
The Parishes
of
Saint Matthew
Bridgemaury
and
Saint Thomas
the Apostle
Elson

PARISH PROFILE
May 2012



The Vacancy

Following the departure of both their parish priests, the opportunity is being taken to join the parishes together as a single pastoral unit, with the post of **priest-in-charge** to be held in 'Plurality'. The post includes part-time **Chaplaincy** to Bridgemary (Secondary) School. Fr Reuben Preston left Bridgemary to go to Saint Mary of Eton, Hackney Wick, in the diocese of London; Fr Simon Rundell left Elson to go to the Roborough Team Ministry, in the diocese of Exeter. It is hoped that a new priest will be in post by the early Autumn. Both parishes value the ministry of women.

The Parishes

The parishes of Bridgemary and Elson are part of the Gosport Deanery, within the Diocese of Portsmouth, lying in the north of the Borough of Gosport (see p. 11 for a Deanery Profile). Gosport is a peninsular community of nearly 75,000 people living in 11 square miles within an extensive coastline fronting onto the Solent and Portsmouth Harbour.

Parishes of Elson and Bridgemary



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Both parishes are on the main bus route between Gosport and Fareham. Bridgemary is within 3 miles of Fareham Station. There is a passenger ferry linking Gosport to Portsmouth which offers a fast rail link to Southampton, Winchester and London. There are also ferries to the Isle of Wight as well as France and Spain. The Cathedral is within walking distance from the passenger ferry.

Within easy reach of both parishes there are many amenities including the local leisure centre, swimming pool, ice-rink and fitness facilities. There are many sporting clubs. Gosport's naval heritage is

recognised by the many establishments and museums within its confines and in Portsmouth Royal Naval Dockyard.

Both parishes are easily identified as 'villages' of the urban area of Gosport and have their distinct centres (see the map). The town has 3 secondary schools, with Bridgemary School being in the parish. There are 6 other schools and 2 Children's Centres. All these welcome a church presence and many come into the churches for seasonal worship and for teaching about symbols and sacraments.

Local shopping is available and the Outlet Stores of Gunwharf are a short ferry ride away in Portsmouth. In Elson, the housing is mainly owner-occupied, including the new development of Priddy's Hard and the waterfront area of Hardway. There is a large homewares store in the parish. Bridgemary's housing was mostly all social housing, built after the 2nd World War; sadly the number of separated or divorced residents ranks in the upper quartile of English communities.

Church buildings

Saint Thomas the Apostle



The Church of Saint Thomas the Apostle stands on the corner of Elson Road and Elson Lane. It was built in 1845 to serve the then small community and still remains very much a neighbourhood church serving all areas of the community. It stands in its own grounds although the original graveyard is now grass and flowerbeds, maintained by Gosport Borough Council.

The Church is a Grade 2-listed building with simple but beautiful features. External floodlighting is maintained at public expense. The architecture is enhanced by what are regarded as some of the finest examples of Victorian stained glass windows at the east end. In 2002, internal floodlighting was installed to illuminate the windows after dark showing our church in a new light. In 2010 the church was fitted with new energy-saving infra-red chandelier heating.

There is a two-manual pipe organ built in 1872 by Bevington. We also use an electric piano. The church now has a level floor with comfortable seating, which can be moved into different formations to accommodate a variety of settings for different events and types of

worship. The narthex is large enough to house our Sunday School and small meetings and has refreshment facilities and a toilet.

2012 will see the launch a 'Building Appeal', hoping to raise £250,000. This will be to restore any stone damage and to carry out the decoration of the internal walls. There are many people who lovingly work behind the scenes.

The church hall was built in 1905 and is situated approximately a quarter of a mile to the east of the church. It is used by many non churchgoers for activities such as self defence, pre provides a good income for the church. On our land adjoining the church hall is the Scout Hall which houses local uniformed groups including Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The Uniformed organisations regularly attend Parade Services.

Saint Matthew's



The very first church in Bridgemary was a mission church attached to Saint Thomas; It was opened in 1913 and situated on the main road to Fareham. Later it was transferred to the parish of Saint Mary the Virgin, Rowner. The present parish of Bridgemary was developed after the 2nd World War and it acquired its first 'hall church' in 1955, becoming a Conventional District, until early 1981 when it was identified as a parish in its own right.

The worship area includes an organ, piano, raised seating area, railed sanctuary and the church seating in chairs, which allows for flexibility in worship and other events.

In addition there is a foyer, office, vestry, accessible toilet and main kitchen (recently modernised). To the side of the church are two community rooms , with kitchen and toilets. A variety of community groups meet during the week. These include a Tuesday communion followed by coffee morning, Asian Bible Study Group, Rainbows and Guides, Art Group and Health Authority Leg Clinic. The rooms are also used as a Polling Station during elections.

