



The Team Parish of

St Luke in the City
Liverpool

Parish Profile 2024

Team Rector

Join us as we seek to make real our mission of 'living life in full colour from the still centre of God'

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Welcome to the Team Parish of St Luke in the City

Dear Colleague

Thanks for taking the time to discern whether God is calling you to serve and lead within our ministry team in this vibrant place. We hope it gives you a sense of both the joys and the challenges that the Team Parish of St Luke-in-the-City offers.

I joined the Parish in September 2020 and many of the plans for school's work and other creative projects had to be adapted. Like many Parishes we have experienced a few turbulent years with members leaving during the Pandemic and not returning, but there have been new opportunities as well. We've been able to host worship online and delivered several courses over zoom, we began new monthly joint services and have developed a much stronger sense of Parish identity. Our finances have stabilised with the return of groups hiring our buildings and we remain in a healthy financial position.

With our Rector moving on in August 2023 we have continued Parish life yet are keen to move forward with new projects and in mission. We want to develop our pastoral care, invest more time in socialising, develop our homegroups, offer a range of discipleship courses and implement longer term mission opportunities.

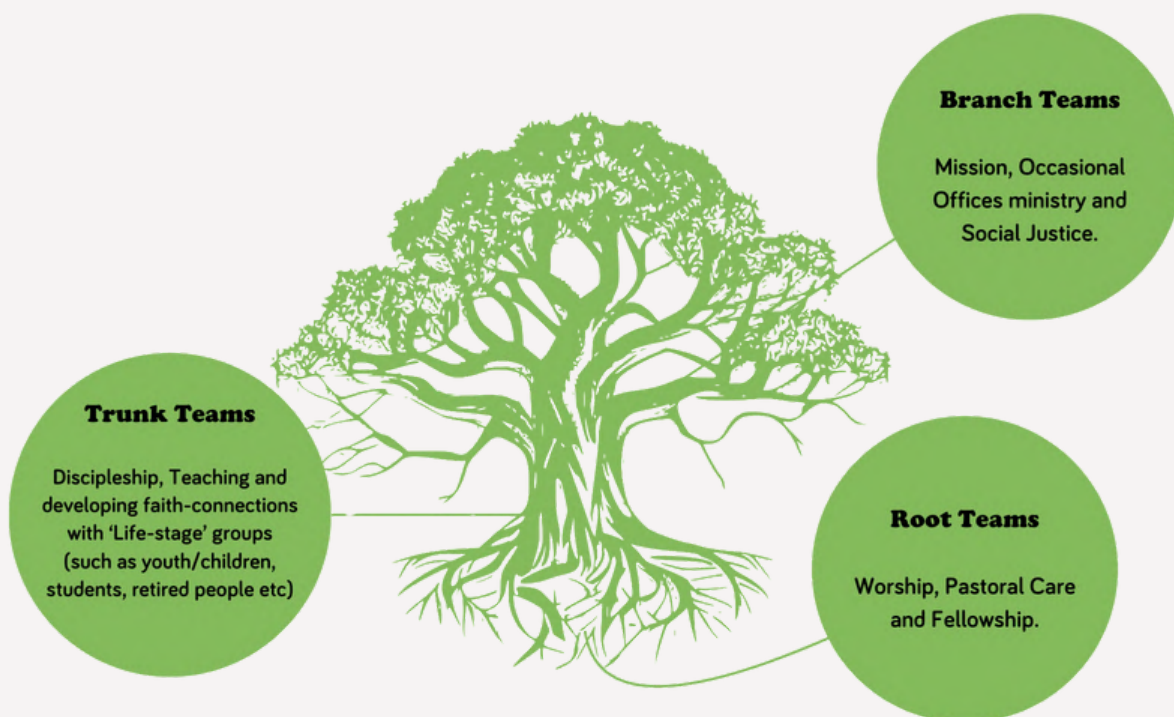
This will require someone who can both develop and implement effective strategies for deeper faith and growth yet also use wisdom to discern what is achievable. This is an exciting, loving and inclusive place to be, and I very much look forward to working with you as we shape the future of mission and ministry of St Luke-in-the-City.

Revd Laura Ferguson, Team Vicar

02 A vision for the Parish & Rector

In preparation for welcoming a new Team Rector, St Luke-in-the-City Team wrote a presentation for the Deanery to explain our need for a new Rector. It was presented to the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee and was approved. Further, we have developed a plan for growth which takes inspiration from the image of a garden – [see the Canva presentation here](#).

In the growth vision a garden symbolises our Parish; each of our three sites (St Dunstan's, St Brides and St Michael's) are trees in the garden. The trees are made up of their three parts: roots, trunk and branches. These three parts represent our areas of ministry. The roots are the areas of ministry without which we could not survive such as worship, prayer and fellowship. The trunk is the main body of our life as a church; teaching, discipleship, homegroups, social activities. The branches, leaves and fruit are our mission activity, outreach to local organisations (schools, colleges, universities and workplaces), as well as our social justice anchor projects. If any part is not healthy, the whole tree will suffer and so it is with the life of our Parish.



