

meet the church —→



one vision
TWO COMMUNITIES

Church —
— St Helens

ST PAULS BLACKBROOK & ST PHILIPS DERBYSHIRE HILL



Hello there!

At St Paul's and St Philip's we are choosing to be one church across two communities, serving our neighbourhoods with hope and family at the centre.

As communities we share a passion for growing and reaching more people with the love of Jesus, longing to be known as a church that loves all people. We welcome children and families and love to be creative and worshipful. We have a collective heart for a culture of belonging, warmth, friendship, and hospitality throughout all that we do. We want nobody to be left out, for people to be welcome to come as they are, and we believe deeply in the power of forgiveness.

Could you lead this exciting vision?

WWW.CHURCHSTHELENS.ORG

The Opportunity

At St Paul's and St Philips we are blessed with a true family feel, and rich welcome and hospitality but we realise the need for change if we want to reach more people in our local area with the love of Jesus. We long to guide others to encounter Jesus through deeper discipleship, being part of a family within a lively, active growing community, and altogether sharing the love of God through our words, actions and daily life.

Our honest challenges - growth, participation, and leadership, are places where we are ready to learn, adapt, and partner. Turning welcome into belonging, hospitality into mission, and two communities into one faithful committed community built on trust and a visible witness of love, hope, and purpose in our area.



@STPHILIPSCHURCHDERBYSHIREHILL
@STPAULSBLACKBROOK

Our Hope

Between St Paul's and St Philip's we share many similarities, but also face differing challenges. In St Paul's we are frustrated by our lack of growth, or that things often aren't moving forward enough. Whilst in St Philip's we would like more people to feel confident enough to participate & step up so we can grow leaders.

However, our strengths complement each other. St Paul's has leaders who need help navigating change for a community, whilst St Philip's has an openness to try new things and needs more people stepping in. Whilst we work well together currently, our next steps in working together even better provide a brilliant opportunity to even more richly complement each other.

There are shared desires within our communities, such as the desire:

- To be a church for families.
- To see deeper growth in discipleship.
- To keep building on rich hospitality and warm welcome.
- To have a leadership who encourage changes of direction where needed.
- To remove barriers to worship so more people can belong.



We want to be known across the local area as places of love and welcome – through both the practical and the spiritual. For us to be a place for prayer, for community, for help, and for friendship. We are ready to support a leader passionate about St Paul's and St Philip's becoming a truly worshipful, joyful, and flourishing church, full of families on a rich discipleship journey, and lives being transformed through growth, faith and belonging.

Key Information

01 **CHURCH ST HELENS TEAM**

Eleven local churches working as one single larger parish, with many different expressions. More on the next page.

02 **SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM**

We are blessed to have a brilliant four-person staff team overseeing & supporting in everything from buildings and finance to general admin and life events. A friendly & excellent team!

03 **ONE JOINT PCC**

Locally each church has a Growth & Vision Team focusing on mission in the area with one PCC of elected members from across St Helens. We aim to make decisions as close to context as possible.

04 **PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS**

Alongside leadership of a significant worshipping community we want our clergy to work to their strengths and share tasks when possible. Focus is to develop innovative, lay-led worship communities not held back by buildings.



CULTIVATE

Cultivate's purpose is to enable churches and worshipping communities to become more missionally effective. It does this through fresh and refresh pathways.

FRESH [PLANTING]

A 6 week course which helps ordinary followers of Jesus work out where God may be calling them to in mission.

REFRESH [PLANTING]

Resources, such as Church 360, which help existing churches be as healthy and as missional as they can be.

visit *Cultivate's website* →



“

‘Great course, I would encourage all Christians to attend. It’s given me so much encouragement, especially in one week when I felt like giving up. God has really spoken to me during these times. I started with no vision but now realise my vision is already started. Thank you!’

- CULTIVATE ST HELENS PARTICIPANT -



Church St Helens



Our vision is to renew hope, which we aim to do through prioritising four key areas - mission, discipleship, leadership & justice. We are a work in progress, and are looking for dynamic leaders who can play their part in this change. It is a great time to welcome a new full time team member who would like to join us on this journey.

