

# PARISH PROFILE



# St Jude's Southsea

Loving Jesus  
Loving Southsea





*Cover photo from 2019 Easter sunrise service.*

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# 1. Welcome

We are delighted to be able to introduce our church and parish to you, and we pray that as you read about us, God will guide your thoughts.

The first thing you will notice when you see the outside of our church building is the wide glass entrance. We intend this to be a visual outworking of who we strive to be: a church without walls where God's people meet together in a place that is transparent and welcoming, and living lives that seek to join in with what God is doing in our local community: **Loving Jesus Loving Southsea.**

St Jude's parish church in Southsea, Portsmouth, is a lively evangelical church in an urban setting. We seek to make Christ known in our community through teaching and preaching, pastoral care, practical outreach and friendship.

We aim to encounter Christ in his Word through the power of the Spirit and to share God's love with all. We seek to be biblically orthodox in theology and practice, including for example in matters of marriage and human sexuality, and to apply Scripture in all cases with love and pastoral sensitivity. St Jude's is committed to the ministry of women.

We are looking for an enthusiastic, evangelical, orthodox, prayerful and biblically-faithful incumbent, dependant on Word and Spirit. A wise leader who will work collaboratively with our strong staff team and inspire a diverse, all-member ministry across our congregations. This leader will need to have well developed team building skills and the ability to prioritise, delegate and empower. One who will use and grow our strengths, encouraging us to be daring for Christ as we follow His plans for us.

If you identify with our mission, vision, and focus we would love to hear from you.

There is much to celebrate about the life and fellowship of St Jude's:

- The love and care within our church family is apparent.
- Strong Bible teaching with a solid grounding in both the Old and New Testaments.
- Dependence on God in prayer and openness to gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Modern and hospitable facilities.
- A strong financial position.
- Lively and inclusive work with children and young people.
- Active in community outreach.

However, we are only too aware of the challenges we face:

- Partly due to a successful church plant from St Jude's to St Margaret's church both numbers and financial giving at St Jude's have reduced.
- Being just one part of the spiritual landscape in a dynamic Christian community across our city.
- A need for a renewal of our vision and values.

St Jude's has been prayerfully seeking God through this vacancy to date. We have been challenged to think about three key areas of church life:

1. Where are we now?
2. Where do we believe God is calling us to go?
3. Who do we need to help us to get there?

We are excited about discovering who God is calling to be our new vicar and discerning together the outworking of God's plan for St Jude's, Southsea. The question that we would like to ask you is, are you the person that God is calling to lead us into the future as we seek to see God's kingdom grow?

## 2. Vision

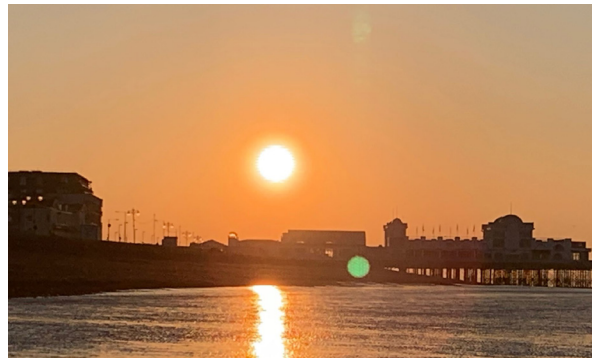
**Our one calling**  
at St Jude's is to follow Jesus'  
two great commands (Mark 12:28-31)  
that we interpret as  
*Loving Jesus Loving Southsea.*

**Our three directions for mission are Up, In and Out.**

**Up** towards God in worship and prayer seeking to know him better and offer him our lives in response to His love and grace so that we might work out our salvation to the praise of His name.

**In** towards each other so that we might become the body of Christ by living in community encouraging one another to become disciples who reflect His light and life.

**Out** into our world in ministry and witness as we seek to serve our Saviour and see His kingdom come amongst us by bringing His transforming power to who still seek Him.



**Our mission is therefore shaped in five ways:**

**Worship & Prayer** – always beginning with God and listening to Him for our direction.

**Community** – making sure that we look after each other well and build healthy relationships

**Discipleship** – learning to become followers of Jesus who are spirit filled and grounded in His word.

**Ministry** – seeking to make an impact, particularly in those areas where God has called us to serve.

**Witness** – living out this calling in practical ways that speak of and demonstrate the good news of Jesus.



# 3. Where are we now?

## 3.1 Portsmouth: A City by the Sea

Portsmouth is a large, densely populated and vibrant city, circa 280,000 people, with a long and distinctive, particularly naval history. While still the Home of the Royal Navy, in the last thirty years new industries have grown, particularly in electronics and engineering, often with a defence-related theme. The public sector is now a major employer. In recent years the city has become known for major capital projects such as Gunwharf Quays retail and residential development and the Spinnaker Tower, and for the growing size and reputation of its University. Portsmouth has two theatres and a Guildhall as concert venues. Portsmouth (Pompey) Football Club, currently in League One, is very popular with large crowds attending home games.

