

Family Groups

In the Archdiocese of Cardiff

Three parishes have Family Groups

- St Philip Evans – Cardiff
- St Helen's – Caerphilly
- St Dyfrig's – Trefforest

St Philip Evans, Cardiff

This parish developed groups after a visit from Fr Peter several years ago. They used to have multiple groups but there is now only one active group.

Group Co-ordinator Gareth Hayes

It has 14 or so Parish members + 2 from another Parish + several partners (non-catholics) that participate. Wider family members of each participant are welcome and often join in, including children. The age range of core membership is 40-80.

- Meet most months, not August,
 - most often a shared lunch and chat but also: play skittles, have a BBQ, go for a pub lunch, go on day trips- Margam Park and steam railways, this year.
 - Annual house Mass.
 - Some will go to a Christmas market - last year Portsmouth, this year probably Worcester (have been to Europe).
 - In 2020 some are going to Oberammergau as a group.
 - Proms in the Park 2 years ago, possibly again this year.

They try and make dates as inclusive as possible but accept that we are never all able to go to all events.

- They arrange Ts and Coffees at the end of Sunday mass once a month for any parishioner that wants to stop and chat.
- Help out at Parish events.
- They have a virtual prayer group and celebrate and commiserate collectively.

St Helen's, Caerphilly

This parish's family group was initiated by an Australian couple, Tracey & Steve Hoy, who moved to the parish; it was inspired by their lived experience of Family Groups in Australia.

Group Co-ordinators Steve & Tracey Hoy

- Numbers wax and wane, but we have a core group of roughly 15-20 people but when someone leaves, we often have someone new interested.

- Family Group runs the Morning Tea after Mass every Sunday. There are a good core group of people and several other people usually come in, plus we often have new people or visitors as well. Usually about 25-30 people each Sunday.
Our morning tea is free, but has a donations bowl and we make about £10-£15 each week, which we use throughout the year for donations to CAFOD and Macmillan's Cancer fund, and have made donations to our two catholic schools for books. Whatever is left at the end of a year, we use to subsidise the Family Group Night out.
- Held a Curry night at the church hall, a Walk to Ruperra Castle, a Family Trivia Night, Lunch, a walk and coffee/cake at the Garwnant National Park.
- They weren't able to organise a Christmas function this year, but the year before, they had a subsidised family dinner at a lovely little pub in Cardiff.

St Dyfrig's, Trefforest

The St Dyfrig's Family Group in Trefforest has been running now for nearly three years and meet every other month to enjoy each other's company, share food and generally increase the sense of family in our parish.

Group Co-ordinators Teresa & Allan De-Ste-Croix

A core group of 5 families who come to nearly every event and another 5/6 families who come along to some of the events.

- An international group: Welsh, English and Sri Lankans and the families aren't just mum, dad and kids, some are couples whose children have left home and others are single.
- Annual Family Group barbecue is the most popular event of the year, which we hold after a Sunday Mass in July in the church grounds. It is an opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of the group starting.
- Another well attended event is the annual Fireworks night: Group meet and go to Pontypridd Common to watch the fireworks display and then finish off back at Co-ordinators' house with hot dogs and soup.
- Also enjoyed a Eurovision night (with a European themed bring-and-share meal), picnics, walks and a surprisingly good evening: "Bring a photo, tell a story" (with obligatory bring-and-share food); the latter held three times and each time end up learning so much more about the other members of our extended family.
- Future events: a bluebell wood walk in May, anniversary Mass & Barbecue in July and the birth of a new baby to one of the Sri Lankan families.

Potential development

- St Alban-on-the-Moors, Cardiff
- St Mary's & St Paul's, Chepstow & Caldiect.