The church grounds are well-maintained by parishioners and include a paved walkway to the main entrance with lawns and shrubs to either side. Grounds include off-road parking for 8-10 cars to the west of the church building in front of the entrance. As Bridgemary is an urban community with few public rooms, the church in no small part performs the role of 'Community Centre'. There is a large grassed field area to the south and a peace garden to the east.

The Vicarage



Bridgemary Vicarage is situated to the south of the church accessed by a path. The vicarage is a modern well-maintained 4 bedroomed house in its own grounds with a separate garage. Replacement windows were installed in 2011 and there is gas central heating throughout. There is a study and 2 additional reception rooms downstairs and a modern kitchen. The house is reached via its own driveway and gate from Duncton Way, off Wych Lane.

Worship

Morning Prayer is said daily in each church. Saint Thomas has 2 weekday masses (the 1st Wednesday of the month offers the Sacrament of Healing and the 1st Friday offers prayers for the Mothers' Union). St Matthew's has a eucharist on a Tuesday morning, once a month sharing rotationally with the local Methodist Church. Readings are taken from the Weekday Missal.

Each church has an early morning Sunday service (BCP at Saint Matthews) and a 10am Parish Mass (Common Worship). Our Clergy robe in Chasuble for all eucharistic services with cassock and cotta for all other types of worship. Our serving teams also wear cassock and cotta when they are involved during services and Saint Thomas are very lucky to have a mixture of young people and adults on the team. Saint Thomas' liturgy is anglo-catholic using bells during every service and incense on the first Sunday of the month and on solemnities. Saint Matthew's is modern catholic.

Saint Thomas has a strong tradition of music, using Catholic Hymns Old and New, and are supported by a small but dedicated choir. The words of the liturgy are projected. During 2011, we had 6 weddings and 28 baptisms, 1 of which was performed during a Fresh Expression Blessed Service. 7 funerals were taken. The Average Sunday Attendance for the 1st Quarter of 2012 was 60 across the age range.

At Saint Matthew's we embrace various forms of worship as indicated earlier. There are extra services on Feast and other Holy Days. Clergy robe in Chasuble. There is currently one Licensed Lay Minister with several members acting as servers, chalice assistants and Bible readers. Messy Church takes place during Holy week and at Christmas and is very successful.

A variety of musical styles are used to enhance worship with recorded music at most services. A peripatetic organist does attend on occasions. An organist will also play for the Occasional Offices (there were 4 baptisms, 17 funerals but no weddings in 2011). The Average Sunday Attendance for the 1st Quarter of 2012 was 26, with few or no young people.

Electoral Rolls (for the 2012 Annual Meetings)

Elson	69
Bridgemaury	57

Parish Ministers

Saint Thomas

Mother Margaret Hay SCP - Self-Supporting Deanery Priest

Steven Smart - Youth & Children's Worker

Alison Warne - Organist

Volunteer Office staff

Saint Matthew's

Mother Sue West SCP - Self-Supporting Deanery Priest

Corinne Pattinson - Licensed Lay Minister (*also Deanery Pastoral Assistant*)

Volunteer Office staff

Parish Websites

www.saintthomaselson.org.uk and www.stmatthewsbridgemaury.org.uk

Parish Organisations

CAMEO - Come and Meet Each Other. Cameo is the work of Mthr. Margaret and takes place each Thursday lunchtime/afternoon. This session offers an opportunity to reach out to the community to involve people who may be alone and isolated, offering friendship and support to all. Events have included a Christmas lunch in church and outings both within the UK and across the channel.

Elson Parent Coffee Morning - held fortnightly on a Thursday, the purpose is to offer support to each other with children of different ages. We hope that this work will lead to a family club involving food and games that families can enjoy together.

Elson Sunday School - has a considerable number of young people from the age of 3 through to 12. This

takes place during the 10am Mass in the Narthex offering teachings from the Bible. The Sunday School are welcomed back into the main service to share the Eucharist with everyone present.

Elson Mothers' Union - this has strong links with other branches in the deanery and meets on the 1st Friday of the month.

Elson Friday's Youth Group – meets during term time and is offered to all young people from Year 6 upwards. It is a fun and vibrant group with over 50 young people attending regularly. The group offers the young people a safe space to enjoy different activities and to learn something about faith in a fun and enjoyable situation.

Elson Film Club - takes place on the 2nd Saturday of every month in the main church building and invites people of all ages young and old to join us to watch a film on our big projection screen and enjoy a lunch together. We currently have 30 members of the community of different ages and it continues to grow.

Bible Study - regular sessions are held to look at different aspects of scripture. The session offers time to pray, reflect, challenge and discuss aspects of the Bible. We may start on one passage but can be led to different parts of scripture as the session progresses. Saint Matthew's also has a Lenten Bible Study group.

