Holy Cross Hornchurch Parish Profile

Growing, Sharing, Learning

“Let us at Holy Cross stand ready for a glorious future – God’s glory, not ours.”
Welcome to Holy Cross Church. Our parish profile has been designed with you in mind. We hope that this information and prayerful discernment, will help you decide whether you are the right person to lead this church.

Who we are

We are a warm, friendly and welcoming church with a bright future. The congregation would probably consider themselves to be members of a middle Anglican church.

After the retirement of our Priest-in-Charge in January 2018 we entered an interregnum. The PCC and active church members have worked hard and maintained the majority of services and activities.
Our History

Holy Cross is a large church built in 1933 and we have been proud to display the ‘Pathfinder Window’ since its origin. The window is stained glass depicting a painting by Ernest Stafford Carlos, the brother of the first vicar of the parish. It was given by his mother and family in his memory when he was killed in action in the First World War, in 1917. It depicts a famous painting much valued by the Scouting community. The stained-glass window is notable in that it was made in the William Morris factory, and was mistakenly thought to have been lost during the Second World War. People come from all over to see this window.
**Holy Cross Day**

Celebrated on September 14th, Holy Cross day is a day which honours and commemorates the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made on the cross for our salvation. This holiday is also known as ‘The Triumph of the Cross’ in the Roman Catholic Church and as the ‘Exultation of the Holy Cross’ in the Eastern Church. Occasionally this day would be called ‘Holy Rood Day’.

**Our future**

We are progressing ambitious plans to develop our church and hall as part our firm commitment to serve our community and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our vision is for our church to grow in numbers and in faith under the leadership and encouragement of a new Priest-in-Charge alongside committed church members.
Holy Cross is situated in the centre of the parish on its own large grounds. It can seat around 300 with moveable chairs. There are two side chapels (a Lady chapel and a baptistery) The design of the building lends itself acoustically to music and concerts are held in the church. There is an electronic Alleyn organ.

The Parish of Holy Cross Hornchurch is part of the London Borough of Havering, although most people still use Essex for their postal address. The area benefits from being close to both Hornchurch underground and Romford overground and is about one hour from central London. We are also just 20 miles from the coast. The M25 motorway is easily accessible.

The neighbouring town of Romford has a market dating from medieval times and a large shopping centre. Lakeside and Bluewater shopping centres are within easy reach.

The majority of Hornchurch was developed in the 1930’s when the need arose to accommodate the increase in the number of people working in London. Hornchurch has a mixture of housing, light industry and retail outlets. Within the parish there is one large park and another large country park in South Hornchurch. A sports centre and a thriving theatre are situated in Hornchurch. There in one hospital in Romford serving the local community.

The Parish of Hornchurch is suburban and consists of mainly owner-occupied homes ranging from Modest flats to larger detached homes. There are several good primary and secondary schools in the Parish and a Church of England VA primary and secondary school in Romford. There are several large superstores close to the Parish and a good selection of restaurants serving multi-cultural cuisine.

The Parish has a population of about 16000 which is mixed in age and ethnicity. It covers about 1.25 square miles.
Our Sunday services

0800 Holy Communion (said) suspended during the vacancy.
10.30 Holy Communion on 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays and All age worship and parade service on 2nd Sunday.
10.00 Holy Communion on Thursday.

We have a Healing Ministry team and there is the opportunity to receive the laying on of hands and anointing on 1st Sunday during communion but is available at any time after a service if requested.

Sunday school takes place on 1st and 3rd Sunday.

Guides, Brownies and Rainbows attend the All age worship service.

There have been a good number of baptisms this year.

At Christmas we hold a Christingle, Carol service and a Crib service.

We have a group of people who lead intercessions, read the lessons and assist with the Eucharist. Home communions for those unable to get to church is taken by a small group of Eucharistic ministers.

Staff

We have a lay reader and a retired priest who assist in our worship. We also have one member of our church who is looking towards ordained ministry.

We have a very dedicated PCC, two church wardens and a secretary but no treasurer at present.

We also have an electoral role officer and a safeguarding officer.
We are a small congregation of mixed ages and ethnicity average of 45-50 attendance longing to grow both spiritually and in number. We have a small group of children attending Sunday school who have an enthusiastic leader. We would especially welcome more families and young people to join us. Our attendance has decreased over the past few years and we look forward to supporting our new priest in the work of building up our church. There are 104 on the electoral roll but this is due to be reviewed and renewed in the new year.

Our choir was disbanded a few years ago and we lost many young people in consequence.

