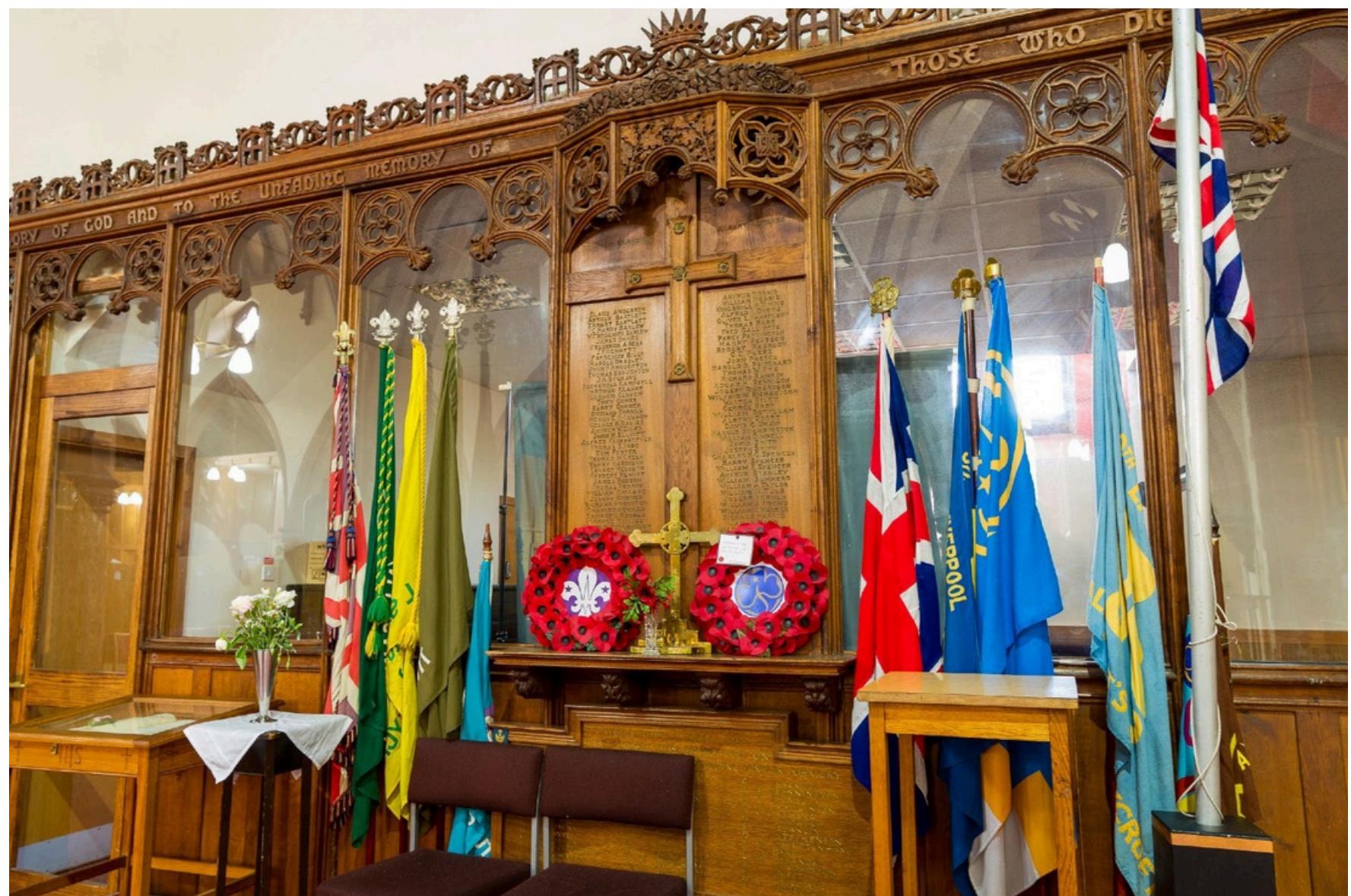
Funerals 4

## CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

In partnership with North Liverpool Foodbank and the Trussell Trust, food bank runs from the church on Thursday mornings and is able to connect in with our weekly coffee morning.

