

THE PARISH OF BEMBRIDGE



A Parish Profile

Prepared for: Holy Trinity Church

Prepared by: Sheila Low and Sally Davies, Churchwardens, and assisted by the PCC and the congregation.

ABOUT THE PARISH

Holy Trinity Church is found within the Parish of Bembridge, a seaside village on the eastern tip of the Isle of Wight. This attractive and vibrant village is set adjoining the boundaries of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with a natural harbour, marshlands, chalk cliffs and sandy beaches. The church itself dates from 1846 and stands in a churchyard, within a Conservation area, close to the village centre. A pathway from the south doorway leads to the church hall, known as The Cloisters. It is one of a trio of churches, the others being the Methodist and Roman Catholic churches. Links between the churches are strong and built around a feeling of shared love, fellowship and faith in God.

The village amenities are such that most day to day needs can be catered for in the bustling little High Street and Lane End parade. Amongst others, there are two branches of the Co-op, a Deli, a Farm shop, a Butchers and a Fish shop, Jewellers, Hairdressers, Beauty salons and a charity shop supporting the Isle of Wight Hospice, all meeting the needs of the local community.

There is a community run Library, a Heritage Centre, a Church of England (Controlled) Primary School, a Village Hall, a Branch Surgery, a Dental practice, a dispensing Chemist, a branch of Lloyd's bank, a Funeral Directors, several Estate agents and three Residential care homes. Several popular pubs, takeaway food outlets and cafes, as well as Tapas, and a la carte dining, cater for food lovers.

Socially, Bembridge boasts its own Scout and Sea Cadet troops as well as packs of Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. There is a Bowls club, a busy Community Centre and a park. The cultural interests of the community, both musical and artistic, are met by a wide variety of groups who meet in the village. The Fire Station and Lifeboat Station keep the community safe on land and sea. The village is also known for its beautifully restored Windmill, owned and run by the National Trust. An hourly bus and local taxi services enable the village to be well connected to the rest of the Island.

Bembridge harbour has its own uniqueness. A tidal harbour, it provides safe waters for numerous wild birds together with a community of houseboat dwellers, two popular sailing clubs, and many businesses linked to water based activities. In warmer months, the pontoon at Fisherman's quay and the popular Marina are often several boats deep. The harbour can be crossed by water taxi during the summer months or by walking across a stone causeway to the sand dunes of St Helen's Duver.

The village population of around 3,560 ebbs and flows with the seasonal influx of visitors to The Bembridge Coast Hotel, Kingswood Adventure Holiday Centre, Whitecliff bay Holiday Park and camping facility and families for whom Bembridge provides a weekend sanctuary from weekday life in the City. 20% of properties fall into the category of second homes, holiday lets and rentals. There are many families who have lived in the village for generations and families who have visited and stayed, relishing the lifestyle Bembridge has to offer. A mixture of housing makes up a village where senior residents and the younger generation feel safe and secure, whilst having plenty of opportunities to socialise and go about their daily lives.

ABOUT THE BUILDINGS

Holy Trinity Church, the Cloisters, St Luke's Chapel and the Vicarage

Holy Trinity Church

Holy Trinity was built in 1827. Sadly it suffered from slippage, due to its location on the seam of Blue Slipper clay that runs through Bembridge. The original church was demolished and replaced in 1846 by the current building. Framed by a Lych gate, the pathway leads you from the main road to the Grade 2 listed church building, which is in a fairly good state of repair both inside and out.

The church has recently benefitted from the complete renewal of the internal ceiling, a repair funded entirely through the generosity of members of the village supporting an appeal by The Friends of Holy Trinity. The organ has recently been cleaned and tuned. The south wall of the church bell tower is about to be repointed. There are windows that need attention and there is the need for some internal decoration.

The surrounding churchyard has numerous graves, some dating back to the 1800's. The church yard was closed in 1922. On the advice of the Archdeacon and the Church Architect, the PCC has recently embarked on a programme of annual maintenance to ensure head stones do not present a health and safety issue for visitors to the churchyard. The churchyard is being mapped in preparation for the works to begin.

The layout inside the church is traditional, although some pews have been removed around the font to allow for gatherings and to provide access for wheelchairs and prams. Newly installed toilet facilities can be found at the back of the church. The wooden pews, internal carpeting and general fabric of the building are kept in good order by the dedicated band of volunteers who give willingly of their time and energy. A paid cleaner comes in once a fortnight to support the team of volunteers who clean the church.

