

# Welcome to Holy Trinity Poulton Lancelyn Parish Profile



**“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:16**

We are a conservative evangelical Church of England church in Spital on the Wirral, in the parish of Poulton Lancelyn. We are a warm and welcoming church family who love meeting together to worship the Lord Jesus and learn more about him. We are made up of people of different ages and backgrounds, but we share one wonderful thing in common: by God’s grace, we have been brought into a real and living relationship with God through faith in his Son, Jesus, and his death and resurrection. This has come through the faithful and steady teaching of God’s word.

Thank you for thinking about serving the Lord Jesus by leading us at Holy Trinity Church as our next Vicar. We hope this profile gives you a clear and helpful picture of who we are, what matters to us, how we do things now, and the area we serve. We are praying that God will provide a vicar who loves Jesus, lives a godly life, and can lead and encourage us well. If you think this could be you, please do prayerfully consider applying.

With love in Christ,

Steve Keningley and David Howcroft

Church Wardens at Holy Trinity Church





## A message from the Bishop of Chester

Thank you for looking at this post in Chester Diocese. Whatever the Lord has for you, I want to assure you of my own prayers and a deep gratitude that we might get to partner together in this part of the Lord's work.

I have spent ages trying to capture the enormity of the privilege I feel in getting to serve the people of this diocese, and my words cannot bear the weight of that calling. This community of communities ranging from the very richest to the very poorest and the deepest rural to the most industrialised and urban is amazing. The diocese holds together in a shared sense of call to be 'Together in Christ Sharing Hope'. We have a deeply held vocation to serve the 1.5 million inhabitants who have no meaningful connection with a community of faith and share the feast which has been shared with us in Jesus.

In Chester Diocese this is always going to be worked out locally first and foremost: no-one met Jesus through a Diocese! Lives are changed in parishes, chaplaincies, and new expressions of Christian community, when people are invited in kindness and grace into transformative encounter with the love of the God who made them. Together we focus on our broad strategic aims so that those who know they are the people of God can serve all the people God calls in their everyday living.

We are utterly committed to safeguarding, because every person matters to our God and Saviour more than we know how to express. This is also why we welcome applications from every background for posts in this diocese. We are learning how to do all of this as guest rather than always as host, as we partner to serve the world to which we are sent.

If God is calling you to serve with us, I rejoice! Come, roll up your sleeves, and get stuck in! If the call is elsewhere then be assured of our gratitude and earnest prayer that the Lord will lead and provide in all things.

Please do pray for us, too – the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

+Mark



## Welcome from the Patron – CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society)

Thank you for taking the time to explore this Parish Profile. At CPAS, we believe that times of transition offer a valuable opportunity for both churches and clergy to discern God's calling afresh. We hope these pages will give you a sense of the life, ministry and mission of this parish, the community it serves, and the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

At CPAS, our purpose is to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ through the ministry of local churches. Everything we do flows from that calling, and from a longing to see churches and leaders equipped for mission and evangelism, serving their communities with faith, hope and confidence. Our work is shaped by four values – we seek to be missionally focused, graciously engaged, boldly innovative, and courageously hopeful.

Alongside these sit four prayerful aspirations that continue to inspire and focus our work: that every church is a pathway to faith, every leader a catalyst for evangelism, every Christian a courageous witness, and every child has the chance to explore Jesus.

As well as our patronage work with 700 churches around the country, we offer training, resourcing and support to leaders for mission and evangelism, and offer help for ministry amongst children and young people, in schools and through our residential Venture and Falcon holidays.

As you read on, we encourage you to prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to join this church in the next chapter of its journey. The parish is seeking a leader who will work collaboratively with others, nurture discipleship, encourage growth in faith, and help the church engage confidently and creatively in God's mission. We pray that this profile will help you discern whether your gifts, experience and sense of calling align with the vision and aspirations of this church.

Be assured of our prayers for you as you discern God's calling.

The CPAS Patronage Team

## Table of Contents

|                                                                    |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Welcome to Holy Trinity Poulton Lancelyn Parish Profile .....      | 1  |
| A message from the Bishop of Chester .....                         | 2  |
| Welcome from the Patron – CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) ..... | 3  |
| Holy Trinity Church: The Future .....                              | 5  |
| Who we are .....                                                   | 5  |
| The vision.....                                                    | 6  |
| Are you the person we're looking for? .....                        | 7  |
| About the role.....                                                | 8  |
| Our Story .....                                                    | 9  |
| The Parish .....                                                   | 9  |
| Holy Trinity ChurchHistory.....                                    | 9  |
| Our relationships with other churches .....                        | 12 |
| Safeguarding .....                                                 | 12 |
| Our People .....                                                   | 13 |
| Some statistics about our congregation .....                       | 15 |
| Our Beliefs .....                                                  | 16 |
| The church identity and culture .....                              | 16 |
| Mission and Outreach .....                                         | 17 |
| Our mission partners .....                                         | 18 |
| Sunday services.....                                               | 19 |
| Groups and Activities .....                                        | 19 |
| Home groups .....                                                  | 19 |
| Families ministry .....                                            | 20 |
| Midweek children and youth groups.....                             | 21 |
| Our place in the community .....                                   | 22 |
| Our Place in the Church of England .....                           | 22 |
| About the Wirral.....                                              | 25 |
| Why people love living here .....                                  | 25 |
| Things to see and do .....                                         | 26 |

# Holy Trinity Church: The Future

As we look forward to the next phase of our church life under the leadership of a new vicar, we want to build on what is already good and strong, whilst refreshing our vision of **Sharing, Declaring and Living the Good News of Jesus Christ** in a rapidly changing world, and embracing the challenge that brings for us all.

