St David Childwall

Parish Profile

Rocky Lane
Childwall
Liverpool
L16 1JA
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1. Introduction

St David Childwall is an active, vibrant, and warm congregation worshiping the Risen Lord Jesus and witnessing to it in the local community. St David’s is well placed for growth and development with a leadership and congregation keen to move forward; to further develop the rich and deep foundations built by clergy past and present.

Life at St David’s is never boring with many activities throughout the week in and around the church and local community. Well attended services and thriving activities present many opportunities for mission. Good financial management and a proactive approach to building maintenance ensure a sound environment. The people of St David’s are naturally welcoming, value all, and actively participate in the life of their church and local community.

Our worship style is in a traditional Anglican style – where the main focus is Holy Communion, said and sung, using Common Worship. Book of Common Prayer is also occasionally used for mid-week services. A robed choir and organ provide musical accompaniment with Altar servers supporting clergy.

The people of St David’s understand their Vicar has a life beyond the parish; they actively support and encourage a healthy work-life balance. The Vicarage is large enough to be both a private place and a working space.

St David’s will offer a warm welcome, a place to grow and an opportunity to create growth. We look forward to your interest in this exciting opportunity and pray that God may guide you to our door.

Show me your ways, Lord, 
teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Saviour,  
and my hope is in you all day long.  
[Psalm 25:4-5]
2. Mission Statement

ST DAVID’S IS AN ACTIVE PARISH CHURCH THAT SEEKS TO OFFER A WARM, WELCOMING, AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT, WHERE ALL ARE VALUED AND NURTURED IN FAITH AND LIFE.

We will seek to do this by:

- providing accessible, inclusive worship that enables everyone to find and deepen their relationship with God

- providing learning opportunities for everyone to grow and discern their faith within their own lives and the changes within society

- providing interesting and stimulating activities for children and young people, which enable them to learn, live, and grow in the Christian faith and achieve their fullest potential

- valuing all people and encouraging and providing opportunities for them so that they may participate in the life of their local community

- ensuring that our buildings are fully accessible, usable, flexible, and safe for both church and community

- so fashioning the life and ministry of our church in ways that demonstrate that the love of God is for all.
3. Our ideal Candidate

A **Dynamic Individual** with the enthusiasm and drive to develop St David’s as a community-focused church

A **Spiritual Minister** with experience of services led by the word of the gospel, who will embrace the challenges of developing a relevant liturgy-led church, underpinned with music and choir, in the 21st century

A **Leader** who will embrace the opportunity to work collaboratively with the existing Clergy and Lay Team

A **Manager** with the experience to organise resources effectively, offering opportunities for training, self-development and empowering the congregation to use their skills for the benefit of St David’s

A **Team Player** who will develop outreach ministry, to build on the work of the Friday Community Café, with the confidence to introduce new initiatives for growth, partnership-building and fundraising, identifying strengths and weaknesses and reaching out into the community

A **Good Communicator** who is approachable, listens and responds to feedback, is innovative and able to steer the Church community through change, while respecting St David’s traditions and the elders of the congregation

**St David’s will offer the successful candidate:**

- support of the Ministry Team in mission and worship
- support of Parochial Church Council in administration, financial monitoring and fundraising
- support of the congregation in the day-to-day running of the Church and Hall
- genuine concern for the Vicar’s health, well-being, and self-development
- encouragement to take holiday entitlement and regular days off
- a large detached family home, adjacent to the Church
- support for training (CME)
- payment of reasonable clergy expenses
4. The Parish of St David Childwall

The Parish of St David Childwall is situated in the south of Liverpool in the North West of England. St David is one of the 257 churches within the 211 parishes of the Diocese of Liverpool.

St David’s is situated in a prominent position on the main ring road around Liverpool, known as Queens Drive, with excellent access to road and rail networks and the M62 only half a mile away, plus a local train station within walking distance.

Although Childwall is mentioned in the Domesday Book, the church of St David, Childwall was built during WWII and celebrated its 75th anniversary of consecration in 2015.

Childwall is historically a reasonably affluent suburb of Liverpool with a population of approximately fourteen thousand people. It is bordered by Gateacre, Wavertree, Belle Vale, Broadgreen, Bowring Park and Mossley Hill and is a popular residential area with a low crime rate. There is little in the way of industry or commercial businesses, other than retail.

Other Churches in the area include a Roman Catholic Church (Christ the King) and several Anglican and Methodist Churches just outside the Parish boundary (see Additional Information at the end of this document).