The church is kept decorated with flowers by a team of volunteers who enjoy working with nature's gifts from the garden. There is an annual Flower Festival in May. The surrounding gardens are kept mown by a contract gardener and flower beds are tended to by volunteers from within the congregation.

The Cloisters

The Cloisters was originally a Victorian school and has undergone extensive refurbishment within the last four years, the cost of which was met by fundraising organised by the "Friends of Holy Trinity". Brick built, with a high tiled roof, the building is divided into two main rooms. The smaller meeting room has a cosy feel and provides the perfect venue for small gatherings. It houses an office facility used by the remunerated Parish Administrator who acts as Occasional Verger. The larger hall benefits from having doors opening onto the garden and a hatched counter into a well-appointed kitchen. This multi-purpose area is used for both church and village functions, some of which are organised by the Social Committee. The outside garden

provides a lovely sheltered venue for garden parties and the annual summer Pet Service. The Cloisters is available for hire. It is an invaluable asset to the church and the village community and its use could be further explored by a new Vicar.

St Luke's Chapel

The Mission Chapel of St Luke's is situated in Lane End Road at the entry to a Parish Council maintained burial ground. In a reasonable state of repair it comprises the chapel, a vestry for robing and a toilet. There are 55 chapel chairs, a Clavinova keyboard and portable Font as well as the Altar and a small wooden lectern. The building is occasionally used by the local Funeral Director as a Chapel of Rest and he undertakes minor running repairs to the building in return for its use.

The Vicarage

The Grade 2 listed Vicarage lies across the road from Holy Trinity Church, set within a large garden, mainly laid to lawn. It is within the Conservation Area. The house is approached by a gravel driveway with parking for at least four cars. Built of grey stone, this imposing building has many interesting features, including arched windows, high ceilings and original tiled floors. It has glimpses of sea views from several of the upstairs windows. The Vicarage could be a lovely family home, despite being in need of some upgrading.

The Diocesan Property Committee will give consideration to replacing the current house designated as the Vicarage. This will depend upon the maintenance and modernisation requirements needs of the property and the wishes of a new priest.

The general maintenance of the fabric of the church and other buildings and elements of Health and Safety, relating to the function of the church and the buildings, are overseen by two very experienced members of the congregation who work closely with the Vicar and the Church wardens.

Members of the congregation give willingly of their time to help with the upkeep of the Church, the Cloisters and St Lukes's Chapel.

"I was really pleased to be asked to adopt a flowerbed in the Cloister's garden" said Fran "I love pottering in gardens and it will give me something to do"

"Thank you for asking me to sweep up the leaves Sally, I do like to be useful" said Les

Holy Trinity and the Cloisters have recently been surveyed by Ecclesiastical Insurance for a policy review.

Areas for future maintenance:

- Some areas of internal plastering need urgent attention around the windows
- The possibility of seat cushions in the pews has been discussed and agreed in the past
- The refurbishment of a picture window in the Cloisters

ABOUT THE CHURCH SERVICES AND THE CONGREGATION

Services at St Luke's Chapel

The 8.00 am Sunday service of Holy Communion at the little chapel of St Luke's has a regular attendance of between 10 and 20 parishioners and this number is often swelled by a number of visitors in the summer months, who wish to enjoy the spoken word of the service taken from the Book of Common Prayer.

Matins is said every day except on a Tuesday, and at St Luke's on a Wednesday at 9.30 am. The Matins is said at St Luke's on a Wednesday at 9.30 am, followed by a service of Holy Communion Common Worship at 10.00 am. Many of the congregation who attend this service pop into the Deli for a coffee afterwards!

Services at Holy Trinity Church

With a regular weekly congregation of between 80 to 120 people, the 10.30 am Sunday morning service of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, means it is one of the most popular churches on the Isle of Wight. The recent Bembridge Neighbourhood Development Plan identified that 48% of the village population is over 60 years of age and it is probably fair to say that the congregation is largely made up from this group, together with a small number of younger families with young children. There are 200 people on the Church Electoral Roll, of which 12.5 % only are under 60. We are very proud to have a centenarian in the congregation, together with several stalwart members well into their nineties who regularly give of their wisdom and time in actively contributing to the smooth running of the church.

