

The Bay

A new team, a new beginning and a new vision for Sandown, Shanklin and Lake on the Isle of Wight



We hope to appoint a Team Vicar Designate for Sandown St John and Shanklin St Blasius.



Following a round of interviews earlier this year after which a successful candidate for this post withdrew for health reasons and a second round when no appointment was made, this Profile describes St Blasius and St John's which sits within the Central tradition of the Church of England.



Two priests in the team are now in place and a new and exciting journey of collaboration in The Bay has already begun. The profile also gives details of other parishes in the team.

Message from the Bishop of Portsmouth and the Bishop of Richborough *(Original Profile)*

We hope to appoint three priests to establish a new Team Ministry for the Bay. In time the priest who takes responsibility for St Saviour and Lake will also be expected to take responsibility for Godshill and St Alban, Ventnor which are also in the Catholic tradition. Until that time comes we hope that this priest will play a full part in helping the new team to develop as a collaborative and inclusive leadership.

We recognise that these parishes have had their difficulties in the past but see this as a moment for when new priests start together they will be enthusiastic about working and praying together, enjoying soft parish boundaries but honouring the distinctive traditions of the different churches.

We believe that this is one of the most exciting opportunities on the Island and will give our support to the new team not least by the provision of a consultant who will mentor and encourage good team working but also to help in developing their ministry and mission.

It is our prayer that this exciting new beginning will mark a key moment in the development of these parishes.

The Rt Revd Christopher Foster
Bishop of Portsmouth

The Rt Revd Norman Banks
Bishop of Richborough

The Bay Team Ministry

In 2017 we were in the unique situation that all six churches in the Bay area were in vacancy. All churches have taken the exciting decision that the parishes must work together to see how best to serve God and His people. Although the Island faces economic and social challenges, not least in the Bay area, this does provide us with many opportunities to show God's love in action and work within our communities.

The parishes of the Bay reflect the great diversity of the Church of England. With this in mind we now have linked the parishes by tradition rather than (as previously) by geography. Two of the churches (St Paul's Shanklin and Christ Church Sandown) are of evangelical tradition; St Blasius Shanklin and St John's Sandown are of central tradition and the two parishes St Saviour on the Cliff Shanklin and Church of the Good Shepherd Lake are within the Anglo-Catholic tradition and already have episcopal oversight from the Bishop of Richborough.

In recent times the parishes of the Bay have not worked together for a variety of reasons. We see the fact all parishes becoming vacant at the same time as a gift from God which we intend to seize by looking forward to new ways of working and praying together in the future.

It must also be said that the Bay faces significant financial challenges which they are seeking to address and over the last year have made steps to turn around though this will take some time.

In the Summer of 2017 we were delighted to appoint two priests to serve in The Bay but as yet have not appointed to St Blasius and St John's.

The Isle of Wight

The Isle of Wight covers an area 23 miles by 13 miles and lies off the South coast of England. The Island is a popular destination for tourists and enjoys a range of award-winning beaches, many attractions, activities for all ages, beautiful scenery and a rich historical heritage. Over half the Island is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with 500 miles of public footpaths and bridleways and 30 miles of seashore.

The Island is well linked to the mainland by ferries, catamarans and hovercraft connecting with Portsmouth, Southsea, Southampton and Lymington. Portsmouth and our Cathedral are just 12 minutes away from Ryde by hovercraft and it is a short walk to the Cathedral. The Portsmouth car ferry takes approximately 40 minutes.

The Island's population is approximately 140,000 across a range of age and socio-economic groups with a high proportion of elderly and retired. The Island's main employment comes from tourism, light engineering, aerospace technology, NHS, local government, education and the prison service. The Isle of Wight Council is a Unitary Authority. The population of the Sandown Bay Area is approximately 21,000 with 31% aged over 65.

Further information is available at www.iwight.com.



The present condition of the Island's economy in general may be viewed with cautious optimism. The increase of VAT-registered businesses over the past 10 years highlights an encouraging growth of business activity. The unemployment figure stands at 5.6% which is over 1% higher than the rest of the South East but comparable to England generally. In the past, property prices were lower on the Island than those on the Mainland but are now generally on a par with much of the South East. With 97% Broadband coverage companies and individuals do not have to be based in towns and cities on the Mainland in order to carry out their business.

The Island has a Unitary Authority, with local government services being delivered by the Isle of Wight Council and some shared with Hampshire County Council. There are also town and parish councils.

St Mary's Hospital in Newport serves the whole Island. Patients travel to Southampton and Portsmouth for specialist treatment. Sandown, Lake and Shanklin are well served by public transport. A railway service runs between Ryde Pier Head and Shanklin (with stations at Sandown and Lake). This connects with the catamaran service and links into the national network at Portsmouth Harbour station. The Diocese of Portsmouth pays an Isle of Wight Weighting to clergy (currently £750 per annum) which is intended to help with personal costs involved in living on the Island and for help with ferry fares.

Shopping facilities are good, with Newport and Ryde as the two main centres. There are major retail developments in Portsmouth (Gunwharf) and Southampton (West Quay). The Island provides the usual range of recreational and sporting facilities. There is a multiplex cinema in Newport and an above average number of amateur dramatic and musical groups, with an arts centre in Newport.

The Isle of Wight is an attractive place to live with a different pace to the mainland. In addition to areas of outstanding natural beauty there is a wide variety of tourist attractions including Osborne House, Carisbrooke Castle, two Roman Villas, vintage railway, two zoos, monkey and donkey sanctuaries and a Dinosaur Museum.

Each year the Island hosts many festivals including the IW Festival, Bestival, the Literary Festival, Garlic Festival, VDub Festival, Scooter Festival and many more. Many artists, writers and musicians have called the Island their home and it is still an environment for much cultured activity with its own symphony orchestra, many choirs and concerts.

Education

The Isle of Wight operates a two-tier educational system comprising approximately fifty Primary and Secondary schools. The Isle of Wight College also offers a range of opportunities for further education.

In addition to the schools and places for pre-school age children many children of secondary and sixth form age travel to Christ the King College in Newport. Christ the King is the Island's only C of E (with Catholic combined) secondary school. Attainment at Christ the King College is the highest of all the Island's secondary schools.

School	Age Group	Parish
St Blasius CoE Primary Academy	Primary	St Blasius
Gatten & Lake Primary	Primary	St Paul's
Broadlea Primary	Primary	Lake
The Bay CoE Primary	Primary	Christ Church
Sandown Bay Academy	Secondary	St John's

The Bay

The Bay constitutes three distinct communities: Sandown, Shanklin and Lake.

Sandown

Once thought of as a sleepy seaside town, Sandown has a population of 11,868 (2011 census). There are excellent beaches and the town is surrounded by stunning scenery. The town consists of numerous hotels, small businesses, cafes and restaurants etc. It is very busy during the summer and quieter in the winter. There is not much industry, a vast amount of seasonal work and high unemployment. There is a lower than average crime rate.

