



Parish Profile for The Church of the Holy Family Failsworth

Diocese of Manchester

Under the provision of the Bishop of Beverley

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The Church of the Holy Family is here to allow the community to come together as a Christian Family, serve God in worship and prayer and help people take their next step towards Christ.

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Local Area

The Church of the Holy Family is located in Failsworth, a vibrant town within the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham, in Greater Manchester. It is 3.7 miles from Manchester city centre and 2.9 miles from Oldham. Failsworth lies within the orbital M60 motorway and has everything you may need within a short distance including large supermarkets, local shops & businesses, a sports centre and parks.

Failsworth has community at its heart and Church of the Holy Family is very much part of this. Annually Failsworth hosts a Summer Carnival including a parade of floats through the town, this year will see its 57th parade and also there is a Remembrance march and service attended by church and non church organisations and local residents.



Local Community

The community has a very social character which is clearly evident with the attendance seen at fund raisers and charity events held at or run by Church of the Holy Family. The church has a fully functioning Community Centre, which has 2 large halls and a fully licensed bar and therefore is a popular venue for local clubs and events. The centre is run as a limited company, including the bookings for the regular use of the church halls for local resident's birthday parties, anniversaries, race nights, school proms and other such events. Most residents have long ties to the community with many still having several generations still living within the vicinity.

Properties in Failsworth are largely privately owned but with a small council estate within. Ethnicity is predominantly although not exclusively a white British community and we have a large elderly population within our community as well as young families.

There are 2 primary schools within our church community, Propps Hall and South Failsworth with the latter having very strong ties with The Church of the Holy Family.



Church Based Organisations and Groups

A number of groups and organisations are based within the church, using one of our two church halls; these include Rainbows, Brownies and Girl Guides. What's great to see is not only members of the church helping to run these groups but also the number of children related to members of our church that also attend. The church is also involved with a book club, song for tots is held once a week and there is the very popular Friday tea and toast. What we are most proud of, is our Kingdom class which runs during Sunday Service and currently has 40 children under 10 registered.

Our centre is a valuable resource for the wider community and is used as a very popular blood donor centre, a polling station and there is a counsellor drop in surgery held fortnightly.

Socially there is also a great vibe around the church; we feel we are a hub of the community with children's parties regularly being held in one of our church halls at weekends as well as Craft Fairs. Through the week you will also find a number of other regular activities including Karate, tea dancing, line dancing, puppy class and Yoga.

Our events committee and congregation do a great job organising annual social and charity events such as the famous Christmas Fair and our popular Strawberry Summer Fair (these raise between £2000 and £3000 for the church), as well as social events such as CHF has talent, New Years Eve parties, fashions shows and a VE afternoon tea, catering for all ages. Our upcoming event is Sing-a-long with the Sound of Music and recently following the Manchester Bomb we quickly organised a charity day which raised £1,700.



Neighbouring Communities

Since 1964, when the church was formed from the combination of three parishes; All Saints Newton Heath, Holy Trinity Failsworth and St. John's Failsworth Church of the Holy Family has been well connected, and is still connected today with some original congregation members.

From 1992 our connections have extended to St Margaret's Hollinwood and The Most Holy Trinity Blackley, being our closest society parishes, throughout the year The Church of the Holy Family has numerous connections with St. Margaret's, both socially and religiously and would be regarded by many as our "sister parish". Each year we share confirmation with The Most Holy Trinity, alternating the host church and through a past curate we also have connections socially and spiritually with St. Cross, Clayton.

Up until July 2017, Church of the Holy Family shared our Church as part of an LEP with the local Methodists, this dates back to 1966 and was only dissolved due to the demise of the ageing congregation, three of which have now joined our congregation and are regularly communicants at our Mass. Through this closure Church of the Holy Family has become closer to Hope and Roman Road Methodist Churches.

2017 has seen further connections with four Failsworth religious communities through the Mission Unit Planning Group; St Margaret's Hollinwood, Holy Trinity, Bardsley, Woodhouses Church and St John's Failsworth. Church of the Holy Family has always been a well known and respected parish, not only in the Manchester Diocese but also the Country. We pride ourselves on our links and plan to keep growing with other parishes.

During Lent we share Stations of the Cross with St Marys Roman Catholic Church on alternating Sundays.

