



The United Benefice of Blendworth, Holy Trinity with  
Chalton, St. Michael, and Idsworth, St. Hubert



A Mission Opportunity Awaiting YOUR call

## The United Benefice of Holy Trinity Blendworth with St. Michael's Chalton with St. Hubert's Idsworth

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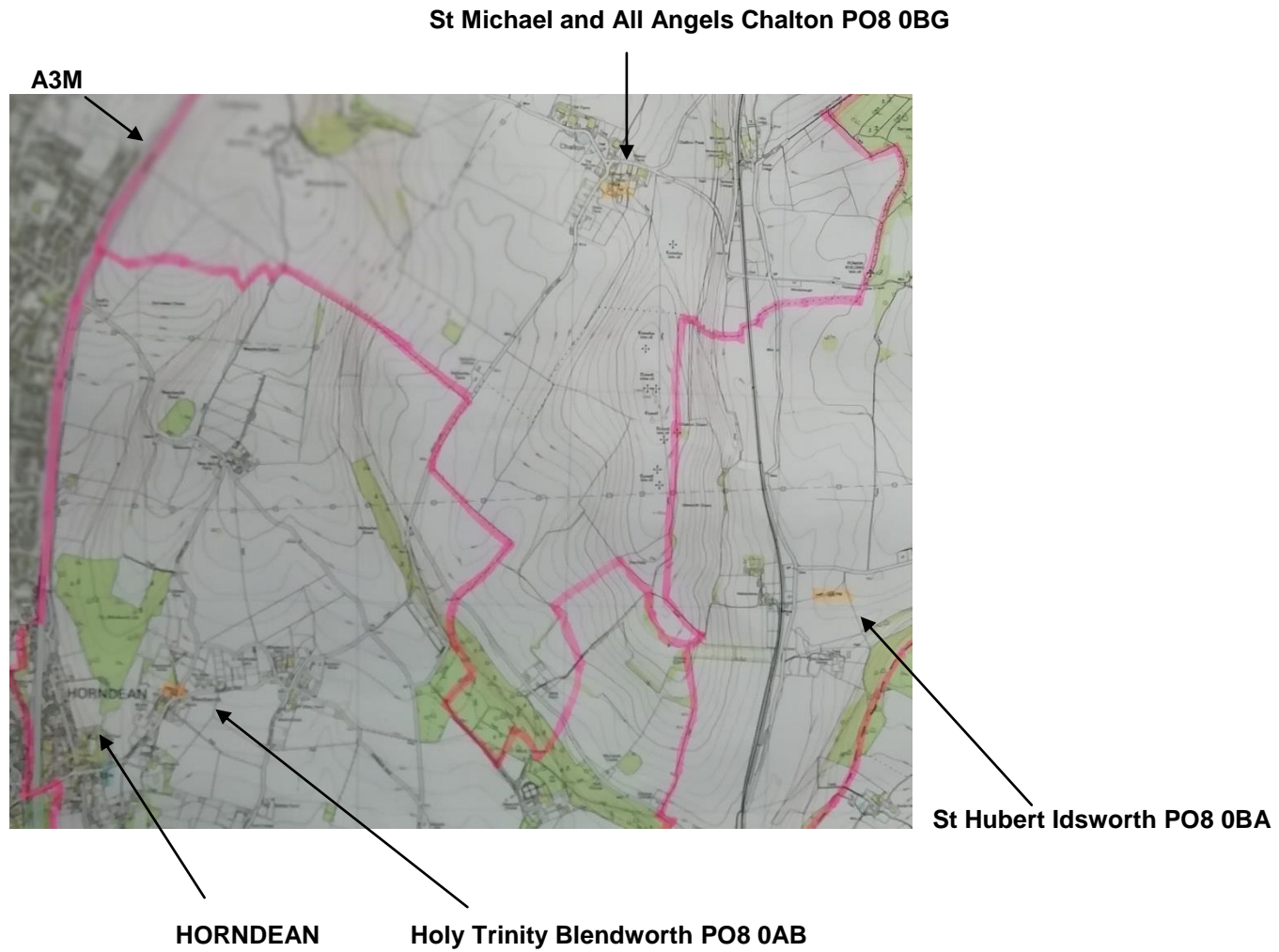
The three parishes are set in an area of outstanding natural beauty with congregations drawn from rural and semi-rural areas, although Blendworth's makeup is predominantly suburban. Our churches draw their congregations mainly from outside of their catchment areas.

At end of October 2018 there were a total of 289 persons on the Electoral Rolls of the Benefice (Holy Trinity 120, St. Hubert 102, and St. Michael 67). The average congregations attending church: Holy Trinity 54 + 8 children, St. Hubert 24+2 children, St. Michael 12.