Southsea is the seafront area of Portsmouth. It developed, particularly as a resort, in the latter part of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Nowadays it is a large and busy residential and leisure area.



## 3.2 St Jude's in the Heart of Southsea

About 8,000 people live in the parish that reaches down to the seafront, which is used for baptisms in the sea. It includes the open spaces of Southsea Common, where the 75th anniversary of D-Day was recently commemorated by world leaders, the venue for the Victorious music festival, as well as Southsea Castle. Residential accommodation is mixed with large numbers of terraced houses in multiple-occupancy, local authority housing and established owner-occupied housing. Southsea is a popular location for students and the parish includes one university hall of residence. We serve several care and nursing homes. We're diverse in age, wealth and ethnicity.

The church building stands at one end of the shopping precinct, occupying a prominent place in the townscape. In recent years we completed a major re-ordering project which enables us to open the church throughout week.

The congregation is drawn in part from the parish but many come from other areas of Southsea or from further afield in the city. There is quite a high turnover of people, reflecting movement in and out of the city, often for education and employment reasons.



## 3.3 Worship and Prayer

### Worship

Sunday worship reflects the diversity of our church membership. At 9am there is a liturgically traditional service attracting a congregation of 25 to 30 mainly older people.

The largest of our services is at 10.30am and is designed to be accessible to all, but especially to families. On most Sundays we teach children to the age of 14 in separate age-banded groups after a period of shared family worship. The service is liturgically informal and includes a mixture of modern choruses and classic hymns, led by a worship band. Details of all our services can be found on our [website](#).

On five Sundays a year, we hold an invitation Sunday with a different pattern of services. At 8am there is BCP Holy Communion. At 10.30am, "Funday Sunday" includes breakfast and children's craft stations followed by a fast-moving all-age presentation of the gospel. At 4pm "Come and See" presents the gospel within a more traditional musical format, followed by afternoon tea.

### Prayer

St Jude's Southsea has a rich heritage of prayer which is integral to our church life. We believe it is important to respond to specific needs as well as develop new initiatives in prayer under the umbrella of Prayer Central.

A small steering group plans our **Monthly Prayer meetings**. These are times when we meet together to hear from God, bring our requests and share testimonies with a focus on a different topic each month.



The **Prayer Corner** is in a dedicated space at the back of church. It is set aside for individual and group prayer with resources to help and inspire. It is where we hold our 24/7 Prayer, when we have specific times of creative, intense and prolonged prayer.

The **Saturday Prayer Breakfast** which meets twice a month to pray for our church, missionaries, community and nation.

Further Prayer Ministries:

Our **Intercessors group** meet weekly to pray confidentially for all requested personal and any other specific prayer needs.

**Prayer ministry** is offered at the end of the 10.30am service by a team of trained volunteers. They provide prayer for anyone seeking God's healing or as a response to something heard during the service. At present there are ten members in the team.

**Healing on the Streets** is offered once a month in Southsea Precinct by St Jude's and other local churches.

In recent years we have held several conferences on aspects of prayer and healing ministry which have been led either by ourselves, New Wine or the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation.





### 3.4 Discipleship

Our **Preaching Team** work together to deliver the Sunday sermon series which are normally aimed at an area of personal or church growth. All sermons are recorded and available through the website for those who cannot attend the services. Sermon series will then usually form the basis of Life Group notes.

Our **Life Groups** currently contain 73 people across 8 groups meeting in the evening and the daytime. The group leaders are encouraged to attend regular training where there is a focus on individuals moving on in their journey as disciples as well as providing support for members who are in need.

Alongside these we have four women's **Connect Groups** that seek to link up those who are looking for community as well as wanting to move on in following Jesus. Most of these groups meet in and around church on a Thursday morning when there is a creche available. There are 32 members who are part of four groups.

The **Student Group** is for those who find a spiritual home at St Jude's during their time of study. It is a very dynamic group with around 10 members at the present time. There are socials and trips as well the weekly group times together.

Two **Outreach Groups** are based in local residential accommodation for the elderly and meet on a monthly cycle. Our **Men's Shed** initiative meets in church to facilitate conversations about Jesus.

All of these groups were involved in projects that brought a variety of blessings to our community during our **Year of Mission**.

Each year a group of around 25 people travel to the **New Wine summer conference**. This is a time for community and sharing that is spent with a similar number of members of our church plant at St Margaret's some of whom have funded places from the urban support fund.



## 3.5 Community

### Pastoral Team

The Pastoral Team is led by a small group with the whole church family encouraged to see themselves as part of the wider pastoral team who care for, support and love one another. While Life Groups are encouraged to look after their own members pastorally there are many in the church family who don't belong to such a group so the PLT (Pastoral Leadership Team) keep an eye out for those who have not been seen for a couple of Sundays and follow up when necessary.

We actively support our older members and have a team who visit and bring **Home Communion** to those who request it. The **Monday Fellowship Group** reaches out to senior citizens and is ably organised by a lay leader.

The **Thursday Lunch Club** has just recently come under the umbrella of the Pastoral Team.

