



**THE PARISH OF  
HOLY TRINITY WITH ST COLUMBA,  
FAREHAM**



[www.htscf.org.uk](http://www.htscf.org.uk)

## Introduction

The present parish is served by two Anglican churches, Holy Trinity and St Columba, in Fareham in the county of Hampshire. It is part of the Archdeaconry of the Meon within the Diocese of Portsmouth. Holy Trinity Church is located in the town centre, just to the west of the main shopping development. St Columba Church is approximately two miles to the north-west of the town centre and serves a predominantly residential area with pockets of deprivation. The total population of the parish is approximately 19,200 people. The number on the parish electoral roll in 2017 is 288. A team ministry was established in 1971, led by a Team Rector supported by a Mission Priest. There is a strong focus on our outward facing mission and the parish has also established a community café in Highlands Road near St Columba church, The Highlands Hub, providing support to the local area.

### Members of the Team Ministry:

Rector

Mission Priest/Team Vicar (0.5)

Stipendiary Assistant Curate

5 retired but active clergy with PTO, 3 living in the parish

1 Reader

1 Reader Emeritus, now retired.

The team meet weekly for morning prayer and to catch up. On the first Monday of every month we meet for Holy Communion and a meeting which also includes Church Wardens, retired clergy and parish office colleagues.

The team is well supported by

Rector's Secretary ) 15 hours per week

Administrative Assistant ) in the Parish Office

Organist and Choir Directors at each Church

Community Worker, based at St Columba

Hub Manager, based at the Highlands Hub

Children and Families Link Coordinator, based at Holy Trinity

The churches, their history and congregations are closely linked and the relationship between them is one of friendship and collaboration. Originally, the Rector was tied to Holy Trinity and the Vicar to St Columba but over the last few years, a desire to bring the churches closer, coupled with reductions in levels of stipendiary clergy, have led us to introduce a more flexible model. The Clergy are not aligned to one church or the other but move freely between the two, providing joined up ministry to the whole parish.

### Parish Website

You can visit the parish website at [www.htscf.org.uk](http://www.htscf.org.uk) for photos, events, parish history and other information.

Also, see [www.facebook.com/Holytrinitychurchfareham](https://www.facebook.com/Holytrinitychurchfareham) and [www.facebook.com/FreshColumba](https://www.facebook.com/FreshColumba).

### Fareham Borough

The Borough of Fareham lies between Portsmouth and Southampton. From medieval times until the nineteenth century it was essentially a market town and small port. The High Street is perhaps the most attractive reminder of the past. Fareham has expanded tremendously from the 1960s onwards, notably to the west of Fareham town itself. 2015 figures showed Fareham's total population as 114,800. The average age is 40. Major redevelopment of the town centre, undertaken some years ago, included a new civic centre and

council offices together with an indoor shopping arcade to complement the shops located in and around West Street. Other amenities include a leisure centre, an arts centre and a multiplex cinema. Work will shortly commence in the first phase to expand in the eastern wards of the Borough, a development known as The Welbourne Estate, of up to 6,000 homes, with schools and small businesses. Representatives of churches in Fareham are involved in the consultations with Fareham Borough Council along with other members of the community. The churches are maintaining a key interest in the provision of a worship space and schools.

Fareham enjoys good rail and road links to Portsmouth, Chichester and Winchester, Southampton and London, as well as to the coast, the New Forest and the delightful neighbouring countryside. Southampton Airport is within easy reach. Further information can be found on Fareham Borough Council's website at [www.fareham.gov.uk](http://www.fareham.gov.uk).

### Holy Trinity Church



Dedicated in 1835, the church building is close to the town centre and was built to serve the western end of the town. Over the years there has been considerable reordering, resulting in a very useful and attractive building, used not only for regular worship, but also for concerts and other occasional events. The church has a civic role in the life of the town and hosts the annual Borough of Fareham Remembrance Service.

In May 2015 restoration work began on the tower and the clock. This project was called High Time. It included some refurbishment of the west end of the church interior: 3 new glass engraved doors, a children's area and refreshment facilities, all of which has achieved an intended aim to create a greater sense of welcome and openness to the community and to enable more flexible worship and other events inside the church. High Time was completed at the end of 2016. Expenditure in the region of £420,000 was covered by grants from organisations which included The Heritage Lottery Fund and Fareham Borough Council also by personal donations and fundraising.

