

# Liverpool Walk of Faith



## Welcome to the Walk of Faith

The Walk of Faith will take you on a journey into the many religious communities and different sites of worship across Liverpool.

These diverse communities have contributed enormously to the past & present of Liverpool. Their legacy includes the wonderful buildings on this trail. There are also community centres, places of worship and physical expressions in stone of the faith & culture of the people who built them.

The year 2004 has been designated as Liverpool's Year of Faith and Community Service in the programme running up to the city's 800th Anniversary in 2007 and the hoped for Capital of Culture in 2008.

## A brief history of worship in Liverpool

Liverpool's history of religious worship is closely linked with the social and economic history of the city. Little now remains of the earliest church buildings in Liverpool, though there is early evidence of religious worship in the Domesday Book of 1086, which mentions the church of St Mary in Walton.

The religious and political conflicts of the 16th & 17th centuries affected Liverpool, local Catholics were persecuted and it was not until 1707 that the

first post-Reformation Catholic mission became established in the city.

The 18th century saw a greater tolerance towards religious diversity and by 1877 there were over 250 sites of worship in the city. This was mainly due to the influx of labour from the rest of Britain and Europe. Churches serving the German, Greek, Italian, Polish and Swedish communities were established due to Liverpool's importance as a centre of trade and shipping. New arrivals also expanded the diversity of faith within the city. 1807 saw Liverpool's first synagogue established on Seel Street and in 1889 the first mosque in Britain opened at Brougham Terrace.

The early 20th century saw many decades of sectarianism with Protestant and Catholic Church leaders barely on speaking terms. The mid 1970's saw the arrival of Anglican Bishop David Sheppard and Catholic Archbishop Derek Warlock. Building on the work of their predecessors, they believed that, only if the Christian community was able to show a measure of reconciliation could it help to reconcile a society that was fragmented in the political, industrial and economic spheres.

Liverpool continues to have many rich and diverse faith communities with centres opened to serve the local Hindu and Sikh populations and significant contributions made to Nonconformist traditions,



with both the Unitarian and Methodist churches having strong connections with the city.

## **A personal message from the Rt. Rev. Lord Sheppard of Liverpool**

I am delighted that the City Council and its partners have come together to produce this Walk of Faith.

Faith communities have established many of the foundations of Liverpool's varied and colourful life.

A hundred years ago a Walk of Faith would have meant crossing some dangerous boundaries in Liverpool. As years have gone by friendly relations have replaced mistrust. Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh leaders have joined with Christians in the Merseyside Council of Faiths. They are glad to meet each other in honest dialogue based on a deep respect for other believers search for God.

## **Ecumenical and Inter-Faith Groups**

The Merseyside Inter-Faith Group meets once a month for a meeting with no formal constitution or membership for faith sharing, learning and mutual enrichment. More recently the Merseyside Council of Faiths was created on behalf of all major faiths in the area. On a broader scale there is the North West Multi-Faith Tourism Association.

## **Worth a visit**

### MUSEUM OF LIVERPOOL LIFE

Many important religious objects and images from diverse faiths are displayed in the Museum of Liverpool Life including an early nineteenth century Jewish miniature ark, Islamic prayer mats and Catholic rosary beads. The museum explores people's beliefs through the ways they worshipped, celebrated, worked and survived.