Shanklin

Shanklin was mentioned in the Domesday Book as Sencling, a name derived from its location, meaning a hill (kline) with a spring. Its location led to the town becoming a fashionable Victorian watering hole. Its popularity was assured when the railway line opened in 1864 and regular services to and from Ryde still run today. The cliff lift which links the town level with the Esplanade was opened in 1892.



Shanklin is a town which provides everything the parishioners require for their day-to-day needs including a public library, a successful theatre, retail outlets and tradesmen. There are tourist attractions, such as Shanklin Old Village, the Chine, Rylstone Gardens and, of course, the safe sandy beach, and a wide variety of clubs and sporting organisations.

The local economy depends on tourism and there is a wide range of businesses in and around the town supplying food, drink, clothing, souvenirs and general goods, as well as banks, building societies, solicitors, estate agents, travel agents, hairdressers and beauty salons etc. The Shanklin Medical Centre serves the town and there are dentists, chiropodists and an optician.

Lake

Lake is named after the Old English "Lacu" referring to the creek that has become Scotchells Brook which is between the Isle of Wight Airport, the Morrisons Superstore and the Spithead Industrial Park.

In addition to a mix of shops including a Morrisons supermarket, Co-op and a Tesco Express, restaurants and various businesses including Downer & White undertakers there are several pubs including The Stag, plus The Porter Club (formerly Lake Working Men's Club) and a Townswomens' Guild. There is a doctor's surgery and pharmacy. Alongside The Merrie Garden pub, a new Premier Inn has recently been built and which opened in late 2015. Lake or 'Welcome Beach' is reached by a steep path down the sandstone cliffs to the Revetment, which contains two cafes (Hinks and Strollers), beach huts, a Sea Scout hut and inshore lifeboat.

A large public park called Los Altos starts at the boundary between Lake and Sandown. Another large park called Lake Cliff Gardens borders the cliffs that back onto the beach, and stretches between Lake and Shanklin.

The three communities are linked by a railway line service to Ryde and excellent bus service to Newport.

The Bay Statistics								
		Traditional Catholic		Central Church		Evangelical		Total
		Shanklin St Saviour	Lake Good Shp	Shanklin St Blasius	Sandown St John	Shanklin St Paul	Sandown Christ Ch	
People Profile	Parish Population	1,322	3,949	1,888	4,301	5,814	3,673	20,947
	%of Bay Total	6.31%	18.85%	9.01%	20.53%	27.76%	17.54%	100%
	% 0 – 17	15	18	14	24	19	20	N/A
	% 18 - 64	57	52	57	58	57	57	N/A
	% 65+	28	30	29	19	24	23	N/A
	% Christian	64	65	64	58	61	61	N/A
	% White British	93	96	93	94	95	93	N/A
Deprivation 1=Most Deprived 12,599 Least deprived	1,152	2,453	2,433	1,329	2,384	1,870	N/A	
People Profile	Electoral Roll 2015	66	48	78	57	35	52	336
	Usual Sunday Attendance 2015	65	38	54	35	18	30	240
Occasional Offices	Baptised 2015 Infant	19	2	0	0	0	2	23
	Baptised 2015 2-4	0	0	2	2	0	2	3
	Baptised 2015 5-12	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
	Baptised 2015 +12	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Marriages 2015	0	1	6	5	0	0	12
	Funerals in Church	5	4	7	3	0	1	20
Funerals Crem/Burial	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	

It will be apparent that in many ways we have a lot of work to do in terms of reconnecting with the communities we seek to serve.

A Team Ministry of Three Clergy

The intention in the Bay is to decouple the present arrangement of parish organisation and will link churches by tradition rather than geographic proximity. This will require a pastoral scheme for the creation of a Team Ministry. It will however recognise that within the Bay there are three distinctive communities and the Ministry Team will need to understand and respect this.

This is initially for three posts three full-time posts. The three posts represent the three broad traditions across the ecclesial spectrum, evangelical, central and anglo-catholic. There is though, a the firm commitment from all six parishes to work collaboratively. The Team Vicar for Shanklin St Saviour and Lake, Church of the Good Shepherd would in due course be expected to take on the additional responsibility for Godshill and Ventnor St Alban if and when those parishes become vacant. This has been discussed and agreed with the Godshill PCC at a meeting on 14th September 2016. Central to this is the expectation that the three clergy will pray and work together, respecting the traditions of each Church, eager to see all flourish and sharing a common vision for mission and ministry across the Bay. To enable good team development a consultant will periodically meet with the Team.

Post	Primary Responsibility	Post	Tradition	Post
1.0	Shanklin, St Paul's and Sandown, Christ Church	Team Vicar	Evangelical	filled
1.0	Sandown, St John's and Shanklin, St Blasius	Team Vicar	Central	vacant
1.0	Shanklin St Saviour's and Lake, Church of the Good Shepherd	Team Vicar	Anglo-catholic	filled

Profile: St John's Sandown

The Church in Sandown

The town's two parishes have been held in plurality since 1980 and served by one vicar. The historical parish boundaries are now hardly relevant. Each church has its own Church Wardens and PCC.

Sandown is one community but a railway line effectively divides the town in two, with mainly Victorian buildings in "lower Sandown". This includes the main shopping and tourist area. There is newer housing on the other side of the railway line. There are no churches or community facilities of any kind in the "northern" part of the town. This has long been a concern for both churches.

There is one Church of England Primary School, a secondary Academy school and one pre-school in the parish. Worship at St John's is generally more traditional than at Christ Church and this has been seen as a strength as a variety of worship is available for all. Joint services have been held on special occasions. Within this diversity there is a common love for God and a desire to serve the people of Sandown.

Our Mission Statement

- To serve the community in which the church stands, as a witness to God's love for all people in sending his Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour
- To give thanks to God in worship for that love
- To nurture God's people as they seek to follow Jesus
- To do our Lord's work in caring for the people of Sandown and bringing them the "Good News of Jesus Christ"

St. John's Church was built in 1881, and is a landmark from all around the town and from the sea. It is lofty in proportion with beautiful stained glass windows, and is the largest enclosed seating space in the town. Because it is such an outstanding feature of the town, many people look on it as "the town church" and we have tried to nurture this view. We have been working with the Town Council for the last few years and hold a number of civic services here at their request. The church can seat over 300 people and it is lovingly cared for.

Buildings

The church includes St. Nicholas's Chapel, a Lady Chapel, a choir vestry which doubles as the parish office, and a clergy vestry. In recent years the chancel has been modernised allowing the movement of the nave altar and communion rails, providing greater space for concerts and drama. Our organist inspires us with music from our Father Willis organ.

The North Aisle has been reordered by removing the short pews to create a space for exhibitions and displays of various arts and crafts, and also art work created by the local primary school. The church has recently been re-carpeted throughout and a new lighting system installed.



