

St Michael's Parish Church, Huyton



Parish Profile



Will you be our next vicar?

We can offer:

An open congregation who are receptive to change and willing to support new ideas.

A church family that will pray for you and support you, both as an individual and as a vicar.

A ministry team that includes two readers and an All-Age Worship group.

A strong support team of two church wardens, assistant wardens, and a maintenance team.

Administrative support and PowerPoint preparation for services.

Members of the congregation willing and experienced in leading intercessory prayer and bible readings in services.

A supportive Deanery that offers opportunities for training and socialising, and ecumenical links to local churches.



What we are looking for:

For you to love us and pray for us and support us on our journey.

That you be a collaborative leader to help us enhance our strengths and identify areas for change and development.

For you to lead by example both in practical tasks and your spiritual life.

For you to help us engage with and increase outreach in the community.

For your plans to include ways for all ages to grow in faith.

Huyton Parish

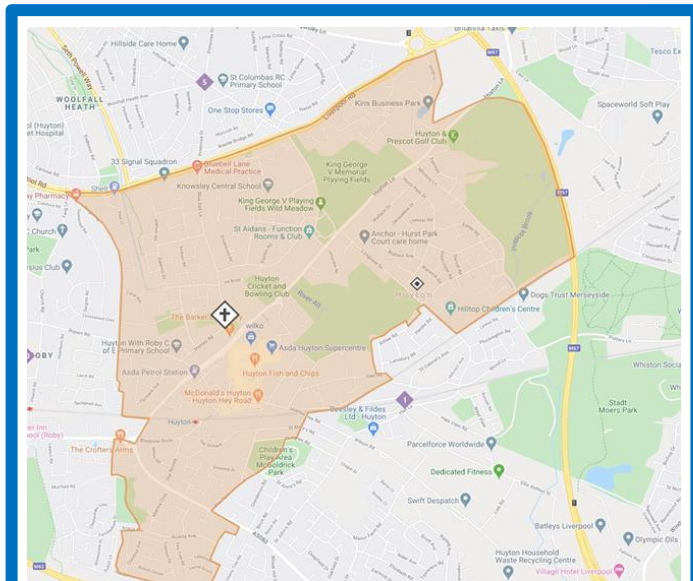
Huyton Parish Church is in the heart of Huyton Village and even those who don't attend feel ownership of the church because of its central location and history. We are fortunate to be on a hill which makes us visible to many; however, this brings its own issues with access for less mobile and elderly people.

Church of England data services records the population of Huyton Parish as 12,400 (2021 census).

The Parish is an urban area that includes a range of housing that incorporates people of all social backgrounds, ages and increasing an ethnic mix.

The Church of England data shows 69% of the population identify themselves as Christians (this is 30% higher than the national average).

The people in the parish are some of the friendliest people you will ever find - happy to chat, cheer you up and share a joke.



Huyton Parish, St Michael's Boundary



Lord Derby Academy, Huyton

We have a church school that is connected to both St Michael's and St Bartholomew's, Roby. There are also several other Primary schools and a large Secondary Academy within the Parish.

Our Church

Services

1st Sunday of the Month - All Age Worship - uniformed organisations are invited.

2nd and 4th Sundays - Holy Communion

3rd Sunday - Baptism or All Age Morning Prayer

5th Sunday - Songs of Praise, Healing Service or Morning Prayer

Thursday Morning Informal Communion.

All our services start at 10.30 am and refreshments are served after every service, often with cakes for birthdays.



We are an informal/low church and uniquely enjoy worship that includes both modern and traditional music within the same service. Our services are usually around an hour long and vary in style. We have an organist that plays for some hymns, a music group, and other hymns are through the computer. We are happy to try out new styles of worship, and the congregation are comfortable feeding back positive experiences and things they would like to include.

Our All-Age Worship is attended by the whole range of ages within the congregation. Our elderly love to see the young ones in church and the content is made to be accessible to the children but with enough of a challenge for the adults. These services can be in church or in the Church Hall as a café style church.



At a recent café style All-Age service, we used the opportunity to discuss where we are as a church, look at our hopes for the future, and identify the skills we need in our next vicar. It was encouraging to see that the notes made by each discussion group had the same themes, and these ideas have been incorporated into this profile to reflect to whole congregation.



Baptism services are held as part of our main Sunday service. This gives us the opportunity to welcome candidates, their families and friends into the church family with everybody there to celebrate. We have seen an increase in Baptisms since Covid and thanks to the school children coming into church as part of their learning.