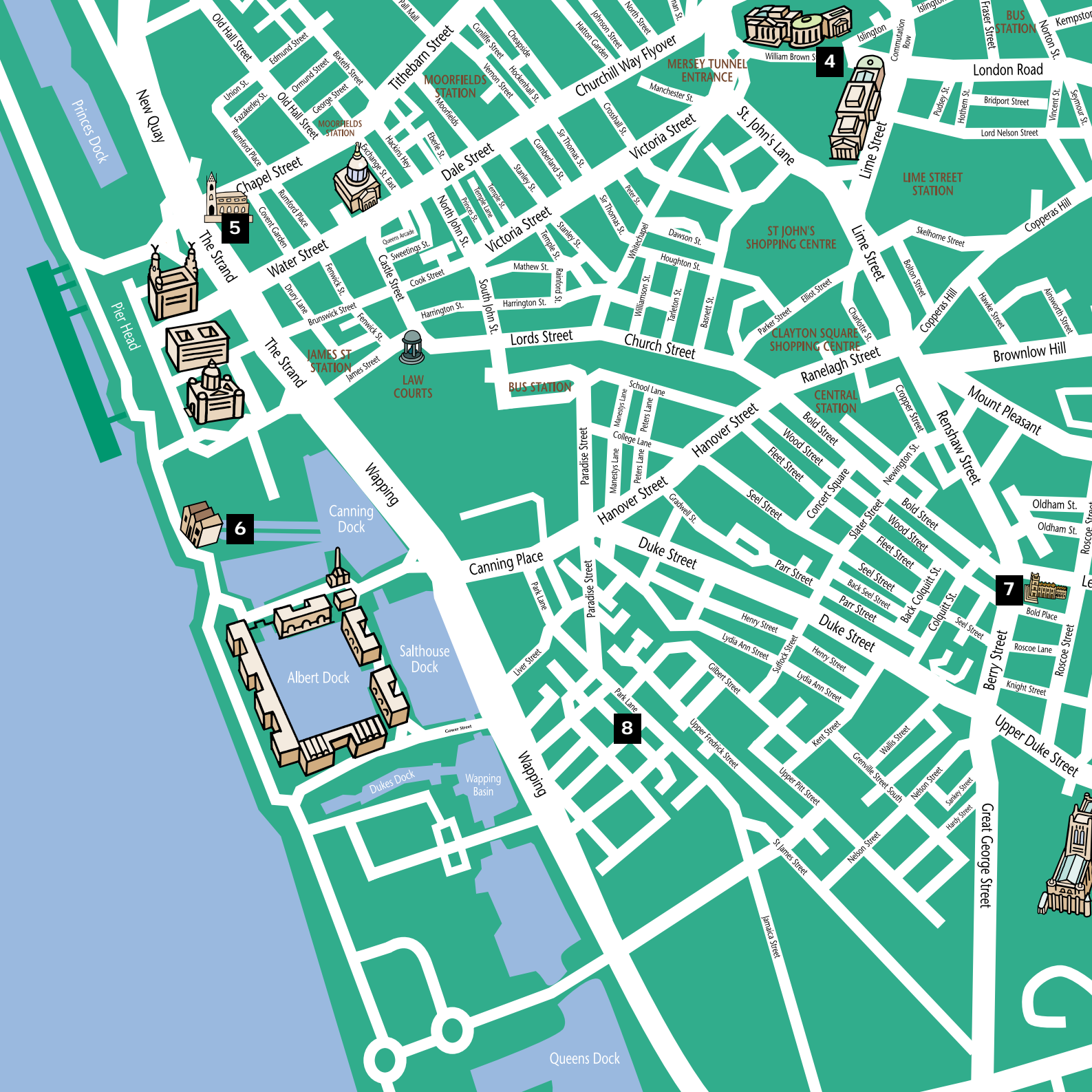
### THE WALKER

The gallery holds one of the most outstanding collections of fine and decorative art in Europe, including medieval and renaissance altarpieces, statues, reliquaries and religious artefacts. Also worth a visit is an unusual group of religious pictures by the Pre-Raphaelite artist, William Holman Hunt.

### LIVERPOOL CENTRAL LIBRARY & RECORD OFFICE

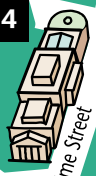
Central Library on William Brown Street holds a wide range of historic bibles and other early works on religion. The Record Office has significant collections of church registers and records as well as local history books and photographs of churches.