Choirs - Although small in number they are loyal and dedicated groups, augmented by other members of the congregation for special occasions.

Bridgemaury Fellowship Lunch - pub visit/bring and share (alternate) held monthly after 10am Sunday Service.

Pilgrimages - We both have strong links with The Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham with children, youth and adults making pilgrimages at different times of the year. In 2012 the two parishes will visit Walsingham together. 2012 will also see its first youth pilgrimage to *Soul Survivor* offering our young people the opportunity to experience worship in different ways.

Social Activities including Fund Raising - Both parishes have an extensive fund-raising programme which is arranged at the end of the previous year. Events may include quiz nights, cabaret nights and fayres twice a year. Saint Matthew's holds a weekly Saturday car boot sale on the church green - nowhere near as big as the School one on Sunday! The social calendar of the churches includes local visits and trips to the theatre and also day trips abroad.

Ecumenical Links

Saint Thomas values all aspects of our community and ecumenical links are strong. We work with Lee Community Church and the local Indian Orthodox group. Both groups have used space within our church as well as using our church hall on a regular basis.

Saint Matthew's has a history of good links with the local Methodist and Roman Catholic

churches. This has included shared worship, study groups, Holy Week services, shared festivals and events. Saint George's Indian Orthodox Church worships monthly in church.

Parish Finances

Year ended 31 December 2011 SAINT THOMAS PCC, ELSON

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	CCLA Funds £	TOTAL 2011 £	TOTAL 2010 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary Income	20780.79	1555.00	30.21	22366.00	27471.60
Fundraising	4202.72			4202.72	2998.06
Church activities	16838.00			16838.00	20036.27
Other incoming resources		6017.95		6017.95	10724.05
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	41821.51	7572.95	30.21	49424.67	61229.98
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Church activities	46652.74	7362.15		54014.89	62463.18
Transfer to CCLA					8000
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	46652.74	7362.15		54014.89	70463.18
PARISH FUNDS					
Balance at beginning of year	4678.34	1128.65	17127.99	22934.98	32168.18
31/12/11	(152.89)	1139.45	17158.20	18344.76	22934.98

Year ended 31 December 2011 ST MATTHEW'S BRIDGEMARY

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2011 £	TOTAL 2010 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Voluntary Income	13746.37		13746.37	16733.91
Fundraising	1752.17	362.09	2114.26	2254.05
Church activities	4883.62	2752.50	7636.12	6164.76
Other incoming resources	1.52	3182.08	3183.60	1182.52
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	20383.68	6296.67	26680.35	26335.24

RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Church activities	25788.76	4437.16	30225.92	25232.52
Transfer to CCLA				
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>25788.76</u>	<u>4437.16</u>	<u>30225.92</u>	<u>25232.52</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-5405.08	1859.51	-3545.57	1102.72
PARISH FUNDS				
Balance at beginning of year	9636.32	2249.37	11885.69	10782.97
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER	<u>4231.24</u>	<u>4108.88</u>	<u>8340.12</u>	<u>11885.69</u>

Both parishes reimburse ministerial expenses in full as outlined in the current guidelines. Neither parish is registered as a charity. The Parish Share to the diocese was paid in full by both parishes: **Elson £21,151, Bridgemaury £13,991**. The relevant figures for 2012 are £20,990 and £14,089 respectively.

Mission Statements

Saint Thomas the Apostle is an affirming and inclusive, family-friendly, welcoming Church within the Anglo-Catholic tradition, with a warm welcome to everyone regardless of where they are on their spiritual journey. Our mantra is “Enter as strangers, leave as friends”.

Saint Matthew's is an open and Inclusive Church, aiming to make God's love real through worship and by being a welcoming community where we try to care every day for everyone.

Qualities of a Future Parish Priest

The Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councils are seeking to welcome an outgoing charismatic person with the appropriate maturity, personal attributes and skills to pursue God’s ministry and lead the development of the churches within the communities over the coming years.

We are looking for a supportive member of Deanery Chapter; someone who has good organisational skills to manage their time within two parishes and as a chaplain to a senior school.

You will need to be able to develop a good rapport and be approachable by all age groups. A good communicator who is prepared to listen and will share different ideas and thoughts with others.

We are seeking a person who is passionate about liturgy and the proclamation of the gospel, whilst being a person of prayer who is able to offer pastoral support to those unable to attend worship in church. It would be desirable for you to be comfortable with the variety of multimedia used within worship.

Ideally you will be an energetic family-orientated person who will take a proactive role in social and fundraising events. We would like someone to continue the parishes’ involvement with a variety of pilgrimages.