There are two Primary schools in the Parish - neither are church schools but they both offer opportunities for development of future partnerships.

Local facilities include a City Council community base, incorporating a Library, NHS Health centre and pharmacy, plus there are several GPs within the Parish.

The area is well served by restaurants, cafes, and pubs and there are several green spaces within walking distance. Access to the Liverpool Loop Line walking and cycle path is within a few hundred yards of the vicarage.
5. Mission and Worship

St. David’s is an active parish church that seeks to offer a warm, welcoming and safe environment where all are valued and nurtured in faith and life. Our fellowship is one of our strengths and has developed over the years finding expression in many ways:

**Services**

- **Daily office of Morning Prayer**
  *Tuesday to Saturday 8.30am – to accommodate Vicar’s schedule.*

- **Three regular weekly services**
  - **Sunday 8am** – Said Holy Communion (Said) held in ‘the round’ in the chapel. This service has a small, but growing, faithful congregation. It is also a useful service for those who would normally attend the main service but may have other commitments.

  - **Sunday 10.30am** – Eucharist (Sung) – a Common Worship service, usually with full sung Eucharist, the trademark of St David’s, this is the main service of the week and includes Sunday School, during which the children come into church to take communion or receive a blessing. An unsupervised crèche is available in the Chapel for parents and their younger children, if they wish to use it.

  - **Wednesday 7.30pm** – Holy Communion (Said) service
Family and Parade services
Held throughout the year at 10.30 on Sunday mornings, with a general invitation to affiliated uniformed organisations, such as Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Scouts and Explorers. These services are planned to celebrate key dates in the Church’s calendar, for example, Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance and the Christmas Toy Service.

Ecumenical Special Needs services
Several are held throughout the year on Sunday afternoon or evening, as a collaborative service shared between the local churches, in which the congregation participate. These are usually held at the local Methodist church due to accessibility issues.

Easter services
Throughout Holy Week the Stations of the Cross are observed
Maundy Thursday evening service shared with the local Childwall Valley Methodist Church
Good Friday – Stations of the Cross in the morning, followed by a Solemn afternoon service
Easter Sunday – normal weekly service with special Order of Service

Advent and Christmas services
Nativity Play performed by Sunday School children
Christingle
Toy Service
Carol Service
Sung Midnight Eucharist Christmas Eve
Christmas Day - 8am Holy Communion 10.30am shortened communion service

BCP used during midweek service throughout the periods of Lent and Advent.

Opportunities for Mission
St David’s has a range of ways to explore faith and worship in an informal way, including:

- Bible study
- House groups
- Prayer groups
- Choir
- Youth Club (currently defunct with plans to re-start)
- Sunday School
- After service refreshments with social opportunity
- Messy Church
- Friday morning Community Cafe
- Food bank
- Use of church building by two other church congregations
6. Church Family

St David’s sits in the heart of a settled and relatively affluent area of Liverpool.

The Church is both a centre for traditional worship and a community base, offering a wide range of services and facilities. The values outlined in the Mission Statement are demonstrated through a warm welcome, an inclusive place for quiet reflection or joyful worship and a strong emphasis on family and Christian values.

At the heart of the Church is the Clergy Team, who are active, enthusiastic and efficient in managing the Church’s activities and mission and work diligently to develop strong relationships with the congregation and other users of the Church.

St David’s has a loyal and generous congregation, just under half of whom live outside the Parish boundary. As at April 2016 there are 172 people on the parish electoral roll and 100 - 150 of these attend services on a regular basis.

The profile of the congregation is predominantly UK nationals, with a high percentage of retired people. Many of St David’s people are ‘single’ and we are especially mindful of their needs. There is strong family representation with several generations of family often attending together. There is a low ethnic mix, which reflects the local demographic.

St David’s has always been successful in establishing loyal attendance by children from toddler to age 11 or 12 at its weekly Sunday School. Children enjoy special time with volunteer Sunday School teachers and are later included in the main service to take Holy Communion or receive a blessing and share what they have learned with the congregation.

Traditionally, children are confirmed in Year Seven and this signifies an end to attendance at Sunday School. A Youth Worship Group met weekly for about seven years from 2003 but as the members moved on to University the Group disbanded and has not been reinstated. There is potential for the current large number of Sunday School attendees to become the Youth Worship Group of the future, so there is certainly opportunity for development in this area.
Children are invited to participate in Holy Communion from a young age. Parents are encouraged to discuss their personal preferences with Clergy and are guided in making a final decision about what is best for their family.

