WE ARE THE CHURCH OF
ST GEORGE, HUYTON

St George’s
Photo Album
Christmas Fair &
Nativity
St George’s Church Huyton

Welcome

This Parish Profile has been prepared as part of the process for identifying and appointing a new Team Vicar to be based at St George, Huyton which will become part of the planned Team Ministry in Huyton in 2014 comprising St Luke’s – West Derby, St Jude’s - Stockbridge Village and St Mary’s – Knowsley Village.

The document provides a range of information to help potential candidates and begins with a general description of the parish before setting this in the context of the economic and social characteristics of the area St George’s serves. The document then leads on to the people and life of St George’s covering worship, ministry and outreach. A vital section in this document is around the exciting future plans for the buildings and land which are driven by St George’s vision for the future. Having set out what St George’s is all about the culmination of the document is the description of the person we are looking for.

We hope this document provides all the information you will need to help you discern whether God is calling you to come and join us in service at an exciting time in the life of this parish.
About the parish

The parish of St George, Huyton was established in 1936 and serves several communities based around the Woolfall Heath, Primalt and Longview areas of North Huyton. The parish is located 8 miles from the centre of Liverpool and is bounded to the south by Liverpool Road which leads directly towards Manchester and to the north by Knowsley Lane which adjoins the country estate of Lord Derby.

The church is located centrally within the parish at the junction of Primrose Drive and Hillside Road and links the two electoral wards of Longview and Page Moss which are administered by Knowsley MBC.

The predominant feature of the area is the amount of residential property, principally social housing which was built from around the 1930s to accommodate overspill from Liverpool. The stock comprises mainly traditional houses but there are also two tower blocks located a few hundred yards from the church itself. Under the New Deal for Communities Programme over the last 10 years, 1,078 unpopular properties in the Woolfall Area were demolished and have been steadily replaced with new homes offering owner-occupation and other forms of tenure. This has transformed the area physically.
There is one remaining **shopping** parade serving the Longview estates but the main commercial areas locally are at Page Moss, Huyton Town Centre and the Prescot Retail Park, none of which are within the parish. There is no industrial or manufacturing presence at all within parish.

There are two **Primary Schools** in the parish. St George’s has good links with Longview Community Primary School and has in recent years contributed regularly to school assemblies and has hosted a number of special services for the school. The previous Incumbent was a School Governor. St Columba’s Primary serves the local Roman Catholic children and is located directly opposite St George’s

There are no **Secondary Schools** within the parish.
There a number of new **community facilities** within the parish at Hillywood and SPACE providing accommodation for voluntary groups. The River Alt Resource Centre was built to support the delivery of the New Deal for Communities Programme from 2002 onwards and remains available for community use. There is also increasing use of the refurbished nearby Apostolic Church.

The **North Huyton Primary Care Resource Centre** is located in Woolfall Heath Avenue and is close to the **PDSA** building. St George’s has had good links for many years with the two nursing homes in the parish at **Hillside** and **Knowsley Manor** through the service of Holy Communion and the sharing / singing of carols at Christmas.
A new **nature walk** has been built called Woolfall Heath Meadow to make the most of the green space alongside the River Alt.

**Leisure facilities** are available just outside the parish boundary at the refurbished King George V Sports Centre while the brand new Knowsley Leisure and Culture Park is located a further 1 mile way.

There is no particular tradition of **ecumenism** although there have always been good links with St Columba’s Church which is located across the road from St George’s. The only other church in the parish boundary is the Apostolic Church on Liverpool Road.
More widely, the ladies **Bethany Group** meets monthly with Christians from churches outside the parish to share worship and social activities.
**Socio / Economic information**

St George’s is located within an area of significant challenge. The parish is the 16th most deprived parish in the country. Large parts of North Huyton remain within the 1% most deprived nationally. The Longview and Page Moss wards have the 5 most deprived Super Output Areas in Knowsley.

