



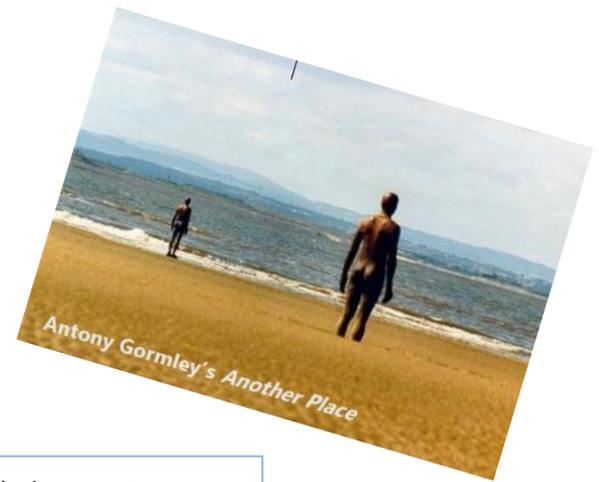
**ST FAITH'S**  
GREAT CROSBY



## PARISH PROFILE

Welcome – and thank you for taking the time to read about the vacancy in our Benefice, the challenges we face and the opportunities ahead.

# About our area



- Waterloo is situated about five miles north of Liverpool city centre although our parishes also encompass parts of Crosby.
- We have around two miles of sandy beach which includes Antony Gormley's 'Another Place'.
- Waterloo has good transport connections to both Liverpool and the seaside resort of Southport which lies further along the coast to the north.
- St Mary's is situated in the Waterloo Park Conservation Area.



## Leisure facilities:

- We have the Crosby Marina with a boating lake and there are several parks and open spaces.
- The Lake House is situated by the Crosby waterfront and contains a gymnasium, bar and restaurant and also provides conference facilities and overnight accommodation.
- Waterloo has a wide range of local shops and there is a 15 minute regular train service by Merseyrail to Liverpool (for mainline services) and Southport.
- There are many pubs, bars, cafés and restaurants.
- We have a public library and a community run cinema (The Plaza).
- There are several high standard amateur music groups in the area.
- There is a large recreational area called Rimrose Valley Country Park next to St. Mary's Church which is popular for dog walking.
- Marine AFC, in the NPL Premier Division, have twice won the accolade as Football Foundation Community Club of the Year.

#### Housing:

- There is a mix of housing, including some terraced houses, semi-detached properties, flats and social housing.
- Some housing is owner occupied; some are privately rented accommodation.
- We have several care homes in our parishes which provide residential and day care services.



#### Our local schools:

- It is hoped that our new incumbent will take up the vacant governor position at the nearby church primary school of St John's, Waterloo.
- St Mary's has developed strong links with St John's C of E Primary School, St Faith's Music Department has also established links with local primary schools in the development of music 'free for all'.
- Merchant Taylors' School is an independent school which has strong historical links with St Faith's. St Faith's host their annual Carol Service, as well as events for other local schools, both primary and secondary.
- There are several privately run pre-schools in the area.

# The priest we are looking for



- In common with many parishes, our numbers have been in slow decline, accelerated by the effects of the pandemic. We are looking for a priest who will bring fresh thinking and real energy to the Benefice, someone who will help take forward the ongoing development of our mission to the communities in Crosby and Waterloo.
- We recognise that changes are needed, such as: encouraging an increase in all generations, including young people and families attending church; exploring outreach and working within the local community; renewing and developing spirituality and discipleship and empowering laity to develop their roles; but we also know that these need to be handled with sensitivity, careful preparation and explanation, being led by the new priest in collaboration with the congregations and PCCs. We acknowledge that change can be challenging.

We need a prayerful priest who:

- will respect our two churches with differing worship styles and traditions.
- will work closely and collaboratively with the team of retired priests, lay reader and volunteers and be confident about bringing initiative and vision to the churches and community.
- will work closely with other churches in the Waterloo Group and with the Sefton South Deanery.
- will be a good shepherd and pastor for those who attend church, those who are housebound and to all our local community.
- will work to renew and re-affirm the traditional links between the two churches in the Benefice.
- will bring calm, good humour to share the joys and sorrows of ordinary people.
- will be visible and active in the Benefice.
- will demonstrate the highest standards in our worship and respond to the needs of those who share in it.
- has a good awareness of the administrative functions and day-to-day running of busy parishes and be a good communicator.
- is comfortable with technology and social media and aim to develop our presence in this area.

