

St John's Church Ravenhead

www.stjohnsravenhead.org.uk



Parish Profile

St John's Church Ravenhead

Welcome

Welcome to St John's Church, Ravenhead and the Eccleston Team Ministry. Thank you for your interest and for taking the time to read our Parish Profile.

We've designed our profile carefully to try and give you the best idea of what the church at Ravenhead is like, and to give you the important details you'll need to know if you're interested in becoming our new vicar. In this Parish Profile, you'll find details of what we currently do and how we do it. There's information about the work that has recently been completed, and what there is still to do. Hopefully you'll get a good overview of St John's, Ravenhead, which will enable you to prayerfully discern if God is calling you to be our next vicar. To help you find what's in the Profile, you can find an index of contents on the back cover.

If there's anything you want to know that you can't find in this document, please don't hesitate to ask. There's more information available on our website, while members of our Patronage Board, our Church Warden, and representatives of the Diocese of Liverpool are on hand and ready to help if you need it.

Thanks again for considering Ravenhead. May God's blessing reach you in the decisions you make.

St John the Evangelist Church Parochial Church Council, December 2015
www.stjohnsravenhead.org.uk

Role Description

Post: Team Vicar (serving the Eccleston Team, responsible for St John the Evangelist, Ravenhead)

St John's, Ravenhead is an exciting challenge for a minister who feels called to be our new vicar. There is untapped potential in the church and the congregation and you will be able to call on a pool of dedicated volunteers to assist you in your ministry. As such, our new vicar should...

- be willing to work with laity, helping our congregation to develop their gifts
- engage with both believers and non-believers, inside and outside the church
- be visible and available in the church and community
- find ways to work with church members to bring more people to faith
- promote the work and Word of God in the area
- be involved in Project 2019, leading, assisting and encouraging where appropriate, helping to achieve and develop the goals in the aims booklet (attached) alongside church members
- engage with the congregations at our services, being approachable and available to them
- lead services, preaching God's message faithfully
- encourage the congregation and seek to grow it in number and faith
- take pastoral care of the people you come into contact with, including those who call on the church for weddings, funerals, baptisms and other such occasions.
- encourage the use of St John's Centre by church groups and for outreach work
- make house calls and take communion to the sick and elderly as this is highly appreciated by many members of the community. Help the church follow up those who are not attending. If appropriate, help to develop, train and encourage a pastoral care team from within the fellowship.
- constantly seek and follow God's path for your ministry here, that both yourself and the church may grow in fellowship and faith. Take opportunities for your own personal development, family life and rest.
- accept other responsibilities that are consistent with the life and work of a vicar as required

St John's Church Ravenhead

Person Specification

- An evangelist who is commissioned and mandated to the living of Ravenhead by the call of God.
- A person of prayer and study, who is faithful to the Word of God in their preaching.
- Someone who can offer firm but caring leadership, who is approachable and a good listener with a keen sense of pastoral responsibility.
- Someone who can prayerfully discover, nurture and encourage vision. Much work has been done to solve problems in the church. A vision is now needed for both places of worship in Ravenhead to grow our congregations and their communion.
- 'We have become a 'Sunday church' - opportunities for the church to meet outside of services and Bible Study have dwindled over the years. This affects the 'communion' of the congregation and should be addressed. Someone who can encourage and develop the fellowship of the church.
- Someone who will work with and alongside lay readers and volunteers and encourage them.
- Someone who can inspire, discern, nurture and encourage a new generation of leaders, volunteers and evangelists.
- Someone who can recognise and nurture the development and use of spiritual gifts in the congregation.
- Someone with a heart for both contemporary and traditional forms of worship, who can develop the worship life of the church through both forms, including service structures and music.
- Someone with a heart for the ministry of the whole church - St John's has a wide age range in its congregation with a heart for different traditions, while we also have a new parent and toddler group from which members may be encouraged into the full life of the church.
- Someone who will work within the structures and the spirit of the Eccleston Team.
- Someone with managerial, supervisory and administrative skills, who takes seriously the structures and procedures of the church and the law - the protection of children and vulnerable adults, health and safety, data protection etc.
- A good, clear communicator in both written and verbal forms. Basic IT skills would be helpful.



"My wish is that St John's will continue to be the light in this area for God's work to continue, and for people to come to know and worship the Risen Lord Jesus Christ."

