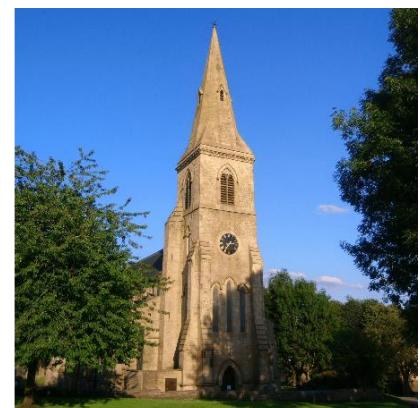




PARISH PROFILE

Holy Trinity, Waterhead St. Barnabas, Clarksfield



Welcome to Our Churches

Welcome to Holy Trinity, Waterhead and St. Barnabas, Clarksfield. Holy Trinity is a Grade 2 listed building, which was consecrated in 1847. A tower and spire were added to it in 1876, it is one of the tallest in Oldham. We are blessed with a beautiful stone building, housing all stained-glass windows.

St Barnabas is a brick building, built in the 20th Century, with a contemporary stained glass East Window.

The churches comprise the Benefice of Waterhead and Clarksfield. We are in the Deanery of Oldham and Ashton, Mission Community 4.



Helpful Contacts:

Archdeacon – Venerable Karen Smeeton
karen.smeeton@manchester.anglican.org

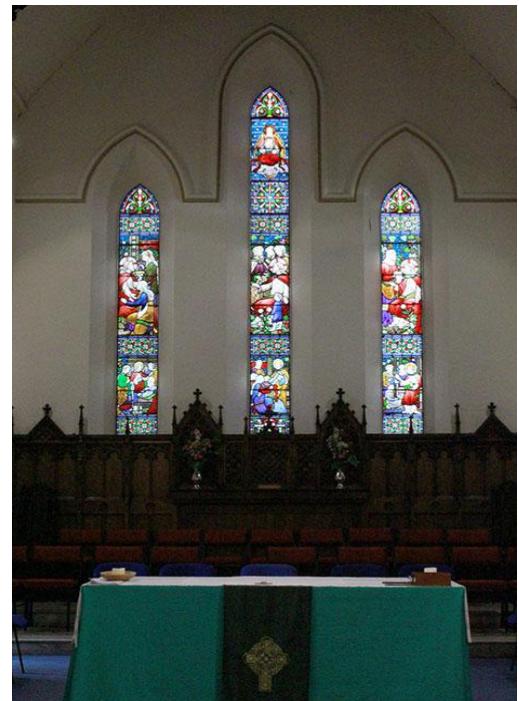
Area Dean – Reverend Daniel Ramble
danielramble@manchester.anglican.org

Churchwarden – Val Crane
the.hawthorns@hotmail.co.uk

Churchwarden – John Wolstencroft
jawooly@hotmail.com

About Holy Trinity

The church was built for the village of Waterhead, and it is set in picturesque surroundings. The nearest town is Oldham, and we are part of the borough of Oldham in Greater Manchester. The borough is multicultural and multifaith. Oldham has a large shopping centre, a library, an art gallery and a theatre – with another currently being built, as part of a major regeneration.



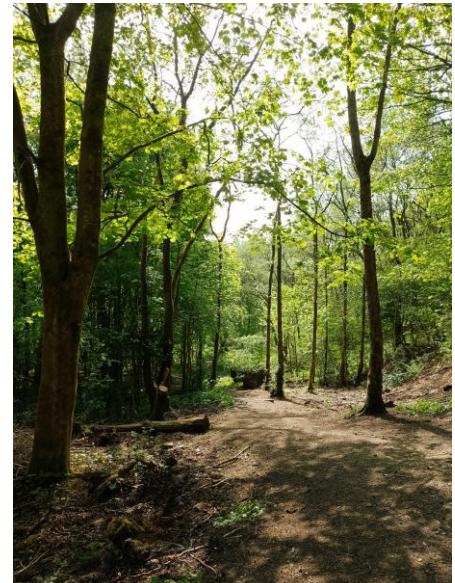
About St Barnabas

The inception of the church dates back to 1870, with the present church being built in 1912 to provide self-improvement and education in a working-class area. Clarksfield is still a deprived area within Oldham, itself one of the poorest boroughs in Britain, and it is now multiracial. The largest community is Asian, mainly Muslim, with a strong Romanian community also. The church is about 10-15 mins. walk to the nearest tram stop.



