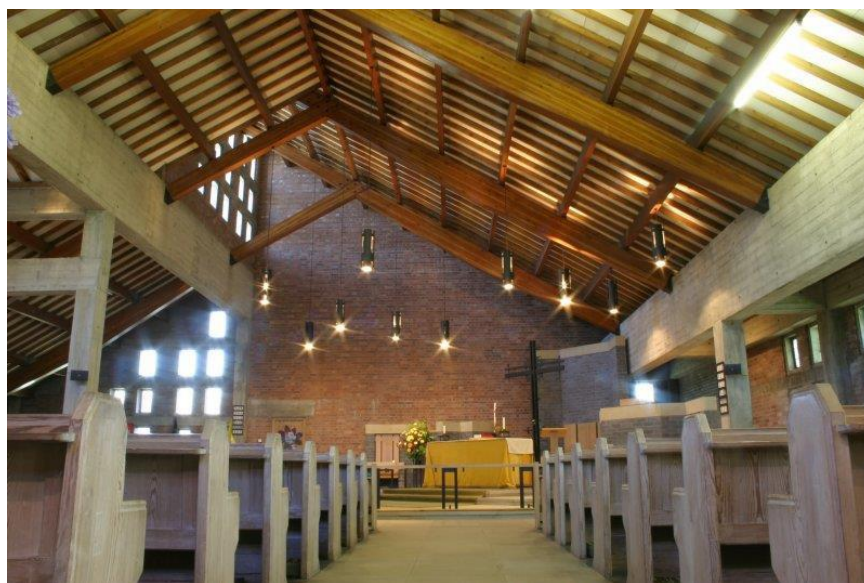




Parish of St. Saviour, Fairweather Green

Interim Priest-in-Charge



About the wider context

As part of the Interim Ministry Scheme – see Bishop's Statement - St Saviour's has six specific objectives as part of revitalizing parish ministry and mission.

From June 2023-Jan 2024 the congregation is engaging in a series of Focused Discussion Groups, to think through questions of vision and strategy.

We started looking at the PAST, asking what has been central to the church that we want to take forward/regain, and these were the answers: Holy; Communion; Hymns and sermon; Fellowship; Our history; Our own vicar being near to be able to help and support; Full pews.

Over the next 6 months we'll be looking at a number of questions:

- 1) What is the church called to be and do?
- 2) DISCIPLESHIP - Are you good news within the church?
- 3) WORSHIP - Is the worship good news?
- 4) COMMUNITY - Is the church good news to the parish? 1
- 5) MISSION - Is the church good news to the parish? 2

The planned outcome is a Mission Action Plan to shape and focus our energy for the future, with the congregation on board, and with a sense of who we might need to partner with to do it.

The PCC feel that the areas of Church life in particular need of development are:

- Developing our style and form of worship
- Engaging with children and families
- Developing a system of income generation

This is the main area of mission we would like you to prioritize in your ministry:

Reaching out with God's love to engage anyone and everyone

The top three challenges with which together we need to engage with:

- 1) Growing church numbers
- 2) Engaging with the community
- 3) Links with school

About the parish

St Saviour's Fairweather Green is part of the Outer Deanery of Bradford Episcopal Area. The church is in a residential area of Fairweather Green, a relatively small parish in size compared to other local parishes. Bordered by busy roads –

Thornton Road and Allerton Road, with the Lower Grange Estate in the west of the parish, and Clayton Beck valley to the south.