Considered to be quite 'middle-of-the-road Anglican' in our worship, we have seen growth and change and a pattern of joint services in recent times with our own United Benefice Communion services shared around our three churches. More recently we have been involved much closer in ministry with Horndean Churches Together including regular meetings, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Good Friday Walk of Witness and production of the annual Christmas Services Card. Together we are working towards fostering development and growth and a sharing of gifts and skills.

Positive about the future and possible change, this profile describes the parishes and their mission to their surrounding areas as we seek forward looking and enthusiastic clergy with the vision to take up the exciting and rewarding challenge of a varied and growing development of young family orientated communities into the next stage of ministry.

# Location Map of the Benefice



## Benefice-wide activities

There is a Benefice Secretary who assists the Priest with the administration of all three churches. The Benefice holds CCLI licenses.

Until recently the ministerial team comprised a half -time stipendiary Priest-in-Charge assisted part -time by a retired male Licensed Reader, with the added advantage of being able to call upon two female part-time non-stipendiary priests (Sunday services only). All ministers assist across all three churches covering the extensive pattern of worship in the Benefice. This can be a challenge but is something that we are anxious to maintain.

A small Prayer Group meets to hold sick people in the Benefice before God. There is a Visitors and Listeners Group who, as is implied, visit the sick and/or housebound. There is a strong team of licensed Communion Assistants, some of whom take Home Communion. A Bible Study group meets and a Marriage Preparation Workshop team runs courses for those marrying or having blessing services in the United Benefice.

Our very active Social Group is responsible for planning and staffing activities varying from Quizzes and games with refreshments, to post Christmas Fish and Chip suppers and there is a thriving Thursday Coffee Shop in the Church Centre that welcomes anyone who wishes to come along whether they attend church or not.

The Benefice has well supported Planned Giving Schemes (including the Parish Giving Scheme) to aid parish finances and regularly reviews Stewardship as a whole.

The Mothers Union takes an active part in the life of our church, assisting with Communion on a monthly basis at Blendworth. Our monthly magazine, supported by local business advertising and sponsorship is produced for the whole Benefice and issued within the community. Each of the three churches has a PCC.

A great community event was re-established in 2016 by Blendworth's PCC, when the Blendworth Village Fete, to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, opened in the grounds of Blendworth House. Now an annual event, the fete has received a warm response from local people and helped increase the profile of the Benefice.

Embracing social media through Facebook, Text Giving and our 'BCI Churches' website and the 'A Church Near You' website have enhanced both profile and interaction within the United Benefice community.

## The United Benefice of Blendworth with Chalton with Idsworth Pattern of Sunday Services

| Time of Service                   | Type of Service      | Venue      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| <b>First Sunday of the month</b>  |                      |            |
| 8.00am                            | Holy Communion (BCP) | Blendworth |
| 9.30am                            | Parish Communion     | Chalton    |
| 9.30am                            | Morning Prayer BCP   | Idsworth   |
| 11.00am                           | Parish Communion     | Blendworth |
| <b>Second Sunday of the month</b> |                      |            |
| 8.00am                            | Holy Communion       | Blendworth |
| 9.30am                            | Morning Prayer BCP   | Chalton    |
| 9.30am                            | Parish Communion     | Idsworth   |
| 11.00am                           | All Age Worship      | Blendworth |
| <b>Third Sunday of the month</b>  |                      |            |
| 8.00am                            | Holy Communion       | Blendworth |
| 9.30am                            | Morning Prayer BCP   | Chalton    |
| 9.30am                            | All Age Worship      | Idsworth   |
| 11.00am                           | Parish Communion     | Blendworth |
| <b>Fourth Sunday of the month</b> |                      |            |
| 8.00am                            | Holy Communion       | Blendworth |
| 9.30am                            | Family Worship       | Chalton    |
| 9.30am                            | Morning Prayer BCP   | Idsworth   |
| 11.00am                           | Parish Communion     | Blendworth |

| <b>Time of Service</b>           | <b>Type of Service</b> | <b>Venue</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Fifth Sunday of the month</b> |                        |              |
| 8.00am                           | Holy Communion         | Blendworth   |
| 9.30am                           | No Service             | Chalton      |
| 9.30am                           | Parish Communion       | Idsworth     |
| 11.00am                          | Morning Prayer BCP     | Blendworth   |
| 6.00pm                           | Sung Evensong          | Chalton      |



## **BLENDWORTH HOLY TRINITY**

Blendworth is the largest of the three churches in the benefice. It is a mid-nineteenth century building seating about 200 people, situated about 1/3 mile from the centre of Horndean. The church tower and spire underwent major restoration, successfully completed in 2007. The manufacturer of the hand-made tiles won a competition for the best ecclesiastical roofing project for that year.

Further refurbishment has included the south aisle with removal of some of the pews to allow more space for a welcome area inside the door of the church and a fully installed under pew heating system. Re-carpeting of the whole church has brought a more unified and warmer atmosphere to the building.