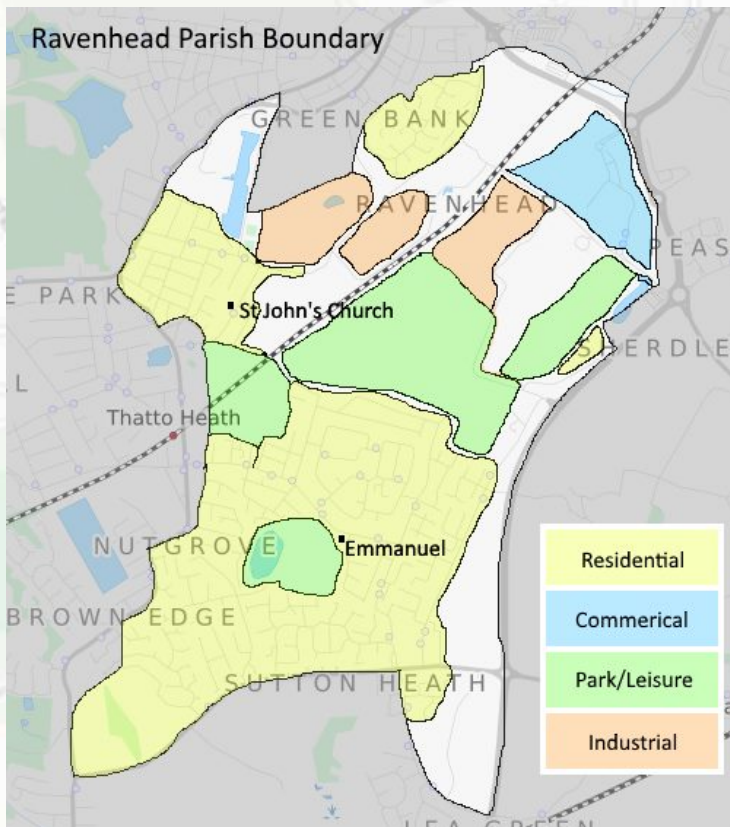
Margaret Abbot, Churchwarden

St John's Church Ravenhead

St Helens & the Parish of Ravenhead

The parish of Ravenhead can be found in the town of St Helens, in the North-West of England, some 10 and 21 miles from the centres of Liverpool and Manchester respectively as the crow flies. Despite its proximity to these two major cities, St Helens retains its own sense of community and individuality. The town is well served by the regional motorway and public transport networks.

St John's, Ravenhead sits roughly a mile to the south-west of St Helens' town centre and the parish encompasses areas of the localities of Thatto Heath, Nutgrove and Sutton Heath, as well as Ravenhead. The parish is predominately residential in nature, though there are industrial and commercial areas to the north, including a major retail centre - the *Ravenhead Retail Park*.



The parish is part of the Local Authority wards of West Park and Thatto Heath. A little short of 12,000 people live within the parish boundary, constituting 23% aged 0-17, 61% 18-64 and 16% 65+. 95% of residents are White British (Source: CofE).

Population:	11,569
Religion:	Christian 78.83%
	None 14.11%
	Others 7.06%

The area has above average numbers of people self-identifying as economically inactive due to permanent sickness or disability. 53.78% of residents are in employment, 15.34% are retired and 5.91% are unemployed.

There are above average numbers of people regarded as receiving 'low income', and 26.5% of children regarded as living in low income families. 13.7% of over 65s live alone, and 10.2% of households are 'lone-parent with dependent children'.

St Helens - not 'just another town'...



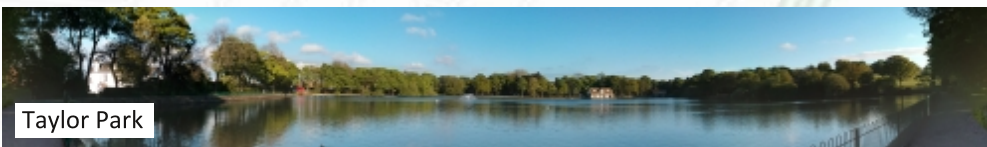
St Helens Town Hall

St Helens is a town with a rich heritage that helped to build the wealth of the nation. The coal and glass industries thrived here, helped by the world's first commercial canal, and the town's famous Pilkington and Ravenhead glassworks became household names. The Rainhill locomotive trials - where Stevenson's Rocket was first publically displayed took place inside the current metropolitan boundary area, while the St Helens Citadel is one of the oldest remaining playhouses and auditoria in the world.



Langtree Park Stadium

The town is home to world class sporting teams, venues and occasions, including Haydock Park racecourse. Langtree Park stadium is the home of Rugby League's Super League team St Helens RFC and was a host venue for the 2013 Rugby League World Cup and the 2015 World Club Challenge. Liverpool St Helens Rugby Union Club is the world's oldest open rugby club. The town is also well represented in professional boxing and darts. The town's motto, 'Ex terra lucem' - 'Out of the earth comes light' - a reference to the coal mining history - was the inspiration for Danny Boyle's presentation at the opening ceremony at the 2012 London Olympics.