The Deanery of Gosport

The deanery is co-terminous with the local government borough and comprises 8 parishes:

Alverstoke, St Mary	Canon Ted Goodyer (to be vacant 12 th June 2012)
St Faith's Tribe Road	Assts: Revd Phil Hiscock, Revd Nicky-Sue Terry (Title SSM)
St Francis Clayhall Road	Revd Reg Forse (SSM)
St Luke's Haslar (former Hospital)	
Bridgemary, St Matthew	(vacant, to be held in Plurality with Elson)
Bridgemary School Chaplain	
Elson, St Thomas	(see above)
Forton, St John Evangelist	Mthr Carrie Thompson
St Vincent's College Chaplain	
Gosport, Holy Trinity (A&B)	Fr Andy Davis (held in Plurality with Christ Church)
Gosport, Christ Church	(see above)
Lee-on-the-Solent, St Faith	Canon Peter Sutton
Rowner, St Mary the Virgin	Fr John Draper (also Area Dean)

Deanery Priests (SSM) Mthr Margaret Hay, Fr Brian Williams, Mthr Sue West

Deanery Pastoral Assistant Mrs Corinne Pattinson (Area Dean's support)

Funeral Co-ordinator Mr David Savage

Sector Chaplaincies exist as follows:

HMS Sultan	Revd Ralph Barber RN
Immigration Removal Centre	Revd Nicky Startin
War Memorial Hospital	Revd James Hair, Revd Colin Prestidge

The Deanery Clergy Chapter meets **weekly** for the Office at 11.45am and then has lunch together, finishing by 1pm. Each church in the deanery acts as host on a rotational basis, with the first Wednesday being a eucharist. Members of Chapter give this a high priority. In addition, there is an annual 3/4-day (Residential) Conference and 2 Chapter Days.

During vacancies and holidays, deanery clergy assist where able. Funerals in parishes are offered to the incumbent first and then to deanery clergy and licensed lay ministers. Patronal Festivals and Feasts are Deanery events, at which all parishes are well represented.

The Deanery Mission & Pastoral Committee is always looking at ways at how the deanery can be resourced well by its clergy and lay ministers and is working on the basis that parochial boundaries are 'softer' than before and that each member of Chapter is willing and keen to work throughout the deanery (for example, there is a policy of cross-boundary baptisms). Creative use of personal and ministerial gifts is made, but the focus priority remains the mission community to which the Bishop licenses a priest. All SSMs are licensed to the Area Dean and they are placed within the area of greatest need.

The Chapter is seen as a place of support and friendship. Diverse opinions are respected as we work towards being totally inclusive and collaborative as a mission-focused deanery.

BRIDGEMARY SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

JOB DESCRIPTION

"I have come that you might have life and have it to the full" John 10 v 10

The Chaplain is directly accountable for their work in the school to the Headteacher and Governing body. Membership of the Governing body is optional.

Aim of the post:

- To lead the formal and informal expression of Christian ethos and worship at the school and to support the spiritual life of the school community
- To offer personal and pastoral support to staff, students and the wider community
- To create a strong and continuous link between school and community life

Key responsibilities:

- Contribution to the teaching and learning
- To support spiritual development of the school and its wider community

Key tasks:

Lead in the development and use of whole school liturgy

- To provide appropriate forms of worship across the school including contributions to assemblies and mentor time
- To support pastoral teams in the provision of collective worship
- To develop provision for the participation from a range of religious standpoints
- Ensure that church seasons are publicly and creatively celebrated within life of the school (including in display, celebrations and electronic communications eg website etc)
- Developing a range of short informal liturgies/prayers appropriate for use by students, parents and staff

Contribute to the pastoral care of the whole school community

- To be available to all members of the school community offering support and spiritual guidance
- Liaise with pastoral leaders ensuring an awareness of ongoing and long-term pastoral needs within the school community
- Lead and manage specific group support programmes (such as bereavement groups, 'Boys to men', 'Girl talk' etc)
- To channel/train support volunteers from local parishes as appropriate

Contribute to the teaching and learning

- Support discussions within RE, PDL and citizenship lessons where appropriate
- Make formal presentations to support the curriculum as appropriate
- Liaise with the LRC Manager to support the purchase and access to appropriate reading
- To ensure that every school season is celebrated by consciousness raising relating to one World issue
- To set up and chair a 'Charities Group' to decide on school charities for the year and ensure effective communication and education regarding projects chosen – link with student voice co-ordinator
- To maintain links with the local parishes
- To identify areas of community service related to local faith communities which may be undertaken by the school or individuals within the school

Support the spiritual development of the school and its wider community

- To participate within the school's Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural development
- Plan and organise a programme of events/retreats for groups of staff/students as appropriate
- Encourage and support the awareness and understanding of faith practice across the whole school community
- Support the private prayer life and reflectiveness of the whole school community