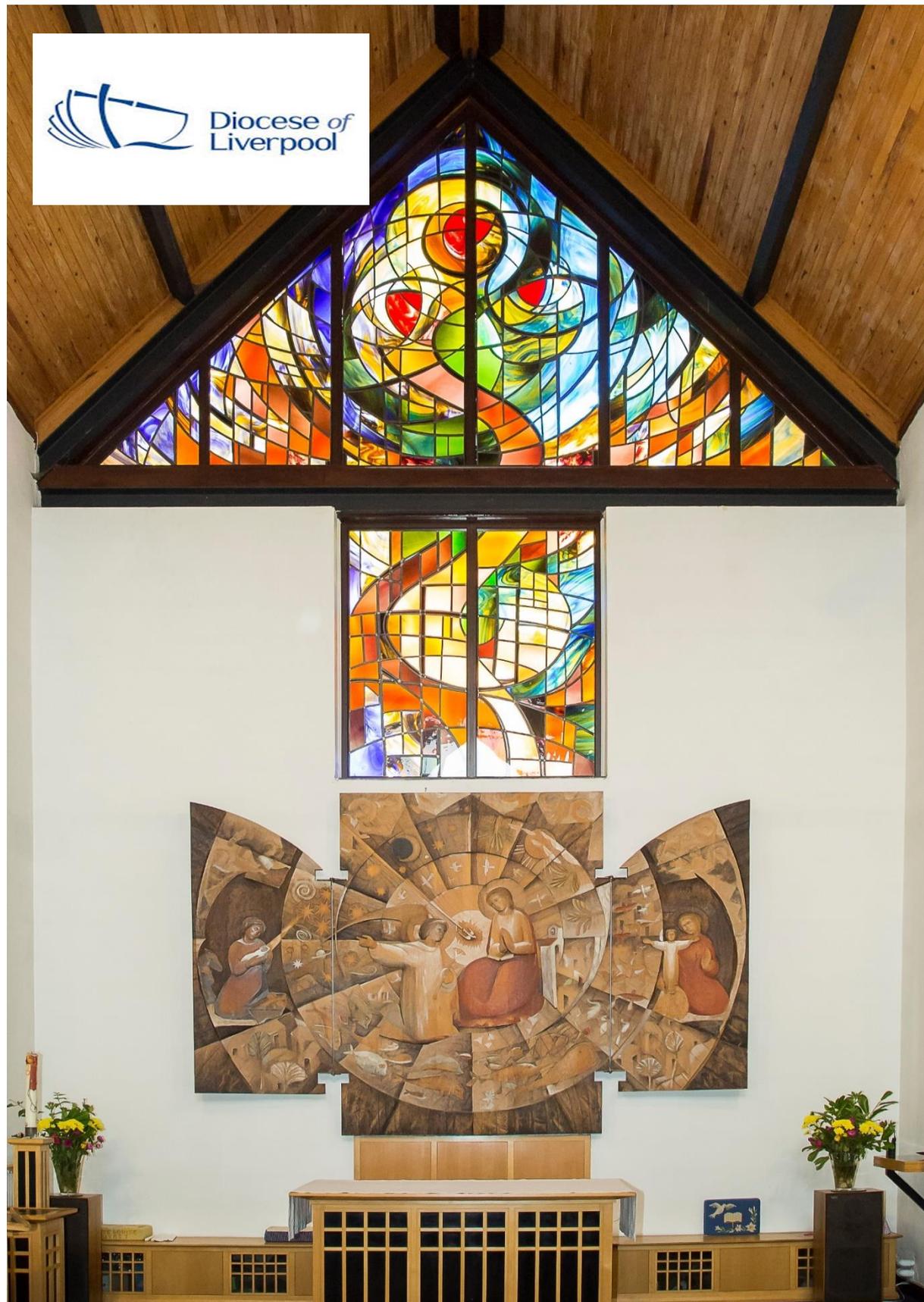


St Cuthbert's Church Croxteth Park, Parish Profile 2018



Welcome to St. Cuthbert's, Croxteth Park.