## Who we are

Our church family comprises members from a wide variety of Christian backgrounds or none, but we are united in our allegiance to Jesus Christ as Lord and to the authority of the Bible for our faith and life. Members support one another in a warm and friendly fellowship. Many are active in leading and preaching at Sunday services, in youth and children's work, home groups, pastoral care, music ministry, uniformed and other groups.

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*"I value the family belonging, feeling. The love and care show. I know this church is filled with people who have the Holy spirit"*

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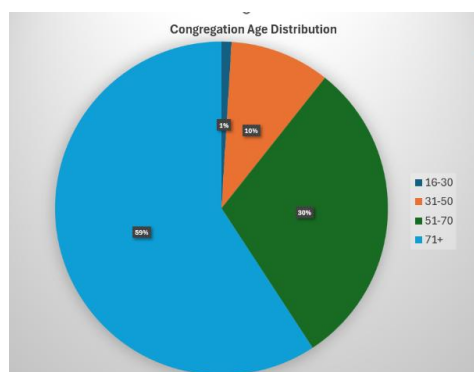
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*"Holy Trinity is a friendly and welcoming church with sound biblical teaching. It has not been afraid to stand for truth, usually in a loving way, even when it comes into conflict with society."*

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We hold prayer meetings several times per year, both as breakfast and evening events. We also support evangelistic events in partnership with other local churches.

Members include a number of younger adults with their families, but we need to reach out to encourage more of this age range to join the church. Our demographic profile has aged as the congregation has remained relatively stable. Parents have remained but their children have largely grown up and moved away, so our average age now is considerably greater than that of the parish population.



Adult age distribution

Our buildings are used during the week by church groups, including the uniformed organisations, and by outside groups. They are also used as a polling station for national and local elections, and may soon host blood donor sessions. These are some ways of reaching the wider community.

## The vision

Our recent consultation with church members showed that remaining faithful to biblical teaching is a key priority, together with worship which is biblically grounded, relevant and engaging. Many expressed a desire for more effective outreach and engagement with the local community, particularly with younger people and families, alongside development of our youth and children's ministry. This could benefit from the development of an action plan under the guidance of our new vicar.

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*"The church needs to do more to welcome in the local community - for example, allowing wider use of the church/Hey to members of the community."*

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Some members feel that the church may appear inward-focused or less accessible to newcomers and that we need to become more outward-looking, visible and attractive to outsiders. There is scope to welcome more parishioners for baptisms, weddings and funerals. We could also make our buildings and grounds available for more social "fun" events, to which the wider community is invited along with the church family.

At the same time there is a desire to maintain and possibly strengthen pastoral care, practical support and nurturing of existing church members. In our desire to reach new people we don't want to weaken the mutual care and practical expressions of love, which bond us together as God's people and have long been a hallmark of our fellowship.

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*"Grow the church with a wider age demographic (not at the expense of being Bible focused). Improve community outreach, perhaps growing up from younger ages and school age, assuming schools are willing to accommodate religious involvement."*

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## The challenge

Whilst united in Christ and biblical truth, our members hold diverse views on secondary issues. Some would prefer a wider range of worship styles, including greater use of formal liturgy. Some would favour shorter and simpler sermons, as being more accessible to visitors and non-Christians, whilst others value challenging expository preaching, with theological depth.

The most contentious issue is that of women's ministry in preaching and in church leadership. Some members would like us to be more open to such ministry, whilst others believe that only men should take these roles. To enable our continued flourishing together in fellowship at this time, the PCC has recently re-affirmed by a majority decision its position, first expressed through a resolution passed in 2017, that we should request the ministry of a male vicar overseen by a male bishop. The PCC would, however, welcome greater involvement of women in leading services and preaching under the authority of the incumbent, as has occurred in the past.

We look to our new vicar to build on the firm foundation which unites us, whilst responding with grace and sensitivity to the diverse aspirations of our church family, and to encourage, inspire and lead us in our mission of Sharing, Declaring and Living the Good News of Jesus Christ within our community.

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*"I feel humility, a heart for the Lord, motivation and work ethic should override credentials and or areas of interest. Surely character should be the main criteria. Servant hearted. Work ethic."*

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## Are you the person we're looking for?