Taylor Park

Today, investment is finding its way into the town with new housing, retail and leisure developments. A new bowling alley and gymnasium are planned in the town centre, close to the existing cinema, dining and leisure facilities. There are a number of parks for recreation and relaxation, while the town centre hosts a number of popular high-street names. 'The Dream', situated at Bold Forest Park, part of the Mersey Forest, is a major artwork overlooking the M62. It was designed as part of Channel 4's 'Big Art' project by world-renowned artist Jaume Plensa.

St Helens is home to St Helens Rugby League Club, a founding member of the sport. It is the most successful club in the game's 'summer era', most recently winning the Super League Championship in 2014.

The Ravenhead Retail Park, to the north of the parish of Ravenhead, was rated as one of the top 20 such facilities in the country in 2011.

Once pupil of the now-closed St John's, Ravenhead School was George Groves, a pioneer of sound recording in the Hollywood film industry who won an Oscar for his work on 'My Fair Lady'.

Clara Evans, a nurse who served in the Boer War, is thought to be the first woman in Britain to be honoured alongside serving male soldiers on a war memorial, which is set in the Town Hall. As a former Sunday School teacher at St John's, Ravenhead, she is also remembered in the church on a stained glass window of three lights and a wooden font cover.

An intersection in Sutton, St Helens is the first place in the world where two railway lines crossed either over or under each other.

The float-glass making process, now used across the world by glassmakers, was invented in St Helens by Pilkington's.

The first ever photograph of an object in the night sky - the moon - was taken by St Helens-born John Draper in 1840.

Ravenhead

Ravenhead began to develop in around 1770, when local industrialists bore new coal mines in the area, which takes its name from a farm located here at that time - Ravenhead Farm.

Ravenhead may have its roots based on coal, but it is glassmaking with which its name became synonymous. The coal mines fuelled the furnaces of the glass industry, before the glass was taken to London using the canal system.

As workers arrived for employment in the factories, the Ravenhead community began to develop. This community, like any other, has had its ups and downs. The coal mines are long gone. The Pilkington glass company is now in foreign ownership, while UGB went into administration and closed in 2001, causing a rise in local unemployment within the parish.

The decline in industry here does not condemn Ravenhead to the history books, as the area adapts and continues to contribute an important role in St Helens. One such example is the newly built Ravenhead Retail Park, within our parish boundary, which in 2011 was listed amongst the top 20 such facilities in the country. New housing and business developments fall within the parish.

This is the community upon which it falls to St John's Church to serve. We look forward to working alongside our next vicar, to reach these people with the message of the Gospel, spiritually and practically.

Local Amenities

- St John's Church and Centre, hosting regular Christian and community activities
- Local shopping area less than a mile from the church and vicarage
- Corner shop opposite the church
- Children's Centre and Nursery school
- Thatto Heath Primary School is in the parish, rated a 'Good' school by Ofsted (2014)
- Other primary schools in walking distance
- Secondary schools and further education colleges nearby
- Thatto Heath Park is in the parish, with Taylor Park, Sherdley Park and municipal sporting facilities nearby
- GP surgeries and pharmacy in the parish
- Rail links to Liverpool, St Helens and Wigan from Thatto Heath station (national services from Liverpool Lime Street and Wigan North-Western)
- Rail links to Liverpool and Manchester from nearby Lea Green station (national services from Liverpool Lime Street, Manchester Victoria and Manchester Picadilly)
- Excellent road links to motorway network
- Bus links to St Helens and Liverpool
- Major retail centre at Ravenhead Retail Park within the parish, including B&Q, Curry's, PC World, Costa Coffee and more

St John's Vicarage - Your Ravenhead Home?



The Vicarage at Ravenhead was built circa. 1990 and so is a well appointed modern home, with...

- Four bedrooms
- Quiet study area away from living quarters
- Upstairs and downstairs washrooms
- Spacious garden and parking facilities
- Comfortable lounge
- Kitchen with dining area
- Dining room or second reception room
- Garage
- Utility area
- Home in seconds! Conveniently situated on the site of St John's Church
- CCTV and alarm for your security

St John's Church Ravenhead

Our Church & Services

St John the Evangelist's Church, Ravenhead is a church with a wide range of tastes, traditions and age ranges within the congregation. Broadly falling into the Evangelical wing of the church, we maintain our commitment to the traditions of the Church of England and hold regular services from the Book of Common Prayer alongside more modern services from Common Worship.