Our hope is that the new Rector will act as the Landscape Architect, noticing when the garden is working in harmony, suggesting and implementing actions to take if it is not. The Landscape Architect would hold the overall vision for the trees and their growth within the garden, relying on a team of gardeners to enable their vision to come to life. Experience with managing teams, employing a range of staff, supervising volunteers and knowledge of recruitment will therefore be essential for our Rector. They would need a good understanding of the garden's context i.e., the wider landscape it sits within. The Deanery will play an increasing role as we enter into Fit for Mission so recognising that there are other gardens in the landscape who impact our ecosystem will be key to this role particularly the closer relationship with St Margaret of Antioch as they serve there as Priest-in-Charge.

02 A vision for the Parish & Rector

We believe that with strategic leadership from a new Team Rector we can introduce more people to Jesus by sharing the Good News through Liberal Evangelism and be a greater asset to the Deanery, Diocese and the communities we serve. This is because we are openly LGBTQIA+ affirming and theologically progressive which is firmly rooted in Jesus' call to love everyone. We are a safe space for marginalised folk, those disillusioned by church; and beyond the church people and organisations who will only associate with religious institutions that align with their ethics of pursuing justice, human rights and loving one another.

Our Parish has been deeply enriched in its community development reflections by the tools of Appreciative Inquiry. Instead of reflecting only on what our weaknesses are or threats, this encourages us to reflect on our Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Resources/Results. We seek to SOAR as a community and these already help and will lead us into that future:

strengths



- Diverse church traditions
- Diverse members
- Lay leadership
- Supportive PCC
- Support from Diocese
- Finances in the black
- Social justice anchor projects
- Inclusivity/safe space
- Valuing questions
- Open to change
- Single governance structure

opportunities



- Fit for Mission
- Prayers of Love & Faith
- Fresh Expressions
- Mission in the Baltic Triangle
- Ministry to young people ('missing generation')
- Higher Education outreach
- St Michael's creative hub
- Reimagining St Dunstan's

aspirations



- Stronger Congregations
- Broader volunteer base
- Buildings used to full potential
- Developing online presence e.g., Podcasts/ worship/ discipleship
- Continue to expand our equality and diversity practice

resources/ results



- A Team Vicar
- Two SSMS
- One Licensed Reader, one Reader in Training
- Two Lay Leaders
- New Curate
- Three buildings in great locations
- A new Team Rector
- What are the results? Join us and help write them!

03

Our Churches in Summary

The Team Parish of St Luke-in-the-City takes its name from the former Parish church of St Luke, Leece Street, known locally as 'The bombed-out church', which has been preserved as a war memorial and peace garden. In 2022 we installed a plaque there to commemorate the civilian casualties of WWII and connect it with Coventry Cathedral's reconciliation organisation the Community of the Cross of Nails. The church is no longer owned by the Diocese of Liverpool but is licensed for public worship four times a year. The St Luke in the City Team has in the past led mission activities in this well-known venue and would like to develop this further. The Parish is now served by three churches: St Bride's, St Dunstan's and St Michael-in-the-City.



Each of our churches has its own unique identity. However, many folk are increasingly viewing themselves as members of the wider St Luke's team. Much of this was as a result of the Pandemic which led us to worship altogether online, to increase our joint Parish events and courses, and as our churches staggered their re-opening in 2021 congregation members were encouraged to experience a different church to their own. These new approaches to gathering enabled congregation members to mix and get to know each other, which made visiting each other's churches in the Parish easier and more appealing.

Although church worship styles differ, all three churches have subscribed to Inclusive Church's vision statement. For St Bride's and St Dunstan's the 'Progressive Christian Network Britain's Eight Points' reflect a particularly important part of our identity and inform worship and Christian nurture. St Michael's is more traditional in its pattern of worship and social life within a central Church of England tradition. The PCC have resolved to offer Prayers of Love and Faith to pray God's blessing with same sex couples. **Below is a brief overview of each of the churches:**

St Bride's Percy Street



St Bride's is a gathered congregation that provides a home for those who are theologically progressive. This identity is expressed in worship in which leadership is widely shared, and there is freedom to experiment. The Sunday morning congregation is transient but there are committed core regulars. It has also grown a number of fresh expressions of church, most notably Open Table, for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer or questioning, intersex & asexual (LGBTQIA+).

Our social justice anchor project here is Micah Foodbank, and St Brides is also home to the British Red Cross, Refugee Women Connect and Roger Smalley's Homeless meals.

03 Our Churches in Summary

St Dunstan's 10 years ago creatively re-imagined the sacramental liturgical tradition within a stunningly reordered sacred space. The Edge Hill area of the city is undergoing significant demographic change which has given rise to our social justice anchor project Lauda, which seeks to build relationships with local Roma families.