The Sunday morning Communion Service of Common Worship at 10.30 am, is led by the Vicar and the Associate Priest. There are two retired Clergymen who also take services. Readings and Intercessions are delivered by members of the congregation. Holy Trinity has an experienced and enthusiastic church adult choir which is accompanied by a gifted and experienced organist and deputy organist. The choir often sings anthems and responses composed by the choir master. Baptisms are sometimes included in the service or are held at other times.

Mid-way through the second hymn, the children are invited to go to "Stepping Stones", the worship group for children of 11 years and under which is held in the Cloisters. Art and craft activities provide a medium for the delivery of God's message and the children usually return to the service just before Communion is taken, clutching some delightful creation relating to the message of the day.

The first Sunday of the month is the popular "Thank God, it's Sunday" service. This less formal, "All age" worship Service has a junior choir in attendance. The church is filled with music played by a group of talented musicians from the congregation and the service follows the Lectionary

messages and is adapted to involve all age ranges. At certain times of the year celebrations such as Harvest Festival and Mothering Sunday may take place during the service.

We walked into Holy Trinity as visitors and were immediately given a really friendly welcome. The service was lovely too and we felt quite at home" John and Sylvia, on holiday in Bembridge. "I love coming to Holy Trinity each Sunday. I like seeing my friends and worshipping God in the safety and sanctity of the beautiful church" said Margaret.

A meditation group meets in Holy Trinity on a Monday morning.

Other forms of worship include Prayer circle meetings, Ecumenical groups and services and Bible Study groups take place regularly throughout the year.

The smooth running of the services at both St Luke's and Holy Trinity is largely down to the dedicated teams of people, comprising members of the congregation, who are pleased to be able to help. The vestry is run efficiently by the Verger and Vestry teams who liaise with the Vicar and the two Churchwardens and two assistant Churchwardens to ensure the services run smoothly.

For members of the community who are unable to make the journey to church, the Vicar regularly provides Holy Communion to as many as 37 parishioners in their own homes and in the three Rest homes for the elderly in the village.

"The Vicar has been lovely since Jim hasn't been able to get to church" said Joan. "He has come and given us Communion in our home which we have found very comforting."

Holy Trinity gives everyone a warm welcome. This is frequently commented on by visitors to the church throughout the year.

Details of all the services and activities can be found in the delightful Parish magazine which is published monthly and is widely circulated.

Areas of development for Worship

The number of attendees at the Sunday morning service has gradually diminished over this year in particular, as we have said farewell to many dear departed friends. A new Priest in Charge will need to be able to "go fishing for folk" and spread our mission statement, "loving God in our worship, caring and sharing" amongst the old and the young.

Although there are strong links with the Church school in the village where the Vicar takes an assembly on every second Thursday of the month, the outreach to families is an area for development. The building of even greater links with the families must be of importance to a new Vicar, who wishes to become immersed in village life. Children are usually able to "tell it as

it is”, and they would be able to give a steer on how they would like to take part in the life of the church.

THE CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY

The Church Year

The position of Holy Trinity church in the centre of the village means it is ideally placed to be fully integrated into village life. It is the setting for all kinds of occasions throughout the Church calendar year. Indeed, in 2014 alone, there have been 16 baptisms, 11 weddings and 11 Church funerals, and 16 funerals at the Crematorium.

“There is a strong sense of belonging in the village and the presence of the church in the heart of the village is a great comfort to many people” says Joan

The Community Year

The Cloisters is the venue for the popular twice weekly Lunch Club. Members of the community enjoy a nourishing cooked meal and lots of good company in this warm and welcoming building. An excellent paid chef is supported by voluntary members of the catering team. Volunteer drivers also use the Bembridge Community bus to transport people to and from the Lunch Club.

“I look forward to having a nice hot lunch that I haven’t had to cook myself” said Eric. “We always have a good yarn afterwards too”

Numerous other groups also meet in the Cloisters throughout the week.

Special Connections Close To Home

“Learning to love God, one another and ourselves” is the mission statement of Bembridge Church of England (Controlled) Primary School. The school is housed in a purpose built bright and friendly building; the school has a pupil roll of 196. The adjacent park and playing fields provide an enviable amount of outdoor space for sport and playtimes filled with fresh air.

An Ofsted Inspection of Bembridge Church of England Primary School in 2011 recorded “Bembridge Church of England primary is an outstanding school. The Staff are extremely skilled at engaging pupils, and encouraging them to work hard and develop excellent attitudes to learning. Consequently, throughout the school, pupils’ achievement is excellent and attainment is much higher than seen nationally.”