In return, we offer you:

- a warm welcome
- our prayers
- our enthusiasm and willingness to develop spiritually and try new ideas
- committed and supportive Ministry and lay teams
- respect for your need for time off each week and opportunities for personal development.
- a large, modern Vicarage with pleasant gardens, adjacent to St Faith's on Milton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 4RE.
- the vicarage, which serves both St Faith's and St Mary's, and garden, which are within the grounds of St Faith's and are in good condition. The vicarage has four bedrooms, large living room, dining room, study, kitchen and utility room. There is a detached garage and room for three cars to be parked on the driveway and a 'Tesco Express' across the road. The church grounds and St Faith's Garden of Remembrance are maintained by a local landscape contractor.



# The Parish Church of St Faith, Great Crosby

- St Faith's was consecrated in 1900 from the benefaction of our founder, Douglas Horsfall. It stands in the liberal Anglo-Catholic tradition, and we look for a priest who will, with the grace of God, sustain this vision as we continue our journey in and with the local community and our fellow churches. We seek to maintain our tradition of weekday Eucharists and daily offices and to build on these both spiritually and pastorally.
- Our church has nurtured over 30 vocations to the priesthood, including Bishops and an Archbishop of Canterbury, and we have a very active ministry team, including four retired priests and one reader. With their help and that of other members of our congregation we are able to maintain a committed programme of visiting the housebound and the sick. There are 65 on the electoral roll, 20 of whom live in the parish. There are some 5,000 people living in the parish: the area is largely residential with many small shops and businesses.
- Our busy and comprehensive website is currently being rebuilt and we are using our Facebook page "The Friends of St Faith's" to keep people up to date with our services and events. An occasional news-sheet "News Lite" is printed for the congregation.



**THIS CHURCH OF SAINT  
FAITH IS DEDICATED TO THE  
GLORY OF GOD AS A  
THANKOFFERING FOR THE  
REVIVAL OF CATHOLIC  
FAITH AND DOCTRINE IN  
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
DURING THE SIXTY YEARS  
REIGN OF HER MOST  
GRACIOUS MAJESTY QUEEN  
VICTORIA**

*Inscription on the chance/  
wall of St Faith's*

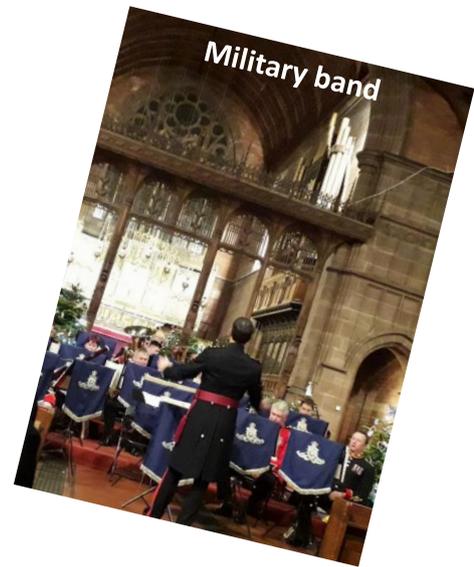
- Our large Grade II listed church building is well maintained and supports several community and civic initiatives. These include a well-established programme of free summer Saturday lunchtime recitals by a wide range of musicians, the Crosby Symphony Orchestra's concerts, and our highly regarded free Christmas Tree Festival, showcasing local and national charities and welcoming the parish, schools and the wider local community. Local schools also visit us for services and concerts, and we have strong links with local state and independent secondary schools. We seek to strengthen and build on these connections, making use of our prominent and centrally situated landmark building.