EXTRAS TO KNOW ABOUT US:

- ✓ Weekly Clergy Leadership Team meetings, building relationships & sharing resources
- ✓ We are developing a range of portfolios & learning communities for key specialist areas
- ✓ Every church building we own has undergone a rigorous 'right building' process

AS A CLERGY TEAM WE ARE BUILDING ON THE GOOD RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE HAD ALREADY IN THE DEANERY AND LEARNING TOGETHER WHAT BEING A TEAM CAN MEAN.

Could you play a key role in our team?

St Pauls: A Snapshot



We are a warm & welcoming congregation in which a lot of people play an active role. There are currently 45 people on the electoral roll. The current Sunday morning attendance is usually 20-30 people for informal worship style with liturgy & occasional live music. The congregation are predominantly aged over sixty, with a handful of younger adults and families with school-aged children. There are 5 lay readers (three of whom have PTO) who help to lead worship across the two churches. St Paul's church is in a largely residential part of the parish on the north edge of St Helens. It is home to around 8,000 people. There is some local industry, a shopping precinct, a supermarket and a community centre. There are three primary schools within the parish & two care homes.

SUNDAY SERVICES

10AM: Weekly - communion twice a month, monthly service of the word & worship for everyone.

9AM: Monthly - communion first Sunday of every month

Both Growth & Vision teams have discussed being open to time changes that suit better collaboration for one leader. At St Pauls we are also working towards there being one service.

WHAT WE CURRENTLY RUN:

Tiddlers: welcoming tots group that has run for 40 years & still going strong, serving around 15 local families

Worship for Everyone: currently monthly during Sunday service & aimed at local families, with creative and engaging all age stations

Lunch Club: currently monthly & aimed at feeding and building relationships with local families



SOME FINANCIAL CHALLENGE, CHURCH PAYS PARISH SHARE IN FULL
GENEROUS HEART GIVING TO 6 LOCAL CHARITIES

LOCAL PEOPLE

ST PAULS BLACKBROOK

Income deprived families

20%



Under 18 in local
area

20%

Most Deprived Parish in
CofE top



15%



45+ in local
areas

50%



Households (both)

8,300

Say their religion is Christianity



65%

ABOUT PARR

Parr is in the east of St Helens. The areas covered by our churches are largely residential, with a few small industrial estates, local shopping precincts and parks. The housing includes: owner occupied 1970's housing, social housing developments, mainly 1950's & 60's, including one known as "Cement City" because houses were built quickly and cheaply using cement blocks. Some new housing developments.

The residential areas are interspersed with a significant number of parks and green spaces, including: Bosworth Fields, Ashurst Park, Merton Bank Open Space, Nanny Goat Park and The Licker, Gaskell Park, The Duckeries, and Colliers Moss Common.

St Philips: A Snapshot



St Philips church is a friendly growing church, with a modern building located in Parr. It is situated close to a number of primary schools and community centres. The electoral roll currently has 37 members registered. The average Sunday attendance is 25 to 35 worshippers. Just less than half of the congregation live within the parish boundary. The congregation are predominantly over the age of fifty, but in recent years several younger families have joined. The congregation are down to earth, and visitors often comment that they receive a warm welcome. Worship is middle of the road informal, recently starting a monthly cafe church & offering kids church. We are a prayerful church, and in all situations support one another and our community practically and spiritually.

WEEKLY SERVICES

11.15AM: Every Sunday - including communion, cafe church, service of the word & worship for all

11AM: Every Wednesday with communion & reflection

Outreach: children's meals, uniformed brigades, community lights switch on & food donations into the community at Harvest and Christmas.

WHAT WE CURRENTLY RUN:

School Partnership: collab with local schools for kids creative worship in line with curriculum.

Messy Church: monthly service after hours in local primary school

Bible Study: every Monday evening deepening discipleship

Community Hub: weekly, following Wednesday communion. A safe place to encounter God, with new people now attending Sunday too!