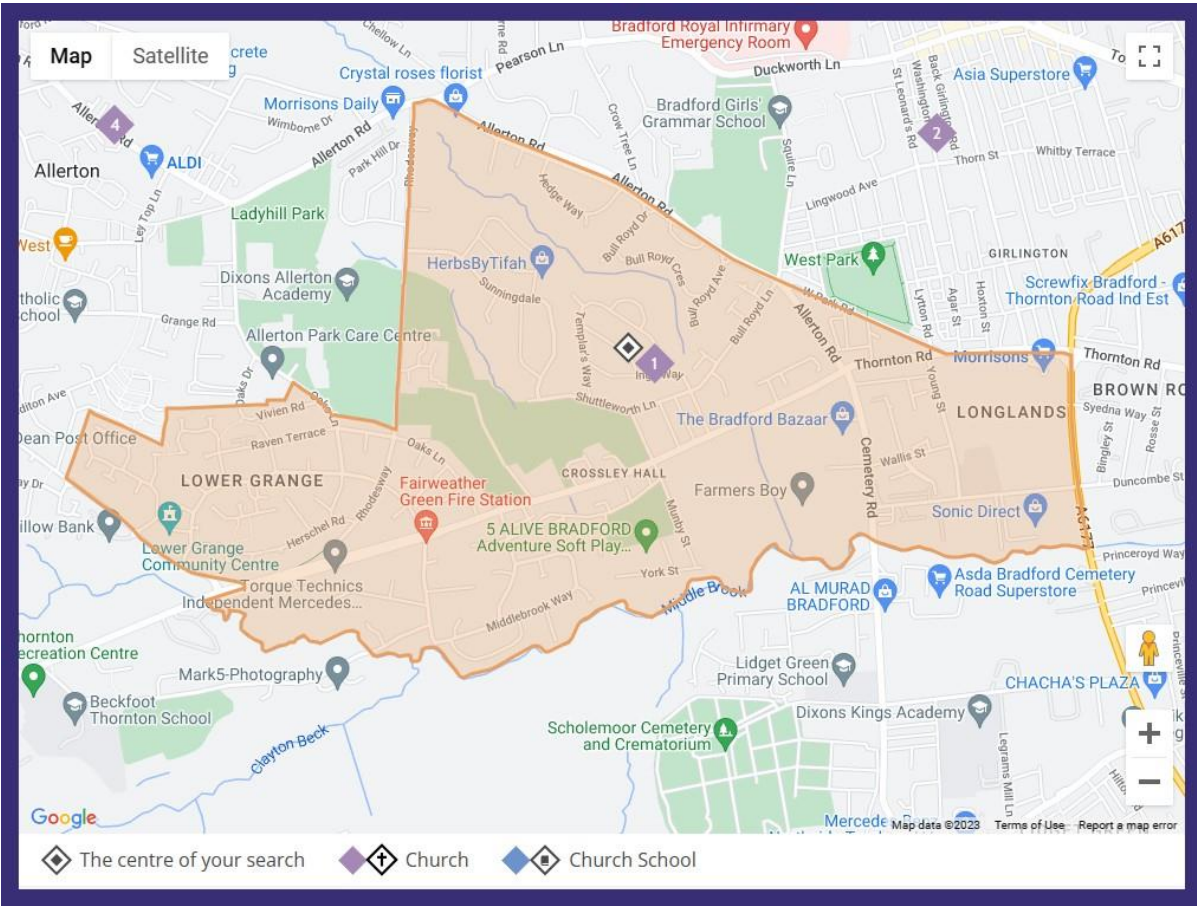
Some key stats for Fairweather Green:

- Population in 2018 was 7,400
- Employment is mainly manual workers, with some professional/executive.
- Ethnic mix has changed over last decade, with local schools currently having 95% attendance from Asian ethnicity.
- The Lower Grange Estate is a recognized deprived area.
- Lower Grange Community Centre offer a variety of community services.
- There are three schools in the parish: Crossley Hall Primary School; Bradford Alternative Provision Academy; St. William’s RC Primary School.
- Other places of worship: Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Al-Hikam Institute.

A spiritual presence was first established in the hamlet of Fairweather Green in the 19th century as a house church, followed by a Mission Hut being built in 1883. Over the next 80 years the church grew steadily, and the congregation moved to the newly built church in 1966 as new areas of housing were built.

Some of the best things about Fairweather Green:

- Green spaces, good transport links, good amenities, diverse community, sports facilities.



About the Church

The Church and its people

St Saviour's has a regular worshipping congregation of 18, with a wider fringe of 10. In the last 6 months we have had a number of newer people join the church, including one family giving a regular presence of 3 children.

The congregation is 75% actively retired, with a 81-19% female-male ratio. Majority ethnically white British, with some Afro-Caribbean and Nigerian. Just under 50% of the congregation live in the parish. We don't have children's groups but have a children's corner and try to involve children in worship.