Although the work with Lauda and development of a Community Food Market is thriving, the numbers for Sunday morning worship have declined significantly and the small existing congregation is currently pursuing becoming a Festival Church.

St Dunstan's Earle Road



St Michael in the city Upper Pitt Street



St Michael's is relaxed 'middle of the road' Anglican by tradition. Over the last three years, the small congregation has sadly lost a number of long-serving members but gained two new families. Often children outnumber the adults! The site is strategically important in the rapid and extensive regeneration of the Baltic Triangle area of the city.

We have been increasingly working together with our social justice anchor project partners Faiths4Change to become a Silver Eco Church, planning worship in the garden and setting up an environmental, stewardship project with local schools.

St Margaret's is our near neighbouring Parish, a fellow member of the Inclusive Church Network in a liberal catholic tradition. Full details of St Margaret's will be shared within the profile prepared by their PCC.

We are excited about partnering with St Margaret's in mission and ministry through your ministry across our shared values of inclusion and passion for social justice. Do ask them about the fascinating history of the Vicar of St Bride's getting the Vicar of St Margaret's thrown in prison in 1887!

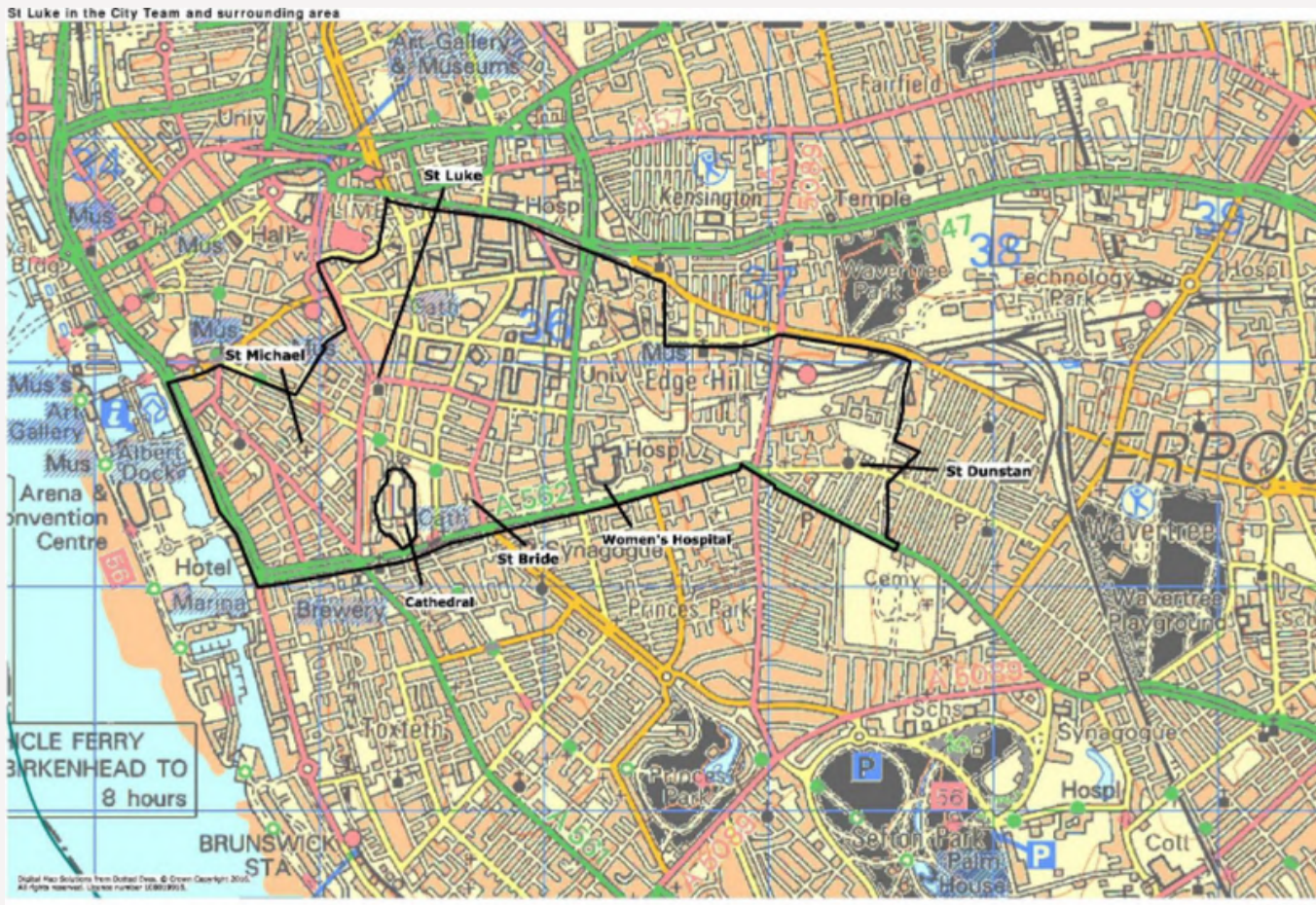
St Margaret of Antioch Princes Road



04

The Wider Parish of St Luke in the City

A diverse Parish in the heart of England's friendliest city



Ordnance Survey map October 2016

The city of Liverpool is an exciting place to live and work. It has been transformed since it won the title of European Capital of Culture and is now a major cultural centre with world class museums, art galleries and music. It is an international city, reflected in its three universities, the cuisine offered by its restaurants, and its calendar of festivals. Regeneration continues in the city centre as many students and young professionals have come to live at its heart.

There are excellent local Primary and Secondary Schools. Liverpool is close to the mountains and coastline of North Wales, and the Lake District is within a two-hour drive.

Lime Street railway station is within the Parish, providing good links to London and other major cities (London 2 hours 20 minutes). Liverpool John Lennon Airport offers flights to many European destinations and the ferry terminal is a port for major cruise liners. The Team Parish of St Luke-in-the-City is on the southern side of Liverpool city centre, stretching eastward from the Baltic Triangle, through Chinatown, Canning (Toxteth) and University areas on to Edge Hill and the border of Wavertree.

The population we serve grew by two thirds between 2001 (12,124) and 2011 (20,130) and continues to grow with the regeneration of the inner city. (Currently, 24,829).

04

The Wider Parish of St Luke in the City

The Parish contains a great diversity of economic, social, educational and cultural life. Institutions include:

- two of the city's universities
- the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals
- the Women's Hospital
- a Merseyside Probation Service office & Merseyside Police HQ
- a large asylum reception centre
- various day centres and hostels