We are delighted you want to find out more about us.

We are

- A liberal catholic church
- Eucharistically centred in our worship styles
- Welcoming and friendly

What we do.....

- Committed to sharing God's love with our community
- Forward thinking and inclusive

What we want.....

- A Vicar who is rooted in prayer and scripture
- Inspiring and enabling leader

St Cuthbert's Church

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<https://www.facebook.com/stcuthchurch>



<https://twitter.com/StCuthChurch>



<https://stcuthbertschurch.weebly.com>

Who are we?

St Cuthbert's is located in Croxteth Country Park Housing estate which sits within the Croxteth ward in the north of Liverpool. St. Cuthbert's was built in 1988 and we will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2018. St. Cuthbert's initially began as a house church in September 1987 with just 5 people some of whom continue to worship here. St Cuthbert's was dedicated in December 1988.



The church is at the centre of the community in Croxteth Park housing estate. Within the parish sits Emmaus Church of England and Catholic Primary School with which our church has strong links. A number of our congregation are on the governing body as Foundation Governors, with one currently sitting as the Bishop's Nominee. Some families with children that attend the school also attend St. Cuthbert's church. A proportion of the estate comprises a retired population. We have an electoral roll membership of 167.

The Parish is a middle-income area with average income for Liverpool of £29,000 p.a. The population of Croxteth Park Estate has remained relatively static over the last 5 years.

How we pray and worship



We are a liberal catholic church.

We have three Sunday services: 9am, 11am and 6pm, which enables our parishioners to worship on a Sunday. Refreshments are served after each of these services to encourage fellowship.

We are fortunate to have 2 Wardens, 4 Assistant Wardens, a Shared Ministry Team, a team of Sides People and an Organist who assist in the running of these services. All tasks are carried out on a rota basis by volunteers in the church.

9am service is a said Eucharist. There is a Sunday School for children from Reception up to year 6. There is also Mini Cuthbert's, crèche for pre-school children. The average attendance at 9am service is 55 adults and children.

11am service is a Eucharist with hymns and a small choir. Again, we have a Sunday School and Mini Cuthbert's. Uniformed Groups will attend for parade service at 11am regularly throughout the church calendar. Baptisms are usually held during this service. The average attendance at the 11am service is 69 adults and children, which includes the attendees at Baptisms and Parades.

6pm service is a Eucharist using Taizé chants, these chants can be sung by members of the congregation. This is a steadily growing congregation and is delivered with the congregation seated in the round. Once a month there is a café church style service at 6pm which is led by the Shared Ministry Team. The average attendance at the 6pm service is 27 adults and children. On occasions family Baptisms have occurred at this service.



We were delighted to be officially recognised as a Child Friendly Church in October 2017. Our Sunday School and Crèche leaders work hard to deliver the Roots material in a way that makes learning, faith and spirituality fun. The choice of where to worship rests entirely with the children and they are welcome to stay in the Eucharist service.



There is a youth group “**Spark**”, which runs on a Sunday evening for our young people from year 6 to year 11. This gives our young people a place to socialise safely and engage in lectionary-based activity linked to the liturgy from that day’s service. Spark is staffed by volunteers and we are currently struggling to run this group on a weekly basis due to a lack of volunteers.

We have enthusiastic sub-committees which are tasked with engaging the congregation and the wider community.

The purpose of the **Shared Ministry Team** is to encourage, support and develop every member of the parish so they may take their part in God’s mission in our community. The team arranges various events and services throughout the year such as a yearly mission week and Café church. Café church occurs monthly and offers a friendly, relaxed alternative style of worship.

There is a weekly **Bible Study Group** which is led by a member of the congregation and a “Pilgrim” course that operates twice a year for six weeks run by the **Spirituality, Worship and Vocation Group**. We are open to reviewing the courses we offer in the future.