Our services attempt to use liturgy appropriate to the seasons of the Christian calendar, meaning that orders of service are often constructed using elements from Common Worship resources such as *New Patterns for Worship* and *Common Worship: Times and Seasons*.

During most services, traditional hymns are played on our pipe organ, while our music group plays at the Family Worship service. Sermons are preached by clergy, our Lay Reader, and by lay volunteers who have authorisation from the clergy.

Our laity have a long association with participation in services, usually through leading prayers of intercession, or by reading from the Bible. Our children and youth leaders are also encouraged to take part in the services alongside the members of our 5-Alive Club (Sunday school) and Toddle-In Parent & Toddler group.

On a typical Sunday, around 20 people attend our 8:30am BCP Holy Communion service, while the 10:45am service attracts approximately 60-80 worshippers each week.

The electoral roll stands at 97 members (as Sept 2015).

St John's PCC is registered charity
#1129191 with the Charity Commission

Services (Normal Pattern)

Sunday

Book of Common Prayer

Weekly: 8:30am Holy Communion

Common Worship

Week 1: 10:45am Family Worship
Week 2: 10:45am Holy Communion
Week 3, 5: 10:45am Service of the Word
Week 4: 10:45am Service of the Word or Holy Baptism

Wednesday

Monthly: 10:00am BCP Holy Communion



The congregation stand to sing a hymn during a service at St John's Church

An overview of our church services as they are today...

St John's Church currently hosts two services on a Sunday - a Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion service at 8:30am, and a 10:45am service which utilises liturgy from Common Worship. Both services include hymns, readings, prayers of intercession and a sermon.

The 8:30am service is much loved by its congregation and attracts worshippers from other churches which no longer hold services from the BCP. The 10:45am service has congregational hymn singing led by the pipe organ, piano and/or the music group. Once a month, this is a Holy Communion service, with a Baptism service held every two months. After both services, members like to remain in fellowship, either informally, or, after the 10:45am service, over refreshments in the St John's Centre Main Hall.



Some members of our 8:30am BCP Holy Communion congregation

A midweek Holy Communion service is appreciated by its congregation, currently held monthly on the last Wednesday.

We also share responsibility for services at a local residential retirement village, Reeve Court. The service is held at 3pm on a Sunday, with representatives from St John's on up to two Sundays each month.

Facts and figures...

Based on Jan - Dec 2014 statistics

Average Attendances 2014 (inc. Baptism services):

Sunday 8:30am:	20.84
Sunday 10:45am:	75.5

Total Attendances 2014 (inc. U16s & Baptism services):

Sunday:	5,010
8:30am only:	1,084
10:45am only:	3,926

Attendances at Christian Festivals (2014)

Easter Sunday:	25 + 83 (108)
Christmas Eve:	51
Christmas Day:	22 + 17 (39)

Sunday attendances have fallen during the current interregnum.

Financial Information

Income:	£91,214
Outgoings:	£119,115
Profit/Loss:	(£27,901) - this 2014 figure includes £11,192 in depreciation and a number of 'one-off' expenses.

In September 2015, the PCC resolved to hold a Giving In Grace campaign and to implement a number of initiatives with the help of the Diocesan Stewardship Officer to address the shortfall in finances and to ensure the viability of St John's Church. The PCC aims to maintain its commitment to tithe 10% of its income.

Parish Share Payments

In 2015, St John's Parish Share payable to the Diocese of Liverpool will total £35,819 - the seventh highest in the St Helens deanery. Historically, St John's has paid its Parish Share in full, but, owing to issues during our previous interregnum, which lasted some 42 months between 2009 - 2012, and income shortfalls, the church currently has Parish Share arrears.

An agreed program between the PCC and the Diocese is in place and it is anticipated these arrears will be cleared in the coming months. The PCC is committed to paying Parish Share when funds are available, making 11 of out 12 payments in 2015 and has paid in full up to the end of May 2016.

Our Buildings

St John's Church, Ravenhead

The main parish church of Ravenhead, St John the Evangelist's Church opened in 1869. In the 1920s, a war memorial hall and robing vestry was added to the south of the building, while in 2004, the St John's Centre opened, extending the earlier facilities.

Generally, the buildings are in a good state of repair. This is an attractive and traditional church layout, and the building is listed by English Heritage as Grade II. The nave is set out in pews, with a warm, welcoming reception area and a creche which was added in 1992. Both the reception and creche have speakers installed so that users can still hear the service.

The church houses a fine 2 manual pipe organ which is complimented by visiting organists. It is regularly tuned and maintained. A new sound system was installed in 2014, greatly expanding our capacity for live music, amongst other opportunities. In 2016, this has been put to full use during a concert with Christian singer/songwriters and worship leaders Noel & Tricia Richards.