The Baltic Triangle is an area of high investment and the location of many up-and-coming artisan businesses. Liverpool's Chinatown is the home of Europe's oldest Chinese population. The Ropewalks district contains many arts-based enterprises as well as restaurants and some of Liverpool's 'club land'.

The universities bring more than 70,000 students into the city for study, work and leisure, and an increasing number are moving away from accommodation in the suburbs and into new purpose-built accommodation in the city centre.



Black Lodge Brewery in the Baltic Triangle - one of a number of Microbreweries that has popped up in recent years



The Chinese Arch - The oldest Chinese community in Europe is within our Parish

04

The Wider Parish of St Luke in the City

Moving eastward, Rodney Street is home to many medical and therapeutic offices and clinics, and marks the start of the Georgian Quarter, one of the largest collections of Georgian buildings outside London. Television and film crews regularly film on location in the area.



BBC's Peaky Blinders being filmed on Falkner Street near to St Bride's.

Some residents in our Parish occupy large properties with values approaching £1m, whereas other large Georgian houses are split into flats or bedsits, most owned by social landlords. Housing is generally very mixed across the inner-city end of the Parish, with many new apartments in former industrial buildings as well as newly built buildings, but the area is also interspersed with inner urban estates housing with strong, close-knit families and communities. Some of these Victorian terraces in need of serious repair have featured in the Channel 4 documentary, 'The £1 Houses: Britain's Cheapest Street.'

The Church Urban Fund statistics places St Luke-in-the-City among the most disadvantaged in the country with the Parish ranked 893 out of 12239, where 1 is the most deprived Parish.



Garrick Street, Wavertree - Toxteth, Wavertree & Edge Hill regeneration

The Church of England's Data Services Website gives data on the faith profile of the Parish in 2023 when 31.2% of the population identified as Christian (a drop from 44.94% in 2011), 13% of the population consists of faiths other than Christianity, and 44.3% did not identify with any particular religion. It also gives an age profile for 2023, in which more than half (57%) were between 15 and 44. The Parish is also an ethnically diverse area: White 68.7, Asian 13.5, Black 5.2, Mixed ethnicity 6.1 and other ethnicity 6.5.



Abercromby Square is at the heart of the university & Knowledge Quarter

We have one Nursery School, three Primary Schools and three Secondary Schools in our Parish as well as Liverpool City College, Liverpool Media Arts, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts and The University of Liverpool.

The ages of child residents in our Parish varies. Canning Ward, where St Bride's is situated has the highest proportion of children aged 0-4 years, whereas it is 10-15 year olds who are the majority in Edge Hill where St Dunstan's is based. In City Centre South, where St Michael's is placed, 67% of young people are aged between 16-17 years.



Archbishop Blanch CE Secondary School, opposite St Dunstan's Church

However, the largest demographic is the 18-24 year-olds, many of whom are university students. In 2019 - 2021 we employed a student worker who ran several outreach & fellowship groups for students, until the individual moved on. The Team vicar has been into LIPA Primary School and Pleasant Street Primary School, and maintained regular RE support there in 2021-22.