We are a warm friendly and caring congregation well known for our culinary skills and have enjoyed shared lunches which included many different dishes from several countries.
Holy Cross Vicarage is a spacious modern detached four-bedroom house. It offers very comfortable family accommodation together with separate study and toilet. Outside there is a large fenced garden with scope for a keen gardener. However, we are at present engaged in a development which will give the new incumbent a brand new vicarage. Our church will also benefit from a new church hall which will be integral to the church. We need a new priest who be be enthusiastic in helping us with this development. It will be a new venture which make Holy Cross church more community centred.
We have a church hall on the church grounds which is used by church groups and also rented out for private functions. This income helps greatly in paying our parish share.

The development of the grounds is in its infancy. One member of our PCC has the skills to work with the developer and the diocese and reports back to the PCC meetings. This is an exciting project which will give us a new hall with modern kitchen and accessible toilets which will be linked to the church. There will be two accessible units built on the grounds which will belong to the church and will be rented out to Aspire. There will also be a new vicarage. Once this is completed the present vicarage which is situated behind the church will be demolished and 19-20 units will be built on the site. We are looking forward to developing our church and getting our new hall which will offer a modern space for our community to use and enjoy.
There is a Holy Cross Facebook Page showing pictures of our various groups and activities.

**Parachute Club**

This mother and toddler group meets each Thursday Morning during term time in the church hall and has been established for many years. This groups serves the local community and includes Mums, Dads, Nannies, Aunties and Childminders. There are 25 families and 33 children. There is a team of 8 volunteers. There is a waiting list of 25 families. Each meeting ends with a prayer and we encourage families to join us for church services.

**Knit and Natter Group**

The Group meet weekly at a member’s home and are currently knitting squares to be sent to the Neo Natal unit at St. Thomas’s Hospital London

**Smarties Collection**

On the second Sunday of each month (Parade Service) we raise money for various charities, where the children swap a Smarties’ tube of cash for a tube of Smarties.

**Hall and Ground’s Work**

A group of people meet on the third Saturday of each month to keep the Hall and Grounds tidy.
Coffee and a chat

Coffee is served each Sunday morning following the service, where members fellowship together and welcome and encourage new visitors.

Sunday School

On the first and third Sunday the children meet in the church hall during service time, and join the congregation for a blessing at the communion rail after which they share with the congregation the lesson they have learnt. We have 2 teachers and 6 children who regularly attend, and are often joined by visiting children.

Mother’s Union – Afternoon Group

Members meet in the church hall on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 2pm. Beginning with an act of worship followed by a speaker, ending with tea and fellowship.

Mother’s Union – Evening Group

Members meet on the second Monday of each month at 8pm in a member’s home. Each meeting welcomes a speaker on various topics.
Forth Hornchurch Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

The Groups meet in the Hall each Thursday during Term time.

Rainbows – 5-7 with 2 leaders meet from 4-5.30pm
Brownies – 7-11 with 6 leaders meet from 5.30-7pm
Guides – 11 up with 4 leaders meet from 7pm

All packs have been established in Hornchurch for many years and are full packs achieving badges and enjoying indoor and outdoor activities. Four Guides recently achieved Baden Powell awards.

Ladies Breakfast

Breakfast is held in the church hall Quarterly Saturday Mornings from 8.30am. this has run for 15 years and has an attendance of 50-60 ladies. Good food and fellowship is enjoyed along with a visiting speaker. Our breakfasts are not fundraisers but an outreach to the local community and a pleasurable form of evangelism.
Our Community

Rainham Food Bank

We collect and store for a food bank which distributes bags of food from Holy Cross each Wednesday Morning.

Women’s World Day of Prayer

We take part each year in the WWDP Service which is held jointly with the Churches in Hornchurch. We take our turn in hosting this service.

Deanery Synod

We have 3 Synod members who attend meetings that are held Bi-Monthly and who report back to the PCC.

Passion Play

Some members play a part in the 5 yearly passion play which is held in Hornchurch and put on by many local Churches. The next play is due to take part in 2020.

Churches Together in Hornchurch

Holy Cross was a member for over 50 years until it disbanded recently.

CMS

Holy Cross was a supporter with Mission Partners for over 60 years until recently. It is hoped that we can resume our support in CMS.

Toy Service

In December, we hold a service where we collect and distribute toys to local children in need.
**S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Strengths</strong></th>
<th><strong>Weaknesses</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcoming, friendly, caring, sociable</td>
<td>No activities or active engagement of teens and youth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diverse</td>
<td>No/Limited outreach into community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly committed</td>
<td>Lack of active evangelism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very active contributions of some members</td>
<td>Insufficient volunteers to support key functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities organised by Church members such as Ladies Breakfast, Parachute Club</td>
<td>Loss of members during interregnum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbows, Brownies and Guides</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Healing ministry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall lettings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hopeful and positive attitude</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Opportunities</strong></th>
<th><strong>Threats</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Development</td>
<td>New Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better engagement with youth</td>
<td>Resistance to change from a small minority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better engagement with community</td>
<td>Impact of past conflict and challenges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active evangelism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appetite for new preaching and teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of music ministry</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Desire to support a new leader.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Desire to heal from the past conflicts.</td>
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**Our New Priest-in-Charge**

We are praying for a warm welcoming, Priest-in-Charge who is:

- An inspiring Bible based preacher and teacher who can help us to practically demonstrate God’s love to each other and our community.
- A strong, confident leader who will further develop and drive our vision and oversee the building project.
- At ease working with people of all ages, backgrounds and cultures both inside and outside the church.
- A team builder who can equip and encourage others to use their talents and actively participate in serving Holy Cross and the community.
- Able to combine the needs of a traditional and contemporary worship to reflect the current and future needs of the congregation.
- A heart for pastoral care.

