



The Parish Church of S Giles with S Peter, Aintree

Within the Anglican Diocese of Liverpool

Parish Profile



S Giles with S Peter, Aintree Lane, Aintree, Liverpool
www.stgilesaintree.co.uk



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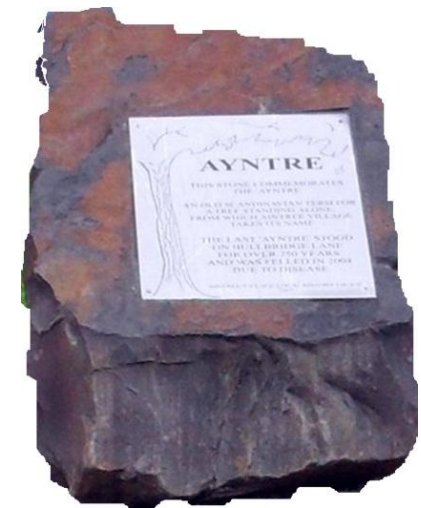
About Aintree

Aintree is a village and civil parish in the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton, Merseyside. It lies between Walton and Maghull on the A59 road, about 6.5 miles (10.5 km) north of Liverpool city centre, in North West England.

Aintree is widely believed to mean 'one tree or 'tree standing alone'. Aintree Village was first documented as 'Ayntre' in a charter of Cockersand Abbey written about 1200 AD. It remained a small village until the late 19th century when industrialisation brought with it population.

The village now consists of mainly post war houses; there are some 2,700 homes with a population in the region of 7,000. The majority of houses are privately owned, there is little social housing. The population of Aintree has an average age of 36, younger than most areas in the vicinity, though it also has a significantly higher than average population of pensionable age compared to the Liverpool city region.

Employment is at approximately 94%, higher than the average across the city region with a diversity of industrial, commercial, financial and public/health sector employers locally and across the North West.



Memorial to the original "Ayntre"



Aintree has been the home of the Grand National, an internationally renowned horserace, since 1839 and its course also includes a motor racing circuit, which has hosted the British Grand Prix, and nine hole golf course and driving range. Though the Grand National continues to thrive motor racing is now restricted to local racing clubs.



The parish is also within three miles of both Everton and Liverpool football clubs.

The Leeds and Liverpool Canal runs through the village and goes across the back of S Giles' vicarage garden.



Location of the Parish of Aintree



Facilities in Aintree

The village has two primary schools, both of which perform significantly higher than national averages. Aintree Davenhill Primary School is a local Authority School which has approximately 500 pupils. It is currently undergoing a major building program to create a modern place for our children to learn. There is a large field which is used for sports of various kinds. Holy Rosary Primary School has approximately 430 pupils. It was a split-site school until 2008. After substantial building work the school moved on to one site. The school has a large field used for events such as their sports day and an all-weather sports pitch.

Local secondary schools located in Maghull, approximately 2.5 miles away. The three schools, Deyes High School, Maghull High School and Maricourt Catholic High School each perform at, or above, national averages.

There are three further education colleges and four universities within 10 miles.

In addition to St Giles, there are another four churches, Holy Rosary (Roman Catholic), Old Roan Methodist Church, Old Roan Baptist Church, and Aintree Village Family Church (a Baptist church, meeting at Old Roan Methodist Church Hall, Altway).

There are two small local shopping areas, on Altway and at the Old Roan, and a retail park on Ormskirk Road has brought a significant number of major out-of-town shops to the area.



There is a GP practice, with recently rebuilt premises and Aintree University Hospital, with one of the largest accident and emergency departments in Europe and Alder Hey Children's Hospital, the biggest dedicated children's hospital in Europe, are within easy reach.

There are three public houses, the Blue Anchor (which backs onto the Leeds and Liverpool Canal), the Village Inn (formerly the Valentine, named after a fence on the racecourse), and the Old Roan, which gives its name to a railway station in the village.

The village also has a public library.



Getting about

The main road from Liverpool to Aintree is the A59 (known as Ormskirk Road). The M57 and M58 meet the A59, and A5036 at Switch Island, between Aintree and Maghull, providing easy access to the local the major local conurbations and the national motorway network.

There are regular bus services through the village; a bus every 30 minutes to Liverpool and to Aintree University Hospital plus other regular services to Maghull, Ormskirk, and Southport from the A59 at the Old Roan.