Attached to the church, the annexe is accessible either through the church or directly from outside. The entrance area is large and is fitted with storage cupboards, male, female and disabled toilets (the latter with baby-changing facilities). A meeting room to the left of the entrance provides space for many functions, and has a sliding partition which turns the space into two smaller areas. There is also a fully equipped kitchen attached to this room. A ramp leading from the entrance hall into this room has made access much easier.



The Beverley Community Hall was completed in 2004 with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Church and the Guiding Association, for the benefit of numerous groups and a variety of activities. There is a small kitchenette in this room. The grounds surrounding the buildings are well maintained. Street parking is available on the roads around the church.

Worship

1st Sunday: Food for Thought at 10.30am

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sundays: Holy Communion at 10.30am

We would describe our style as middle-of-the-road traditional using Common Worship as the basis of most of our services. However, we are open to change, willing to try out other styles of worship.

On most Sundays the music is a mixture of organ and piano, modern and traditional songs/hymns, led by a small but faithful choir. A lay group, led by a previous incumbent, has produced seasonal service booklets, using appropriate material from Common Worship.

If our service includes a baptism we often use a leaflet called "The Lord is Here", specially prepared to be as informal as Common Worship permits.

On the first Sunday of the month is an informal breakfast service called Food for Thought. This was designed to encourage people who perhaps were not as comfortable in a more formal service, to enjoy a freer form of worship in church. The service content is based on a theme; we have a shared meal and participate in activities which include Bible Study, meditation, craft, games and quizzes. The service includes a time for prayer, a reading from the Bible and singing.

Congregation:

Average attendance is about 30-35. Most are 60+ and mostly resident in the parish. There are 53 on the Electoral Roll.

Mid-week Services:

Before the vacancy began we had a said service of Holy Communion on the 1st Thursday of the month at 1130.

Carols by Candlelight:

This is held in the early evening of Christmas Eve, with an informal mix of reading, songs and traditional carols and is usually very well attended

Prayer and Discipleship

We believe prayer to be an important part of church life. We have seen many answers to prayer, but also realise that we need to improve commitment to it. Before the vacancy Morning Prayer took place three days a week at 8.30am. St. Nicholas's Chapel has been reordered to become a quiet area for reflection, prayer and quiet discussion.

Baptism and Confirmation

Baptism usually takes place in Sunday morning services. We would like to encourage parents and family to attend some services prior to the baptism. Confirmations are organised on a Deanery basis. In all prayer and discipleship, we recognize the importance of trying to put God into all our situations, remembering our love for God and each other.

Mothers' Union

Members of the Mothers' Union from St John's meet with other members from the town at Christ Church.

Community Links and Outreach

The schools come to St. John's because of its large seating capacity. On other occasions they come to learn about baptism and marriage.

Services of Holy Communion are held in five of our care homes.

A large Remembrance Day service takes place on the esplanade each year and is usually led by the Anglican Priest.

The Annexe hosts a variety of groups and activities drawn from the wider community. On three evenings each week in term time, the Beverley Community Hall is used by Sandown Guiding Association for meetings of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. They also have occasional Saturday night sleepovers and events.

Other regular users include an Art Group, the Anglers' Association, tea dance, Sandown Model group, and table tennis. Monthly meetings of St. John's Women's Fellowship and Sandown Evening Townswomen's Guild also take place in the Annexe meeting rooms.

Other users include: "Breathe Easy", the Stroke Association, Caterpillar Music (for toddlers) and Creation Station (a creative art group for toddlers).

There are weekly coffee mornings and bingo sessions, which attract not only church members, but also people who support the church, but who do not attend services on a regular basis. We often have holiday makers drop in to the coffee mornings.

The halls are frequently used by other outside associations for fundraising events such as fete, jumble sales and bazaars and for private functions such as children's parties.

Deanery and Diocese

St. John's has played a full role in the discussions that are leading towards pastoral reorganisation within the Bay area. We are looking forward to finding new ways of working and serving our community with other parishes and churches.

Wider Church

On a regular basis St. John's supports the Children's Society, the Food Bank and Christian Aid. More locally we try to support where we can the local Christian Respite Centre, Sandown /Shanklin Inshore Independent Lifeboat, Earl Mountbatten Hospice and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. At Christmas, Easter and Harvest Time we allocate monies to charities, local, national and international causes respectively.

St John's has a link with South Wight Youth Theatre resulting in performances in church of musical drams such as "Godspell" and Rock Nativity. The church is the venue for many other performances from band concerts, male voice choirs and RSCM choral works. We have also hosted the Ugandan Watoto Children's Choir on three occasions.



Over several years St. John's has supported an orphanage in Kenya, through two of our parishioners. Land for the orphanage has been purchased, the orphanage built and equipped and is now up and running.



Administration and Finance

The Parish office is located in St. John's choir vestry. Until June 2015 a part time Parish Administrator was employed. This post became vacant and has not been refilled. The PCC wish to revisit this after the appointment of a new priest.

St. John's has been able to meet its Parish Share. During the past year there have been considerable expenses, the main item being dry rot in the clergy vestry, with a severely leaking roof. Fortunately, the repairs are now well in hand and any new priest can be assured of a dry vestry! Fundraising and donations have raised half the funds needed and a Diocesan loan made up the shortfall.

The challenges and opportunities

- To meet the needs of the many people of all ages who are currently not reached with the message of the Gospel, many of whom also see it as irrelevant.
- To maximize the opportunities to encourage young people, and retain their interest in the Gospel.
- To improve our links with other community organisations in the area, and work with them more effectively
- To recognise the difficulties faced by an aging congregation.
- To address the lack of community facilities in the area north of the railway line.
- To use the community uses of our church buildings as a tool for mission.
- To explore developing our services.
- To be more prayerful.
- To respond to the need for teaching and ministry to individuals.
- To recognize each other's gifts and pastoral care for others and better encourage one another.

Profile: St Blasius, Shanklin



The Parish

St Blasius Church is situated on the Ventnor Road approximately half a mile from Shanklin Old Village and Shanklin Town. It is in the Isle of Wight Deanery and part of the Diocese of Portsmouth.

St Blasius parish is one of the smallest on the Isle of Wight and was only established in 1853. The main body of the church was built during the reign of King Stephen, so is 850 years old. It was extended in the 1850s and for much of its history was the family chapel for Shanklin Manor. In the Domesday Book Shanklin is called *Sencliz* and according to Parish Records, in Cardinal Beaufort's time [*Bishop of Winchester 1404-1447*], the chapel was also known as St John the Baptist founded by the Lord de Lisle for the use of his family, tenants and residents of Shanklin, Gatten and Sandham.