There is also a side chapel at the church, to the north of the chancel, which was dedicated as a memorial chapel in the 1940s. On the opposite side of the chancel is a vestry.

The on-site St John's Centre includes two halls and meeting rooms use which are available for hire and community use, an office, toilets and a kitchen. It is an excellent and modern facility.

Recent Work Completed

- Repainted pews
- Repainted radiators
- New sound system installed
- Roof over chancel replaced
- St John's Centre redecorated

Known Outstanding Issues

- New roof needed over Nave
- Repointing on West exterior wall



Emmanuel Church, Thatto Heath

The PCC resolved by majority to sell Emmanuel and at the time of writing, has accepted a bid for the land and building. It is anticipated the sale will be complete in the coming months. Money from the sale will clear our Parish Share arrears, with the remaining amount deposited in the church general fund.



St John's Church Ravenhead

Activities & Occasions

As with any parish church, St John's often finds itself to be a centre-point for the community. Whether people gather to mark important family life events, come together for friendship, or join for exercise and activity, the church and centre provides facilities for these purposes and more.

The buildings are open on an almost daily basis throughout the year. Here are just a few of the activities that take place in St John's Church and the centre.

Marking Life Events

- Number of Weddings in 2015: 4 (5 are currently arranged for 2016)
- Number of Funerals in 2015 (Jan - Sep): 20 (plus 5 directly at the Crematorium)
- Number of Baptisms in 2015: 15 (currently 6 services per year)

It is normal for wedding and baptism preparations and rehearsals to be conducted to enable people to be as ready and relaxed as possible ahead of arriving at the service. St John's has in the past had a Bereavement Support group, but a lack of volunteers now means that help is given to the bereaved on a casual basis when requested.

Occasional Celebrations

- Children from Thatto Heath Primary School visit the church for services at Christmas and Easter
- St John's hosts Eccleston Team services as part of a rota amongst the five churches

Regular Activities

- Bible Studies are held in church and in private homes throughout the week
- A Prayer Breakfast is held once a month in church to pray for the parish and the wider world
- A weekly coffee morning is held in St John's Centre and is open to the whole community
- 5-Alive Club, our Sunday School, meets weekly during the 10:45am service
- Toddle-In 'Parent & Toddler' group - please see the short feature on page 11
- Holy Communion is taken to the housebound, sick, elderly and into residential and nursing homes



"People have done their best to perform their duties and use their spiritual gifts to their utmost ability to move in a positive direction."

Church Member

"I love the homeliness of St John's. If you go somewhere else, coming back here is like coming home. I hope our new vicar will be able to lead us all in discipleship."

Church Member



"It's been a privilege getting to know the children and the various family members who bring them each week."

Justine Harrison-Howard
Children's Worker

Toddle-In opened in 2015 as a service to the community and an expression of church to those who attend. Offered as a free service in St John's Centre and currently funded by St John's Church, the group is run by a number of committed volunteers. The response from the community has been positive and parents and guardians bring their children to a morning of song and play, which contains appropriate teaching from the Bible during each meeting.



Members of Toddle-In, singing in a service at St John's with the help of the group's volunteers

The Eccleston Team

The church of St John Ravenhead forms part of the Eccleston Team of churches. The Eccleston Team is made up of five parishes to the west of St Helens town centre. The Team serves a population of around 36,000 people and consists of five parishes each with their own PCC and freedom to develop their own mission and outreach plans. With a total parish share of £185,000 the Team is a net contributor to the Diocesan Stipend Fund.

Since the formation of the Team the clergy have met regularly for Bible study and prayer and this has proved a vital means of communication, support, encouragement and challenge for individual ministries as well as parish ministry. There is scope to further develop ministries across the Team drawing on the gifts within particular congregations. Services such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day and Confirmation are held as Team services which rotate around the parishes during the year. Four times a year a Team service takes place on a Sunday afternoon and congregations are encouraged to join with the other churches to worship and enjoy fellowship together.

There are some changes planned within the Team. When established, the Team had an allocation of four clergy to serve the five churches, with the Team Rector serving two. To enable this pattern to be effective clergy in the Team offered cover of one Sunday a month away from their own church. One of the churches in the Team, St Matthews, is exploring becoming a Chapel of Ease. This would mean regular Sunday worship would cease and therefore the need for Sunday cover would lapse. However if full holiday entitlement is taken, for half a year, the Team would be served by just three clergy meaning there would still be a need to offer assistance to the other churches during holidays, interregna etc.