During Lent and Advent, an hour of quiet time for meditation and reflection takes place each week which is also facilitated by the **Spirituality, Worship and Vocation Group**. Whilst this isn't well attended, we would hope for this to continue in the future to offer a chance for quiet reflection in our busy lives. Easter and Christmas services are well attended.



The **Arts and Hospitality Group** host an annual photography exhibition which supports a nominated charity. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool and local MPs attend to show their support. We host regular quiz nights, visiting orchestras, choirs and bands which all boost the social life of the community. This group also offer children's craft activity days which have a theme based in the liturgy and all the activities will reflect this theme.



The **Pastoral Care Team** are four trained volunteers from the congregation who offer confidential support and home visits for those who request it. They also work with the local GP surgeries who refer patients to us for visits, whether church-goers or not.

We have a **Justice and Peace Group** which works ecumenically with our neighbouring churches of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Roman Catholic Church and The Parish Church of the Good Shepherd. This group raises issues of injustice locally and worldwide. The group writes to prisoners of conscience to offer support and organises two annual fundraising events. The first is a sponsored walk through our beautiful park in September and the second is a world food-tasting event held in October. The nominated charity for the proceeds of these events in 2017 was the Medaille Trust.

Our church supports the local Foodbank. We also actively support The Children's Society with many of the congregation collecting throughout the year and donating via house boxes at Christmas time. We hold a Christingle service on Christmas Eve which raises money for the Children's Society. We support Christian Aid and are involved in the house collections each year. We nominate yearly a charity for Lent and Harvest and have retiring collections for various emergency appeals.



On a weekly basis, the church provides a base for Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. These groups are encouraged to be actively involved in the life of the church and some of the leaders come from the congregation. There is a weekly Friendship Group for the over 50s, and a community lunch which is externally funded and provides a free meal and friendship for anyone who attends. The church is also used for two community groups,

a toddler group and baby massage. Additionally, Croxteth Park Residents Association uses the church for public meetings. The use of the church by these groups contributes to St Cuthbert's outreach into the community of Croxteth Park.

Weddings are a rare event as people prefer a traditional type of church setting rather than a contemporary one. In the past year St Cuthbert's has had no weddings, 3 funerals in church but several in the local crematorium and 27 Baptisms. Those seeking baptism have a preparation course facilitated by a member of the congregation and a home visit from the baptism secretary.



The congregation organises an annual retreat to Alnmouth Franciscan Friary.

In 2012 we were awarded the Church School Partnership level 1 and in 2017 awarded Partnership level 2, with Emmaus School and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs. This school was the first of its kind in England to be conceived and built as a joint faith school in the UK. Emmaus School was built to provide education for the children of Croxteth Park and fulfil the wishes of both the Liverpool Diocese and the Archdiocese for a joint church school. The Vicar holds a significant role delivering services in the school. The school is a two-form entry school and since opening it as always been over-subscribed by both faiths. Its most recent OFSTED and SIAMS inspections were both graded outstanding.



All the year 5 children and above are invited to join our junior confirmation group each year. This is delivered by one of our longstanding members of the congregation along with a group of helpers also from the congregation. In 2017 13 children were confirmed. An adult confirmation course also takes place each year and in 2017, 12 adults were confirmed. This group is led by another member of the congregation.



The Wider Church

West Derby Deanery consists of 14 churches (with 1 soon to be made redundant) and 11 clergy (a mix of stipendiary, self-supporting and curates) plus 2 Church Army Officers, a number of retired clergy and several readers throughout the Deanery.

The Deanery has reviewed and is re-drafting its Deanery Mission Plan. Its mission statement is 'Sharing Christ in Mission and Ministry'. The Deanery is keen to explore ways in which churches can further develop working together that would see an increase in the impact and relevance of its churches in their parishes, seeking social justice in its communities and beyond. Deanery Synod will have an active part in the Bishops' Mission 2019.

