

Gosport South: Parish Profile



About the Team Ministry

Vision

We are excited to play our part in the re-evangelisation of Gosport, the revitalisation of the church and the transformation of society. The newly formed parish of Gosport South is committed to playing its part in seeing people who aren't currently going to church explore faith, meaning and purpose, and help people to discover a church and a faith that is accessible and relevant to them. We want to see the church alive and thriving, full of people, worshipping Jesus, encountering the Holy Spirit and being a point of contact for the community. We are committed to serving the poor in our area, seeing the lonely loved, the homeless housed and the addicted set free.

The Team Vicar will be excited to play their part in this vision, with a specific remit of growing the existing congregation at Holy Trinity, helping to build the church's reputation as a civic centre for worship in Gosport, connecting with local schools, community groups and people. They will build upon the existing work that the church is doing, particularly around musical concerts, festival services and other events whilst seeking to grow the Anglo-Catholic style of worship.

Integrating the style of mission and growth that we have seen at Harbour Church in Portsmouth with an Anglo-Catholic tradition in a single Team Ministry should be an exciting and engaging new way for us to grow the church in Gosport.



How the team will work

The Team Rector has overall responsibility for the parish of Gosport South with its three church buildings and chairs the PCC. The Team Vicar will be responsible for the day to day leading of Holy Trinity, one of the three churches in the parish. The Team Vicar will chair the DCC (District Church Council) and have responsibility for leading the vision, ministry and mission of that congregation and associated outreach.

The Team Vicar will report directly to the Team Rector and have a role across the whole parish as well as the day to day running of Holy Trinity, seeking to play their part in building the worship life of the entire parish. The Church Planting Team Vicar, based at Christ Church and St John's Forton, will be an important relationship to build and the successful candidate will be open to working collaboratively with all clergy in the team.



Rev. Alex Wood: Team Rector



Rev. Ray Driscoll: Church Planting Team Vicar

What this role will bring to the Team

The successful candidate will bring a knowledge and understanding of Anglo-Catholic worship, with the ability to grow a congregation, navigate change and be pastorally sensitive to the existing congregation. This Team Vicar should have a vision for creating a centre of excellence for Anglo-Catholic worship, raising up new leaders and playing a significant role in the historic town of Gosport.

Christ Church and St John's

There are two other churches in the parish of Gosport South, Christ Church and St John's.



Christ Church is the location of a new church plant from Harbour Church Portsmouth.

New worship services began in January 2021 aimed at connecting with people outside of the church.

The new 10.30am service is informal in style, with sung worship and groups for children ages 0-11. There is also a traditional service at 9.30am.

Weekly services at St John's Forton ceased in March 2020, and the church building is being repurposed as a centre for mission and outreach.

A new music studio is being installed in Summer 2021 and the church has regularly hosted music gigs for local bands and students from the local St Vincent's College, a large sixth form college close by.

A nursery and pre-school meet during the week on the site, as well as a judo club and other community based activities.

Over the coming years the building will be redesigned to create effective community spaces.



Role description

We are looking for a motivated, energetic and hard-working Team Vicar who will have a vision to lead Holy Trinity into a new season of growth and mission. The successful candidate will have a generous orthodoxy and be excited at the prospect of church planting, new forms of evangelism and navigating the change brought on by the pastoral reorganisation scheme.

The Team Vicar will work with all members of clergy to play their part in the re-evangelisation of the nation, the revitalisation of the church and the transformation of society. They will grow leaders, develop vocations and help people to discern their callings, enabling people of all ages and background to be involved in the life of the church.

The Team Vicar will develop strong links with all the schools in the parish and wider community and who will minister to the needs of the entire congregation irrespective of age, health, or social status.

The Team Vicar will grow the existing Anglo-Catholic worship services on Sundays and throughout the week by attracting new people to explore the church.

The successful candidate will seek new ways to serve the needs of the parish and the surrounding area, making Holy Trinity relevant and accessible to all people.

The Vicar will be prepared to represent and promote the values of the church in the Civic area of Gosport, to the Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Uniformed Organisations, Schools and Community Initiatives such as Heritage Open Days.

Person Specification

Through discussion we identified the essential and desirable characteristics of the person we would like to recruit and appoint.

It is **essential** that our new Vicar is:-

Experienced. In tune with the Anglo-Catholic tradition of the C of E in faith, ethics, conduct and doctrine. That our Vicar is of strong character and will be willing to promote Holy Trinity as a Centre of Anglo-Catholic worship in the deanery and beyond and to increase the congregation in all age groups.

A pastor. We want a priest who has a strong pastoral calling, who will minister to the needs of the entire congregation irrespective of age, health or social status. Our Vicar will be approachable and willing to carry out pastoral visits, whether in the home, hospital or elsewhere, and will be able to address and handle difficult pastoral interactions.



A team player. We want a priest who will be willing to work with and relate to people of all ages. Our Vicar will be prepared to work with retired male and female members of clergy who have kept the church going throughout the interregnum and involve them in the future life of the church, will work as necessary with clergy in the wider parish, deanery and diocese.

A key person in the town. Our Vicar will be prepared to represent and promote the values of the church in the Civic area of Gosport, with regard to the Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Uniformed Organisations, Schools and Community Initiatives such as Heritage Open Days.

Desirable characteristics would include:

Our new Vicar would be competent in using IT and Social Media.

Our Vicar will be supportive of the Arts, Music and Architecture and would want to build on our current strengths in musical concerts and performances which are known countrywide.

Above all we would want a priest with a good sense of humour and a sense of fun! We would hope that our Vicar will enter into the full life of the church and be prepared to support social and fundraising events.