MERSEY TUNNEL ENTRANCE

4



LIME STREET STATION

MOORFIELDS STATION



5



PIER HEAD



LAW COURTS

BUS STATION

ST JOHN'S SHOPPING CENTRE

CLAYTON SQUARE SHOPPING CENTRE

CENTRAL STATION

6



ALBERT DOCK

SALTHOUSE DOCK

DUKES DOCK

CANNING PLACE

8

7



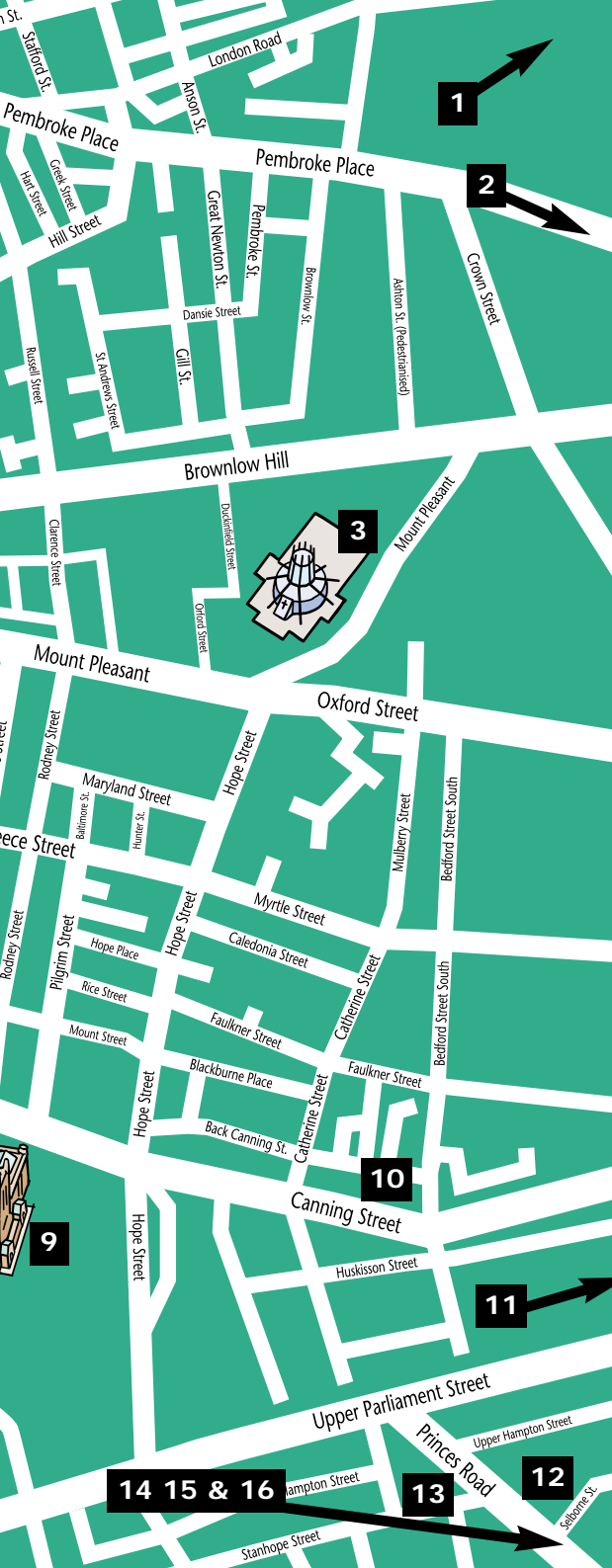
BERRY STREET

UPPER DUKE STREET



GREAT GEORGE STREET

QUEENS DOCK



**1** The first Mosque in England,  
8 Brougham Terrace

**2** Hindu Cultural Centre

**3** Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King

**4** The Walker and Central Library

**5** Liverpool Parish Church

**6** Museum of Liverpool Life

**7** St. Lukes

**8** Scandinavian Seamen's Church

**9** Liverpool Anglican Cathedral

**10** German Church of Liverpool

**11** Sikh Temple

**12** Princes Road Synagogue

**13** Greek Orthodox Church

**14** Ar-Rahma Mosque

**15** Ullet Road Unitarian Church

**16** Liverpool Mosque and Islamic Institute

**▲** This indicates that the site is off the main map (small maps of these sites are included in the relevant sections)

# Christian



## THE ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL

The Anglican Cathedral took 74 years to build, is the greatest architectural achievement of architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, and was considered by Sir John Betjeman to be 'one of the great buildings of the world'. It celebrates its centenary in 2004. The architecture, art, sculpture, stained glass windows and furnishings all speak of the Christian story and of the high points of Christian faith, with a focus on the person and life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At the West End of the Cathedral is a large space called the 'Well' because it is slightly below the level of the main floor of the Cathedral. Here people of other faiths and people

Below: Anglican Cathedral



Above: Metropolitan (Roman Catholic) Cathedral

of no religious faith can meet one another, share their experiences of life, and feel at home.

