

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

 Diocese of Portsmouth

 areham deanery  
Anglicans in mission



## ST PETER AND ST PAUL, FAREHAM WITH ST FRANCIS FUNTLEY



**PARISH PROFILE**

**JULY 2013**

*Website: [www.sspeterandpaulfareham.org](http://www.sspeterandpaulfareham.org)*

# AREA OF PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, FAREHAM

(Pink shaded area)



## Address

St Peter and St Paul Church,  
Osborn Road,  
Fareham, Hants.  
PO16 7DR

## Office Opening Hours and Telephone Number

Mondays and Fridays 10am to 12 noon and 2pm to 4pm  
Telephone: 01329 236003  
Email: [office@sspeterandpaulfareham.org](mailto:office@sspeterandpaulfareham.org)



## Description of the parish

The parish is at the foot of the Meon Valley at the West end of the South Downs and it is within easy reach of the New Forest and the Coast and between the cities of Portsmouth and Southampton.

Fareham was a small market town, which has grown rapidly over the last forty years or so. The church is in the centre of the Borough, which has a population of some 110,600. Adjacent to the church are the Borough Council Offices, Library, Health Centre and multi purpose Ferneham Hall for live entertainment.

The estimated population of the parish as shown in the provisional 2011 census results is 14,200. It covers an irregularly shaped area of about eight square miles from the borders of Portchester in the east, to the River Meon in the west. It includes a large part of the town centre and to the north, part farmland. It includes the villages of Wallington, Funtley and Knowle.

The unemployment levels are relatively low, excepting the present economic circumstances. There are a number of Service personnel who work in the area, though many Service establishments have closed in recent years. People commute daily to Portsmouth, Southampton, Winchester, Chichester and London. Several small light industrial estates are within the parish boundaries.

In the parish are three state schools, two primary and one secondary comprehensive (11 – 16) and two co-educational schools (3 – 16).

Fareham Borough Council's Core Strategy includes an objective for the period 2016 – 2026 to deliver a new sustainable settlement, to be named "Welborne", to the north of Fareham adjacent to the Knowle Village development. This would be within the parish and the plans are to create 6,500 – 7,500 new homes, up to 90,750 sq metres of employment floor space, a new district centre and other supporting retail and community provision.

There are eight residential care homes in the parish.

Further information about the parish can be found on the church website at [www.sspeterandpaul.fareham.org](http://www.sspeterandpaul.fareham.org) including historical information about the church.

Further information about Fareham can be found on the Council's website [www.fareham.gov.uk](http://www.fareham.gov.uk) and on [Wikipedia](http://Wikipedia).



## Buildings

St Peter & St Paul is now one of three Anglican parishes in the town, and is the original parish church of Fareham. Tradition has it that it was founded by St Birinus and his monks, who reputedly landed at Portchester and converted this part of England to Christianity, going up the Meon Valley and converting the pagan Meonwara! Christians have worshipped in this church for over one thousand years. The original chancel now forms the beautiful Lady Chapel. It was here that the Great Seal of England was exchanged in 1346 at the command of King Edward III before his expedition left for France and the Battle of Crecy.



The most recent change was in the early 1970's when the church was reordered to meet modern liturgical trends. The churchyard is closed for burials and is maintained by Fareham Borough Council.



The Church of St Francis Funtley, a small Victorian Mission Church, has had an addition built to provide a new vestry, kitchenette and toilet. The site is currently being developed to provide a car park and main drainage which it is hoped will be of benefit to the community. The local village is anxious to have a building for community use. Development here could be a good ground for Mission.



## The Hall

There is a modern, well maintained **Parish Hall** built on the east end of the church, accessed via the original choir vestry. It comprises:

- a **main hall** used by the parish for social gatherings, fund-raising events, regular meetings of groups such as "Mothers and Toddlers" and Mothers' Union, and by outside organisations who stage events such as concerts and carol services in the church. It is also made available for organisations such as Mencap. Some income is generated from Hall use.
- a **large lounge** partitioned off from the main hall by a sliding door, with comfortable seating, used for smaller meetings such as PCC and discussion groups
- a modern **kitchen** with serving hatches into both the main hall and lounge.
- **toilet facilities.**
- a **utility room**, used by cleaners and flower arrangers.





## The Vicarage

The Vicarage is a pleasant four bedroomed modern detached house set in a good sized garden in a residential road within an easy walk from the parish church. It is conveniently placed for the Town Centre and local superstores etc. The accommodation comprises: Entrance hallway, large lounge, separate dining room, spacious study/third reception Room, additional room to rear of study, two downstairs W.C's, large unfurnished kitchen, separate utility room, two large bedrooms, two smaller bedrooms, family bathroom with shower over bath, good sized front and rear gardens, off road parking and single garage, double glazing and gas central heating.