Holy Trinity: Background



Holy Trinity is one of three parishes which have recently been amalgamated to form the new Parish of Gosport South. Holy Trinity covers the town centre of Gosport and part of the western shoreline of Portsmouth Harbour.

Gosport has a population of 82,000 and the parish of Gosport South covers the main town centre, harbour and large residential areas.



The Building

Holy Trinity Church is a beautiful Baroque building with a strong tradition of Anglo catholic worship and was re-decorated in 2020.

Holy Trinity was consecrated in 1696 in the reign of William and Mary and is of considerable architectural and historic interest.



It was originally built as a chapel of ease to the Church of St. Mary at Alverstoke (*a Doomsday Book parish*) on land given by Bishop Peter Mews of Winchester and was paid for by the inhabitants of Gosport.

During the 18th century the church was extended eastwards to include the

present sanctuary. During the incumbency of the Reverend Oliver Walford (1844-89) major work was carried out on the interior of the building by Sir Arthur Blomfield who also built the free- standing bell-tower to the north of the church. The screen at the west end is by Blomfield and it was during this period too that the font and the pulpit were installed.

Holy Trinity's greatest treasure is its organ. This was installed in 1744 and came from the Duke of Chandos' estate at Canons in Middlesex.

On the death of the duke, the organ was sold and bought by Holy Trinity for £117.00. This historic organ is, uniquely, a two manual organ of pipe work by Abraham Jordan (1720) with eight stops; five on the Great and three on the unenclosed Choir – included within a 36 stop, three manual and pedal organ built by the firm of William Hill in 1897. The Jordan organ was built for the chapel of the Duke of Chandos whilst none other than





George Frederic Handel was his Composer in Residence. With the aid of local appeals and Heritage Lottery and other funding the organ underwent complete restoration work in 2012.

Visitors who see our church for the first time are thrilled by the church's proportions, light, spaciousness and acoustic qualities.

The grounds surrounding the church (*the former graveyard*) including the war memorial and paving are maintained by the local authority.

The Holy Trinity Vicarage, which is currently being refurbished, is situated in the Parish of Gosport South, close to the Church, Town and Harbour.

Church Life

The greatest legacy of previous incumbents to Holy Trinity is the quality of worship they have established. Building on the foundations already laid they have been careful not to lose the beauty of what had gone before.

Consequently, in the Parish Mass, priest, servers, lectors, musicians and congregation all play their part in a beautiful rite, making it a glorious act of corporate devotion.

Likewise, Vespers, culminating in the act of Benediction, is a moving end to the worship of the day. Weekday masses, in their quiet simplicity, also add a great deal to the liturgical life of the parish.

Other worship “highlights” at Holy Trinity have included; the Civic Carol Service (*we are proud to be the parish church of the Town Hall*); commissioning services for new “Street Pastors”; our gathering at the War Memorial outside the church (*if the weather allows*) on Remembrance Sunday; our joint commemoration of Harvest and St Francis of Assisi (we have a statue and candles for St Francis and the church is used regularly for meetings of the Franciscan's "Third Order"); and around All Souls Day, those who have had loved ones' funerals conducted through our church are invited to attend.

In previous years we introduced a "Blue Christmas" liturgy during Mass on the Sunday before Christmas, "for those who find this time of year difficult" - with the opportunity to light a candle. The church has been involved in a number of Civic Occasions, sometimes tying in with activities on the Millennium “Time-Space” behind the church – for example, the annual “Flag-Raising” day for the armed forces, and a ceremony for Haslar Field Hospital.

Organ and Concerts: in June 2011 we were awarded £167,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund towards our Organ Appeal, having already raised £42,000 ourselves in just a few years – from concerts, applications to trusts, personal donations and an “adopt a pipe scheme”. The total of over £200,000 enabled our historic “Handel” organ to be fully restored, and has enabled a programme of promotion and education related to the organ and the church.

The Heritage Lottery grant for the organ included a substantial sum to promote the heritage of both church and organ. This in turn has brought many new people to the church from far and near - thereby making a significant contribution to securing the long-term future of both. A rich programme of concerts (*helped by the church's particularly fine acoustic quality*) and art exhibitions are organized.



Social Life of the Church

The two church Fairs, 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". In the past we have also hosted a day long event organised by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Historic Churches Trust for their Annual Meeting at which we provided refreshments, including lunch, throughout the day.

We are also open for "Heritage Open Days", which include a rich and varied programme of events and attractions. We have a Fairtrade Stall after church on every second Sunday, and a bookstall, three times a year after the Sunday service - in liaison with Cornerstone Bookshop.



We hold frequent parish events such as quiz nights, bingo nights, parties celebrating Christmas and Burn's Night as well as birthday celebrations where church family members and their friends can relax and enjoy each other's company.

Community Rooms: Our community rooms are used by local residents groups, housing associations and Gosport Borough Council as well as local and wider church meetings and our own social events. In 2019 we hosted a Charity Fair for the Alzheimer's Society and a Day Conference for the Gosport Older Person's Forum, unfortunately both of these were cancelled last year as we had entered into lockdown.

Our upstairs hall, the "Copper Room" seating 40 (*accessible by stairs and a lift*) and the smaller, downstairs "Goldring Room" are available for hire. The Copper Room is

frequently hired for meetings by local residents groups, housing associations and Gosport Borough Council.

Fabric: In September 2016 the quinquennial inspection of the Church took place. A number of items required attention, the majority of which have been addressed. We are currently working on the restoration of the Campanile and Clock and investigating upgrading our live streaming system.

"Friends of Holy Trinity": The Friends aim to raise money for the fabric of the church, mainly via yearly subscriptions (£12.00 per year for an individual; £20.00 per year for a couple/family; £25.00 per year for a business/organisation). This raises several hundred pounds a year and helps fund fabric related projects.