The North Huyton area attracted New Deal for the Community (NDC) status in 2001 which aimed over a 10 year programme to remove the barriers to achievement within the area by raising attainment in schools, tackling crime, improving the environment and encouraging healthy living.

The NDC programme achieved a great deal, most significantly in changing the housing landscape in the area, building new facilities and supporting many local groups and activities. However, the economic recession of recent years has blunted some of this progress.

The winter 2012/ 2013 Knowsley Resilience Monitor examined the impact of the recession and economic downturn on Knowsley’s residents and communities and identified that the Longview and / or Page Moss wards remained within the worst performing 5 wards when measured against the top ten indicators which included:

- Job Seekers Allowance claimants
- Lone Parent Claimants
- Worklessness
- Crime
- Anti-social behaviour
- Educational attainment.

More positively over 51% of people in North Huyton said that **people in the area do get on well together** and 57% said they had good control over their lives.
Church life

There are currently 41 people on the Electoral Roll (APCM 2013) including 18 non-resident. The average Sunday attendance over the last year, discounting special services / festivals was 28 people.

Worship takes place in the main church building which was built in 1958 and which is often commented on by visitors as being a very beautiful modern church. Built on a traditional design the church is light, colourful and welcoming. The church hall, which was the original church, is located adjacent. A separate section gives important information about the PCCs plans for re-development of the church and land.

The Vicarage was built in the mid-1960s and was re-modelled around 7 years ago to provide a new entrance for visitors thus ensuring a separation between those calling on parish business and the achievement of privacy for the people whose home it is.

The current regular pattern of services is as follows:

First Sunday of Month – 9am Holy Communion and All Age Worship (including Baptisms) at 10.45am

Second Sunday of Month – All Age Holy Communion at 10.45 am

Third Sunday of Month – Service of the Word at 10.45 am

Fourth Sunday of Month - All Age Holy Communion 10.45 am
This is the current pattern but the St George’s PCC maintains a commitment to review, amend and improve patterns and styles of worship to keep it fresh and inspiring.

St George’s has the benefit of two Lay Readers, Angela Rowlands and Lee Norton who play a key role in pastoral leadership, specifically at Sunday morning worship and in other worship events such as the Prayer and Praise evenings.

Music for services is provided successfully through commercially available CDs. Prayers of Intercession are led at most services by the Lay Readers and members of the congregation.

Four Lay members have the Bishop’s Licence to administer Holy Communion.

There is a Prayer Ministry Team of five people who offer private prayer following Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

Together with the other churches in the new planned Team Ministry, joint services are held each year at Pentecost, Ash Wednesday, Ascension. Special courses are held in Lent to prepare for the celebration of Easter and during Holy Week events are held every day.

Monthly Saturday Prayer Breakfasts have been held over the last few years with guided prayer seeking the Lord’s will for key events and issues both locally, nationally and globally.

As a parish church, St George’s humbly serves the local community through the Occasional Offices of baptisms, weddings and funerals which people can enquire about through a weekly Vestry Hour.

The numbers coming forward for confirmation in recent years has been minimal with three adult members last confirmed in 2012.

The Junior Discoverers meet three times a month offering worship and learning for children between the ages of 3 and 11 years. Messy Church outreach events have been held 4/5 times a year over the last three years.
These have always been joyous events even if attendances have fluctuated and are a great example of how the whole church family can work together effectively and make the best use of the limited number of people available.
Following a period of discussion and debate the Parochial Church Council made a decision to offer **communion to children** before Confirmation. The Junior Discoverer’s Leaders are currently preparing to bring proposals to the PCC setting out how this will be implemented.