Here are the principal qualities and abilities we're looking for in our next vicar:

- Biblical teaching, with personal faithfulness to Jesus Christ and to the authority of scripture.
- Pastoral sensitivity, compassion, and approachability.
- Someone who lives out their Christian faith in daily life, not just on a Sunday and who will encourage the congregation to do likewise
- Prayerfulness and spiritual maturity.
- Commitment to outreach and engaging the wider community.
- Vision, leadership, and the ability to guide church growth.
- Experience with children, youth, and families.
- Someone who will foster a strong safeguarding culture in the parish
- A heart to foster unity in the congregation and build healthy relationships.
- Humility, wisdom, and good listening skills.

In summary: a caring shepherd who combines biblical conviction with relational warmth and leadership ability.

## About the role

This post is for an Incumbent, it carries a large degree of autonomy, but with the support of a wider PCC team. The role combines responsibility for the day-to-day running and leadership of Holy Trinity. The Vicar would be expected to prepare the teaching programme and co-ordinate the availability of leaders and speakers, creating the leading and speaking rota for specific periods. He would also offer pastoral care for parishioners and provide leadership for the staff, PCC and lead prayer meetings. There is a services group who meet with the Vicar to review teaching material and help discuss future approaches to services and teaching programme.

Holy Trinity has four speakers who assist with the regular preaching duties to support the Vicar. These include the Associate Minister Paul and our Reader Alan. The vicar would normally preach more frequently than the other four speakers. However, while all the speakers are comfortable with different types of service some are more comfortable speaking at all age services.

Holy Trinity has a number of people, in addition to the speakers, who lead services. Each brings their own personality offering a refreshing variety of styles to the services. Normally each service has a leader and a speaker, although in some circumstances, for example communion services, the Vicar or Associate Minister lead and preach. Many additional groups have been set up to help with the Sunday services, a team of Wardens and assistant Wardens, a Welcome team, Music groups, a PA and Projection team and a tea and coffee team to name but a few.

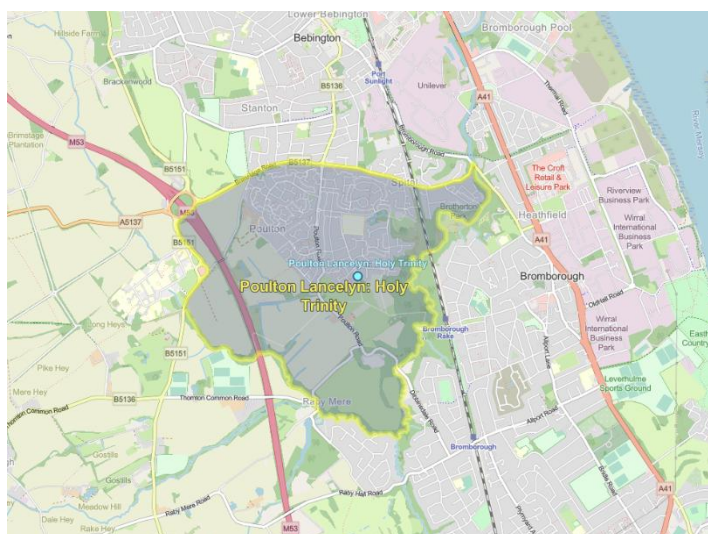
We encourage our vicar to take at least one complete day off work each week plus his full annual leave entitlement. A modest budget has previously been allocated to pay for attendance at clergy conferences, and we would look to offer similar support in future.



# Our Story

## The Parish

The Parish of Poulton Lancelyn is located in the Spital district of the Wirral. It is a predominantly a residential area characterised by an older population, high levels of home ownership, low crime, and a strong professional employment base. Across the wider Wirral, population growth is modest, urbanisation is high, and the demographic profile is older than the national average.



Poulton Lancelyn Primary School serves the parish - it is not a Church school. It is rated as a strong school by Ofsted. Selective secondary schools and a mixed high school academy are located just beyond Spital's boundaries. Transport links are well established, with a local railway station providing direct and frequent access to Liverpool and Chester, alongside regular bus services across the Wirral.

The area benefits from nearby green spaces, including Brotherton Park and Dibbinsdale Local Nature Reserve. A range of local amenities—such as medical practice, café, pub restaurant, hair salon, shops, farm shops and a pharmacy—support daily community life within the parish, with further retail areas, sports facilities, a library, and museums only a very short distance away. More detail is included in the Wirral section below.

More detailed census information about the parish can be found here:

[Chester Parish Census Dashboard](#)

More detailed socio-economic information about the parish can be found here:

[Chester Parish IMD Dashboard](#)

Holy Trinity Church's website can be found here:

[Holy Trinity Church](#)



## History

The parish of Holy Trinity was established in 1989, having previously formed part of the parish of St Andrew's, Bebington.

A large dower house named Poulton Hey and its grounds had previously been gifted to the church by the Lancelyn Green family. A Sunday school was founded in Poulton Hey in 1968 and in 1976 the PCC decided to proceed with a church centre at the site. Poulton Hey was renovated to provide a worship area for 200 plus people and large room to use as a church hall.