As Shanklin began to grow in Victorian times the Lord of the Manor gave the church to the town as the parish church for the Old Village and the new development to the north. As the town grew and spread towards Sandown in the north, two new parishes were formed, St. Paul's near the train station and St. Saviour's on the Cliff. Being on the southern extreme of the town, St. Blasius church has remained in many ways a country church.

The current population of the parish is approximately 1400. There are 79 on the electoral roll, made up of 37 residents and 42 non-residents.

A prayer for those who worship in this church



O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. God make the door of this house the gateway to Thine eternal Kingdom.

About Us

Our congregation is diverse from families with young children to retired people. The average weekly attendance in 2015 was 57. The pastoral and spiritual responsibility for the Parish resides with the Reverend Tony Richards, our Local Minister who was commissioned on August 6, 2015. Tony is a former member of our congregation.

We hold weekly Holy Communion services although once per month this is moved and combined with Evensong and the morning service is replaced with sung Matins. Our style of worship is traditional or "middle of the road" which is popular with our congregation and they are keen to retain. We enjoy traditional music, have a robed choir and are affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. The choir regularly performs anthems as part of our Matins services and is requested to sing at many of the Weddings and special services held in church each year. We are fortunate to have two organists and an enthusiastic experienced choir director who leads and supports choir members through the "Voice for Life" RSCM vocal training scheme.

Lay involvement in the church is strong and willing volunteers look after the church building, its upkeep and the churchyard. Two people are licensed to assist at communion. A committed and enthusiastic PCC provides support to our Local Minister consisting of the Vice Chairman, two Deanery Synod representatives, two Churchwardens, two Deputy Churchwardens, and nine elected members plus the Secretary. Our Local Minister attends all PCC meetings, takes an active part in the PCC and is involved in all discussions. The PCC is supported by several sub-committees: Finance & Standing, Fabric, Fund-Raising, Worship, Parish Magazine and Pastoral Care. We have a Safeguarding Policy and an appointed Safeguarding representative. Our active Mothers' Union has 13 members and an excellent team of flower arrangers decorate the church every Sunday and provide beautiful displays for festivals.

A strong fund-raising committee and supporting team have raised significant funds for a number of projects, and we hold a variety of social and fund-raising events throughout the year. These include Cream Teas, a Summer Fete, Harvest Lunch, Beetle Drive, Quiz Evenings & shared supper, Lent Boxes and Raffles. Many members of the congregation also collect money for the Children's Society and for our Diocesan International Link with Ghana, supporting the Reverend Canon Barnabas Okoh.

The Parish Magazine sub-committee produce 200 copies of our monthly magazine with over half of them distributed by volunteers. Copies are also distributed via mail and are available in the church itself where copies of Pompey Chimes are also made available. Weekly Notices are given each Sunday which provide updates on services, news and upcoming events.

We are involved with Christians Working Together in Shanklin (CWTiS) including the Food Bank and the regular united services held during winter months.

Our Local Minister and one member of our congregation sit on the Governing Body at St. Blasius Shanklin C of E Primary Academy. A good relationship exists with the school and it is our aim to build on this, increasing their involvement in the life of the church.

We hold a Lenten study group each year and have also held Bible Study groups. In 2014 we supported 4 members of our congregation through Confirmation, with 2 of those also through Baptism.

We offer fellowship each week after our morning services with coffee and cakes which provides an opportunity to chat, meet friends and welcome visitors.

Our Vision for the Future

In our increasingly secularised society we at St. Blasius, in common with all churches in the country, have the objective of increasing the relevance of our church to our local community whilst maintaining continuity of worship for our core congregation. With a better understanding of the concerns of our local community we aim to increase our interaction in our local area with the emphasis upon a specific approach to address local needs. Included in this approach we aim to;

encourage increased use of the space available in our church and churchyard for events such as concerts, garden parties, cinema club, coffee mornings with the emphasis on being an “open church” for all members of our community bringing our congregation and local community together on a more regular basis;

form a *Friends of St Blasius* which will help us to further develop links with our local community;

increase the number of younger people attending our church through increased interaction with our local community and local school and by welcoming all new members to our congregation regardless of age, race, gender or background;

help the congregation grow spiritually, to deepen their faith and feel better equipped to relate our faith to our daily life and work, offering a range of opportunities to learn and understand the faith;

strengthen our links with St. Blasius Primary Academy. In addition to the regular attendance at the school of our Local Minister for school assemblies we wish to increase the church’s footprint in school-life through joint school concerts, church-based projects and the sponsorship of school competitions;

more Lay participation in visiting the sick and elderly in their homes and increased involvement with our local school;

Beyond our local community we aim to:

establish closer links with all churches in the Sandown Bay area and in particular with our fellow Anglican churches where shared resources and experiences can only help us in delivering the message of Jesus to our communities;

deepen our relationship with our link church in Ghana and continue to support Father Barnabas both with financial aid and more regular and open communication with his church.

Members of our congregation have shown they can embrace change when that happens within the context of our traditional style of ministry and mission. Under the respected leadership of our Local Minister, the Reverend Tony Richards, we feel confident we are well placed to pro-actively support the new Incumbent, the Area Dean and Archdeacon in meeting the future challenges the Church faces on the Island.

Our emphasis will always be to maintain the friendly welcoming ethos of St Blasius to be open in accepting people from all backgrounds.



Our commitments to the new priest: We undertake to support our new priest by working together to understand God's vision for St Blasius.

Service Patterns: Currently our monthly pattern of services is:

1 st Sunday	10.15 a.m.	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
2 nd Sunday	10.15 a.m.	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
3 rd Sunday	10.15 a.m.	Matins (BCP)
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong with Holy Communion (BCP)
4 th Sunday	10.15 a.m.	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
5 th Sunday	10.15 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)



Until the 2010 Interregnum a service of Holy Communion was held at 8.00 a.m. on the 4th Sunday of every month. We hope this could be reinstated if there is sufficient interest. Should a major festival fall on the 3rd Sunday the morning service is Holy Communion. From September to November and January to March there are United Evening services once a month with the other churches in Shanklin, held at a different church each month.

Special services are held at Easter and Christmas, Remembrance Sunday and Sea Sunday. Christingle services are held every year and on Mothering Sunday posies are distributed. At Easter and Harvest gifts are brought to the service for distribution to the sick and elderly.

Details of each week's services are published in the church porch, our monthly parish magazine and on our website.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals are by arrangement.

During British Summer Time the church is open from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm daily. During the winter months the church can be opened by appointment.

The average weekly attendance in 2015 was 57. Attendance at major festivals can be in excess of 100. In 2015 there were 7 weddings, 1 blessing, 2 baptisms, 1 service of thanksgiving and 16 funerals.

Parish Website

We have an excellent website, www.st-blasius-church.org.uk, giving all the above information as well as a history of the church and details of the churchyard. For those interested in researching their family history, there is a plan of the graves, an index to the graveyard and details of the memorial plaques in the church.

