

# Parish Profile for Gosport South



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## Overview

The Parish of Gosport South is a newly created parish which brought together the three churches, Christ Church, Holy Trinity and St John's, as part of a pastoral reorganisation scheme that was legally 'made' on 13th January, 2020. The parish is run by a team ministry led by Team Rector Rev Alex Wood, who is also the minister of Harbour Church in Portsmouth.



## The Area



Gosport is situated on the south coast on the west side of Portsmouth Harbour and is a town with an estimated population based on the 2011 Census results of 82,622 people and 35,430 households. As a small local authority of 2,532 hectares, Gosport is ranked 51 out of 348 local authorities for population density and is one of the most densely populated local authorities in Hampshire.



## Our Parish

Our parish stretches across the central part of Gosport and includes around 19,500 people. It comprises the town's shopping centre, market, a Naval base, two yacht marinas, large residential areas and a ferry port running a frequent service to Portsmouth.

The parish is also home to a number of schools and we work closely with Newtown C of E Primary, Haselworth School, St John's School, Brockhurst community school and St Vincent College.

## Our Vision and Mission

Gosport South is one church across three locations, sharing the same vision and mission of reaching and engaging with the people who don't go to church in our local areas.

We exist to see the re-evangelisation of the nation, revitalisation of the



church and transformation of society. Everything we do helps to feed into at least one of these three aims and aims to change people's perceptions of church for the better.

We want to be a church where people find belonging, no matter who they are and everyone has an opportunity to be involved in a way that's right for them.

## Services

### Christ Church

There are three regular services each week following Common Worship Rite 1:

- 10 am Wednesday – spoken Eucharist
- 8 am Sunday – spoken Eucharist
- 9:30 am Sunday – Parish Communion – 1st, 2nd and 4th Sunday or 10 am Sunday – All Age
- Communion – 3rd Sunday and Mothering Sunday



### St Johns, Forton

Anglo-Catholic tradition:

- 10 am Sunday – Mass
- 10:30 am Saturday – Morning Prayer

### Holy Trinity

Anglo-Catholic tradition:

- 11 am Sunday – Sung Mass
- 6 pm Sunday – Vespers and Benediction
- 9:30 am Tuesday – Mass (currently paused, but hoping to restart)
- 6:30 pm Wednesday – Mass (currently paused due to redecorating work in church)
- 5 pm Friday – Mass (currently paused due to redecorating work in church)



## Finances

The parish is currently in the process of aligning the financial accounts and practises for the former three parishes. Their financial positions prior to the re-organisation scheme were as follows:

### Christ Church

Runs roughly cost neutral.

- Annual income for 2019: £44k
- Annual expenditure for 2019: £49k
- Balance at end of 2019: £15k
- £55k (unrestricted: £14k in cash), £100 (restricted)

### St John's Forton

Runs roughly cost neutral.

- Annual income for 2019: £28k
- Annual expenditure for 2019: £28k
- Balance at end of 2019: £64k
- £55k (unrestricted: 50k in investments, 5k in cash), £8.6k (restricted)

### Holy Trinity

Runs roughly cost neutral.

- Annual income for 2019: £49k
- Annual expenditure for 2019: £49k
- Balance at 1 Sep 2020: £45.6k
- (£22k restricted, £23k unrestricted)

# Buildings



## Christ Church

The building is 155 years old with an imposing facade and an interior of simple beauty, with striking stained-glass windows. Christ Church is about to undergo significant renovation to the interior to enable a new contemporary worshipping community to be launched.



## St John's Forton

Not a listed building, a large red-brick church with a hall at the rear and small outbuilding.



## Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity, a **Listed Building**, was consecrated in 1696 in the reign of William and Mary, and is of considerable architectural and historic interest. Today the church is considered a flagship church as it is used for most Civic and Mayoral services.

The Church is 325 years old this year. Holy Trinity's greatest treasure is its 'Handel' organ. This was installed in 1744 and came from the Duke of Chandos' estate at Canons in Middlesex. The building is in a good state of repair having been re-decorated in January 2020. There is a separate Campanile/Clock Tower.

Accommodation for the Team Vicar is in a central place within the parish and is in the process of complete refurbishment.

## Activities



### Christ Church

Lent Group Scheme: The church takes an active part in the local ecumenical Lent Group Scheme.

Mothers' Union: Christ Church and Holy Trinity established a joint branch of the Mother's Union in 2018. The branch was keen to be part of the 'Metamorphosis' programme run by the Portsmouth Mothers' Union and became a pilot scheme, encouraging MU members and church to be active in mission. Two activities were identified:

Friends of Newtown School which provides meals and friendship for vulnerable families during the school holidays.