## Manor Cottage

This is a five bedroomed house adjacent to the church, owned by the Parochial Church Council, originally for the assistant priest. When the Diocese withdrew the post the house was let, but it could be made available again should it be decided to re-instate a training post in the parish.

## Current Worship

### *Sunday Services*

**8.00 a.m. Holy Communion** Book of Common Prayer

**9.30 a.m. Parish Sung Mass**

**6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer** (said) with **Benediction** on Festivals.

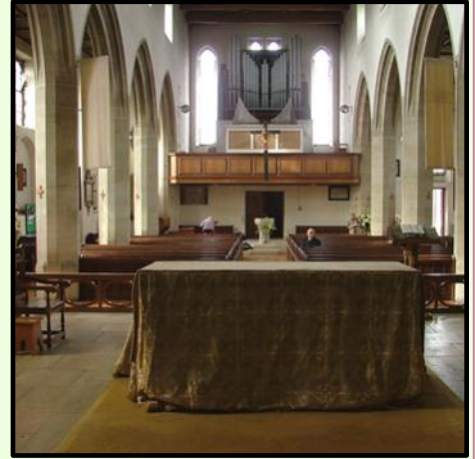
### *At St Francis, Funtley*

**11.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist** (not on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month) – when there is collective worship at the Parish Church



## *Weekday Services – Mass*

Monday	12.00 noon
Tuesday	7.00 p.m. (Walsingham Mass on the first Tuesday of the month)
Wednesday	9.30 a.m.
Thursday	10.30 a.m..
Friday	9.30 a.m.



It is our policy to keep the church open every day and it is used for personal prayer and quiet reflection.

There is no robed choir, but music is an important feature of the worship. The parish has a fine pipe organ and a very competent organist who looks after a small group of singers.

## **Attendance**

In 2012 the average normal Sunday attendance at all services is 74.

## **General**

Holy Communion is taken regularly to parishioners at home and in Nursing/Care Homes.

A supportive laity takes part in the liturgy by reading, serving, singing and leading the intercessions.

In 2012 there were eighteen people baptised, two weddings and four funerals in church. Four candidates were prepared for confirmation.

There are 100 names on the Electoral Roll in 2013.

The parish has a policy that the remarriage in church of those who have been divorced is not acceptable, but a service of blessing is offered.

We actively comply with the various Health & Safety Regulations, the Disability Legislation and follow the Safeguarding and Vulnerable Adults Policy.

## Parish Life

The congregation is committed to caring for each other. We try to be a community where people can feel welcomed and supported within the church family.

Special occasions during the year are marked with various activities. A cheese and wine party is held to fund a mission or charity during the year. A number of fund raising events are held each year; a two-day Christmas Fair, a second hand book sale and a plant sale. This year there was a new initiative with a "Songs of Praise" Service to which our neighbouring parish was invited, with refreshments afterwards. This will be reciprocated this year by Holy Trinity inviting the parish to a Harvest Supper.

The Social Committee arranges theatre trips, occasional pub meals, a Christmas Lunch and a summer barbeque together with other social activities.



## Other Church Activities

### Mothers Union

There is a small branch of the Mothers Union in the parish.

### Toddler Group

There is a thriving Toddler Group and includes young baptism families, has a Christian ethos and is working on ways to help young families grow in faith.

### Prayer Group

There is a Prayer Group.

### Fair Trade

The church is active in Fair Trade, and has a stall once a month and the parish supports the local Basics Bank.

### Bell Ringers

The church possesses the only peal of bells in the town and these are rung every Sunday morning and evening. There is also a team of handbell ringers.





## Administration

There is a Parish Administrator who works 4 hours, two days a week and the church office is open on Mondays and Fridays.

The Parish Clerk is involved with weddings and funerals, arrangements for banns etc.

A member of the congregation cleans the hall, working four hours a week. At Funtley, a member of the congregation is caretaker.

## Finance



Historically and with the assistance of Christian Stewardship the parish has been able to maintain a satisfactory financial position. With a reducing congregation, above inflation increase of the Parish/Fairer Share (£56,620 in 2013) and other cost increases balancing the budget has become more difficult. In 2010 – 2012 the accounts show deficits. However, we are fortunate that through the generosity of past members we possess reserves to cushion present concerns for about three years and also to carry out some important maintenance work including new heating and lighting in the church and improved heating in the hall. A faculty has been granted and the new heating and lighting project is now nearly complete.