Admission to Communion before Confirmation is offered to children attending church and Confirmation is usually arranged through the local Deanery.

Our Holy Communion services vary due to the Christian calendar; but one unchanging part is our style of sharing the Peace. We move around the church sharing the peace with as many people as we can and especially with newcomers.

The Congregation

Our congregation is growing and the average attendance for a Sunday morning service is 62 adults and 12 children, which is growth past pre-pandemic numbers. Some of the congregation struggle to attend Sunday services due to work and family commitments and exploring alternative worship opportunities is something we want to develop.

The congregation reflects the overall community in the mixture of ages and backgrounds, and several are from outside the parish. Some travel quite a distance because of how friendly and welcoming they find us, no matter how frequently they can attend.

Children are welcomed in all services. We have a children's area with activities for families in the baptistry and a quieter meeting room at the back of the church that shares the service on a screen. We enjoy seeing the children moving around the church during services and encourage parents to relax as we worship together.



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them."

Matthew 19:14

Congregation's Voice

I have been part of my church family since 2023 upon having my first baby. I was seeking spirituality and some inner peace, particularly because I was suffering with postnatal depression. I have since had both of my children Baptised at the church and upon completing the 321 speak life course my faith led me to be confirmed.

When I was a child, I attended Huyton with Roby primary school which has a direct link to St Michael's Huyton Parish church. I remember being part of many wonderful services growing up with the school. I love walking through the doors of this wonderful church that is the symbol of Huyton and having that special part of my week to worship with my mum. Since becoming part of the church family, I have found comfort in the fellowship and been humble by the wonderful people who attend St Michael's.

Annie

I returned to St Michael's quite unexpectedly after 40 years away. Losing my parents during Covid and dealing with the grief and issues that brings, I found myself welcomed again in the church where my parents married in the 1960s and where I attended at least once a week in the 1970s as a pupil at St Michael's Primary school. It felt like going home and the quiet calm and spirituality brought me comfort and a time to reflect. I now look forward to Sunday mornings in a way I never imagined and am proud to be part of such a diverse congregation. Sitting - quite literally - at the centre of the community overlooking the famous Huyton village, St Michael's is now a 21st century place of worship that retains its unique spirit and welcome for parishioners old and new.

Debra

Church Groups

Our outreach to the community includes running a Food Club every Friday morning. On average this involves 20-30 families each week and volunteers from the congregation help run the club with support of food donations from the wider congregation.

Several community groups use our Church Hall, and we also have groups of 3rd Huyton Parish Church Rainbows, Brownies and Guides meeting on a weekly basis.



One of our Readers volunteers with the Chaplaincy service at Whiston Hospital and we have started having links with local Care Homes in the Parish. We have previously taken communion out to members care homes and members of the congregation who were not mobile enough to make it to church. These chances to support member of the congregation, their families and community are opportunities we would like to develop further.

We have two house groups running; this is again something we wish to develop further or to find alternative ways of offering the same sort of spiritual support.



Congregation's Voice

I started attending St Michaels in January 1978, together with my three young children, when we came to live just outside the parish, we later moved into Huyton to be nearer to things. We had moved from Wigan, where we had attended a church which wasn't very welcoming and didn't cater for children.

The contrast at St Michaels was considerable, we were warmly welcomed, there was plenty going on, and I and my children were soon very much part of the Church Family and actively involved in what was on offer, all of us being helped to grow spiritually.

In John Stanley, who was in post when we came, St Michaels had a long established, flourishing Ministry, with lots of people organising, and taking part, in everything that was going on, making long term Christian friendships, which I and my family did.

Inevitably, over the years things change, things cannot, and shouldn't stay the same, each generation expects something different. I really welcomed less formality in our praise and worship, plenty of variety, more space for fellowship, giving more opportunities for sharing our faith, with new ways of doing things. I know some people find change difficult, but I think we are getting quite good at it, even the oldies like myself. Life is always changing, and if we as a church family cannot keep up, we are in danger of being left behind.

In our Church Family we have people of all ages ranging from babies only a few months old, to 90-year-olds, with several generations of some families. My two girls still being active members. Also having various people's partners and friends joining us on special occasions, or to help in some special way. During two interregnums, plus Covid Lockdown, we've talked more, and learnt such a lot about each other, how we all need everybody to get through each problem we have to face, that we may not always agree, but with goodwill, prayer and God's help we always seem to find a way through.

Gwyn Eagleton Reader Emeritus

Social Activities

We organise afternoon teas that bring both the congregation together as well as friends, family and outside community.