Holy Trinity Poulton Lancelyn was formed and Poulton Hey was dedicated for worship in 1977. As the estate grew, so did the congregation, by God's grace, and the church outgrew the building. The congregation raised funds for a new building and subsequently the current church building was opened in 1987.



The Church can accommodate up to 360 people for services and is also used for sporting activities and children's groups. Facilities include a large entrance area, kitchen, toilets, and a separate viewing area with audio access to services.



The adjoining church centre known as Poulton Hey, is a Grade II listed, mid-19th-century, former dower house, extensively refurbished and modernised in 2002. The ground floor is home to the church office, resources room and a large multi-function hall seating up to 100 people, served by a kitchenette. The first floor provides four rooms used primarily by youth groups, with additional attic storage.

The church site includes parking for approximately 55 vehicles and a large grassed area used for recreational purposes. The vicarage, located opposite the church on Chorley Way, was purchased by the PCC in 1991. It is a modern four-bedroom detached property and remains under PCC ownership.



The Vicarage comprises an entry hall (3.7m x 1.7m) leading to a Study (6.1m x 3.4m) right. An inner hall (3.9m x 1.3 m) leads to the Shower room, Kitchen (5.25m x 3.1m) below, utility (2.7m x 2.6m) and lounge (6.5m x 3.7m) below right. Off the kitchen is the dining room (4.5m x 3.3m). Upstairs there are four generous bedrooms (4.1m x 3.1m, 3.7m x 2.4m, 3.2m x 3.1m, 3.3m x 2.3m) and a bathroom.



All church buildings are well maintained through an ongoing programme overseen by the Fabric Committee.

## Our relationships with other churches

The church links with other evangelical churches in the area through the Wirral Gospel

Partnership and regularly hosts events. A close relationship is maintained with St Mark's

Church, New Ferry; joint activities have included shared Bible teaching weekends.

Members of the church participate in the local World Day of Prayer meeting, organised by "Churches together in Bebington".

The church is part of the Wirral North Deanery (see below) and is represented by four elected members at Deanery Synod. In 2004, Holy Trinity became a partner church of the North West Gospel Partnership, following the involvement of a previous incumbent in its formation.



## Wirral Gospel Partnership

Equipping and Encouraging

## Safeguarding

At Holy Trinity we work hard to maintain a safe environment for all. We are committed to implementing the House of Bishops' safeguarding policies and good practice guidance.

The PCC are committed to "Promoting a Safer Church" and our [procedure for responding to concerns can be found here.](#)



To monitor safeguarding provision we use the Parish Safeguarding dashboard and CofE training. Approximately half the regular Church members have undertaken Safeguarding training in their capacity of children's or adult group leaders.

All appointments are subject to pre-appointment checks, including references and, where appropriate, a satisfactory Enhanced DBS check and completion of required Church of England safeguarding training.

# Our People

Here is an introduction to some of our church family



**Curate (Associate Minister):** Paul Lewis is an ordained Associate Minister at Holy Trinity- he is a self-supporting part-time minister. He is married to Elaine and has three daughters and a grandson. A retired Civil Servant, he now serves part-time in ministry, with a particular passion for sharing the gospel. He also enjoys landscape painting.



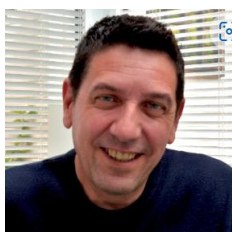
**Reader Emeritus:** Alan Jones has been a Reader at Holy Trinity for over 30 years and a member of the Church family for over 40. He is married to Christine, has two adult children and grandsons. A retired College Manager, he enjoys researching for sermons, photography, music and following Sunderland and Tranmere Rovers FCs.



**Church Administrator and Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Glenys Potter has been part of Holy Trinity since 2008 and became Church Administrator in 2021. She is married with two adult daughters and a grandson and is actively involved in athletics officiating.



**Vice Chairman of PCC:** Geoff Lawrence has always been interested in what makes the world, including other people, “tick”. He studied natural sciences before embarking on a career in medical physics, from which he is now retired. As an undergraduate he came to personal faith in Jesus Christ, and he remains convinced that the gospel is key to the value, purpose and destiny of everyone. He loves helping others to explore this for themselves. He also loves music and enjoys walking with friends in the hills and other scenic areas.



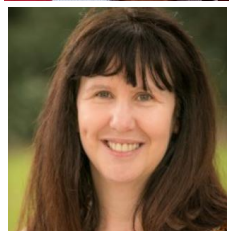
**Warden:** David Howcroft is married to Yvonne and they have a grown up son and a granddaughter . In addition to his role as Church Warden and PCC member, David works full time within the pharmaceutical Industry.



**Warden:** Steve Keningley has been part of the Holy Trinity family for over twenty years. He is married to Helen, has two married adult children and two grandchildren. A retired Research Engineer, he enjoys DIY projects, walking his dog and reading.