We organise a **Senior Citizen's Holiday Club** over four days in August each year. This is a great highlight, in the otherwise quiet summer, for those attending.

Once a term we have a **Welcome Lunch** which is a two-course cooked meal after the morning service to which newcomers are invited. This provides an opportunity to make new friends and think about how they might like to be connected more to church life. We also organise **Link-Up Lunches** when anyone in the church family may offer to host or be hosted by others on a particular Sunday.

Once a month the Pastoral Team run a **Bereavement Drop-In**, when the church is open to anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one. We meet over coffee for a time to share and listen to one another.

At various times throughout the year we organise training sessions and events for those interested in helping with the pastoral work in church.





## 3.6 Ministry

### Children, Youth and Families - CYF

Our Youth and Children's Team of approximately 50 volunteers supports five Sunday groups - Creche, Sparklers, Bright Sparks, Torch Bearers, Beacons, as well as a variety of different clubs and activities.

Although about 50 children regularly attend one in four services, in 2018-19 we had 160 different children / young people attend at least one service. In 2019-2020 we are projecting that this figure will increase to 60-80 'regulars.'

**BE Group:** Sunday evening discipleship group for young people aged 11-16 for fellowship, snacks and Bible teaching.

**FUSION Café:** Outreach youth group which offers young people aged 10-16 an opportunity to relax and have fun after school on Fridays. We aim to engage with young people and families who don't necessarily come to church.

**SOS:** Monthly social meeting for young people aged 10-16. With a range of organised team games, designed for fun and making friends, we also offer food and then a re-

flection on a relevant theme from a biblical perspective.

**Girls Night In:** Monthly meeting for girls to make friends, encourage each other through games, crafts and discussion about issues relevant to young women.

**Messy Church:** Outreach to children up to age 8 and their families and happens two or three times a year. Craft activities, food followed by a short service.

**Youth Alpha:** We successfully ran our first Youth Alpha in the Spring Term 2019 and the next one will run January - March 2020.

**High Tide (City-wide youth event):** We are actively involved in High Tide, a joint (6) churches project which has taken off over the last 12-18 months. The evening includes games, worship, inspiring input and prayer ministry.

**The Jeremiah Project:** New for 2019/20: Supports teenagers in leadership and will offer six formation sessions throughout the year as well as subsidised trips, young leaders' hoodies and the opportunity to get involved in leading at High Tide and other youth events.



## St Jude's Church Nursery

St Jude's Church Nursery is owned and managed by St Jude's. It is in Silver Street (about 10 minutes' walk away from the church) in a one storey building. The nursery also has a strong link with St Jude's primary school. Clergy and lay staff from church visit the nursery weekly in term time for a 15 minute session which includes singing, a Bible story and praying with the children. The nursery hold their Nativity and Leavers Service at church.

The nursery is managed by the Nursery Management Committee consisting of volunteers from the PCC and nursery management team. They usually meet twice a term to support the nursery in the decisions needed to give direction as well as advice.

It has been registered with OFSTED for 25 years and has always maintained a "Good" inspection result. The nursery is open for 51 weeks of the year and is registered for 120 children aged 2-5 years. The building was extended and modernised about 15 years ago to incorporate new rooms, areas and a garden.



## St Jude's Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

St Jude's Church has a warm and active relationship with St Jude's Primary School, which is located in Old Portsmouth, about 15 minutes' walk from the church. St Jude's

is a two-form entry primary school with just over 400 pupils aged 4-11. Our Church provides a Foundation governor for the School and the Reception class always includes a high proportion of St Jude's Church Nursery children.

The children are drawn from a wide variety of ethnic, religious and social backgrounds. Whilst other faiths are represented, there is a strong Christian ethos in the school, which is reflected in an Outstanding grade from SIAMS at the last inspection in 2015.

Our clergy and staff lead Collective Worship weekly. The whole school walks to church several times a year for special services such as Christmas and the Leavers' Service. The church provides input into their overall Collective Worship programme, including providing a list of suggested songs. There is openness to the church's presence in school, for instance at the school summer fair and for a week-long Prayer Space organised by the church. At the school's invitation, the church runs an after-school club called Deeper, for children interested in exploring Christian faith in a fun way.

St Jude's Church provides committed foundation and parent governors to the school governing board including the chair of governors. The Associate Vicar is the ex-officio governor representing the church.

Links between school and church are also fostered by the significant number of church families who have children in the school. School families have a sense that this is "their" church, even when they do not attend regularly. Many come along to Funday Sunday and events such as the Light Party (alternative to Hallowe'en), which are well publicised within school. There is a small group which meets to pray for the school and draws its members from St Jude's as well as other local churches.



## 3.7 Witness

**Evangelism and Discipleship** – St Jude’s has always run regular outreach courses using Alpha, Christianity Explored and Discipleship Explored. We believe that these courses offer a good mix of fellowship and teaching which have drawn people into the life and community of the church family.