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

The Roman Catholic Cathedral was opened in 1967. Consisting of Cornish granite and majestic barrel vaults of fine brickwork, it houses a chapel for daily mass, a concert room and two large halls.

Above the crypt rises the totally new concept of Sir Frederick Gibberd, a perfectly circular nave of glass and concrete. It's most striking figure is the Lantern Tower, containing the world's largest stained glass window, designed by John Piper and Patrick Reyntiens in a continuous progression of all the colours of the spectrum.

Beneath the central tower lies the white marble altar focusing the attention onto the sanctuary with its dramatic double-eagle lectern for the reading of the Scriptures. Directly behind the altar stands



the Archbishop's chair or cathedra from which the building's name is taken. Further back beneath the great organ is the Blessed Sacrament Chapel – reserved for private prayer.

Around the nave are several side chapels dedicated to various devotions and special uses: the Baptistry, the Lady Chapel, the Chapels of Unity, of Reconciliation, of the Holy Oils and of various Saints. Each chapel is adorned with striking modern works of art and devotion.

#### ULLET ROAD UNITARIAN CHURCH

Ullet Road Unitarian Church situated facing Sefton Park was built in the year 1899. A Unitarian family, Thomas Worthington & Son of Manchester, designed the neo-Gothic church. The masonry is of red Runcorn stone. The main and side doors, designed and constructed by Richard Rathbone, are of heavy oak clad with beaten copper and furnished with iron bands, locks and hinges.



Above: Ullet Road Unitarian Church

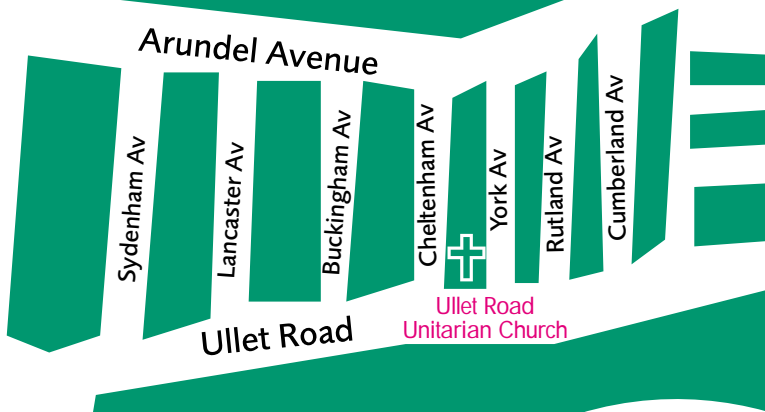
Conferring its Grade 1 listing, English Heritage described the building a 'one of the most elaborate non-conformist ensembles in the country'.

Features within the building include a central stained glass window, which depicts Jesus as the tree of life. The garden memorial is dedicated to members of the congregation who died in the two World Wars.

#### FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE (QUAKERS)

The first purpose-built Meeting House was erected in Hackins Hey about 1709. The present building in Paradise Street was opened in 1982. Friends played a considerable part in the development of Liverpool.

The Rathbone family were merchants, prominent in the movement to abolish the slave trade. John Rutter founded the Medical Institution in Mount Pleasant, and was co-founder of the Liverpool



Botanical Gardens. In these and many other roles Friends have contributed to the life of the city.

#### LIVERPOOL PARISH CHURCH OF OUR LADY AND ST NICHOLAS.

Liverpool's historic Parish Church has stood near the Pier Head on the river Mersey since 1257 and since 1916 has been the Parish Church of Liverpool. It is known locally as simply St Nicholas.