St Blasius Church

St Blasius can comfortably accommodate 150, with a maximum of 200. It contains a Vestry and a Parish Room which is used for meetings and coffee after morning services, a toilet and a small kitchen area/choir room. The organ loft at the west end of the nave was built in the mid-19th century when the Reverend George Southouse was the incumbent. There is also the Rectory which is a quarter mile from the church.

The church building itself is probably one of the best built churches in the area and has been well maintained by a long line of church members for which we are very grateful. During the last 19 years a number of improvements/ repairs have been carried out both in the church building and the churchyard. In the immediate future, work needs to be carried out on the external woodwork of the church and a new gas boiler will probably have to be installed. All windows have been refurbished within the past ten years.



Our last Quinquennial Inspection took place in October 2015 the results of which were good.

The grass and the trees in the churchyard are maintained by the local council and in season there are daffodils, primroses, snowdrops, camellias and splendid rhododendrons. It is a closed churchyard but there is an area for plaques and burial of ashes.

Five-Year Financial Overview

The PCC currently controls financial net assets aggregating approximately £35 thousand ¹ of which £17 thousand is restricted. The unrestricted reserves combined with the average level of our collections over the last few years have been insufficient to meet our full Diocesan Parish Share payments.

Revenue;

Our principal sources of income are from collections and donations backed up by income from our operating activities [revenue generated from a) weddings, christenings and funerals, b) our parish magazine and c) after-service coffee fellowship] and Fund Raising [our summer or autumn fetes, other events hosted by parishioners and the sale of memorabilia]. Against the background of a slowly declining average congregation (although this decline has been reversed over the last year or two) average collections have held up relatively well and the emphasis upon stewardship over the last three years has increased our average level of tax-effective Planned Giving. Donations, by their nature, are unpredictable. Large increases in income from operating activities is dependent upon the number of Occasional Services. Fund-raising remains an important source of revenue.

(£'000)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Revenue					
Collections (incl. Gift Aid)	16.9	19.0	17.9	20.0	23.8
Donations	2.8	2.8	2.2	1.8	1.3
Income from Operating Activities	5.7	5.2	5.6	6.0	6.8
Fund Raising	3.1	4.1	1.7	3.9	2.9
Investment Income	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.5
Total	29.0	31.7	28.0	32.7	35.3

¹ As of December 31, 2015

Expenses

The challenge we face is that our average Parish Share over the last ten years (£25,222) is equivalent to 128% of our average collections over the same period. We covered this deficit over a number of years by drawing down on our reserves but we could not do this indefinitely. Through commitment and hard work we have managed to pay an annual average of £20,454 Parish Share over the last five years.

The level of expenditure on the maintenance and running of the church continues to be strictly controlled as can be seen from the chart below although maintenance expenditure is expected to increase this year. As can be noted by comparing the revenue and expense tables our operating activities are consistently profitable.

(£'000)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Expenses					
Parish Quota	27.7	16.0	20.6	18.0	20.5
Church Related Costs	19.4	9.7	9.6	8.2	7.6
Expense of Operating Activities	3.0	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.8
Fund Raising Costs	0.2	0.8	0	0.2	0.1
Charitable Payments	0.3	0	0.4	0.3	0.7
Total	50.6	28.8	33.2	29.3	31.7

Net Annual Performance and Reserves:

Receipts have exceeded expenses in three of the last four years because only 70% of our Parish Share commitment has been paid and other maintenance and running expenses have been strictly controlled.

(£'000)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Net Receipts/Expenditure	(20.4)	3.1	(5.3)	3.5	3.7
Y.E. Net Monetary Assets ²	29.9	32.8	28.0	31.8	35.2

Church Sub-Committees

Standing Committee: The PCC appoints a *Standing Committee* of 7 members, currently the Local Minister, Vice Chairman, Churchwardens, and three other PCC members. The Committee carries out routine work between PCC meetings and acts as a committee of the PCC, not as an independent body. It is accountable to the PCC for everything that it does. Any matters arising from its meetings are raised at the following PCC meeting. It only meets on an emergency basis, to discuss matters of an urgent, highly sensitive and/or confidential nature.

Finance Committee: The PCC appoints the *Finance Committee*, currently comprising the Local Minister, Vice Chairman, Churchwardens, and three other PCC members. This committee advises the PCC on the financial position of the church and only meets as necessary.

² Excluding unpaid Parish Share aggregating £32,805 as at the end of 2015

Fabric Committee: The Fabric Committee attends to matters relating to the church buildings and fabric as well as the churchyard. Every year a great deal of work is accomplished. This committee comprises the Local minister, Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwardens and one other PCC member.

Fund-Raising Committee: This committee comprises three PCC members and meets on a regular basis during the year to plan our fund-raising events.

Parish Magazine Committee: This committee comprises the Local Minister, one of our churchwardens and two other PCC members. Its role is to ensure the timeliness, quality and integrity of material published in our monthly magazine.

Worship Steering Group: This committee was responsible for maintaining consistency in liturgical standards during our Interregnum and is now available if required by our Local Minister to opine upon any matters relating to the content and structure of our services. This committee comprises, the Local Minister, Vice Chairman, Churchwardens, two members of the PCC and one member of the congregation.

Person Profile

Our new priest for St John's and St Blasius will:

- be inspirational and sensitive to the needs of the churches
- be able to work collaboratively and help our churches to grow.

Profile: Christ Church, Sandown

Priest in Charge: Revd Mark Williams from 20th August 2017

The latest information on the church and its activities can be found on the church website www.christchurchsandown.org.uk.

Building and history

Christ Church was built in 1847 and has a closed churchyard. It is situated on the Broadway, Sandown and is adjacent to community facilities such as The Heights Leisure Centre, the Medical Centre and, currently, the Town Council offices. A complete renovation of the exterior and interior of the church building has taken place in the last 12 years such that no new major works are currently envisaged.



The church building, which includes a hall, has toilets, open plan kitchen, modern heating, lighting and sound system. The main church area is carpeted with comfortable chairs having replaced the pews to make the church as accessible, adaptable and as usable for the 21st century as possible. A full history of the church is available on the church website.

The people

Church numbers are growing with around 35 or so adults and 8 children attending a typical Sunday worship service. Together we love the Lord and have a real commitment to see God at work amongst us. We have a desire to share the love and compassion of Jesus with the people of Sandown and the Bay area. We welcome all ages and our current congregation ranges in age from 5 to those in their 80s.



Children and Young People

We have a dedicated team running our Sunday groups. On Monday and Wednesday mornings the church also runs Little Friends, a parent and toddler group.

Mothers' Union

The MU meets each month at Christ Church and includes members from Christ Church, St John's and Church of the Good Shepherd.

Home Groups and Prayer

Home Groups: There are two groups at present: one meets in the afternoon and the other in the evening, currently fortnightly whilst Alpha is taking place. The aim of both groups is to support one another, pray together, study the Bible, learn together and eat cake!