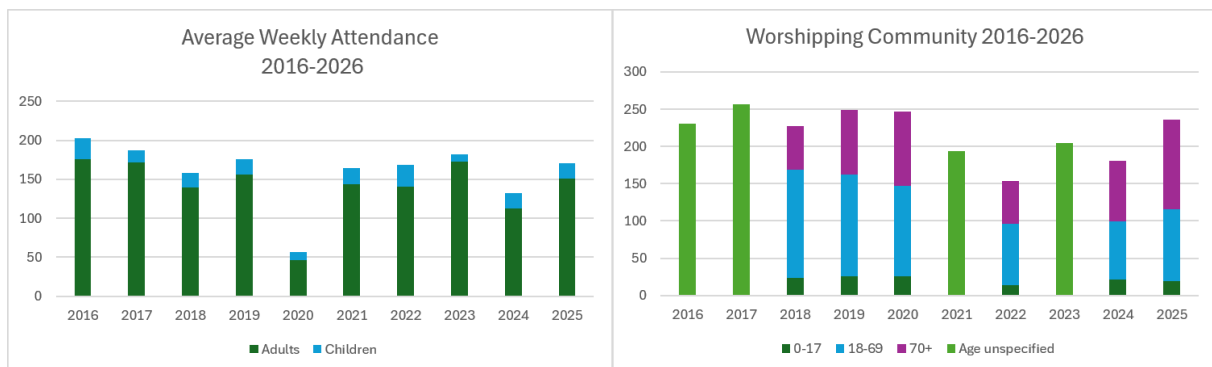


**PCC Secretary:** Alan McGraa is married to Doreen and they have two adult children and two granddaughters. Alan and Doreen have been members of Holy Trinity for over 30 years. Alan is a retired accountant.



**Church Treasurer:** Chris Walsh previously worked as a legal associate and now oversees the church's finances, she also smiles a lot!

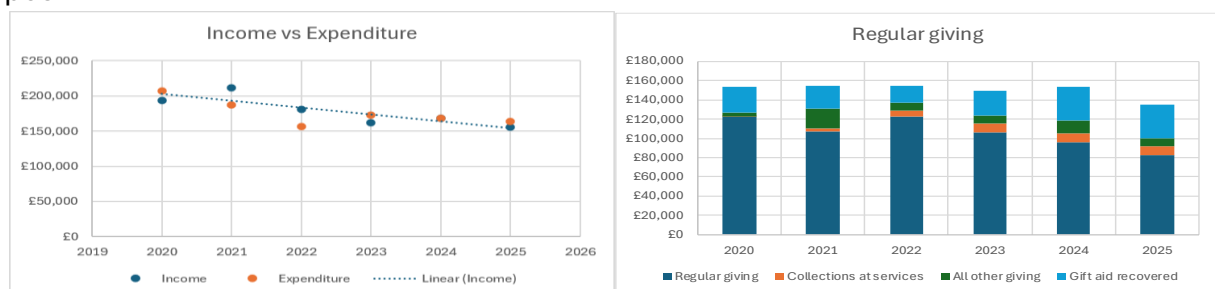
## Some statistics about our congregation



Approximately 120 people join us for Sunday worship in an average week. Attendance has declined slightly over recent years, partly because the average age of the congregation has increased and we have not yet attracted many new members. As a result, the electoral roll has fallen significantly.



This trend has inevitably affected our finances. We have sought to balance income and expenditure while keeping our commitments to pay employees at or above the Real Living Wage and continuing to maintain our support for mission work, both within the UK and in other parts of the world. Our Treasurer is currently in the process of discussing gift aid with church members and the PCC have recently decided to run a teaching series on generous giving, with the hope of increasing the resources available for ministry and mission. Our children's and families worker left during the year due to personal reasons. The PCC consider that the appointment of her replacement should wait until after the appointment of the new incumbent. The treasurer believes that we can raise funding for this specific cost, including securing external grants to fund the post.



# Our Beliefs

## The church identity and culture

Holy Trinity is a Church of England parish that adheres to the doctrinal foundations of Anglicanism as expressed in the Thirty-Nine Articles of Faith. It is a Conservative evangelical church within the Diocese, committed to the clear teaching of the Bible.

The congregation is a warm and welcoming church family drawn from a wide range of ages and backgrounds. Members meet regularly for worship and teaching, seeking to grow in their knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to live out their faith in daily life.

To enable the congregation to flourish the following resolutions have been adopted:

1. The PCC has formally requested arrangements under the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests so that those whose theological convictions lead them to seek the priestly or episcopal ministry of men may do so, with the aim of preserving congregational unity.

The church includes members who hold both complementarian and egalitarian views on ministry, and recognises that both are sincerely held. It considers this disagreement an issue that does not affect salvation and seeks to remain united despite these differences. The resolution was passed to enable all to flourish, while expressing the hope that those with an egalitarian view will accept the arrangement in a spirit of unity and mutual love.

2. The PCC recognises that responsibility for the use of the Prayers of Love and Faith rests with the incumbent. Nonetheless the PCC of Holy Trinity, Poulton Lancelyn, in the Diocese of Chester, has resolved—on the grounds of theological conviction and the desire to preserve congregational unity—that they oppose the use of the Prayers of Love and Faith or any standalone service for the blessing of same-sex unions at any time.