The much sought after judgment of “Outstanding” has led to an increased demand for places at the popular Primary School. The Vicar, together with two members of the congregation, is on the Board of Governors and gives both pastoral and spiritual support to the Head, the staff and the children. Many pupils go on to attend Christ the King School, a joint Church of England and Roman Catholic Secondary school in Newport, which has been judged “Good” by Ofsted.

“I come to school on my scooter each day and I love seeing all my friends. You have to do hard work but you just have to get on with it and soon you can go outside.” Rufus, aged 9.

The Church has close relationships with Bembridge Lifeboat Station and Bembridge Sailing Clubs. Songs of Praise on the beach and Carols at Christmas are just two of the ways links are maintained. Members of the Pastoral visiting team visit the elderly both in their own homes, in hospital and Rest homes.

Ecumenical relations between the three churches in the Parish of Bembridge are good, with mutual support on hand whenever the need arises. Shared events such as the Church Mission Autumn Bazaar, the Village Songs of Praise, Women’s World Day of Prayer, and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are just some of the events when the three church communities serve God together through loving and giving. The Bembridge Community mini bus is housed next to the Methodist Church and provides transport for villagers when needed.

Holy Trinity supports the needy in the community through the donations of food to “Needs and Seeds”. There are also annual donations made by the Churchwardens to those in need in the village and the Isle of Wight, as a result of past legacies left over time.

Special Connections Abroad

Holy Trinity has had a link with St Joseph’s Church, Busunya, in Ghana, for the last eighteen years. During this time, St Joseph’s has had three priests. There has been sporadic correspondence between the churches. Money has been donated for building projects and bicycles. In addition, children’s reading schemes, bible reading notes and footballs have been sent out. More recently, funds have been donated for their Kindergarten School, which has taken a long time to build. It is now complete and greatly appreciated. A larger church is now being built as they have outgrown the old one. Father Edward Baffoe is now the Priest in Charge.

The Friends of Holy Trinity

The congregation is very grateful for the support the church receives from this very active group of fundraisers. Ideas for development are presented by the PCC to the Friends for discussion and approval and a variety of fundraising activities are organized by the Friends to raise money to fund the projects. Most recently, the Friends raised an astonishing amount of money, which together with various grants, went towards the refurbishment of the Cloisters.

- The Friends of Holy Trinity has most recently agreed to fund some work on the roof of Holy Trinity and the restoration of an original, decorative window in the Cloisters.
- The Friends of Holy Trinity Church is also currently looking at ideas to enhance the ambiance of the Cloisters Garden and plans will be presented to the PCC shortly

THE CONTEXT FOR MINISTRY

There are two Deaneries on the Isle of Wight. Bembridge currently falls within the East Wight Deanery. The Patron of this parish is the Vicar of Brading, the Rev Drucilla Dennis. The Deanery Synod is currently discussing reducing the Isle of Wight to one Deanery.

Holy Trinity is part of the North East cluster group which includes Ryde, Seaview and St Helens. The Cluster Representatives are one of the Churchwardens and one member of the PCC.

The Priest in Charge of Bembridge will also assume the role of Associate Director of Ordinands. He or she can expect to be supported by a team of people;

- A self-supporting Associate Priest is in post. She is currently supported by two retired clergymen who will share the workload during the vacancy.
- Four hours of administrative support is given to the church by the remunerated Administration Assistant who also fulfils the role of occasional verger.
- A remunerated Church Organist and Choir master.
- The two church wardens are supported by two Deputy Churchwardens who have themselves been churchwardens and have a wealth of knowledge between them all.
- Members of the PCC sit on committees for Buildings, Social, Worship, Finance, The Cloisters and the Standing Committee. Reports from committees are given to the PCC.

The financial position of Holy Trinity is sound, thanks to the careful management of funds by the Treasurer and generosity of the congregation and fundraising efforts by everyone, including the Friends of Holy Trinity. The church is in the fortunate position of being able to pay its "Parish Share" regularly, the sum of £ 64,000, larger than any other church on the Isle of Wight.

THE ATTRIBUTES AND QUALITIES OF THE PRIEST IN CHARGE

The role: Priest in Charge and Associate Director of Ordinands

Personal Attributes

We would like you to be a happy, approachable person, who acts with sincerity and integrity. You will need to be a humble, patient and encouraging person, who can be part of a team as well as a leader. Most of all we would like you to be kind and gentle with a sense of humour.