The Group

West Derby Group of Churches brings together 5 neighbouring parishes in the communities of West Derby, Norris Green, Croxteth and Croxteth Park. As 5 clergy cover 5 churches the group is committed to supporting each other and, as parish churches, they are exploring how they can work together to further the mission of God in this place. The 5 churches are:

- St Cuthbert, Croxteth Country Park
- St Christopher, Norris Green
- St Mary, West Derby
- St James, West Derby
- The Church of the Good Shepherd, Croxteth

We are a forward thinking and inclusive church, who aim to live out our mission statement to worship God and share His/Her light in the community. We aim to reflect God's love within our community, to nurture and deepen our own faith and to enable people to come to personal faith in Jesus.

Finance

Our annual income is in the region of £69,000 with around £55,000 being received in unrestricted funds based on 2016 accounts. This represents 71% of funds being provided as regular giving by the congregation. We utilise the Parish Giving Scheme and in 2016 there were 69 parishioners registered to give via monthly Direct Debit. The Scheme has proved invaluable for Gift-Aid payments which are paid into our bank account on a monthly basis. A collection is taken at each of the three services.

We spent £59,734 from our general fund on our Parish Share, Mission Giving and the general upkeep and improvement of the church buildings and grounds. Our annual Parish Share is £39,136.68 and this is paid up to date and continues to be paid by monthly Direct Debit. We are not in arrears.

The Church building itself provides a good level of income with £5,684 being raised from hire of the church space for children's parties or for use by other groups. The summer fair is also a good source of income with around £3,000 each year being generated in funds. Without this revenue we would struggle financially.



Currently St Cuthbert's holds £13,786 in reserves. Our finances are regularly monitored by the Treasurer and PCC and audited annually.

In the last few years a number of major improvements have been made to our Church. We have received help from several legacies enabling us to install a new boiler, a stained-glass window and new LED lighting. We have also been able to carry out essential maintenance to the community room roof and work to the exterior of the church, its grounds and garden.

We have received help from the Deanery Mission Fundraiser to secure funding for a regular community lunch during 2018 and 50 new chairs for the church from an 'Awards-For-All' funding grant.



The Altar at St Cuthbert's featuring the Triptych by Steven Foster and the stained-glass window 'The Road to Emmaus' by Linda Hadfield.

Our Facilities

We recognise that God's 'church' refers to the worshippers rather than the buildings but, nevertheless, buildings are a great asset to be used for the benefit of the church congregation and the local community. Together, our facilities comprise the church building itself, a separate community room, small secure carpark and an extensive area of garden. The vicarage, situated only five minutes' walk away, is an attractive home, built as part of the wider Country Park development and is owned by the Diocese.

The main church building is a contemporary design build. It was licensed for worship in 1988 and is used for three Eucharistic services each Sunday as well as for regular baptisms and occasional funerals. The seating capacity is 150 but can be extended to 170 by opening the new bi-fold doors at the back and thereby incorporating what is normally a crèche area. The building is in excellent condition and has a Triptych that has recently been enhanced by the addition of a stained-glass window facing east and depicting the road to Emmaus described in Luke 24.

The church building has also benefitted from recent upgrades to the heating and lighting systems as well as to the sound and audio loop facilities. The windows and external doors have been replaced in the last 5 years with approved double glazing making the church warm and secure. New seating is currently under consideration as the present chairs are now reaching the end of their useful life. A number of church groups use the building for weeknight activities as do a number of community groups during the day. The well-equipped kitchen provides an excellent means of catering for all such events.

The most recent Quinquennial Report in 2014 highlighted the good condition of the church building. We do not foresee any issues at our next review in 2019.

In one corner of the garden is our Community Room which is a large, static porta-cabin having running water, electricity and its own toilet facilities. This amenity is the venue for our Sunday School as well as for use by the wider community and our own youth groups. Improvements are currently being considered to enable the Community Room to provide improved access for the disabled. The room can accommodate up to 40 persons.