In our church calendar we try to include a summer picnic, coffee and carols, Christmas fayre and shared lunches. Our women's and men's groups also have their own calendar of events through the year as opportunities present.

Bell ringers from local churches also gather to play for special occasions making it a social occasion whenever possible.



The Church and the community

Weddings, Baptisms and funerals

We have had five funerals over the last year, these included large funerals of congregation members and funerals for people in the local community. Access for funerals has been a concern, both for funeral directors and elderly people attending.

We have only had one wedding in the last year.

We have had an increase in Baptisms, both of children and adults, since 2020 which has introduced some new families into the church. A small congregation team support the candidates and families in preparation for baptism. Last year we had 12 baptisms in total.

Community Services

Our previous vicars have led the Huyton Remembrance day civic ceremony usually held on the 11th November at the Cenotaph and Remembrance Sunday service that starts at the Cenotaph and continues in church.

The local council would like to continue and further develop these links.

Congregation's Voice



Why I come to church:
To be with God.

People I see:

My friends:

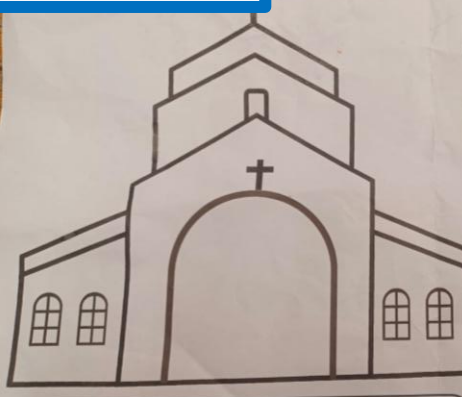
- Matt
- Carol
- Carol
- Norma
- Olivia
- Jane
- Tony
- Norma
- Carter
- Lesley

Things that are good about our church:

- Seeing my friends
- Praising God
- Singing
- Communion
- Giving peace
- Tea & Coffee

My favourite things to do in church:

Sing, dance, see my friends and learn new things. I like to eat cake too.



Why I come to church:
Believe in God

People I see:

- Carter
- Jane
- Norma
- Mattie
- Carole
- Carole
- Steve
- George
- Carla
- Laura
- Wanda

Things that are good about our church:

I can read or help in church. All the children can do something. The children can take part in the service.

My favourite things to do in church:

Help in church and read and take part in the service.

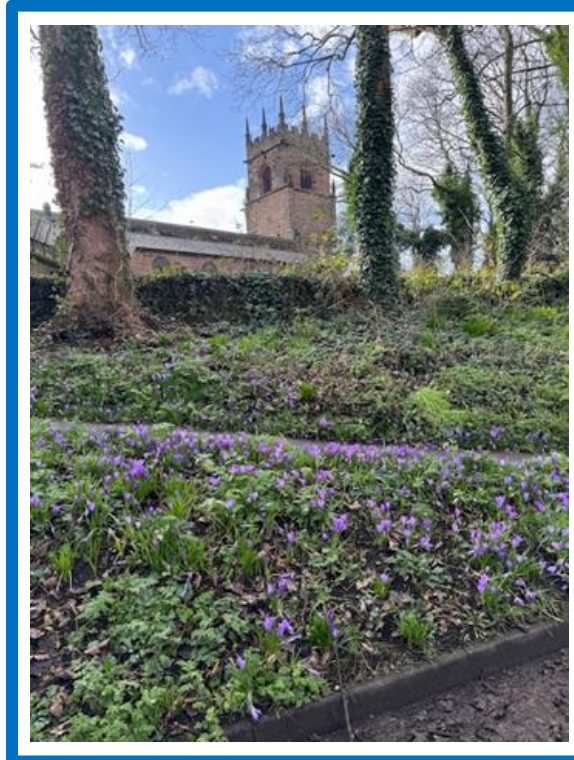
St Michael's Parish Church has become a huge part of my family. We have been coming every year for Christmas carols until 2024 when our world was turned upside down. I was diagnosed with cancer and honestly thought my life would be cut short. We started attending church more regularly and asked God to help us if he could. I wanted to be baptised, so the church family sorted this out for me, and we had a wonderful service in church back in November 2025. the church family welcomed us all in with open arms and hasn't let us go since. With God's guidance and the love of everyone from St Michael's we are here to stay! I have recommended everyone who hasn't tried opening their hearts to God to do so, as it has entirely changed our world.