*Kindhearts Café is a warm, welcoming and valued community hub at the heart of our local community. We rent the church hall every Thursday and benefit from the space at St Faith's, even though we are a separate organisation. The café is very popular with parishioners and the wider community who all work together to create a loving environment, a listening ear and a genuine smile for everyone. The café survives purely on kind donations from our customers, any surplus donations that we receive are used to provide much needed support for the homeless outreach in the city, and vulnerable families within our community.*

a Kindhearts Café volunteer



- Our well-maintained parish hall is adjacent to the church and is in constant use for church and community activities, including our uniformed organisations, the Kindhearts Café, Slimming World, regular parish lunches, community groups, children's parties and receptions.
- We are proud of our well-run and enthusiastic uniformed organisations, who provide a youth programme for the parish, and take leading roles in our Sunday church parades. Our Teddy Bear Trail involved all groups of the congregation and proved popular with our younger visitors.
- We have always been very aware of those outside the church and parish who need our prayerful and practical help. We actively support Christian Aid through collections and events, likewise the Children's Society, as well as an overseas charities, the Waterloo Partnership, Sierra Leone, which we were instrumental in setting up. Our Service Families Support Group, unique in the North West, meets monthly for worship, fellowship and to welcome visiting speakers, and has strong links with the local British Legion.
- Over the past years, St Faith's has embraced liturgical changes with dignity and grace – liturgy that has furthered our growth and spirituality. We recognize that to flourish we must continue that movement. We see these challenges as exciting prospects and commit ourselves to supporting mission and outreach both locally and further afield.



## Our finances

- Sound financial management is fundamental to the operation of the parish and, despite the effects of Covid, we are solvent. Regular giving is encouraged through standing orders and Gift Aid envelopes. We have recently joined the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).
- A generous legacy in late 2022 has enabled us to carry out a number of essential repairs and maintenance to the fabric of the church and hall. The church lighting in St Faith's is currently being completely updated with a new, energy efficient LED system and is already receiving very positive reviews. Accessible entrance works will be completed in Spring 2024 and there are further plans for a kitchen/servery and toilets in the church to benefit services and events.
- At present, we are fully up to date with our Parish Share which, in 2023, was £33,971 (£2,840 per month). The Annual Report is available on request or can be downloaded from the Friends page on Facebook.

*Crosby Symphony Orchestra attracts good amateur players from a wide area, and we have been holding three or four concerts a year in St. Faith's since the 1980s. The Church, which has an excellent acoustic, is known for the musical events it hosts, and has been both very helpful and welcoming throughout our long association.*

CSO Committee

# Music and Events at St Faith's

- St Faith's has a strong musical tradition and is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music.
- Our Director of Music has recently built up a new Junior Choir of nearly 30 young people, plus a Girls' Choir and a number of Lay Clerks who all support our established and much-respected Parish Choir. We have strong links with Liverpool Cathedral and the Metropolitan Cathedral and their singers regularly support our choral services. Our "Come and Sing" events have attracted choirs of over 100 volunteers with audiences of nearly two hundred.
- A series of Saturday Lunchtime Concerts are held during the summer months and attract a loyal following with performances from singers, instrumentalists and school choirs.
- An Annual Christmas Tree Festival has been held for a number of years that attracts over a thousand visitors to see 30 or more trees supporting local and national charities. A military band concert is the highlight of the week's activities.





***Did the service make you feel glad to be a Christian? Yes, definitely. I really felt part of St Faith's that morning, and I would gladly join their church. Smoke signals, birthday cake and baptism, all in one go!***

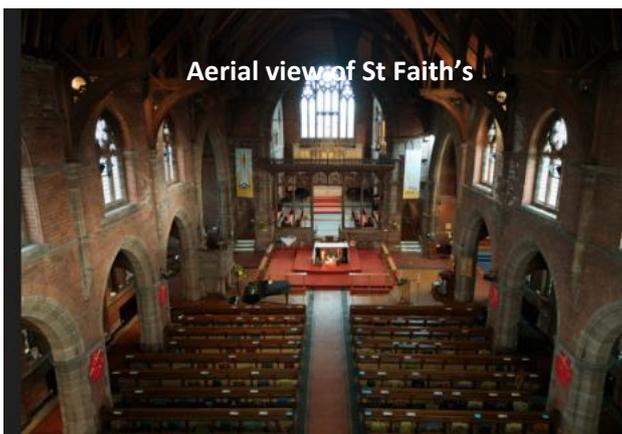
Mystery Worshipper (Ship of Fools) review

## Worship at St Faith's

The laity read lessons during the liturgy and lead the intercessions. There is a team of dedicated robed servers and licensed Eucharistic Assistants to assist the priest.