Outside the main building is an extensive garden area, which has received Britain in Bloom with RHS 2017 Neighbourhood Award of Level 4 -Thriving. It is also the scene of the annual summer fair and includes picnic tables for events during the summer months and is utilised by user groups. The gardens provide a peaceful backdrop to the church building and serve to remind us of the beautiful world God has provided for us all to enjoy and value.

The Vicarage

The Vicarage, situated just across the main road opposite the church, is a contemporary style detached house with integral garage. Downstairs comprises a hallway, living room, dining room, study, large kitchen/diner, utility room and a downstairs WC. Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms and a bathroom. There are gardens both front and back and the property is located in a quiet area of the Country Park. It is in good condition throughout and is a comfortable home.



The Vicar for us

Our next Vicar will take the lead in defining and inspiring the future direction of our church as we build on existing strong foundations and find new ways to enable us to grow as a church serving the Parish, Deanery and Diocese.

We are looking for a vicar who will be:

- Eucharistically centred and grounded in prayer and scripture.
- A good leader with a strong pastoral focus, effective at communicating and engaging with diverse groups of people across all age groups.
- An effective leader who can make decisions without being dictatorial and someone who will empower and encourage the congregation.
- An inspiring preacher who challenges the congregation to share their Christian faith in word and deed.
- Enthusiastic about working in unity with Emmaus Primary School.
- Sociable and approachable, taking an interest and getting involved in church events and activities.
- A compassionate resilient diplomat with a character strong enough to deal creatively with challenging situations and people.
- An effective ambassador for the parish, reaching out to local people and organisations, including those of other faiths and no faith.
- Passionate about their role and will have the long-term vision to build a bigger church, making a bigger difference in the wider community.
- Supports the use of technology and forms of social media to spread the work of the church.
- Willing to delegate and enable others to share in the full missional life of this parish.
- Motivated to take a full and active role in Deanery Synod and Clergy Chapter.

We asked our children and youth what they would like in their new vicar. In their own words they would like someone who: speaks to you, tells funny jokes, talks to me, comes to school, comes to scouts, not boring, happy, nice, fun, involves us, kind. (No pressure!)

Opportunities for growth

The opportunities he or she may choose to work with:

- Making greater provision to nurture people in the faith, especially those recently confirmed.
- Finding new ways to build better links between younger and older members of the congregation, and between the 9:00am, 11.00am and 6.00pm congregations.
- Better communication with existing and new church members, so that their skills and enthusiasm are utilised.
- Maintaining contact with those whom we meet at baptisms, weddings and funerals and with members of the congregation who cannot attend church due to illness or disability.
- Act as a catalyst to identify and develop the gifts of others and encourage lay leadership.
- To take the Church out into the Community and to work and serve with all of God's people.

What we will do for our new Vicar

We will:

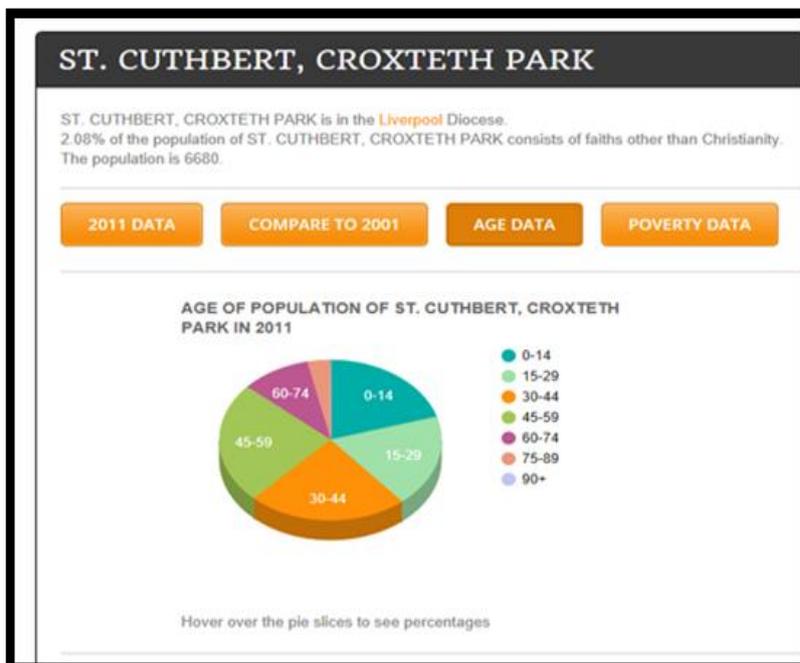
- Welcome you to the family at St. Cuthbert's Church and the community of Croxteth Park.
- Welcome you to all our activities so you can get to know us and what we do.
- Encourage you to share your previous experiences with us.
- Expect you to take holidays and days off, and we will respect them.
- Encourage you to take up opportunities for further training, reading and personal development.
- Be non-judgemental and non-critical as you find your way amongst us.
- Look forward to hearing you teach and preach.
- Support you and work with you in your involvement in the wider community.
- Pray for you.
- Work collaboratively with you as we seek to further build God's Kingdom here.
- Care for you as a friend in Christ and even bring you a cup of tea and biscuits at the end of each service!

Where we are.



The Parish is part of Croxteth ward, which has a population of 14,561, 65% of whom are of working age and 20.9% are children. 13.7% of the population are aged over 65.

<http://presenceandengagement.org.uk/parish/220275>



Like much of Liverpool, the local population is predominately white (92%) including increasing numbers of Polish and other Eastern European families, together with 7.9% Black, minority or ethnic groups.

(source Liverpool City Council 2014)

Liverpool is a maritime city in northwest England, where the River Mersey meets the Irish Sea. A key trade and migration port from the 18th to the early 20th centuries, it's also, famously, the hometown of The Beatles. Ferries cruise the waterfront where the iconic mercantile buildings known as the "Three Graces" – Royal Liver Building, Cunard Building and Port of Liverpool Building – stand on the Pier Head.



Liverpool is a beautiful, unique and very loveable city with tons of history, a lot of soul, and a big heart. Liverpoolians are well-known for their affability and keen sense of humour.

Liverpool has been voted one of the best cities in the UK for work-life balance due to its cosmopolitan atmosphere, optimistic outlook, and friendly people. Liverpool earned the title of European Capital of Culture in 2008 and continues to grow and improve as a vibrant and exciting city in which to live and work.

You'll find the largest collection of museums and art galleries outside London in the local area, including the Museum of Liverpool, the Merseyside Maritime Museum, World Museum and Tate Liverpool, as well as home to The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, not to mention two football teams and two cathedrals!

The city also has three big universities (Liverpool University, Liverpool John Moores University and Liverpool Hope University) generating thousands of jobs and hosting academic research centres. The city has created a large amount of newbuild accommodation for both UK and overseas students and is one of the most student-friendly cities in the UK.

In the area of St Cuthbert's there are a number of local stores including a Post Office, small convenience store, Chinese take-away/fish-and-chip shop, chemist, hairdresser, beautician and café. There is also a GP surgery and a recently opened pre-school nursery facility. The nearby Rhys Jones Community Centre offers floodlit sports pitches as well as rooms to hire.



St Cuthbert's is situated in West Derby and the parish includes part of Croxteth Country Park, a 500-acre country park and nature reserve to which you can walk from certain key pathways on Croxteth Park Housing estate. You will also find an historic Hall, Croxteth Home Farm and the Victorian Walled Garden.

Two miles away in West Derby Village can be found most retailers for daily essentials plus places to eat.

Croxteth Park Housing Estate has very easy access to the local motorway network, allowing day trips to the Lake District or North Wales, reachable within 2 hours. We are also on the doorstep for National Trust properties, open countryside, coastal paths and beaches.

