

OUR LOGO HERE!!
WATCH THIS SPACE

28th April 2026.

To all the churches Acting-as-if we're a Larger Single Parish in Sefton:

Dear Church Members,

Last Sunday evening, 26th April, we had a combined service for all those in the LSP-to-be. This saw 71 people gathered from 8 churches joining in Evening Prayer, using liturgy taken from the Northumbria Community (and not used in any of our 9 churches).

As part of this Amanda Bruce (vicar at St Luke's), our change lead, spoke about the context, scriptures and vision we have gathered through prayer and reflection over the last 3 months. We then spent some time talking over a cuppa and were invited to share our ideas and thoughts, scriptures and prayers with the Navigation team that evening via our postbox. But we are more than just that 71 people and so we want to invite all in our 8 churches to share their thoughts and ideas about our context, culture, churches, scriptures, prayers and vision.

Attached is a summary of what Amanda shared and if you would like to consider the questions she asked and respond, by 31st May, then please email laura.pilgrim@liverpool.anglican.org. In June the CLT and Nav Team will shortlist ideas for a name and then send the shortlist out to all the churches for discussion and feedback. We will hope to announce our name by mid/end-July.

We would love to know your thoughts, vision and suggestions of a name for our new parish to be.

If you wish to see our current webpage, a holding page prior to us agreeing our new Parish name, then please visit:

<https://liverpoolcofe.org/sefton-north-south/>

The Nav Team

Laura Heywood – St Oswald's Netherton
Jim Stewart – St Luke's Great Crosby
Sue Green – St John & St James Orrell Hay
Karen Stark - St Mary's Waterloo
Paul Beardwood – St Luke's Great Crosby
Helen Hunter – St Michael's Blundellsands

Louis Johnson – St Faith's Great Crosby (Vicar)
Amanda Bruce – Change Lead/St Luke's Great Crosby (Vicar)
Laura Pilgrim – Change Facilitator, Diocese of Liverpool

Reflection from Evening Prayer on 26th April 2026

Where are we?

Timeline of what's happened –

- Pre-Jan clergy chapter meetings, leading to the formation of the Clergy Leadership Team from Jan 2026.
- People across the 9 parishes were invited to apply for the NavTm which formed from early February. Meeting to discuss buildings and the new Buildings Team.
- Church Officers have started to meet in their specific groups.
- Meeting on 9th May to discuss Comms and start the process of forming a Communications team.

Our context geographically has led to a water theme, and the following Scriptural passages: “For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light” Psalm 36.9

for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’ Revelation 7.17

On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.’ Ezekiel 47.12

Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’

The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’

John 4.13-15

“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples”

John 15.8

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43.19

What are we?

We are all God’s church, no one role or position or training is more important than another, we are all appointed by God to be his people and to live for him. Clergy are appointed and trained for a specific role, but they are no more important than Lay people – together we are all God’s church and we all have a part to play.

As we remember this we also need to know what we are not: we are not spectators who get to sit back and watch others be the church, we are not simply consumers of a certain kind of religious experience, we are not passive members of an institution who have to be cared for. Jesus calls us all to be involved and active members of his church.

Who are we?

We are ourselves, we are not all the same and we don't need to be.

We all bring our unique gifts, individually and as churches, our ways of worship and the needs of our local communities.

We are the Children of God, called to glorify God and enjoy him forever,

We are the Royal Priesthood, or Bridge Builders into our community – maybe our patron saint should be St Benezet of Avignon.

We are those sent by Jesus to make him known and to make disciples.

Who will we become?

Well, that's a big question, and none of us have an answer for that, only God knows what we will become. But we can prayerfully hope and look forward.

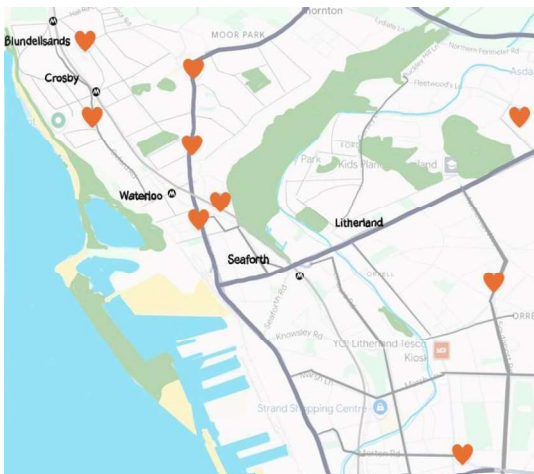
My hopes for this gathering and coming together of us as a larger single parish of 9 churches is that...

1. we will learn to be better together than we are apart, that we will grow in grace as we encounter our differences and that we will learn to value each other and our differences even when we don't understand or approve of each other.
2. I hope we can support each other in the greatest and most important job in the world, that of making Jesus known as we give away his love to those who don't yet know him.
3. Admin and bureaucracy, legalities and governance, buildings and finances take up a lot of time and energy from the leadership of every church. If we can only do that once for us all, then it releases that energy so we can care more and witness more in our own local communities.

I wonder what you know of our context, what scripture God has shared with you, what or who you think we are, what you hope we will become together and I wonder most of all, what name God might give us. We want your thoughts, we want you to name this new parish and so we need you to talk to us, in writing or in person through your vicar or via email:

laura.pilgrim@liverpool.anglican.org

Please pray, talk and reflect together, then be in touch via your vicar or email Laura.



Where are we?
What are we?
Who are we?
Who will we become?