
The Church of the Holy Spirit, Southsea

PARISH PROFILE



Priest in charge – Fr Phillip Amey
Associate priest Fr Paul Armstead

From the Church Wardens.

The Church of the Holy Spirit stands in an inner city area with a population of around 14, 000.

We are a group of committed Christians coming from many areas of Portsmouth. We share many talents and welcome everyone, especially newcomers, to join us in our worship, which is the heart of our Christian faith.

We hope this profile will be interesting and you will find the information useful. Several people have helped to compile it and we hope it represents all aspects of our parochial life at the Holy Spirit.

Our Vision and Priorities

What kind of church do we want to be?

- Responsive to God's love and to God's call
- Inclusive to all
- Relevant to all
- Joyful in worship with a strong musical focus
- Constant in prayer
- United in our care for each other and for the world in which we live

What are our aims for the future?

- To grow together in the Holy Spirit
- To make God's love known as widely as possible
- To make our church relevant to young people
- To engage fully with the local and wider communities
- To be fully ecumenical whilst upholding our catholic traditions

What have we done so far?

- **An open church.** Since our development of the Church Centre rooms at the West End we have been able to keep the church open for extended periods each day. Many people use the community rooms and have the chance to feel the peace of our re-ordered worship area. All are welcome to spend time in private prayer or join our daily celebrations of the Mass.
- **Young people.** The number of families and young people attending church regularly is limited. Our Sunday school is relatively small (9 members have now formed a small youth group called HS2 (Holy Spirit 2nd generation) who take pride in showing their work to the congregation each Sunday. Links with the schools in the parish are good with each using the church for visits, services and concerts.



- **Community Involvement.** Germinating the seeds sown some time before, the Diocesan driven Kairos Initiative helped us focus on what the church could offer our neighbours. Our new Church Centre now provides us with excellent facilities to welcome a broad range of people into the church. Alongside the clubs and organisations who are regular visitors we hold concerts, exhibitions, quizzes and garden parties that are open to all. We have a permanent Traidcraft Stall and have supported other such ventures throughout the city.
- **Ecumenism.** We take a full part in activities of the Churches in Milton, Eastney and Southsea (CHIMES) cluster, particularly sharing resources for Lent courses. We have shared in the Portsmouth Churches Together events for Christian Unity visiting and welcoming our Roman Catholic, URC, Salvation Army and Methodist brothers and sisters.
- **Parish action plan.** We have recently held a parish away day where 50+ members of the church celebrated at the areas of our common life that we are proud of and also explored those areas which we feel we can develop further. This has resulted in a 'parish action plan' which is being put into place at the time of writing.



Portsmouth and Southsea.

Portsmouth is the United Kingdom's only 'island city', as most of its inhabitants live on Portsea island, where Southsea and the Church of the Holy Spirit are located. The city itself has a population of almost 200, 000 and is as densely populated as parts of London.



Portsmouth is famous throughout the world as the home of the Royal Navy and the final resting place of both HMS Victory and The Mary Rose. Portsmouth has many literary connections, most notably the Charles Dickens Birthplace Museum and the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle collection in the City Museum. The parish itself was once home to Rudyard Kipling.

The city boasts many other famous sons and daughters, including Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Peter Sellers, Roger Black and Helen Duncan, the last woman imprisoned under the witchcraft act.

Portsmouth is connected to London by rail and road. Fast trains take one hour and forty minutes, while the journey time by car will be greatly reduced by the completion of the Hindhead tunnel on the A3, which is scheduled to open in summer 2011. There are also road and rail links to other south coast attractions, such as the New Forest, Chichester and Brighton.

As well as the Navy and the dockyards, the largest employers in the city are Portsmouth University and IBM. There is a thriving retail sector, led by the immensely popular Gunwharf Quays, which has many stylish places to shop and eat, and is soon to include the newest Jamie Oliver restaurant.



People who are new to Portsmouth soon notice how mild the climate is. This is due to the protection of the Isle of Wight to the south and Portsdown

Hill to the north, which means that the average temperature is higher than in the surrounding area.

Southsea.

Southsea is the resort area of Portsmouth, and was once a separate town. It has a unique atmosphere and identity, with many festivals and civic events in the spring and summer. Many of these events are held on Southsea Common, which also hosts fun-fairs, circuses, and larger events such as The Great South Run.

Southsea has its own sites of historical interest, such as the D-day Museum and Southsea Castle, from the ramparts of which Henry VIII famously watched the Mary Rose sink.