Open every day from 7 am until 6 pm (4 pm in winter), the visitors' book has many complimentary comments ("lovely church, so pleased to find it open") which attest to the welcome and wellbeing found by visitors.

Blendworth Church also owns the Church Centre which is about 1/4 mile from the church and nearer the more populated area of Horndean village. This houses the Benefice office, a large hall with meeting rooms, a chapel and a kitchen. Mid-week Holy Communion is celebrated each Wednesday at 11.00am in the Chapel. It also acts as the Horndean Methodist Church for their Sunday service as well as being a major financial contributor to the Holy Trinity's funds through regular community group hirings.



The Sunday school, which is called "The Junior Church" has a regular following of about 4 young people and takes an active role in family services, joins us for Communion and leads the way in our Christmas celebrations. We have a vigorous, well supported four-part harmony mixed choir which regularly sing anthems and lead the congregation in the usual parts of the service. They are led by an enthusiastic director of music, and supported by two gifted organists who play the regularly serviced two-manual pipe organ.

We have a team of licensed Communion Assistants who administer the chalice in church and are able to assist the ministry team with home Communion visits when requested.

Our ministry and lay teams have been actively involved with Horndean Infant and Junior schools (particularly the Junior School's Spirituality Day and where we also provide a Foundation Governor). We regularly take part in services in the village square on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday and the annual Carol Service.

A further out-reach community initiative is operated on Monday mornings from the Church Centre where a 'Grandparents and Toddlers Club' gives senior family members with childcare responsibilities the chance to meet whilst the children play in a safe and controlled environment.





### **CHALTON, ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS**

The beautiful church of St Michael & All Angels lies in the centre of the hamlet of Chalton, north east of Blendworth, in the South Downs National Park. It is approximately one mile to the east of the A3 and just south of the Queen Elizabeth Country Park. A footpath runs through the churchyard and many visitors stop at the church and are delighted to find that it is always kept open.

The church was built in the late 11<sup>th</sup> or early 12<sup>th</sup> century, the design typical early Norman. The church building is in remarkably good condition and is regularly maintained, with repair work being carried out in accordance with the Quinquennial inspection. The upkeep and regular maintenance of the buildings and grounds is done by volunteers from the church congregation. The Brindley and Foster two-manual organ is serviced twice a year.

Chalton has a current population of 65 in the village and surrounding area. The current Electoral Roll numbers 67 and is made up primarily of families living in Chalton and neighbouring villages. The church comfortably sits 60, but will take 100. The average weekly attendance is 12.



There are regular Sunday services at 9.30am – one Parish Communion each month, two services of Morning Prayer, one Family Service, followed by coffee and cake, and Evensong on the fifth Sundays. Other services held during the year include Compline by Candlelight during Lent, a Crib Service and a Carol Service.

The PCC comprises two churchwardens, a treasurer and four other members, and meets four times a year. The Annual Parochial Church Meetings are held on a Sunday in April.

The church has wonderful acoustics and particularly lends itself to unaccompanied singing. An annual programme of concerts, talks, afternoon teas and community events has been developed over the last few years, which have proved to be very popular.

St Michael's is committed to maintaining regular Sunday worship, endeavouring to increase the weekly attendance figures, providing a focal point for the local community and supporting and sustaining the ancient building and surrounds.



## **IDSWORTH - ST HUBERT**

At the foot of the South Downs, and set in a field one mile north of Finchdean near Rowlands Castle, lies this tiny thousand year old Grade 1 listed church, with its unique and nationally important fourteenth century wall paintings and new Millennium Fresco.

Always open during daylight hours so that its history, beauty and stillness may be shared with those from all corners of the world who venture to the top of the hill, it is the venue of regular worship at 9.30 am every Sunday.

With a current Electoral Roll of 102, most of whom live outside the parish, this well maintained gem has a thriving and caring church community. Over the year the average attendance at Sunday worship is 25. The 'worshipping community' is 52 adults and 11 children. Morning Prayer (based on the Book of Common Prayer) is held on the first and fourth Sundays, Parish Communion (Common Worship) on the second and fifth Sundays, and All Age Worship on the third Sunday. A small group currently meets to say the Daily office at 9.00 am on Fridays. Seasonal extra services include a Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve and Last Hour at the Cross on Good Friday.



The pattern of services is kept under review and responsive to perceived demand. A current fresh expression project involves 'quiet days' of meditation, spirituality, mindfulness and prayer.

The church is also used for occasional services by other Christian denominations and organisations. It is popular for weddings and several couples have become regular members of the congregation in recent years.

Educational visits in support of the national curriculum are arranged from several local schools.

A thriving Friends organisation was launched in 2016, and has been spectacularly successful in raising the profile of the church locally and broadening support both from the community and the South Downs National Park Authority. A flourishing programme of concerts and other events and an impressive and popular annual art exhibition has greatly expanded the footfall of visitors and boosted fundraising for major restorative works planned for the next few years.

We look forward to welcoming YOU to our Benefice