Attributes in Delivery of Role

In the delivery of your role you will need to be a Community minded person who is prepared to be involved in a range of activities. You will need to be a very good listener and there will be times when you will need to be a good mediator too. You will need to be an organized administrator, with an understanding of financial matters and an innovative thinker. You will need to be an interesting and thoughtful teacher and a good public speaker.

Most of all we would like you to have a strong affinity with children and families and encourage them to become members of the congregation. You will be able to deliver pastoral care to all ages, giving generously of your time to the elderly; both those who are able to make the journey to church and those who long for company in their own homes.

Attributes of Faith

We sit within the central churchmanship of the Church of England, with an openness to move forward in the future. It is our hope that you will wish to continue to lead worship using the Book of Common Prayer during the 8.00 am Sunday service at St Luke's chapel. We hope you will preach sermons on the Christian faith which are thought provoking and leave the congregation wanting to hear more. You will enjoy a good theological debate and be prepared to take a lead in the Ecumenical life of the village and the Island.

Most of all we would like you to have the love of God at the centre of all you do. It is our hope that with His help and guidance, you will have the vision to lead Holy Trinity Church forward in worship and discipleship, expanding on all that we already have and exploring new ideas for the future.

Thank you for reading our Parish Profile.

If you like what you have read and are interested in finding out more about the post, please do not hesitate to contact either Sally Davies on 01983616272, or Sheila Low on 01983874306.

Financial Statement for Parish of Bembridge 2014

		BUDGET FOR 2014					
						Actual	
Actual 2013						30.9.2014	
		RECEIPTS					
		Congregation					
48558		Gift Aid	52000			37092	
6747		Pledged (not Gift Aid)	5000			5789	
8977		Open Plate	10000			7214	
13566		Tax Refund	12000			6209	
	77848			79000		56304	
		OTHER					
4377		Social Committee Activities	4000			2280	
		Miscellaneous Income	700			8108	
6377		PCC Fees	4500			3534	
3922		Donations(Unrestricted)	3000			4239	
2500		Donations(Restricted)	500			3650	
50000		From Reserves	10000			10000	
2182		Cloisters	3000				
387		Interest	350			139	
1000		Legacies					
93987		Friends of Holy Trinity	35000			49000	
	164732			61050			
	242580	Total Income		140050		137254	
		PAYMENTS					
		Building etc					
10715		Maintenance	3500			10509	
1090		Churchyard	1090			995	
402		Cleaning	450			504	
2587		Insurance Holy Trinity	2700			1685	
371		St Lukes	370			289	
		Cloisters	950			846	
1132		Gas	1500			3060	
1136		Electricity	500			683	
110		Water	150			76	
2024		Cloisters running costs	2500			1738	
143685		Capital projects	45000			52058	
	163252			58710			
		PARISH EXPENSES					
61944		Parish Share	62000			47974	
209		Vicarage	450			167	
3168		Vicars working expenses	2376			2376	

		Curates working expenses	300			80
		Visiting Clergy	50			
		Parish Admin Assistant	1440			1250
	65321	..		66616		
		OTHER				
1322		Upkeep of services	1000			928
3780		Organists	3800			2835
		Choir	100			
		Youth under 8's	50			
1235		Verger				
		Stewardship	90			
1823		Printing & Stationery	2000			2007
1448		Administration	1200			1133
142		Flowers	150			
50		Sundries	100			
550		Charitable giving	1000			50
390		Health & Safety/Training	300			
624		Bank charges	650			624
	11364			10440		
	239937	Total Expenditure		135766		131867

This year to date, Holy Trinity has collected over £2,500 from collections for Christian Aid and other causes.

Locations in the Parish



The spire of Holy Trinity can be seen above the tree line of the woods that frame Bembridge harbour, a Site of Special Scientific Interest.



Holy Trinity Church is found in the centre of the village of Bembridge. It stands within a closed church yard and the entrance is framed by a lych gate.



The Mission Chapel of St Lukes is found in Lane End Road in Bembridge. It can seat a congregation of 50 and is also used as a Chapel of Rest.



The Cloisters, the Church Hall, was originally a school in Victorian times. It is found next door to Holy Trinity Church.



The present Vicarage is just across the road from Holy Trinity Church. It is a Listed Building. The garden is mainly laid to lawn, with a big garden shed tucked around the side of the house.



The annual Blessing of the pet's service is always well attended and the cats are easily outnumbered by the dogs!



Social occasions, inside and out! A gathering in the Village Hall and a gathering in the stable!