Open Doors, which is a project, started by 'Charitas'. Members of Metamorphosis helped rough sleepers during January and February by opening the church hall and providing a meal and somewhere warm to sleep. This was in addition to the monthly Sunday meal provided at the



Parish Centre which is available for all but mainly aimed at the homeless.

The Ladies Group which meets on the second Thursday of every month at a local restaurant to enjoy a meal and plan events such as quiz nights, coffee mornings, and raising money for projects in church. The group also organises the refreshments for the church Summer and Christmas fairs and visits other places of worship across the country.

Last Tuesday Lunch Club provides lunch on the last Tuesday of the month to thirty-plus people. In addition, a well-attended Christmas meal is provided.

The Summer and Christmas Fairs committee is a joint venture with Holy Trinity and the proceeds from the fairs are shared equally.

Our Church School Newtown C of E Primary has about 350 children on roll. Church members from Christ Church and Holy Trinity serve as Foundation Governors and our current PCC secretary is also Chair of Governors. The whole congregation is regularly updated about the life of the school. Several members of the congregation are actively involved in the life of the school as volunteer Reading Buddies and helping to run the termly "Prayer Spaces" opportunities.

Haselworth School holds their Christmas and Easter services at Christ Church, and come for educational sessions.



## St John's

Open Church is an emerging Fresh Expression which meets in the Church building every first Wednesday of the month from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. As the name suggests, the project started as a response to local people who said they wanted to come into Church to light a candle or just sit and be still without necessarily coming to a formal service.

One of the strangest and most wonderful things about St John's is that we are also Gosport's premier live music venue. Each gig attracts 200-300 people, mostly young adults but some older people too, and even some families with young children.

The Gaming Guild was started in 2019 by a Church member and her partner. Every Friday evening, around twenty people (mostly teenagers) gather in the Church hall for Pokémon, board games, Dungeons and Dragons, Star Wars and other assorted geekery, all fuelled by huge amounts of sugar.

The Judo club occupies the old church hall (at the liturgical East end of the site) on a long term lease, and is responsible for the building's upkeep.



## Holy Trinity

We have in the past opened the church for at least two hours on most days when we have averaged around 2 – 3,000 visitors per year. It is hoped to resume this when the Covid infection has cleared.

The church hosts a wide variety of concerts twice a month throughout the year, also some evening concerts which are very well attended.

We have worked closely with “Churches Together in Gosport” (CTiG) of which there are nearly thirty member churches. There is a meeting of church representatives and Ministers three times a year. CTiG oversees and supports the following projects: a Good Friday “Act of Witness” (in the High Street, but inside if wet), Christian Aid Week fundraising, Carols in the High Street at Christmas, CentrePeace (a Christian Centre at 30, the High Street - next to Wetherspoons), “Heart for the Homeless” (monthly lunches are held at (our former sister church) Christ Church and collections of clothing and equipment are made), School Pastors, “Healing on the Streets” (people in the High Street are asked if they would like prayer) and Cornerstone Books (Christian bookshop in nearby Bemisters Lane).

Separately from CTiG we support and collect food for the local Food Bank and Crisis Food at which members of our congregation volunteer. As well as our church members, our concert goers donate very generously to this cause.

We have joint membership of Mothers’ Union with Christ Church.



Civic Carol Service (we are proud to be the parish church of the Town Hall). Civic Services/ Occasion’s and several Funerals are held in the Church.

The two church Fairs (Summer at Holy Trinity and Christmas at Christ Church, once our sister church), while raising much needed money for the church, are highly enjoyable and successful community events.

We always take part in the Historic Churches Trust “Ride and Stride”.

Our community rooms are used by local resident’s groups, housing associations and Gosport Borough Council as well as local and wider church meetings and our own social events. We host a Charity Fair for the Alzheimer’s Society and a Day Conference for the Gosport Older Person’s Forum every year.



Our upstairs hall, the “Capper Room” (accessible by stairs and an access lift) and the smaller, downstairs “Goldring Room” are available for hire. The Capper Room is frequently hired for meetings by local resident’s groups, housing associations and Gosport Borough Council.

We host Heritage Open Days every September over three days, give concert recitals and Heritage talks and presentations. We serve refreshments to the many hundreds of visitors.

We have many weddings at Holy Trinity, it is much favoured because of where it is situated on the harbour with a large green area surrounding it.