05

The Team

● Team Rector:	Vacancy
● Team Vicar:	Revd Laura Ferguson
● Curate (June 2024)	Revd Lu Skerratt-Love
● SSMs:	Revd Sara Doyle Revd Dr Anne Kazich
● Reader:	Dr Christopher Bartley
● Reader-in-training:	Mr James Fleming
● Local Missional Leader: (Open Table)	Mr Warren Hartley
● Safeguarding Officer:	Mrs Rose Green
● PCC Secretary:	Mrs Suzie Rotheram
● Director of Music:	Mx Fern Arthurs
● Ministry Experience Intern:	Mr Liam Higgins
● Parish Administrator:	Ms Jacqueline Corcoran
● Parish Treasurer:	Mr Raymond Bissex

Parish Numbers

Numbers attending Sunday worship in 2023 (inc. Children)

St Michael-in-the-City (morning)	10-15 (static)
St Dunstan's (morning)	10 (declining)
St Bride's (morning and evening)	25-35 (stable)
Open Table at St Bride's	Average 40 (growing)

06 Parish Finance

Parish Finance – current summary

The Parish is dedicated to paying its Parish Share in full and on time and has no arrears. Further to this, we have committed to increasing our payment incrementally over the next 3 years to better support our Deanery. In the previous decade the Parish had been running a significant financial deficit but following a concerted effort this has turned around with the budget now running at a small surplus.

We have achieved this through a combination of investing the capital from a recent land sale to produce an income stream, and significantly increasing rental income from our church buildings and land, which provides us with financial sustainability and amplifies the difference we are able to make in our communities. There remain financial challenges with our buildings, but we are committed to making paying our Parish Share a continued priority.

St Luke in the City Summary of funds 31 December 2023

	31.12.23	31.12.22
General	91,471.85	89,029.19
<i>Designated</i>		
Investment	360,000.00	360,000.00
Revaluation	23,869.18	12,496.48
Building Heating	9,000.00	9,000.00
Toilets	6,000.00	6,000.00
Tsadeqah	1,000.00	
Legacie	10,339.72	11,486.06
Chaplaincy	213.04	213.04
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	586.24	286.24
	<u>411,008.18</u>	<u>399,481.82</u>
<i>Restricted</i>		
Open Table Network		-
Lauda	-	9,044.01
Choir Fund	-	500.00
Taste of God	476.43	476.43
Baltic Mission	1,305.00	2,000.00
Open Table Liverpool	2,728.85	1,772.78
St Dunstan's Bequest	44,412.17	2,233.01
	<u>48,922.45</u>	<u>16,026.23</u>
	<u>551,402.48</u>	<u>504,537.24</u>

07

The Deanery & Diocesan context

St Luke-in-the-City is part of the Toxteth and Wavertree Deanery which is described as one of the most diverse deaneries within the Church of England in terms of church tradition and theological perspective. The Deanery has recently engaged in a process of discernment on the Diocese of Liverpool's Fit for Mission project.

Members of our Deanery have voted to enter into a year of 'Imaging If' we were in Fit for Mission (FfM). We are keen to explore the potential opportunities for collaboration and to find answers to our particular concerns about the FfM initiative. A further vote of PCCs will take place in 2025 on whether to proceed or to withdraw. We embark on this journey in prayer with an open mind alongside deep reservations as we discern the shape of the future in the Deanery. (If you would like to find out more about those concerns you can access a document which summarises them all; please email the Team Vicar).

The Deanery includes a wide diversity of church tradition, yet there are respectful working relationships between the majority of Parishes. The PCC recently voted to explore closer links with the neighbouring Parish of St Margaret of Antioch. Our new Rector will also act as Priest-in-Charge of St Margaret's and we hope that, as a result, we will enjoy working more closely with this Parish with which we share similar theological convictions.

The vision of the Diocese of Liverpool is to ask God for a bigger church making a bigger difference, more people knowing Jesus, more justice in the world. We contribute to this vision and strategy by:

- **Campaigning and practical work for social justice, both in the church and in the world.**
- **Making our buildings available to partner organisations who are committed to making a difference in our world and in our local communities.**
- **Working closely with our partner charity Micah Liverpool, which we co-founded with the two cathedrals, to run foodbanks and community food pantries, as well as other projects in our city.**
- **Working closely with Faiths4Change and continuing the EcoChurch process to develop the St Michael's site.**
- **Working to build up and develop the ministry of Lauda, offering support with governance, fundraising and volunteers.**
- **Church growth through planning new congregations. In particular, Open Table is said to be the 'fastest growing church-planting movements in England' with its radical approach to LGBTQIA+ inclusion.**

08 Our Churches in Detail



! St Bride's the creative tree

St Bride's was on the brink of closure 20 or so years ago when a small group of folk decided that some radical changes needed to be made. They leant into Celtic spirituality and explored inclusive Liberation Theology. Word spread and those who were disenfranchised or spiritually abused by churches in the past found a home at St Bride's. In 2019 a rebrand coined the church's tagline: creative, progressive & inclusive.