Situated at the heart of the town, we aim to engage with the wide range of people within the local community through eg a lunch club, concerts, art exhibitions, Messy Church, PraiseMakers, a monthly informal service for families and young children, a toddler group, a younger women's group, etc. Volunteers from the church enable the church to be open from 11.00am to 3.00pm most weekdays and Saturday mornings. The busy West Street is just outside and many people pop in for prayer or some peace and quiet.

Linked to the church at the rear is the Parish Centre, consisting of the Parish Office, a large carpeted hall, a lounge and kitchen, which are in regular and frequent use by church and secular groups. These good and well-used facilities are accessible also to those with disabilities. There is a small car park with 10 spaces. The 17<sup>th</sup> Fareham Cub and Scout Troop are affiliated to Holy Trinity and meet weekly in the parish hall and the smaller building owned by our church known as "the Den", situated at the rear of the church.



There is currently a steady and considerable demand for baptisms. These are held outside of the morning service once or twice a month. Families are invited back to a Sunday family service and we seek to keep in touch by inviting them to any relevant services and activities.

## St Columba

Originally built as a 'tin tabernacle' in Catisfield in 1891, this church was relocated to its present site in Hillson Drive in 1963 and has recently celebrated 50 years of presence in the community. It is a modern church situated some two miles to the north-west of the town, serving 10,000 people in a predominantly residential and, in parts, deprived area.

As well as there being a busy spiritual life, the church buildings are used for a range of social or fund-raising events. These have recently included barn dances, concerts, summer fairs, the Christmas bazaar, Christmas lunch, art exhibitions, hog roasts, Morris dancing and plays. Whilst this mainly benefits the congregation or local Christian community, we are keen to further develop the use of the facilities by the local community. The church hall is regularly used throughout the week by community organisations including slimming groups, the Guides, Rainbows and Brownies, a local Blind Club and toddler groups. It is also often hired out for private family parties. However, the hall is in poor condition and we have made the decision to convert the church building for community use and demolish the hall as soon as practicable. The church and hall are also regularly used by the Living Word Church and the Syrian Orthodox church. There is a small car park beside the hall and church entrance and the attractive green area between the church and vicarage provides a focus for weddings as well as community activities, such as the summer fair.



*St Columba from the North East*

### Housing Provision

The St Columba vicarage, adjacent to the church, is offered for use by the Mission Priest. The vicarage, built in 1970, is detached and has gardens to the front, side and rear. It has gas central heating and is security alarmed. It's separated from the church by a green space. The Diocese recently invested in improving and updating the vicarage. On the ground floor there are two reception rooms and a separate study, together with the kitchen, utility room and cloakroom. Upstairs there are four bedrooms, a bathroom and a separate toilet. There is a garage attached to the house and parking space for several cars.



*St Columba Vicarage*

Although there are local shops, doctors' surgery etc, there is a lack of community provision, particularly in respect of our young people, with needs being only partially met by facilities available in the local schools and our church hall. In response, a key element to St

Columba's mission to the local community is **The Highlands Hub.**

This is a shop unit leased and run as a community hub based in the centre of the Highlands Road shopping precinct. It is supported by Friends of the Hub who raise the funds necessary to cover running costs. Now into its 6<sup>th</sup> year of operation, the Hub, with a café and



*The Highlands Hub*



*Meeting at the Hub*

computer workstations at the front, has become a popular meeting place for the local community to relax and chat. It offers services such as a Citizens' Advice Bureau. iTalk (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) and small meeting rooms for hire. The café area has also been made available for training and group meetings as well as a range of church activities, including an Alpha Course. A part-time Hub Manager was appointed in 2014 to supervise volunteers and enhance community engagement.

Over the last fifteen years, St Columba has been exploring a variety of options for redevelopment of the church site. Having minimised investment over this extended period, the church now faces the need for substantial expenditure to improve the utility of the church buildings and meet current legislative requirements. Electrical rewiring has recently been completed and a series of small projects to make the church building more suitable for wider community use are being initiated.

Pattern of Services

Holy Trinity Sundays

- 8.00am CW Holy Communion (no hymns)
- 9.30am CW Holy Communion with Junior Church (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Godly Play)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday All Age CW Holy Communion
- Baptism services are held on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 3pm and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 11.45am
- 4.00pm 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of month PraiseMakers – a service suitable for families with young children

Weekdays

- Monday 9.00am Morning Prayer
- Wednesday 8.45am Morning Prayer  
10.30am CW Holy Communion
- Friday 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 8.30am Breakfast and prayers

St Columba Sundays

- 8.00am CW Holy Communion (no hymns)
- 10.00am CW Holy Communion (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
Morning Worship all age service (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  
Morning Worship (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)
- Baptism services are held by arrangement on Sundays at 12 noon.