Our Surroundings

Despite its identity as an industrial town, Oldham has exceptional access to areas of natural beauty, not only within the borough generally but also at Clarksfield, with Lees Brook Nature Park in easy walking distance, and Waterhead, with Strinesdale Country Park within 3 minutes' walking distance.



Manchester Cathedral is easily reached by car, tram or bus, thanks to Transport for Greater Manchester's Bee Network.

Manchester is a thriving city with universities, shopping centres, restaurants, museums and theatres.



Our New Vicar

We are prayerfully seeking an innovative priest who can continue to lead and nurture growth within the benefice. They will need to be empathetic, approachable and a good listener who can work collaboratively with the churchwardens, ministry team, PCC's and others.

QUALITIES SOUGHT:

- A strong and visible Christian and Eucharistic faith, with the energy to draw our congregations together around a common vision of ministry. Enthusiasm in leading and helping us to explore fresh approaches, whilst respecting our traditional patterns of worship.
- A high level of interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to build and maintain good relationships, engaging positively with people of different ages and backgrounds.
- A spiritual leader who will motivate and encourage both clergy and lay people by listening to their views and encouraging participation in services and other activities. To inspire our congregation to live out their faith in everyday life.
- A commitment to foster a strong and effective safeguarding culture in the parish.
- An ability to delegate, and to manage time well, so that they can actively balance the various demands, whilst still resourcing their own faith and allowing time for necessary recreation, in order to return refreshed.
- Experience in children and youth work, together with community development. Active support for lifelong learning in all areas of Church life. Someone to engage with and build relationships with local churches, schools and organisations, whilst developing their own profile within the community.
- To actively support the Barnabas Thrive! Community Project.
- To engage diplomatically with the Muslim community on our doorstep.

Clergy Wellbeing and Support

A very warm and Christian welcome from all our members. A dedicated leading and preaching team to provide support with services and work load. Three very experienced churchwardens, a committed and extremely knowledgeable Treasurer. Two very capable and faithful Licensed Lay Ministers.

The opportunity to set a new path for our church, with a congregation who are largely accepting and open to change. This is a chance to make a real difference at a significant time for our community.

An enthusiastic, energetic, and supportive team of volunteers with a wide range of gifts.

PCCs who will support you practically, emotionally and spiritually. We will always have respect for you: your time, your space and the wellbeing of you and your family. As a PCC we are looking to adopt 'The Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing'.



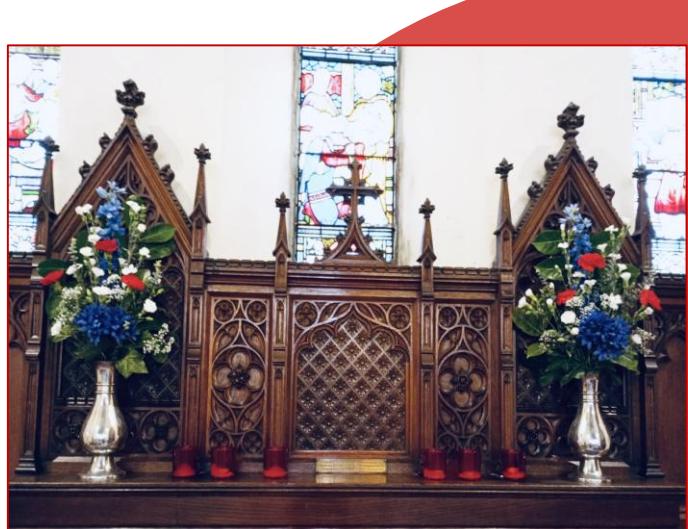
Present Pattern of Worship

Holy Trinity bases its worship around the main Sunday service at 11am, typically attended, on average, by 38 adults and 10 children.

Service Materials:

We have transitioned from traditional hymn books to projecting song lyrics and liturgy onto screens, facilitating congregational participation. Holy Communion liturgy is sourced from the diocesan website, aligning with the Church of England's Common Worship resources. Standard texts such as the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and confessions are utilised, consistent with typical Church of England practices.

Visiting clergy leading Holy Communion during interregnum periods have donned vestments, which the congregation appreciate. We are very flexible in our style and approach to Worship. Members with gifts in leadership and preaching are actively involved, with lay members delivering the Bible readings and intercessory prayers. We also have a rota for sidespeople, cleaning, flowers and coffee, these volunteers are the unsung heroes of Holy Trinity.



Present Pattern of Worship

At St. Barnabas the main Sunday service is at 9.30am. We have a small but enthusiastic core congregation of about 24 adults and 7 children. The church is made up mainly of people from British, Caribbean and African origins.

