

The Bishops' Statement

Dear Friend in Christ

Thank you for your interest in this post and in becoming a member of the House of Clergy here in Liverpool.

Liverpool's vision begins with a prayer as *'We ask God for a bigger church that makes a bigger difference, so that more people know Jesus and there is more justice in the world'*. Our vision shapes our desired culture as we seek to work together as co-workers in respect and friendship and in mutual accountability in the labour of God's harvest.

Like all dioceses across the Church of England, Liverpool faces the challenge of making Christ known, adding to our numbers, deepening discipleship, developing Christian leaders and doing justice. Particular to our diocese is the high proportion of IMD parishes and our uniquely low historical asset base. This has caused Liverpool, perhaps more than any diocese, to learn a particular dependency upon and seeking the heart and mind of our Trinitarian God.

Our diocesan strategy, Fit for Mission, serves our response to what has become burdensome for those in leadership and our discernment of what we believe we have heard and seen of God's direction for us. It is designed around four missional priorities that we ask of all ordained and lay ministers, namely (1) to introduce people to Jesus; (2) to deepen discipleship; (3) to develop Christian leaders; and (4) to do justice.

We aim to remove the weighty administration and all that has hitherto become obstacles to ministry and mission and to address the isolation and loneliness of clergy by ensuring collegiality, mutual accountability and shared purpose. We expect any new incumbent and all in leadership are committed to this vision and our missional priorities.

We, in return, will welcome you as friend and we will do all within our gift to create the space and opportunities for you to grow and flourish as the person and priest of God called to serve Him through His church, in this unique, interesting and lively diocese of Liverpool.

With our prayers and warmest good wishes,



The Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath
Bishop of Liverpool



The Rt Revd Beverley A Mason
Bishop of Warrington