Schools & Voluntary Groups

We have strong links with our local South Failsworth County Primary School. Children from the school visit twice a year, on the first visit we give them a tour of the church, they are shown and taught about the vestments and then invited back to make a Christingle. Our parish priest is also a co-opted Governor at the school and church members are on the PTA. The church provides an out of school club run by the Salvation Army and we are part of the schools Critical Incident Plan where in such an event children are moved to our church until their parents are able to collect them. Although not local, we have a connection with The Blue Coat School, a highly performing Church of England school and through regular church attendance children from our church have been successful in their application since 1970, amazingly we had 10 join year 7 in September 2017 alone.



Worship and Worshippers

Sunday morning mass takes place at 9.15am and is the centre of our parish worship, the Eucharist is a fully sung mass with a setting written for us by a previous Curate Phillip Arnold, this is still used today. The celebrant is expected to be fully robed in the colour according to the season, chasubles are usually modern. Sunday morning mass is a fully sung mass, with a Thurifer, Boat Girl/Boy, two acolytes and a crucifer, like the rector, the altar party is fully robed wearing a plain cotter and black cassock. Mass at The Church of the Holy Family is heavily influenced by the Anglo Catholic tradition but does have a charismatic element. Musically we use a piano for all the hymns and settings and the whole congregation sing the settings.

After Sunday mass, most of the congregation stay for coffee and biscuits, this gives the congregation the opportunity to catch up, celebrate occasions and plan events.

We have mid week evening masses as well as a Friday Morning, which is followed by a drop-in-coffee morning.



Ministry

Historically we have fostered numerous curates into priest hood and the church army, as well as members of the congregation; this is something we would like to encourage again.

Canon John Sykes is a regular member of our congregation, and regularly takes part in celebrating Mass. Also Fr Raymond Cooke, who started Church of the Holy Family, still regards this as home and occasionally preaches with us. We also have 4 active administrators.

During Lent and Advent we hold prayer and teaching groups, held at various members of the congregation's homes

Our Mission statement

The Church of the Holy Family strives to be a growing, Christ-like, family community, inclusive of all with a bias to the vulnerable

We currently do not have a mission action list but our focus for the next 2 years is to ensure there is a care plan in place to ensure elder members of our congregation are included in all aspects of church life and where it's not possible for them to attend church regularly, reach out to them through regular contact and visits.

Also, with an increasing number of young families within our congregation we need to ensure we are inclusive of all, retain attendance and encourage them to be a key part in the running of the church and centre.

Finance

At The Church of the Holy Family we pride ourselves on our finances. Through the regular church donations, fund raising events and rental income from the Community Centre we are a solvent Parish who always pays its Parish Share in full.

We have a gift-aid system for regular tax paying members of the congregation. We donate quarterly to 3 charities one locally, one national and one international. These are agreed by the PCC, and this has taken place every year since the church began.

We also operate a Children's Society & Christingle box system, where members of the congregation, specifically children take boxes home and return them full. Through the RSVP program we sponsored a child in Rwanda from a child to a young adult and our coffee morning fund is donated to different charities every quarter, we have donated to Alzheimer Society, Parkinson's UK, Muscular Society, Breast Cancer and Dementia.

A group within our congregation also support the Leprosy Mission.

The Community Centre is a limited company, voluntary based and the incumbent would be required to be a Director of the company and actively involved in running of the centre, its finances and its development.

The Priests discretionary fund has been met each year.

Next parish Priest

For our incoming priest we would like an outgoing friendly man who has the Holy Man sensitivity when required whilst having the steel to lead from the front and be involved in our parish life and not just church services. Determination will be required to get stuck in to the jobs needed doing whilst encouraging others to assist.

Organisation at The Church of the Holy Family is forefront, reverence, faith, fun and family is almost like a motto to us and we expect the same in our priest. We need someone to take the lead on the community and finances of the parish with the assistance of our lively PCC to grow and develop. We have an enthusiastic and focused PCC and a team of volunteers who will all help with a Parish Priest that is there to lead and encourage.

We need our priest to be able to engage and communicate with all members of our congregation; regardless of age and help us grow and develop in the every changing modern technological world.

To summarize, you could say we need a priest with a heart for people and a heart for mission, a Pastors heart and zeal for God with a hunger for outreach in the community.