Southsea also has the last commercial hovercraft taking passengers to the Isle of Wight in under 15 minutes. There is also a car ferry that allows people to explore the Island under their own steam.

More locally, within a couple of minutes walk from the vicarage, you will find Albert Road with its vast array of multicultural eateries, individual traders and the historically renowned and refurbished Kings Theatre.

Our Parish.

Our parish is in the City and Diocese of Portsmouth. We are in the Archdeaconry of Portsdown and in the Portsmouth Deanery. We are clustered with St James Milton, St Jude's Southsea, St Simons Southsea and St Margaret's Eastney. We also enjoy a unique relationship with St James Milton due to the cross licensing of our clergy and look to build this relationship further between the congregations.

WORSHIP

The tradition at the Church of the Holy Spirit is distinctly Anglo catholic: the main service is the Mass, vestments are worn and servers are used. Incense is used at the main Sunday Mass and other sung Masses.

The main Sunday service is the parish Mass at 10 a.m. and Common worship is used together with the Redemptorist Mass Leaflet. The choir leads the congregational singing at this service and music is considered important.

The other services on Sundays are Mass at 8 a.m. (Common Worship and Redemptorist Mass Leaflet) and Evensong and Benediction at 6.30 p.m. Solemn Evensong is sung on the first Sunday of the month and on Festival Sundays.

Weekday services are very important and Holy Spirit has a tradition of having a daily Mass most days. These services are held in St. John's Chapel and the Lady Chapel and are attended by regular communicants. The Friday morning Mass at 10 a.m. is particularly well attended and following the Mass a time for coffee and fellowship precedes church cleaning.

We also have a monthly healing mass and a cell mass for Our Lady of Walsingham.

2 very successful Taize services have been run by our youth group and it is hoped that these will become a regular feature throughout the year.

Confessions are heard before Christmas, Easter and on request and our stations of the cross are used twice a week during Lent.

From a Catholic perspective, the recent reordering of the church gives an exciting opportunity for liturgical expression and development.

Home communions are taken whenever required both to individuals and to nursing homes. The Home of Comfort, a nursing home in the parish has a monthly Mass on a Wednesday morning. Two members of the congregation are licensed to administer the Sacrament at the Home of Comfort. To date the Vicar of Holy Spirit has been an ex-officio member of the Trustees/Management Committee of the Home. The Bishop of Portsmouth is its President.

We have a worship and a liturgy committee which meet as and when required.

THE CONGREGATION



The congregation includes people of all ages including a considerable number of retired people, whose wisdom, expertise and time are much valued. We also have several families with young children who play an active part in church life and whose children serve and/or are in the choir.

The electoral roll is currently 100 and the average Sunday attendance is 80 including a small number of children. There were 5 baptisms in 2010, 2 weddings and 20 funerals. There were 125 communicants on Easter Sunday and 109 at Christmas. On Christmas Eve we hold a Christingle and Crib service that is attended by upwards of 150 local residents.

MINISTRY

We have always been considered to be a training parish depending on the incumbent and have therefore been fortunate to have had a number of excellent curates.

The PCC has recently reaffirmed its desire to adopt resolutions A and B under the Priests (Ordination of Women) measure 1993.

Lay Involvement in Ministry.

Nine members of the congregation are currently licensed by the Bishop to assist at the Mass, and on rare occasions have led the ministry of the word at weekday services when no priest has been available. Members of the congregation read the lessons and a small group of eight people have been trained to write and lead the intercessions.



TEACHING

The Sunday School

Sunday School is held weekly during term time during the first part of the service, joining the congregation in time to participate in the offertory and receive a Blessing or the Sacrament.



We generally follow the lectionary, using Roots booklets for ideas and inspiration, although occasionally we depart from this to explore other themes. There are seven Sunday School leaders on our rota, each

bringing their own strengths and enthusiasms to the role. Usually the children explore the week's theme using stories, readings, questions, discussion and sometimes songs and then produce some writing, pictures or craftwork which they enjoy sharing with the congregation at the end of the service.

When they are old enough, the children are encouraged to participate in Church life in other ways; for example by joining the Junior Choir or learning to be Servers. Indeed, they often combine both activities, moving during the service from Sunday School to the Choir or the Sanctuary unobtrusively and with dignity.

The Sunday School also performs a short nativity play at Christmas in which there are roles for all comers from angels to trumpeters.

