



## PARISH PROFILE OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, SOUTHSEA

### Section One

#### Summary of the Profile

- 1. Who we are**  
We are an active and highly motivated church within the Anglo Catholic tradition
- 2. What do we do in particular that is different?**  
We maintain the rites and theology of an Anglican high church worshipping congregation
- 3. How do we go about doing it?**  
We express our faith with a strong musical tradition, the use of traditional High Anglican ritual and a varied community and social life
- 4. What do we want from our vicar?**  
Someone to guide us in our faith and mission

#### PARISH VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is that the Church of The Holy Spirit Southsea will continue to flourish and grow in the Catholic Tradition within the Church of England. We seek to foster real growth both numerically and spiritually.

#### Our Vision and Priorities

##### What kind of Church do we want to be?

- Responsive to God's love and to God's call
- Inclusive to all
- Relevant to all
- Joyful in worship with a strong musical focus
- Constant in prayer
- United in our care for each other and for the world in which we live

##### What are our aims for the future?

- To grow together in the Holy Spirit
- To make God's love known as widely as possible
- To make our Church relevant to young people
- To engage fully with the local and wider communities
- To be fully ecumenical whilst upholding our catholic traditions



### **Our key Stepping Stones being:-**

- To pray for growth
- To establish a real desire for growth
- To foster an understanding of how churches grow and changes required from us
- To be an inviting and welcoming church

We acknowledge that man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever and therefore how we worship is fundamental and central to the whole of our Church life.

### **Resolutions**

The PCC has recently reaffirmed the following resolution:

'This PCC requests, on grounds of theological conviction, that arrangements be made for it in accordance with the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests'

We are also a  Society parish.

### **Current Licensing and Pastoral Relationship with St James, Milton**

In 2012 the priests in charge of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Southsea, and St James Church, Milton, were jointly licensed at the same service and each was made Associate Priest of the other parish. This link between the two parishes was then allowed to develop over time mainly through support of events, and the priests providing cover and 'swapping Sundays.' Fr Paul Armstead, priest in charge of St James, currently holds this licence and has assisted Holy Spirit Church in this capacity during the vacancy, during which time the relationship has grown and has been highly valued. St James Milton did not submit a Letter of Request following the consecration of women as bishops. Once a new appointment has been made, it is suggested that, during the first year, the two priests together bring a proposal as to the future shape, pattern and licensing framework for these two catholic parishes in the southern cluster of the Portsmouth Deanery.

The Church of The Holy Spirit has its own website: <http://www.holyspiritsouthsea.org.uk>

 <https://en-gb.facebook.com/HolySpiritSouthsea>

We thank you for taking the time to read this Parish Profile and hope that it will inspire you to consider, if you are being led by the Spirit, to be the person who can in Christ walk with us into the future.

## Section Two

### The Vicar We Want



We are seeking and praying for an active and practical Vicar who will guide us in our faith and mission to serve God in our community. This person will:

- Lead us in our mission priorities
- Have the leadership qualities necessary to inspire the parishioners, Churchwardens and the PCC
- Nurture the gifts of volunteers and develop the next generation of lay leaders
- Reach out to the younger generation and love and value older generations
- Help to develop effective methods of communication
- Show commitment to enriching our ecumenical partnership within our city and collaborate with neighbouring churches
- Have the organisational ability to give time and energy to both Parish and Deanery responsibilities
- Promote and maintain catholic teaching and practice within the Church of England



## Section Three

### About Our Parish



#### **Holy Spirit Parish in Portsmouth and Southsea**

The parish of Holy Spirit is in the heart of central Southsea and has a population of 13,462. Like much of Portsmouth it is densely populated with streets of terraced houses which vary from two-up two-downs to substantial Victorian terraces. The parish ranks as 'relatively deprived' at 3,754 out of 12,599 parishes (Church Urban Fund data) and is ethnically quite mixed. The area was built up in Victorian and Edwardian times and much of housing is from this time with a mix of owner-occupied homes standing cheek-by-jowl with student houses and private rented properties. The Vicarage boasts a driveway, garage and small garden - rare gems in Southsea!

Southsea is a lovely place to live with plenty on offer for families and people of all ages. It has a unique atmosphere and identity along with a small-town feel, even though it is in the middle of a city. The seaside climate is mild, if a little breezy; rain tends to blow over quickly, frosts are uncommon and snow is rare.