We wish to make clear that we remain fully orthodox in our belief that marriage is between one man and one woman, and that, according to Scripture, sexual relations belong only within such marriage.

## Mission and Outreach

At Holy Trinity we've shaped an approach to evangelism that encourages the whole church family to see that each of us has a part to play in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every Church group and event is encouraged to consider how they fit within our mission statement: Sharing, Declaring and Living the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We remind our groups that even when the gospel isn't spoken directly, warm and caring relationships are often the first steps toward faith — drawing people into friendship with Christians. These groups then become natural places from which to invite people to evangelistic services or events where the gospel is clearly explained.



We continue to have regular involvement with Poulton Lancelyn Primary School, speaking at assemblies and hosting the Year 5 & 6 Christmas Performance for their parents.

We've provided Home Group studies to help us think about sharing the gospel through both words and actions, and we run Christianity Explored courses to help people discover more about Jesus, often following outreach events and services.

As a church we are also founding members of the Wirral Gospel Partnership — a group of churches committed to joint evangelism, lay training, and encouragement through joint prayer and praise services. From time to time the group organises outreach events, sharing resources and costs.

Our ongoing challenge is to build on these involvements and to find fresh, thoughtful ways of engaging with our parish community, with the groups who use our buildings, and with our local authority school.

We also look beyond our immediate neighbourhood to give regular prayer and financial support to mission partners in the UK and in other parts of the world.

## Our mission partners

Besides the support of individual church members for Christian mission, the PCC encourages prayer and provides funds for several organisations within the UK and abroad. This is reviewed on a 3 yearly cycle and our current partners are as follows:

**Charles Thompson's Mission** in central Birkenhead serves some of the most under-privileged people, under the motto "Christ's love to the poor and homeless of Wirral". Along with Bible classes and volunteers' personal witness to Christ, the mission provides food, clothing and showers together with advice and assistance with health, housing and financial issues.



**Chile Mission Fund** was founded by one of our members in 1988, to provide practical help to the poor and needy of Chile. In recent years its scope has widened to include support for prisoners and their families in Bolivia, children and adults with disabilities in Peru, and other projects in South America through Latin Link.

**Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS)** – please see separate welcome page. We are pleased to support the work of CPAS across the UK, besides having it as patron of this benefice.



**Nadiya Christian Football Club** in Rivne, Ukraine is run by Christian footballers as a means of reaching others (both adults and younger age groups) with the gospel whilst enjoying sport together. Practice sessions include a Bible study for all the players and the believers also meet regularly to pray for all club members.

**St Mark's, New Ferry** is a nearby parish with which we have a close association. In recent years it has developed a ministry with asylum seekers and internationals. Our support helps fund some costs associated with this and the employment of a church administrator, allowing the vicar more time for children and families ministry.

**True Freedom Trust** provides a teaching and pastoral support ministry for people who experience same sex attraction or gender incongruence, based on a biblically orthodox understanding of sex, gender and relationships.

**Uganda Just Care/With Love** are two closely related charities to which two of our members devote much time and energy. Our support for Just Care helps fund the work of the schools' chaplain at Kamutuuza, whilst that for With Love supports the individual who is Director, lead pastor and evangelist for Village Evangelistic Ministries.

**With Love**



## Sunday services

Our Sunday morning services incorporate modern, relevant and unerringly Biblical songs, hymns, prayers, Bible readings and teaching. Once a month the service includes communion, and our interactive All-Age services are normally on the first Sunday of the month and are regularly attended by our uniformed groups.

Other than for the All-Age services, children's groups for ages 0-11 are available during the main service and take place next door in Poulton Hey



## Groups and Activities

### Home groups

Home Groups provide opportunities for members to meet regularly in smaller settings, usually in private homes, for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. These groups enable deeper relationships within the church family and allow participants to engage more fully with Scripture through discussion and mutual support.

Holy Trinity currently runs eleven Home Groups, which meet fortnightly during term time on various days and in different locations. These groups form a key part of the church's pastoral care and discipleship framework. There is also a Mums Bible Study Group that gives an opportunity for Mums to meet up for mutual support and Bible reading.

## Families ministry



Holy Trinity is committed to supporting parents and carers in the Christian nurture of their children, recognising the importance of both family life and church community in discipleship. The church seeks to work in partnership with families through a range of age-appropriate ministries.

On Sunday mornings, the congregation begins worship together before children aged 0–11 move to dedicated groups part-way through the service. These groups provide Bible teaching tailored to different age ranges. Children's groups operate during term time, with a crèche available during school holidays. All-age services are normally held on the first Sunday of each month.



Young people aged 11 and above are encouraged to remain in the main service. **HTC Youth** supports young people aged 11–18. In addition to participation in Sunday worship, the group meets fortnightly for social activities, food, and Bible study.