Broadgreen School come to the church each year for their teacher led Christmas service, and the assemblies team from Christ our Hope have been in once or twice. The Head Teacher is keen to develop a relationship with the church and this is something we would love to see but currently don't have the resources for this to happen more frequently. There are lively and thriving uniformed organisations groups who use the church for their meetings and we are growing and developing our connection with them. We were delighted that two of their leaders took part in our Vision day.

We have excellent ecumenical relationships with other churches and the ministers/leaders meet once a month in a local coffee shop. We have had an away day together and have also shared in joint services.



## CHURCH AND BUILDINGS

**Church** - We are currently celebrating our 150 year anniversary and have a small planning group who are working on how we might celebrate this; so far a Summer Fete through which we want to bless the community, and with a special service planned for October.

The church was reordered in 2007-2008 following rear pews being removed some years earlier. The main nave and Western Room (rear of church) provide a large flexible space seating c.250. Standard layout of chairs for worship is for 110.

Following reordering, the original church halls and vicarage were demolished in 2010 and the land was sold for housing. This now provides 12 social homes owned by Cobalt Housing Association.

**Vicarage** - In addition, we were able to provide for 7 Saints Close which is a 4 bed vicarage for All Saints. This is directly at the rear of church and has off road car parking for two vehicles as well as a study and small garden.

**Oakhill Room** – A new hall was also built at the same time as the houses. This is called the Oakhill Room and adjoins the church with a car park for 12 vehicles. It was opened by the Bishop of Liverpool in 2013.

The Oakhill Room has capacity for 60-100 people in different layouts and is fully accessible. It is used for a variety of church activities – social events, Thursday café, meetings, special services. Additionally, there are a number of regular hirers, these include – Scouts and Cubs, Rangers and Brownies, a recovery group, and Bloom Baby, a commercial multi-sensory baby class.