FINANCES ARE LIMITED, GOOD RENTAL INCOME & FUNDRAISING
PAY PARISH SHARE IN FULL & TITHE INCOME TO CHARITIES

LOCAL PEOPLE

ST PHILIPS DERBYSHIRE HILL

Children in poverty

36%



Adults lack formal qualifications

40%

Most Deprived Parish in CofE top

1%



Lone Parent Families

40%



Population (both)

20,000

Average pupil premium in local schools over

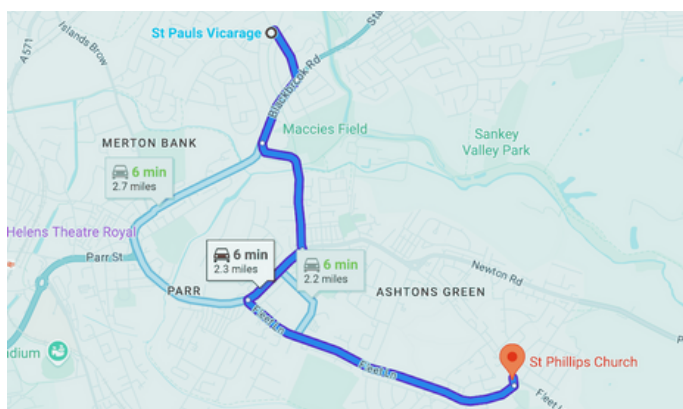


50%

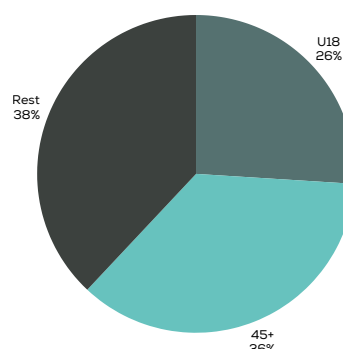
Single person households (leading to isolation)



30%



Age Demographic



What's St Helens like?

St Helens is part of Liverpool Diocese, it is more or less sandwiched between the East Lancs and M62 and has the city of Liverpool to the west and Warrington and Manchester to the east. Both a short drive away.

St Helens is a town with a distinct identity and a proud heritage. Rugby league runs in people's veins. St Helens has a strong industrial history with generations connected to the mining industry, to the glass industry or pharmaceuticals. As the fortunes of the town have changed there have been challenges to face. Whilst there are many positive developments some areas do experience significant long-term unemployment, low incomes, low aspirations, child poverty, and poor health outcomes. Considerable new building in the wider area of roads and housing reflects the new businesses and occupations of its residents. We are partnering with God to renew the hope of people in our town.



video exploring St Helens →





OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

This role brings with it a lot of **opportunities**, working alongside the Church St Helens team to bring renewal and growth to both communities. Relationships with local primary schools are mostly strong with established volunteer teams. Both communities have a big heart for children and families, a desire to be hospitable towards anyone and are keen to serve the community. A key quality to both Growth and Vision teams is their willingness to support, look after and adapt to their new leader. They are both up for trying new things and particularly with St Paul's recent closure of their pre-school, there is belief this could open the door to new mission opportunity.

'What scares me most about the future is that we stay the same.'

Reader at St Pauls

It's also fair to say that this role comes with **challenges**. Both communities are keen to see growth, but this will require growing local leaders & setting long term vision and culture. The two main services at St Pauls & St Philips don't complement one leader, meaning there is little time to be present in between. Growth & Vision teams are aware of this difficulty and open to a new leader's suggestions and more joined up thinking. The communities are situated areas where there are high levels of need. We are looking for a leader who is passionate about serving their community and having an impact on our town. We have also worked really hard as a clergy team to establish Church St Helens, working in partnership as 11 churches and though lots of the formalities have been sorted, there is still work for us to do as a team in living out our mission to 'Renew Hope' in our town.

Hi! From the Team Rector

It's impossible to summarise this role in a document and give you an idea of what working in Church St Helens is really like. I hope that it has given you a taste of what we are trying to achieve and maybe a desire to find out more. We are still in the process of change and whilst we have made some progress there is still so much more to work on. We need someone who is keen to work as part of a team but who can also take responsibility and play a key role. Being able to think missionally whilst supporting our lay leaders and developing new leaders and teams is key.

I have lived in St Helens for a number of years. I love living here and it has been a good place to raise my family. There have been lots of good options for schools/sixth form for my children. It is a great town and has much to offer in terms of sport, the arts and leisure. I also love how accessible St Helens is to a city when I need one or the countryside when I need a break. We also have lots of green space of our own and lots of local activities - not just rugby league!

If you think you might like to be part of our team then why not give me a ring and find out a bit more? I'm happy to have an informal chat or to show you around our town.

Ring or text me to arrange an informal conversation: 07914760021.

*Rev'd Canon Dr.
Chris Daniel*

