

WHO WE ARE

Welcome in the name of Jesus to the Church of England parish of Kirkdale, Liverpool, comprising St. Lawrence church and St. Paul's church.

Everyone is welcome to attend our church services, please introduce yourself to the ushers on the door:

Our regular services are at **St. Lawrence at 10.30 am on Sunday mornings** and at **St. Paul's at 6 pm on Sunday evenings**.

Our churches are available for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

Our church halls are available to hire for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Community events and Corporate events, and can be booked online at kirkdale.org.uk/venues

Contact us

St. Lawrence, Westminster Close, Liverpool L4 1XB

St. Paul's, 35 Celia Street, Liverpool L20 2BG

Phone: 0151 523 6968

Email: admin@kirkdale.org.uk

Web: www.stlawrencewithstpaul.co.uk

ST. LAWRENCE & ST. PAUL KIRKDALE

Summer Magazine 2024



Young at Heart summer outing to Skipton

Vicar, Rev'd Mike Griffin
Associate Priest, Rev'd Gill Hoy
Parish Evangelist, Sister Marjorie Griffin

A TIME OF CHANGE

As I write this article for our Church Magazine Marj, and I are on the verge of retirement later in August. After 41 years of ministry in the diocese of Liverpool its time to hang up our vestments and to prepare for the next chapter of our lives. It is both exciting and daunting. There is so much to do and prepare for. We have always known that The Lord goes before us. We await His blessings as we move on.

We have enjoyed ministry in Liverpool. For the past 28 years we have been with you in Kirkdale. There have been great times and sad times. Going through what we went through causing Bishop James to be instrumental in moving us literally is something that we will never forget, and we will as a family will be every thankful to him, a true man of God with a pastoral heart.

The diocese has changed in so many ways. It has a huge challenge as it makes decisions for the future. It will forever be in our thoughts and prayers. The world is a changing place and the shadows of the past seem to be knocking on the doors of the present. Since the pandemic the world seems to be a much different place. People are anxious on so many levels, especially in terms of mental welfare.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is unchanging. His love knows no limits. His desire for all people to know of His love remains the same. How enriching and uplifting this is. As Marj and I prepare to say goodbye please be assured of our continued prayers. He knows the plans He has prepared for each one of us. To Him be glory both now and forever more.

Every Blessing

Rev'd Captain Mike Griffin
Vicar

PRAYER AND SHARE

Every Wednesday between 12noon and 1.30pm at St.Paul's

During Lent a group of us met together at St Paul's Church to have lunch and a chat followed by singing our favourite worship songs, a devotional, discussing topics for prayer and praying together.

This proved to be a wonderful time of fellowship and togetherness; we each felt blessed to be there and enjoyed and valued being able to set time aside each Wednesday to be in God's presence and worshipping our AMAZING God! Jesus said in Matthew 18 verse 20 "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am with you". We know this to be true because we witness it each week.

When Lent ended we decided as a group that it was important to carry on meeting each week as we felt so inspired by this great opportunity to meet in Christian love and fellowship.

We know there are changes and challenges facing each of us in the church as Mike and Marj retire, and in our own lives and we realise we need to stay focussed on God and His purpose for our future and to trust that He is with us on our journey, both individually and together.

These meetings are a great opportunity to discuss, share, worship and pray so this is an open opportunity to anyone who feels they would like to join us. ALL ARE WELCOME.

We bring our own light lunch and drinks are provided. You are free to come along and take part or just listen and observe. We would love to see you and pray that you too will be blessed by the experience just as we are.

God Bless, Liz Allan

APCM

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The APCM was held on 30th April and the following people were elected to serve in this parish for the coming year.

Wardens Val MacLean (St Lawrence)
Ruth Smart (St Paul)

Deputy Wardens Barbara Hughes (St Lawrence)
Don Rivers (St Paul)

Safeguarding Officer Billy Barrow

Parochial Church Council

Liz Allan Billy Barrow
Bernie Garner Joe Kilshaw (Treasurer)
Lil Mulvey Alison Tyrrell (Secretary)
Pauline Worthy

Thank you to all those elected for your willingness to fulfil these roles especially as we approach a period of interregnum. Please pray that, as they carry out their duties, they will feel supported and enhanced in their vital ministry.