The Eccleston Team is a strong Christian presence in St Helens; there is a good mix of faithful, spiritual inherited church as well as various forms of Fresh Expression and other outreach programmes. The folk are God fearing and God serving and as such are keen to share the Good News they themselves have discovered. For anyone coming into the Team they will find support for their ministry, opportunity to develop outreach supported by a prayerful base founded upon faithfulness and the desire to see God's Kingdom grow in the place where God has set us.

"Worship is not just what we do in church on a Sunday. it's our everyday walk with the Lord. Sunday worship is the culmination of our everyday worship to our God, where we can express it together with our brothers and sisters in the Lord."

Church Member

"I attended with current members and everyone was warm and kind."

Visitor

"Visitors are given a warm welcome and helped in whichever way is needed by members of the church."

Church Member

St John's Church Ravenhead

Our leaders & comments from the church



**Margaret Abbot,
Churchwarden**

Margaret is a long term member of St John's Church, currently serving as our Churchwarden.

Of her role, she says, "The warden's job is always very busy. I would hope that the congregation, as a whole, realise that if there is a problem they could always call on me."

Comments from church members...

On first-time visitors feeling welcome...

"... warm and welcoming, people are pleasant."
"... people don't seem to accept each other."
"... could be made more welcome at the end of the service as well as [before]."

On their sense of 'belonging'...

"People are willing to talk with each other or respect their need for privacy..."

On services...

"... some services are more inspiring than others."
"... a lot of room for improvement. There are many occasions when it is inspiring and attractive, I wouldn't... say vibrant."
"There's a place for the new and the old."

On prayer...

"Prayer is taken seriously... people appear to be committed to it."
"People think prayer makes a difference but are fearful of corporate prayer."

"I would like to see more of a closeness between our two congregations. I would like our new vicar to be a Bible teacher."

Church Member

"I hope our vicar will be cheerful and friendly."

Church Member

"We need to develop activities and events to encourage children and young people into the church. I hope our new vicar will be a friendly, approachable and caring person to bring people together. Above all, the right person chosen by God to encourage us into the next chapter at St John's."

Church Member

"I like that we can all worship the Lord in our own way here - traditional or modern. It's good that people from both services are getting to know each other better now."

Church Member

"I hope our new vicar will work with us to offer a strong lead, and take the time to get to know us and determine what God's vision is for St John's Church."

Church Member



Comments from church members (continued)...

Is St John's a place where people grow and mature in faith?

"I sometimes feel more support and encouragement is needed..."

"If you want to grow, there is plenty of opportunity..."

Is St John's a 'Members' Only' Club?

"I know it's not, but I can see some might disagree."

"Everybody is welcome."

Is St John's a church where people can develop their gifts?

"I hope it will become so again in the future."

"Not everyone gets a chance to, or knows how to go about it."

Does St John's make a positive difference to the community?

"The centre does, not the church."

"We are lacking drive and interest."

"Yes, mainly due to the centre."

Churchwardens:	1 (+1 vacancy)
Deanery Synod Reps:	2
PCC - Elected Members:	12
PCC - Ex-Officio:	3
Sidespersons:	11



"The people of St John's have been very helpful when I needed help with a sick husband and daughter. Everyone is made welcome. I hope our new vicar will be friendly, outgoing, involved with everyday life and encourage young families to attend services."

Church Member

"The people of St John's are welcoming, friendly and want others to know Jesus."

Church Member

St John's Church - Online & Social Media

www.stjohnsravenhead.org.uk
www.facebook.com/stjohnsravenhead
www.twitter.com/stjohnravenhead

St John's Church recognises that a strength of the church is the same strength that Jesus exploited - that it is where the people are. In the modern age, that includes online, using the services that people are using.

The church website now receives hundreds of visitors each month and members of the community regularly use it as a non-threatening and convenient way to enquire about services, weddings, baptisms and centre activities.

It is complimented by our use of social media. Several times each week on Facebook and Twitter, appear short, simple messages from the church.

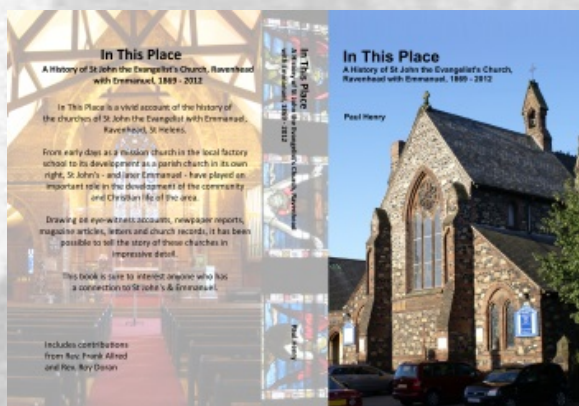


St John's Church Ravenhead

Our history...