Sharon

Church and Buildings

The church is located in a prime spot in the centre of Huyton village. We have a church hall on the same site at the rear of the church and there are small amounts of parking at both the front and rear of the church. The church is lit up at night making it the focus of the village.

The church is an old building so there are maintenance and development needs, but the age of the building also establishes links with the community as they feel ownership of the church even if they don't attend. Often when the doors are open for a service people will come in as they have had parents or grandparents married or buried at the church, or they just want to see the historic church.



We have recently updated the hearing loop for those who are hard of hearing, and we have a TV in the meeting room so parents can follow the service if they feel the need to come out for some quiet time. A modern kitchen is installed at the back of the church and is used for our refreshments after services. We also have a modern accessible toilet with baby changing facilities.



Accessibility into and around the church is an issue due to the variation in levels because of the history of the church. We do our best to support people getting access to services.

The age of the church means that regular maintenance is needed, as with any building. We try to reduce the impact on PCC and labour costs by using our Building Maintenance Team to respond quickly to any issues. This allows PCC to spend more time on the direction and ministry of the church.

St Michael's, a Historic Church

A church has stood on the site since Anglo-Saxon times. The current church is grade II listed and dates primarily from the 14th century with growth of the building over subsequent centuries.

Main historical features of note include:

- A 14th-century alabaster effigy of a priest, John De Winwick.
- A Norman font that was found under the tower in 1872 is now used for our church baptisms.
- A 15th-century octagonal font.
- A screen
- An organ presented by Messrs Rushworth and Draper in 1925.
- 17th century mausoleum to the Case family.
- 26 beautiful stained-glass windows dating from the early 1900's
- In more modern history, the church cemetery is famously associated with the burial of Stuart Sutcliffe, the original Beatles bassist. The cemetery is now closed so Knowsley Council now looks after the upkeep.
- There are 6 bells in the tower the oldest of which dates from 1606. They are still rung on a regular basis.



Huyton with Roby Infant and Junior Academy

We have a **church school** shared with St Bartholomew's Roby and would like our new vicar to play a role in the spiritual education of the children in partnership with Rev Kate from St Bartholomew's and to occupy a seat on the board of governors.

The children visit the church throughout the year, and the infants hold their annual Christmas Service with us. We aim to find ways to encourage more of the school families to join our regular worship. We currently have a representative from the congregation on the board of Governors.



"Huyton with Roby CE Primary school is a two- form entry school with Nursery. We are part of the Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust (LDST) family of schools. Huyton with Roby is a popular and successful school, which has close links with two local churches, St. Michael's Huyton and St Bartholomew's Roby. As a Church of England School, our Christian values underpin our school ethos and all that we do. The staff at Huyton with Roby value the important partnership with parents, families and our churches in providing a caring and supportive learning environment. We want the children to enjoy their education and they also develop an enthusiasm for learning. Our aim is to provide a wide range of rewarding learning experiences that encourage, challenge and extend each child's ability, helping them fulfil their potential."

Jill Stratford, Head Teacher.



The School Vision:

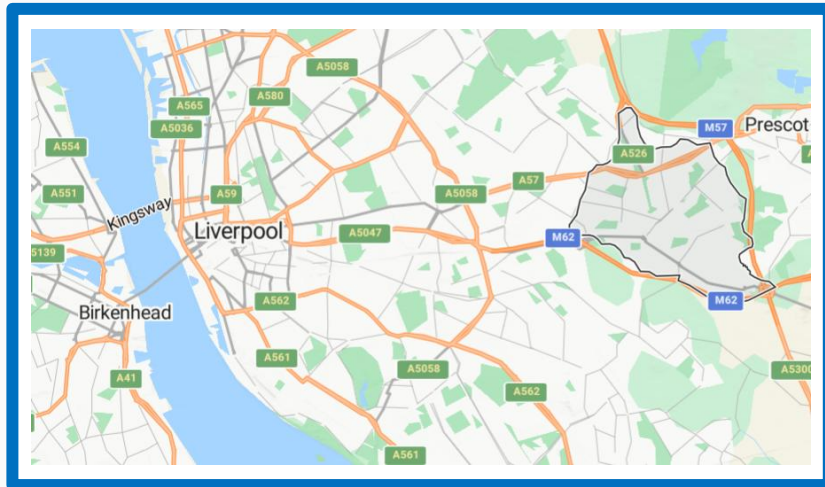
Proverbs 22:6

**Teach children how they should live
and they will remember it all their lives.**

Motto:

Working Together

Huyton Location



Huyton is in the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley and is the administrative centre.