**Year of Mission** - As a sign of our passion to reach out to our community we spent a year from September 2018 to September 2019 focussing on mission, evangelism and sharing stories. To conclude our Year of Mission we ran a large-scale outreach event on Castle Field in Southsea called Feeding the 5000. During the day we re-created Jesus’ feeding of the 5000 miracle. We hired outside caterers to cook and distributed approximately 4000 battered cod baps, the final 1000 pieces of cod were given out as a blessing to the community.

**Reception team** – The church is open daily to offer a warm welcome into the church to every visitor and also offer a hot or cold drink. The reception team regularly engage visitors in conversation and show them into the main church building.



**Friday Fridge** - We have an established ministry that supports those on the margins on the first three Fridays of each month between 9 and 11:30pm. This is an open space where all are welcome to receive food, hot drinks, and spend time together.

**Open Church** – In 2018 we piloted a 4-week city-wide homeless project called Open Church. This sought to offer accommodation and generous hospitality to rough sleepers in the city. This ecumenical project was coordinated by our curate working together with numerous churches in Portsmouth and Southsea - including the Catholic Church, other Anglican Churches and various independent churches. The project also ran for 8 weeks over the winter of 2019.

**Hope into Action** – In 2019 St Jude’s responded practically to homelessness in the city through this project. We are currently supporting two men in a furnished house. Volunteers from the church community befriend and support these men as part of this project.

**Mission Support Group** – This group meets four times a year to pray for our mission partners and also allocate resources to support local missional initiatives.



### 3.8 St Margaret's Community Church

In 2015 the Vicar of St Jude's was asked by the Diocese to find a team to church plant into the parish of St Margaret's. The church there had been closed in 2015 at the request of the previous congregation following the departure of their incumbent and due to the unsafe condition of the building.

In October 2017, a new congregation was planted into the church hall forming St Margaret's Community Church. This was a lay-led church plant of about 15 people with a leader who was later licensed as a Pioneer Lay Minister.

#### St Margaret's Vision

Jesus is calling us to reach out into the community; loving the lost, bringing new life, seeing lives transformed, sharing our faith, hope and love.

#### Leadership and Governance

St Margaret's is led by a small lay team, headed by the Church Plant Leader - a Licensed Lay Pioneer Minister. Oversight is exercised by the Vicar of St Jude's and operated very much on the basis of high accountability and low control. For example, whilst a clergy member of the St Jude's team attends each Sunday Service and pre-

sides at the monthly Holy Communion service, the services are lay led and the talks delivered by members of the St Margaret's core team. St Margaret's leaders meet monthly with the Vicar of St Jude's to discuss ministry and mission, agree priorities and make decisions on policy and funding. Where necessary these are taken to St Jude's PCC for endorsement. Health and Safety and safeguarding policies continue to be overseen by St Jude's PCC. It is planned to re-establish a full PCC at St Margaret's in April 2020.

Theological support is provided by the St Jude's clergy team. This includes helping develop preaching series, advising the leadership team, conducting occasional offices and presiding at the monthly Holy Communion service.

St Margaret's is financially self-supporting with income derived from giving, hall rental and the Community Cafe and Shop.

Services are held weekly on Sunday afternoons from 4-5pm. Attendance has grown quickly since launch and currently averages around 60. The services are lively and relatively informal, with band-led worship, a Bible reading, Bible message, testimonies and prayers. Baptisms, weddings and confirmations are currently conducted by St Jude's or other neighbouring parishes.

The number and nature of the groups





that run at St Margaret's very much reflects the vision of reaching out into the community, with all groups widely advertised and many attended by those not yet attending church:

**Relentless** - Men's faith and fitness group meets every Friday evening.

**Alpha** - Runs each Spring and Autumn with 21 people attending 2 courses in Autumn 2019.

**WoW (Women of Worth)** - Around 30 women meet monthly on Saturday mornings for coffee and croissants and a short talk or testimony.

**Men's Breakfast** - Around 20 - 25 men meet monthly on Sunday mornings for cooked breakfast, informal fellowship and a short talk or testimony.

**Pub Quiz** - Around 25 regulars, many of whom are not church-goers, meet monthly in the local pub.

**Bible Study** - Meets monthly, picking up primarily, but not exclusively, those who have completed an Alpha Course.

**Toddlers' Group (Big Fish, Little Fish)** - Around 25 - 30 mums and toddlers attend each week.

**Community Cafe and Shop** - Open 10am - 2pm each Thursday and Friday in the main church providing informal fellowship tea, coffee and cakes and selling on items do-

nated. Numbers have grown very quickly since opening in May, with typically around 80 - 100 visitors each day. The café is an important aspect of outreach to the community and the shop is making a significant financial contribution to the church.

**Small Groups** - A small but committed number meet every Thursday from 7-30 to - 9pm, including some from previous Alpha courses.

**Prayer and Coffee** - The church hall is open 0700 - 0800 every Thursday morning.

**24 Hours of Prayer** - Takes place in the Prayer Room once a month. This is normally followed by a service in the main church building.