![Flowers](image1.jpg)

A faithful team provide and arrange **flowers** to decorate the church each week while a further team meets to carry out **church cleaning**. The beautiful cloths adorning the communion table, pulpit and lectern in church were made by a small team with the materials purchased with monies donated in memory of two former members. A variety of **social events** are also held with the emphasis on fun and relaxation while **parish weekends away** have been held consistently over the years with the next one planned for Llandudno in September 2014.
A Bible Study group meets monthly at members’ homes and is currently following a course on Peter entitled “How to be more like Jesus.”
The Parochial Church Council meets monthly to oversee the business of the church. The PCC comprises 10 members and has approved policies covering important issues such as protection for Children / Vulnerable Adults, Health and Safety and charitable giving. Over the last few years much time has been spent discerning God’s will for the vision for the future of St George’s. A Standing Committee has delegated responsibility to make urgent decisions should the need arise to ensure the continued smooth running of church business issues.

St George’s Huyton
Parochial Church Council Meeting
to be held on Tuesday September 2013 at 7-30pm in Church.

Agenda

7-30pm to 7-45pm

1. Opening Worship
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes and matters arising from PCC meeting on 2013
4. Correspondence

7-45pm to 8-20pm

5. Financial Month by Month (Update Angie)
6. Building Maintenance
7. Protection for All Policy
8. Photo Copier
9. Refurbishment of Church & provision of social housing
10. Messy Church
11. A O B (please notify Chairperson in writing or phone at least 24 hours before the meeting)

The next PCC Meeting will be on Tuesday November 19th 2013
Future plans

For a number of years the PCC has been seeking a purchaser to carry out demolition of the church hall and build out the land for housing with part of the proceeds being used being to remodel the church building. In summer 2013, an agreement was reached with Knowsley Housing Trust for the “off- plan” purchase of 15 units of social housing to be built by a develop

Plans have been drawn up to re-model the church to divide the existing worship space into two to provide a flexible worship space and community facilities which will include four meeting rooms, a new kitchen and a re-located vestry.

A Faculty has been applied for and Planning Permission is being sought for the new build housing. If all goes well the work to the housing will begin in March 2014. At its meeting of 5 November 2013, the PCC agreed in principle that an agreement to the development of the housing element could be signed pending approval of the Faculty and / or a satisfactory price being received for the re-modelling work.

The rationale behind the re-development proposals was that the church hall was becoming an increasing financial burden to the PCC and was used only sparingly by the church and was not attracting external fee paying user groups. Also, with the advent of the government’s Big Society, funding for community groups was becoming scarce and there was no income coming into the hall. Finally, there are a number of newer community facilities in the area which were more popular for those groups who were still operating.
More importantly, it is envisaged that the re-modelling of the church will help to improve **links between the community and the church** by offering services and opportunities within the church building itself. The aim is to provide an active community hub.

St. George’s does not wish to just provide some facilities, services or initiatives but its’ drive is to be a vibrant, loving and caring part of the community. Members recognise that the approach must be in partnership with voluntary, public and private sector organisations and, most importantly, with the local community itself.

St. George’s has a good **track record** of being a centre for community activity. Between 2002 and 2013, the St. George’s Community Hall Project operated successfully with many groups and services using the Community Hall.
Current position

St. George’s is going through a period of change. Firstly, together with St. Jude’s in Stockbridge Village, St. Mary’s in Knowsley Village and St. Luke’s in West Derby, a team ministry will be formally launched around February 2014. The team will comprise of stipendiary clergy, non-stipendiary clergy and lay readers. This approach has been initiated by the four churches and, in September 2013, the four PCCs unanimously agreed to the working agreement.

The second change is the alterations to the church buildings and grounds that are actively being pursued at present through the faculty, planning and tendering processes which have been described above.

The third change is the recruitment of a Priest in Charge for the church who will be a new member of the ministry team.

A real challenge that St. George’s faces is the lack of response by the community to the various initiatives that have been tried. Members consider that seeking God through active, regular prayer is a crucial part of the way forward. We are always open to new and innovative initiatives.

It can therefore be truly said that the next incumbent will be joining St. George’s at the beginning of a new chapter in the history of this church. Whilst this chapter will have challenges to face there are also significant opportunities to be actively embraced.
The Vision

‘Through love bring hope and inspiration.’