The children have proved very adaptable during our recent building project and we are looking forward to moving into a refurbished room with space for resources and display which will more adequately reflect the importance we place in ministry to children.

Confirmation Classes.

Confirmation Classes are held when required and our last confirmation course ran in 2012 when 3 adults were prepared at Holy Spirit and Confirmed in Portsmouth Cathedral.

Local Schools.

There are four state schools within the parish, one secondary school, two infant and one junior school. Holy Spirit has a close working relationship with Goldsmith Infant School which is on the boundary of the church building and also with Devonshire Infant School, where a member of the congregation is a

school governor. All the schools use or have used the church for visits, etc. and have participated in concerts and festivals with us.

It is hoped the new incumbent will nurture these links and develop a closer relationship with Priory Secondary School and Fernhurst Junior School.

House Groups.

Although we do not have house groups which meet regularly, we do have them when we follow particular courses, e.g. Lent courses or the Kairos initiative groups.

CHURCH LIFE



Music.

Music plays an important part in the life of the parish. The choir comprises four children and twelve adults. The Juniors follow the RSCM training scheme and sometimes sing on their own during services. The services are accompanied by a large Rushworth & Dreaper

extension organ. There have been occasions when worship has been further enhanced by the addition of other instruments from Guitar to Euphonium via Crumhorn.

For the Parish Mass six congregational settings (two plainsong and four modern) are rotated weekly with two additional plainsong settings during Advent and Lent. The usual hymn book is Common Praise introduced in 2002 because of its wide range of hymnody across the centuries. We have used more than 400 of its 600 hymns. Great care is taken in matching music and hymns to the lectionary.

Choral Evensong is sung once a month. There is also an Advent Procession and Christmas Carol Service. Choral settings are sung at special weekday masses.

A thriving chamber concert series runs from Easter to November given by local musicians. There is a Bechstein grand piano in the church. Local music groups (e.g. choirs, orchestras, schools and the Organists' Association) are encouraged to use Holy Spirit for concerts.

Mothers' Union.

The Mothers' Union has a membership of around twenty. They meet on the first Thursday afternoon of the month, with twelve to fifteen members in regular attendance. There is a personal contact with the Women's Refuge and articles for toilet bags are given by members. A Mother's Union representative co-ordinates these donations with the Diocese.

As a branch the members work to raise money for holidays for disadvantaged families and three members lead workshops four times a year at the Cathedral.

Community Use of the Church.

The Scouts, Cubs and Beavers are now using the new hall and have a new purpose built hut just outside the main door.



The extra rooms in the redeveloped church are also used by a number of local organisations, including Alcoholics Anonymous, a Mother and Toddler group, Keep Fit for Senior Citizens, Pilates and Flamenco

dancing. Portsmouth College hire the rooms for Tai Chi classes and Creative Writing courses.

The Church itself is regularly hired for musical events, such as the Baroque choir, concerts for charitable organisations and Music Festivals.

Other Activities.

The church supports Forward in Faith, Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, the Guild of All Souls and the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham. A parish pilgrimage takes place annually to Walsingham.

There is a Planning Group that meets bi-monthly to co-ordinate and collate the parish events diary.

Ecumenical Fellowship.

Holy Spirit is a member of CHIME (Churches in Milton and Eastney) and we can see the need for closer links with those churches in the future.

We have joined with our neighbouring churches for Lent courses, Kairos and meals during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



On Palm Sunday and Corpus Christi the clergy, choir and congregation process around the roads nearest to the church which is an important act of witness to the local community.

Charities.

Every month we support a different charity. The twelve charities are chosen at the end of the previous year and we try to ensure we support both local and international organisations.

Members of the congregation hold collecting boxes for the Leprosy Mission or the Children's Society in church. Postage stamps, foreign coins and spectacles are also collected and passed on. Extra collections are arranged to support international appeals for aid.

The church runs a permanent and successful Fairtrade stall, which has helped the Diocese to be recognised as a Fairtrade Diocese.

Links with the Wider Church.

We have had close links with the church in Romania and Korea but do not currently have an on going link.

ADMINISTRATION

Website.

Please visit our website at <http://www.holyspiritsouthsea.org.uk>. The website, although new, has become a very useful place for recording and advertising the life of the church. It has also been many people's first experience of our church and has led to a number of visits by people on holiday in the area.



The Church of the Holy Spirit, Southsea