St Bride's is a Grade II* listed building in the classical style & very much a part of the Georgian townscape, with its own grounds but no churchyard. Since opening in 1829 it has required frequent and costly repair, and it is now on the English Heritage 'At Risk' register. In 2018, an ambitious plan for restoration unfortunately failed to attract HLF funding. We now face the challenge of using existing limited resources to make the building fit for purpose as well as working towards a new bid. In August 2018 the fixed pews were removed and a multi-functional, accessible space created for worship. This flexible space has enabled us to increase our regular rental income and it also serves as a unique gig venue and even as a filming location for production companies.



Snapshots from our Christmas tree Festival 2022:
L-R Liverpool University Chaplaincy, the Free State Kitchen & Open Table

Our congregation reflects the area's diverse and transient demographic with some of our most regular members living outside of the Parish and gathering to worship. This congregation is home to a worshipping community on Sunday morning as well as the twice monthly Fresh Expression Open Table congregation. Although there is some cross over between the two congregations they function separately.

The congregation values exploring questions over accepting simple answers, and lay leadership is highly prized. Over time, different forms of creativity have been expressed including conversation and silence, prayer stations and artwork, music and dance. Many of the original founders have moved on now and St Bride's, after reopening up post lockdown, is experiencing change and flux. Regular attendees have reduced at the Sunday morning service and we will see anywhere between 15-40 people, but we still welcome new folk each week. We see ourselves developing our creative ministry and deepening our discipleship here in the future.



08 Our Churches in Detail



Open Table

[Website](#) [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

Open Table Liverpool is a ministry of the PCC of St Luke-in-the-City and is led by Warren Hartley, our Local Missional Leader alongside a team of committed volunteers with the support of the Team Vicar. Our goal is to celebrate faith amongst LGBTQIA+ Christians, and assist folk in integrating their spiritual and sexual and/or gender identities where these have been in direct conflict. We welcome and affirm family members, friends and anyone who wants to belong in an accepting, loving community. To create this sacred space, with a real sense of God's presence where all can 'come as you are', we carefully choose liturgical resources that affirm our identity as children of God.

Following St Bride's relaunch in November 2007 with a vision for a 'creative, progressive, inclusive' community, Open Table (OT) began in July 2008 as a Fresh Expression of this vision. It started as a monthly service, usually a Eucharist, aiming to create a safe, sacred space with a warm and affirming welcome for people who are LGBTQIA+, a community often not been well served by mainstream church. In the 2021 Census 10.5% of residents in the Chinatown, St James & Georgian Quarter identified as LGB+, significantly higher than neighbouring areas.

At a meeting to plan the first services, a member asked: 'Will it be "open table"?'. Sadly, this is because LGBTQIA+ Christians have often either felt or been intentionally excluded from the Eucharist. We felt this was at the heart of why this community was needed. We began with a mix of Anglicans, Roman Catholics, URC and Methodist folk, and we remain an ecumenical partnership. [For a more detailed history click here.](#)



OT in Liverpool has grown from a gathering of around half a dozen in 2008 to regularly drawing up to 50 people each month. Since 2015, other OT gatherings have emerged forming a separate charity known as the Open Table Network of which Liverpool is a member. At the time of writing, there are 35 other active OT gatherings across England and Wales. Each is independent, but the network offers peer support, encouragement and learning from the Liverpool experience.

We now have two services a month on the first and third Sunday. The third Sunday continues as a Eucharist with a different priest or minister leading the service. With the consent of PCC, Team Rector and the Bishop we make regular use of Canon B38 provisions to allow ecumenical partners to preside which has included URC, Methodist, Catholic and Lutheran ministers. Annually we also host the Parish Carol Service with the Liverpool Rainbow Chorus performing alongside our talented music group. We have also jointly held services with the St Bride's congregation including Glitter Ash Wednesday, contributing lecturers for the Public Theology Lecture Series, co-ordinating the Parish marching in Liverpool's Pride festival, partnering with the Cathedral to host a Pride service as well as offering Lent Courses and Quiet days with a focus on Queer Theology. While we run a separate stewardship campaign, all funds are managed by the PCC Treasurer in the Parish bank account and Open Table makes a regular financial contribution to the Parish general fund.



We have gathered twice in the last six months to remember, reflect and renew our community life. Holding all that has been, we aim to be 'A community of Welcome, A Community of Celebration, A Community of Learning and a Community of Justice'. We are working on appointing a lead person for these areas of our life to work collaboratively to deepen our life together. We are excited about the future!

