

WEST DERBY DEANERY

West Derby deanery is made up of a diverse mixture of churches who take seriously the Diocesan aim to become missionally healthy and financially sustainable.

Collaboration

In 2022, the deanery was introduced to the proposals of Fit for Mission. At the time West Derby deanery was made up of 13 small parishes. St John's Knotty Ash was closely involved as we explored the future shape of the deanery before deciding not to continue the journey towards forming a new larger single parish. The deanery now has four parishes, including the larger single parish of Christ our Hope Liverpool. Despite opting out of the larger single parish, St John's Knotty Ash have remained deeply involved in our social justice initiatives, particularly our Deanery Eco Champions' Group.

Over the next few years, substantial funding from the national Church, provided to us through the Strategic Mission & Ministry Board, will support important areas of growth across our deanery – enabling our parishes to build church communities that are younger, more diverse, and missionally sustainable.

Investment

The Mission Planning and Review (MPR) process is designed to prioritise our diocesan growth aspiration, based on appreciative enquiry and a commitment to building on the very best of what each parish offers in terms of practice, people, hopes, and vision.

It is a four-year process for all parishes and focuses on the following elements:

- Cultivate: mission and discipleship planning
- Generous Disciples: growing and maturing the giving base
- New Income: stewarding our buildings and other assets

Growing Younger

The Youth and Children's Hub is a new concept which seeks to create a joined up, supported plan in West Derby deanery to ensure that there is opportunity for children, young people and their families to access discipleship, worship and faith communities in a range of styles, places and times. A Youth and Children's Hub Lead has recently been advertised, and we are receiving applications for two funded Scholar positions within West Derby to begin in September 2026. Scholars will spend 3 days a week on placement in the deanery, alongside Youth and children's ministry training with fully funded degree through Emmanuel Theological College. We are also offering Future Youth Gap Year placements for those exploring a calling to youth ministry.

This is a pivotal time in West Derby deanery; we are praying that the appointment of a new Vicar for St John's Knotty Ash will enable us to move forward together to fulfil the plans and purposes of God.

Rev'd Canon Will Gibbons (Area Dean)
Kerry Dodd (Lay Chair)