### 3.9 Other Relationships Including Deanery

Our church has worked hard to develop strong relationships with other churches across the Diocese and the city. We play an active role within the Portsmouth Diocese often hosting training events and our previous incumbent was a member of the Bishops council and an Associate Area Dean for the Southern Cluster of the Portsmouth Deanery. Our clergy meet regularly with One Body, a group of evangelical church leaders for the area. There is a strong link with St Simon's Parish which lies between St Jude's and St Margaret's. This is recognised by a Mission



Partnership and works out practically in sharing of staff for youth work and volunteers for outreach events.

## Portsmouth Deanery

The Parish of St Jude's, Southsea is part of the Deanery which covers the whole city. It consists of 18 Parishes (with 24 Churches) a BMO church plant and the Cathedral (which plays an active part in Deanery life). A few years ago, the Deanery reviewed how it functioned and established a 'Dean Team' – an Area Dean and two associates – supported by a Deanery Admin Officer. The Deanery functions both as a whole, and as 3 separate Clusters (each one led by one of the Dean Team). St Jude's is part of the 'Southern Cluster' - under the care of the Associate Area Dean, Paul Armstead.

Many of the members of the Deanery Chapter speak warmly of the strong sense of collegiality and mutual support that exists in the Deanery. The Deanery Plan (which seeks to identify how we best use the resources we have, including 18.5 stipendiary posts) reflects this commitment to mutual support and flourishing. The Plan is rooted in the Diocesan 'Live, Pray Serve' strategy and seeks to develop partnership and collaborative ministry that honours and values the breadth of traditions in the city.



It also seeks to address areas of wider concern. For example, the BMO plant is addressing the low engagement with Students among the Anglican Churches. The Deanery has also used resources to fund an Older Persons' Chaplain who is working with parishes to respond to the spiritual and other needs of older people, particularly those in care or with dementia. There is a well established Deanery Youth Chaplaincy project which is led by a half stipendiary post and supported by two other part time posts which the Parishes have committed to fund for the next 3 years. This project engages with Secondary schools and FE colleges across the city and seeks to develop volunteers from the parishes in this area of ministry. Finally, there is a very active link with the Anglican Diocese of Ho, in Ghana.

The Deanery expects all those appointed to posts to engage fully with the neighbouring parishes and the wider Deanery. We host a termly pub lunch for the Incumbents (with no agenda other than to meet and build that sense of collegiality); the Chapter meets twice a year, as does the Synod and each Cluster has its own arrangements and pattern of meetings for its ministers.

*Revd Canon Bob White*





## 3.10 Summary of Church Details

### **Parishes:**

St Jude's, Southsea with oversight for the development of the congregation planted from St Jude's into the church of St Margaret's.

### **Patron**

Church Pastoral Aid Society

### **Licenced Ministers:**

#### **Vicar:**

**Associate Vicar:** Revd Neil Smart

**Curate:** Revd Adam Denley (in last year of curacy)

### **Permission to Officiate at St Jude's:**

Revd Nigel Bennett

Revd John Gray

Revd Colin Towner

### **Lay Readers**

Ruth McCabe

Rowena Pearson

### **Pioneer Lay Minister St Margaret's:**

Fran Carabott

### **Paid Staff:**

#### **St Jude's**

CYF Minister: Dom DeBoo

Worship & Comms Lead: Sam Douglas

Church Administrator: Sonam Langdon

Bookkeeper: Sally Marshall

Operations Manager: Andrew Minter

Assistant Church Administrator: Ali Simpson

Caretaker: Pat Jolly

#### **St Margaret's**

Administrator & Bookkeeper: Sue Lynes

Operations Manager: Stephen Dawson

### **St Jude's Church Nursery**

Manager: Levinia Glanville

Assistant Manager: Helen Marshall

Business Manager: Mandy Bingham

28 paid staff are employed throughout the year



## Lay Leaders:

### Churchwardens

Philippa Dawson & Jos McCabe

### PCC Treasurer

Richard Bolton

### PCC Secretary

Debs Smart

### Buildings

St Jude's Church, Curate's House, Church Nursery, St Margaret's Church & Hall.

### Churchyard

No churchyard or graves. Garden and drive at St Jude's.

	St Jude's	St Margaret's
<b>Average Sunday Attendance</b>	200	46
<b>Pastoral Register</b>	300	80
<b>Electoral Roll</b>	171	5
<b>Children's Ministry ASA</b>	45	9
<b>Children's Ministry Register</b>	85	16
<b>Occasional Offices Last 12 Months</b>		
<b>Baptisms</b>	7	N/A
<b>Weddings</b>	2	N/A
<b>Funerals</b>	10	N/A

### Parish Share

£114,000 in 2020

### Population

Approx 8,000

## 3.10 Finance

St Jude's is a financially self-sufficient church with a strong cash reserve and assets. Our income for 2018 was £393k, of which £276k was from voluntary giving and the associated tax recovery. The Nursery school provides a significant contribution to our funds, allowing us to undertake high-impact mission work such as the Feeding the 5000 event.