08 Our Churches in Detail



St Dunstan's the sensory tree



This imposing Victorian church building is situated in Edge Hill, opposite a Secondary School, Archbishop Blanch. The Parish was historically residential with thousands of terraced houses, some of which were destroyed in WWII. The church still lives out the echoes of its past where generations of one family lived in the area, all of whom St Dunstan's baptised, married and buried. It is for this reason that the vast majority of annual Baptisms and Funerals occur here. On Sunday afternoons two Pentecostal congregations hire St Dunstan's building: Garden of Hope and Pastor Shirley's Church. In 2019 the new tagline of the church became: dramatic/sensory/renewing.

The late Victorian Ruabon brick Grade II* listed building is uniquely attractive. The interior was re-ordered in 2014 which involved removing the pews and laying a new oak floor. This has created a large, beautiful and flexible worship space which can also be used for a range of other events. In more recent years water ingress has become an increasing challenge. Work is currently being carried out to try to resolve this.



Sunday worship is unique at St Dunstan's, it is Modern Catholic, Eucharistic-centred, liturgical but with a contemporary feel. There is movement in the worship which seeks to invite worshippers into physically active participation that engages all the senses. The previous Team Vicar was based solely at St Dunstan's and with his retirement it became difficult to maintain the standard of worship folk were used to. This combined with the Pandemic has reduced numbers to less than 10 people, on average. The congregation have been deeply committed and loyal to St Dunstan's, however it was decided in March 2024 that the church would begin exploring its future and may become a Festival Church.

In recent years, the local population has become more diverse and as a result the needs of the church have evolved. For the last two years St Dunstan's set up the Lauda Project, which seeks justice and equality for the marginalised Romanian Roma community. Wednesday mornings at St Dunstan's are now a hub for the Roma mums to gather, and congregation members volunteer to make tea and toast. This gathering has led to the charity Micah setting up a Community Food Market, which runs at the same time. English speaking classes are offered informally along with free pop-up clothes stalls. This activity has attracted other organisations who attend regularly offering their services including NHS Life Rooms, the Granby Toxteth Development Trust, local Midwives, housing charity Shelter and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic who run a music programme there. This has breathed life into St Dunstan's and has put the church firmly on the community map.



08 Our Churches in Detail



St Michael's the community tree

This 1960's church is based in L1 in the heart of an inner-city housing estate, part of Liverpool's China town and on the edge of the Baltic Triangle. Ethnically Chinese people make up over 5% of the population in this part of the Parish and St Michael's was known as the Chinese Church. However, the demographic of the area has changed dramatically in the last 15 years. High-rise student and luxury accommodation has sprung up around the church site, and Baltic Creative CIC bought up surrounding warehouses to turn into unique and affordable working spaces for pop-up business, new-tech companies and creative industries. This has attracted entrepreneurs to live and work there and the Baltic Triangle is now home some of the city's most unusual bars, cafes and night-time venues. The church, with its peaceful gardens and small-medium groups using the spaces, is a sanctuary in the midst of the surrounding excitement. In 2019 St Michael's created the aspirational tagline: growing community in the city.

The church complex includes a hall and kitchen that were completely refurbished in 2013 and provide warm, modern and comfortable premises for a range of users, with low running and maintenance costs. A Pentecostal church, Faith Clinic, hire the hall before our Sunday morning service each week. A small flat on the site is currently vacant, pending improvement works. Externally, the church is surrounded by land that was derelict until recently and is currently used for an NCP carpark generating income for the Parish.



The worship style here is 'middle of the road' Anglican. In recent years numbers have declined and the Pandemic sadly saw many older members not returning to regular worship. We now see about 10-15 people on average on Sunday mornings. There are some new shoots of life with two new families joining us from the local area and some of the gardening group also attending. Monthly Godly Play services boost the attendance of young people and is a welcoming space for those with additional needs; these services often double our numbers, with the children outnumbering the adults.

The previous Rector saw an opportunity to develop a social justice anchor project here. With an overgrown garden and no resources to do anything about it, St Michael's teamed up with the Charity Faiths4Change who created the Roots in the City project which lives out the Church of England's 5th Mark of Mission: 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.' The initial fruits of this have already begun to show with the garden collaborating with a local brewery to develop its own beer! There is potential for St Michael's to become an eco-hub for the Deanery and an inner-city sanctuary for the Baltic.





What our community says...

We asked our Social Justice partners two questions:

1. What do you value most about your connection with the Team Parish of St Luke-in-the-City?
2. How could a new Rector add to or enhance that?

Here's how they responded:

Faiths4Change director Annie Merry said that she values our 'deep commitment to serve the Parish in collaborative, heartfelt and generous ways' and that a new Rector would add 'a strategic resource to explore opportunities to bring together and enhance the social and environmental justice commitments and partnerships as the Deanery moves forward on FFM.'