As well as Sunday School, young people up to age 14 are invited to the weekly Youth Club. This is a less formal way for children of the congregation to meet and develop social skills. It is run entirely by volunteers from the congregation, receives no external funding and is therefore not open to the general public.

There are low numbers of attendees in the 16-25 age group and this is an area on which the new incumbent could make an impact. However, a number of young families have joined the congregation in recent years, increasing the number of children attending Sunday School, so there are opportunities for developing youth worship in the future.

There is an established group of regular volunteers who manage many of the Church’s activities. As well as Clergy, Wardens, and Sidespersons, these include people who look after income management, financial planning, Sunday School, Bible Study, House Groups, Hall management and bookings, the Friday Community Café, Messy Church, Craft Group, Church flowers, cleaning, gardening, and maintenance. A wider group of volunteers help at Christmas and Spring Fairs and specific social events.

The current assistant clergy team at St David’s comprises:
- Two Priests (Self Supporting Ministers)
- One Priest (Permission to Officiate)
- Two Readers
- One Reader (commencing training)

Both SSMs also help with services at All Saints Stoneycroft with one SSM licenced jointly to both churches.
7. St David’s and the Community

St David’s has an outward-looking and forward-moving attitude towards our community and does not limit its mission to the parish boundaries.

The Church and Gladstone Hall provide the main basis for community engagement. Clergy and volunteers carry out home visits, hospital visits and offer support and guidance through marriage, bereavement, funeral planning and baptisms. However, there are opportunities for further engagement with groups and organisations in the Parish and beyond. St David’s may benefit from building relationships with local charities, businesses and organisations, as well as local schools and the nearby University, which has an ecumenical background.

St David’s seeks to engage with the local community in a variety of ways:

- The popular Friday Community Café, held in Gladstone Hall, has run successfully for three years offers a friendly and informal place for local residents to socialise. Local City Councillors positively support the project and offer subject-specific events throughout the year, providing workshops and advice to the wider community.

- The Tamil and Pentecostal churches, as well as other Christian denominations, are regular users of our church facilities.

- We enjoy an active relationship with Childwall Methodist Church through the Disability Service.
• Regular assemblies are delivered at Northway Primary School. There are several other local secondary and primary schools in the Parish available for possible collaboration. Liverpool Hope University, the only ecumenical university foundation in Europe, is less than a mile away.

• A weekly Lunch Club is offered for retired people in the local area

• A weekly Baby and Toddler group is held to encourage parents to attend Church for companionship and support

• Gladstone Hall is offered free of charge to several non-profit making groups and is available to hire by the local community

As a church, we are constantly looking for ways to adapt and improve our worship and community outreach. Recent developments include:

  o The installation of a multimedia HDMI projector (linking to our sound system) and drop-down screen has enhanced our services greatly, with video clips, images, sounds and text now a common feature in our worship

  o The installation of WiFi has enabled us to access the Internet from a range of portable devices, improving communication and efficiency within the building

  o A quarterly Messy Church venture in collaboration with All Saint’s Stoneycroft, known as ‘Messy Rocket Church’, is now in its fourth year and regularly attracts a large number of families

  o We have recently adapted our arrangements for children’s communion, offering the elements to children from age four upwards subject to family counselling and a series of preparatory lessons

  o The Church recently delivered the ‘Giving in Grace’ programme, a highly successful venture which has resulted in a noticeable increase in weekly giving
8. St David’s and the wider context

For the last fifteen years St David’s has been part of Liverpool South and Childwall Deanery with the Gateacre Team Ministry of St Mark’s Childwall Valley, St Stephen’s Gateacre and Christ Church, Netherley and has worked with this group of churches on the Deanery Mission Plan.

In recent years, there has been a shift in focus, due mainly to the successful partnership with All Saint’s, Stoneycroft, with which a number of significant pastoral initiatives have been developed. The partnership which began over a decade ago, has strengthened through the mutual aim of giving and receiving, with volunteers from both churches working together on a Food Bank, a joint Messy Church project and the merging of the local Mothers’ Union branches. While each church remains independent and worship styles differ, co-operation is growing, offering great opportunities for joint mission and pastoral care.

A new perspective for future mission is under discussion as is a proposal to move Deanery to West Derby to enhance our relationship with All Saint’s, Stoneycroft. It is expected that the new incumbent will be committed to maintain and develop a close working relationship with All Saints, as both PCCs desire to work together in mission and ministry.