This vision is considered by St. George’s to be crucial in our approach to the communities within the church, parish and team.

The aim of the new initiative is to provide a drop-in centre to which anyone can come for help, advice and company. This will be located in specially designed and more welcoming facilities within the remodelled church building. Given the present position of the church funds the aim is for the community hub to be self-financing.

The other reality St. George’s is aware of is the level of available human resources within the church family. Although there is amazing commitment amongst people in the church they are currently stretched in providing services, facilitating house groups and prayer and worship evenings, undertaking operational tasks and enabling the limited level of activity of community groups occurring on the church premises at the moment.

Against this background the importance is recognised of the document, ‘Growing in Christ’ which was recently launched by the Diocese. At both the level of the Diocese and the parish of St. George’s a pragmatic approach are required which is built on love, prayer and availability.
**Strengths and weaknesses**

Starting with the weaknesses the PCC recognise that, whilst there have been great ideas some of these have not been followed through. This can be addressed through careful annual planning and regular monitoring of progress at PCC meetings.

The other concern that the PCC has is that St. George's is not offering anything for youth and community.

In terms of strengths the church:-

- is committed to prayer;
- is open to the Holy Spirit;
- has a heart for the community and to be a vibrant, loving part of it;
- has an approach to baptisms which is really valued by families;
- has a messy church which is well attended by local families when food, such as through a barbeque, is provided;
- has a small number of children attending church regularly who have been met with a strong faith; and
- is open to new initiatives.
The person we are looking for

There is total agreement between the members of the PCC at St. George’s and the Ministry Team across the four churches on the **key attributes** we are looking for. In summary the person should be:-

- innovative;
- Spirit led;
- a team player; and
- pastorally caring.

**Innovative** – as has previously been mentioned the church has tried a number of initiatives that have been successful elsewhere but have been met with little or no response from the local community. There is a desire amongst the PCC to look into the possibility of providing a food bank, adopting the Together as Neighbours Giving Out (TANGO) model with good quality clothing been sold for around £1 and investigating the possibility of initiatives such as supporting community cooks. Members wish to be **relevant to the community** and consider listening to and responding to the needs of local people as important. The desire is to be open to God and willing to be innovative and it is crucial that the new incumbent has a similar heart.

**Spirit led** – the new incumbent should be a Spirit led person who is able to continue the growth in spirituality amongst the people at St. George’s.

This should include the development of the attitude and involvement in prayer and worship.

The importance of the Bible and its ability to change lives through the working of the **Holy Spirit** is a key factor in the life of the church. This should be embraced by the new incumbent.

**Team player** – St. George’s are seeking a person who will be a team player within the life of the church but will provide clear leadership. The ministry team are also looking for someone who will be a committed and active member of the team.
The Deanery Chapter provides love and support amongst stipends and non-stipends and an opportunity to receive updates, share ideas and consider current issues.

**Pastorally caring** – like every church there is the need amongst the people for loving, pastoral support. At St. George’s this is seen as an important part of the life of the incumbent. However, the church will seek to provide love and support for the vicar and his/her family, as will the ministry team and the Deanery Chapter.

The **churchmanship** of the person we are seeking is best described as evangelical charismatic but the personal attributes described above are seen as more important.

Other parish profiles have long lists of the requirements applicants need to meet. We though, have decided to focus on the main priorities to help you to be clear on the challenges, opportunities and the type of person we are seeking.
Conclusion

St. George’s, which is situated in a very deprived part of the diocese, is going through a considerable time of change but this should provide a great platform to go forward into the future. There are challenges to face but real opportunities to be embraced. Within the church and the ministry team there is a real desire to be available to God and go forward with him. Prayer and love are seen as vital.

It is an amazing opportunity to join St. George’s and the ministry team at the beginning of a new chapter which is both exciting and scary. Should you become part of us we will actively seek to provide you and your family with love, support and friendship.

We look forward to hearing from you and embracing the new incumbent.