

# Holy Trinity Shaw

## Parish Information and Profile



### Holy Trinity Church

Church Road

Shaw

Oldham

OL2 7AU

**July 2017**

# Welcome to

## The Parish of Holy Trinity, Shaw, Oldham

We have been in interregnum since October 2016 and are currently in need of a Parish Priest.

Holy Trinity Church is over 140 years old and has served as the parish church in a town which has seen its population and purpose change dramatically. From its origins as a sparsely populated woollen weaving hamlet, Shaw and Crompton rose to one of the main hubs of cotton production during the industrial revolution, and has now evolved into an urban township of diverse industry and demographic.

Holy Trinity is under the patronage of the Bishop of Manchester, and is part of the Diocese of Manchester, in the Rochdale Archdeaconry under the guidance of the Venerable Cherry Vann (Mobile: 07587 132707 Office: 0161 678 1454 [archrochdale@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:archrochdale@manchester.anglican.org)).

We are currently in the Oldham West Deanery, but we are in the process of moving into the Oldham East Deanery, (Area Dean – Rev Graham Hollowood 0161 624 4964 [stmarkglodwick@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkglodwick@gmail.com)) to allow us to work more closely with the other Shaw churches.

### Church Officers

Our churchwardens are Doreen Lewis and Brian Mills

Deanery Synod Representatives: Lesley Bennett, Chris Hodges and Jo Korny

PCC members:

Janine Ashburn(Secretary);

Nic Brogden(Safeguarding Officer);

Fred Hollingworth;

Richard McEwan;

Cat O’Gara(Safeguarding Officer);

Kay Thomas;

Kay Whitby(Electoral Roll Officer);

Adam Wrigley



## What we are looking for in a new Parish Priest

We are looking for a priest who, with God's help, will work with us to develop our combined strengths and discover our way forward.

We would ideally like:

- A 'people' person – someone approachable with excellent communication skills who is able to connect with people of all ages and stages in faith.
- An ability to inspire and engage the congregation, particularly the younger members.
- A commitment to pastoral work, both within the congregation and out in the wider community.
- A willingness to promote community cohesion in a diverse setting.
- Someone who will provide spiritual and practical leadership. We need help to regroup and find our way forward.
- An interest in the life of Holy Trinity and a willingness to support us.
- An 'ideas' person with a balanced perspective – mindful of tradition but forward-thinking.
- A respect for the diversity of gifts found throughout the congregation. We do have a range of talents available to be employed by someone comfortable with delegating!
- Someone with enthusiasm, passion and a sense of humour!

## Church Buildings

### Holy Trinity Church

There has been a place of worship on the site of Holy Trinity since 1515, when a 'chapel of ease' was built to allow people to worship locally rather than walk 12 miles to the then parish church of St Mary Prestwich. The foundation stone for the present building was laid on Trinity Monday 1869.



Holy Trinity has recently completed a 10-year restoration programme which has taken place over 5 phases.

To celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a place of worship on the current site, we published a book in 2015 giving detailed information of the history and restoration of Holy Trinity.



### Parish Hall

We also have an on-site parish hall, which is well used by church groups and the local community. A group of parish volunteers recently spent some time cleaning and redecorating the hall, and it now looks fresh and renewed.



Currently, the hall use rota is:

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Sunday    | morning - Sunday School; afternoon - after-church service social time   |
| Monday    | morning - Pilates group; afternoon - Pilates group; evening - Alcoholics Anonymous                                    |
| Tuesday   | morning/afternoon twice monthly – Sewing group; evening - Brigade   |
| Wednesday | morning - 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month – Crafty Ladies group; afternoon - Drama classes; evening - Brigade |
| Thursday  | morning - Spanish group; evening - Brigade  |
| Friday    | morning - Drop-in after mass; Occasional church fundraising events  |
| Saturday  | evening - Dance group (alternate Saturdays); Occasional church fundraising events                                     |

### Vicarage

Holy Trinity has a purpose-built vicarage on site: The Vicarage, Holy Trinity Church, Church Road, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 7AU. This is a detached property with an office, 2 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, gardens to front and rear with private driveway and an integral garage.



## The Parish

### The present status of Holy Trinity

In 2015 the PCC voted to rescind the parish's opposition to the ordination of women priests and bishops. This marks a radical change in the life of Holy Trinity. Since 1994, the parish had been in the care of the Bishop of Beverly, and in 2011 became a United Benefice with our neighbouring parish of St Paul Royton with whom we shared our last parish priest. However, following the 2015 vote, due to the irreconcilable differences between the two churches the benefice is in the process of dissolution.

Now, the PCC members of Holy Trinity are working together with the congregation to discover the direction in which our church is moving.