We are a giving church. We provide one of the largest parish shares to the Diocese of Portsmouth, we tithe 10% of our voluntary giving which is distributed by our Mission Support Group, and in 2019 the PCC made a £20k additional donation to our mission partners in Japan to meet an immediate need.

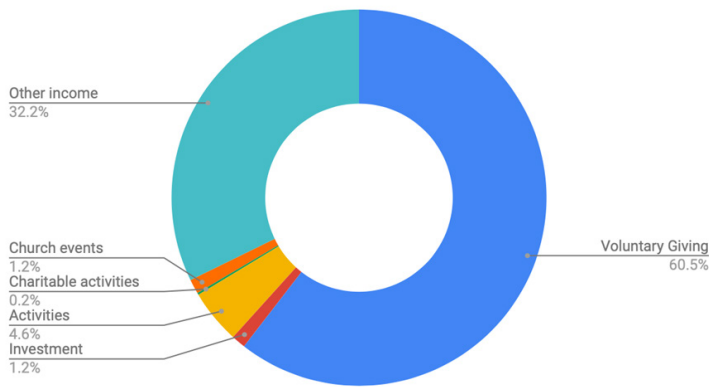


We are a church committed to growth. We have recruited a Children and Youth Leader and a Worship and Communications Leader in the last two years to expand our mission in Southsea. The congregation of the church plant at St Margaret's has grown since inception, and a community café and shop has generated new ways of witnessing to the community as well as new income streams.

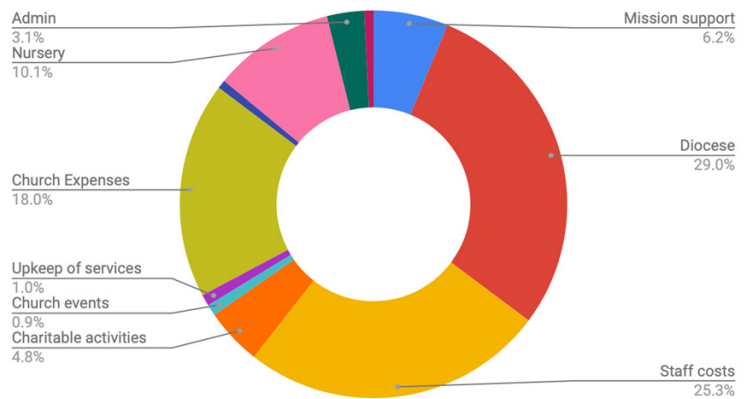
We are a regenerating church. The St Jude's PCC has £123k set aside for building works to repair the fabric of the building and refresh the worship space. St. Margaret's PCC has money set aside from the Diocese of Portsmouth to make the church building fit for use.

St Jude's and St Margaret's community church sit under one Treasurer, supported by a paid book-keeper. The St Margaret's church building finances sit under the control of the St Margaret's PCC. In time we expect St Margaret's PCC to appoint a Treasurer and take control of the church's financial activity.

St Jude's Income 2018



St Jude's Expenditure 2018



### 3.11 St Jude's Church Building

The church building is a significant part of the community at the heart of Southsea. It was built in 1851 by local developer Thomas Owen. The building was not put together with the best of materials or to the highest of standards.

In 1997 a major repair of the spire was undertaken. The new entrance, which was a key element of the redevelopment scheme 10 years ago, provides a welcoming doorway, accessible to all. The seating capacity is currently around 350 when the balconies are in use.

In 2018, we installed 230 new chairs which are arranged in a north facing orientation with worship led from a dais with space for a band to one side and a modern digital electronic organ with moveable choir stalls on the other. Worship is supported by the provision of an audio-visual system which includes speakers along the north wall as well as two electrically operated screens projected onto by two projectors on the south side.

### 3.12 The Vicarage

It is a Victorian house owned and maintained by Diocese of Portsmouth. It is a five bedroom detached family home, six minutes walk from St. Jude’s church. The property is excellently proportioned and well maintained, with a large study and two further reception rooms on the ground floor. It boasts an open plan kitchen diner and usable basement. The property has a private, low-maintenance garden.

### 3.13 Strengths and Challenges

We believe that these are some of the strengths and challenges facing St Jude’s church as we move into this new season..

#### Strengths

- Faithful Bible teaching
- Rich evangelical heritage
- Keen to reach out to make Jesus known
- Training and resourcing church
- Good relations with Diocese
- Planted a church recently
- Brilliant location
- Strong staff team
- Seek every member ministry
- Varied ministries, especially strong in under 15’s Children’s work

- Well known in community
- Happy to work with other churches in outreach
- Diverse congregation
- Traditional and more contemporary worship
- Always pay parish share

