

Holy Cross Billesley Common

At the heart of the
Community

Charity Number: 1205618



Parish statement 2024

Holy Cross Church and Centre

Beauchamp Road

Billesley

Birmingham B13 0NS

Tel: 0121 443 1291

The Parish

Holy Cross church is a great spiritual place of worship and, in our opinion, one of God's treasures. Visitors often remark on the warm welcome and relaxed atmosphere of our church. Something we are very proud of and wish to foster in the future.

Holy Cross is a large urban parish on the south side of Birmingham. On well served bus routes, in Billesley's immediate neighbourhood. are Hall Green, Springfield and Brandwood. Also a short distance away is Kings Heath with its busy high street; Moseley Village known for its farmer's market and thriving cafes and restaurants, Moseley Bog nature reserve, home of the hobbit and Sarehole Mill.

The parish population is circa 10, 000. Holy Cross church was built in 1936 and the parish is an entirely suburban residential area which is culturally diverse. There is a well served community centre attached to the church building and the church has a well established connection with local schools and children's centres.

The parish also encompasses Billesley Tennis and Fitness centre, Moseley Rugby club and a bowls club. Holy Cross Church is part of an oversight ministry of neighbouring churches - Christchurch, Yardley Wood and Immanuel, Highters Heath.

Holy Cross enjoys good ecumenical relations locally and has every wish to maintain and strengthen these relationships.

Our church building

The foundation stone at Holy Cross was dedicated in 1935. Our church consists of 3 aisles with multi-functional seating either side of the main aisle which seats up to 150. Also within the nave are the pulpit and an electronic organ and piano. To the right of the sanctuary there is a lady chapel that seats up to 15 people, this is a small intimate prayerful space that houses a small altar and the aumbry.

The sanctuary houses the main altar as well as seating for the vicar, reader and the servers. Also stored in the sanctuary are the silver and wooden processional crosses. The rear wall of the sanctuary is red in colour and displays a large brass cross.



To the left of the sanctuary is the vestry and also the courtyard room which houses the robing cupboard. Our font is situated at the rear of the church.

Discipleship

Discipleship and Prayer is at the core of everything we do at Holy Cross. From our services to coffee time, our Children's Ministry through to our home visits, our Scout groups and Mind and Music. We constantly remind ourselves that we are not just God's children on a Sunday morning but all through the week. Aiming to speak with God's voice, heal through His compassion and greet people with His heart.

We aim to show God's love and guide people to know more of God, His son our saviour Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit guiding, supporting and comforting us whoever we are and wherever we are on our journeys.

Through the months we have had without our Vicar but with visiting Priests, Lay Readers and members of our congregation taking the service of the word, we have seen a wide variety of approaches to knowing God, Father Son and Holy Spirit. There have been many different ways of recognising God in our lives and many opportunities to discuss after the services any of the facets of God that have been revealed to us. We can discuss, not only with the visiting Priest but also with one another anything that we need to know more about or questions we may have. A valuable time of learning and growing. We value the diversity of worship and ministry we have experienced.

We have continued to deliver our Sunday morning services but also have reached out through Baptisms, Weddings, Wedding Blessings, Funerals, Remembrance and Memorial services to name just a few.

With this in mind we would hope to continue in this vein of developing our discipleship and prayer through new initiatives and style of delivery, that will help to, not only grow our understanding, deepen our faith and encourage us to spread the good news of Jesus.

Our services

We are a small friendly family at Holy Cross with Holy Communion at 10 am every Sunday with a service of all age worship on the first Sunday on each month.

There are many other services to celebrate including: Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter, Remembrance Sunday, Memorial Service, Christingle and Nativity, and a Christmas Day Children's Communion Service. We have previously offered the following services which we would like to reintroduce, the Festival of Lessons and Carols and Midnight Mass. The congregation particularly enjoy celebrating the first eucharist of Christmas at the midnight service.



Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry at Holy Cross has always been a part of our planning for services and activities.

We have a very good relationship with both Billesley Primary School and Dame Ellen Pinsent special school, and The Ark children's Centre and Grendon Children's Nursery.

Both Schools share their Christmas celebrations with us. We are invited each year to judge the 'Easter Bonnet Parade' at Dame Ellen too.

We have a thriving Scout Group who are achieving some wonderful awards, doing amazing work and therefore we see young people growing into young citizens to be proud of.