The Old Roan station is on the Mersey Rail Northern line and provides quick access to stations across the Mersey Rail network. Journey time from the Old Roan to Liverpool City Centre is only 18 minutes.

Liverpool is also serviced by John Lennon Airport and is only 45 miles from Manchester Airport.



The History of our Church

The first church building was opened and dedicated on S Giles day, 1st September 1938. The building, a combination of church and hall, was constructed of timber and cement and had a seating capacity of about 300 in the main hall. There was a chancel at one end of the building which could be screened off, and a stage at the other. Sadly however, in the early hours of 13 September 1941, a fire completely destroyed the whole building.

Without a church building, services and Sunday school continued to be held in Rose Cottage, Rosetta Cottage and Jubilee Hall. Eventually the Lancashire Education Authority built three concrete huts on the site of the former church for use as a day school, and by mutual agreement it was decided that the church should be able to use the huts at weekends and in the evenings for services and meetings.

Each week on Friday and Saturday, the school furniture was moved out of one of the huts and it was equipped for the Sunday Services, then on Sunday evening after the final service, the process was reversed and the building was prepared for the day school next morning. This arrangement continued until Easter 1951, when the new day school was completed and the church then took possession of the three huts on payment of a nominal sum of £100 to the Lancashire Education Authority.



The first church building- destroyed by fire in 1941



Considerable alterations were made. A chancel and communion rails were erected at one end and an altar placed in position. The whole building was redecorated, both inside and out by the men of the church during their spare time and a number of pews were acquired from a disused school chapel at Newsham Park. When all the alterations and renovations were completed, the first hut was used exclusively as a church.

The last service to be held in this temporary church was Evensong on Passion Sunday, 18 March, 1956. For many this was a somewhat sad occasion, for the family of S Giles had become attached to the 'Little Church' because the smallness of the building had created a friendly and homely atmosphere.



One of the huts

The present Parish Church of S Giles was built in the mid-50s and consecrated in 1956. It is on a site which lies between Aintree Lane and the Leeds – Liverpool Canal. The site also contains the S Giles Centre, our church hall, the Garden of Rest and the Vicarage.



Our Church Today

S Giles Church and S Giles Centre have been completely refurbished over the past seven years. This has been financed by a substantial legacy, grants from the Big Lottery, Living Spaces and income; it will require very little maintenance in the immediate future. More recently, areas of the church building's roof were replaced to prevent leakage and damage, both of which had been suffered in recent times. Some repayment is still needed on the loan we made to ourselves to fund this.

There is a proposal for the Church Centre to have a new suspended ceiling which would make the large hall even more appealing to folk when they are considering making a booking.

The Church building also contains The Lady Chapel, a Godly Play Room, the Vestry, the S Peter chapel, a "kids' corner", an office and a disabled toilet.



**The parish church of S Giles
with S Peter**



The Lady Chapel is where our week day services are held. Having had the new roof installed, the Lady Chapel has had a new ceiling, new lighting and has been repainted. It is a wonderful room where small groups can meet together and worship. This is where the Vigil is held on Maundy Thursday. It is very much a place of peace and tranquility.



The Godly Play Room has become a meeting place. When it was first created the intention was for children's groups throughout the parish to use it. Different organisations came and looked at the facilities; they then took ideas away to use in their own areas.



The main use has been for the Sunday school. It was out of use for some time as the children coming to S Giles were rather young; however recently the Sunday school has re-started.



For those children who do not go to the Sunday school, or indeed before they go, we have a kids' corner at the back of the Church which has Bible story picture books, paper and crayon. S Giles Church has been awarded the Child Friendly Award but a greater endorsement of our commitment to the children is the obvious enjoyment that they have at the Church and the way in which the congregation have taken them to their hearts.

S Peter's Chapel was created in June 2005, when the former Baptistry at S Giles was converted into a new chapel dedicated to S Peter in remembrance of our mother church which used to be located at Church Avenue, Warbeck Moor.

Within the chapel are the ropes to our church bells. S Giles is unusual for churches built in more recent times, in that it is equipped with a 'carillon' or 'chime' of eight bells rather than a single bell. The belfry is the next area of the church which will need some attention.

Our organ, built by Henry Willis & Sons Ltd. at their Liverpool Works. We have a regular Church Organist.



The S Peter Chapel



Our Garden of Rest

Situated just behind S Giles Church is our tranquil **Garden of Rest**. It is a place of peace and silence where the ashes of loved ones can be interred. The garden is well maintained and cared for and offers a fitting place for a final resting place. The Garden of Rest is open throughout daylight hours.