1869	St John's Church, Ravenhead is consecrated
1870	The Ecclesiastical Parish of Ravenhead is formed
1880	St John's moves into the newly formed Diocese of Liverpool
1904	The current church organ is installed
1909	The future site of Emmanuel is given to St John's and church activities begin there
1923	The Memorial Hall opens at St John's
1952	St John's Lady Chapel is dedicated as a 'Memorial Chapel'
1965	The current Emmanuel church building opens as 'St John's Mission'
1969	St John's centenary year
1980	St John's Church of England School closes
1990	The current vicarage is completed
1992	St John's is reordered - a new sound system, reception and creche are installed
2004	St John's Centre opens
2009	St John's Memorial Garden is consecrated
2015	Emmanuel celebrates its 50th anniversary

... told in more detail...



After four years of production, our parish history book, **In This Place**, was published in 2013. Drawing on eye-witness accounts, newspaper reports, magazine articles, letters and church records, we now know the story of our churches in impressive detail.

The book was named 'Heritage Publication of the Year' at the St Helens Heritage Network Awards 2013 and on release became amongst the best sellers on the online bookstore at www.lulu.com

... before an exciting future...

Project2019

'... to give you hope and a future.'



In 2019, St John's Church celebrates its 150th anniversary. In the years leading up to the date, the PCC have resolved to embark upon a project developed in-house to achieve the stated aim, to 'guarantee the provision of Christian worship in Ravenhead by securing the future of St John's Church for future generations of worshippers.'

Project 2019 has a series of aims including increasing our congregation, resolving our Parish Share arrears and becoming a 'Child Friendly Church'. A copy of the Project 2019 booklet is available alongside this Parish Profile.

Events

St John's Church Ravenhead

Over the past few years, a number of successful and well attended events have been held at St John's, Ravenhead.

We've hosted worship leaders for concerts and choirs for Choral Evensong. We've invited the local community to break a world record and we've marked the World War I centenary with a poignant look back at how our own church responded in 1914.

Each event has been hosted with the hope of building the fellowship of the church and for use as outreach events. The next two pages give you just a little more insight into some of the various special events we've either hosted or produced 'in-house'.

Our versatile buildings and modern equipment help us to host these activities. Could you help us convert attendances at our services and events into regular worshippers?

An Evening with Noel & Tricia Richards

Sunday 2 March 2014 + Saturday 16 April 2016



Singers, songwriters and worship leaders Noel and Tricia Richards visited St John's during March 2014 to give a concert to an audience of approaching 250 people. The concert attracted people from across the region and Noel and Tricia returned to Ravenhead in April 2016 as part of their UK Spring Tour.

During the events, Noel & Tricia led worship songs alongside their newer 'singer/songwriter'-style pieces and told their story, making it an ideal event for members of St John's and other churches to bring those on a journey to faith along. The Ecclestone Team churches were well represented.

Following the events, Noel and Tricia complimented St John's as a 'great venue' with a 'great sound'. A number of other musicians, including brass bands, choirs and organists have also commented on the excellent acoustic in the church.

Our services and events benefit from the investment made in 2014 in a new sound system, including 4 speakers, on-stage monitor speakers, a new mixing desk, all alongside a new laptop for multimedia presentations.



"Thoroughly enjoyed our evening at St John's. We travelled from Macclesfield to the Noel & Tricia Richards event and it was well worth coming!"

"Great night!"

"Enjoyed this evening very much. Happy times."

Some Other Recent Events...

Christmas Carol Singing World Record Attempt, 2011

150 people from across the community responded to our invitation in December 2011 to come to St John's and help us - along with people in churches across the country - to set a new world record. By the end of the night, we were part of history as the largest group of Christmas carol singers across multiple venues ever amassed. The national organisers, Premier Christian Radio, announced that over 18,000 people had taken part.



350th Anniversary of the 1662 Prayer Book, 2012

St John's joined the celebrations marking the 350th anniversary of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer by hosting a full day of traditional language services, along with a special display including materials from the Prayer Book Society. We celebrated the BCP orders of Matins and Holy Communion, and invited a guest choir to sing Choral Evensong before closing the day with a simple service of Compline, using the traditional language order from Common Worship.



'In This Place' - St John's Church History Night, 2013

Following the publication of our church history book in 2012, we held a special history night to further explore our church's heritage. Featuring a historical presentation, a self-guided tour of the building, multimedia presentations and more, we gave our parishioners a chance to see and explore many historical items, news-cuttings and photographs gathered during the research of the new book.