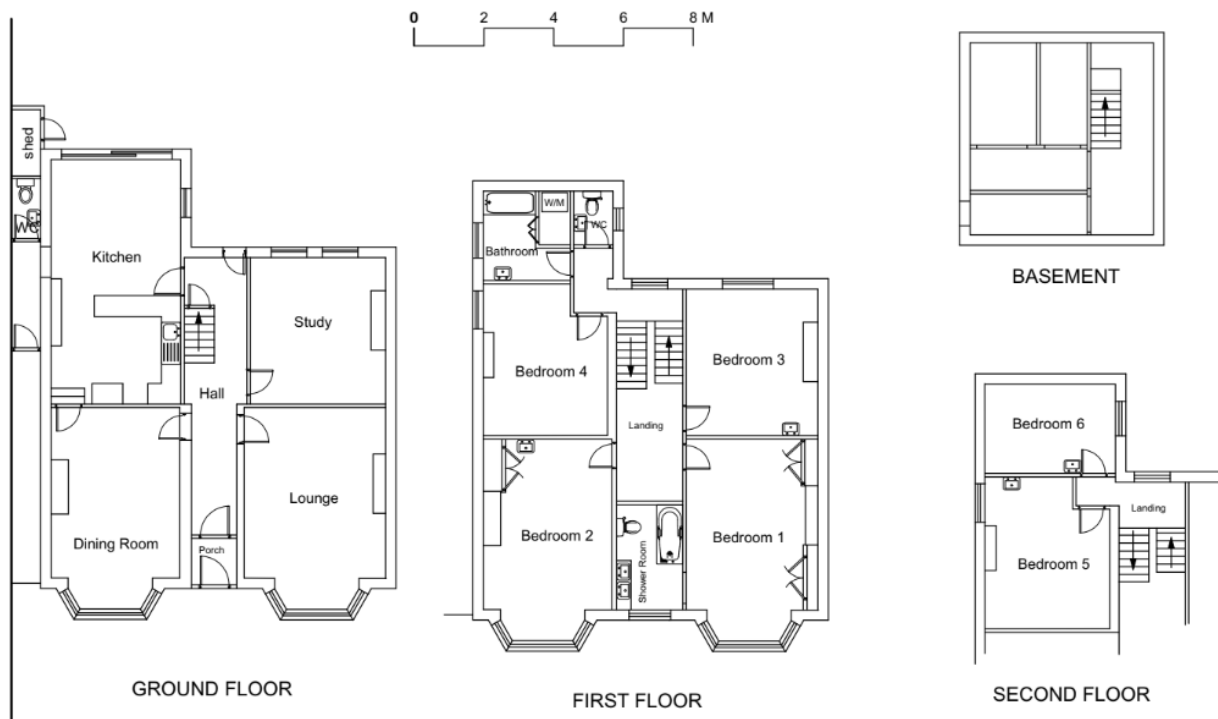
#### Challenges

- Overstretched volunteers
- Large uncommitted fringe
- Need to grow and replenish numbers and finance after church plant
- Need to grow teenage and young adults ministry
- Prayer that empowers our whole church community

So, we would love to hear from someone who has real confidence in evangelism and discipleship.

- How to work more effectively with other churches
- Moving existing church plant towards autonomy
- Building needs perpetual maintenance

So, we would love to hear from someone who has experience in collaborative working and developing the potential of buildings for worship and ministry.







## 4. Where do we believe God wants us to go?

In preparation for this profile our church held a week of prayer and a workshop open to all members. Some of the comments our people made can be found attached.

As you will have read earlier in this profile St. Jude's has a strong evangelical heritage which is based on faithful Bible teaching and the love of scripture.

Whilst we have an established and strong staff team, we aspire to be an all members in ministry church. However, a part of our congregation attends on Sundays but has not committed to serve, in any of the numerous ministries outlined above. We are currently working to improve this. We do recognise that we need a more intentional focus and more volunteers for many of our church ministries.

We have strong community links and work well across denominational boundaries with other churches that want to reach out with Jesus love in Portsmouth. Whilst St Jude's is eager to continue its evangelical heritage, we are seeking to be a constructive part of the Deanery and the Diocese and support efforts to revitalise and grow God's Kingdom.

We have a good pastoral team with a loving heart for the vulnerable, old and marginalised but at times they are over-stretched. Our life groups have mixed success and we long to see more people engaging in these small groups.

### Where the congregation think God's calling us to go:

Make, grow and export disciples

A community of people who are on fire for God

A church that reflects Jesus, shows Jesus, glorifies Jesus at a surprising level

Passionate about people and introducing them to Jesus

Be like the sower and spread the seeds of God's love

To glorify Jesus and know His presence

Close to God

A movement where people become disciples

Develop a flourishing youth community

Growth through planting

Finding new leaders.

We need a well-equipped building that serves our mission.