Prayer: There is opportunity each Saturday morning to come together for prayer. On the first Saturday of the month this is at 9.30am followed by breakfast. On other Saturdays we meet at 8.30am. Prayer ministry is also available after services and additional people will be trained in this ministry later this year.

Ministry

During the vacancy our Reader, as well as leading Sunday worship, has taken on the overseeing of the practical needs of church life including organising the rota for Sunday services. We have also encouraged a few church members to assist in leading services which has enriched our worship. We have two Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs) who recently completed a Diocesan training course.

Sunday Worship

Week 1	Morning Worship
Week 2	Communion
Week 3	All Age Worship
Week 4	Communion
Week 5	Morning Worship.

Our young people join in the first part of the service and then have their own session. For All Age Worship we stay together throughout the service; however, we usually include a choice of activities for both adults and children. We believe in making our worship accessible for all, using both modern and some traditional songs and hymns, led by our worship group. We encourage the congregation to take active roles within the service which we aim to have a welcoming and informal feel.



Worship Group

This consists of a number of singers and musicians (keyboard, viola, violin, cello and guitar) who lead worship on Sundays and other occasions. The Worship Group have previously been trained using a Worship Central course.

Thanksgiving and Baptism

We have a policy in place to encourage a service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child, rather than infant baptism (see website for further details) for those who are not currently regular church members. Confirmations usually take place once a year at varying locations on the Island.

Finance

We have a giving scheme in place and, despite previous shortfalls, in 2015 our Parish Share was paid in full. This is anticipated to be the ongoing position.

Reaching out to our community

Care Homes: Sandown has several residential care and nursing homes. During the vacancy the Reader and LPAs have taken communion into five of the nearby homes and are developing contacts there. Carol services in each home also take place.

Churches Together in Sandown, which includes Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and the Pentecostal Church, has met three times in 2016 for two evenings of prayer and a service of worship. We all felt encouraged and are trying to meet together every quarter. The leaders of the churches also pray together regularly.

Members of our church are actively involved in the Alzheimer's Café, Foodbank and CAP (Christians Against Poverty) with other churches based in Sandown.

Schools: Christ Church provides one Foundation Governor for The Federation (formed this year) of The Bay Church of England and Niton Primary Schools. A parent governor, at least one staff member and pupils (past and present) from The Bay CE Primary School worship at Christ Church. The minister of Sandown Baptist Church is currently Chair of Governors. We have not had much direct contact with Sandown Bay Academy although we are aware that Isle of Wight Youth for Christ has been involved at the school.

Other Community Bodies: We have good links with Sandown Town Council (based in the building next to Christ Church) and are in contact with them and others (including the NHS) about enhanced community use of church facilities.

Alpha: In September, we began an Alpha course (the first in about 10 years) on Monday nights which is being attended by some 20 people (including helpers).

Film Nights: We hold monthly Family Film Nights as an opportunity to get to know our neighbours and have fun together and to encourage the community to see inside and be comfortable in the building. Admission is free and, due to the flexibility of our building, we hold these events in the church.

Social Events include post-service lunches, quiz evenings, walks, a beetle drive, art sessions and we discovered hidden talent at the Christmas party!

Website: Though newly established, the website has been the first point of contact for many visitors and holiday makers who have joined us on Sundays, enquiries about baptisms etc., and the main communication tool for news and events to church members.

Our belief and vision

As a church, we aim to:

- serve the community as a witness to God's love for all people in sending his Son Jesus to be our saviour
- give thanks to God in worship for that love
- nurture God's people as they seek to follow Jesus
- do the Lord's work in caring for the people of Sandown and bringing to them the good news of Jesus Christ.

At this present time, our congregation is working as one, enthusiastic about the possibilities the future may bring, encouraged by the growth being seen each week (both numerically and in people's personal faith) and has a desire to take up new challenges.

Shanklin, St Paul's

Priest in Charge: Revd Mark Williams from 20th August 2017



St. Paul's Church, designed by C.L. Luck and built of local stone, was constructed in 1876. After bomb damage in WWII the Church was reopened in 1947. The most recent incumbent retired in 2016 following a ministry of 37 years. During the last ten years, attendance has gradually declined and the condition of the building deteriorated.

The Church is situated in the centre of the town with easy access to train and bus stations. There are a good variety of shops with two larger supermarkets. The beach and countryside are within a ten-minute walk from the vicarage.

The large Church can easily accommodate a congregation of 300 as well as a choir. There are large choir and clergy vestries.

There is a link from the Church to the Parish Hall with toilets, a small meeting room and kitchen. There is external access to the Church and hall is gained by separate entrances from Regent Street.

Adjacent to the Church is the vicarage with a garage, drive, garden and an area of uncultivated land (formerly a tennis court) all surrounded by splendid Horse Chestnut trees.

The diocese is investing a significant amount of money to improve and modernise the vicarage to include a new kitchen, bathroom, roof repairs and groundwork. This work will make the building a very attractive property.

Members

St. Paul's has a faithful congregation of about 20 people who are mostly over 60, but who are enthusiastic and keen to see the Church begin a new journey. There are two faithful Churchwardens, one of whom is a reader, who have been very active in the period of interregnum.

Tithing

For many years, members have been encouraged to take part in a Free Will Scheme with an emphasis on the biblical teaching of tithing.

Missions

There is a tradition of supporting four overseas missionary societies as well as Isle of Wight mission initiatives. At present, individuals support missions on a financial basis and until 2015 the practice of tithing was reinforced when each year, 10% of the Churches annual disposable income was donated to missions. This was temporarily suspended when all available funds were needed to pay for work on the church building.

A knitting group meets monthly in a member's home to provide goods for Moldova and areas in need.

Repairs

In 2015, a grant of £120,000 was received from Historic England for repairing the roof, upper stonework, rainwater goods and to ensure the safety of the Bell Tower which contains the ship's bell from the training ship, HMS Eurydice, which floundered in a storm off the shores of Shanklin in 1878. Further work is still required both outside and inside the Church. Ensuring the essential building work was carried out has affected the financial situation for the last two years. There are now signs of recovery!

Parish Share

No Parish Share has been paid in the last two years and there is a shortfall in excess of £30,000. Prior to this time, St. Paul's had an exemplary record of 100% payment. Plans are currently in hand to resume payments as from January 2017.

Services

St. Paul's is of the conservative evangelical tradition. Currently one service is held on Sunday mornings, either Morning worship or Holy Communion (Rite A). The New International Version of the Bible is our standard in-church Bible.

Music

Music is provided using an 1882 Forster and Andrews pipe organ or modern keyboard. Hymns are selected from 'Hymns for Today's Church' or 'Songs of Fellowship'. The choir has four members at the moment.