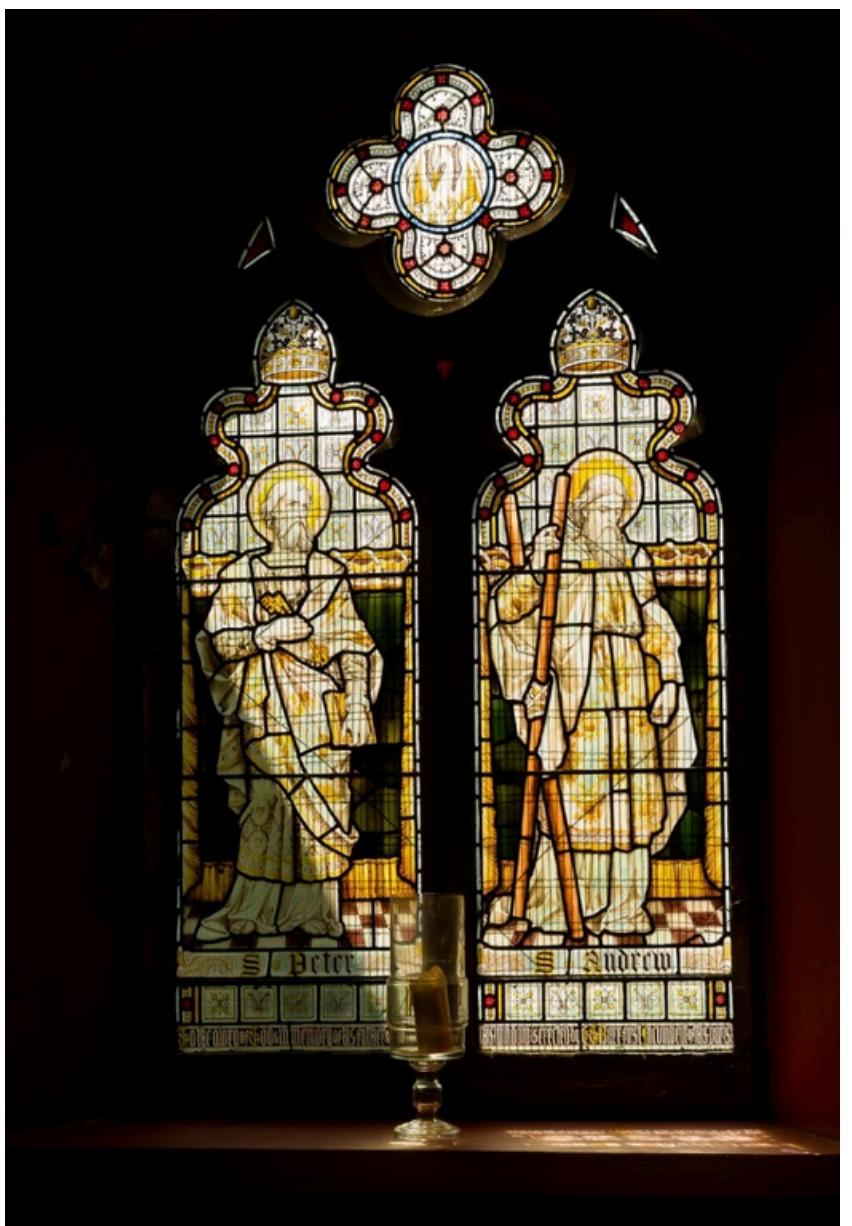




**Organ** - We have a Willis pipe organ dating from 1878. This was rebuilt in 1960 and refurbished in 2017. We have a paid organist on contract.

The last Quinquennial Inspection was completed in 2024 and had been delayed. The PCC has accepted the findings and recommendations of the inspection and is currently prioritising the work required with support from the Diocesan Buildings Team. Like many buildings of this age the long-term challenges of stonework and roof repair/replacement will be a significant future factor.

**Churchyard** - The church yard is largely gardens with no graveyard. There are some memorials with ashes at the rear of church.



## CHURCH AND GENEROSITY

All Saints has always paid full Parish Share and continues to do so in spite of challenges – it was £24,590 in 2024. The Parish Giving Scheme is well adopted and giving is regularly addressed in sermons and appeals.



Last year total receipts were £64k, of which £34k was voluntary giving - other users providing £25k, and expenditure was £52.5k. Reserves have been around £15k – which is three months expenditure. The additional income last year will help towards the £15k needing to be spent now on vital quinquennial work.

There isn't very much to spare, but we do support Christian Aid and The Children's Society financially with special events each year.