Holy Trinity has a current electoral roll of 77

In the past 12 months, Holy Trinity has had:

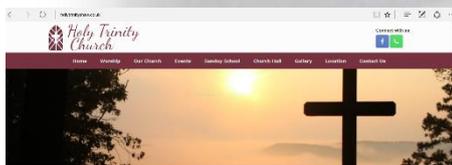
- 18 baptisms
- 0 admissions to holy communion before confirmation
- 9 candidates confirmed
- 4 marriages
- 4 Funerals
- 69 Christmas Communicants (all services)
- 61 Easter Communicants (all services)

Holy Trinity seats approximately 250 people.

The last Quinquennial inspection was carried out in 2015. The architect highlighted internal and external work at an estimated cost of £10,000. We are currently working towards rectifying these issues.

### Media and Communications

We produce a weekly pewsheet which gives details of parish news and upcoming events and a copy of this is handed to each member of the congregation as they enter the church.



We have a church website: [www.holytrinityshaw.co.uk](http://www.holytrinityshaw.co.uk)

Diane Stokes is our webmaster and regularly updates the site with events and information.

We also have Facebook pages:

@HolyTrinityChurchShawSocialAndFundraisingCommittee

@HTSHarvestQueen

We are currently in the process of reinstating a parish magazine.



## **Worship and Worshippers**

### **Congregation**

The congregation is a mix of slightly more women than men, with a mix of age ranges. We attract a significant proportion of families with primary school aged children as there is a popular Church of England High School just over the parish border.

We have a core of members of the congregation who support our church by giving generously to church funds and attending fundraising events, however we also have significant number of worshippers who choose not to support us in these ways.

Our pattern of Church Services is:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Every Sunday at 11am<br>The Parish Mass     | Sung Mass. Second Sunday of the month is Family Service.<br>Refreshments in the parish hall after the service. |
| Every Monday at 7pm<br>Said Mass            | Said service lasting around 30 minutes.  |
| Every Friday at 10am<br>Said Mass + Drop In | Said service lasting around 30 minutes. Drop in session with tea and toast in the hall after the service.      |

Our main church service is the Sunday Parish Mass, which has had an average attendance of 65 adults and 34 children/young people in 2016.

Every second Sunday of the month is our Family Service when our Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade members attend in uniform.

The two weekday services were reinstated in January 2016. The mass on Monday at 7pm is primarily becoming a service attended by families who are unable to attend / would prefer not to attend the Sunday service (including families who previously attended other local churches). The mass on Friday at 10am is mainly attended by older, retired people who enjoy the intimate setting and the chance for tea and toast and a natter in the church hall afterwards.

We also celebrated services on Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Ascension Day.

All our services follow the in-house produced service booklets.

Hymns are from the 'Hymns Old and New' book.

### **Church Tradition**

Worship is in the Anglo-catholic tradition.

### **Clergy Dress**

Normal vesture for ministers is cassock, alb and stole, and chasuble.

## **Our ideas for the future**

We would like to build on the solid foundations of Holy Trinity, but feel that we need to move with the times in order to stay relevant in our community.

We want our congregation to feel included in the forms of worship – to be able to take part rather than sit back and observe.

We aim to work on retaining our congregation and encourage them to take a more active role in their church; spiritually, socially and financially.

We would like to re-establish links with the local community, including the local schools, residential homes and day centre.

## **Church Groups**

### **Sunday School**

We have a Sunday School which takes place in the church hall whilst our parish mass is occurring, every Sunday during term time except for the second Sunday of the month when we have Family Service.

We have six trained teachers with DBS checks, and there are sixty children on our register.

We try our best to follow the Lectionary of the church, beginning with prayers, a story with discussion, followed by an appropriate song. Then we draw, write or do crafts about the story.

We come up to church just before communion, when we sit at the front, ready to follow the service.

We also have events throughout the year, including making Mothering Sunday gifts and providing every lady in church with a small bunch of daffodils on that day, Palm Sunday workshop, a yearly religious competition and a Children In Need one too, and we fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

We also have our Harvest Queen, which we feel it is quite a privilege to be chosen as.

Until the reinstatement of the Monday night service, our Sunday school was extremely well attended, with an average attendance of 34, but recently, many families have chosen to attend on Monday night instead.



## Church Brigade:

Since 1902, Holy Trinity has had a Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade company, the sections of which meet on various nights of the week:

- Martins - boys and girls age 5-7 - Thursday at 5.45pm;
- Y-Team boys - age 8-10 - Thursday at 7pm;
- Y-Team girls – age 8-10 – Tuesday at 6.45pm;
- JTC girls – age 11-13 – Tuesday at 7.20pm
- JTC boys – age 11-13 – Thursday at 8pm
- Seniors – 14 -21 – Wednesday at 8pm
- Brigade band practice is on Wednesday at 7pm.