The building had enjoyed several extensions up until February 1810 when the steeple crashed in the nave killing 25 people. Between 1811 and 1815 a new tower and lantern was built to the north of the old one, but disaster struck again in December 1940 when the church stood gutted by



Left: Liverpool Parish Church of Our Lady and St. Nicholas

fire following a wartime air raid. Building of the new church began in 1949 and was consecrated in 1952.

The church has always had a strong link with the maritime community. The Maritime Chapel of Our Lady of the Quay contains memorial books of those who have died at sea or after long maritime service.

The church has many great features, the most impressive being the Harrison lantern tower, which was a great landmark on the waterfront until the Pier Head became dominated by much larger buildings.

#### SCANDINAVIAN SEAMEN'S CHURCH.

The Scandinavian Seamen's Church is owned by The Church of Sweden but is the worship place for all the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland). There are regular services in Swedish, Norwegian and occasionally in Finnish, special dates in the Scandinavian calendar are also celebrated, for example Sancta Lucia (light festival).

The church, built in 1883, is now a listed building and works in close relation with the local Anglican Church and the missions to the seafarers. Within the church there are sculptures by the Liverpool artist Arthur Dooley and five altarpieces by the artist Robert Anning dating from 1899.



Left: Scandanavian  
Seamen's church

The Church was originally built for seafarers and emigrants and to this day still visits Scandinavian/ Nordic ships visiting Liverpool. There are also a number of Scandinavian people working and studying in the North West who come and share the life of the Church.

The church is also a community centre with many different activities during the week such as language courses, student evenings, coffee morning and a sauna.

#### GERMAN CHURCH OF LIVERPOOL.

The German church in Liverpool was founded by Anglican clergy in the mid 19th Century for German seamen and immigrants who wanted to worship in their mother tongue. The first services took place in the ship 'William' at the Kings Dock.

The church has relocated several times since then and in 1997 the congregation celebrated their church's 150th anniversary. The present day

German church was inaugurated in 1959 and is situated at the corner of Canning Street and Bedford Street South.

The services are still held in German and a warm welcome is extended to anyone who wants to worship in German. Children are also very welcome. Highlights of the church's life are the annual German Bazaar held every Saturday before the first Sunday in Advent, the traditional Christmas Eve Service in the afternoon and various events throughout the year including weekends away.

Every first Friday of the month a cultural evening '*die Deutschstunde*' is held at the church where cultural, political and religious topics of interest are discussed.

Services are held only twice monthly, every second and fourth Sunday of the month at 11am with an invitation of coffee and cake afterwards.

#### LIVERPOOL PEACE CENTRE AT ST LUKE'S

The exterior is all that remains of the original St Luke's Church, which was destroyed in May 1941 by incendiary bombs. It is a Grade 2 listed building and for many years has symbolised to the people of Liverpool the destructive forces at work in war.

The Church was designed by John Foster in 1802 and was built by his son John Foster Jnr between



Left: St. Luke's tower

the years 1811 and 1831. Perpendicular gothic in style with decorated pinnacles and traceried windows. Plans are underway to turn the site into a symbol of hope and peace.

### GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

In 1810, a small number of Greeks settled in Liverpool, they were too widespread to be called a community, but by 1846 a small community had developed mostly merchants and cotton traders operating from the port of Liverpool.

For worship purposes they rented a spacious ground floor room in Sefton Park and they would travel to the Manchester church (consecrated in 1861) for the Great Feasts.

George Michael Papayiannis, first president of the Greek community in Liverpool, called a meeting in 1863 to organise a building fund and loan for a church. Within an hour half the cost of the

building was raised. The church which resulted – The Church of St Nicholas was the second purpose built Greek Orthodox Church in England. The architecture of the building is a typical example of the Byzantine style as used in many Eastern Greek Churches. A typical feature is the four domes of the building. Henry Summers, master builder, was commissioned to build the church.

The Church was ready in 1870 and was dedicated to St. Nicholas, Patron Saint to all Seafarers. It was consecrated in 1871, in full Eastern rites, by His Grace the Archbishop of Syra and Tinos, Alexandros Lycourgos assisted by 6 priests.