The Vicarage is in a quiet road of Victorian villas and is a couple of minutes' walk away from the quirky Albert Road which has a vibrant mix of independent traders, coffee shops, convenience stores, restaurants, pubs and takeaways and even a Theatre. It is about a mile from the beach with the usual traditional seaside attractions. Half a mile from the Vicarage is Southsea shopping centre with Waitrose, Debenhams and John Lewis as well as smaller independents and chains, plus regular street markets for crafts, small traders and farmers. Few homes have significant gardens so Southsea Common, stretching along the seafront, is an important space for leisure. Many different festivals and events are held there from the growing Victorious music festival, the Rural & Seaside Show, Kite festival, funfairs and circuses to occasional Naval ceremonies, the Americas Cup trials and the Great South Run.

The biggest employers in Portsmouth are the University, (intake around 23000 students,) Portsmouth Hospital NHS Trust and the port and BAE systems as well as employers in retail and education. Portsmouth is still very much a maritime and naval city and locals are as proud of the warships as they are of Pompey football team. The council is planning the regeneration of the rather tired Portsmouth city centre but meanwhile, (around 1.5 miles from the Vicarage,) the more

glamorous Gunwharf Quays attracts people from inside and outside the city to its designer outlets and restaurants and nightclubs.

Portsmouth is about 70 miles from London via A3 and 1 hour 40 minutes by train to Waterloo or Victoria. The New Forest and the South Downs National Park are about 40 minutes away by car and towns along the south coast from Southampton to Brighton are accessible by road or train.



### **Local Schools**

There are four state schools within the parish, one secondary school, two infant and one junior school. Holy Spirit has a close working relationship with Bramble Infant School which is on the boundary of the Church building and also with Devonshire Infant School, where a member of the congregation is a school governor. Assemblies and teaching takes place at Fernhurst School and all the schools use or have used the Church for visits, etc, and have participated in concerts and festivals with us.

It is hoped the new incumbent will nurture these links. We are currently developing in partnership with the diocese a closer relationship with Priory Secondary School with the support of the Deanery Youth Project and this should provide a mission opportunity in the future.



## Parish Statistics

Percentages and ranks	Least in Country	Least in Diocese	This parish	Most in Diocese	Most in Country
<b>Child Poverty</b>	1%	4%	20% Ranked 2,366/12,599 (1=most deprived)	52%	64%
<b>Working age poverty</b>	1%	3%	7% Ranked 7,319/12,599	28%	50%
<b>Pensioner Poverty</b>	2%	5%	20% Ranked 1,959/12,599	43%	71%

Years	Highest in Country	Highest in Diocese	This parish	Lowest in Diocese	Lowest in Country
<b>Life expectancy (men)</b>	93 yrs	84 yrs	78 yrs	71 yrs	68 yrs
<b>Life expectancy (women)</b>	95 yrs	92 yrs	82 yrs	79 yrs	75 yrs

**Parish Statistics** *(continued)*

Percentages	Least in Country	Least in Diocese	This parish	Most in Diocese	Most in Country
<b>No qualifications</b>	0%	10%	11%	46%	63%
<b>Social housing</b>	0%	1%	5%	72%	86%
<b>Lone parenthood</b>	0%	5%	26%	57%	59%
<b>People living on their own</b>	5%	16%	29%	50%	74%
<b>Older population</b>	0%	8%	8%	40%	59%
<b>Ethnic diversity</b>	1%	2%	25%	33%	97%

**Provided by the Church Urban Fund for the Post Code PO4 0DY**



## Section Four

### About Our Church

1. The Church and its People
2. The Church and the Community
3. The Church and its Building

### The Church and its People

#### WORSHIP

The tradition at the Church of the Holy Spirit is traditional catholic: the main service is the Mass, vestments are worn and male and female servers are used. Incense is used at the main Sunday Mass and other sung Masses.



#### Sundays

The main Sunday service is the Parish Mass at 10 am and Common Worship is used together with the Redemptorist Mass Leaflet. The choir leads the congregational singing at this service and music is considered important. The other services on Sundays are Mass at 8 am (Common Worship and Redemptorist Mass Leaflet) and Evensong and Benediction at 6.30 pm, Solemn Evensong is sung on the first Sunday of the month and on Festival Sundays.

#### Weekdays

Weekday services are very important and Holy Spirit has a tradition of having a daily Mass which is always well attended. Our Current Pattern Of worship is;

**Monday 7pm** – (1<sup>st</sup> week of the month, a Walsingham cell Mass; 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month, a healing Mass).

**Wednesday 9.30am**

**Thursday 7.30 am** (although this has not been possible during the vacancy)

**Friday 10am** with coffee, cleaning and charity of the month raffle.

These services are held in St John's Chapel and upstairs in the Lady Chapel.

We also enjoy Stations of the Cross weekly during Lent.

Confessions are heard during Advent and Lent or by appointment.

The recent reordering of the Church gives an exciting opportunity for liturgical expression and development, and we have also enjoyed Taize, Songs of Praise, Prayer and Praise services, Advent procession, etc.