Ideally, we would love someone with a desire to develop a music ministry which may stimulate the creation of a choir.
Feedback from the Congregation on the new Priest-In-Charge

How do we feel about a new Priest-in-Charge

- “This is very good news”
- “Relieved, delighted and hopeful”
- “Excited”
- “Excellent decision”

How would you describe Holy Cross

- “A warm home for all”
- “Needs guidance and will be open to change”
- “In need of strong, family focused, sensitive leadership”
- “Has a nucleus of prayerful people”
- “Very Welcoming”
- “A Church of mixed congregation, in age, ethnicity, and commitment”
- “A Warm and dedicated congregation”
- “A local church that has been at the heart of the community for many years”
What kind of Priest-in-Charge would you like

- “An evangelist who will inspire and train the congregation to win people for Christ”
- “Someone with charm and Charisma – a person who will have the ability to reach out to existing and new members in the hope of growing our church”
- “A good preacher”
- “Someone with mission at the heart of their vocation”
- “A Motivator”
- “A person of motivation to serve the whole parish and not just the church attendance”
- “A Powerful Preacher with strong leadership skills”
- “A Considerate, approachable, flexible individual with a clear understanding of inner-city multicultural needs”
- “One who is prayerful, who will teach us to pray”

What the Sunday School would like

- Imaginative
- Have Red Cheeks
- Jolly
- Amazing
- Smiles with their eyes
- Young with no wrinkles
FINANCES

At present due to decreasing numbers and rising energy and maintenance bills we are not able to pay our full quota of £55,000 to the diocese and this is a challenge. So far this year we have sent £20,000. We are trying to build up our funds by fund raising events and letting the hall. The church is well maintained but like any church has its problems with such things as damp and gutters! We have a paid cleaner but no other paid staff. Our accounts are now up to date and available.

Homechurch Holy Cross

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)
As at: 30 September 2018

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<tr>
<th>Investments</th>
<th>Balance</th>
<th>Previous balance</th>
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<tr>
<td>871: CDT Investment Fund 100014463 - Asset</td>
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<td>53.35</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By Diocese</td>
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<td></td>
<td>50.81</td>
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Investments

Cash at bank and in hand

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<tr>
<td>801: Barclays 027260 004036702 - Asset</td>
<td>(9,344.42)</td>
<td>(9,244.42)</td>
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<tr>
<td>General fund</td>
<td>19,507.30</td>
<td>19,507.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Hall</td>
<td>721.44</td>
<td>721.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scouting for Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development Fund</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vicar &amp; Church Warden</td>
<td>Designated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20,411.24</td>
<td>19,507.30</td>
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5910: CCLA (CEF) 600627002 PDC 1 - Asset

Church Hall | Designated | 1,341.17 |
| General fund | 1,341.17 | 1,341.17 |

5915: CCLA (CEF) 600627002D OM Chappell - Asset

General fund | Unrestricted | |
| Church Hall | Designated | 39.68 | 39.68 |
| Vicar & Church Warden | | |

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<th>Balance</th>
<th>Previous balance</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40.64</td>
<td>39.68</td>
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5912: CCLA (CEF) 600627002D Spiritual Growth - Asset

Development Fund | Restricted | 1,977.24 | 1,977.24 |
| | 7,188.45 | 7,188.45 |

5915: CCLA (CEF) 600627002D Development Fund - Asset

Development Fund | Restricted | 380.00 | 380.00 |
| | 389.90 | 389.90 |

5914: CCLA (CEF) 10000127000 Hall Site Trust - Asset

Shared Hall Site (Net) | Restricted | 36.61 | 36.61 |
| | 36.61 | 36.61 |

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<td>36.61</td>
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5916: Cash in hand - Asset

General fund | Unrestricted | |
| | | |

Cash at bank and in hand

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<th></th>
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<td>27,568.74</td>
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Grand Total

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<td>52,810.54</td>
<td>27,568.74</td>
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06 October 2018
In Conclusion

We thank your consideration of this position within our church, we look forward to hearing from you and answering any questions you may have. We hope that our Parish Profile has given you the information you require, and we pray that with God’s guidance our new Priest-in-charge will be found.

Hornchurch Country Park