Our Brigade has a Facebook page: @HTSbrigade



**Harvest Queen:** Each year a Harvest Queen is elected and then crowned in October. The Queen and her retinue represent Holy Trinity at functions at other churches and on occasions in the local community. They also fundraise for the church.



**Ladies Circle:** We currently have 11 members who meet fortnightly in each other's homes. We have stalls at our summer and Christmas fair, usually to do with food or catering as required.

We also hold 2 coffee mornings per year in support of Macmillan Nurses and British Heart Foundation. The proceeds from which are paid in to church and form part of our away giving.

**Craft Group:** This group is made up of 8 members, who meet monthly. We knit, sew, make jewellery, make cards which are sold at our church events and also at local craft fairs. The money raised from these activities is handed in to church towards general funds.

**Church Choir:** Our choir is made up of 7 dedicated and faithful members of our congregation and our church organist. They rehearse weekly to provide the music to support our weekly worship. They also rehearse and perform pieces on special occasions or festival days.



**Mothers' Union:** A church group which celebrates mothers and families worldwide. We take part in many projects such as: Prison Visitors Childcare (looking after children whilst their families visit prisoners); Make a Mother's Day (providing funds for various projects across the world e.g. giving mothers education so that they can earn a living). We also give money for goats/chickens etc to feed their families; Sewing and knitting for our local hospital's baby care units.

Sadly, our numbers are dwindling. We now have 8 active members and 3 indoor members (people who still wish to be M.U. members but are unable to attend meetings).

**Social and Fundraising Committee:** We are a subcommittee of the PCC made up of 9 members who meet monthly at The Park Inn, Buckstones Road, Shaw, to plan and organise events to strengthen friendship among our worshippers and/or raise money for the church.

### **Other Local Organisations**

#### **Local schools**

Within the parish boundary are two primary schools – Crompton Primary School and Farrowdale House Independently-funded Preparatory School.

There is no Church of England school in the parish. However, Crompton House Church of England Secondary School is just over the parish border. The desire for places at this school has a major impact on the attendance dynamic of our church.

The Parish Priest for Holy Trinity is required to sit on the board of Governors for Crompton House School.

#### **Our relationship with neighbouring churches**

We are active members of Shaw and Crompton Churches together, which is made up of the local Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Salvation Army and Unitarian churches. We hosted the 2017 service for the Week of Christian Unity and share the hosting of Churches Together Prayer Lunches with the other local member churches. We gather together with these other churches for the Whit walks and Remembrance Sunday outdoor services.

#### **Challenges for our parish**

- Retaining worshippers.
- Building attendance.
- Finding ways to engage the 'schools factor' families in the life of the church.
- Re-establishing ministry within the local community, eg. the residential homes.
- Worshipful giving – stewardship.

## **About the Area.**

Holy Trinity is the parish church of Shaw, a small town situated in the foothills of the South Pennines between Oldham and Rochdale. The urban environment is surrounded by heath and moorland, with some stunning views and walks.

A former cotton mill town, the remaining mills now support other industry, particularly mail order such as Littlewoods and J D Williams which employ a significant number of local people. Shaw has a recently established Metrolink light rail service from Rochdale to Manchester city centre and beyond, which allows a significant proportion of commuters to travel in to the major local employers, and out to work in the surrounding towns and city.

Shaw has a small town-centre which contains a mix of typical high street chain stores such as Iceland, Martin McColl's and Boots, as well as a number of independent local stores including Cissie Barlow's traditional sweet shop, Fizz Clothing, Eats and Meats Delicatessen and Armstrong's Fish and Chip shop. There is also an Asda supermarket (which boasts the title of first UK eco-friendly designed Asda store) and an Aldi. Local facilities include a health centre, community centre, children's centre, library, dental surgeries, opticians, a gym, a secondary school and a number of primary schools.

The population of the area is diverse. The local inhabitants are mainly white British but with a small population of South Asian, particularly Bangladeshi and Pakistani inhabitants, many with roots in the former Shaw and Crompton cotton industry. The more recent mail order employment has also encouraged a small Eastern European workforce to move into the area. Shaw has a large ageing population, but is also a growing population, with many families and young people in evidence. Anti-social behaviour from teenagers is one of the main problems in the community.

The industrial heritage of the area is evident in the large amount of terraced, former mill workers' housing still in existence, although there are a few very large former mill owner's dwellings remaining in the parish, as well as 1930's semi-detached houses and a significant number of post-war bungalows, some of these being warden-controlled for older or more vulnerable people. There are also some more modern apartments and new-build houses in evidence, with a current, controversial government plan for over 1000 more houses on local farmland.