Future

Opportunities for links and outreach within the community;

- Working with The Isle of Wight Dance and Theatre Company who have decorated and are now renting the Hall and are eager to co-operate and support the work of St. Paul's.
- There is a potential source of contacts with younger families in the residential area close to a recently built primary school (Gatten and Lake).
- Elderly folk meet in the Age UK Day Centre opposite the Church in Regent Street.
- Visits to Residential Care Homes for the elderly.
- The use of the Church for musical and other events by visiting bodies.

St Paul's has two faithful Church Wardens of whom one is also a Reader. There is currently one service on a Sunday and no other activities in either the Church or hall at other times.

Shanklin St Saviour's

Priest in Charge: Fr David Lawrence-March from 17th July 2017



Background

St Saviour's is an Anglican church within the diocese of Portsmouth of Anglo-Catholic tradition. The Isle of Wight has an Archdeacon and Area Dean.

The Archdeaconry of the Isle of Wight traditionally had two deaneries but in 2015 changed to one deanery with St Saviour's having two representatives. One who is Deputy Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod and Chair of the Deanery Finance Committee, also one representative on the Diocesan Synod.

St Saviour on the Cliff and the Good Shepherd Lake, have been held in Plurality since 1967. They remain two separate Parishes and had shared one priest who retired in August 2015.

Resolutions A & B under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993 are in place and have petitioned the Bishop of Portsmouth on resolution C.

St Saviour's is a member of 'The Society' under the patronage of Saint Wilfred and Saint Hilda. The Bishop of Portsmouth is Patron of the Parish with episcopal oversight given by the Bishop of Richborough. We are clear that we wish to remain fully involved with the Diocese and the Deanery and with the proposals for a team ministry for the Sandown Bay 6 proposals.

There are no schools in the Parish.

St Saviour on the Cliff, Shanklin

Standing prominently on the cliff at the southern end of Shanklin, the stone spire is visible from many points in the town. From the sea it is seen from Bembridge Point right across Sandown Bay.

St Saviour's was designed by Thomas Hellyer and built of local sandstone. It was consecrated in 1869 and added to incrementally throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century. A tower and steeple were built in 1886/7 and a peel of eight bells installed a year later. This peel was restored in 1999.

The roofs are steeply pitched and tiled, with stone gables, lancet windows with quatrefoil window above and alongside, with large cinquefoil window to the west.





Internally the church is very impressive, with exposed stone and black timber hammer beams and infill dark planking; the nave and side aisle floors are of Victorian red and black diamond tiles, with carpeting around the nave altar. The original box pews form the seating.

The building is Grade II listed, originally in 1967, but confirmed in the relisting of 14 February 1992.

Being on a cliff, with south westerly storms, the stonework is prone to erosion and any work on the fabric would be a major undertaking.

Apart from the stonework the church is maintained to a high standard and is heated by a gas heating system, with three boilers situated at the base of the tower.

There is a current faculty for repairs to the stonework around the two rose windows at the west end, but lack of finance has prohibited this for the time being.

The last Quinquennial inspection carried out in 2013 states "the overall impression both externally and in particularly internally is of high quality of care and attention to detail".

In 2016 severe fungal dry rot was discovered in three locations; by the south porch, the crypt and to the side of the west entrance. Archdeacon's permission was given for these works and the treatment to the south porch has been completed and the work to the crypt is in progress. The work to the west wall necessitates complete re-wiring as the meter intake position is affected by the dry rot. This cannot proceed at the present time due to lack of finance.

Attached to the church is a hall that is used constantly during the week by various organisations including dance classes and badminton. The income from lettings is a substantial source of the church's revenue. The toilets were refurbished and comprise both male and female with a dedicated disabled facility. There is a well equipped kitchen and the hall is heated with electric infra-red wall heaters. A new floor surface was laid in 2015.

Worship

St Saviour's maintains the very highest standards of worship. The style is catholic, with full ceremony. Vestments are worn. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved and incense is used at the Sung Eucharist. A team of servers provide support as do members of the laity who read lessons and lead the intercessions. St Saviour's has three licensed Readers.

The Sung Eucharist is celebrated at 11.00am with 8.00am Eucharist. Midweek Eucharist is on Wednesday at 10.00am. Choral evensong is at 6.30pm on the third Sunday of the month. Other occasional offices are celebrated, baptisms, weddings and funerals.

There is a nave altar where the Sung Parish Eucharist is normally celebrated. The High Altar is occasionally used. There are two side aisles south and north, with the Lady Chapel at the east end of the north aisle. This is used for the mid-week Eucharist and the 8.00am Sunday Eucharist. Stations of the Cross are held in Lent with full Holy Week observance.

The tower has a peal of eight bells that are rung for the Sunday Eucharist two Sundays a month. It is hoped that this can be increased to every Sunday. Visiting ringers are welcomed.



Music

Music forms an integral and important part of the worship at St Saviour's. Parish Eucharist is sung each Sunday with five different settings and includes a motet during the celebration. A robed choir of around sixteen leads the Sunday worship. The church has excellent acoustics and hosts a series of musical events put on by local and visiting choirs, brass bands etc.

The organ is by J W Walker and was installed in 1874. It is two manual and is maintained to a good standard.

Each year we celebrate an Advent Carol Service, a traditional Nine Lessons and Carols and a devotional meditation on Palm Sunday evening.

The hymn book is The New English Hymnal supplemented with New Hymns and Worship Songs.



Congregation

The congregation is drawn from local residents and from across the Island. The congregation is largely "gathered", attracted by the catholic style and tradition and music which can only be found in one or two other churches on the Island. There is a core of people that are extremely loyal and hardworking maintaining the church; they are Sunday regulars and people who are always at social and fundraising events.

Average attendance at the 11.00am Sunday Parish Eucharist is 58, the 8.00am Sunday Eucharist is 5 and the Wednesday mid-week Eucharist is 9.

The Electoral Register revised in April 2016 has; Resident 15, Non-resident 54.

Ecumenical Relations

Shanklin has two other Anglican churches (evangelical and central traditions) a Roman Catholic Church, a Methodist Church, a United Reformed Church as well as a Gospel Hall.

A church group known as 'Christians working together in Shanklin' (CITWS) exists. United evening services are arranged in the winter months (September to March) an ecumenical Procession of Witness on Good Friday, a series of lunchtime addresses in Lent are among the activities sponsored by CITWS. Historically St Saviour's has not had a particularly high profile in relations with other churches.



Finance

Our principal sources of income are from planned giving, fund raising and rental of the church hall. Planned giving has seen a steady increase over the last three years and gift aid has been claimed where appropriate. All members of the congregation who donate under planned giving have recently been approached to ensure that any who can donate under the gift aid scheme do so. Claims for gift aid are also made under the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme.

The main fund raising events are the Spring, Summer and Christmas Fairs. There are also monthly table top sales, a monthly cake stall, a plant and jigsaw sale and other sundry, smaller, but no less important events. There is also a frugal lunch on Fridays during Lent.