Our church celebrates diversity and is committed to equality, ensuring that all comers receive a warm welcome in a friendly and accessible environment.

In particular:

- Disabled access is provided for worshipers with easy access to the church and disabled toilet facilities.
- Baby changing facilities are available for those with young children.
- A hearing loop is provided for those with hearing disabilities.
- Large print hymn books are available for those with sight problems



Our Services

Our main services are

- Sunday 8.30am Said Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
- Wednesday 10.00am Said Eucharist
- Friday 10.00am Said Eucharist

After our Sunday 10:30 service refreshments are served so the congregation can share "coffee and conversation". There is a Coffee Morning after the Wednesday Service, in the small hall; this is organized by the Women's Fellowship.

Over the past five years there has been an average of five weddings, six baptisms and nine funerals per annum. We already have five weddings and two baptisms planned for 2012.

From time to time the Annual Civic Service is held at S Giles Church; and last year hosted the Aintree Hospital Volunteer's Carol Service.



Picture of Saint Giles painted and presented by Jenny and Roy Summerfield



At present our hymn book is Hymns Old and New, One Church, One Faith, One Lord.

Members of the congregation read the lessons and lead the Intercessions.

Our congregation worship in the modern Catholic tradition, however we acknowledge that there are other views and approaches and we may be willing to consider these as alternatives to our current style of worship.

At S Giles, we follow the tradition known as 'Lights of Love'. Anyone who wishes may make a donation towards a Christmas tree light, in memory of a loved one.

The 'Lights of Love' and trees are blessed and dedicated during our Carols by Candle Light Service on the Sunday prior to Christmas.



Our "lights of Love" tree



Our Congregation and Officers

There are 81 people on the Electoral Role and there are a number of regular attendees who are not on the role.

Our usual Sunday attendance averages 65 whilst the usual weekly attendance s average 25.

Our congregation is not representative of the parish demographic, with a significant bias towards the more senior members. Indicatively, the breakdown is circa:

- 70 years + - 70%
- 30 – 69 years - 20%
- young couples with children - 5 to 10%

There is one Church Warden, an Acting Church Warden and a Deputy Church Warden.

The wardens are supported by a team of Sides persons.

There is a Church Treasurer and assistant who look after our accounts

We have a team of Eucharistic Ministers who have been licensed to administer the Chalice at services. Some of the team take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. One of our younger members is training to be a server.



S Giles operates the Giving in Grace Scheme for members of the congregation to use. Over 75% Gift Aid their donations and 30% of those opt to pay by direct debit.

No resolution has been passed by S Giles with S Peter's PCC.

Our congregation is also actively involved in the upkeep of the church. As well as regularly helping with general cleaning we have a group of men whom we refer to as our "G Squad". They use their talents to help cut the costs to the church by doing many of the "little" repairs themselves rather than employing others.

There is a group of ladies who decorate the Church with flowers, and their displays are regularly praised by visitors.

In the past the Church has held Flower Festivals, one celebrated literature, another was in celebration of Liverpool as Capital of Culture; the first Flower Festival celebrated the Golden Jubilee of S Giles Church.

Finally, we sponsor five children in different parts of the world through World Vision, a Christian Organisation.



Flowers at Easter



The Vicarage



The front of the vicarage

The brick built vicarage dates from the 1960s and is a good sized, family, detached home, well-secluded behind the church with its own drive.

Upstairs, there are 4 good sized bedrooms and one very small one. The master room has a small walk-in shower built in, and three of the other bedrooms have a hand basin in them, with two of them also having built-in wardrobes. The bathroom and toilet are separate rooms and the bathroom has an over-the-bath shower.

Downstairs, the large, well-fitted kitchen leads into a reasonably-sized utility room, comprising a sink with single draining board, plus plumbing for a washing machine and tumble dryer. There are two reception rooms, one to the front and one overlooking the back garden. A hallway, cloakroom and toilet complete the personal area of the vicarage downstairs. The small entrance hall between the front door and inner door leads into the good-sized study which faces the church.



The rear garden is large and backs onto the canal and overlooks The Grand National Race Course and this creates a beautiful vista from the master bedroom.

The Vicarage has recently had new outer doors fitted.



The rear of the vicarage



The S Giles Centre

The S Giles Centre is a sizeable multi-purpose complex within the grounds of the Church.