Weekdays

- Tuesday 8.45am Morning Prayer at St Columba Church
- Thursday 9.15am Morning Prayer at The Hub

The number of occasional offices across the 2 churches in 2017 was:

Weddings	9
Baptisms	29
Funerals in church	15
Funerals at Crematorium	29





## Our Worship and Church Life

We are best described as having a central tradition and our services are generally Eucharistic. The sacrament is reserved at Holy Trinity and taken to the sick. We aim to make everyone welcome at our acts of worship and show a sensitive respect for the wide range of Christian backgrounds reflected in the congregations. We fully observe the seasons and main festivals; for example, there is a full programme in Holy Week that includes the observance of the Triduum, foot washing and the Good Friday Walk of Witness with Christians from other churches. There are several annual services held for particular occasions, including the Patronal Festival, Harvest and Christingle. There is a prayer ministry in the parish, including the laying on of hands. There are many well-attended school and carol services at Christmas. Several teams are engaged in pastoral work, underpinning the worship life of the congregation, including the Prayer Ministry and the Bereavement teams.



Once a month at both churches there is an all age service with a band, which we encourage baptism families and wedding couples to attend. 17th Fareham Scout groups attend and take part 3-4 times a year. There is a range of church traditions evident in the congregation and we are sufficiently confident to be open to new styles of worship.

Holy Trinity accommodates up to 500 people and for special events, e.g. at Christmas, is filled to capacity. St Columba accommodates up to 120 people. Holy Trinity has a stable congregation, with an average of 18 members attending Holy

Communion at 8am and 110 at 9.30am (including Junior Church) on Sundays. The total average weekly attendance is 148. The Wednesday morning Holy Communion service is attended by around 20 people. The congregation at St Columba has fallen from around 65 average attendance to around 45 during the current vacancy.

## Mission and Outreach

Both churches have been inspired by the Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCIG) course and, with a bursting collection of ideas, are keen to invigorate our relationship with the local community, engage more actively and update and modernise our offering.

The congregation has a higher proportion of elderly members, who are active and support the growth of the church but we seek to increase the numbers of teenagers and young families, to ensure a lively church of all age groups serving the parish in years to come. However, whilst eager to find ways of encouraging greater engagement in worship by all members of the community, we recognise the need to be ready to meet people on their own ground and not necessarily expect them to come to us.

### Children

Children are involved in a variety of ways in our church life: they take part in worship, read, lead prayers, play djembe drums, sing, and serve. We regularly seek their views on activities, worship and decisions about church life. Junior church is offered 2 or 3 times a month and Godly Play is held one Sunday a month which children and their families from both churches attend.

Across the parish, when needed we offer a “Communion before Confirmation” programme, led by small lay teams with clergy support. Other cross-parish activities have included an Easter Workshop and “Messy Church”, craft activities at the Hub, a light party at St Columba Academy and the Late Late Breakfast Club at St Columba hall in the holidays. These activities are well supported.

The Little Fishes toddler group, which meets once a week at Holy Trinity, offers the chance for children aged three years and under and their carers to enjoy a relaxed social get-together. There are toys to play with, crafts, and a short, simple service with plenty of singing and instruments for the children to play. From humble beginnings, this group has now grown to an average attendance of 45 children and their carers.

### Music

Within the parish there is a tradition of choral music and concerts, with each church having organists and Holy Trinity a mixed choir affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. The choir attends both churches to present appropriate music on occasions such as Holy Week, the Christmas Carol Service and other special festivals. There is a music group which plays once a month at both churches and includes a variety of instruments and singers.



*Duo Kyiv in Concert*

### Fellowship

Fellowship plays an important part in our church life. Refreshments served after the main Sunday services at both Holy Trinity and St Columba give people the opportunity to meet and get to know other members of the congregation. There are, in addition, a number of groups that meet on a regular basis, generally in one of the two church halls, including:

- House groups
- Mothers' Union
- Holy Trinity and St Columba Men's group
- People Alone Circle
- Circle Dancing Group
- Oasis – for those who have been bereaved

### Schools

Our parish has a number of schools within it, but in Fareham we have worked on the principle that ministry is best done by those churches well placed to serve them, often crossing parish boundaries. For example, most of our schools located south of the A27 are served by our neighbouring parish of St John's. In the same way, our parish provides the ministry to Orchard Lea Infants and Junior Schools, which are presently within the parish of St Peter and St Paul.