**The  
Children's  
Society**



# Christ our **HOPE** LIVERPOOL



## BECOMING FIT FOR MISSION



Diocese of  
Liverpool

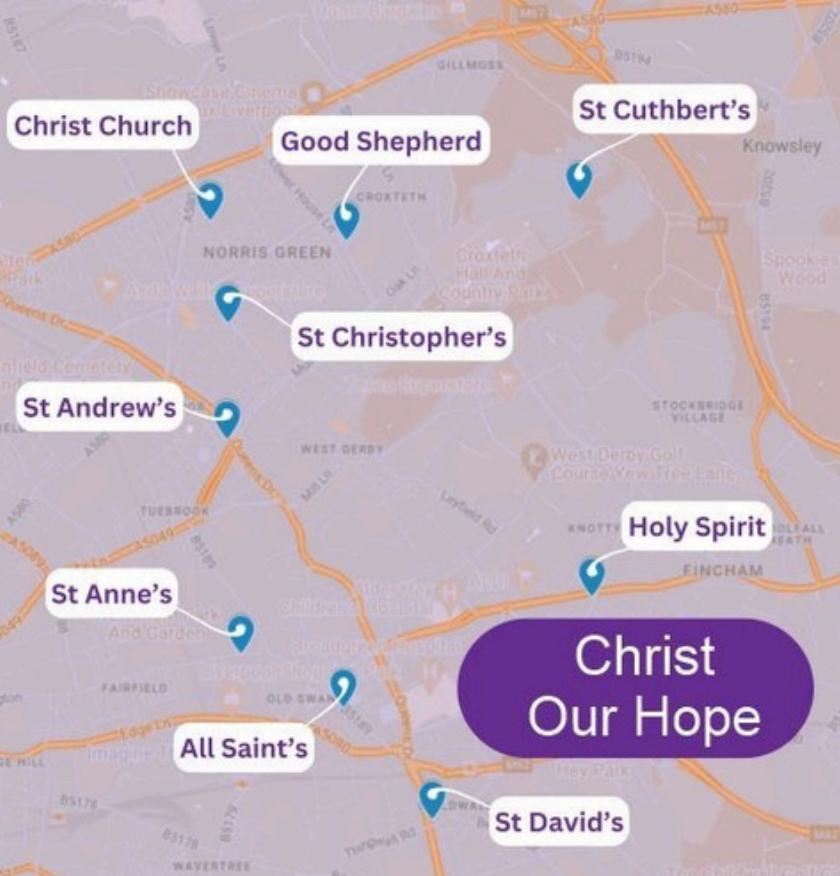
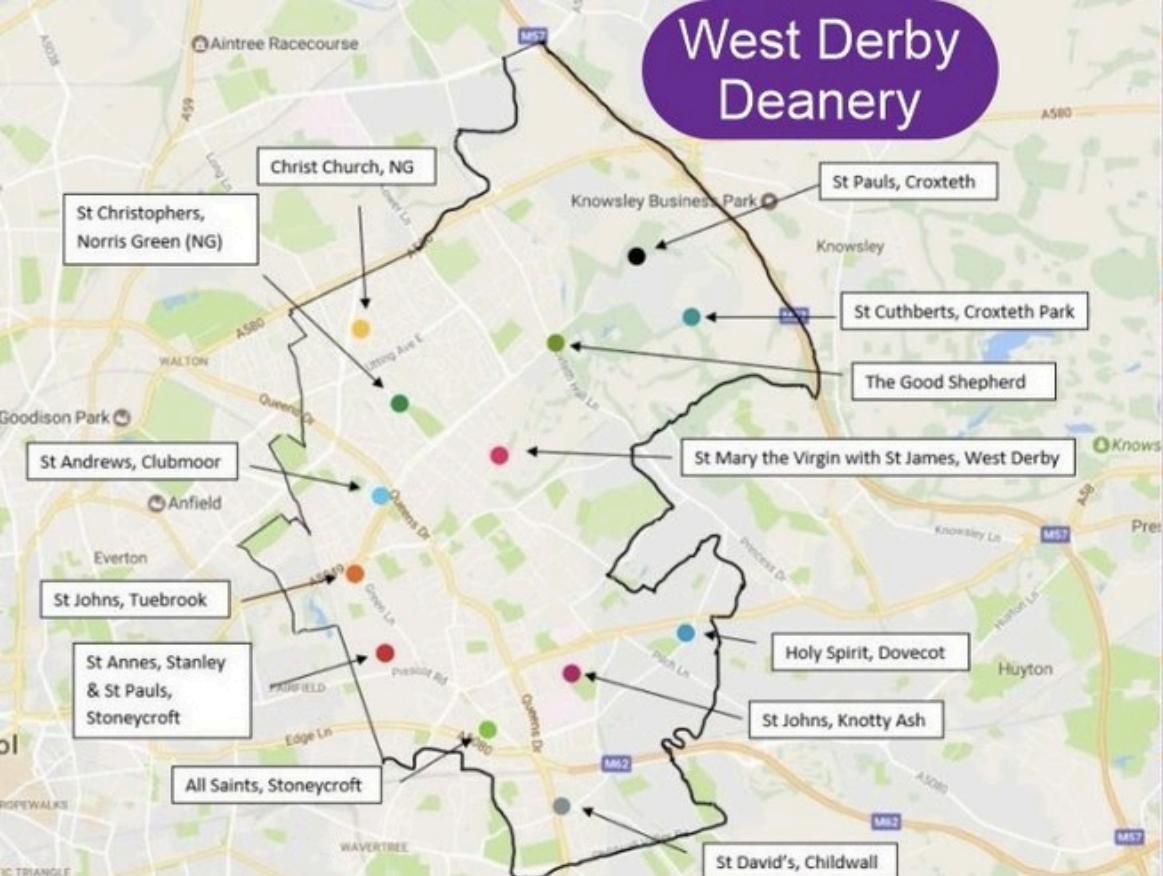
As a diocese, we're asking God for a bigger church to make a bigger difference and we believe that Fit for Mission is the discerned path to achieve this.