Refreshments usually follow the Sunday services.

In addition to regular masses at St Faith's, throughout the year there are many services to mark High Days and special occasions. Holy Week is taken seriously with the Watch of the Passion on Maundy Thursday and an Easter Vigil. At Christmas, we host carol services for schools, we have our own Festival of Lessons and Carols and there is a midday mass on New Year's Day.



# St Mary's, Waterloo Park

[www.stmaryswaterloopark.co.uk](http://www.stmaryswaterloopark.co.uk)



## About us



- We are a small but enthusiastic church, worshipping in our hall and meeting room some years ago following problems with the building, We did this with a positive attitude and it has turned out to be the right decision; we have made it work.
- We have adapted well and are looking to the future with optimism.
- Our congregation is loyal and positive and everyone likes to get involved.
- We are a multigenerational church family. We enjoy each other's company, support one another and like to laugh together. We prefer to resolve any issues informally.
- We have 29 on our electoral roll, with around half resident in the parish.
- We have a strong ministry team including 3 retired priests and a reader emeritus.
- Financially we are able to meet our commitments and have reserves. Our parish share is fully paid up.
- Our church is well run with a committed PCC.
- As a PCC we own a large building, 32 Brooklands, which fronts onto the Brooklands estate. It is used regularly by members of the community as well as our own church groups and initiatives.
- We like to be generous when we can and support various charities including a foodbank, the Children's Society and Christian Aid, while our Tuesday Club holds several fund raising events for local charities.

*This seems a very friendly church.*

Tuesday club guest speaker



*St Mary's has really welcomed me. It is the style of worship I like.*

New member

# Our worship

- We have a central worship style with plenty of lay leader and congregational involvement in our services.
- Our main Sunday service is parish communion with occasional all age worship services, which often have a more flexible and creative format, e.g. Parish Brunch.
- We are happy to use organ, keyboard, guitar or CD accompaniment.
- A Wednesday morning service is held in the meeting room. This is usually a Eucharist with reflection but can be lay led Morning Prayer.
- We hold regular study groups which follow the church calendar.



Tuesday Club Coronation Party

## Working in our community



Holiday Club

- Our Tuesday Club and Thursday Coffee morning are well attended by our local community, several of whom are not members of the congregation or are occasional worshippers with us.
- We work closely with St John's C of E school. Our clergy take assemblies and some of our congregation act as governors. We support Messy Church and Christingle and also run Experience Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Pentecost, all of which take place within the school.
- We run a holiday club in early August which is growing in numbers.
- The Residents' Association for the Brooklands estate, the Friends of Rimrose Valley and Sefton Talking Newspapers for the Blind use our buildings on a regular basis. Church members are involved in both the Residents' Association and Talking Newspapers.
- We like to be proactive in our involvement in the community as much as we can, going carol singing around the estate at Christmas and holding events where we invite all those who use our buildings.
- We practice collaborative ministry and shared pastoral care.
- We are proud to be members of Inclusive Church. This is very important to us.
- We have started a monthly newsletter for the congregation to ensure that everyone is fully informed of the work of the PCC.

*I am grateful that the hall and meeting room have a loop system.*

Church member



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party



Strawberry Tea for the local community

*My children love Messy Church and have fun while learning about Bible stories. They also look forward to Holiday Club.*

Church member

## Our vision

The PCC's aims for the future are to:

- continue our commitment to Inclusive Church.
- develop our outreach to our local community and to work to improve our worship space and buildings to become an attractive community hub.
- re-establish our baptism ministry.



Sponsored walk for Christian Aid

*Thursday morning coffee is good for the community and an opportunity to meet local people.*

Member of the local community

# Services

	Average Sunday attendance		Average Midweek attendance	
	<i>Pre-pandemic</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Pre-pandemic</i>	<i>Current</i>
<b>St Faith's</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>St Mary's</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>8</b>



Currently weekly services are as follows:

- Sunday            10:00 Parish Eucharist at St Mary's  
                          11:00 Parish Eucharist at St Faith's  
                          18:30 Choral Evensong at St Faith's (monthly)
- Wednesday       10:30 Eucharist at St Mary's (this may on occasion be lay led Morning Prayer).
- Thursday           12:00 Low Mass at St Faith's