Looking forward the PCC is seeking to reduce the annual deficit both through increasing income and reducing expenditure. Annual financial break-even is unlikely to be achieved until the number of church members increases.

The parish has always actively supported charities by giving away all Christmas collections, by holding fund raising events and, up to 2012, from general church funds. The total contributed in 2012 was £3,054, excluding items such as the donation of goods to the Basics Bank and Christian Aid Week.

## Ministry

Resolutions A B & C have been passed under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993 and the parish is under the Episcopal and pastoral care of the Bishop of Richborough. The parish is affiliated to Forward in Faith and has a significant number of members of Forward in Faith who would expect their priest to be of the same mind. The Parochial Church Council is committed to maintaining our Catholic tradition and to ensure our heritage is fully safeguarded and would strongly resist an attempt to 'lower' our sights or churchmanship.





## Ministry (cont'd)

As there is no Assistant Priest, cover for holidays etc. is provided by retired priests who take services regularly both at the parish church and at St Francis.

There are twelve Lay Assistants licensed by the Bishop to assist with the administration of the chalice at Holy Communion, three or four of whom administer Holy Communion at Care Homes and to the sick and housebound.

A small group of people is involved with preparation for Baptism.

There is a Cell in the parish of the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham. The parish has an annual pilgrimage in the summer, which is very well supported, and much appreciated.

There is a group who have been trained to visit recently bereaved if required. In November a special service of remembrance has been held inviting all those who have been bereaved in the previous twelve months.

We participate and are committed to working with the Deanery Mission for Ministry Policy.

A new project is being developed for schools in the deanery in which the incumbent would expect to participate. We look to promote youth work and this area needs development. There are charitable funds that are available for this work.

It is not realistic to expect one priest to carry out all the pastoral visiting in the parish but we consider this a very important part of parish life. We would expect that lay people would continue to assist in this ministry.

## Ecumenical

The parish is represented on Christians Together in Fareham, and plays an active part in ecumenical events: - each Lent study groups are organised and on Good Friday a Procession of Witness takes place through the centre of town.

Fareham Good Neighbours was established – a venture aimed specifically at visiting the lonely elderly in their own homes or care homes.

The Church of St Francis is made available to the Lutherans for services during Lent as the Lutherans have no building of their own.

The Parish Church and Hall are used by a variety of organisations.

We take part in the fund raising activities for Christian Aid week.



**Christian Aid Walk 2013**

## A Score Card

+	-
Anglo Catholic Forward in Faith ethos which is unique in Fareham and beyond	Our congregations have declined during two recent interregnums and the average age has increased
Attractive and historic church buildings	Very few young people in the congregations
A parish population of over 14,000 and great potential for ministry and community involvement	We used to have plenty of sidespeople, singers and servers —now we have far fewer
A church family that is friendly, caring and hospitable and willing to volunteer to help with fund-raising and other events	We have had long periods without a parish priest with consequent effects on the parish and those who need his care. We recognise the need for wise guidance to sustain and nurture our spiritual growth
Using the expertise of members of our PCC a major scheme to improve heating and lighting has received a Faculty and is now nearly complete	Income is now insufficient to meet our expenses and work is required to the church buildings
We pay the Fairer/Parish Share to the Diocese in full	Until recently, a reputation for not being sufficiently involved in Deanery matters
We have been fortunate that retired priests have supported us during the last 3 years. In 2013 we have also already had three Bishops officiating at services	Limited links with the Town Centre. Opportunities are available including possible encouragement of lunchtime activities

We clearly need someone with energy and enthusiasm to lead the work that needs to be done.

## The New Priest-in-Charge

We pray for:-

- A priest of our integrity, strong in Catholic conviction and committed to the pastoral nurturing of the parish, who will give sound teaching encouraging the laity to learn more about their faith. He will consider the sacramental and prayer life of the parish a priority and will value the discipline of the Daily Office whether said publicly or privately.
- A strong leader able to delegate tasks to the laity when appropriate, with excellent modern communication skills. An interest in music is desirable.
- A priest who will 'own' the parish as a family, have a sense of humour and be able to cope with the practicalities of a busy parish. A driver's licence is essential owing to the geography of the parish. If he has a family we would ask that it be supportive of his ministry and the demands of parish life.
- Growth in parish life both in holiness and number. The past three years have been difficult with twenty-two months of Interregnum and a further eighteen months with a priest who sadly, due to ill health, was often unable to work in the parish. We believe we need a priest with energy and enthusiasm and with ambition to re-build the congregation.