Huyton has good transport links, with a number of motorways linking to Northwest and around the country. It also has a train station (5 minutes from the church) that links to Liverpool, and Manchester.

Knowsley Safari Park is a few miles away. The deanery has even had outdoor baptisms at the safari park!

Knowsley Leisure and Culture Park is within the parish and offers a fully equipped Gym, swimming pools, Spa and a cycle track. Huyton also has 2 golf courses, numerous parks and Stadt Moers Country Park.

A new addition in the area is the Shakespeare North Playhouse, Prescot.



Exciting plans for Huyton town centre

Plans for the regeneration of the town centre include naming a village green after the church and planning to place the church at the centre of the community.

The project includes the building of new homes and the growth of local businesses to provide job opportunities in the area.

“It’s an exciting time to be joining the Parish as Knowsley Council has ambitious plans for the development of Huyton Village Centre.

Work is well underway through the Shop Front Improvement programme which has already seen 14 properties benefitting from contemporary makeovers including new windows, doors, signage and lighting. This project has helped to attract more businesses into the village centre, bringing empty shop units back into use, and providing an extensive food and drink offer.

But this is just the start as Knowsley Council has an ambitious £200m, 10-year development plan which will include the delivery of new homes, new commercial space, a hotel, a village green and the creation of a community hub in the heart of the village centre along with the transformation of the multi-storey car park into a sustainable travel hub.

These proposals are set to revitalise Huyton, attract inward investment, create jobs and deliver long term social and economic benefits for the local community. St Michael’s Church is at the heart of Huyton Village and the Council is keen to continue our blossoming partnership with the Church and the new Vicar to look at development, improved access and how St Michael’s church can continue to play a pivotal role in the future of Huyton Village.”

- James Duncan, Chief Executive of Knowsley Council

*So now I am giving you a new commandment:
Love each other.
Just as I have loved you, you should love each
other.
Your love for one another will prove to the
world that you are my disciples.*

John 13:34-35

Huyton Deanery

Huyton Deanery hosts a close knit and well organised team of clergy and has its own academy to train and encourage Christians in their faith journey.

St Michael's Huyton is a church full to brim with potential. Standing majestically in the centre of Huyton and in the heart of the regeneration district, its presence has spoken of the love of God for the entire Huyton community over many centuries.

The community is very mixed, with properties in all council tax bands, commercial districts, areas of high deprivation, schools, retail developments and green spaces. A clear focus for mission is the town centre itself, just a few hundred yards from the church. Over the years much time and energy has been spent building up an excellent relationship with the local authority.

St Michael's is also at the heart of Huyton Deanery – a deanery known for its collaborative and supportive ways of working, with key projects being the deanery academy where a range of training and discipleship opportunities are coordinated centrally in partnership with parishes and schools (for more information visit www.huytondeanery.org)

The Deanery Leadership Team is focussed on supporting mission across the deanery and stands ready to further partner with St Michael's as they continue to build on the foundations already laid, that in Huyton, more people would come to know Jesus and in Huyton, there would be more justice as a result of the church's presence.

St. Michael's has some particular challenges to do with access and the ancient grounds around the church. As part of this, a decision was made recently not to use this as the home of the next incumbent. It is no longer fit for purpose for a variety of reasons. Instead, the nearby St George's vicarage has been chosen and this has been agreed by the diocese. Not only is this in better condition but is in a much more appropriate location. It is hoped that the next vicar will play a role in the redevelopment of the area around the church, particularly its own grounds, as the regeneration scheme more widely provides opportunity for growth and transformation. Part of a redevelopment scheme could for example include the rebuilding of a new vicarage, perhaps alongside other new housing? There are many options an incoming vicar and other leaders of the church might wish to consider.

Please don't let these current site challenges put you off! I mention them to be completely up front and transparent, but I also want to assure you that St Michael's provides a rich, diverse and fulfilling opportunity for town centre ministry, estate ministry and in lots of other ways too! You would be joining the church at a key moment of opportunity in its history. The congregation is ready and willing to work with the woman or man God is calling as their next vicar, to pray for them and do all that they can to partner in the gospel work God is calling the church community to engage with in this next season

Thank you for considering this historic post. You will be in my prayers throughout your discernment and please do call me on 0151 489 2688 if you would like an informal chat.

The Revd Canon Malcolm Rogers MBE
Vicar of Huyton Quarry, Area Dean of Huyton and
The Bishop of Liverpool's Canon For Reconciliation