The Scout groups join us on many occasions and bring with them their perspective of Faith and their view of the world. Wonderful conversations and learning can develop on both sides.

In addition to these services, we have termly visits of different year groups from Billesley Primary. We have a Christmas visit from The Ark children's Centre for the Christmas story and visit Grendon Children's Nursery to read the Christmas story.

We have excellent support from Westhill Endowments who have many interactive, faith-based projects and displays which we have at our Church for our community and schools to access.

It is a joy to facilitate the children's visits. We create several activities that support the National Curriculum, PHSE and FAITH and work well with staff of the schools and centres to meet the needs of all.

I am pleased to report that our school visits have increased during our time of interregnum which is very encouraging.

We have, in the past, had a well-attended Messy Church and Muddy Church but sadly we have not been able to facilitate this recently.

We hope to continue in the growth of our children's Ministry through activities and services.

With this in mind we would love to work with an enthusiastic Vicar who will embrace Children's Ministry that it may grow and grow.

Children are our future! We want all our children to know the Love of God and to know that through Him the world can be a wonderful place in which to grow and live.

Admin and Finance

The finances of the church and centre are combined and managed by the treasurer.

The Parish Administrator is also the centre manager. She secures new bookings and looks after new bookings. She also caretakes for any occasional bookings. Sometimes members of the PCC, who are keyholders, also caretake.

Bookings are now back up to pre-pandemic level.

Although the bank balance looks healthy, with over £95000 in the bank, the majority of this, £70k, is restricted funding. So, we must be very aware of what we can spend.

As the church and centre finances are combined, the income from the centre has enabled us to pay our Common Fund Ask in full for the last few years. We hope that this will continue.

The centre has a hall, kitchen and meeting rooms for regular groups and parties.



Administrative Information

The Parish of Holy Cross, Billesley Common is situated in the Kings Norton, Moseley & Shirley Deanery. It is part of the Diocese of Birmingham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Beauchamp Road, Billesley, Birmingham, B13 0NS.

The Parochial Church Council is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is a charity with the Charity Commission. Charity No. 1205618 from 7th November 2023.

The PCC meets every 8 weeks or so, usually in the evenings. We are working closely together during the Interregnum, to continue to serve our congregation and community.

Recent History

Here at Holy Cross, we are a small friendly church family.

Holy Cross belongs to a cluster of churches which includes Immanuel Highters Heath, Christ Church Yardley Wood, Yardley Wood Baptist Church and Our Lady of Lourdes R.C. Church. At Easter we come together for a procession of witness, starting at Yardley Wood Baptist Church and terminating at Our Lady of Lourdes. On the way there are readings and hymns, followed by tea/coffee and hot cross buns at Our Lady of Lourdes.

On the second Wednesday of each month, we hold our Mind & Music group in our church centre. This is for dementia/Alzheimer's sufferers, their carers, friends and families and to anyone who wants to come along! We have professional singers during this time along with light refreshments. It is a very enjoyable and successful group.

During the year we hold several fundraising events including our popular quiz & chip evening.

Our church centre is well used by several groups including: Scouts, Slimming World and is also rented out for parties etc which brings in a very good revenue. Beyond the Horizon Charity rent our office spaces within the centre and are there daily.

The centre is in good order, and we have pleasant lawns and an eco-garden surrounding the church, with an adjacent car park.



The People

Holy Cross Church is a warm and friendly place to come and worship.

The people here always ensure that whoever comes through the door be they Priest or Lay person will feel welcome and relaxed.

We are a small congregation. Those who cannot attend church but are still devoted can join us on Facebook for Sunday worship.

We have a good contingent of Scouts who join us for some services and also use the hall for their meetings.



Our New Incumbent

We would welcome someone who is passionate about growing all areas of our worship, not least for the young people in our community.

A spirit-filled person, with energy, drive, and ambition to move our church forward and to grow our numbers.

A friendly, strong personality with a sense of humour will fit in very well here. Especially if they like cake!

A down to earth leader, who will be fully supported by the church family.

A leader who will look to the future and share our hopes to connect with the community and young people.

With this in mind we can offer our new priest a committed leadership team, a friendly supportive congregation, a prayerfully supportive community who are welcoming and have a sense of fun.

We can also offer a congregation that will walk confidently alongside our new priest and embrace this new season in the life of our church.