The Bishop’s Growth Agenda has given perspective and focus to St David’s position regarding outreach and PCC have worked together to develop ideas and to ensure that the Church is welcoming and accessible. As mentioned in Section 7, several initiatives have taken place in recent years to ensure that St David’s is available for far more than just traditional worship.

Financially, St David’s is in a healthy position, with no outstanding debts or loans and a moderate running capital. Income and expenditure for the year ended 2015 showed a break even situation and the surplus, reported in the Annual General Meeting in April 2016, partly due to a significant contribution of £4,805 from Liverpool City Council for Friday Community Café activities.

The Parish Share is paid in full, at the rate of £3,825 per calendar month (£46,270 per annum).

Income is generated via the following methods:

- Cash offerings during regular services (£3,182 in 2015)
- Envelope giving during services (86 contributors as at March 2016)
- Direct Debit/Standing Order income (42 people as at March 2016)
- Parish Giving – a new initiative to replace traditional Direct Debit/Standing Order
- Ad-hoc donations from additional services such as weddings and baptisms (£3,374 in 2015)
- Reclaiming VAT through Gift Aid (£12,506 in 2015)
- Church Hall hire (£12,000 in 2015)
- Revenue from Friday Community Café, Craft Club (used for specific projects)
- Revenue from Christmas and Spring Fairs (approx. £5,000 per annum)
9. Church Buildings

St David’s Church buildings stand on a large plot of land at the corner of Queens Drive and Rocky Lane with a large five bedroom vicarage with gardens to the front and rear standing upon a plot immediately adjacent to the church grounds.

The church building is a large brick faced building typical of 1940s design with a church hall (Gladstone Hall) constructed in the 1970s. Both buildings are well maintained and regarded as being fit for purpose in the recent diocesan buildings review. PCC commissioned a building survey of the hall in 2012 and adopted a phased plan of maintenance and updating to the fixtures and fittings. The nature of some major areas, such as the main hall roof and replacement window frames will require major funding.

The church hall is well used; often with a waiting list for the most popular bookable slots. A small group has also undertaken a business review of costs and opportunities to ensure that revenue is maximised. The hall is used by a wide range of organisations such Café, Brownies, Rainbows and Guides to drama and Zumba groups run by external organisers. The hall is also used for worship by the Tamil congregation. Management of the hall (opening and closing etc) is undertaken by a contracted individual paid on a sessional attendance basis.

The church grounds also include a small car park (approximately 20 car spaces) and landscaped areas. There is no graveyard.

The church building has a traditional layout with fixed pews, a chancel with choir stalls, and fixed altar. A well maintained two manual pipe organ together with a choir provides the musical lead for worship. The church is directly linked to the hall by a doorway and lobby area.

Vicarage Accommodation

Adjoining the church grounds and separated by a fence, stands a large four bedroom vicarage with gardens to the front and rear built in the 1960. The building is in good condition and well maintained. There are enough ground floor rooms to allow for a private study and separate meeting room as used by previous incumbents. However, a Parish Office has also been established within Gladstone Hall and this is now used for weekly Vestry Hour as well as other meetings. The Parish Office has its own Internet connection and telephone system.
### Additional Information

#### Churches nearby

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Miles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Saints Stoneycroft (C of E)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Church Christ the King and Our Lady (RC)</td>
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<td>Oakvale United Reformed Church</td>
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<td>Childwall Valley Methodist Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Childwall Hebrew Congregation</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Saints Childwall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Broadgreen</td>
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<tr>
<td>St John the Evangelist, Knotty Ash</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community of Christ, Prince of Peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Marks C of E, Belle Vale</td>
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#### Schools and colleges nearby

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Miles</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rudston Road CP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northway Primary and Nursery School</td>
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<td>Christ the King School (Primary and Secondary)</td>
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<td>Childwall Sports and Science Academy</td>
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<td>King David High School</td>
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<td>Childwall Church of England Primary School</td>
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<td>Liverpool Hope University</td>
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<td>Broadgreen Primary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Paschal Baylon Primary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broadgreen International School</td>
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<td>St Hilda’s CofE High School for Girls</td>
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<td>Archbishop Blanche CofE High School for Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Margaret’s C of E Academy for Boys</td>
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#### Other

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Place Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>CADWA Social Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Turnpike Inn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liverpool Naval Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Rocket Pub</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Childwall Fiveways Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Childwall Abbey Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broadgreen Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broadgreen Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variety of restaurants</td>
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