We are constantly working to improve the facilities at St Giles Centre and the Main Hall and Small Hall have recently been upgraded and are decorated on an annual basis. Our catering facilities have recently been upgraded. Toilet facilities were extended and upgraded during the summer of 2009 thanks to a grant from the National Lottery Awards for All Scheme.

The Main Hall has an excellent dance floor with mirror ball and disco lights, and curtained stage facilities with separate dressing room and toilet.

The Small Hall is a completely self-contained unit and is the ideal venue for smaller family occasions such as Baptism parties or Funeral luncheons. This venue is also well suited to seminars or smaller group meetings.

A licensed bar is available in both venues and all drinks are sold at club prices.



The Main Hall



In addition to these facilities, a dedicated and self-contained area of the centre is the home to the privately operated Bumbles Day Nursery, with whom we have a £10,000 p.a. lease agreement.

The Old Roan Play Group use the Main Hall every morning, Monday to Friday, for which we receive £7,800 p.a.

There is also income from a variety of other groups who use our facilities including, indicatively:

● Dance School	£4,750
● Zumba dancing	£1,250
● Football Tots	£2,500
● Guitar group	£1,000
● Aintree Wine Society	£525
● Social Committee	£7,000
● Christmas Fayre	£1,000



The Small Hall

This gives an annual income of approximately £36,000.



In addition to these regular bookings there can be private bookings for events such as children's parties, Christening Celebrations and Wedding Receptions. From these events the income from the bar averages out as approximately £5,000 each year.

The financial aim of the **Social Club** is to raise funds for the church. The club does not itself organize any social events or activities but provides a bar for the church social events, for groups using the centre and private bookings (acting within the Licensing Laws and Club Rules).

All monies raised after the payment of running expenses goes to the PCC. The Social Club is a members club and as such does not require a licensee, the five club officials being responsible for ensuring the Licensing Laws are observed. The Vicar is by club rule the Club President and one of these officials.



The Bar

The bar is staffed by volunteers.

As well as being hired out S Giles Centre is much used by church groups and organisations.

These include art, bingo, darts, Helping Hands, short mat indoor bowls, Women's Fellowship, coffee mornings, the "G" Squad.



Recently the Church Centre has played host to the Cantique Choir and the Liverpool Police Band, next year the Liverpool Welsh Choral Society will be performing in the Church itself as it offers very good acoustics for their singing.

On the second Friday each month there is a lunch where members of the church and others can meet together and share fellowship with each other over a simple lunch, the profits going towards church funds.

Three times a year, at Epiphany, Easter and Harvest, there is a three course Parish Lunch following the Sunday service. While the aim of these lunches is primarily fellowship and friendship any profits that are made go to church funds.

There is an annual Christmas Fayre and Summer Fete.

The Social Committee has recently been reformed; this has been involved in arranging a variety of events to help support the drive for the Roof Restoration Fund. These include quizzes, car boot sale, and homemade cake sales after church on Sunday mornings, the latter becoming a regular monthly event.

S Giles Centre is known as a venue in the community, it has been used for Local Elections and the local doctors' surgery, Aintree Park Group Practice, has used the centre to facilitate the annual 'flu jabs.

One of the great advantages of St Giles Centre is our large car park which is available to everyone using St Giles Centre. We are also extremely well placed for access to motorways, bus routes and railways.



Our Next Minister

As you can see S Giles with S Peter's Church has much to offer to an incoming minister.

In return we seek an experienced minister, who being called to ministry in the Parish Church of S Giles with S Peter, will ideally:

- be a person who loves and mixes well with people and who has a sense of humour;
- be a strong, experienced, energetic leader with a passion for worship and mission;
- serve and lead us with understanding and compassion and will value the sacramental life as we do;
- lead our worship, thoughtfully drawing on Scripture and the rich tradition of Anglican Liturgy;
- be happy to co-operate with churches of other denominations;
- value the place of music as part of our worship;
- be able to communicate with young and old alike;
- encourage further involvement of young families in church life;



- proclaim the faith of Christ and, through prayer and teaching, nurture and develop our faith and help us along the road as disciples of Christ;
- inspire and empower our people to use their gifts in the service of the church and the community and be a visible presence in and around the parish;
- be a person of spiritual inspiration and vision for the future of S Giles with S Peter's.
- uphold the position of our Church as the centre of the local community, continuing its traditions and providing care and well-being for all.