The First World War: How Ravenhead Responded, 2014

As part of the national commemorations marking the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, St John's invited the community to experience how Ravenhead responded to the conflict. Using information gathered in our history book, we heard written testimonies from the front line to the then Vicar of Ravenhead and re-enacted a service of intercession, called 'The Last Post', which St John's held daily in Thatto Heath throughout the war.



Other previous events held at St John's, Ravenhead have included special services to mark the 400th anniversary of the Authorized (King James) Bible. We've hosted a worship concert with yfriday and a children's praise party with Doug Horley. Local 'massed-choirs' have visited to sing Graham Kendrick's worship musical *The Gift*, and brass bands have visited to give charity Christmas concerts. In 2016, we have a wide programme of events, including Heritage Open Weekends, a Spring Fair, Christian entertainers, a Male Voice Choir, an Organ Recital and a concert with singer/songwriters Noel & Tricia Richards. St John's hopes to use such events to reach out into the community and help people in their journey to faith, as well as to cement the fellowship of our current members.

St John's Church Ravenhead

St John's Centre

"St John's Centre is a wonderful facility."

A survey conducted in 1991 highlighted a number of social concerns in the Ravenhead/Thatto Heath area. Particular concerns raised at that time included a lack of decent indoor space for young children and playgroups as well as their parents and guardians. Room space was needed for community activities, social events and for the elderly to enjoy the company of others.

St John's Church had been discussing how it could be relevant within the community in all aspects of life; how to reach out open-handedly and be more involved in the community by providing some of the facilities and activities that the local community said they needed. It was felt that by extending our buildings to incorporate a community centre, we could achieve these aims and show God's love for His people through the work that the centre would do.

The money was raised through congregational donations and grant-making trusts, until the centre was built and ready to open in January 2004. Today, the facility remains operational and hosts church activities as well as community dance, karate and aerobic clubs, alongside the Toddle-In parent and toddler group.



St John's Centre facilities...

Since opening in 2004, St John's Centre has welcomed thousands of people through its doors for community, church, education and business activities.

With a warm and spacious reception area, two good sized halls, smaller meeting rooms, wireless internet access and multimedia facilities, the Centre is an ideal place to find new hobbies, hold birthday parties or stage business meetings.

Our modern kitchen facilities have been awarded a five star (excellent) rating for food hygiene by St Helens Council as part of the Scores On The Doors scheme.

The centre also has disabled access, stair-lifts to the downstairs rooms and disabled toilet and showering facilities. A recent redecoration means that the centre is a welcoming and comfortable place for both church and community meetings, events and activities.

www.stjohnsravenhead.org.uk/centre



St John's Church Ravenhead

A Prayer of Discernment

'Father, thank you for the callings and blessings which you pour into our lives to enrich us and your church.

As I consider the information, opportunities and challenges presented in this parish profile, may the light of your wisdom shine upon me.

As I discuss this and other opportunities with those closest to me, may you speak your wisdom through them.

Through all my thoughts, and all the counsel I take, may your true path for my life be revealed, that I, all those I love, and all those amongst whom I will eventually work, will be blessed in abundance by you.

With those I will leave behind and those I will ultimately join, may your blessing be present always. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Just some of the things we can offer you...

- A warm welcome for you and any family members
- The support, prayer and encouragement of the church
- Payment of reasonable clergy expenses
- Respect for your holidays and days off
- Support in your further training and development
- Loyal and committed volunteers
- Support of other clergy through the team structure
- A pleasant family home in our Vicarage
- vicar@stjohnsravenhead.org.uk email address
- A fulfilling parish ministry
- and much more...

'Lord, your will be done.'

Are you the 11th Vicar of Ravenhead...?

1869 - 2015

Rev. Richard Moore

Rev. Harry Bolton

Rev. James Beresford

Rev. George Goode

Rev. Ernest Henshaw

Rev. Malcolm Whyte

Rev. Frank Allred

Rev. John Parry

Rev. Roy Doran

Rev. Terry McFadden

You...?

Thank you for reading our Parish Profile...

Is God calling you to add your name to this list?

We don't know who you are, but we've already been praying for you in our services and meetings.

We hope that our parish profile has helped you as you seek out God's will for the next stage of your life and ministry.

Don't forget, you can get more information and help from the Diocese of Liverpool.

Whether in Ravenhead or elsewhere, we pray that you find God's blessing for your future.

www.stjohnsravenhead.org.uk

www.facebook.com/stjohnsravenhead

www.twitter.com/sjchurches

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St John's Church Ravenhead

Parish Profile

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St John the Evangelist Church
Crossley Road
Ravenhead
ST HELENS
WA10 3ND

www.stjohnsravenhead.org.uk