In summary, the parish has very good links with:

- St Columba Church of England Primary Academy (a member of the clergy team serves on the Governing body)
- Orchard Lea Infant School
- Orchard Lea Junior School
- Uplands Primary School

These involve regular visits of the clergy to the schools for Assembly and Collective Worship, invitations to speak to particular year groups, and visits to our churches for curriculum related studies, end of term services, harvest and Christmas. Members of St Columba regularly take Open the Book into the Academy and have introduced Prayer Space at the school.

There have previously been links, which merit revitalising, with

- St Francis Special School,
- Henry Cort Community College

#### **Uplands Hospital**

This is a facility to care for people suffering from enduring mental health problems, has good links with Holy Trinity with regular monthly chaplaincy visits by the Clergy team. The parish choir visits each year to lead their carol service.

#### **Ecumenical relationships**

The differing churches in the town of Fareham have historically enjoyed good ecumenical relationships. Christians Together in Fareham, (CTiF) is very active, meeting 4 times a year to plan joint services, a Good Friday Walk of Witness in the town centre, Pentecost, different ways of marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Lent groups, etc. It also sponsors on-going projects such as The Basics Bank, the Lunch on Sunday project providing a meal for homeless people and a week-long summer holiday club for children of primary school age. How to support asylum seekers and immigrants as they come to Fareham regularly to register with the Home Office is also currently being explored. The clergy meet regularly to pray, keep in touch and lend support.

An ecumenical youth group, Parent Free Zone (PFZ) meets monthly and is proving very popular.

In a wider context, formal parish links have been established with the Church in Ghana and the Rector visited The Church of the Good Shepherd in the Diocese of Sekondi, in 2011.



## Parish Policies

### Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

The parish follows the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults. The Parish Safeguarding Representatives, with the co-operation of the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, observe the requisite process with any adult wishing to work with either children or vulnerable adults. With the Safeguarding Team (Churchwardens, Clergy and Safeguarding Representatives) the PCC is committed to working with the church community and others who use our facilities, to encourage by example a culture of care and provide a safe environment for all children and vulnerable adults. This we do through ensuring up to date training for all involved, good communication and regular meetings.

### Baptism, Communion before Confirmation, and Confirmation

Baptism is offered for the child of any parent/guardian who asks for it following preparation. The parish is now offering baptised children - aged seven and over - the opportunity to join a course that leads to their taking communion before confirmation; this scheme follows the Bishops' Guidelines. Confirmation occurs as required. Candidates are prepared over a period and may be adults or young people. The Confirmation service may take place within the Deanery or in the Cathedral.

### Marriage Preparation

Marriage preparation is given to all couples asking to be married in either church in the parish. The initial contact is made through the Parish office or website and followed up by a member of the clergy. We hold a Wedding Workshop evening each year to assist couples with introductions to key lay people involved in their wedding and other information. All couples are invited – and encouraged - to attend the ecumenical marriage preparation programme (“Love and Cherish”) provided by Christians Together in Fareham for all churches in the Deanery. Costs of the course are born by the church. Clergy input takes place alongside this process; its extent is up to the presiding minister, but normally involves at least one meeting before the wedding.

### The Remarriage of Divorcees in Church

The PCC is content to allow the marriage of a person with a former partner living, following the Bishops' Guidelines. There is an established process for dealing with this which is handled by the Rector and Vicar.

### Bereavement

There are approximately 44 funerals per year conducted within our parish by both the clergy and lay readers. Once the funerals have taken place, ministry to the bereaved is carried out mainly through a co-ordinator, as follows:

- personal contact by a minister or a visit by a member of the Bereavement Visiting Group
- two services a year: Remembrance, Hope and Thanksgiving at St Columba; All Souls at Holy Trinity
- a remembrance book in both churches

### Disability Discrimination

Holy Trinity Church is mainly in line with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. A hearing loop is already available in the church and the main hall.

### The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974

We have a full health and safety system in place, in compliance with Health and Safety regulations.