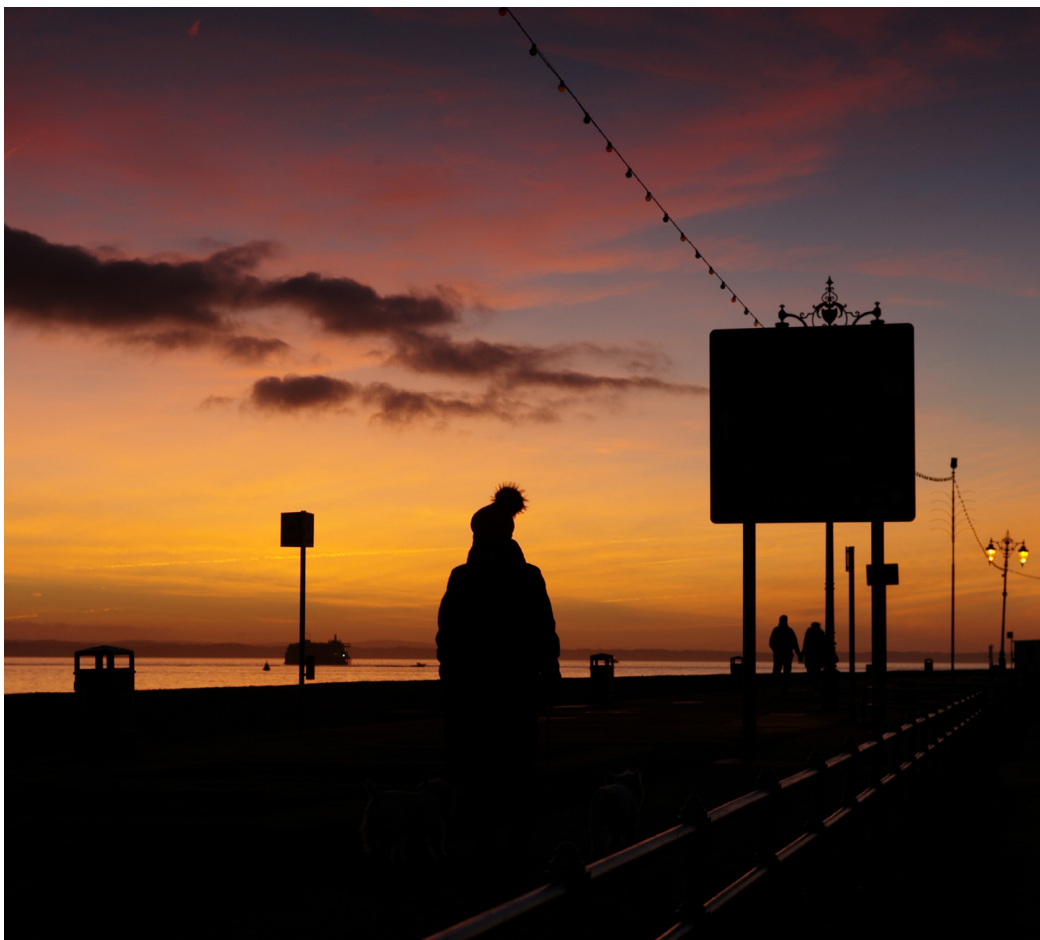
Our building is in a superb location, it is accessible and open six days a week but because of its poor construction it needs regular attention. The church is ideally placed to reach the many summer seafront events. The shopping centre that runs up to the church is experiencing a challenging time with some significant shop closures. We need a strategy to engage more fully with the challenges and opportunities this may bring.

We have some established engagements with the marginalised and homeless via our Friday Fridge, the Open Church Project and Hope into action, although sustaining these ministries is challenging.

A good basis has been laid over the last few years to develop corporate prayer and

a diverse worship life, but we recognise the need to move forward with these and to deepen our discipleship. We are on a journey and are beginning again to take the Great Commission more seriously. Our Year of Mission has given us an appetite to reach out more to show the love of Jesus to those around us and to tell others about Him.

You will have read earlier in the profile that St Jude's planted a church in 2017. Some of our most active members were involved and moved to support the plant. After a period of regrouping and replenishing our own congregation we may be open to look to plant again in the future. St Jude's is keen to retain its status as a training parish.



# 5. Who do we seek to help us to get there?

At this season of our church we believe the Lord wants us to have a Vicar who has the qualities of a church leader outlined in 1 Timothy 3 but especially someone who is:

- Passionate about Jesus and is contagious in word and deed with the Lord's good news across a diverse community.
- A faithful Bible teacher who can communicate scriptural truth with personal integrity, moral courage and relevance.
- Able to motivate us as a church to reach out to make Jesus known and consider further church plants.

We also believe God wants to call someone to be our next Vicar who is:

- A good shepherd with a servant heart, who loves to engage with God's people and spend time with them.
- A collaborative leader who will lead an energetic and established Staff team in the context of a diverse all member's ministry.
- A team builder, who can encourage and equip God's people for works of service,

so that the body of Christ may be built up.

- Able to manage and lead two separate church sites as one moves towards greater autonomy.
- Able to assess priorities and delegate effectively when appropriate.

We can offer our new vicar a substantial team to support and enable them to see their vision come to fruition. We are a church that is already praying for God's guidance and leading for a new vicar to love and get to know. The Church will continue to be prayerful for the vicar and their family. We recognise the need for a vicar to have regular quiet time to allow for reflection as an opportunity to further develop their ministry, as well as taking full holiday provision and guarding relaxation time.

We are a church with a sense of fun and adventure - that really does mean we want you to have a wetsuit for sea baptisms!