Almighty God, bless these officers and grant that they may be of service to our church and bring honour and glory to your name. We know you have plans for our parish and we trust that those plans are good. We pray that together we may discern your way for the future and be further equipped to grow your kingdom in this place. We ask this through Christ our Lord Amen.

REVD. CAPT. MIKE GRIFFIN

When I was asked to write a piece for the magazine about Mike as he retires I wondered what to say and where to start. How to sum up 41 years of ministry and 28 years here in Kirkdale.

When Mike first came to St Lawrence in August 1996 he made history as the first Church Army Evangelist to have been appointed to a parish. After several years Mike felt called to ordination and following a selection conference and 3 years training in Manchester, Mike was ordained Advent 2000.

I suppose if you asked anyone about Mike one of the first things that they would comment on is his sense of humour and his jokes. Often when Mike is in school a child or a member of staff will ask for a joke and you can hear the rest of us groan. Sometimes it is hard to know when Mike's telling a joke or being serious and we are waiting for a punch line. The best however, was one evening prior to Kids Club; after praying for the evening Mike started to tell a joke; without prior discussion or arrangement, we all just got up and walked out. The look on Mike's face, bless him.

Talking of Kids Club, as well as engaging with the children, it was also an excuse for the adults to act soft. As you can imagine nobody was a bigger kid than Mike; from being one of the Blues Brothers with John Garner, dressing up as a pirate, to being the front end of a horse or a giant rabbit.

Mike has always been so enthusiastic about things; setting up a cycling club. This was not just for members of the church but for anyone who was feeling brave (or foolhardy). As we would start off Mike would always say that it would be easier on the way back because the wind would be behind us. I think he was fibbing because it never was. But it was good fun along the way, possibly.

Mike also shared his love of photography by setting up the camera club; trying to get us to understand the difference between f-stops and shutter speed. But we enjoyed the fellowship and the trips out even if we never got to grips with the technicalities. It was a wonder sometimes we weren't arrested doing trail blazers down on the Strand, where all the car drivers thought we were speed cameras, going to the cathedral and finding Mike lying on the floor taking a picture of the vaulted ceiling, going to see the Giants when they came to Liverpool and finding Mike in the middle of the press photographers.

I am sure that you will all have so many more stories that you could share.

Above all this is an opportunity on behalf of the church fellowship, the community, staff and children at Kirkdale, St Lawrence School and Archbishop Blanch School to say thank you to Mike. Thank you for your years of ministry and witness, for your teaching and guidance, for your passion for spreading the Gospel, your compassion for people in often the most difficult and trying circumstances, for all your hard work and the many things you did that we did not see. You have earned the respect of so many people for your dedication to the Lord and His people.

You have served the Lord, with gladness - tirelessly, faithfully and with great compassion. Now as the day dawns on the next chapter in your life, may God continue to richly bless you and watch over you; may the God of peace grant you peace now and always.

Wishing Mike and Marjorie every happiness
and God's richest blessing in their retirement.

Hayley Marsden 13.6.24

As Mike is retiring in August, his last service celebrating his Ministry will be in St Lawrence Church on 28th July at 10.30am.

We would love you to join us as we say goodbye to Mike and Marj as they journey in the next phase of service to the Lord and all he has in store for them. There will be a lunch provided afterwards in the church hall, to which everyone is invited. For more details please see Val or Barbara.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Prayer and Share

Every Wednesday lunchtime, 12.00 to 1.30pm at St. Paul's

YOUNG at HEART

Second Monday of every month from 12 to 3pm at St. Paul's.



Food, fun, friendship and entertainment. All welcome.
Contact Pauline Worthy or Don Rivers for any further information.