We have taken part in joint events/courses across the 4 parishes including:

- A Lent course, an Alpha Course, prayer events for Thy Kingdom Come, praise and prayer evening.
- Opportunity to attend Diocesan lay leadership course called "Personal Growth and Leadership Course)

We worship at 10am on Sundays and 9.30am on alternate Wednesdays, all Services of Holy Communion Services. The tradition is central, cassock alb, chasuble and stole preferred for services, with Hymns Old and New and organ CDs for worship.

There is a committed PCC who take much responsibility for the church and work well with the clergy and congregation. Various community groups are run by lay members, and regular members serve, read and lead intercessions at services.

There is strong leadership in community activities and growing leadership in worship. The church has a strong history of well-organized and thriving community and social activities, and a deep commitment to worship.

We have an administrator working 8 hours per week, shared with St Peter's and St James' (also 8 hours per week each).

At St Saviour's you will find a warm and welcoming congregation who care for each other, in a modern building.



The Church and the community

St Saviour's engages in the community in a number of ways:

- Ings Way Community Lunch - every 2nd Wednesday
- Knit and Natter – weekly
- Crossley House Care Home – monthly service of Holy Communion

- Occasional visits from local primary school – Crossley Hall Primary
- Part of the ‘Warm/Welcoming Spaces’ scheme.
- Uniformed groups: Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers. These are active and well attended groups, headed up by church members, and with strong links with the church.

Various groups use our premises, including: Councilors’ surgeries; polling station; Bradford Council Family Support; New Joy International Gospel Church hires the church and hall on Sunday afternoon for their worship, and we have shared joint summer outdoor celebration each year for the last 2 years.

We partner with charity Primetime: Primetime is a charity working in Bradford with children and young people to offer a variety of sessions, youth work and leadership course. At St Saviour’s they run a weekly Cook and Eat session for Primary school aged children, a Young Leaders Course and some detached youth work around the parish.

Cook and Eat



Ages 5-11

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Wednesdays

PRIMETIME BRADFORD

Where:
 St. Saviour's Church
 Ings Way,
 Fairweather Green,
 Bradford,
 BD8 0LU

About the club:
 Cook and Eat is a place for children to learn how to cook and play games in a fun environment.

Contact Us:
admin@primetimebradford.com
 01274 788328





Other things to note:

- We hire our church hall out.
- We infrequently have weddings, funerals and baptism.
- The churches in Allerton and Fairweather Green take it in turns to lead the Civic Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in Ladyhill Park. They also share in a service for the World Day of Prayer.



The Church and its buildings

Designed by the well-known architect George Pace, the church was built to an unusual but practical plan in brick and reinforced concrete. It was opened in 1966 to replace a small chapel nearby which had served the congregation since 1883. In November 2007 it was granted Grade II listed status, being recognized as a complete example of the work of George Pace and notable for its striking design. Although only 57 years old, St. Saviour's incorporates early Victorian pews from St. John's in Little Horton. St. John's also kindly provided a striking Byzantine-style mosaic depicting Jesus' meeting with Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus.

The building comprises a central worship space, entrance hall, small chapel, small kitchen and decent sized hall. The general state is fairly good but needs work on monitoring of diseased trees; refurbishment of doors, windows, window surrounds and protective material; repairs to the concrete surrounds of the windows; and a certain amount of refurbishment of the church hall and the exterior of the church, so it looks more open and alive.



The Church and its finances

Finances have been challenging over the last few years. Whilst income and expenditure are often closely aligned, this is because we pay less than 50% of our parish share.

We have been working to increase hall hire and hire rates, reduce energy costs, and make other changes, and that has had positive results so far in 2023. We hire out the church and hall on Sunday afternoons to New Joy International Church, with whom we do occasional shared events, and run seasonal social events and fairs. We pay reasonable clergy expenses in full.

What kind of priest are we looking for?

These are our top three qualities we feel are essential for the ministry in Fairweather Green:

- 1) A dynamic, prayerful, spiritual team leader
- 2) Experience of or sympathy for maintaining the traditional rhythm of worship whilst willing to experiment to 'break new ground' in the parish and so attract children and young families.
- 3) A person who is comfortable in a changing multi-faith, multi-ethnic environment.

What can you expect of us?

The PCC and congregation will do our best to support you and work with you in our shared ministry. We expect you to take proper holidays and days off, and we will support you in time taken for ongoing training, reading and personal development.