The preacher at St. Barnabas then goes on to Holy Trinity to preach there. Our service materials and procedures are also the same, with the same order of service and hymns being used in both places.

We have a Bible Study on a Wednesday morning, attended by people from both churches and sometimes others. The Bible Study currently looks in depth at the Bible by working through various books.

There is normally a midweek Communion. This cannot be held at the moment because there is nobody available who is licensed to serve communion. It is also attended by people from both churches.

At Christmas and Easter there are joint services aternating between the two buildings.



Mission

Holy Trinity Mission Statement

To shine a light in the darkness by worshipping and following Jesus Christ and serving the community in his name. We seek to build the Kingdom of God in Waterhead, through worship, discipleship, service and spreading the Good News.



Our mission action plan has only recently been formulated and is now being used within our services and daily interactions.

As a church, our priorities are:

Increasing worship in church, particularly that of our younger members.

Increasing spirituality outside of services.

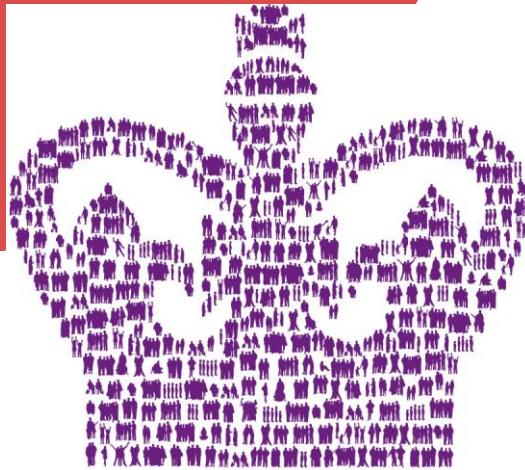
Supporting those in need within our parish.

Working to make our church inclusive.

The vision we have for Waterhead is underpinned and inspired by the [Diocese of Manchester's vision for 2030](#), which is built around the four following themes:

- Growing Younger.
- Church Planting and Revitalisation.
- Developing Missional Leaders.
- Parish Renewal.

Mission



The King's Award for Voluntary Service

Food Thrive! Low-cost food is provided through collaboration with FareShare, an organisation that collects and redistributes short-coded supermarket surplus.

Women Thrive! Women are encouraged to develop to their full potential.

Teen Thrive! Teen Thrive helps support those affected by the mental-health crisis in this part of Oldham. It includes access to a suite of exercise machines in a comfortable and safe space.

Clean Thrive! There is a washing machine and tumble dryer available for community use.

Holiday Thrive! Holiday clubs have been run over several years, funded by an Oldham Council initiative to provide food for those in receipt of free school meals.

St Barnabas

The ethos of the church is very much community focussed. The award-winning Barnabas Thrive! project has a paid part-time community worker and delivers programmes on the following fronts:



Growing Younger



Holy Trinity has a midweek family service called 'WOW' Worship on Wednesday. This service is intended to engage children and grow their faith. We use props, videos and action songs to help bring the Good News to life in a fun and appealing manner.

WOW attendance is usually around 70 people and is currently led by Lucie, Licensed Lay Reader.

St Barnabas currently has no specific provision for young people's worship, though they are very welcome within the main service.



Holy Trinity Parish Hall

We have a unique sports hall and events venue with the capability to host a variety of functions. We house several longstanding community groups: Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. Weekly classes include two dance schools, parent and baby groups, Footy Tots and Chair Yoga.

We have a fully licensed bar, serving a large selection of soft drinks, bottle beers, spirits and draught beers. We can offer unique packages from dressed formal events to disco. There is a Bluetooth-capable sound system and integrated drop-down screen and projector.

Waterhead Parish Hall is ever changing, with improvements to the facilities and evolving community needs. Our latest volunteer-run programme, which is overseen by the Hall Manager. The 'Family Hub Night' takes place on the last Friday of every month. This offers a free, safe place for families to come and use all the facilities: for example, pool table, indoor archery, bouncy castle, and table tennis. And with the bar open, the parents can have a cheeky Friday night drink. We run regular quiz nights, which are always very popular and draw a big crowd. Our children's Halloween party is always a huge hit with local families. The centre is an integral part of the community and is used well. The hall contributes to the Parish Share.