Home communions are taken whenever required both to individuals and to nursing homes.

## **THE CONGREGATION**



The congregation includes people of all ages including a considerable number of retired people, whose wisdom, expertise and time are much valued.

The electoral roll is currently 125 and the average Sunday attendance is 75.

In 2016 there were 9 baptisms, 4 weddings and 5 funerals; there were also an additional 5 non-church funerals/cremations. There were 110 communicants on Easter Sunday and 170 on Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve we hold a Christingle and Crib Service that is attended by upwards of 150 local residents.



## MINISTRY



We are fortunate to enjoy the support of various retired clergy and a female permanent deacon who assists liturgically at various points throughout the year. We have a sister from the local convent who sings in the choir and another sister who exercises a healing ministry once a month. We maintain close links with the local convent and the Mother occasionally preaches.

### **Lay Involvement in Ministry**

Nine members of the congregation (men and women) are currently licensed by the Bishop to assist at the Mass, and on rare occasions have led the ministry of the word at weekday services when no priest has been available. Members of the congregation read the lessons and a small group of eight people have been trained to write and lead the intercessions.

## TEACHING

### **The Sunday School**

Sunday School is currently being held in abeyance due to lack of numbers. As with many other churches we can recall the good old days when the Sunday school was packed! Sadly this is no longer the case and we would very much like some help, support and inspiration on how to attract more young families to join us.



## Confirmation Classes



Confirmation Classes are held when required and our last confirmation course ran in 2015 when two children and three adults were prepared and confirmed at Holy Spirit.

## CHURCH LIFE

### Music



Music plays an important part in the life of the parish. The mixed choir comprises of 15 adults and although until recently we had some youngsters in the choir this is an area that we wish to develop. The services are accompanied by a large Rushworth & Dreaper extension organ. There have been occasions when worship has been further enhanced by the addition of other instruments from Guitar to Euphonium via Crumhorn.

For the Parish Mass six congregational settings (two plainsong and four modern) are rotated weekly with two additional plainsong settings during Advent and Lent. The usual hymn book is Common

Praise introduced in 2002 because of its wide range of hymnody across the centuries. We have used more than 400 of its 600 hymns. Great care is taken in matching music and hymns to the lectionary.



Choral Evensong is sung once a month. There is also an Advent Procession and Christmas Carol Service. Choral settings are sung at special weekday Masses.

A thriving chamber concert series runs from Easter to November given by local musicians. There is a Bechstein grand piano in the Church. Local music groups (e.g. choirs, orchestras, schools and the Organists' Association) are encouraged to use Holy Spirit for concerts.

### **Mothers Union**

At the present time we do not have a branch leader so the small but enthusiastic MU group have become part of 'The MU Indoor members prayer circle' and in this way we continue to have a Mothers Union presence at Holy Spirit Southsea. The group meets together socially now and then and at the Friday morning Mass when, once a month, we all join in saying the MU prayer. The parish has always supported the work of the MU and we wish this to continue either with a new branch leader or in our present form as a 'sleeping branch'.



## Church Life



Worship and pilgrimage are exercised through the support of The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament and the Guild of All Souls and the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham. A parish pilgrimage takes place annually to Walsingham.

There is a Planning Group that meets bi-monthly to co-ordinate and collate the parish events diary, these provide a varied range of activities such as beetle drives, skittle evenings, strawberry tea parties, fish and chip quiz evenings, and parish trips. This list is not exhaustive but gives an idea of the community life that enriches our church fellowship.

### Ecumenical Fellowship

Holy Spirit is a member of CHIMES (Churches in Milton and Eastney) and we can see the need for closer links with those churches in the future.

We have joined with our neighbouring churches for Lent courses, and worship and take meals together during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. A Walk of Witness also takes place along the seafront on Good Friday.

On Palm Sunday and Corpus Christi the clergy, choir and congregation process around the roads nearest to the Church which is an important act of witness to the local community.



## **Charities**

Every month we support a different charity. The twelve charities are chosen at the end of the previous year and we try to ensure we support both local and international organisations. Members of the congregation hold collecting boxes for the Leprosy Mission or the Children's Society in Church. Postage stamps, foreign coins and spectacles are also collected and passed on. Extra collections are arranged to support international appeals for aid.

The Church runs a permanent and successful Fairtrade stall, which has helped the Diocese to be recognised as a Fairtrade Diocese.

The church is also committed to support The Anglican Diocese of Ho, Upper Volta, Ghana, and holds fund raising events such as coffee mornings; we also support them through our prayer life.