**Saturday Buzz** is a monthly family event offering hospitality, activities, and Bible teaching in an informal setting.

## Midweek children and youth groups

- **Sparklets** is a parent/carer and baby & toddler group that meets during the week, offering a welcoming environment for relationship-building, play, and informal Bible teaching through stories, songs, and activities.
- **Livewires** is a term-time group for children in school years 3–6, combining teaching about the Christian faith with games and activities.



## Our place in the community

Holy Trinity hosts a range of fellowship and community-based groups that support spiritual growth, inclusion, and social connection:

- **Coffee Plus** is a women's group that meets fortnightly for Bible study and discussion, with an emphasis on applying Scripture to everyday life.
- **Jump for Joy** a faith based group for people with Learning Disabilities, their carers, and families. The meetings include worship, Bible teaching, craft work, refreshments and fellowship
- **Ladies' Fellowship Group** meets once a month providing a welcoming space with speakers, craft and refreshments to aid fellowship and Christian encouragement.
- **Knit and Natter** meets once a month for fellowship.
- **Bowls** is an indoor bowls group, offering a social and recreational activity within the church community.
- **Holy Trinity Reading group** – The group meets to discuss a recommended book and then decide on the next one to be read.
- **Scouting & Guiding groups** - all ages use the building including the Rainbows, Brownies, Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The Scout leadership are members of the church and the groups are represented at Family services.



Many non-faith based groups also use the buildings:

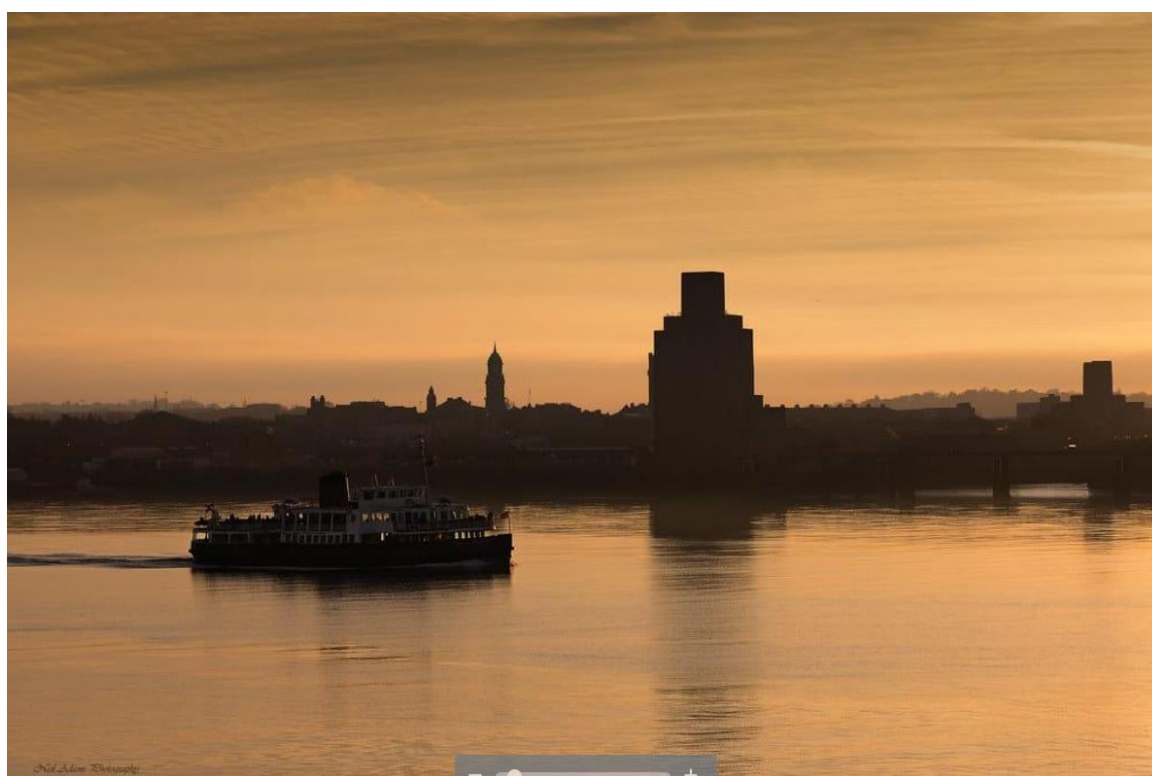
- Dementia Singing café
- Badminton
- Chair Exercise
- Dance



## Our Place in the Church of England

Holy Trinity Spital is within Wirral North Deanery, in the Diocese of Chester. Under our Diocesan Bishop, Rt Revd Mark Tanner (since 2020), the Diocese has been through a consultative vision discernment and casting process. This led to the formulation of the identity, "Together in Christ, Sharing Hope", with the vision to reach the estimated 1.5m people (of the Diocese's population of 1.65m) who do not have a meaningful connection with any church.