Leadership Team

Holy Trinity

Linda Birkby: Parish Safeguarding Officer

Vicky Heaton: Treasurer

Zoe Liles: PCC Secretary

Daniel Reilly: Hall Manager

Pete Haslam: Licensed Lay Minister

Geoff Lees: PCC Member

Jack Peacock: PCC Member

Val Crane: Churchwarden

John Wolstencroft: Churchwarden

Lucie Reilly: Chair of the PCC/LLM



Leadership Team

St Barnabas

Vicky Heaton: Treasurer

Pete Haslam: Chair of the PCC, LLM and Churchwarden

Lucie Reilly: LLM

John Booth: PCC Secretary

Jude Oyas Asekhameh: PCC Member

Sharon Trotman-Green:: PCC Member

Sarah Wilding PCC Member

Sarah Gura: Church Administrator/ALM

MaryAnn Oduntan: Community Worker/PSO

Both Churches

Rev Robin Wilding: Bible Study Leader

Sarah Wilding: Church Magazine Editor

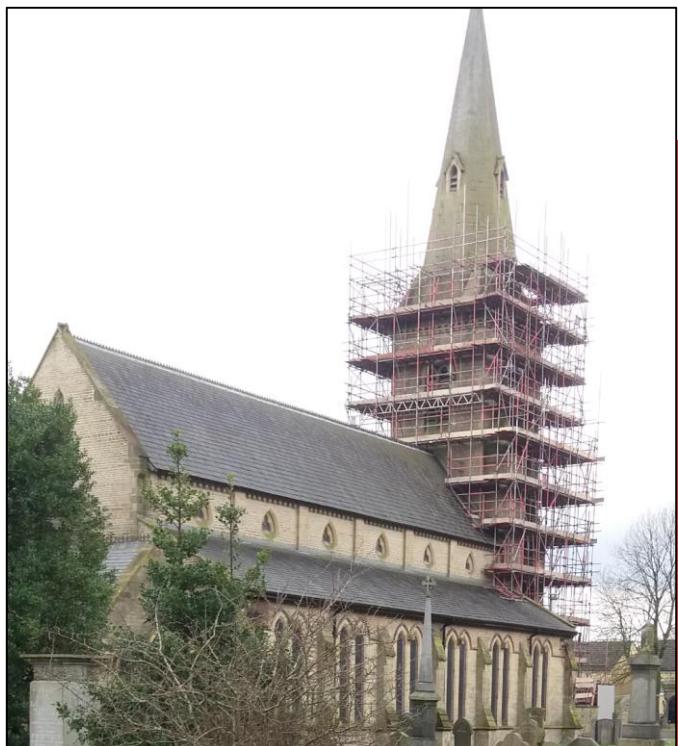
Rev Miles Howarth: Retired Vicar with PTO



Church Buildings

Holy Trinity's building has been extensively renovated since 2011 as follows:

- Vestry modernized and chancel reordered.
- Toilets, including those with disabled access, installed.
- New joists and floor at the rear of the church, including removal of the pews. This allowed for a community space which includes a kitchenette.
- There was a new roof and new gas boiler installed by 2014.
- An access ramp was added to the main entrance in 2015.
- New lighting in the chancel and nave installed in 2016.
- Tower and Spire renovation 2016.
- Most recently, LED screens for worship have been installed either side of the nave.



Church Buildings

At St. Barnabas the Church and hall were joined in 2008 with a purpose-built link. Most recently:

- We brought forward the altar from the sanctuary to the edge of the chancel and reordered the remainder of the chancel to a high standard, with new altar rails of modern-looking American white oak.
- We installed a projector and screen (2014), modern heating system (2015), toilet block (2017), sound system (2022), and lighting (2022).
- We stripped the floor and replaced the pews with good chairs (2024).
- The building is mostly structurally sound but the roof is in need of repair; we are currently looking for funding for this.
- The Church Hall has been extensively adapted to house the food co-operative. As well as the Barnabas Thrive! activities, it is rented out for community use.



The Vicarage

Follow PCC discussions within both Holy Trinity and St Barnabas regarding the current vicarage, we are all in agreement that it is not suitable long-term.

With the help of the DBF and Senior Leaders, we are currently exploring options for accommodation that would be central to both Parishes. This work is ongoing.

Benefice Finances

In 2024, both our churches successfully paid their parish share in full, which is a testament to our collective dedication and hard work.

However, as we step into 2025, we are encountering some challenges. Increased running costs, coupled with a decline in donations and fund raising events, have made it more difficult for us to meet our financial obligations this year. Despite these hurdles, we remain optimistic. With the arrival of our new Vicar, we are hopeful that they will bring fresh energy and ideas to our community, helping us to navigate these tough times.