## Church Governance

The parish is situated within the Diocese of Portsmouth and forms part of Fareham Deanery which is committed to working and worshipping together as opportunities arise. The Deanery is coterminous with the Borough of Fareham and comprises the parishes of:

- Crofton (Holy Rood with St Edmund)
- Fareham (Holy Trinity with St Columba)
- Fareham (St John the Evangelist)
- Fareham (St Peter and St Paul with St Francis, Funtley)
- Hook with Warsash (St Mary's)
- Locks Heath (St John the Baptist)
- Portchester (St Mary's)
- Sarisbury Green (St Paul's)
- Titchfield (St Peter's)
- Whiteley Conventional District

The Deanery forms part of the Archdeaconry of the Meon.

Chapter meets monthly and hold an annual residential. There is good participation across the Deanery in events and meetings with lay and clergy.

### Parochial Church Council

Parish governance is through one Parochial Church Council (PCC), with members drawn from both churches in equal number. The PCC works through a combined Standing and Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee, the Holy Trinity Church Committee (HTCC) and the St Columba Church Committee (SCC). Fabric matters at Holy Trinity are handled by a separate committee which reports to HTCC. The role of a sub-committee, the St Columba Development Committee is to work on the vision and process of refurbishing St Columba Hall and Church. There are two Churchwardens for each church.

The HTCC and SCCC are formed of elected PCC members who regularly worship at the respective churches. Deliberation and decision making on local issues is delegated to them, with the PCC focusing on parish-wide issues such as finance and the implementation of policies on parish insurance, Health and Safety, the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults etc.

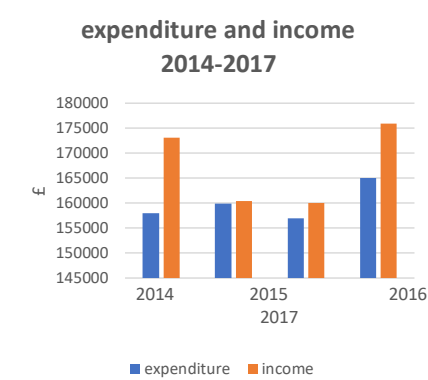
### The Parish Office

The parish has the support of the Rector's secretary and an administrative assistant, who work 15 hours a week and cover the opening times of Monday to Thursday 9am to 1pm and 12 noon on Fridays. The office is located in the Holy Trinity Parish Centre and is the administrative hub in the Parish. The office staff assist clergy by dealing with the preliminaries round occasional offices such as weddings, baptisms and funerals, and the preparation of all services, whilst providing an interface with callers in person and by telephone. Computer equipment is available for use by the clergy, in the Parish Office outside normal working hours

### Finance

Parish finances have improved slowly and we benefit from revenue from capital assets such as the car park to the rear of Holy Trinity church and income from some small trusts, including the Waddell-Boyd trust, which was established for the benefit of the Priest in Charge and is principally used to pay for a part-time secretary. The parish enrolled in the Parish Giving Scheme in 2016 which has been beneficial. In the last 2 years we have ended

with a small surplus but we are aware of some sizeable maintenance bills arising in 2017/18, following Quinquennials at both churches. We are committed to paying our employees the Living Wage and pledge 7.5% of planned giving to home and overseas charities.

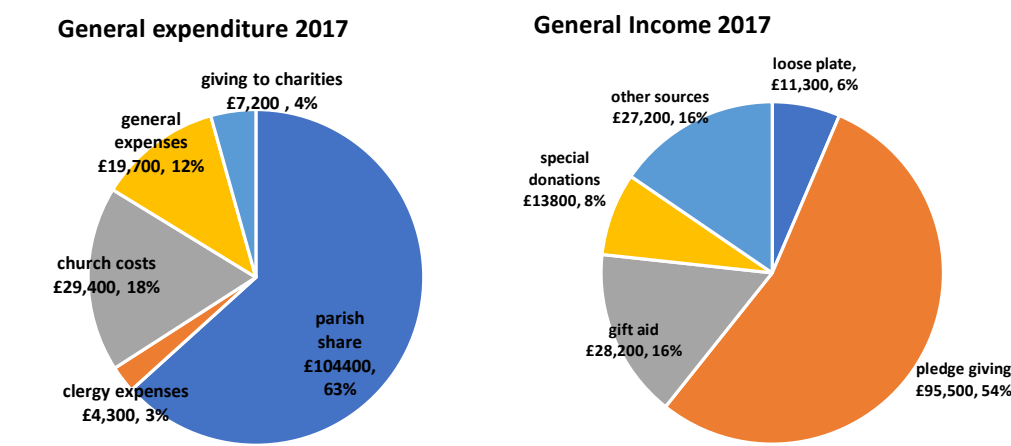


The Parish maintains a General Fund together with several restricted and designated funds for specific purposes. In 2017 income to the general fund was £175,900 and expenditure was £165,000. A Gift Day Appeal was held in October 2017, the response to which was wonderful. It has allowed us to complete urgent maintenance work although not all of the expense was incurred in 2017.