Breakfast Club

Third Saturday of every month from 10.00am at St. Lawrence



LONDON HALF MARATHON



Hi everyone, next year on the 6th April, I will be running the London Half Marathon for the Samaritans. This is a charity that is very close to my heart and I would love to earn as much money as I can for them. The Samaritans offer a phone service for people to contact if they are struggling and offer a safe space to talk. Through this phone service, lives can be saved and support given. Every £5 equates to one phone call able to be answered.

This is the first time that I have done anything like this, and have already started my training!

I would please value prayers (lots of them), support, and, if you are able, sponsorship for this important charity.

To sponsor me, you can visit my Just Giving by scanning the QR code, or donate with cash, and I will donate it to the page for you.

Thank you for all your support!

Ross

SERVICE ROTAS

As from August this year, I will be responsible for organising the rotas for our Sunday Services. It is my intention to have a pool of people who will be included in the services. Hopefully this will open up an opportunity for people to use their gifts or step out of their comfort zone and try something new. You can join the team of worship leaders for a short period of time, or you can make a longer commitment if you feel that is something the Lord is directing you to do.

Each person will be given a particular Sunday each month (or more/less frequently if needed) either 10.30 am @ St. Lawrence Church or 6pm @ St. Paul's Church. The services change each week so over the month we have a selection of different services which include Holy Communion and non-Eucharist services.

(You would only be responsible for one option in any service not the whole thing)
The possible options to choose from are:

- Leading the service (non-Eucharist),
- Preaching,
- Reading Scripture
- Preparing and reading prayers.

(More options to be included in later rotas.)

Please see Rev'd Gill if you would like to be included in our rotas or would like further information.

Please pray about this important ministry for yourself and for others who are thinking about taking on a particular role. As we move forward and journey through the changes with the Lord's help.

The ministers are responsible for the Services and so reserve the right to make changes as and when needed.

Rev'd Gill Hoy

YOUNG AT HEART



We had a lovely day at the small market town of Skipton, not too far only one and a half hours away. Leaving Liverpool it did not bode well with the weather but we need not have worried as it was wall to wall sunshine (better than our last day out), no coats or broly's needed this time!

The canal was full of lovely painted barges. There was a beautiful old church, gardens to sit and relax in and loads of history attached to it. The street market was in full flow and there were plenty of shops, bars and cafes. The one we went to did all homemade food, (roasts, grills, salads cakes etc) so well presented and tasty.

A good, happy and pleasant day had by all, Mary Donnelly

CHURCH ARMY

Thank you to all who gave so generously to the collection for Church Army during Lent. We raised an amazing total of £400 which will be used to support the valuable work carried out by Church Army in this country.

TRIP TO SKIPTON

On Monday 13th May 22 of us went to Skipton on an outing with the Young at Heart Club. It was a lovely day (we were pleasantly surprised as the forecast a day or 2 earlier had not been good). With Ian as our coach driver we set off from St Paul's.

There were 5 men on the coach, 3 with their wives so it was fitting that the other 2 stayed together, which was me and Ted. I'd been there a good few times; Ted said he'd last visited 55 years ago, so I said "You show us around then Ted!" We had a cuppa in a local cafe and a local lady came over and chatted and showed us photos on her phone of visits she'd had to Liverpool.

After browsing through the town we had nice fish and chips in Bizzy Lizzy's then we sat in the sun by the canal. There's a great statue there of England fast bowler "Fiery" Fred Trueman in full flow at the end of his run-up!

I went on a half hour boat trip with some of the ladies from the club while Ted waved to us from his canal bench.

We set off for home at 4pm, having all had a nice time and arrived home safely, Don Rivers

CHURCH ENVELOPES

A reminder for everyone that there are packs of envelopes available now for all those who wish to use them for their weekly giving to our Church. Please see one of the Church Wardens to pick up a pack.

If you pay income tax you may be eligible to Gift Aid your offering which will allow the church (at no extra cost to you) to claim back 25% of your offering from the government. Please see either Bernie Garner or Joe Kilshaw for more information

Thank you everyone for your offerings.