After a decline of the community in the first half of the 20th Century (due to emigration to the U.S, Australia and Europe) the congregation began to grow once more and Greeks, Cypriots, Armenian Serbs and Rumanians all came to worship at St. Nicholas.

Below: Greek Orthodox Church



# Muslim



## 8 BROUGHAM TERRACE

8 Brougham Terrace was the first Mosque in England. The earliest indigenous Muslim community in the UK lived in Liverpool in the 1880's and to cater for their needs a mosque and Muslim Institute was established. The leader of the community was Sheikh Abdullah (William Henry) Quilliam, a local solicitor. A commemorative plaque was placed on the building in 1998 and efforts are underway to refurbish the building as a heritage Centre

## AR-RAHMA MOSQUE

The Ar-Rahma Mosque is situated at 29 –31 Hatherley Street. The foundation was laid in 1965 after the Liverpool Muslim Society was set up in 1953, with the late Sheikh Ali Hizzam as the Imam



Right:  
Ar-Rahma Mosque  
29 –31 Hatherley Street



and President. Further extensions were added in 1979 and 1990. The mosque can now accommodate up to 1000 worshippers.

## LIVERPOOL MOSQUE & ISLAMIC INSTITUTE

8 Cramond Avenue is the home of the Liverpool Mosque and Islamic Institute. Established in 1998 it caters for the needs of Muslims living in the South of the City. In addition to prayers and worship it provides Islamic education to Muslim children in an evening school.



# Sikh Community



Liverpool has had a thriving Sikh community for over half a century and currently meets at the Sikh Community Centre on Wellington Avenue in Wavertree. The Centre was completed in 1994 after a long and arduous journey. Efforts to set up a community centre began back in 1965 when the Centre's original founders: H.S. Sohal, I.S.

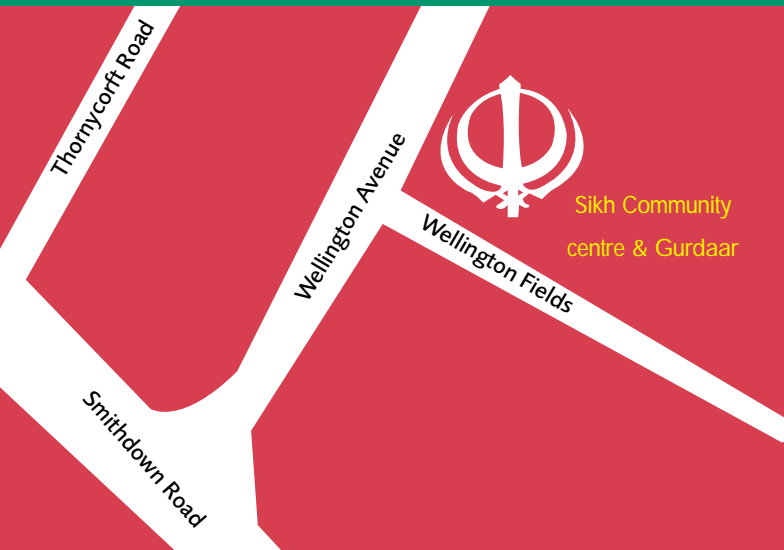
Right:

Sikh community centre,  
Wellington Avenue,  
Wavertree



Khanijau, B.S. Panesar, G.S. Khanijau and K.S. Hansra, began procedures to set up a Centre. The Guru Nanak temple was opened in that same year. In 1976, a bank loan purchased the former Hindu faith Lord Krishna Temple Building. Unfortunately this building was destroyed by fire in 1979.

The Sikh community remained without a place to meet and carry out religious, social and cultural activities until 1983 when H.S Sohal obtained a grant from the Urban Aid fund to establish a Sikh Community Centre in the Old Methodist Church on Wellington Avenue. The centre went through many hurdles, including fire damage, but through patience and perseverance, the two-storey building was ready to meet the needs of the Sikh community in 1994.