Church hall letting has increased substantially in the last two years and now averages £800/£900 per month.

As with most parishes the major overhead is the parish share which for 2016 amounts to £40,699. Of other expenditure the largest relate to insurance, light and heat and church repairs.

We have been unable to fully pay our parish share for the last few years. This will regrettably also be the position in 2016 as we have had to finance the cost of dry rot repair work costing £31,600. This we have done from reserves but it has left us with only a relatively small amount of funds. We are investigating the possible recovery of VAT (£5,200) included in this repair cost but until a claim is made we cannot be sure of any recovery. Additionally the re-wiring and dry rot treatment to the west wall will have to be funded, the likely cost of this is £54,000 +VAT. There are two small restricted funds.

Profile: The Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake

Priest in Charge: Fr David Lawrence-March from 17th July 2017

The Good Shepherd

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake, was built as a daughter church to Christ Church, Sandown in 1894. The leading late Victorian architect, Temple Moore who was related to the then vicar of Christ Church, designed the Church. The design is unusual but very effective. Lake became a separate parish in 1930.

The parishes of the Good Shepherd and St Saviour on the Cliff have been held in plurality since 1976.

There is a degree of co-operation between the two congregations. Holy Week has been observed across the plurality and attempts have been made to encourage the observance of other major events in the calendar on a co-operative basis. With St Saviour's we have supported and helped form the vocations of two Readers who were licensed in September 2016 and there are three other Readers serving in both parishes. The help of retired clergy has been greatly valued in both parishes.

The Ministry of Women

With St Saviour's, the Church of the Good Shepherd had made resolutions A & B under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993 and these have been confirmed this year after a unanimous decision by the PCC of The Good Shepherd. Church Wardens have met recently with the Bishop of Portsmouth, who is Patron of both parishes, and confirmed their desire for Alternative Episcopal Oversight. This is a position we would want to see maintained. At the same time, we would want to remain as fully involved in the life of the deanery and the diocese as possible. Despite the catholic tradition, this is a very Anglican church. Relationships with the Diocese and through the Archdeacon of the IW have been much improved during the course of the vacancy.

Communications

We produce a weekly notice sheet incorporating the Redemptorist publication of the weekly readings. The Diocesan newspaper 'Pompey Chimes' is distributed.

Schools and other institutions

There is one school in the parish, Broadlea Primary, with whom there is a tenuous link. A more active relationship has been built up with Gatten and Lake Primary School which is outside the parish. However, as the name suggests, a good many local children attend this school. Good relations have been established with the head teacher and his staff, particularly in Reception and Year 1.

Winchester House is just over the parish boundary. The Girls' Friendly Society ran this for many years; it has recently passed to the YMCA. There are no other significant institutions in the parish.

The congregation

The congregation at the parish Eucharist numbers about forty. This is predominantly a local congregation; some have worshipped at The Good Shepherd all their lives. Many of the congregation walk to church – there is no parking. The numbers of holidaymakers worshipping at The Good Shepherd are few. Some children and young families and Brownies come to Church on special occasions.

The majority of the congregation works hard for the maintenance of its church. This is a loyal and supportive congregation, many of whom are rarely absent. The increasing age of the members is a cause for concern. The church is open every day.

Worship

Worship at The Good Shepherd is centred on the Eucharist. The Parish Eucharist is celebrated at 9.30am on Sunday. The rite is Common Worship Order One with all three readings from the revised Common Lectionary (NRSV edition). Refreshments are served afterwards. The style is modern catholic with moderate ceremonial – bells but not ‘smells’. Vestments are worn and the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. Laity read the first two lessons, lead the intercessions, assist at the altar and one lay assistant helps with the home communions.

The Eucharist is also celebrated on Thursday at 10am.

The music is largely congregational. There is a small enthusiastic choir with 7 members. A hymn or motet is sung by the choir during the celebration. The three manual organ is by J. W. Walker. A carol service, Christingle service and crib service form part of the Christmas celebrations.

Ecumenical relations

A very good working relationship was established with Lake Methodist church but due to a change in clergy there this has dwindled. The level of co-operation was very much valued by most members of both churches and we would be keen to see this developed again.

The Occasional Offices

Holy Baptism is generally administered within the context of the Parish Eucharist.

Both Shanklin and Sandown cemeteries are within the parish. Neither cemetery has a chapel and this can lead to a request for a church service.

Holy Matrimony is performed when required and previous incumbents have adhered to a policy of not marrying divorced persons.

Finance

The first call on the parish's income is the payment of the Parish Share. We recently were able to meet an outstanding shortfall and with the appointment of a Stewardship Representative hope to be able to meet our allocation though this is by no means easy.

The parish benefits from a small but very active and hard-working fundraising team. Their activities include the usual mix of fetes and jumble sales plus coffee mornings and even ‘fish and chip’ suppers and musical recitals. This fundraising brings in in the region of £5,000 each year.

The church hall is used for parochial, educational and charitable purposes and donations for its use exceed the expenditure, which therefore makes it self-supporting from year to year.

The parish has a small reserve deposited with the CBF that is designated for the church's fabric repairs.

There are also two small legacies, which are Restricted Funds, and the parish only receives a very small income dividend each quarter from the shares held by the CBF, with the diocese as Custodian Trustees.

Housing

There are four clergy houses in the Bay. The housing for the priest with oversight of Sandown St John will either be in Elmbank Gardens Sandown or the St Blasius Rectory in Shanklin. Whichever house is not used will be available for a Title Curate in due course. We are a little uncertain at this stage how the housing will be apportioned and this may depend upon the needs of clergy appointed to these posts.

Elmbank Gardens

The house is situated near the town station. It is positioned in a quiet cul-de-sac, not far from the town amenities. It is a modern family sized detached 4 bed-roomed house with a double garage. A large welcoming hall leads to a good sized lounge and dining room, a study/office, kitchen and utility room and also a cloakroom with toilet. A large conservatory off the lounge opens out into the rear garden.

Upstairs has 4 good sized bedrooms with one en-suite. There is also a bathroom with shower and toilet on the upper level. The small front garden is open plan, and there is a larger attractive enclosed rear garden with lawn and shrubbery, which backs onto Los Altos Park.

St Blasius Rectory

The Rectory was extensively refurbished in 2011 before occupation by our last Incumbent. It was built in the early 1970s and is located less than ¼ mile from the church which is a pleasant walk across Big Mead, a large open recreational area.

It has three reception rooms (sitting room, dining room and study), sun room, kitchen, utility room, five bedrooms (four doubles and one single), bathroom and separate shower. There is an open fire in the sitting room and oil-fired central heating. There is also a garage and large garden.

Additional Documents

The Diocesan Strategy: Live, Pray, Serve and the IW Plan are available on the Portsmouth Diocesan Website.