Having formed the identity and vision, work has begun on putting the Diocesan strategy into practice. This strategy asks every parish to consider where God is at work in their local area. It has been designed to take a 'bottom up' approach, "What is bubbling up?" rather than be a top-down directive. Every parish will focus on the core work of Worship, Witness, Pastoral, Discipleship, Stewardship, Service, Structures and Safeguarding. Growing Disciples will be a core purpose that sits alongside the three strategic priorities of: New Christian Communities, New Collaborative Partnerships, New Leadership Development. These priorities will be guided by six values or strategic focus areas: Safer, Younger, Broader (more diverse), Greener, Fairer, Bolder (in our mission).



The Deanery of Wirral North forms an L shape across the northern half of the Wirral, excluding Birkenhead and Wallasey. There is no natural centre of gravity for the Deanery – it comprises 14 parishes, covering nearly as many separate population centres, and with 21 churches with a range of size, style and tradition. There are good relationships in the Deanery particularly between the clergy, for whom it provides a valuable forum for fellowship and mutual support. Synod meets three times a year, usually with a speaker

on a topic of relevance, often one of the Diocesan team. Because of the size and makeup of the Deanery we do not currently have Deanery-wide initiatives involving all the churches, but some churches partner with & support one another or are involved in joint events together on a local basis. The outworking of the Diocesan strategy may lead to changes in the structure and function of the Deaneries, which will be important in connecting Diocese and parishes in the outworking of the strategy.



## About the Wirral

The Wirral is a wonderful place to live, offering a rare mix of beautiful coastline, green open spaces and excellent connections. From the sandy beaches of West Kirby and New Brighton to the peaceful paths of Wirral Country Park, there is plenty to enjoy on the doorstep. At the same time, Liverpool, Chester and North Wales are all within easy reach, making it an ideal place for those who value both a relaxed lifestyle and good transport links.



*Lady Lever Art Gallery Port Sunlight*

### Why people love living here

The Wirral sits between the River Dee and the River Mersey, bringing together city, countryside and coast in one distinctive peninsula. It has a friendly, settled feel, with a strong sense of community and a pace of life that many people find refreshing. Whether you are raising a family, looking for coastal living, or simply wanting a good quality of life, the Wirral has a great deal to offer. It also provides easy access by road and public transport to Liverpool, Manchester, Chester and North Wales.

### Schools worth celebrating

Families are often drawn to the Wirral because of its strong choice of schools. The area includes well-regarded grammar schools such as Wirral Grammar School for Boys, Wirral Grammar School for Girls and Calday Grange Grammar School, as well as independent options including Birkenhead School. From South Wirral, there is also

convenient access to schools in and around Chester, including The King's School, The Queen's School and Abbey Gate College. With many primary and secondary schools rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, parents can feel confident about the educational opportunities available locally.

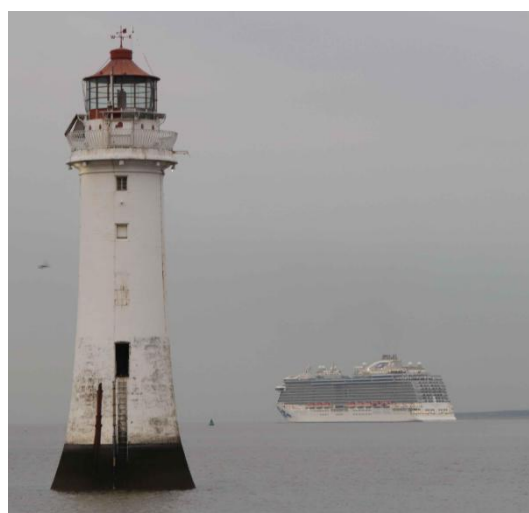


*Liverpool seen across the Mersey*

## Things to see and do

Life on the Wirral offers plenty of variety. Beaches, parks, villages, town centres and cultural attractions are all close by, so there is always somewhere to explore or something to enjoy.

- **By the coast:** Enjoy sailing on West Kirby Marine Lake, walking along New Brighton promenade, spending time on the beach, or watching the tide move across Parkgate's marshes.
- **Out in nature:** Walkers, cyclists and nature lovers can enjoy the Wirral Way, Thurstaston Hill, Heswall Dales, the Dee Estuary and Burton Mere Wetlands.



- **Culture and leisure:** The Floral Pavilion Theatre hosts a wide range of performances, while places such as Oxton and Heswall offer cafés, shops and a lively local arts scene.
- **Food and drink:** From cosy country pubs and cafés to restaurants, delis and fresh seafood, the Wirral has a growing food scene with plenty of local character.
- **Family days out:** Birkenhead Park is a wonderful place for outdoor play, while Chester Zoo, Liverpool's museums and Cheshire Oaks are all within easy reach.

### **The lifestyle**

What many people appreciate most is the balance the Wirral offers. It has a calmer pace than the city, with coast and countryside close at hand, but Liverpool and Chester are still just a short journey away. Residents value the sense of community, the friendliness of local neighbourhoods and the ease of getting outdoors. For many, it offers the best of both worlds: a peaceful place to live with excellent connections nearby.

**In short, the Wirral is a peninsula full of possibilities: good schools, varied housing, beautiful coastline, welcoming communities and a lifestyle that brings together town, country and coast. It is easy to see why so many people love making it home.**