Becoming fitter and stronger to do God's work is not about becoming a homogenised group but is instead 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.

In 2021 West Derby deanery was introduced to the proposals and became part of the first cohort of deaneries to begin the Fit for Mission journey. By 2024, the

Deanery were ready to present a pastoral plan to the Church Commissioners regarding pastoral reorganisation to being a 'Single Larger Parish'.

## West Derby Deanery



## MINISTRY IN CHRIST OUR HOPE

Working collaboratively in Christ our Hope Liverpool will bring many benefits to you, your church and your community. This includes greater support and collegiality for clergy members and lay officers. There will also be a streamlined approach to governance, freeing up time for mission and ministry, and the ability to work as a wider area on strategic mission portfolios. Team Vicars take a lead on portfolios that relate to their gifts and experience e.g. pioneering and planting. This includes working collaboratively to develop strategy, and equipping and resourcing local volunteers.

We hope and pray for thriving church communities, run by Local Leadership Teams made up of passionate and skilled individuals who will help drive local mission and ministry. You'll be supported by a committed Team Rector, Rev'd Canon Helen Edwards, and a wider PCC, who'll lead on governance tasks. We have a skilled Support Services Team, who will boost your capacity.

We value diversity in unity and encourage each worship community to act locally as we support centrally. The vision of Christ our Hope Liverpool is 'growing Christ-centred communities that enable everyone to flourish'.

### We have four priorities

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

### We have five actions

- Planting and revitalising
- Working to our strengths in larger teams and portfolios
- High quality support and clear lines of accountability
- Having the right buildings to support future mission
- A Single-Larger-Parish with high quality support services and simpler administration

## THE NEXT CHAPTER

In 2024, the Deanery presented a pastoral plan to the Church Commissioners regarding pastoral reorganisation to become a ‘Single Larger Parish’. This included, St Andrew Clubmoor, St Anne Stanley, Christ Church Norris Green, St Christopher Norris Green (under consultation for closure), St Cuthbert Croxteth Park, St David Childwall, The Church of the Good Shepherd West Derby, The Church of the Holy Spirit (closed October 2024), St Paul’s Croxteth (closed) and All Saints Stoneycroft.

Due to the suspension of the previous incumbent it was not possible for All Saints Stoneycroft to be included at that stage of the reorganisation. As soon as the new parish is formed a process will begin to allow All Saints Stoneycroft to join the ‘Single Larger Parish’.

## FRESH PLANTING

In October 2024 the former parish church of Holy Spirit Dovecot closed. This post includes oversight of planting and pioneering in Dovecot. This isn’t about stretching yourself across two congregations. Instead we are looking for someone who will build relationships with ordinary local people, walk alongside them to grow in their missional discipleship and, in particular, the growth and development of new worship communities in Dovecot. That is most likely to be cultivating several small mid-week mission initiatives where your role is to mentor others rather than deliver.