Indeed the parish responds well to particular appeals. Following a few years when we struggled to maintain an adequate reserve in the general fund, Giving Reviews in 2013 and 2014 lead to improved income in 2014. Aware of a significant drop in pledge givers and hence regular pledge income over the last 3 years a stewardship campaign is taking place in Lent 2018. We currently have 182 regular pledge

donors giving an average of £10.19 a week.

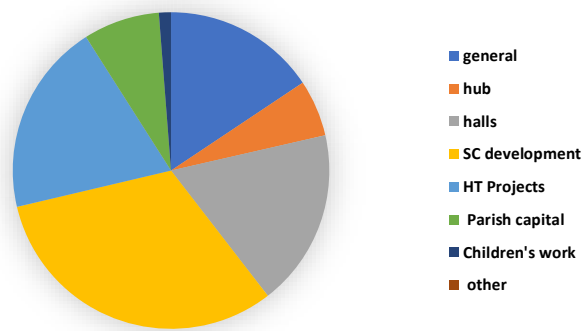
The charts below show the breakdown of our annual expenditure and income for the general fund in 2017.



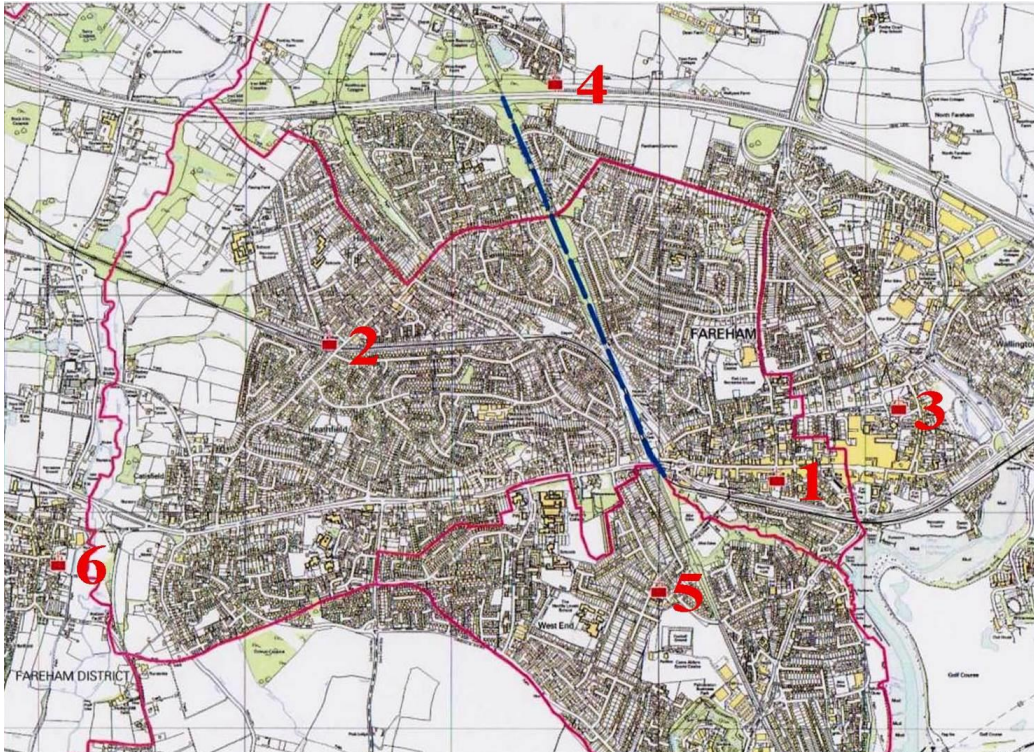
The majority of our income comes from our regular giving.

At the end of 2017 the total of all Revenue Funds stood at £787,500 and were allocated as shown below

Fund Balances 2017



## Fareham Map Showing Location of Anglican Churches



### FAREHAM MAP

Showing the location of the Anglican churches

Key:

- 1 Holy Trinity Church, Fareham
- 2 St. Columba Church, Fareham
- 3 St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Fareham
- 4 St. Francis Church, Funtley
- 5 St. John the Evangelist, Fareham
- 6 St. Peter's Church, Titchfield

Note: The blue line denotes the railway line and is not a boundary.