Lauda Leader Leah Daly, said that she values 'the use of St. Dunstan's Parish Church for our weekly community market/hub where so many Roma ladies and many others... come together for fellowship, access to public health services support, Micah food pantry, Liverpool Philharmonic community music, English classes, clothes donations....it's really beautiful and the Team Parish makes this possible!'

In response to what a new Rector could add she said that they could potentially, 'help with the needs at St. Dunstan's, managing the building and keeping it open for ministry to continue. They could also offer us support and guidance as well as some oversight as we continue to seek to grow in our impact. Perhaps they would even like to join us on some projects!'

Jayne Hennessy, Programme Co-Ordinator for Micah Liverpool and volunteer at St Dunstan's Community Market said, that she values 'the relationship between the organisations as it has allowed us to achieve more as a collective with the Parish, Lauda and Micah working together than would have been possible as individual organisations. We have been able to create community and a place where people can come each week and get help and support from various organisations as well as a place where they can simply come and have a cup of tea with their friends. I have loved seeing people from different backgrounds meeting and getting to know each other.'

In answer to the second question Jayne said, 'I think it would be good if a new rector was supportive of the work that is already being done and also with some vision of how to take it forward and enhance the offer that can be provided.'

Rev Canon Dr Ellen Loudon, Director of Social Justice & Canon Chancellor and Chair of Micah Liverpool said that she values 'the commitment to social justice and the conversations about difficult things. The team also creates space for other groups and organisations. In particular the partnership with Micah has been important. Having someone from the team on the trustees has been strategically significant as it keeps us connected with the local concerns. Also, using St Brides Church as a base for the Foodbank on Thursdays enables the charity and the church to connect with those in significant need in the parish and beyond.

Ellen added that, 'A new rector who is committed to social justice and is able to sustain these connections and go beyond this would be encouraging. Someone who can collaborate and would be prepared to take the lead on developing some strategic action around poverty and issues facing asylum seekers? In some ways the work we are all engaged in is limping along so a rector who is able to speak into the challenges as well as engage in the practical concerns? The main focus areas for social justice in the diocese are racial justice and net zero carbon. So, ideally a rector who could contribute strategically AND practically to this work at a local parish level would be good.'

09

What our community says...

We also asked our congregations two questions:

1. What qualities would you like to see in our new Team Rector? See the word cloud below for the answers:
2. What would you like the new Rector to focus on in their first few months?

The answers have been arranged into the word clouds below...

energetic openness-to-lay-involvement
creative radiates-gods-love pastoral-skills
deep-personal-faith
liberal inclusive sensitivity-to-presence
more-stability leadership progressive
compassion a-guide support
patient teaching prayerful
regular-services inclusive-theology respectful
parish-focused direction love big-heart
support-lgbtqia+ develop-people optimism
engaging resilience pastoral-care mentoring
community-development open-to-all

encourage-people-in-a-new-way
get-to-know-congregation help-community discover-vision
guide-us-through-ffm understand-our-needs get-to-know-congregations
strengthen-congregation-bonds whatever-they-feel-is-right
get-to-know-parish building-up-congregations-lay.ministers-&ministers
grow-us
get-to-know-flock-individually get-to-know-us self-care
plans-for-prayer-mission-growth
take-time-to-settle-in work-in-the-community
support-local-people

10 Over to you...

Thank you for your interest in the role of Team Rector of St Luke-in-the-City and Priest-in-Charge of St Margaret's of Antioch.

Liverpool is a fascinating mix of people, of diverse heritage, age and expectations in many vibrant communities. We seek to hold the mystery that is God as the still contemplative centre at the heart of our communal life in Christ. We are now looking for a Team Rector to work collaboratively with our leadership Team of lay and ordained leaders and with the Parish of St Margaret of Antioch. Together we seek to deepen our incarnational engagement with life in the city centre, to grow our churches and to pursue peace with justice in the world.

What we'd like our new Team Rector to be...

- Confident in a liberal, progressive Christian faith and theologically articulate
- A visionary who has grown church in a healthy and sustainable way
- Comfortable living with questions
- Creative in leading and designing worship in a wide range of styles
- Committed to the Inclusive Church vision
- Committed to offering Prayers of Love and Faith, and even same sex marriage were it to become possible within the Church of England
- Skilled at working collaboratively in teams and can manage staff and volunteers effectively
- Willing to work with existing plans
- A creative risk-taker, able to take initiative and be flexible in leading change

What we have to offer:

- A great place to live and work
- Absolute respect for your day off and holidays
- Your expenses paid in full and on time
- A paid annual retreat
- A friendly and supportive team of lay and ordained folk who work as equals
- An aspiration to keep a rhythm of daily prayer, weekly staff meetings and monthly team meetings
- Encouragement for your own intellectual, spiritual and personal development
- An open, thoughtful place to ask questions, and people with whom to explore faith
- A Parish that is fully committed to inclusion in all its forms
- A warm, affirming welcome whatever your gender, sexuality and family circumstances.