# Jewish Community



## PRINCES ROAD SYNAGOGUE.

Liverpool was the site of the first Jewish community to be established in the North of England.

Following the foundation of the Liverpool Hebrew Philanthropic Society in 1811, it provided pioneer models for the evolution of Jewish charitable and educational institutions elsewhere in the country.

Princes Road Synagogue, a Grade 2 listed building, was consecrated on 3rd September 1874, by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Nathan Adler. The building, designed by William and George Audsley, a magnificent example of Moorish revival architecture reflected the growing influence and status of the highly assimilated Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation.



Above: Princes Road Synagogue

The first provincial company of the Jewish Lad's Brigade was established in 1897, and the Liverpool Hebrew Day School, founded in 1904, was the first institution of its kind, combining a general secular education with training in modern Hebrew. A separate 'Jewish Heritage Trail' is available free of charge, giving more detail on the Jewish community in Liverpool – copies are available at the city centre TIC's.

(Guided Tours are available of the building, Thursdays between 10.00am and 4.00pm, must be pre-booked on 0151 709 3431)



# Hindu



The Hindu Community in Liverpool started the Hindu Cultural Organisation in 1958 on Botanic Road, in a terraced house.

With growing numbers of Hindus in Liverpool they needed a bigger space; A church on Edge Lane was for sale in 1978, and the Hindus moved in there to 253 Edge Lane in 1978.

Hindus celebrate Diwali or festival of lights in the month of October or November depending on the forecast every year for the celebrations.



Above: Inside the Hindu Cultural Centre, Edge Lane

A large proportion of the community of Hindus on Merseyside join in. This is the day when Lord Rama returns from exile and is also a darkest night of the Autumn. Goddess Laxmi is worshipped in the night time People wear new clothes, exchange gifts and watch fireworks. The business community start their accounts from this day and it is celebrated as the New Year.

The Hindu community have in the past suffered from racial attacks. However, over recent times things have improved.

India has many languages, but Hindi is the official language. Besides this Bengali, Punjabi, Telugu, Malyalyam, Kannarh and Kashmiri are the other languages spoken.

Half the Hindu community in Liverpool are doctors and the other half are engaged in a range of additional occupations.

# Buddhist



Liverpool has a small Tibetan Buddhist community, which is served by two centres-

In 2003 the Dechen group, which is part of the Sakya and Karma-Kagyü schools of Tibetan Buddhism celebrated the 25th anniversary of the groups presence in Liverpool. You can find out more about the Dechen group at [www.dechen.org](http://www.dechen.org).

There is also the Duldzin group, part of the new Kadampa tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, which has been active in the city since 1997. They have a small community centre near Sefton Park. You can email them for more details on [dakinilove@freeneasy.net](mailto:dakinilove@freeneasy.net)



Both groups can provide further guidance along the Buddhist path appropriate to the Buddhist tradition.

## Contact numbers:

Ar-Rahma Mosque - **0151 709 7504**

Brougham Terrace - **0151 708 8780**

Quakers (Friends Meeting House) - **0151 207 2404**

German Church of Liverpool - **0151 677 2024**

Hindu Cultural Organisation - **0151 263 7965**

Liverpool Cathedral - **0151 702 7217**

Liverpool Central Library & record office  
- **0151 233 5845**

Liverpool Parish Church of Our Lady St Nicholas -  
**0151 236 5287**

Liverpool Peace Centre at St Lukes – **0151 707 9399**

Liverpool Mosque & Islamic Institute - **0151 734 1222**

Museum of Liverpool Life - **0151 478 4080**

Princes Road Synagogue - **0151 709 3431**

Scandinavian Seamen's Church - **0151 709 7763**

Sikh Community Temple - **0151 734 3751**

St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church – **0151 709 9543**

The Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King -  
**0151 709 9222**

The Walker - **0151 478 4199**

Ullet Road Unitarian Church - **0151 733 1927**



you can access this document on line @  
**[www.liverpool.gov.uk](http://www.liverpool.gov.uk)**

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**LIVERPOOL**  
*the world in one city*



**The City of Liverpool**

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