## **The Church and the Community**



## **Community Use of the Church**

Our Church Centre, which has been opened for 7 years now, provides us with excellent facilities to welcome a broad range of people into the Church. Alongside the clubs and organisations who are regular visitors we hold concerts, exhibitions, quizzes and garden parties. The Scouts, Cubs and Beavers are using the hall and have a purpose built hut just outside the main door which the church allows them to have the use of. Table Top sales are held three times a year and as well as raising church funds are an effective method of community outreach. Local elections also take place in our church halls which enables the general public to see the church interior through a glass partition.

The extra rooms in the redeveloped Church are also used by a number of local organisations, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, a Mother and Toddler group, Keep Fit, Pilates and Flamenco dancing.



The Church itself is regularly hired for musical events, such as the Baroque choir, concerts for charitable organisations and Music Festivals.

### **Community involvement**

The Home of Comfort, a nursing home in the parish, has a monthly Mass on a Wednesday morning. Two members of the congregation regularly administer the Sacrament at the Home of Comfort. There are a total of seven lay members of the congregation licensed to administer the Sacrament to the housebound. To date the Vicar of Holy Spirit has been an ex-officio member of the Trustees/Management Committee of the Home. The Bishop of Portsmouth is its President.

### **The Church and its Building**



### **History and Description of the Building**

The parish of Holy Spirit was born out of the two parishes of St Bartholomew and St Matthew in 1948. St Matthew was destroyed by enemy action on the night of 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> January 1941. The rebuilding of St Matthew's started in 1956 and was completed in 1957, and consecrated in 1958. The new Church of the Holy Spirit was basically the same structure, which had been designed by JT Mickethwaite and completed under Sir Charles Nicholson between 1904 and 1926. The architect for the rebuilding was S Dykes-Bower who made a number of significant variations to the original design. The Church is listed Grade II.

The Church has a tall austere brick exterior but a beautiful spacious interior where the side aisles are as high as the nave, all under panelled barrel roofs. The nave and the north aisle continue over the chancel and Lady Chapel respectively. The Lady Chapel is at a higher level over the sacristy. The south aisle extends to the St John's Chapel with the organ loft over.



Holy Spirit Church underwent a major re-ordering in 2010. The works comprised the conversion of the west end to accommodate halls, kitchen and WC's with a new south entrance; the east end and nave were re-ordered with a new altar, tabernacle, font and ambo with the dais extended into the nave. The building was awarded the Portsmouth Society's Best Restoration award 2011. The altar, tabernacle, font and ambo are constructed of Portuguese limestone sculptured by Elliott Brotherton. At the same time a suspended Christus was specially commissioned and sculptured by Peter Eugene Ball. It is carved in timber with applied metals and is wire rope supported above the tabernacle.

The building is maintained in a good condition and all works required in the Quinquennial Inspection report dated 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014 have all been or are in the process of being executed; there are no outstanding issues with the structure of the building.

The heating system for the Church will have to be replaced in the future and although the Church could finance this out of reserves a fund raising committee has been formed as part of the stewardship initiative to address the issue.



## Section Five

### The Wider Context

#### Church Property

The very spacious Victorian Vicarage, 26 Victoria Grove Southsea, was built in the 1880s. It was originally the vicarage for St Bartholomew's and as such, is a ten minute walk from the present Church. It has 5 bedrooms (one with its own shower room) plus an attic room, 3 reception rooms, one bathroom with separate toilet, downstairs and outside toilets, a large kitchen, a cellar and a substantial entrance hall. It has a good sized (for Southsea) enclosed garden with a potting shed and a garage. It is owned by the Diocesan Parsonage and Property Committee, who are responsible for its maintenance.

The Church House, at 219 Fawcett Road, Southsea, is owned by the Parish. It has 5 bedrooms (one of which has been converted to a shower room), a downstairs toilet and 3 reception rooms. It has a garden and is located adjacent to the Church. When we have no Curate, this house is let, bringing in useful revenue!

#### Office Facilities

The Church has an integral Parish Office, equipped with IT, photocopier, etc.

#### Financial statements Holy Spirit Southsea

Projected income for 2017	£83000
Projected expenditure	£80000
Projected surplus	£3000
Plus income from 219 Fawcett Road	£12000
Invested reserves (restricted bequest)	£80000
Cash reserves	£78000

Fully audited accounts available on request

#### Portsmouth Deanery Plan

The Parish of Holy Spirit, 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).

Holy Spirit, Southsea is part of the '**Southern Cluster**' currently under the care of the Associate Area Dean and Vicar of St Jude's, Revd Canon Mike Duff. The other parishes in the Cluster are St Jude's, St Simon's and St James', Milton. There is also a Church plant from St Jude's in the former Parish of St Margaret, Southsea. This has just started and there are still decisions to be made about the legal boundaries etc of that Parish.

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.

